

SCOTS GUARDS ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER



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**That some no longer serve with the colours does not matter,
What does matter is that we are all of us Scots Guardsmen.
Bound together in the Queen's service until we die by a chain,
the links of which are invisible but which are as strong as steel:
Constantly striving, in all that we do, to maintain the high traditions
of loyalty and devotion to duty upon which the Scots Guards are founded.
General Sir Michael Gow GCB**

Front Page Photographs

Normally at this point of the newsletter the front page photographs are described. This time around I don't believe any description is required. The photographs are of course all 3 bands at the Regimental Gathering and acknowledge their importance to the success of the day.

REGIMENTAL GATHERING WEEKEND

We were blessed with bright sunny weather across the whole weekend which no doubt helped make the Gathering the success that it was. On Saturday in Kirkcaldy the shoppers turned out in force to watch the Regimental Band and 1st Battalion Scots Guards Pipes & Drums march along the High Street. The crowds followed to the town square to see the musical display and after the bands marched off the crowds remained to visit the static displays and vehicles provided by the Bn.

In Edinburgh the Scots Guards Club opened its doors for "The Big Guards Get Together" giving chance for family and friends to come together. Most there came to the Gathering at Fife Airport on the Sunday.

Dunfermline Abbey on Saturday night was the place to be for the Band Concert which was packed to near capacity. The programme by the Regimental Band and Pipers of the 1st Battalion Scots Guards showed off their music skills in full. Afterwards there was a buffet supper in a local hotel giving the chance to introduce the family of the late Major (QM) Donald Whyte to everyone there. The sons & daughter of Donald Whyte, with their spouses had travelled from Queensland, Australia & Ontario, Canada for their own reunion, taking part in the Gathering as part of a grand tour of the UK.

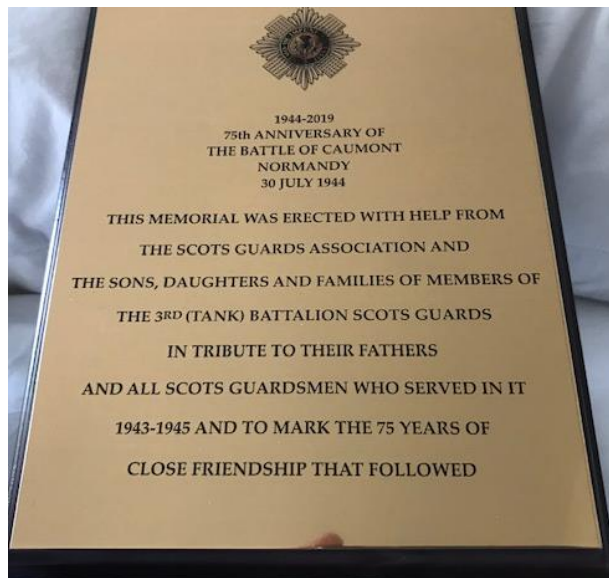
Former Scots Guardsman Allan Galbraith (RF, 1SG 1955 – 57) was on holiday from New Zealand with family and just happened to be staying in the hotel. He introduced himself to Neil Crockett and was promptly given tickets to attend the Gathering at Fife Airport the following day. Allan was there on Sunday, proudly marching in the parade.

Sunday again was warm and sunny. The displays and the Bands played a full part in the day. The many photographs taken by most people showed the success of the day in full.

In the late afternoon sun the Gathering drew to a close with a Beating Retreat by The Regimental Band, The Pipes & Drums 1st Battalion Scots Guards and the Pipes & Drums Scots Guards Association (Scotland). As I stood and watched the Beating Retreat I could see the pride and pleasure on all faces, no more so than 14 year Army Cadet Piper Calum Lowther who was on parade playing within the ranks of 1SG Pipes & Drums. Callum's dad is of course Iain Lowther Pipe Major of SGA Scotland Pipes & Drums.

Until we all meet again at the next Scots Guards Gathering - Let us hold the pride and the pleasure of a great weekend, of meeting old friends, of making new friends and being in the company of those in the Regiment who are currently serving.





In the 75th anniversary year of the Battle of Caumont, Normandy a memorial plaque was unveiled in the Scots Guards Club by Lord Elgin on Thursday 5 September. During the battle Lord Elgin (then Lieutenant The Lord Bruce) was a Troop Commander in Left Flank and was badly wounded when his tank was hit. How brilliant that he was able to unveil the plaque and able to attend the Band Concert in Dunfermline Abbey on Saturday 7 September.

The cost of the memorial was raised by donations by the SGA and other Scots Guards Groups.

SCOTS GUARDS ASSOCIATION DINNERS – OCTOBER / NOVEMBER

Near or far – well worth taking part – contact the respective Secretary for details.

OCTOBER

- Sat 12 SGA Dundee & Angus Dinner, Invercarse Hotel.
Iain Bryson – Tel: 07447 700536
- Sat 12 SGA Carlisle, Dumfries & Galloway Dinner, Shepherds Inn, Carlisle.
Tony Mason – Tel: 07980 103804
- Fri 25 SGA Aberdeen & NE Scotland Dinner. Althens Hotel
Graeme Thompson – Tel: 01224 317738

NOVEMBER

- Fri 1 SGA Ayrshire Dinner, RAF Assoc Club, Prestwick.
Jim Fraser – Tel: 01294 211319
- Fri 8 SGA Fife Dinner, Dean Park Hotel, Kirkcaldy.
Neil Crockett – Tel: 01383 721530
- Fri 8 SGA Manchester Dinner, Ukrainian Club.
John Roache – Tel: 07577 992900
- Fri 15 SGA Preston Dinner, Masonic Club.
Steve Hills – Tel: 07971 043876
- Sat 30 SGA London St Andrew's Dinner, Sgts Mess Regents Park Barracks.
Tom Ormiston – Tel: 01480 460727

SCOTS GUARDS MAGAZINE 2018 / 19

The new edition of the Scots Guards Magazine is now beginning to drop through letter boxes. If you are a member of TGC or WOs & Sgts Past & Present your copy will be arriving soon - **Provided your address details are up to date – Are they?**

Regimental Headquarters also has a mailing list of other Scots Guardsmen who wish to receive a magazine annually. Do you want to be included on the mailing list? Telephone RHQ Admin Clerk on 0207 414 3324 to check they have your address details.

NEWS FROM THE BRANCHES

North America

Annual Dinner Fri 7 September.

By Dave Rennie - Secretary

Well as the SG Gathering happened in Scotland this past weekend, we had our annual dinner, everyone had a fantastic time and we had 29 attending.

By Douglas MacKintosh, President

The North American branch of the Association held one of its best dinner meetings yet, including some Grenadiers and other Guardsmen and with some new faces. Our traditional venue is the Woodlawn Inn at Cobourg, Ontario, about an hour's drive east of Toronto, where we always get an exceptional welcome and excellent service from the innkeeper, Stephen Della Casa.

The whole event was brilliantly organized by our secretary David Rennie, and we especially welcome the support and presence of wives, partners and widows. The highlight was the presence of the guest of honour, our speaker, Lt-Colonel William Swinton and his wife Cintia, who flew all the way up from Washington DC to join us.

After we had taken our seats, piper Kirk Hill then piped in Willie McCarroll for his address to the Haggis which was done with wonderful energy and expression. The haggis had been created by Helen Elliott, widow of Bill Elliott, one of the founders of this Branch of the Association. She has generously provided our haggis for many years, and it is always a great success.

The traditional Toast to Our Fallen Comrades had a special meaning for us this year. Secretary David Rennie preceded it with a moving tribute to two of our association members who died in the past few months. One was our president's brother Charlach Mackintosh, who because he lived in Calgary (several thousand miles from Cobourg) was not as well known to our members. However, we paused for a minute's silence to remember him and in particular John Smith, who had been our able and well-liked Secretary for 30 years, and will be much missed. The minute of silence was followed by The Flowers of the Forest from Kirk Hill.

Colonel Swinton's address touched every one of us about how the Regiment, even in peacetime, was still leading the way with unmatched high standards in the face of vast ever faster changes in the world. He ended his address by reading Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's incredibly moving poem, "The Guards came through".

We were pleased to welcome one new young Musician from the Regimental Band Gordon Tait, who helped to bring down our average age, always a concern.

Thanks go to Innkeeper of The Woodland Inn, Mr Stephen Della Casa for the photographs.



Durham & Yorkshire

The Branch have been invited to attend the Grenadier Guards Association - Yorkshire annual lunch on Sunday 27 October at Masham Near Ripon. They are also invited to a Royal Signals Dinner Night at the Reserve Forces Centre, Darlington. Date TBC.

The next Branch meeting will be at Newton Aycliffe Working Men's Club on Wednesday 9 October at 1945hrs. Call Stewart Webb for more information Tel: 01765 640 517.

DEATHS

Third Guards Club

Lieutenant Colonel Sir Robert Stewart KCVO, CBE, TD, JP died 26 September 2019. Served 1945 - 51. Service of Thanksgiving Dollar Parish Church, Tuesday 8 October 1430hrs. Father of Lt Col Johnny Stewart.

Not Members of the Association

23489414 CSgt Neil West died 11 September 2019 aged 79. Served Regimental Band 1957 – 1981.

24107039 LCpl Robert Duff died 25 September 2019 aged 69. Enlisted Sept 1966 IJLB, Served 1SG 1968 – 1977. Lived Kirkcaldy. Funeral 0930hrs Friday 4 October Kirkcaldy Crematorium.

Gdsm Steven Buick died 14 September 2019 aged 56. Served 1SG Corps of Drums, RF & Regt Police Aldergrove & Hong Kong 1981 – 1984. Lived Dundee.

24048489 LSgt Davie Mutch Died 20 September 2019. Served 1SG LF & Med Centre 1967 to 1977 approx. Lived Aberdeen.

REMEMBRANCE EVENTS 2019

OCTOBER

Fri 25 Opening of Inverness Garden of Remembrance.
Mon 28 Opening of Edinburgh Garden of Remembrance, Princes Street Gardens.
Tue 29 Opening of Glasgow Garden of Remembrance.

NOVEMBER

Sat 2 Dundee Concert of Remembrance.
Sun 10 Remembrance Sunday.

Can Branch Secretaries let me know of any major remembrance events in their areas so they can be added to the list .

BITS AND PIECES

SG VETERANS GOLF WEEKEND 5 – 7 OCTOBER 2019

NOTE CHANGE OF VENUE

It's not the Forest Pines Spa and Golf resort in Lincolnshire anymore. The Berks, Bucks & Oxon. Branch Chairman Harry Slessor has moved the venue to Shrigley Hall, Shrigley Road, Macclesfield, Cheshire, SK10 5SB: Two nights, Dinner, Bed & Breakfast and 3 rounds of golf cost £205.00. The dates are 5th - 7th October 2019. 1st round of golf will be afternoon on 5th October and the finish should be by 15.00hrs on 7th October 2019. So far 15 former Scots Guardsmen have put their names down and already paid for the event. If you would like to add your name to the list of attendees get in touch with Harry Slessor either on his mobile phone number: 07786362404 or via Facebook Messenger or e-mail. Any former Scots Guardsman who would like to be there or even serving Scots Guardsmen on leave, would be most welcome to attend. Shrigley Hall Hotel, just 15 miles south of Manchester city centre, is an impressive manor house in leafy Cheshire countryside.

SCOTS GUARDS DIARY 2020

The diary is now available at a cost of only £6.00p plus postage & packing.

Phone the Admin Clerk at Regimental Headquarters Tel: 0207 414 3324

Veterans Hearing Fund

The fund can provide support to veterans who acquired hearing loss during service, It is open to those who have a wellbeing need that cannot be met through statutory services (such as NHS). VHF may fund hearing aids or other assistance. Want / need more information – Google it.

Calling on Former Scots Guardsmen in New Zealand

A question on the Scots Guards Association group on Facebook started a flurry of posts by a number of former Scots Guardsmen in New Zealand keen to arrange a get together and to gauge support for possibilities to form an Association Branch.

Names mentioned are Alex McKenzie, Rab Dall, Bill Douglas, Mark Baker and there is plans afoot to arrange a get together in the Sgts Mess at Trentham Camp, Wellington.

If there are other Scots Guardsmen in New Zealand who are interested in meeting up either contact any of the above via Facebook or email Neil Crockett, SGA Secretary and your name can be passed on.

Sick Parade

Enroute to the Gathering Stuart Murison was taken ill having had a Stroke. Stuart served with 1SG MT 1959 – 62. While in hospital Bob Pettit was able to visit him before he was transferred closer to home in Dartford, Kent.

Bill Muir MBE BEM a well known Scots Guardsman who served extensively at RHQ & HQ London District is currently in hospital.

NEWS FROM THE SERVING REGIMENT

1st Battalion Scots Guards

The observant amongst you will have noticed the Bn have changed badges on their arms as they moved from 12 Bde to 1 Armd Inf Bde.

1 Brigade has a long history, prior to World War 1 it was Initially designated as the **1st (Guards) Brigade**. 1st Battalion Scots Guards served in the Bde until August 1915.

1 Armd Inf Bde HQ will remain at Tidworth forming part of a Reaction Force as a Strike Bde.



Off with the Old



On with the New

Men from C Company are in Belize on exercise with Grenadier Guards. They have been getting to grips with living in the jungle, from learning to navigate to acclimatisation PT in temperatures up to 35 degrees and 90% humidity to practising hammock construction.

The Bn Cricket Team won the interunit plate cup at Aldershot Cricket ground.

Members of the Bn had their chance to express their views about the Boxer vehicle to the Chief of the General Staff General Carleton Smith.

Right Flank have been taking part in the new army fitness tests which includes a 70Kg lift to simulate lifting a casualty. Days before the Company conducted realistic medical training in preparation for Exercise Rattlesnake in Louisiana, USA.

In preparation for Exercise Askari Storm in Kenya with the Coldstream Guards, Left Flank have been practicing their marksmanship skills.

Simulators into Battle – Bn HQ and B Coy have been in Germany planning and executing their mission on a Battle Simulator.

Prior to climbing Mount Denali several Guardsmen have attended the Alpine Mountaineering Course in Switzerland.

The Bn welcomed a visit from Brigadier General Van Wagenen Deputy Comd 3 (UK) Division when he too opportunity to present Captain Russell Pavier & LCpl Hollows with GOC Commendations.



Captain Russell Pavier receives his GOC Commemoration.



Boxer Vehicle.

A SMALL SELECTION OF THE MANY GREAT GATHERING PHOTOGRAPHS

