

# SCOTS GUARDS ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER



**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

Palace of Holyrood 1965

Neil Crockett  
Secretary & Editor

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## FRONT PAGE PHOTOGRAPHS

**Left:** Members of the Dundee & Angus Branch led by The Earl of Dalhousie (President) & Gordon Peebles (Chairman) came together to present replacement World War 2 medals to 95 year old Gordon Webster to mark 75 years since the end of the conflict. Gordon enlisted in 1944 and served with the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion in North West Europe from 1945 until 1947. He mislaid his France & Germany Star and 1939 -45 Medals years ago. The Branch Chairman said "George Webster was completely surprised by the presentation, he thought he was being taken for a cup of tea". Gordon Webster still regularly attends Dundee & Angus Branch meetings, the presentation took place a Rosendal Veterans Home in Broughty Ferry.

**Right:** Glasgow Branch member Jack Murray laid a Regimental Wreath at the Knightwood Services Memorial on Saturday 22 August 2020.

## WE REMEMBER THOSE KILLED DURING SEPTEMBER IN CONFLICTS SINCE 1945

### Malaya 1948 – 1951

25 September 1949 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt JA Forbes – Leith ) 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion Scots Guards during the Malaya Emergency. A Platoon of F Company  
Sgt W A Riach ) was involved in fierce action at close range, when 3 communist bandits were killed.  
Gdsm D Moore )

2818374 Sgt William Riach had 2 years TA service in the Seaforth Highlanders before joining the Scots Guards in January 1933. After recruit training at the Guards Depot, Caterham he joined 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion. He was transferred to the Reserve between 1936 until being recalled on 1 September 1939, 2 days before the start of WW2. He served with 1SG in BEF Norway between April / June 1940. 1SG moved to North Africa in March 1943 & Sgt Riach received a shell/mortar wound to the right knee on 23 April 1943 during the early stages of battle for Djebel Bou Aoukaz when Captain The Lord Lyell was awarded a posthumous VC on 27 April 1943. Not 100/% fit for the remainder of WW2 Sgt Riach served on mostly admin duties at the Gds Reinforcement Depot in Italy. He also served in Greece.

In February 1946 Sgt Riach was released to the army reserve but re-enlisted on a Special Short Term Engagement in August 1946, later he was allowed to extend which would have seen him complete 12 years serve. After a short period at The Guards Training Bn, Pirbright he joined the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion at Victoria Bks, Windsor. In October 1948 2SG disembarked in Malaya.



**Sgt William Riach, F Company, 2<sup>nd</sup> Bn Scots Guards KIA Malaya 25 September 1949**

### Northern Ireland

18 September 1972 Gdsm John Van Beck Right Flank, 2<sup>nd</sup> Bn Scots Guards, killed Bogside, Londonderry.

26 September 1972 Gdsm George Lockhart Right Flank, 2<sup>nd</sup> Bn Scots Guards, wounded 23 September Bogside, Londonderry.  
Died of wounds.

## MESSAGE FROM MRS FIONA LADEN

Please pass on my thanks to all the people who attended Dougie's funeral and helped to make it a very fitting send-off. I think he would have been surprised and moved. I particularly appreciated the number of people who logged into Zoom. I understand there were at least 75 of them. The frustrating thing is that I do not know who most of them were but my sons and I are very grateful that they were able to join us, some of them from far flung places including Italy, Canada, New York and Australia.

I have also had many cards and lovely letters which have made us very proud. Thank you to everyone who took the time to send them. Dougie was clearly held in respect, esteem and a great deal of affection. Not a bad legacy! Very best wishes, Fiona

## ASSOCIATION NEWS

### Glasgow

On Saturday 22 August, Branch members Keith Norwood (Secretary), Sandy Birnie (Standard Bearer) and Jack Murray (Branch Historian) attended a service at Knightwood Services Memorial to dedicate a memorial bench and 5 tree's



**Knightwood Services Memorial**



**Glasgow Branch Standard Bearer Sandy Birnie checks the dressing at Knightwood Services Memorial.**

The Glasgow Branch September meeting is cancelled due to ongoing restrictions.

### Ayrshire

The Branch will resume their meetings from Monday 7 September at Ayr Ex Servicemen Club at 1930hrs. Contact Secretary Jim Fraser for more details Tel: 01294 211319 email: [jamesfraser279@gmail.com](mailto:jamesfraser279@gmail.com)

### Surrey

The Branch held a social distance AGM & lunch at the home of President Major Jeremy Warren.

The new team are:

President: Major Jeremy Warren

Chairman: David McAlister (Elected)

Vice Chairman: Willie Coffield (Elected)

Secretary: David O'Connell (Re-elected)

Treasurer: Mrs Jo Clarkson (Re-elected)

Secretary David O'Connell's contact details have changed. Tel: 01483 233223 email (new) [davidandmairioc@gmail.com](mailto:davidandmairioc@gmail.com)

The Branch gives thanks to the outgoing Chairman Gavin Ives for his hard work.

## **Preston**

Due to a spike of Covid 19 in the Preston area the main VJ Day / End of World War 2 Commemorations organised by Preston and District Veterans Council were cancelled. A small socially distance commemoration including Branch members Michael Nutter (Vice Chairman), Bill Barlow (Piper) and Colin Coull, took place at local village Lostock Hall War Memorial, Preston.



**Piper Bill Barlow, Michael Nutter & in the centre Michaels's Dad, Mr Nutter (Steady Eddie).**

## **DEATHS**

### **Highlands & Islands Branch**

25015453 Sgt David Skinner Died 2 August 2020. Served 1SG approx 1996 – 2006.

### **Corby, Central and Eastern England**

Gdsm Ray Campbell, Died June 2020. Served 1SG, 2SG & Gds Para.

### **Non Association Members**

23969122 Sgt George McComb Died 31 July 2020. Age 74. Served from 1964 – 79. 2SG, S Coy, Gds Depot, 1SG, finishing his service at ACIO Hamilton / East Kilbride. Lived Coatbridge.

LSgt George Donald Died 3 August 2020. Served National Service. Lived Aberdeenshire.

22517549 Gdsm Jim Kerr Died 16 August 2020 Served Sigs Pltn 1SG late 50s to early 60s. Lived Ayrshire.

24141373, Gdsm Iain MacDonald Died 25 August 2020. Served RF 1SG Sharjah, Windsor, Munster to mid 70s. Lived Paisley.

Gdsm James Horsburgh Died early August 2020. Served 1SG early 1970s. Lived Dundee.

CSgt John Loughlin Died 5 August 2020. Served 1SG early 1970s to 1993. Mostly TQM & FAMTO. Lived Mid Lothian.

## SGA DINNERS

The following autumn dinners have fallen victim of Covid restrictions and are cancelled:

### September

North America  
Berks, Bucks & Oxfordshire  
Highlands & Islands

### October

Pipers  
Dundee and Angus  
Carlisle, Dumfries & Galloway  
Durham & Yorkshire  
Aberdeen

### November

London

**The following Branch Dinners are provisionally still on but under constant review.**

### Fife – Friday 6 November

The Branch will make a decision at the end of September.

### Ayrshire – Friday 6 November

### Preston – Friday 20 November

## NEWS FROM THE SERVING REGIMENT

### 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion

The Battalion arrived back from summer leave and immediately welcomed new Commanding Officer, Lieutenant Colonel Guy Anderson. The Battalion hit the ground running with x-country comps, NAVEXs, and promotions. The Machine Gun Pltn and Recce Pltn on exercise.

The Gipps Cup - an Inter-Company competition testing the fitness, resilience and teamwork of Companies began before leave. Event 4 was the 'March and Shoot' - a 2 mile best effort followed by some challenging shooting.

Congratulations go to Left Flank the winners of the 2020 Gipps trophy.



Well Done Left Flank

1 <sup>st</sup> BATTALION SCOTS GUARDS GIPPS CHALLENGE CUP						
COY	EVENT 1	EVENT 2	EVENT 3	EVENT 4	TOTAL	POSITION
RF	3	3	1	2	9	3
B	2	2	2	3	9	2
HQ	1	2	3	1	7	4
LF	4	4	4	4	16	1

To all former Rabbits asking after their favourites – C Company are split with ½ in Aldershot & ½ in Catterick.

## **BITS & PIECES**

### **Airborne Forces Riders – SAMA 2020 Ride of Respect – 1 August to 8 August 2020**

Many thanks from the whole Scots Guards Family to the Ride of Respect Team.

From 1<sup>st</sup> to the 8<sup>th</sup> August the team travelled 2268 miles, a daily average of 284 miles, stopping at 41 locations to pay their respects at individual graves or memorials. From Kinloss in the north, to Palace Barracks, Belfast, to Hereford, Aldershot & Portsmouth in the south.

#### **The Riders itinerary of Scots Guards gravesites was:**

Sat 1 Aug DSgt Danny Wight - Mortonhall Cemetery, Edinburgh & LSgt Clark Mitchell – Laurencekirk Cemetery.

Sun 2 Aug Sgt John Simeon – North Dalnotter Cemetery, Gdsm Archibald Stirling – Cardonald Cemetery, Gdsm Derek Denholm – Sandymount Cemetery, Gdsm James Reynolds & Gdsm David Malcolmson – Knadgerhill Cemetery, Irvine.

Tue 4 Aug Gdsm Ronald Tanbini – Kirkdale Cemetery, Aintree.

Sat 8 Aug LCpl John Pashley, 9 Para Sqn RE – Eckington War Memorial.

At all our Scots Guardsmen’s gravesites there was a superb turnout of the Tumbledown Veterans & Families Association, the Scots Guards Association and families who met up in support of the Riders and pay their respects.

As one example Ian Ross (Welfare Officer) from SGA Aberdeen reported the commemoration at LSgt Clark Mitchell’s grave in Laurencekirk. “ There were about 50 bikers representing all 3 services of the armed forces. Members from SGA Edinburgh, Dundee & Angus were there. Clarke’s widow Theresa Davidson attending with husband Ian. She was overwhelmed at the turnout and spoke emotionally. The commemoration lasted about 15 minutes”



**Mrs Shenia Wight with the Riders of Respect and Paul Moore - organiser kneeling on right, also Freddie Collins & John McLaren (SGA Fife) at DSgt Danny Wight’s grave, Mortonhall, Edinburgh.**

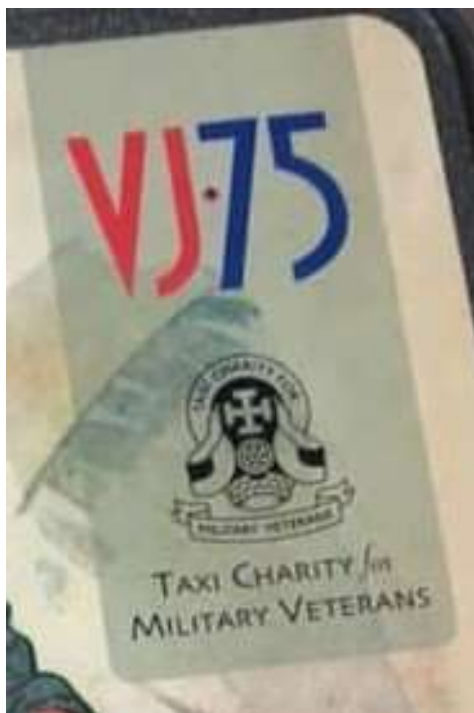
**The ride was co-ordinated by Paul Moore, Para RE who reported:** On behalf of the Airborne Forces Riders and the 2020 Ride of Respect team, - Charlie, Tony, Phil and Iain - please accept our very grateful thanks for all of the support given during our ride, and especially on our visit to various graves on days one and two. We were joined by quite a large contingent of local riders right throughout the 8 day event, some of whom were former Scots Guardsmen, and we are also grateful to them for their unstinting help and advice, as well as their good company and banter. However, our deepest thanks must go to the families of the fallen who turned out to meet us. For us, that was a humbling experience and an honour, yet we hope that we were able to demonstrate that their loved one is not forgotten. We feel that we fully achieved our aims of Remembrance, Respect and Awareness, as we approach the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Falklands war. An additional bonus is that I am delighted to inform you that we raised over £7000 for SAMA on our Just Giving page, some 300% over target due to the generosity of everyone who supported us. Already we are planning the SAMA 2021 Ride of Respect, and it is likely to take place over the period of 1-15 August 2021.



**Left:** Riders of Respect lay a wreath at Gdsm Ronald Tanbini's grave in Kirkdale Cemetery, Aintree where Colin Coull attended.

**Right:** Stewart Webb (Secretary), John Findlay (Treasurer) & Peter Jacobsen all from SGA Durham & Yorkshire made a round trip of 400 miles to meet up with the Riders of Respect at the graves of Gdsm James Reynold DCM & Gdsm David Malcolmson at Irvine.

#### Scots Guards World War 2 Veterans



Thanks to Les Mason (SGA (Dundee & Angus) who on behalf of the Regimental Association was able to pass on the names of our Scots Guards WW2 Veterans so they received this tin of goodies and a card from the Taxi Charity for Military Veterans on 15 August which was VJ Day 75 and also the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the end of World War 2. Well Done Les & the Charity.

## **Remembrance Sunday at the Cenotaph, London – 8 November 2020**

### **Scots Guards Association**

Annually Major Tom Ormiston co-ordinates members of London Branch and the wider Scots Guards Association to take part in the Remembrance Sunday Parade at the Cenotaph. In regard to the information above he reports that he has heard from The Royal British Legion that this year's Cenotaph parade may take a different form, with fewer participants due to the pandemic. They are awaiting more information from the government and will let me know as soon as possible. He will continue to take names but at the moment cannot guarantee who will be allowed to attend.

## **Glasgow Remembrance Parade, George Square, Sunday 8 November 2020**

I have had an email from RSM 6th Bn Royal Regiment Scotland who has responsibility for the Remembrance Parade at George Square, Glasgow and felt it timely to send an update on planning.

RSM 6 Scots reports he has been in regular liaison with the Lord Provost's office who are working closely with the Scottish Government to prepare the best course of action for the delivery of a safe and respectful parade. Due to C-19 restrictions all aspects of the parade will be very different, the following points have been discussed and agreed in principle by the Lord Provost's office:

- \* There will be no reception in Glasgow City Chambers following the parade.\_
- \* There will be no marching contingent (less a reduced physically distanced guard of honour).
- \* There will be no wreath bearer's party.
- \* There is only to be one band on parade (including a lone Piper & Bugler).\_
- \* Each organisation will be requested to send a maximum of one representative to ensure a reduction in total attendees (this is vital).

As we get nearer to Remembrance Sunday, 8 November SGA Branches, other Regimental Veterans in groups or as individuals intending to go to any parade or remembrance service would be advised to check the restrictions and possible non admittance or participation.

## **Scots Guards Magazine 2019 – 2020**

Articles are being submitted and everything is on course for the Scots Guards Magazine to be published and delivered through letter boxes in October.

## **Regimental Christmas Cards**

The Regimental Christmas Card has been designed and are being printed. There will be an order form inside the Scots Guards Magazine (see above). The order form should be returned to RHQ with the required money.

An order form will also be included within this newsletter in due course.

## **WELFARE NEWS**

The Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework Partnership (SCQF) have launched another leaflet in their series on understanding qualifications, this time for the Royal Logistics Corps. The leaflet, and others in the series, can be found on their website: <https://scqf.org.uk/support/support-for-learners-parents/support-for-veterans/>

The website [Forces Families Jobs](https://www.forcesfamiliesjobs.com/) is the go-to place for training and employment for family members of currently serving UK military personnel. You can use this website with confidence knowing that employers have signed the Armed Forces Covenant or are able to demonstrate their commitment to the Armed Forces.

## **Check this link & see this useful booklet by Veterans Scotland**

[http://www.veteransscotland.co.uk/docs/resources/20200617-Scotland Guide for SP and LMs-51X.pdf](http://www.veteransscotland.co.uk/docs/resources/20200617-Scotland%20Guide%20for%20SP%20and%20LMs-51X.pdf)

## **Check this link & see useful information about Poppy Scotland / Forgotten Forces**

<https://www.poppyscotland.org.uk/get-help/unforgotten-forces/>

Forgotten Forces is a consortium of organisations, which includes Poppy Scotland, has been awarded £4 million from the Aged Veterans Fund to undertake a three-year programme of support for older veterans over the age of 65 and their families in Scotland.

It is a partnership between 16 leading organisations which will deliver a range of new services and enhancements in areas including advice, access to healthcare, social isolation, respite, along with creative activities and events for those in care settings. The consortium has been awarded the funding to undertake this ambitious programme of work.

Poppy Scotland is the lead partner and in addition to coordinating the consortium, the funding will enable Poppy Scotland to offer more of our popular and hugely beneficial Poppy Breaks to older veterans. Money will be used over the next three years to improve the coordination of existing provision and introduce new services aimed at supporting older veterans. The portfolio will include services such as advice provision, support for those on the NHS pathway with transport being provided to appointments. Loneliness and isolation will be tackled through befriending, respite breaks and a newly created day centre.



## Enjoy Forces

## Friendships

Have you or your partner ever served in the armed forces?

Comradeship Circles could be for you. Connect with a group of other armed forces veterans and form new friendships through a weekly phone call. It's for any veteran of the British Armed Forces aged 50 or over, or their partners.



Call Age Scotland on 0800 12 44 222  
to sign up or find out more.

### What is a Comradeship Circle?

A Comradeship Circle is a weekly chat over the phone but instead of talking to just one other person, you'll be talking to a group of roughly 5 people. All you need to take part is a landline or mobile phone.

*e-hello*

### Who can join?

It's for any veteran of the British Armed Forces aged 50 or over and their spouses, partners, widows or widowers. This includes all branches and forces, from regulars to reservists and National Servicemen.

### How do I join a Comradeship Circle?

If you would like to join a Comradeship Circle or want to find out more contact the **Age Scotland helpline** on: **0800 12 44 222**.

### Can I chat to my own friends in a Circle?

If you are part of an existing veterans' group and would like to join a dedicated comradeship circle for that group, your group organiser can get in touch with us to discuss this by emailing [veteransproject@agescotland.org.uk](mailto:veteransproject@agescotland.org.uk).



THE ARMED FORCES  
COVENANT FUND TRUST

Comradeship Circles is an Age Scotland project  
funded by The Armed Forces Covenant Fund Trust.

An e-flyer advertising a new and recently launched telephone based service provided by the Unforgotten Forces partner **Age Scotland** via their Veterans' Project. It is aimed at helping to counter loneliness and social isolation amongst older veterans in Scotland, and indeed amongst existing groups of older veterans.