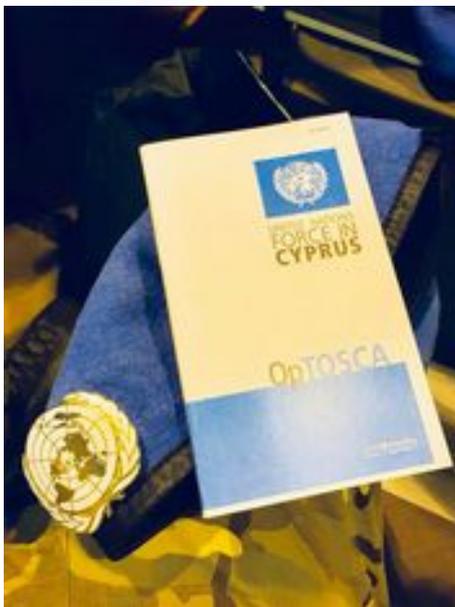


# SCOTS GUARDS ASSOCIATION CHRISTMAS NEWSLETTER



**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**

Neil Crockett  
Secretary & Editor

Christmas 2018  
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**To All Scots Guardsmen  
Serving or Retired and to your families**

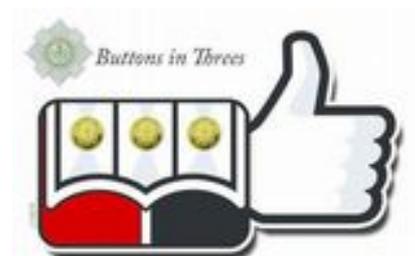
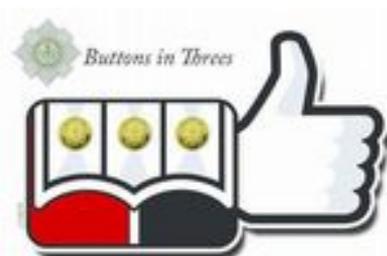
**To those in the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion on Op Tosca or in  
Aldershot as part of the Rear Operations Group. To  
members of F Company & The Regimental Band.**

**A Very Happy Christmas**



**Good Luck & Good Health in the New Year**

**Hope to see you at Regimental & Association Events in 2019**



The plan was to hold a commemoration at the War Memorial Dunfermline to remember Guardsman Brian Hall on the occasion of his name being added to the War Memorial. Intermittent but very heavy rain led to the wet weather programme being put in place. Rev'd Angus Smith led the commemoration inside Dunfermline Legion Scotland Club. Those attending individually dodged the rain to visit the War Memorial to pay their respects.

Padre Angus Smith officiated, Major Sir Malcolm MacGregor (Chairman SGA), Captain John Ford and his Regimental Support Team attended. Piper Jamie Bell played Flower's O' The Forest. SGA, Legion Scotland and RASC/RCT Assoc Standards were on parade.

In 2016 Brian Hall's daughter Angela was presented with an Elizabeth Cross by HRH The Colonel. Angela, her brother Ian with his wife and their son Kyle attended. Angela was just 2 months old when her father was killed, sadly her mother passed away in 2001.

Brian Hall was killed when a bomb blew up an OP at 240 Cupar Street, Belfast. In the same incident LSgt Jock Whittle lost an eye. Gdsm Brian "Muscles" Braun was badly injured as were 3 others. When Neil Crockett told Brian Braun of the commemoration he said he wanted a wreath laid at the War Memorial on his behalf.

A holly wreath was laid at the War Memorial on behalf of Brian Braun with the words:

Guardsman Brian Hall, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion Scots Guards. Killed while on duty in Belfast on 4 October 1971.  
Soldier – Comrade – Friend Never Forgotten.

Brian Hall enlisted on 3 October 1966 and after training he joined Right Flank, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion. He served in Edinburgh, Chelsea, Sharjah, Pirbright/Windsor & Belfast.

Amongst attending were Hench Grant and his son Andy (Doncaster), Rab Duffin (Shetlands), they and others were in Right Flank or other companies of the Bn in Belfast 1971.

After the commemoration there were refreshments in Dunfermline Legion Scotland Club.



Photograph's from the commemoration for Guardsman Brian Hall at Dunfermline War Memorial / Legion Scotland Club.

### **Berkshire, Buckinghamshire & Oxfordshire**

Nine Branch members enjoyed the hospitality of the Rear Party, 1SG on 29 November in the Sgt's Mess, Mons Barracks for their St Andrew's evening. The musical entertainment was provided by the Army Medical Services Band. There was mountains of haggis, Neeps and Tatties enough to feed an Army. There was plenty of all sorts of lubrication, lots of light swinging and banter. In the background on a gigantic TV screen was Celtic v Rosenborg and then Rangers v Villarreal. It was our first visit as a Branch and not everyone could make it this time around. There was a great atmosphere with old and young soldiers enjoying each others company.

The following morning on St Andrew's Day there was the normal Gunfire and Highland Games which former Gdsm Dave Watson formerly of 12 Pltn Left Flank attended to cheer on the lads. Dave is a triple amputee who travelled from Birmingham to enjoy the day and cheer on the lads. Dave sadly lost 3 of his limbs on Operation Herrick 12 in 2010. He brought with him his 4 x medals that he'd won in the Invictus Games in Sydney earlier this year. Gold medals in the Shot Putt and Silver in both the 1 and 4 minute Indoor Rowing endurance events. **A magnificent effort Dave – well done.**



**Rab Ritchie with Dave Watson**



**L – R: Rab Walker, Tom Bates, Ron Stephen, Harry Slessor, Rab Ritchie, Bill Anderson – Ward, Rev'd Colin Paterson. Bob Perry.**



**Left Photo: L – R: Capt J Fleming (A/T Pltn Comd), CQMS P Ramsay (B Coy), LSgt B Patullo (B Coy), Harry Slessor (BBO Chairman), CSgt R Gowans (Bn Welfare SNCO), CSM B Martin (B Coy), Sgt N Philips (REME Light Aid Det)**



**Right Photo: L- R: Rab Walker, LSgt Rab Walker (Bn Clothing Store), Rab Ritchie (BBO Secretary)**

There will be a Branch Meeting on Friday 22 January 2019 at Datchet Golf Club 1930 for 2000hrs.

### **Dundee and Angus**

Members of the Branch visited Erskine Hospital on Friday 30 November when they met up with Erskine IT Manager, Bill McDowall (Secretary of SG Tumbledown Veterans & Families Association). The Branch made a donation of £500 to Erskine Hospital.



**L – R: Tom Kerr, Dave Cuthill (Vice President), Brian Sulley (Treasurer), Bill McDowall (Erskine), Gordon Peebles (Chairman), Bruce Henderson, Hamish McIntosh.**



#### **Dundee & Angus Veterans Lunch:**

**Back Row L – R: Jim Herron, Jimmy Adam, Jack Sheppard, Tom Kerr, Hamish McIntosh, Ian Piggot, Paddy Welsh. Brian Sulley, Jim Ritchie, Chris McIntosh (Guest – Rosendall Veterans Home) Sitting L -R: Mark Ritchie, Kenny Duffy, Dave Cuthill, Iain Bryson ( Secretary), Jack Donaldson.**

Find out when the first Branch Meeting of 2019 is contact Branch Secretary Ian Bryson. Email [iainpiper@hotmail.com](mailto:iainpiper@hotmail.com)  
Mob: 07806 789796.

#### **Aberdeen**

In late November the Branch held a Ladies Dinner Night & a Seniors Lunch, both functions in “The Cocket Hat” Aberdeen and were enjoyed by those attending.

To find out what’s happening in the Aberdeen Branch in 2019 contact Secretary Graeme Thompson Tel: 01224 317738  
Email: [gthompson246@btinternet.com](mailto:gthompson246@btinternet.com)

#### **London**

The Branch held its Annual St Andrew’s Dinner in the Sgt’s Mess at Regents Park Barracks on Saturday 1 December. The Guest of Honour was Brigadier Christopher Bell OBE, Commander of 77 Brigade. Tom Fleming from SGA Pipers Branch was Piper for the night, Members and Guests who attended thoroughly enjoyed the night.

For more information of London Branch Meetings and events contact Secretary Tom Ormiston (see details later in newsletter)

#### **Scots Guards Club – Edinburgh**

If you are in town over Christmas & New Year, SG Club opening times are:

Monday 24 December - Close at 1800hrs as usual  
Tuesday 25 December - Closed  
Wednesday 26 December - 1200 – 1800hrs  
Thursday 27 December - Open  
Monday 31 December - Close at 1800hrs as usual  
Tuesday 1 January - Closed  
Wednesday 2 January - Closed  
From Thursday 3 January - Normal Hours

We had an excellent start to the Winter Knockout Piping Series with Cameron MacDougall edging out last year's winner Jonathon Simpson in the first heat. Next piping date is Sunday 9 December when Alan Clark will go head to head with Ross Miller, followed by Fred Morrison who once again returns to the Club as part of his winter tour. , 27 January, 24 February, 31 March and 28 April are the other piping knockout dates for your diary.

Remembrance Sunday was a very special day at the Club with a huge number of people through the door and a lovely atmosphere.

October and November also saw a surge in new members which is always very encouraging to note. Just over two years ago we were down to just over two hundred members which is a very low number with which to financially sustain a city centre club. At time of writing, we are approaching five hundred members which is wonderful news and very encouraging indeed for the future of our Club which has existed in this very building since 1924.

By the time the next newsletter goes to press in January, it will be just about time to start ordering in 100 carrots for the annual Rabbits Breakfast which this time around takes place on Saturday 16 February.

## **DEATHS**

### **Not Members of the Association**

23517875 Gdsm Ron Scott, Died 26 November in USA. Served 2SG.

Sgt Kenny Speed, Died late November in Cairns Australia, Served 1SG, 2SG. S Coy.

22551988 Gdsm Thomas Pilkington, Died 4 December, Served 2SG 1955 – 64. Funeral 17 December Preston.

## **NEWS FROM THE SERVING REGIMENT**

21 Platoon from Guards Company, ITC, Catterick made the trip to London, visiting 10 Downing Street & the Imperial War Museum.

F Company's training week at Pirbright drew to a close with a march and shoot competition. The winners were presented with the shield by our Colonel HRH The Duke of Kent.

The 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion rugby team was privileged to be able to help out fellow infantrymen the Poachers (2 Royal Anglian) based at Dhekelia to a crushing victory over the Limassol Crusaders of 34-14. 8 members of our team went down for a good run out!

Back in the UK, 1SG Rear Operation Group & F Company celebrated St Andrew's Day in style. Starting off with the traditional Gun Fire then Then battle of the clans then began with Highland Games including well-aimed welly, strong man and Tug-of-War.

The Regimental Band have just returned from Cyprus, where they supported 1SG on their United Nations Op Tosca deployment in Cyprus. A highlight of the visit was joining together with the Pipes & Drums and the bi-communal Cyprus Chamber Orchestra to put on a concert of 'Music from the Movies' at the Ledra Palace Hotel in Nicosia, Cyprus.

The audience from both sides of the island enjoyed the evening of music hosted by UK in Cyprus – British High Commission, Nicosia.

## **BITS & PIECES**

Other than those already mentioned some others who attended who attended the Guardsman Brian Hall commemoration:

Wullie Finlay (2SG & S Coy) and his wife travelled from Dumfries & Galloway. I've known Wullie since Junior Leader days in 1968 and it was good to see him.

John Stephenson (LF 1SG) travelled to Dunfermline from Berkshire. John served in Sharjah, Windsor & Munster.

Sammy & Margaret Kirkpatrick from Kilmarnock. Sammy is an old friend from Sharjah, S Company. In Belfast 1971 we served in 9 Pltn G Coy, 1SG together when Sammy was seriously wounded. Recently Sammy & Margaret have travelled to Hawick, Caithness when they visited the grave of Gdsm Paul Nicolls who was killed in late November 1971.

John Finlay (brother of Wullie above). John emailed me with the news that he's the new Treasurer on the Durham & Yorkshire Branch. He joined the Regiment in September 1966 as a Junior leader with Major Ray Walker and myself. He served in 2SG, S Coy before transferring to Royal Signals. NTR from John for quite sometime so it was great to hear from him.

Veterans Breakfast Clubs are growing in popularity across the UK. Most are open on a Saturday or a Sunday once a month and give a chance to meet up with veterans from all services. I heard recently that one has opened at the Legion Club, Dunfermline. Graeme Thompson (Sec – Aberdeen) reported 4 different locations, Aberdeen, Banchory, Stonehaven, Fraserburgh. I know of other locations in Dundee, Arbroath, Edinburgh, East Lothian, Ayrshire. They are informal and friendly. Interested? Check out for any in your local area.

## **BRANCH SECRETARIES – CONTACT DETAILS**

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Malaya & Borneo Veterans Assoc	Sandy Low	<a href="mailto:sandy.low57@gmail.com">sandy.low57@gmail.com</a>	01723 892049
SGA Pipes & Drums (Scotland)	Iain Lowther	<a href="mailto:iain-lowther68@outlook.com">iain-lowther68@outlook.com</a>	07484 637188

## **EARLY DATES FOR YOUR DIARY 2019**

## JANUARY

Fri 25 SGA Fife – Burns Supper, Topsy Nipper, Fife Airport, Glenrothes.  
Sat 26 SGA Berks, Bucks & Ox – Burns Night, Datchet Golf Club (Fully Booked)

## FEBRUARY

Fri 1 Feb SGA Surrey Burns Supper, Clandon Regis GC, Nr Guildford.  
Sat 16 Rabbits Breakfast, Scots Guards Club.

## MARCH

Fri 8 SGA Borders Dinner, Hawick Rugby Club.

## APRIL

Fri 5 WOs & Sgts Past & Present Association AGM, Wellington Barracks.  
Sat 6 SGA AGM, Wellington Barracks.  
Sun 7 Regimental Remembrance Sunday, Guards Chapel.  
Sat 27 – Sat 4 May SG Nairn Dunbar Golf Week.  
Thu 25 Middle East Guards Association (MEGA) Dinner, Dubai.

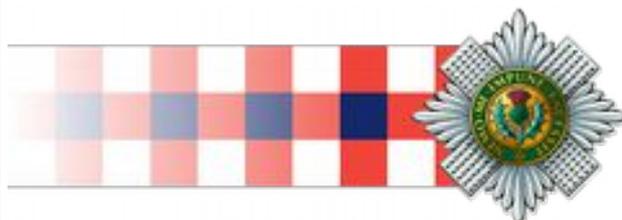
## MAY

Fri 10 May SGA Surrey Dinner, Clandon Regis GC, Nr Guildford.  
Sat 25 Major General's Review, QBP

**A Christmas Stocking Filler - A book for all long distance drivers / travellers written by former Scots Guards officer Hugh Cantlie. £14.00 inc postage & packing. Cheviot Books, Fifield, Oxon OX7 6HD Tel: 01993 832218**



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**Next SGA Newsletter published end January, until then Enjoy the Festive Season**