

Scots Guards Association Newsletter



Sergeant John McAulay VC DCM paving stone at Kinghorn Fife.

Citation

For most conspicuous bravery and initiative in attack. When all his officers had become casualties Serjt. McAulay assumed command of the company and under shell and machine-gun fire successfully held and consolidated the objective gained. He reorganised the company, cheered on and encouraged his men, and under heavy fire at close quarters showed utter disregard of danger.

Noticing a counter- attack developing on his exposed flank, he successfully repulsed it by the skilful and bold use of machine guns, aided by two men only, causing heavy enemy casualties.

Serjt. McAulay also carried his company commander, who was mortally wounded, a long distance to a place of safety under very heavy fire. Twice he was knocked down by the concussion of a bursting shell, but, nothing daunted, he continued on his way until his objective was achieved, killing two of the enemy who endeavoured to intercept him.

Throughout the day this very gallant Non-commissioned Officer displayed the highest courage, tactical skill, and coolness under exceptionally trying circumstances.

Sergeant John McAulay, VC DCM - 100th Anniversary Paving Stone

Sunday 26th November 2017 was the day set for the unveiling of the commemorative paving stone in recognition of Sergeant John McAulay's bravery during the battle of Cambrai.

It was a sunny but very cold day with a biting wind which was howling off the North Sea. The service was held in The Kirk by the Sea at Kinghorn.

The commemoration began with a service at Kinghorn Parish Church (the Kirk by the Sea). The congregation, led by Piper Bell and SGA Standards then moved to the War Memorial where the Sgt John McAulay VC DCM paving stone was unveiled by a member of the McAulay family assisted by L/Sgt Beaton Ash. John McAulay's Victoria Cross Citation was read by Major James Kelly, Regimental Adjutant and Wreaths were laid by Captain John Ford on behalf of the Regiment and Major Sir Malcolm Macgregor on behalf of the Association. Willie Brockie of SGA Glasgow Branch also laid a Wreath to recognise John McAulay's service to the City of Glasgow Police. Other Wreaths were laid by the Lord Lieutenant of Fife and the local community.

After the formalities, a reception was held in the Community Centre giving a chance to mix with John McAulay's descendants. Major Sir Malcolm MacGregor made a presentation on behalf of the Regiment to the Provost of Fife (Mr. Jim Leishman MBE) who in turn handed it into the care of Kinghorn Community Council. The gift will be on permanent show in the Community Centre.



The Chairman making the presentation to the provost of Fife Mr Jim Leishman

The Regimental Support Team, led by Captain John Ford and CSM Alex Bain took a big part in the commemoration which was very much appreciated by the McAulay family and all present.

The presentation is inscribed:

Presented to the Royal Burgh of Kinghorn Community Council
By The Regimental Lieutenant Colonel and All Ranks Scots Guards
in commemoration of the 100th Anniversary of Sergeant John McAulay, VC, DCM
Scots Guards
winning the Victoria Cross on 27th November 1917.

It reports the details of his Mentioned in Despatches in January 1917 and includes both the citations for his awards of Distinguished Conduct Medal on 25th June 1917 and of the Victoria Cross. It shows replicas of all John McAulay's medals alongside pictures of him.



Regimental Presentation to Kinghorn Community Council

At the end of this newsletter I have included an Obituary of GSM Perry Mason who was known to all guardsmen throughout the land. He was a true professional soldier and the epitome of a blue red blue guardsman. I had the pleasure to serve with him at Caterham Company Guards Depot.

NEWS FROM THE BRANCHES

Aberdeen and North East of Scotland Branch

The Branch took part in two Remembrance Services, one at Pitodrie Stadium on Saturday 11th November and the second on Sunday 12th November at Cawdry Hall, Aberdeen.

The Branch held a Ladies Dinner Night at the Cocket Hat on Friday 24th November when approximately 36 people attended.

Members of the Branch also attended the Dundee and Angus and Fife Branch dinners.

Carlisle, Dumfries and Galloway Branch

On Remembrance Sunday, 12th November 2017, Regimental Wreaths on behalf of the Branch were laid at numerous War Memorials on both sides of the border. North of Hadrian's Wall Tom Ross, Jack Oakes and John McLean were responsible for Wreaths laid at Dumfries War Memorials. At Langholm, Ian Ritchie and Billy Scott had the responsibility when Ian and family members also put a cross on his cousin Tom Ritchie's Commonwealth War Grave in Wauchope Churchyard. It was only on 26th September that all the family had gathered to lay a Wreath on his grave, as it was 100 years since he died of wounds to his head, shoulder and legs which he suffered at the start of the Passchendaele Campaign.

The Branch's Christmas Lunch will be held at Hundith Hill Hotel, Lorton Vale, Cockermouth on Sunday 17th December 2017, 1200 hrs for 1230 hrs.

Our Annual Dinner will once again be held at The Shepherds Inn, Carlisle on Saturday 13th October 2018.

Fife Branch

The Branch held its Annual Dinner on Friday 16th November in the Dean Park Hotel, Kirkcaldy. There was a good turn out of members and guests. The gathered company enjoyed the excellent food and good service at the hotel. The Guest Speaker was the Lord Lieutenant of Fife who talked about his relationship with the Balfour family who are well known in the Scots Guards. The piper was L/Cpl Bell who gave a very good pipe set.



Willie McIntosh, Davie Holmes, Alan Fortheringham, Sandy Rattray, and Jimmy McCulloch at the dinner



Neil Crockett, Graham Fowler, Willie Brockie and Munro Davidson arriving at the dinner with Frank Hope in the background.

Glasgow Branch

The Branch Secretary reported that he has just recruited two new members.

2458528 Alan Craig Served 1SG 1981-1987

23443252 James McIntosh Served 1SG 1958-1960

Also a member of the Dundee and Angus Branch

On Sunday 26th November the Branch Secretary was present at the unveiling of the John McAulay commemorative paving stone in Kinghorn where he laid a Wreath on behalf of Police Scotland.

Ayrshire Branch

On Friday 3rd November the Ayrshire Branch of the Scots Guards Association held their 93rd Re-Union Dinner within the Royal Air Force Association Club , 10 Ardayre Road, Prestwick where approximately 70 members and friends sat down to a first class meal which was thoroughly enjoyed by all on the night. The top table consisted of (L/R) Sandy Gow, Bill Grant MP, Major Peter Clapton, Lieutenant Dominic Stuckes and Chief Superintendent Paul Main.

The evening was chaired by the President of the Branch, Major Peter Clapton with Bill Grant MP proposing the Toast to the Regiment, and the Reply was given by Lieutenant Dominic Stuckes, Scots Guards. Chief Superintendent Paul Main of Police Scotland proposed the Toast to the Ayrshire Branch of the Scots Guards Association.

The piper, L/Cpl Bell, entertained us with a medley of Regimental pipe tunes that all present enjoyed. There were also guests from the Edinburgh and Glasgow Branches and the Ayrshire Yeomanry Old Comrades Association.

At the end of the evening Sandy Gow proposed a Toast to the Guests and Kevin Storrie, Chairman of the Ayrshire Yeomanry Old Comrades Association replied.

The Dinner for 2018 will be held on Friday 2nd November 2018 in the Royal Air Force Club where it is hoped many members from other Branches will be in attendance.

The photographs used by the kind permission of Kevin Wyllie Photographer.



The Top Table L-R Sandy Gow, Bill Grant MP, Major Peter Clapton, Lt Dominic Stuckes and Chief Superintendent Paul Main.



Chief Superintendent Paul Main Police Scotland toasting the Ayrshire Branch

Preston Branch

The Branch held its Annual Dinner on Friday 17th November in the Ashler Hall, Preston. It was an excellent evening with approximately 75 members and guests enjoying a first class meal.

The Guest of Honour was Lt Col J Leighton MBE, Duke of Lancaster Regiment.

The Branch Chairman, Mr Alf Clampson gave a very energetic and forceful Address to the Haggis.

Unfortunately the Padre was unable to attend and so Alf again stood in and gave a very moving tribute to our Fallen Comrades. He mentioned those who had lost their lives in the Falklands, the Branch Members who had passed away since the last Dinner and in particular, to Chelsea Pensioner Gledwell as well as Tom Davies, the Branch Secretary.

The music was provided by two pipers from the Manchester Branch Pipe Band. At the end of the Dinner the Branch made a presentation to Major Davidson, the Association Secretary, for all the help he has given the Branch over the past 13 years.

Terendak Military Cemetery

On 30th August 2017 David Drummond, Glasgow Branch, and Ron Moore 9 Coy IG visited the Military Cemetery. They both laid Wreaths on behalf of the Mid-Ulster Branch of the Malay and Borneo Veterans Association and the SG MBVA.



Ron Moore on the left and David Drummond at the Terendak Military Cemetery.

Opening of Edinburgh Garden of Remembrance – Monday 31st October 2017.

There was a good turn out at the Service of serving and former Scots Guardsmen. Those who attended were Major (Retd) Mark Cape, Captain John Ford, who laid a Regimental Wreath, and Kevin Gray MM as CEO Legion, Scotland.

Danny Minto and Donald McLeod as part of the Poppy Factory Team that had laid out the Garden of Remembrance.

Mr Les Braby who also assisted at the event.

There were members from Edinburgh and the Lothians, Fife and Ayrshire Branches.



The Association and Branch Standards on Parade in Edinburgh on the 31st October 2017

Scots Guards Club

Our seniors' Christmas Lunch and party will be held on Wednesday 6th December starting at 1pm. This event is free for members although you do need to put your name down in advance and you are very welcome to bring along guests who are not members at a cost of £10. You can put your name down for this either at the bar or by emailing the club. Criteria for this is anyone who looks over 60, feels over 60, acts over 60, or indeed is over 60.

November was a big month with three rugby internationals, Remembrance and sold out piping events. There were great turnouts at all of these events and we thank everyone who came along to support them. Even more pleasing is the fact that we are seeing an ever growing number of people using the club on a daily basis. It is a rare sight to come along to an empty bar and we are delighted that more and more people are enjoying what the Club has to offer.

Our Lunches continue to be popular with home made mince and tatties proving the biggest seller.

The last piping knockout was held on Sunday 26th November with Callum Watson and Ross Miller battling it out. The turnout at these events has been excellent with standing room only for the audience. The Fred Morrison gig was sold out with weeks to go.

Remember live music in the bar every Thursday 7-9pm and every Sunday 2-4pm.

For the Scots Guards Members, diary dates for 2018 include Rabbits' Breakfast Saturday 17th February, Motorman Saturday 18th May and the Clubs' own Regimental weekend 29/30 September. Get your accommodation booked now folks.

Look out for the Christmas Raffle which will be advertised in the bar from early December with some great prizes to be won.

In December we will be introducing a new mechanism for new and renewing memberships which should simplify the process for all and ensure that membership cards are received quickly. Details will be posted soon in both the club and via email.

Opening hours over the festive period:-

Christmas Eve (Sunday) open 12 noon to 1800hrs. Closed Christmas Day and Boxing Day. Open as usual on 27th December.

On Hogmanay, come along and have some fun at our Sunday music session. The bar will close at 1800hrs. Club is closed 1st 2nd and 3rd of January 2018.

We now have a website www.scotsguardsclub.co.uk

We hope to see many of you in December for festive fun and celebrations and as ever, all the very best from the team.

Deaths:

Durham and Yorkshire Branch

23703251 Jim Patience Died 11th November 2017

Merseyside Branch

23908170 George Hassit Died 19th November 2017

23229532 R Newman Died November 2017.

Not a Member of the Association

Bill Mackie Died 2nd November 2017.

Resided in Chipping Norton.

23517355 Jim Lorimer Died 25th November 2017.

Third Guards Club

400441 Captain Normile Edward Alexander George Elliot-Baxter

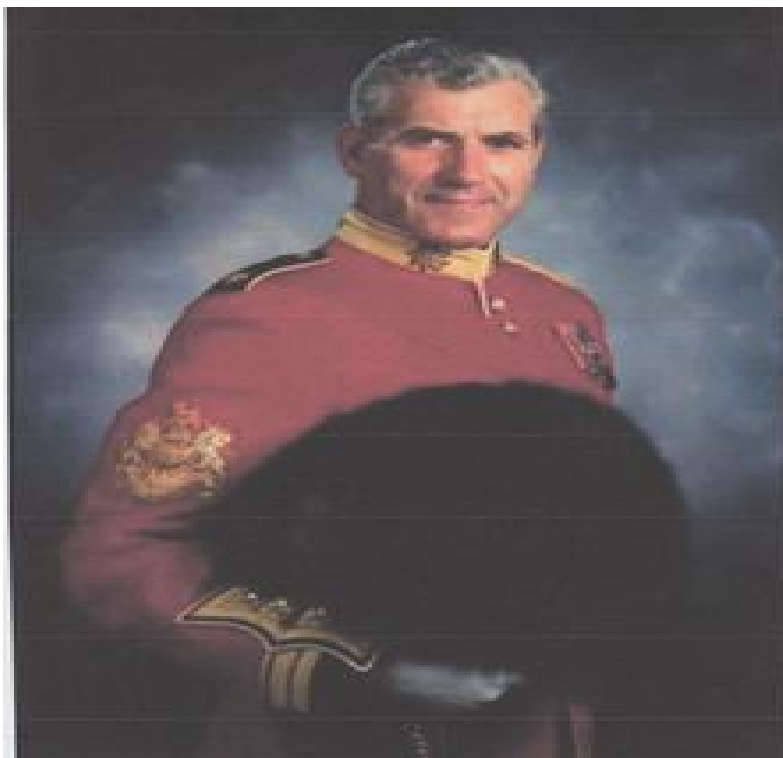
Died 15th November 2017.

431705 The Viscount Victor George Spencer Churchill OBE

Died 18th November 2017.

O B I T U A R Y

WO1 (GSM) Alan (Perry) Mason MVO MBE Coldstream Guards



Alan Mason enlisted into the Coldstream Guards at Middlesborough Recruiting Office on 8th May 1962 at the age of 15 as a Junior Guardsman. He undertook his basic training at Pirbright and attained the rank of Junior Drum Major. On passing out in March 1965, he was posted to the 2nd Battalion Coldstream Guards and departed for Aden, returning to the UK in late 1965. After an outstanding year he was promoted to Lance Corporal in February 1966 and then quickly promoted to Lance Sergeant in October of the same year. He was posted to the Guards Depot at Pirbright in 1968 as a Drill and Weapons Instructor and was promoted to Sergeant in 1969.

After an extremely successful tour he returned to the 2nd Battalion in 1972 and was appointed as Company Quartermaster Sergeant 4 Coy. In 1973 he was posted to the Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst as a Colour Sergeant Instructor.

He was promoted to Warrant Officer Class II in 1976 and posted to the Guards Depot, Pirbright as Company Sergeant Major Caterham Company.

In 1977 he was posted to 1st Battalion Coldstream Guards as Company Sergeant Major No. 4 Support Company and left for a three year tour of Fallingbommel (Germany.) He was appointed Drill Sergeant in 1979. On return, the Battalion was posted back to Caterham and in 1981 he was appointed as Regimental Quartermaster Sergeant.

In 1983 he was promoted to Warrant Officer Class I and appointed as Regimental Sergeant Major 1st Battalion Coldstream Guards based at Caterham and later in Hong Kong. In 1986 he returned to London to understudy GSM Alex Dumon and in June 1987 he was appointed as Garrison Sergeant Major, HQ London District, a post he held for 15 years.

GSM Mason was awarded the MBE in The Queen's Birthday Honours List in 1991 and awarded the MVO in Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother's 100th Birthday Honours List in August 2000. He was given The Freedom of The City of London in October 1990 and selected as The True Englishman of the Year by the St Georges Day Club in April 2003.

In his final three years he took charge of the Queen's Golden Jubilee, the Queen Mother's 100th Birthday and, sadly, her lying in State and funeral.

During his service, he served in many countries throughout the world including Germany, Malta, Cyprus, South Yemen, Zimbabwe, Hong Kong, Canada, The Falkland Islands and Northern Ireland.

His appearance, his style and integrity are legendary. A true Coldstreamer who served 40 years with his Regiment.

He retired as GSM in July 2002 handing over the responsibility to "Billy" Mott. He marked his retirement with a lone march past Her Majesty The Queen and Prince Philip at Buckingham Palace as part of the Golden Jubilee celebrations.

Perry Mason died on 31st October 2017 aged 70 years.



*A seasonal Greeting of Joy and good cheer,
For a wonderful Christmas and a Happy New Year
to all our readers of the Newsletter.*