

# *Scots Guards Association Newsletter*



## **THE ASSOCIATION**

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 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 were founded.

*General Sir Michael Gow GCB*

Major M M Davidson MVO MBE BEM  
Secretary & Editor

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## The Battle of Passchendaele Commemoration

Scots Guards Association members from Aberdeen, Dundee, Edinburgh, Fife and the Malaya Borneo Veterans Association took part in the Battle of Passchendaele 100 commemoration in Crieff on Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> July.

The event was arranged by Crieff Remembers in partnership with Legion Scotland.

Kevin Gray MM (Fife) was on Parade in his capacity as CEO of Legion Scotland.

It was especially pleasing to see Normile Elliot Baxter ( former President of the Aberdeen Branch of the Association on parade).



Branch Standards on Parade at Crieff.

Gordon Smith Edinburgh, Kenny Lawson SGA Standard, Sandy Lowe Malaya & Borneo Standard and Jim Clunes Aberdeen.

## **The Way Ahead**

The first meeting to discuss the way ahead for the Association will be held in the Scots Guards Club, Haymarket, Edinburgh on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> September at 1100hrs. This is open to all members of the Association so please come along and give us your views.

Lunch will be served at Approximately 1300hrs.

## **NEWS FROM THE BRANCHES**

### **Aberdeen and North East of Scotland Branch**

The Branch marked 65 years since the Colours were returned home, after postings in the Middle East and Asia, with a ceremony at the St Machar's Cathedral.

The anniversary event was attended by Haswell Rae, one of the original guardsmen who paraded in Aberdeen on the day the Colours were laid up in 1952.

He remains an active member of the Aberdeen and North East of Scotland branch of the SGA today. Mr Rae, now 87 years old, served for more than 30 years in Aberdeen City Police and retired as a Sergeant.

On looking at the Colours displayed in the cathedral, Mr Rae, who now lives in Kincorth, said "It brings back memories". He added "I remember that day in 1952 well. I had travelled up from London where I'd been on active duty".

"I'm still involved in the Association, because you are still a soldier even when you've left. You'll always be a Scots Guard."

On August 9<sup>th</sup> 1952 the Colours were marched from Albyn Terrace along Union Street, King Street, St Machar Drive and the Chanonry led by the Regimental Band followed by the Colour Party and a Company of Guardsmen.

The Colours were then handed over to St Machar's Cathedral for safekeeping where they are still displayed today.

The Reverend Angus Smith travelled up from Edinburgh to lead the service.



Serving and Association Members at the Service in St Machar's Cathedral Aberdeen.



Haswell Rae who was a member of the parade who laid up the Colours in 1952.

## **Crieff Remembers – Passchendaele 100 (Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> July 2017 – Crieff)**

The Secretary reported that he, along with Bill Berry MBE and Jim Clunes (with Standard) attended this event where they met Branch Past President, Captain Normile Elliot Baxter, who took part in the Parade with the assistance of his son Robin. These Branch Members then visited Normile in his accommodation in Crieff and spent a very pleasant hour chatting about old times. He provided tea and biscuits and a dram while still dressed in his Regimental blazer and Brigade tie.



Members Of the Association at Crieff.

From L-R Graeme Thompson Secretary Aberdeen, Bill Berry MBE, Jim Clunes and Major Randall Nicoll  
Captain Normile Elliot Baxter seated.

## **Carlisle, Dumfries and Galloway Branch**

On Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> June 2017 the Branch held a Sunday Lunch at Laverside Restaurant, Brayton Park, Aspatria, which was another huge success. 48 members, family and friends sat down for lunch, which was excellent and £108 was raised from the raffle. Thanks to Donald Potter for organizing the lunch and to the girls for doing the raffle.

New member John Perkins and his wife Liz were amongst the diners.

At the Branch meeting on 21<sup>st</sup> July we were pleased to have new member Major Mark Cape join our ranks. He had served in the Regiment from 1980 to 2017. No doubt he will be a great asset to the Branch.

On Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> August the Branch visited The Cressfield Country Hotel, Ecclefechan where 44 sat down for lunch. The food and service was of the highest standard. Thanks again to Management and staff. Also thanks to Donald for organizing and to Brenda and Phyllis for raising £94 on the raffle.

### **Dundee and Angus Branch**

**DEATHS** - Branch Member Ian Petrie from Monifeith passed away on 30<sup>th</sup> April 2017 after a short illness. Ian only became a member of the Branch in recent years and withdrew from Branch activities in February after being diagnosed with an incurable condition and requested complete privacy during his remaining time.

His passing was kept low key at his request and was not publicised. Branch officials were notified in August by his family.

**EVENTS** - On 16<sup>th</sup> July, Branch members, wives and partners (21 in total) sat down to a fabulous Sunday lunch at The Green Acorn Coffee Shop between Dundee and Perth which is owned and run by Kate Shepherd, daughter of Branch member Jack Shepherd, ex Grendaier Guards.

The lunch was thoroughly enjoyed by all those in attendance and the Branch are hoping to repeat their Christmas lunch at the venue again this year, date TBC!

Friday 1<sup>st</sup> September – The Branch are hosting a Quiz Night in “The Crow's Nest” pub in Carnoustie at 1900 hrs. Teams of 4, entry £12 per team. Quizmaster for the evening being Mark Ritchie, father of L/Sgt Jack Ritchie! All welcome!

91<sup>st</sup> Annual Dinner - To be held at The Invercarse Hotel, Dundee on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> October. Tickets now available from Branch Treasurer, Brian Sulley, 31 Scott Street, Dundee DD2 2AL, Tel. 01382 566770 (After 1800 hrs). Ticket Price £25.00.



Branch Members enjoying the Sunday Lunch and each others Company.

### **Fife Branch**

Members, family and friends came together in the sun at Markinch Bowling Club on Sunday 13 August for our annual Bowls Competition which coupled with our main fund raising with a Grand Draw.

The bowls match is played for keenly with a team led by John Innes (SG Malaya & Borneo Veterans Association) and two guests taking first place. Jim Pratt with team took second place.



Fife Branch Chairman Alex Gilchrist presenting the Trophy to the winning Skipper John Innes.

The Branch held its annual Golf Competition on Friday 25<sup>th</sup> August at Balbirnie Park Golf Club. 10 Branch members took part along with 8 guests.

After the match golfers and non players enjoyed high tea in the golf club.

Jimmy Banks was the winner of the Chairman's Trophy. Straight after playing, Jimmy departed for Edinburgh to appear on the Tattoo where he escorted Lord Elgin ( World War 2 Tank Commander LF 3SG), Chief of the Clan Bruce into the arena. In his absence Jimmy's prize was presented to his wife Morag.

Scratch Runner Up

Major Ron Clemison

George Stenhouse Claret Jug Winner (Handicap)

Iain MacIntosh

Handicap Runner Up

Sandy Rattary

Sydney Stewart (Guest) Claret Jug Winner

Dr. Bill Carr



Guest Runner Up

Donald MacFarlane

Nearest the Pin

Ronnie Lamb

Longest Drive

George Cameron



Alan Forthingham, Sandy Rattary and Jimmy Farmer ready to show their skills at Balbirnie.



Golf Prize Winners

## **Deaths**

### **Aberdeen and North East of Scotland Branch**

21002975 Alan Mitchell died aged 91 years in August 2017. He resided in a Care Home in Stonehaven.

### **Dundee and Angus Branch**

Harry McKay died July 2017. He resided in Monikie near Dundee.  
Ian Petrie died 30<sup>th</sup> April 2017.

### **Berks, Bucks and Oxon Branch**

Lt. Col. Samuel Murray Drennan MBC DFC AFC died 10<sup>th</sup> August 2017.

### **Third Guards Club**

314064 Lt. Frank Roy Taylor died 16<sup>th</sup> July 2017.

## *SCOTS GUARDS CLUB, EDINBURGH*

### *August 2017 Newsletter*

On the back of our successful Sunday music sessions, and by popular demand, we will shortly be introducing live music to the club one weekday evening (yet to be decided) each week. We will advertise this widely as soon as the details are finalised.

A weekly raffle will commence in September with tickets on sale in the club and some great prizes on offer. First prize will usually consist of shopping vouchers for one of the big stores with a second prize changing week to week. The plan at this stage is to make the draw every Sunday during the music session.

We have decided to postpone the Open Day, originally planned for 1 September, until October. There are a number of improvements we still want to make and are keen to ensure the old place is looking at its very best before we showcase to potential new members.

Plans for the Scots Guards Reunion weekend 22/23/24 September are advancing nicely and we hope that many guardsmen past and present can be with us for a weekend of fun and laughter as “Brothers in Arms” come together.

The function room upstairs is underused during the week so if you know of any groups, clubs or whatever who might benefit from using a very reasonably priced city centre venue then please send them our way.

The members' discount on drinks has gone down a storm and has encouraged quite a few new members to join. Membership numbers have dropped significantly over the past five years or so but this year has seen a reversal of that negative trend. As we are now past the halfway stage, membership for the remainder of the year can be obtained at a much reduced price so an ideal time to encourage someone to come on board and join. Get your recruiting hats on people!

On 20<sup>th</sup> August we welcomed 20 Shetland Fiddlers who entertained a large appreciate crowd for over four hours in the downstairs bar. The group were on a solitary day off from the Royal Edinburgh Tattoo so we greatly appreciated them choosing to spend their time with us. A short video clip of that memorable day is on our Facebook page.

On the subject of Facebook, if you want us to appear on your timeline remember you need to “follow” and not just “like” the Club page.



Westminster Centre for  
Research and Innovation  
in Veterans' Wellbeing



## Military Veterans and their Families Wellbeing Symposium

Westminster Centre for Research and Innovation in Veterans' Wellbeing  
'Supporting the Armed Forces Community'

University of Chester, Churchill House, Queens Park Campus, Handbridge, Chester, CH4 7AD



**Thursday 5th October 2017 - £50**

Lunch and refreshments are included. Pre-Conference Dinner is also available on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> - £30

### Keynote Presenters are:

**Sir Simon Wessely** is Regius Professor of Psychiatry and Co-Director, King's Centre for Military Health Research and Academic Department of Military Mental Health, Institute of Psychiatry, Psychology and Neuroscience at King's College London. Sir Simon is the Civilian Consultant Advisor in Psychiatry to the British Army and a trustee of Combat Stress.

<http://www.rcpsych.ac.uk/discoverpsychiatry/professor/sirsimonwessely.aspx>

**Mr Ben McBean** was called a hero by Prince Harry after he returned from Afghanistan where Ben had sustained horrific injuries after he stepped on a Taliban landmine in 2008 whilst serving with the Royal Marines. Amongst other achievements, Ben is a motivational speaker and an entrepreneur and will tell his story.

<http://www.benmcbean.co.uk/default.asp>

### Other presenters include:

- **Professor Teresa Ryan** – Northwest Florida State College.
- **Dr Johnathan Leach** - Chair NHS England Armed Forces and their Families Clinical Reference Group
- **Ms Hilary Meredith** – Chair of Hilary Meredith Solicitors and Chair of the Royal British Legion Legal Group

Question Time: Chaired by **Dr Peter Carter OBE** with panellists' including:

- **Brigadier Robin Simpson OStJ** - Dean of the Defence Medical Services
- **Colonel Phil Harrison** - Regional Commander, North West England)
- **Major Bev Sapre** - General Adult Consultant Psychiatrist

To book your place, please visit our website:

<http://www.chester.ac.uk/node/40266>

For more information, please contact [j.goulding@chester.ac.uk](mailto:j.goulding@chester.ac.uk)



**SCOTS GUARDS  
WARRANT OFFICERS' AND SERGEANTS'  
(PAST & PRESENT) ASSOCIATION  
69th ANNUAL DINNER**

*To be held at the*  
SERGEANTS MESS  
1<sup>ST</sup> BATTALION SCOTS GUARDS  
MONS BARRACKS  
ALDERSHOT  
GU11 2LF

**FRIDAY 22<sup>ND</sup> SEPTEMBER 2017  
1900 for 1930 hrs**

*Guest of Honour - TBC*

Completed forms, accompanied by cheques, are to reach ROMS RHQ by Friday 1<sup>st</sup> September 2017. **THERE WILL BE STRICTLY NO REFUNDS AFTER THIS DATE.**

**DRESS**

Serving	Mess Dress
Guests/Past	Suit with brigade tie & miniature decorations.

Any questions contact the ROMS preferably by email:  
[INFHQ-FTGDS-SG-ROMS@mod.uk](mailto:INFHQ-FTGDS-SG-ROMS@mod.uk)  
Tel: Civ- 0207 414 3334  
Mil- 94631 3334



**PAYMENT**

**Paying members:** Those who pay their annual £10 subscriptions **£40**  
**Non-Paying:** Guests & those not paying their annual subscriptions **£50**

From: \_\_\_\_\_  
Your address where you want your tickets to be posted: \_\_\_\_\_  
Postcode: \_\_\_\_\_  
Contact Telephone Number: \_\_\_\_\_  
Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Please send me \_\_\_\_\_ (P&P Members) tickets for the \_\_\_\_\_ **£**  
69<sup>th</sup> Annual Dinner **£40.00**  
Please send me \_\_\_\_\_ (Guests) tickets for the \_\_\_\_\_ **£**  
69<sup>th</sup> Annual Dinner **£50.00**

Host Regimental Number	Dietary requests
Title/ Full Name	
Rank	

I enclose a cheque made payable to:  
**Scots Gds WO's Past & Present Association**

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ **£**

Return to: ROMS  
Headquarters Scots Guards  
Wellington Barracks  
Birdcage Walk  
LONDON SW1E 6HQ  
[INFHQ-FTGDS-SG-ROMS@mod.uk](mailto:INFHQ-FTGDS-SG-ROMS@mod.uk)  
or  
Bank Transfer: Sort Code: 30/11/75  
Acc No: 00575188  
For £ \_\_\_\_\_  
Please use your name, regimental number and dinner as the reference ie:  
**SMITH25087656DINNER**