

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
June 2017
Secretary & Editor

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PRESENTATION OF NEW COLOURS

The Presentation of New Colours Parade has been in the Forecast of Events for about eighteen months but due to various people's diaries it was put back until 18th May this year.

This was the highlight in the month of May when Her Majesty The Queen presented New Colours to the 1st Battalion and F Company Scots Guards in the gardens of Buckingham Palace.

During the morning the weather although overcast, was dry but as soon as we came through the Bow Room at Buckingham Palace and down into the garden, the rain started, and never stopped until late in the day.

This, however, did not dampen the spirits of those who attended the Parade. Approximately 2,500 guests assembled, some luckily had brought umbrellas but others, trusting to the fine weather forecast, were unprepared for the afternoon deluge.

Not to be deterred by the inclement weather, Her Majesty came out and inspected the front rank of the Parade. The Bearskins started to drip as the water ran off them and the Service Dresses turned a very dark colour of khaki the longer the Guardsmen stood on Parade.

After the Parade everyone crowded into the Marque and enjoyed a cup of tea and cakes, which was very welcome.

Despite the rain, it was a wonderful day (and night) when old Regimental friends gathered in various venues in London to celebrate this great occasion.

NEWS FROM THE BRANCHES

Aberdeen and North East of Scotland Branch

The Anzac Day Service at St Machar Cathedral on Saturday 22nd April was attended by the Secretary, Graeme Thompson and Bill Berry MBE.

The Branch received a late invitation to The Gordon Highlanders Annual Lunch on Friday 14th April in the 22 Club in Rose Street, Aberdeen to which the Secretary and four other Branch Members attended, receiving a warm welcome from The Gordon Highlanders.

Borders Branch

The Annual Dinner for 2018 will be held on Friday 9th March 2018 at the Hawick Rugby Club, 1900 hrs for 1930 hrs.

Due to ill health the President, Major General Sir John Swinton KCVO OBE JP, has stood down from this post. His successor is Major Ian Dalzell Job.

Dundee and Angus Branch

At the Branch Annual General Meeting Mr Ken Duffy was voted in as Vice Chairman and Mr David Cuthill, after standing down as Chairman, was voted in as Vice President.

Durham, Yorkshire and North East of England Branch

The Branch Spring Golf Meeting took place recently and the results were:-

Steve Ramshaw, 1st, Ali McConnell, 2nd and Neil Thatcher, 3rd, all with 32 points but the result was decided on the Count Back rule.

Sunday Luncheon Club:

Due to a reshuffle of dates because of medical issues, this took place at the Comet, Nr Croft, south of Darlington on 14th May when only six attended. If the other two who normally attend had been there, we would have equalled the turnout for the meeting earlier in the week.

Our next Luncheon will be held at the Green Dragon, Post House Wynd, Darlington – the Treasurer's current watering hole – on Sunday 4th June.

Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire Branch

The Branch Picnic will be held on Sunday 9th July 2017 at the Guards Polo Club in Windsor Great Park at 1300 hrs until 1630 hrs, or until after the final Inter Regimental Polo match. It is hoped that some Surrey Branch Members and London Branch Members will join the Branch on the day – names in advance please as numbers will be required in advance by the Club and a Car Pass issued for each car to enter the Guards Polo Club.

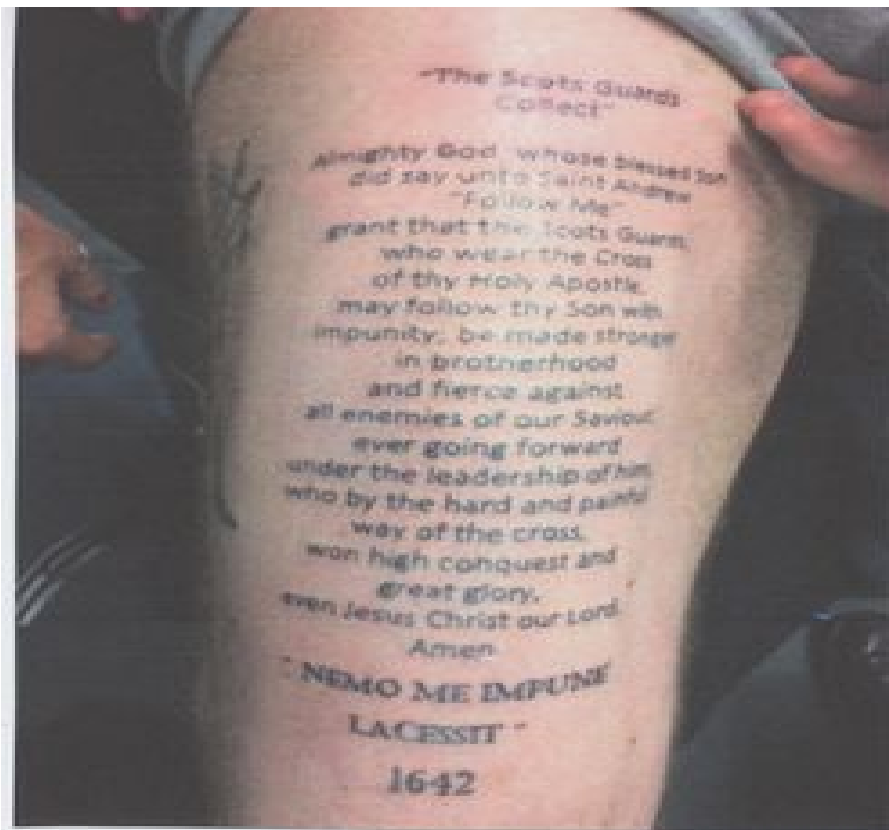
The idea is that we will be allocated an area to ourselves on the north side of Dukes Field where we will be able to enjoy a picnic (brought by yourselves). There is no age limit so bring the kids/grandkids along to enjoy the Inter Regimental Polo matches.

Although bar facilities will be available in the Club, you may wish to bring your own and save the walk across the Polo field when there is no match in progress. Dogs are admitted but must be kept on a lead.

It is hoped that we will make this function an annual event. Normally Car Passes are £20.00 each but on this occasion we will issue them at £10.00.

Branch Member Ian Alexander sent in photographs of the two VC holders he had tattooed on his leg.

After the New Colours Parade Ian also had the Scots Guards Colours tattooed on his left arm.



Surrey Branch

The Branch held their Annual Dinner on 5th May at Clandon Regis Golf Club, Nr Guildford, Surrey.

The Guest of Honour was The Lord Lieutenant of Surrey, Mr Michael More-Molyneux accompanied by Mrs Sarah More-Molyneux. Forty-six members and guests sat down to an excellent meal in convivial surroundings. There were representatives from the Grenadier Guards Association, Surrey and East Hants Branch and the President and his wife from the Aldershot and District Coldstream Guards Association together with our own member, Alan Hayter, an in pensioner at Chelsea Hospital.

The Regimental representative was Lt Rory Crichton-Stuart who gave an excellent update on the state of the Regiment.

The Piper for the evening was Piper Rhys Fritter. We had Piper Fritter at our Burns Supper in January and the members were so impressed by his playing that they asked if it was possible to have him back for our Annual Dinner.

Towards the end of the evening there was a raffle to raise funds for the Branch.

All agreed it was an excellent evening.



Branch Guests enjoying the dinner



Mrs Sue Colligan, Mr John Colligan, Mr Ken Stokes and Mrs Jean Dean-Webb

North American Branch

The North American Branch will hold its Annual Dinner on Saturday 9th September 2017 at the Woodlawn Inn, 420 Division Street in Cobourg, Ontario.

All members of the Association are very welcome to attend, especially those who might be travelling in North America at that time. Cobourg is about an hour and a quarter's drive east of Toronto. The Woodlawn Inn is offering a special accommodation rate for those attending the dinner.

For more details, please contact the Branch Secretary, John Smith at #809-945 Daryl Drive, Burlington, Ontario L7T OA1 Canada, telephone 905-681-8939 or by email to the President, Douglas Mackintosh at mackintosh@1000island.net.

Manchester Branch

The Branch held a Garden Party in the grounds of the President, Brigadier Kim Ross's residence on Sunday 21st May to celebrate the 90th birthday of the Branch Treasurer, Lachlan MacBean. His birthday was on the day of the Presentation of New Colours where he attended with his two daughters. Lachlan was presented with a Certificate of Commendation in appreciation of his service over many years to the Branch. He was a founder member and has held all offices of the Branch during his time.

Seventy members and guests attended the Garden Party and a great time was had by all. The entertainment was provided by the Branch Pipes and Drums.

The Branch has recruited a new member, 23879011 David Maggs who served in both Battalions.

DEATHS

London Branch

Patrick Shovelin RVM died on 20th May 2017.

Not Members of the Association

George Armitage died in May 2017. He resided in Inverness.

David Cochrane died May 2017.

Billy Downs died February 2017. He was involved with the Kai Tak hijack fiasco in Hong Kong.

Edinburgh and Lothians Branch

Mrs Margaret Watt, who was an Honorary member of the Branch, died 20th May 2017.

Scots Guards Club, 2 Clifton Terrace, Haymarket, Edinburgh EH12 5DR.

We are pleased to provide our very first Newsletter to keep you up to date with what is happening in your Club.

As of 14th May, we will have live Scottish music in the downstairs bar every Sunday between 2 – 4 pm. There is nothing really like this in the West end and we hope to build up a head of steam where the Club is the place to go on a Sunday. If this is your thing, please come along and support us in this new initiative.

Over recent weeks and in early May a programme of redecoration has been taking place which has really lifted the look of the whole interior and the front of the building continues to be smartened up in various ways.

The complimentary Friday Buffet (from 4.30 – 6pm) has proved a real success and has stimulated a really great atmosphere on a Friday afternoon, which rolls nicely into the evening when everyone enjoys great company and the fun of contributing to the choice of music!

We have a number of groups and clubs who use the function room which is a very welcome additional source of income so if you know of any such group who you think might be interested in our facilities, please point them our way. Equally, if you have a special event or celebration, please remember that the function room is free to members.

The heart and soul of our club is our membership so thank you for being part of this special place. If you haven't renewed this year, just drop an email to this address and we will give you our bank details or send you a stamped, addressed envelope in which you can put your cheque. Even better, pop into the club and renew while you have a drink or two. Your support is really appreciated.

The club will be open at 1000hrs on Saturday 17th June for the Queen's Birthday Parade so come along and watch the television with us.

On the weekend of 22/23 September, the club will host an “Open House” weekend for all Scots Guards past and present. Families welcome, More details to follow.

The Society for Army Historical Research **2016 Templer Medal Results**

2016 was another bumper year for the Templer Medal competition. Forty nine entries were received from publishers on three continents.

The entries ranged from works by unknown authors published by small houses; through works by new authors (often the book of the doctorate) and by established authors published by academic presses; to works published by global houses. The subjects covered ranged from the sixteenth to the twenty first centuries.

The overall quality of the entries was extremely high. Many of the books submitted were written by military historians of distinction such as Jeremy Black, Alan Mallinson, Antony Beavor, Robert Johnston, Tony Heathcote, Robert Kershaw, Hugh Sebag Montefiore, John Buckley (holder of the Medal) and Nick Lipscombe.

For the Best First Book competition, the results were as follows:-

1. Till the Trumpet Sounds Again: The Scots Guards 1914-19 in Their own Words, by Randall Nicoll (Helion & Co)
2. The Irish Amateur military tradition in the British Army, 1854-1992, by William Butler (Manchester University Press)
3. The Struggle for North America, 1754-1758: Britannia's Tarnished Laurels, by George Yagi (Bloomsbury Studies in Military History)



Major Randall Nicol at the reception after receiving his prize.

VIRGINIA INTERNATIONAL TATTOO **AMERICAN PIPE BAND CHAMPIONSHIP RESULTS**

This contest was held recently as part of the Virginia International Tattoo. Chieftain of the Day

was Jimmy McIntosh. As the American Pipe Band Championship is part of a military Tattoo, the first band awards are for marching and deportment, and were judged by Captain Fraser Clark (Canadian Forces).

Best Marching and Deportment Grade Three: 1st Battalion Scots Guards



The Pipes & Drums of the 1st Battalion on Parade

Congratulations to Major Randall Nicol and to the Pipes and Drums of the 1st Battalion.

Falklands Conflict and Operation Banner Service of Commemoration

As an Association we have been invited to attend the above service of commemoration.

This service is being held to mark the 30th anniversary of the Falklands conflict and the 10th anniversary of the end of operations in Northern Ireland.

The service will be held in the Cannongate Kirk, Edinburgh at 1400 hrs on Saturday 1st July 2017. If anyone wishes to attend please let the Association Secretary know as soon as possible.

Edinburgh Armed Forces Day – Saturday 24th June 2017.

Legion Scotland are proud to support The City of Edinburgh Council at the Edinburgh Armed Forces Day on 24th June.

This year's event kicks off at 11am with the muster for those persons wishing to march at Johnston Terrace, Edinburgh. Standard Bearers and Tri-Service/Regimental Associations are requested to contact the planning team to advise on numbers. The Parade will step off at 1130 hrs and march from Johnston Terrace to the City Chambers.

On the parade's arrival at the City Chambers on the Royal Mile, the parade will fall out and enter the City Chambers where a reception hosted by the Lord Provost of Edinburgh will take

place, addresses will be delivered by the Lord Provost, a senior military and a senior veterans figure.

All are welcome to join in with the day and enjoy the military and charity stalls as well as entertainment from Megan Adams of Poppy Girls fame.

We hope that you can join in the Edinburgh Armed Forces Day as we show our support alongside other communities across the nation for the men and women who make up the Armed Forces community: from currently serving troops to service families and from veterans to cadets.



Alan Hayter, Rab Ritchie and Trevor Elliot having lunch at the Royal Hospital Chelsea.

REPORT ON MARATHON DES SABLES 2017 FROM CAPTAIN JOHN FORD (REGIMENTAL SUPPORT TEAM)

Day 1

I was 312th with a conservative time of 4 hrs 16 mins this stage covered some very difficult terrain from cp1 onwards. I took it easy on this the first stage deciding to easy into it and to ensure that I had enough in reserve for the long day on day 4. some 30 minutes separated the top 100-350. The ground temperature was between 42-45 degrees.

Day 2

Was 40km and was extremely hot, the terrain was very technical covering a lot of slow go sand, dunes and hard difficult Hamada undulating rocky terrain. I maintained my position cruising along keeping enough in the tank to try and finish strong with enough reserve for Day 3 which would be the hill day.

In the end I finished relatively well and within my capabilities, could easily have gone faster but was fresh for day 3 and well poised around the 300 mark. My ultimate aim was to be fresh and strong for day 4, where I would go all out to cement a good finishing position.

Day3

The shortest of the days but the hardest seeing the most difficult terrain. 4 x jebel climbs, 2 of which have alpine ropes due to the steepness and depth of dunes at the top, a ridge run and 4 perilous rocky descents before a long 13 km salt flat run into the finish.

I eased into this day conserving myself on the jebel and hill climb approaches most of which were dune fields then, as I know I am strong on the climbs, I would pass people. This I managed to do and by the end of the final climb I was well placed well within the top 200. Unfortunately on this final descent I caught my foot between some rocks and twisted my knee, unknown to me at the time I had torn my lateral ligaments. This resulted in a rather slow final 10km to the finish which saw me drop over 150 places! My worry was that it would be worse for day 4!

Day 4 the longest day 55 miles.

After overdosing on painkillers I began this stage running but soon succumbed to the pain and could no longer maintain the pace I wanted to! A pace I was confident would have seen me finish in the top 100. This proved to be a very pain-full day taking far too many pain killers in the process. However I managed to get through without stopping and still finished inside the top 300 despite it, something I was surprised at given my condition. It was always my aim to keep going through every checkpoint not stopping to rest or eat as many do! This helped me finish at 0100hrs in the morning giving me the entire next day to recover and rest my knee for the final days marathon. Surprisingly I had still maintained my overall position just outside the top 300. This I was very disappointed in as I had set myself the target of top 200 however there was nothing I could do about it and the aim now was just to ensure that I finish!

Day 5

Rest day, plenty of medical attention, rehydration, strapping of the knee, carb loading and blister treatment.

Day 6

Final marathon stage.

Feeling confident after being able to rest I began running although high on painkillers, surprisingly although painful it was manageable! I turned this into a good race pace, which saw me hitting the 17 mile mark in under 3 hours a good time given the terrain of the early stages. Maintaining this pace would see a stage top 100 finish, however disaster struck and once again whilst negotiating a short but difficult dune section my knee finally went. The resulting 9 miles took longer than the previous 17 and saw me being physically sick with the pain and borrowing a set of poles to aid with walking from a fellow competitor.

However the end result was I still finished, overall place was in the top 350 and although very disappointed with that as I was capable of the top 200 or higher, given that I completed the last 87 miles of the race with torn knee ligaments I can't really complain!!

It just means that I have a score to settle and I will return for a 3rd time not next but maybe the year after?

Unfortunately I do not have the times of 2015 in-front of me, however I was faster this time in 2017 but I did not finish in as high a place? It is difficult to compare year from year, the course changes slightly, the previous time was 10km longer on the long day. Also this year was on average 4-6 degree hotter and at times the amplified temperature within the Dunes and Jebel rocks was 50 degrees and over, they also gave us less water than last time and the terrain was a lot more technical with less decent running terrain, more rocks Dunes and an extra hill on day 3.

On a plus point. I lost 5 toenails last time but to date have not lost any yet although 3 are on their way!!!

2 down 1 to go!!!

Yours aye

John

SCOTS GUARDS MEMORIAL PROJECT UPDATE

The project is still ongoing, please can you keep your eyes open for all types of respectful memorials to individual or groups of Scots Guardsmen as you travel around Scotland, the UK and further afield.

It is expected that the memorials from the project will be added to the Regimental website www.scotsguards.org

This is one that SGA Fife member Tom Kerr came across in Upper Largo, Fife.

LIEUTENANT JOHN EDWARD BAXTER

Lieutenant John Baxter was killed on 16 October 1944 aged 19. Note that on the family memorial stone he is recorded as 2nd Lieutenant although both Scots Guards History 1919 – 1955 & Commonwealth War Graves Commission record him as a Lieutenant.

He joined the Regiment in 1943 and before his death he had previously been wounded.

His mother Mary Baxter and father lived at Largo Ward, Fife and Lt John Baxter is remembered on the family memorial stone at Upper Largo Cemetery.

The grave also lists his father Lt Col Noel Edward Baxter & 2nd Lt Ralph Frederick Baxter (probably an uncle of John Baxter) Royal Sussex Regiment killed at the Battle of Loos in September 1915 aged 18.



1st Battalion Scots Guards returned to the line on 11 October 1944 in positions south and west of Pian di Setta. On 13 October the South African's attacked Monte Stanco and in conjunction Right Flank occupied Grizzona Station. On the 16 October Left Flank attacked Peggio which was defended by the SS. There was a stiff battle to take the houses during which time Lieutenant Baxter who was well to the fore of his platoon was killed. He grappled with a German who suddenly appeared around the corner of a house. The German dropped a grenade and as they struggled it exploded killing them both.

Lt John Baxter is buried at the Castigione South African Cemetery (CWGC), Italy. This cemetery is 60km north of Florence midway to Bologna and mostly holds the graves of men of 6th South African Armoured Division and 24 Guards Brigade which 1st Battalion Scots Guards was then part of.

Please let Neil Crockett know the details of any memorials that you find.

Email: neil.crockett@btopenworld.com

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Letter: 28 Sycamore Grove
Pitcorthie
Dunfermline

Forecast of Events

June

Fri 16 – Mon 19 Tumbledown Veterans & Families Assoc. Blackpool.
Sat 17 Queen's Birthday Parade, London - 1st Bn Irish Guards.
Sat 17 Military Show & AFD, Kings Park, Stirling.
Sat 24 Armed Forces Day, Glasgow.
Sat 24 Armed Forces Day, Edinburgh.
Sat 24 Curry Lunch, SG Club.

July

Sat 1 Armed Forces Day, Dundee.
Sat 1 Falkland Conflict and Operation Banner Service of Commemoration, Cannongate Kirk, Edinburgh.
Sun TBC Sunday Lunch – Topsy Nipper, Fife Airport, Glenrothes.
Sun 30 WW1 Battle Passchendaele Commemoration, Crieff.

August

Sun 13 SGA Fife Bowls & Grand Draw, Markinch Bowling Club.
Fri 25 SGA Fife Branch Golf Competition, Balbirnie Park Golf Club.

September

Fri 15 SGA Highlands & Islands Dinner, Inverness.
Fri 22 * SGA Reunion, SG Club.
Fri 22 * SGA Fife Veterans (Over 65s) Lunch.
Fri 22 SG Wos & Sgts Past and Present Dinner, Aldershot.
Fri 29 SGA Edinburgh & Lothians Dinner, SG Club.

October

Sat 7 SGA Dundee & Angus Dinner.
Sat 14 SGA Carlisle, Dumfries & Galloway Branch Dinner.
Fri 27 SGA Aberdeen Branch Dinner.
Mon 30 Opening of Garden of Remembrance, Edinburgh.

November

Fri 3 SGA Ayr Branch Dinner.
Fri 10 SGA Fife Branch 63rd Annual Dinner.
Sun 12 Remembrance Sunday.
Sun 26 Laying of WW100 Commemorative Paving Stone to Sgt McAulay VC, Kinghorn.