

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

Neil Crockett
Secretary & Editor

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With effect from 1st October 1st Battalion are in fully operational in Cyprus on Operation Tosca. We send our best wishes for a safe, successful and enjoyable tour. The cover photo's show their United Nations Blue Beret & shoulder badge.

Correction: In last month's newsletter there was a story about the Poppy Factory, Edinburgh. I reported that the factory made 1,200 poppy wreaths annually. Foreman Danny Minto put me right and I'm happy to make a correction. The actual amount made annually is 10x1200 @ 12,000. We are grateful to all the staff at the Poppy Factory for their very hard work and again a special mention to our Scots Guardsmen Danny Minto, Willie Urban, Arthur Dykes, Donald McLeod and Fraser Rowand.

NEWS FROM THE BRANCHES

NORTH AMERICA

You can see from the photographs, the North American Branch of the Association is thriving with 25 people coming to our annual dinner, including Grenadiers, Welsh and Coldstreams. Our new Secretary, David Rennie, did a superb job as MC. He had been in the Regiment for 20 years, 1973 – 1993 and has recently retired from the Canadian Armed Forces after a further 20 years, he was a Captain in the Ceremonial Guard and the Governor Generals Foot Guards in Ottawa, Ontario.

Very much missed was our long-standing Secretary John Smith who served in that capacity for years. Unfortunately, John was recently hospitalized after a bad fall, and his memory is now failing badly. However, he is in good spirits and still remembers a little song from his early days in the Regiment. He was able to sing it from his hospital bed, and President Douglas Mackintosh relayed it to us at the dinner:

The Jocks and Micks are first of all.

The Coldstreams follow behind them.

But when you look for the Grenadiers

You're buggered if you can find them

Hearing about that song put us all in good spirits for the dinner. It commenced with a superb haggis made by Helen Elliott, piped in by a top of the line piper, Kirk Hill. He played favourite tunes to great applause. Not to be outdone, Willie McCarroll then addressed the Haggis in spectacular fashion. We were again at our favourite hotel, the Woodlawn Inn in Cobourg, east of Toronto. The owner, Stephen Della Casa, gives us his best rates and such good food and wine that we have already booked there for next year. The date will be Saturday, September 7, 2019 and we look forward to welcoming any from the Household Division who might be travelling in North America at that time.

Many thanks to Stephen Della Casa, Innkeeper Woodland Inn for sharing his photographs.



**Rear Row: Willie McCarroll, David Rennie, and a Grenadier
Front Row: Bill McCowen, Tim Boyd Wilson & Douglas MackIntosh**

Our New Secretary is David Rennie who served from 1973 to 1993 and was the last Drum Major of 2SG. He moved to live in Canada in 1994 joining the Canadian Armed Forces in 1998. He retired a year ago when he was DCO/Adjutant of the Ceremonial Guard in Ottawa.

Contact David Rennie on 613 6804306 or email: drummie2ca@gmail.com



The North American Branch & their Ladies

Highlands & Islands

The Branch held its Annual Dinner on Friday 14 September at the Crown Court Hotel, Inverness. President Alisdair Hilleary welcomed members and guests in fine style. Quite rightly he invited his mother to speak as Guest of Honour and she gave a good speech about her time as child in southern England during the early days of World War 2. Her story included handing out tea & refreshments to soldiers who escaped from Dunkirk, finding a German spy who was hiding in their childhood den and later evacuation to Canada. She also spoke about her time as an Olympic skier. 2Lt Longstaff reported on the serving Regiment. Chairman Brian MacDonald was unable to attend being in hospital for a double knee replacement and we send our good wishes.

For information about the Branch contact Harry Obern on email hobc862@gmail.com or phone 01463 717002

Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire

The Branch 54th Annual Dinner took place at Datchet Golf Club on Saturday 22nd September 2018. Our Guest of Honour was Mr Max Benitz the author of 'Six Months without Sundays' The Scots Guards in Afghanistan who recalled what it was like in 2010 being with the Regiment as a civilian, living with the Battalion in Helmand Province and how much he was to learn about the character of the Regiment and the character of the individuals within. He told some serious, interesting and amusing stories before proposing the toast to the Regiment. He kindly signed my copy of his book during the evening. The part time Scots Guards Association Pipe Band (South) who recently came eighth in the World Pipe Band Championships performed for our pleasure under Pipe Major Steve Duffy's direction. It was a cracking night, the quality of the food as usual was exceptional, clean plates all round. The service and atmosphere of the venue was quite excellent. Everyone had a wonderful evening among friends. Nicholas Elliott was our photographer for the evening, you will see some of the photos at the end of this newsletter. The Branch Committee planned the evening and chose the menu in fine style, Tam Bates and Harry Slessor and the golf club staff once again did an excellent job in getting the venue ready for our evening arrival. It was good to see both Pipe Major Dixie Ingram and his son Angus perform together following the sudden loss of their wife and mother 'Dorothy' earlier this month and for Dixie to receive his Quaich from the Commanding Officer 1st Battalion Scots Guards Lt. Col. JDL Leask MBE. Including Max and the CO we had other special guests Mr Len Burritt former Royal Signals RSM (the first Desert Rat) who celebrated his 100th birthday recently (see his web page and our August Branch Newsletter). Captain James Fleming, DSgt Neil Moreton and LSgt Tony Rudd from the serving Regiment. Vice President and In-pensioner Alan Hayter and two Falkland Islanders Mr & Mrs Saul and Caroline Pitaluge. It was our great pleasure to welcome them all. Our Branch Vice President; Major Jan De Haldevang, proposed the Toasts to HM the Queen and HRH The Colonel, the Toast to Our Fallen Comrades was proposed by the former Left Flanker Reverend Colin Paterson whilst Pipe Major Steve Duffy played the Lament. The Toast to The Regiment was proposed by our Guest of Honour and Captain James Fleming brought us up to date on what the Battalion has been up to all around the world in the past year and the loose plan going forward. WO2 (D/Sgt) Neil Moreton proposed the toast to the Branch and then our Chairman Harry Slessor at his first dinner as Branch Chairman thanked those present for attending the dinner, the Committee and the Golf Club Staff for making it such a success. and a special Thank you to the Branch Secretary Rab Ritchie, the Branch Treasurer Trevor Elliott and the DG CLO Tam Bates. The round of applause was heard throughout Datchet. The Raffle which was made up of predominantly donated prizes from members raised a magnificent £293.00 for the Branch funds and charitable causes. Amazingly the CO won the first prize out of the drum (an Amazon Echo) which he kindly donated to our Burns Night raffle. A special thank you to the Elliott family for their assistance throughout the evening and in the selling of the Raffle Tickets under the Treasurer's guidance.

Our next Branch meeting will be Friday 26 October 2018, Datchet Golf Club 1930 for 2000hrs.

For more information of Branch activities contact Secretary Rab Ritchie. Email rab.ritchie@icloud.com or Tel 07776 411120



Berks, Buck & Ox Dinner, Committee and Guests at their Annual Dinner

Back Row (Standing) L-R: WO2 (D/Sgt) Neil Moreton, Mr George Kermack, Mr John McCullins, Rev. Colin Paterson, Mr Tam Bates, Mr Ali Simpson Vice Chairman, with the Branch Standard, Mr Mo Morris, Mr Ron Stephen, Mr David Reekie, L/Sgt Tony Rudd, Mr Rab Ritchie Vice President & Secretary, Pipe Major Steve Duffy.

Front Row (Seated) L-R: Mr Trevor Elliott Treasurer, Mr Ken Burritt, Captain J. Fleming, Mr Max Benitz, Mr Harry Slessor Chairman, Major Jan De Haldevang Vice President, Lt. Colonel JDL Leask MBE, IP Mr Alan Hayter Vice President, Mr Paul Duffie.

Durham & Yorkshire Branch

Our Sunday Luncheon Club met on 5 September at Woodham Golf Club on 5 September and we will be having our next lunch on Sunday 7 October at The Green Dragon, Post House Wynd, Darlington at 1300hrs.

The Branch Annual Dinner took place on Saturday 15 September at Shildon Civic Centre it was held at lunch time and our Guest of Honour was our own Major Hugh Cantile. Lieutenant R Crichton Stuart was our Regimental guest and he came along from Gds Company, ITC Catterick to give an account of the serving Regiment.

We welcome back into the fold Stuart Webb who has joined the committee and to his son Andy Webb good to see them back amongst us.

The next Branch meeting will be on Wednesday 10 October at Newton Aycliffe Working Mens Club. Come along to join us if you can or contact Secretary Peter Wheadon for more information Tel: 01325 319125 Email: wheadon3014@aol.com

Fife

The Branch will hold its Veterans Lunch at the Topsy Nipper, Fife Airport, Glenrothes on Friday 5 October and our final full meeting of the year is at the CISWO, Glenrothes on Sunday 21 October.

Our Annual Dinner is on Friday 9 November at the Dean Park Hotel, always a great night if you want to come along and join us contact Secretary Neil Crockett Email neil.crockett@btopenworld.com or phone 01383 721530.

Best wishes to Kenny Lawson who has an operation on 29 September.

Dundee

The Branch Annual Dinner is on Saturday 6 October at the Invercarse Hotel @ 1830 for 1900hrs. For more details contact Secretary Iain Bryson Tel: 07447 700536 Email: iainpiper@hotmail.com or Treasurer Brian Sulley Tel: 01382 566770.

Aberdeen

The Annual Dinner is on Friday 19 October at Aberdeen Altens Hotel @ 1900 for 1930hrs. For more details and information about meetings contact Secretary Graeme Thompson on Tel: 01224 317738 Email: gthompson246@btinternet.com

Glasgow

Well done to Jim McArthur, Bob Riddell & Don Lamont for arranging a 2nd visit for 92 year old World War 2 veteran, housebound Tommy Hunter to see his terminally ill brother.

At the last Branch meeting Keith Norwood took over as Secretary. Full contact details next issue.

Scots Guards Malaya & Borneo Veterans Association

The Association held a reunion at The Village Hotel, Blackpool on Saturday 22 September. It was a tremendous success with members, wives and guests invited to dress appropriate to the 1st Battalion's time in Malaysia & Borneo in 1964 – 67. Seventy four sat down wearing anything from planters order to sarongs to loudly coloured shirts and shorts. Royal Navy uniform (don't ask) to outfits that I think were stolen from local Terendak traders in 1966 – it was a sight to behold. The night was greatly enjoyed by all attending and many old friendships were renewed. A very well deserved "Certificate of Thanks" was presented to Margaret Davidson for her help and support to the Regiment over 55 years. Well done the Association office bearers and particularly to Ronnie Patterson for a great night.

The AGM of the Association took place on Sunday 23 September.

For more information of the M&BVA contact Secretary Sandy Low Tel: 07557 02707 Email: sandy.low75@gmail.com



Malaya & Borneo Veterans Association Reunion

The throng includes Major General Sir Christopher Airy (Guest of Honour), Major General Iain MacKay -Dick, Brigadier Kim Ross, Lieutenant Colonel (QM) George Cooper, Lieutenant Colonel (QM) Ewan Lawrie, Major Fred Hardie, Major Munro Davidson, Captain Ronnie Paterson, Captain Ronnie Wilkie. Try and spot them!! – NOT the guy in the Beard & Sun Glasses (Joe Sime) or Jolly Jack Tar (Eddie Simpson).

Warrant Officers & Sgts Past & Present Association

The 70th Annual Dinner was held at the Hilton Hotel, Grosvenor Street, Edinburgh. The Association President RSM Peter Tetlow presided over the Dinner. The Guest of Honour was Brigadier CJ Bell OBE and the Commanding Officer of the 1st Battalion gave a report on what the serving Regiment is up to. Despite that most of the Bn had already deployed to Cyprus available Sgts Mess members made the trip up from Aldershot to attend. The 1st Battalion Pipes & Drums played as ever to everybody's enjoyment. After the dinner most attending made good use of the Scots Guards Club for a nightcap or 2.

DEATHS

Durham & Yorkshire

22389021 LSgt Bruce Leonard Died 8 September.

22551099 Dennis Frankland Died 20 September.

Fife

23229014 Gdsm Bruce Skene Died 14 September Served June 1955 – August 1958 RF 2SG Germany/Chelsea.

Linda White former wife of Paddy McEnhill Died 29 August 2019 in Queen Margaret Hospice, Dunfermline. Linda was very well liked by 1st Battalion families in Hong Kong, Pirbright, Hohne, Windsor & Ballykinler and this was reflected by the large turnout at her funeral on 11 September.

Mrs Dorothy Ingram wife of Captain (retired) & PM Dixie Ingram died suddenly on 9 September. The funeral will be at 1330hrs Friday 5 October at St Peters Church, Frimley Green. GU16 7HO. Please advise sons Angus on 07711 896305 or Duncan 07966 016686 if you will be attending.

CORPORAL (LSgt) HARRY BLANSHARD WOOD VC MM

On Saturday 13 October 2018 on the 100th Anniversary of Cpl Harry Blanshard Wood's VC winning action there will be a ceremony at his birthplace to unveil a Victoria Cross paving stone. This is the last of 5 Scots Guardsmen who were awarded VC's in World War One to be honoured in this way.

Planning for the ceremony is well under way by the East Riding of Yorkshire Council & the local Parish Council.

Birthplace

Harry Blanshard Wood was born in the small village of Newton Upon Derwent a small village in the East Riding of Yorkshire approximately 10 miles SE of York.

Ceremony

The event will be centred on the village Methodist Church and afterwards the village pub. There will be a very short parade of about 300m from a forming up point to the Church.

The ceremony will include:

Reading of VC citation.

Prayers and Blessing by Archbishop of York.

Last Post, Flower's O' The Forrest, Silence, Reveille.

Laying of Wreaths by Lord Lieutenant of East Riding of Yorkshire, Scots Guards, Scots Guards Association, Others.

Regimental Presentation to Residents of Newton Upon Derwent.

At the end of the ceremony the parade will disperse and it is expected there will be some form of refreshments in the village pub.

Update of Information:

Confirmation details of the programme and timing will be given out to those known to be attending in the week before the commemoration.

Timings:

Form Up of Parade - 1215hrs (TBC)
Ceremony Starts - 1300hrs

Location:

Newton Upon Derwent – approximately 10 miles SE York Location & Postcode for Methodist Church – Main Street YO41 4DA.

Car Parking:

There will be specified car parking areas – to be confirmed.

Scots Guardsmen on Parade:

There will be a detachment of serving Scots Guardsmen based on Regimental Support Team including a Piper.

Scots Guards Association:

It will be great if we can achieve a good gathering from Scots Guards Association with the Durham & Yorkshire Branch taking the lead with SGA Standards please. Other former Scots Guardsmen are very welcome. The wearing of Berets & Medals is encouraged.

Other Military Veterans:

Local veterans groups including Royal British Legion are being informed of the ceremony and expected to attend.

Attendance:

Can any former Scots Guardsmen attending let me know to email: sga@scotsguards.co.uk or Tel: 01383 721530. This is important so the organisers have an indication of numbers attending. Thanks!

Finally:

This is another opportunity to remember the exploits and bravery of a Scots Guardsman & to show the public what we are about. Hope to see you there.

NEWS FROM THE REGIMENT

Guards Parachute Pltn

6 (Guards) Pltn, 3 Bn Parachute Regiment prepare to deploy on Op Total 7. A return to Afghanistan as part of the Kabul Security Force.

Regimental Band

On 7 September the Band had the privilege to perform at the Menin Gate Ceremony in Ypres. Before the main ceremony they played outside the Flanders Field Museum to welcome visitors to the area.

Pipe Major (WO1) Ross McCrindle SG

Senior Pipe Major in the British Army, WO1 Ross McCrindle is winner of the prestigious Silver Medal at the Northern Piping Meeting, Inverness. **Very many congratulations.**

F Company

Are currently on exercise in Wales keeping their infantry skill sharp.

Members of The Scots Guards

Having been trialling the new physical testing coming in across the Army.

All Arms Parachute Company Selection

Congratulations to 2 members of F Company who have recently passed the course. LCpl Tom Salsbury (Grandson of Tommy Paterson) was awarded P Company Champion (Top Student). Well done also to Gdsm Adam Bailey. **A Great Effort.**

INFANTRY JUNIOR LEADERS BATTALION ASSOCIATION REUNION – OSWESTRY

6 Scots Guards former Junior Leaders were the largest Regimental grouping at the annual reunion on Saturday 8 September. Along with wives we spent the weekend in the Oswestry area where we started our Regimental service in the 1960's. In the morning most of us attended the AGM. Captain Ronnie Paterson volunteered his experience to take over as Secretary of the IJLB Association. Peter Carew travelled from the Wirral to meet up for a few hours.

On Saturday night we attended the reunion dinner at the Wynnstay Hotel.

Major Colin Coull is about to retire as CEO Reserve Forces & Cadets Association, Greater London and we wish him well.



New IJLB Association Secretary Captain Ronnie Paterson on his throne.

Standing: L-R Bill McHugh, Major Ray Walker, Major Colin Coull, Captain Graham Fowler, Neil Crockett

Any former SGs Junior Leaders or Permanent Staff interested in joining the Association look at www.ijlb.org or contact anyone in the photograph above for information.

