

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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NEWS FROM THE BRANCHES

Aberdeen and North East of Scotland Branch

The Branch held its Annual Dinner on Friday 27th October 2017 at the Aberdeen Altens Hotel where 63 members and guests enjoyed an excellent meal. There was a good attendance from Dundee and Angus, Central, Glasgow, Fife and the Pipers' Branches. And for the first time, a former Welsh Guards present.

Major James Kelly, the Regimental Adjutant, was the Guest Speaker and he gave a very enlightening talk on what is happening in the Army and the Regiment today. Some of the news was a bit depressing, but there was also some good news to boost the spirit.



Jimmy Clunes in his red Jacket this year talking to Captain Syd Carnegie



Branch members at the dinner

Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire Branch

During the last Branch meeting the following changes to our Branch Committee were proposed, seconded and carried due to death, and long term illness within the Branch.

Mr Harry Slessor replaces Mr Jim Archer, retiring due to long term illness, as the Vice Chairman which means Harry will take over as Branch Chairman for three years from Mr Ron Stephen at the Branch AGM on 23rd March 2018.

Mr David Reekie takes over the role of Branch Almoner which has been vacant since the death of Mr Albert Scorgie on 26th July 2017.

Mr Alistair Simpson takes over the role of Branch Standard Bearer from Mr Jim Archer following Remembrance Sunday 2017 where Mr Trevor Elliott will be the Standard Bearer at the Garrison Church in Windsor.

The Branch is holding a Burns Night on Saturday 27th January 2018 in the Datchet Golf Club, and this is always a very popular function.

Carlisle, Dumfries and Galloway Branch

On Wednesday 20th September 2017 the Branch Chairman and Secretary attended The Way Ahead Meeting at The Scots Guards Club, Edinburgh. It was well attended and lots of useful points were brought to the meeting's attention. The next meeting will be at the Ex Servicemen's Club, Carlisle on 24th November 2017 at 10.30am for 11.00am. A hot meal will be served after the meeting.

On Friday 22nd September 2017 the Branch Chairman and Branch Secretary made their way deep into England to attend the WOs and Sgts Past and Present Association Dinner at Mons Barracks, Aldershot. It turned out to be a very good night and we were very well looked after, thanks to Captain Cody and others who kept filling our glasses! We all met up with Jimmy Clunes – an old footballing mucker.

The highlight of the Branch's year was the 68th Annual Dinner held at The Shepherds Inn, Carlisle, on 14th October 2017 which saw 110 members, friends and guests attend. After Wullie Findlay said Grace, a first class meal was served with the offer of seconds and the service was second to none. After the meal our President, Major Peter D Johnson proposed toast a to our Colonel-in-Chief, Her Majesty The Queen and to our Colonel, His Royal Highness The Duke of Kent. The toast to our Fallen Comrades was proposed by the Branch Chairman, Malcolm Temple. At this point we had a break, where Piper Bell, who had previously piped in members of the Top Table, played a medley of old tunes which got the feet tapping.

After the break, Major Johnson proposed a toast to the Regiment and Major Neil McClelland (whose father and cousin attended the Dinner) gave an excellent reply, then gave us a detailed account of what was happening within the Regiment around the world and that the 1st Battalion would be returning to Catterick in the next two years. Our President, Major Johnson proposed a toast to the Association. Then the Chairman, Malcolm Temple, proposed a toast to our guests, Police Commissioner Peter McCall, Major Neil McClelland, RQMS Michael Little, Lsgt Archer, Piper Bell and Piper Fair. At this point our Guest Speaker, Police Commissioner Peter McCall stood up and gave us a very interesting report on his training at Sandhurst and how Guards RSMs had pointed him in the right direction, that helped him during his military service. He also gave a detailed report on his employment at the moment.

The Branch would like to thank members and their wives from other branches for attending the Dinner, which included Jim and Jeanette McArthur, Neil and Margaret Crockett, Sandy and Margaret Kirkpatrick, Les Braby, John Murdoch, Kevin Wyllie, Lachlan MacBean, Allan Wroe, Ian Watson, Jack and Jane Boyd, John and Pauline Scott, Jim Dickie, Tom Robertson, Alex Mills, Tom Getgood and Willie Houston. We also thank all the locals who attended the Dinner and helped to make it such a success.

The Branch would also like to thank all those who donated prizes for the raffle which raised £380, thanks to Phyllis and Brenda who took charge of this.

Durham, Yorkshire and North East of England Branch

Sunday Luncheon Club

On Sunday 5th September several members enjoyed a hearty meal at the Hardwick Arms in Sedgefield for just £4.00 a head! This was a promotion meal by the new owners, and very good it was. The next Sunday Luncheon took place at the Comet at Croft on Hurworth Place on Sunday 8th October.

Eden Camp, Sunday 10th September

In total 5 Branch members and elements of their families took advantage of the free coach to Eden Camp where a Veterans March-past took place, organised by a Branch of the KOYLI Association. This was extremely well supported, but sadly the weather took the shine off the day. Branch Member Jim Woods kindly recce'd the local area for a suitable venue to take lunch and came up trumps with the Steam and Moorland Garden Centre, which is a popular eating place in the local area. He and his wife, Phyllis, joined us for a meal and for the march which was rather arduous, seeing as how it was performed at Light Infantry rate of march causing a major shock to long legsas I recall only moving that fast while being marched in for Company Orders, or worse! However, everyone enjoyed the occasion, but we are looking for a gentler venue for next year. How about a stroll along the prom?



.Jim Woods, Peter Wheadon and John Scott amid the other Regiments marching

On Sunday 16th December 2017 there will be a joint lunch with the Middlesborough Coldstreamers at Marten Hotel and Country Club.

On Saturday 20th January the Branch is holding a Burns Supper Night at the Woodham Golf Club.

Dundee and Angus Branch

The Branch held its Annual Dinner on Saturday 7th October 2017 in the Invercarse Hotel, Dundee. There was approximately eighty five members and guests present and all enjoyed an excellent meal. The service was also very good, as it has been over the past years.

The Guest Speaker was Major James Kelly, the Regimental Adjutant, who gave a very informative talk of what is happening in today's Army. Lt Tom Strachan brought us up to date with what the Battalion is involved in at present – this must have been quite an ordeal for Tom, as he has only been in the Battalion for four weeks!

Piper Bell gave us a very good set and the President, The Earl of Dalhousie, was pleased to see him again, as he had played at his son's wedding in America last year.

At the end of the Dinner the Past Chairman, Mr David Cuthill, was presented with the Past Chairman's medal and also a Certificate of Commendation for his work with the Branch and the Association. The Certificate is signed by HRH The Duke of Kent and The Regimental Lt Colonel.



David Cuthill being presented with his certificate by the Earl of Dalhousie.

Borders Branch

The Borders Branch will hold its 57th Annual Dinner on Friday 9th March 2018 in the Harwich Rugby Club.

Edinburgh and The Lothians Branch

The Branch Annual Dinner was held on Friday 29th September in the Scots Guards Association Club in the Haymarket, Edinburgh.

The Guest of Honour this year was Bernard Williams, Regional Director of Christie's, Fine Art Auctioneers and Valuers, working for Christie's for forty years, born and educated in Dublin.

He was given the usual warning - "don't go on too long" by our President and for once we had someone who actually took the advice! It was the first time we went outside "the military background" and he was very well received by all in attendance.

Even though we were small in numbers, 41 sitting down, there was still the old camaraderie atmosphere. The usual faces from other branches were in attendance to help boost the numbers, and the only people who were a surprise was Neil and Margaret Crockett.

Unfortunately, we never had a Regimental representative due to the Battalion being on exercise.

Piper Bell from the RST gave a resounding set after the interval and had everyone tapping along.

Thanks must go to John Marshall and his entourage for their excellent work on the raffle, money raised helps to offset the cost of guest tickets.

Pete Moseley is settling in to life at the Erskine Home in Gilmerton, Edinburgh, and starting to attend some of the organised events. He looks healthy and the facilities in the Home are excellent. Our Branch Chairman, Jim McPherson, goes to see him quite regularly and will keep us updated on Pete.

Corby, Central and Eastern England Branch

The Branch held its inaugural Dinner on Friday 15th October 2017 when 23 members attended.

Major James Kelly, the Regimental Adjutant, was the Guest Speaker.

The Branch Officials are:-

President: Major Casper Hobbs

Chairman Vacant

Secretary Mr Scott Morton

Treasurer Mr Jim McCabe



The founder members of the Corby Branch at the Dinner.

SCOTS GUARDS CLUB

Following the success of our Sunday music sessions, we will be hosting live music in the downstairs bar every Thursday evening from 7 – 9 pm. Same format as Sundays with the odd twist thrown in depending on the talent we have on the night!

We have a big November coming up and on the following Saturday dates you should be aware that the bar will be particularly busy due to the Autumn rugby internationals on 11th, 18th and 25th November.

Our weekly cash prize draw is now up and running with tickets at only £1.00. The draw will be made each Sunday at 3 pm in the downstairs bar with £50.00 cash going to the lucky winner.

We have a Quiz Night on Wednesday 1st November with Dr Ian Spring as your Quizmaster. Grab a couple of pals and come along to test your wits against the dear doctor and see what mediocre prizes you might win!

Remembrance Sunday will soon be upon us and the Club will open early as usual for those attending the service at Haymarket. Wherever you are in town that day, come along to the Club and enjoy the company of friends as we remember all who gave their lives.

Congratulations to Jonathon Simpson who won the first of our knockout competitions which also attracted a fantastic crowd. Future dates are:-

Sunday 29th October - Ben Duncan v John Dew
Sunday 26th November - Jamie Elder v Dan Nevans
Sunday 28th January - Callum Watson v Ross Miller

Kick off 4 pm after the music session downstairs (2-4). Tickets £5.00 at the door. The Club's famous pies will be on sale.

The legendary folk musician Fred Morrison will perform from 5.30 pm on Sunday 26th November, immediately after the knockout. Tickets on sale shortly but you can reserve an advance ticket by emailing the club at enquiries@scotsguardsclub.co.uk.

The AGM of the Scots Guards Association Club Limited will be held on Wednesday 15th November 2017 at 7 pm in the upstairs function room. All members welcome.

Looking forward a couple of months, if you are organising a festive do or simply want to drop in for some cheap and cheerful pre-drinks before heading into town, please consider using the Scots Guards Club for all or part.

As ever, if you have any suggestions on how to improve, please let us know.
All the best from all the team.

NAIRN GOLF OUTING

This is the third Golf outing that this group has played and includes Harry Slessor (BBO) Kevin Wildish (London), Willie McIntosh (London), Jimmy McCulloch (Fife and London), the Hart Brothers, Derek Murray and Blue Sinton.

Alan Fotheringham seems to spend his whole life on the golf course, and Alan is arranging a golf outing at the Nairn Dunbar Golf Club, Nairn from Saturday 21st April to Friday 28th April 2018. He has also arranged meals and accommodation. Interested??

For further details contact Alan Fotheringham by email on:- Hyinder1@sky.com or by mobile: 07827 440501

23229488 Guardsman Sid Dixon

As a recruit Sid Dixon was issued with his Bible (Soldiers Testament and Book of Psalms). After the Guards Depot Sid joined 1st Battalion Scots Guards who were based at Lee Metford Camp, Lydd in July in 1956 to November 1957, then Victoria Barracks, Windsor to November 1958. Sid Dixon was Orderly to the then Captain (Quartermaster) Donald Fraser MBE.

The Bible was mislaid until it was found many years' later amongst family possessions in the loft of the home of Donald Fraser's son. Written inside was 23229488 Guardsman S Dixon, 16 January 1957. There was also pencil writings by the younger Fraser children.

The Bible was cleaned up and a typed inscription added to thank Sid Dixon for his service to the late Major Donald Fraser and Mrs Ivy Fraser and family. Margaret Crockett (fourth of five Fraser children) had the great pleasure to meet Sid again at the Carlisle, Dumfries and Galloway Branch Annual Dinner on Saturday 14th October 2017, when she returned the Bible to him.



Margaert Crockett with Syd and Mrs Dixon at the Carlisle Branch Dinner.

SGT JOHN McAULAY VC DCM - PAVING STONE UNVEILING – KINGHORN

SUNDAY 26th NOVEMBER 2017.

On Sunday 26th November 2017 a World War 1 Paving Stone will be unveiled at the War Memorial, Kinghorn, one day before the 100th anniversary of Sgt John McAulay's VC winning action.

The form of the day is:-

1030hrs - A Service in Kinghorn Parish Church. The service will be led by the Parish Minister assisted by Rev. Angus Smith.

Followed by a short walk (400 m) to the War Memorial by the whole congregation led by a Scots Guards Piper and SGA Standards.

At the War Memorial will be the Paving Stone unveiling by a member of the McAulay family followed by a silence and laying of wreaths.

At the end of the ceremony there will be a reception with buffet at Kinghorn Community Centre (75 m from the War Memorial) when the Regiment will present a gift to Fife Council who will pass it into the care of Kinghorn Community Council.

Dress: Berets (if you have one) and medals.

Administration:

1. Kinghorn isn't the easiest place to get to on a Sunday morning by public transport but does include trains on the Fife Circle from Edinburgh or Bus No. 7 from Dunfermline- Inverkeithing and Leven – Kirkcaldy.
2. There is only disabled car parking by the church but there is parking not far from the War Memorial – Community Centre. It is expected most will travel by car and full parking information will be given to those attending.
3. After church it is expected that there will be a mini bus from the church 400 m uphill to the War Memorial for those with mobility difficulties.

Attendance:

Please let Neil Crockett know (for catering purposes) if you are coming by 4th November at the latest.
Email: neil.crockett@btopenworld.com Tel: 01383 721530.

John McAulay was born at Kinghorn but his boyhood home was at Plean, Stirlingshire, and it was there that he began working as a miner after he left school. Then he looked around for something else and in 1911 was accepted for training by the City of Glasgow Police. After that he was assigned to the Northern Division and the following year won the Police Heavyweight Boxing Championship. Whether it was from home, from school, or later, he was by this time known as Jock McAulay and that is how he has gone down in history.

In the early weeks of the Great War dozens of Glasgow Policemen volunteered. A very significant

proportion joined the Scots Guards and on 3rd September 1914 Jock McAulay was one of them. He first went to France, already an unpaid Acting Lance Corporal, just after New Year 1915, but his early service there was interrupted by knee problems and he came home for treatment. ~In August of that year he went out again in time for the Battle of Loos. From then on he was in C Company 1st Battalion Scots Guards until May 1918 when, in common with many long serving NCOs, he went home for a prolonged rest.

His name appears in several accounts of events before the summer of 1917. Once, during the previous winter on the east side of the Somme battlefield, in conditions of cold and wet as bad as anything at any time on the Western Front, his then Company Commander, Sir Iain Colquhoun of Luss recorded that Sergeant McAulay had lost not only his trench waders but also his trousers to the mud.

On the opening day of the Third Battle of Ypres, 31st July 1917, the Battalion was in the opening phase of the attack to capture Pilckem Ridge. They achieved their objectives, but at a cost, one of those who fell being Jock McAulay's platoon commander, who was killed. He immediately took charge and set about eliminating any enemy resistance he could see, including personally dealing with snipers and two strong points. For this he was awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal.

We are here today to honour and commemorate the centenary of the award of the Victoria Cross to Jock McAulay during the Battle of Cambria. On 27th November 1917 the 2nd Guards Brigade were ordered to capture the village of Fontaine Notre Dame, the chances of success being at best slender. Three other Foot Guards Battalions attacked the village and part of Bourlon Wood to the left of it on the north and were driven back with very heavy losses. The only Scots Guardsmen directly involved in the battle were C Company, their task being to make a flanking attack on the south side of the village.

Immediately they started to move forward from the starting point they had crawled to they came under heavy fire and all three officers who had gone into action were hit, along with nearly half of the men. Jock McAulay took command, settled the situation under heavy fire, broke up an enemy counter attack, carried his mortally wounded company commander, Captain The Honourable Arthur Kinnaird, several hundred yards back to cover, returned to C Company and directed operations from then on.

There was no doubt in anybody's minds what should follow. The Commanding Officer, Major Sir Victor Mackenzie, wrote at the time "I am recommending him for a V.C., but they are hard to get".

(The VC Citation does not need to be included for these purposes, but could be if necessary).

Jock McAulay was in the Battalion for the best part of three years and no one can have been more aware than him how fortunate he was never to have been hit. Many of his fellow Glasgow Policemen lost their lives or were disabled. He himself went back to the City of Glasgow Police and became an Inspector. He was the only Scottish Policeman to win a VC in the Great War. He died in 1956.

An Anonymous Scots Guardsman wrote "Jock McAulay doesn't need me to sing his praises; in fact like the rest of us in the Scots Guards, we are not keen on spreading about what we consider our duty. But I am simply echoing Major Sir Victor Mackenzie's words about him when I say Sergeant McAulay is an ideal soldier. Both of us hail from the same town, we have both been miners, and we are both in the Scots Guards. I saw the great deed he did, and I know what the Regiment thinks of it. But it is only one of many great deeds my comrades have done. He has won the VC. Not once, but several times".

Jock McAulay was a humble man and he would not want me to say this, but, if one man stood for each

and every Scots Guardsman during the Great War, it was him. His example shines on for all Scots Guardsmen who have followed after.

DEATHS

Merseyside Branch

23229532 Gdsm R Newman Died 30th September 2017.
2SG 1955-58.

Borders Branch

23215353 Harry Wright, Life Guards. Died 15th October 2017.
Associate Member.

Not Members of the Association

22474827 WO2 John James Watson (Johnny). Died 28th September 2017.

WO2 James Watson (Johnny to his friends) served with the Scots Guards from 15th June 1951 until he was discharged on 2nd March 1971. He saw service with 1SG in the Middle East as part of the Middle East Land Force (MELF), Germany with both Battalions when it was British Army of the Rhine (BAOR) and East Africa with 2SG. He finished his exemplary service at the Army Apprentice College in Harrogate.

David O'Reilly died 4th October 2017. Served 1960s – 1970s.

Terrance Roy Lickford died 2nd September 2017. He resided in Essex.

Robert Christie died 22nd October 2017. He resided in London.

Pipers' Branch

Pipe Major Bob Kilgour died 9th October 2017. He was aged 93 years.

Third Guards Club

Major Nicholas Michael Lancaster Barne CVO. Died 21st October 2017.

SCOTS GUARDS CHRISTMAS CARD 2017



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Scots in The Great War London

To commemorate the end of the First World War and recognise the contribution of Scottish organisations during this time, a series of events are being held in 2018.

July: Commemorative Book Launch

Scots in The Great War London

2nd October: The Caledonian Lecture

Field Marshal Haig, Prof Gary Sheffield

18th October: Royal Caledonian Education Trust Schools' theatre production for RBKC

This is my Life

27th October: Feeding the 50,000

St Columba's WWI Story in Word & Music

October: Anniversary fixture at London Scottish Football Club

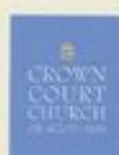
November: Launch of Poppy Scotland Appeal at Dover House

11th November: Remembrance Sunday Services

St Columba's and Crown Court Church of Scotland

17th November: Scots in The Great War London Celebration

Ceilidh at St Columba's



ScotsCare
The charity for Scots in London



The Burns Club of London



Royal Caledonian
Education Trust



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