

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 MM Davidson
Secretary & Editor

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REGIMENTAL NEWS

Congratulations:

- * Lieutenant General Sir John Kiszely KCB MC has stepped down as Chairman of The Colonel's Fund Appeal Committee after a very successful year and has handed over to Colonel Matthewson, the Trustees and RHQ.
- * Colonel A D Matthewson OBE, Lieutenant Colonel, takes up his new appointment as Chief of Staff HQ London District on 8th February 2010.
- * Tom Benyon (TGC) has been awarded an OBE for his charity work, especially as Chairman of ZANE (Zimbabwe a National Emergency).
- * WO2 G White on his promotion to WO1 and on his appointment to Sergeant Major of the Honourable Artillery Company.
- * WO2 J Bull on his promotion to WO1 and on his appointment as Gunnery Sergeant Major at Lulworth.
- * JGdsm AJ Hilsley on being awarded the Best Junior Guardsman in Training and on his promotion to Junior Sergeant Major of the Army Foundation College at Harrogate.

Last month Stewart Leslie, 22, became the 200th recruit to enlist into the Army in the Edinburgh area since April at a special ceremony in The Castle (arranged by Pipe Major I Lowther), where there were 6 other recruits joining the Scots Guards on a record breaking day. By April 2010 the Regiment should have enlisted 190 countrywide.



In Memoriam

Sadly the following members of the Third Guards Club died in December. Richard Scriven CBE JP, Tim Gilpin, Peter Dawson and Major Neil Ramsay.

Tragically Gdsm Andrew Gibson, Right Flank, died as a result of an injury sustained at a night club in Darlington on 17th December. The funeral took place on 22nd January in Cumbernauld Old Parish Church at 1330 hrs.

1st Battalion

Lieutenant Colonel LPM Jopp MC, Commanding officer, carried out a recce in Afghanistan returning just before Christmas. Right Flank has now deployed to Afghanistan. The rest of the Battalion will be carrying out specific training exercises between now and their deployment, the first one is due to take place in Thetford.

The Pipes and Drums played at Jules Holland's *Hooten'anny* show on BBC 2 to see in the New Year.

F Company

The Company has had men away on skiing, but will now move to Brecon for 2 weeks' live firing exercises. RQMS Watt from RHQ will assist for part of the time.

Captain PG Mann has handed over as Second in Command to Captain OJW Lippiett, who has just returned from a short attachment to 1st Battalion Grenadier Guards in Afghanistan. Captain Mann, who has left the Army, was also acting as the Project Officer for The Colonel's Fund, for which he deserves our thanks.

RHQ

The 2nd Battalion King's Colour rescued from Chelsea Barracks Chapel is to be laid up in the Clothworkers' Hall at a special ceremony later in the year.

It is not too late to order your copy of the Scots Guards 2010 Calendar, proceeds of which go to the Colonel's Fund.

There is a small stock of both 1st and 2nd Battalion place mats also available – they come in sets of 6.

The Colonel's Fund

A new website has been created, but can be reached by typing in Scots Guards Colonel's Fund as before. The total now stands at £981,000 with the New York dinner still to be included.

The New Household Division Memorial

The Lieutenant Colonel was present at the unveiling of the new Memorial at the National Arboretum on 3rd December. Unfortunately, Mr Peter Ferguson was unable to be there to receive his Elizabeth Cross.



The Lieutenant Colonel with members of the Manchester Branch at the National Arboretum: also present were the Regimental Adjutant, the Equerry and the Regimental Quartermaster Sergeant.

News from the Branches

Ayrshire Branch

The Branch is to hold a Spring Dance on Friday 19th March when they will hand over money to various charities. The Gurkha Welfare Fund, Holybush Ayr, the Local Special Needs School and Belmont Campus, Ayr will all benefit.

Merseyside Branch

The Branch held its AGM on Friday 15th January 2010. Jimmy Horne and Keith Reid were both re-elected as Secretary and Chairman respectively for another year.

Durham and Yorkshire Branch

The Branch is still holding the Sunday Lunch Club and this month they were at the Ramside Hall on the A690. The Branch also held a Burns Night on Saturday 23rd January at the Darlington Rugby Club.

Carlisle, Dumfries and Galloway Branch

The Branch's annual Draw was held on 20th November 2009 in the Ukranian Club where attendance was somewhat depleted due to the adverse weather conditions across Cumbria. On a plus note, there were second, thirds, even a takeaway buffet for those who attended!

Glasgow Branch

On 27th November a presentation was made to the City of Glasgow Police by the nephew of the late John McAulay VC DCM.

In 1975 the City of Glasgow Police merged with other forces to become Strathclyde Police. At this time a museum relating to the former Glasgow Force was created, and amongst the many items on display there is a special showcase relating to John McAulay, his decorations and other awards in recognition of his bravery.

The presentation in November was an inscribed silver cigarette bar from the Sergeants' Mess of his Battalion. The Curator asked if serving members could be present and L/Sgt Robertson and L/Cpl McLaughlan from recruiting were present.



Mr W MacDonald, L/Sgt Robertson, Mr Ian Wells, Mr A Dinsmore, L/Cpl McGuire, Mr W Brockie
Nephew Curator

DEATHS

Glasgow Branch

2695371 Frederick Arbon died April 2009

Fife Branch

224388 Neil Ward died 25th January 2010.
Served Irish Guards 1949-54.

Third Guards Club

Major Neil Gordon Ramsay died 30th December 1009.

Not a member of the Association

2704228 William James Mathieson died 10th January 2010 Erskine Hospital
Served 1944-47.

Sharjah British Military Cemetery

By Captain (Retd) Graham Fowler.

I am in regular contact with Ron Convery who is now a Major in the United Arab Emirates; he is the Senior Instructor at their Officers' Military Academy. Ron mentioned to me, as he knew that I had been stationed in Sharjah with 1SG in 1970, that he was going to be attending at a dedication service at St Martin's Cemetery which has just received official recognition as a British Military Cemetery which used to be part of the Garrison Church for RAF Sharjah. The Church is no longer there and the cemetery has just recently been renovated, the old headstones have all been replaced and new ones erected and the military part of the cemetery has been cleaned up.

The cemetery is now located in the middle of a built up area and is surrounded by schools and high rise flats. For some of the younger members of our Association British Servicemen as a general rule were not repatriated by public funds when killed overseas, whether on active service or by other means until after the Falklands War. Fortunately we had no fatalities during the tour in Sharjah.

The dedication service was attended by the British Ambassador to the United Arab Emirates, Edward Oakden and the Defence Attaché, Colonel Robert Robson. There were about 27 personnel from all three services in attendance, some about to go off to Afghanistan.

It will become a regular event in Sharjah now that it has official recognition as a British Military Cemetery. Ron has also found out that the Fajarah Emirate plan to erect a memorial to four RAF crew who were killed just off the coast of the country in 1947 when their Lancaster Bomber crashed. It has been driven and funded by the Ruler of Fajarh and will be in English and Arabic. Ron is going to keep a watching brief on this event.

RAF Sharjah was used as a forward operating base from 1967 for the Middle East after Aden closed and as a transit stop to other Gulf RAF stations such as Bahrain, Masera and Salallah. At RAF Sharjah you had only one infantry battalion in a light portable role on a 9 month unaccompanied tour with no R and R, a squadron of light armour from the Armoured Corp mainly equipped with Saladin armoured cars, ferrets and landrovers, a troop of Royal Engineers, a small headquarter unit, including a very large ammunition depot controlled by the RAOC, now RLC but guarded by the RAF regiment and the resident battalion. A Signals detachment from the Royal Corp of Signals worked alongside the Royal Air Force on rear link duties and helped operate a forward desert guard net. Whilst the Battalion was stationed there G Squadron 22 SAS was based in Sharjah and the armoured squadron came from the Household Cavalry Regiment. The Battalion's role was mainly to show a military presence in the Trucial Oman States, now the UAE and carry out training and operational patrols called Omex Patrols (Hearts and Minds) in and around Jebel Akhdar in Oman.

WRITTEN MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Medical Care for Veterans

Monday 11 January 2010.

The Ministry of State, Department of Health (Mike O'Brien):

The Government is committed to ensuring that those who are seriously injured or who develop mental health problems whilst in the service of their country will receive the best possible care from the National Health Service for the rest of their lives.

The Department is today announcing a package of measures to support service personnel who have received serious injuries whilst on active service. I have worked closely with my hon. Friend the Minister for Veterans (Kevan Jones) to put in place new arrangements with the Ministry of Defence for life care planning, together with a guarantee that all those seriously injured will receive an early and comprehensive assessment of their long term needs. It is intended that those needing continuing healthcare will receive high quality care for life based on a regular review of their needs overseen by an NHS case manager.

As committed in New Horizons – a cross-government vision for Mental Health, the Department is also responding to concerns expressed about the impact of recent and current deployments on the mental health of those leaving the armed forces. The community mental health services currently being piloted in six mental health trusts are

expected to continue their work beyond the end of the pilot period. The findings from the evaluation of these pilots will allow other mental health services to gear their services towards meeting the needs of veterans. We expect that all mental health services will make special provision for veterans during 2011-12.

In addition, we are providing grant funding for Combat Stress to work directly with mental health trusts to ensure that the services they provide are accessible to and appropriate for military veterans. The two Departments have today signed a tripartite agreement to facilitate the work that Combat Stress will be doing in partnership with the Government. The Department will also be extending its Third Sector Strategic Partner Programme with the third sector to include the involvement of charities representing those in the armed forces, their families and veterans.

The major improvements in trauma care made in recent years by Defence Medical Services and the excellent work of the emergency teams in Afghanistan means that people are now surviving injuries which would have taken their lives in former times. The Department has previously undertaken to ensure that recent Service leavers who have lost a limb while serving will – where clinically appropriate – be entitled to receive from the NHS an equivalent standard of prosthetic limb to those provided by Defence Medical Services.

Today I can announce that this undertaking will be extended to all veterans who have lost a limb whilst serving, where clinically appropriate.

The Department will also ensure that a responsible Director within strategic health authorities, together with primary care trust champions for the armed forces are identified to advocate for them and to ensure that their needs are fully reflected in commissioning plans and service provision.

The Department will also be working with the Ministry of Defence to ensure an improved transfer of medical records to the NHS on retirement from the Armed Forces. This will facilitate GP awareness of the veteran status of new patients to ensure veterans receive their entitlement to priority treatment for any injuries or illness attributable to their time serving in the Armed Forces.

Finally, the Department is working with the military to develop clearer and easier routes into accredited NHS jobs to provide employment for those leaving the armed forces.