

Cymru am Byth



THE WELSH GUARDS ASSOCIATION CENTENARY ANNIVERSARY



*Once a Welsh Guardsman
Always a Welsh Guardsman*





Contents:

President's Foreword	2
Author's Foreword	3
The President, Vice President and Treasurer	4-5
The Secretary General and Assistant Secretary General	6-8
Minutes of first Association Meeting	10-11
List of past Presidents, Superintending Clerks and Secretary Generals	12
Rules of the Association 1920	13
Early dinners - 1928, 1929	14
The Welsh Guards Association poem	15
The Committees of the Branches	16
Closed Branches	16
Branches and Secretaries:	
• Cardiff	17
• East Glamorgan	17
• Llanelli, Cardiganshire & Pembrokeshire	17
• London	18
• Merthyr Tydfil	18
• Monmouthshire	18
• Montgomery, Shropshire & Midlands	19
• North America	19
• North of England	19
• North Wales	20
• Ogmore	20
• Swansea & West Glamorgan	20
• Welsh Guards Reunited	20-21
• Regimental Band	22
Welfare Officer Jiffy Myers MBE	22
Welsh Guards Association Golf	23
Early Branch Booklets, Dinners and Battlefield Tours	24-25
On a lighter note/ On the subject of the tie	26-27
Blazer Badges and Famous Associate Members	27
Nicknames	28
Parades and Standard Bearers	30
Welsh Guards Association lapel badges	31
Gallery	32



Foreword

Colonel T C S Bonas
President

It is a very great honour for me to be the Association's President in this our centenary year and I would like to pay tribute to all my predecessors, the Secretary Generals and all those who have and currently serve in Branch appointments and most especially the Branch Secretaries. Without the tireless support of all of them, the Association would not have thrived as it did, and nor would it be here today.

The Association has changed considerably since our formation, most notably in membership numbers and branches but its *raison d'être* remains, namely where Welsh Guardsmen can come together and enjoy their comradeship, their common heritage and share the odd memory! This now happens through both our traditional Association and Branch gatherings and through social media. Both forums have their own advantages but crucially enable us to communicate with each other well.

Whilst we have faced challenges in recent times, the Association is still a successful and thriving one and we should continue to be very proud of it. Our level of activity and engagement remains high whether it be St David's Day, Remembrance Sunday, Regimental events such as KAPE Tours or Trooping the Colour, the Darts and Shoot Competition, our Bi-Annual lunch, our annual Battlefield Tour, our annual Race Meeting and of course our strong Association golf. The Welsh Guards Museum, established by Stan Evans in 1995 and still run by him and his volunteers, performs a great service to both the Association and Regiment and they must be thanked for their devotion

and commitment. Many thousands go through their doors each year which helps to raise our profile and educate the public on our illustrious history. We remain indebted to them.

Over its many years, the Association has always looked out for its veterans and members and this welfare role continues to this day. Since 2014, we have been helped and supported by Jiffy Myers, our Regimental Veterans Officer who should also be thanked for his vital work looking after those in need and it is something he does extremely well.

I believe it most appropriate that we should celebrate our Centenary here in Cardiff not least that the Association's first ever meeting was held here but also at that meeting the Cardiff Branch, our first, was also formed. We therefore celebrate its Centenary this year as well.

I am sure you will enjoy reading this specially produced Association Centenary Brochure and a considerable amount of care and thought has gone into it. Our warmest thanks must go to Stan Evans for producing it and it is so appropriate that he did so given his in depth knowledge of our Regiment and his loyalty and devotion to it.

May we look to the next hundred years!



Author's Foreword

23523467 Stan Evans

After the euphoria of the many end of war victory celebrations, the Nation got back to the monumental task of rebuilding the country and, more importantly, their own lives. What seems amazing now is the depth of mental damage the war had brought to the tens of thousands of servicemen returning from the trenches. A lot returned seemingly unhurt physically but mentally damaged. Many found it difficult to fit back in to civilian life.

Returning veterans were accepted as being "different" and sometimes being unable to hold down jobs they may have held before they went to war. In fact, there were hundreds of cases of would be employers whilst recruiting workers putting up signs saying, "War veterans need not apply" It would take more than another 60 years before society acknowledged veterans suffering war fatigue, shell shock and finally post-traumatic stress disorder PTSD.

It is unbelievable that some of these returning veterans missed being in the trenches. But they did. Forgetting all the horrors of fighting a war of attrition, the terrible struggle to stay alive and the sights and smells that would stay with them for the rest of their lives but remembering the friendships and camaraderie they forged with other veterans during times most people could hardly imagine. They missed their fallen comrades perishing beside them on a much too often regularity, praying that they could survive another day.

Friendships lasted as long as the duration of each battle till the end of

the war and other friendships lasted just a couple of days or even hours, sharing their ration of rum each time before they went over the top. Unbelievably some of these brave men were barely old enough to drink alcohol. These survivors regularly had to bury their comrades who were often men from their own villages, neighbours or even related.

The hierarchy of the British Expeditionary Force (BEF) believed soldiers could function better if they fought alongside men from their own "neck of the woods" so they created what were to be known as the "Pals Battalions" In 1915 the Welsh Guards became the youngest infantry regiment in the British Army and became "pals" just because they came from the same small towns and villages from all over Wales. With so many of our casualties coming from these neighbouring villages and towns, survivors had no one to talk to, to tell what they had seen and what they had to do. So many became recluses within their own communities.

Their salvation

In November 1919, the Regiment decided to create the Welsh Guards Comrades Association where men could be brought together in an atmosphere of compassion and joviality where prior rank or status were put aside.

The very first meeting of this new Association took place in Wellington Barracks (see below) and the first branch to be formed was Cardiff in 1919.

Now as the word got around at last people had a place to contact other veterans. The chance to feel a part of something especially introduced for them. Bringing together all Welsh Guardsmen from Brigadier Generals to the newly titled Guardsmen (previously addressed as Privates, this was an honour bestowed upon them by King George V in recognition of their sacrifice during the First World War), so that they could get together with others, including many who were still suffering from the effects of war. They realised they were no longer suffering alone and the shame some men had put on themselves for just surviving the war and leaving their dead comrades behind slowly left them. It became the norm, as it is today, and any generation will testify the normal subject of conversation were the good times they had.

Stan enlisted aged 15 years and served between 1959-68, an ex-Drummer and present Curator of the Welsh Guards Museum in Oswestry.



President of the Welsh Guards Association



Colonel Tom Bonas took over as President of the Association in 2004 whilst he was Deputy Commander 102 Logistics

Brigade in Gutersloh, Germany. During his Regimental career, he has seen service in the UK, Berlin and Hohn as well as Belize, the Falklands and Northern Ireland. He commanded the Prince of Wales's Company and was Second in Command. He also commanded 3rd Battalion The Duke of Wellington's Regiment in East Yorkshire. He left the Army in December 2007 becoming the Regimental Adjutant that year, a post he has held since.

His time as President has seen some significant changes in the Association, not least the establishment of a digital branch - Welsh Guards Reunited, which has been very successful, and the creation of a Band branch. Sadly, some Branches have gone into suspended animation, but others continue to thrive. Under his direction two major reviews have been conducted on the Association, both concluding that we will evolve and change with societal changes and generational thinking. In addition, the Association's charitable status changed in 2013/14 and the significant change is recorded in the brochure. His views on the Association are reflected in his Foreword.

Vice Presidents



Brigadier Johnny Rickett CBE was born in Laugharne, Carmarthenshire and was called up for National Service in 1959. He was commissioned into the Regiment, became a regular and left the Army as a Brigadier after 35 years. He has served all over the world principally in the Middle and Far East, Germany, the USA and East Africa. He speaks French, German and Arabic fluently. He has seen many periods of active service in Aden, Northern Ireland and when he commanded the Battalion in the Falklands War in 1982. He commanded 19 Infantry Brigade and Colchester Garrison from 1984 - 1986, attended the RCDS and then became Deputy Commander and COS of SE District in 1987. He was appointed Regimental Lt Colonel and President of the Association during this period. His final tour of duty was Military Attaché in Paris.

On leaving the Army in 1985 he ran the Union Jack Club in London for 15 years. On his retirement from there he has conducted Battlefield Tours throughout Europe which he continues to do. He is involved in a lot of charity work, notably Veterans Aid, (Hon Life President). Colonie Franco Britannique (President) and President of the local RAF Air Cadets.



Captain Chris Hopkins joined the Infantry Junior Leaders Battalion, Oswestry in 1965 AND Attained the rank of Junior Regimental Sergeant Major. After this, he joined the Battalion in Windsor

in 1967 and was posted to Sharjah for nine months - attached to the Grenadier Guards.

He re-joined the Battalion in Munster and was then attached to the Coldstream Guards for their first tour of Northern Ireland followed by the Battalion's first tour.

Later appointments include Section Commander Anti-Tank Platoon, Platoon Sergeant Number Two Company, Superintendent Sergeant Guards Depot, Colour Sergeant during the Falklands War, Company Sergeant Major Number Three Company, Company Sergeant Major Royal Military Academy Sandhurst (RMAS), Drill Sergeant 1st Battalion, Regimental Sergeant Major Victory College RMAS, Second in Command Junior Guardsmen Company followed by the adult company. His final appointment was as Company Commander Headquarter Company with the 1st Battalion in Tern Hill.

Captain Hopkins considers that his main sporting achievement was the five years he spent in the Army Triathlon Team.

He is extremely honoured to be the President of the North Wales Branch of the Association. Keeping the spirit of the Regiment alive through the close association between serving and retired members is close to his heart and fortunately he feels that there is a very good relationship between both at the moment.



Treasurer



Major Martin Browne

BEM assumed the post of Assistant Regimental Adjutant Welsh Guards in January 2017 and in doing so became the Welsh Guards Association Fund Manager and a Trustee.

Having joined the Welsh Guards as a Junior Leader in 1976, as well as serving within the Battalion in Great Britain, he accompanied them on tours of Berlin, Northern Ireland, the Falklands, Germany, Bosnia and Iraq.

Early on in his career he moved into the clerical career field and, as the Orderly Room Colour Sergeant in 1993, was compulsory transferred to the Adjutant General's Corps in line with the Defence wide Options for Change restructuring. This saw him posted to the United Nations in Cyprus for 2 years and then as the WO1 Superintending Clerk at HQ 7 Armoured Brigade in Germany before commissioning back into the Welsh Guards in London in 1999.

Once commissioned he held appointments within the Battalion as the Unit Welfare Officer, Regimental Careers Management Officer, Technical Quartermaster and Quartermaster before attending the Intermediate Command and Staff Course at the Defence Academy Shrivenham in 2005. From here he completed two staff posts; as SO2 Training for the Pay as you Dine team at the Defence Food Services Integrated Project Team and

then as the Chief of Staff at the Defence Chemical Biological Radiological and Nuclear Centre (DCBRNC) at Winterbourne Gunner before retiring and moving to Andalucia, Spain in 2009. He returned to the UK in September 2016 and now lives in Shropshire with his wife Lyn.

As well as running the Association funds and acting as a Trustee on the Associations governing body, he also maintains the WG Charity Website which incorporates specific areas for the Association and the WG Collection and is the Editor of the annual Regimental Magazine which is distributed to members of the Association annually.

Like most other groups and clubs the Welsh Guards Association faces membership challenges having to compete with the ease, speed and reach of Social Media and online communication and Major Browne was instrumental in encompassing the online Welsh Guards community provided by Welsh Guards Reunited into the Association which continues to unite Welsh Guardsmen wherever they might be.



Secretary General



24263892 Maldwyn Jones

hails from Bangor was offered the position of Secretary General following the resignation

of Brian Keane. Knowing that Brian had carried out the position for the past 15 years he knew he was a hard act to follow. Prior to taking up this position, Maldwyn had a successful tenure as the North Wales Branch Secretary.

Serving with the Regiment from September 1975 until October 1993 where he left on options for change. Taking voluntary redundancy. Starting off his time in the Battalion with 4 Platoon, Number Two Company it was only a few months later that he moved to the Corps of Drums. Maldwyn served in 8 Platoon, Number Three Company during the Falklands War. He served in Milan Platoon, Support Company in Hohne and finished his time in the Medical Centre. Maldwyn served in every Company, except the "Jam Boys", hence the reason he works alongside Neil Henry Rice as his assistant - to redress the balance!

On leaving the Regiment he quickly realised that he had left a loyal and supportive family which is the main reason why he feels so strongly about what the Association has to offer. After leaving the Regiment he served with the North Wales Police as a Constable in various towns and villages across North Wales. They could not compete with the camaraderie he misses from his time in the Regiment.

When not carrying out Association business, Maldwyn runs a busy Hotel

on Anglesey, in his very little and precious spare time he sits on a local charity committee that organise the Annual Menai Bridge raft race to raise funds for local good causes being self-employed he also gives his time to ride a rider for the Blood Bank Wales charity which finds very rewarding as he gets to ride a "nice motorbike" at someone else's expense whilst helping to save lives (they really do) and the NHS money.

Maldwyn is a well-known and popular figure; he has always been the person people go to for advice and support. In the last eleven years as a licensee, has managed to forge links with many serving members of the Battalion and many of their families. He also came across many serving members in his role with the North Wales Police – but enough said about that!

Little did I know that when I attended my very first Association dinner back in 1976 that I would be writing a piece for the Centennial celebrations. I often think back to the day when Steve Griffiths 71 (RIP) and I were Junior Soldiers in Pirbright and were invited by the Bangor section to attend the Annual Dinner at the Ormescliff Hotel in Llandudno. As our invitations had come through the Association Office in Regimental Headquarters to Company Sergeant Major, Number Two Company, Guards Depot we were ordered to attend and wear Number 2 Dress. Feeling rather smart going to an official function dressed in our finery, thinking back we probably looked like a sack of spuds! Nonetheless, it was a great night. Griff had barely

turned seventeen and I had just a few months previous. We were hosted by several Association members who kept buying us drinks, not that we were complaining. I don't think that bit has changed at all. I know the old and bold of today do the same. What has stuck in my mind, having pulled up the proverbial sandbag and listened to their farfetched tales of high jinks and drama. Little did I know that I would get into similar scrapes and situations in the years to follow. Even now, when spending time with younger and serving members, the stories are very similar. Very little has changed in that respect. However, I have noticed – in the licence trade, that today's Guardsman spends very little time in the pub compared to when I was younger. Almost all of our leave revolved around the drinking culture. Today, when I see them running or in the gym, they appear to be a fitter, leaner and more professional breed. Another difference is that many travel overseas during their leave, something that wasn't really open to us "back in the day".

Over the last forty-three years, since my first involvement, the Association has change. As a young Guardsman, I recall attending monthly meetings; these meetings were attended by a very similar attendance as today - in the main, by older members. If you're in your 50s or 60s, you are considered a 'young man'! Communication from Regimental Headquarters was slow, and everything was done by post as very few people had a phone in the house let alone a mobile. The only



get together, in the main, was St David's Day. The modern Association has been rejuvenated. There are so many ways these days to pass on information about what is going on. Almost everyone has a mobile phone and most people have access to email and social media. More and more Welsh Guardsmen are meeting up on a regular basis; communication has never been so good; events are organised at very short notice, but it is still good to see new faces turning up for Dai's Day - which will always remain a firm favourite with many. We cannot sit on our laurels though. Whilst social media and the online community is great for the passage of information, meeting ex-Guardsmen, whether close friends when you served or not, still has a place in today's society. With the pressure of modern-day life, it becomes even more important to share personal experiences from various tours as it affects us all in different ways. To meet up with fellow Guardsmen face to face has many benefits. I especially look forward to the memorial service in Wrexham every year, as I get to spend a day with those who fully understand. The interaction is so much better, the 'buddy-buddy' system is there, and friends can spot when things are not right and can offer a listening ear and support. Remember, no matter when you served, we are all here for each other. On saying that there will always be banter - Lee Enfield vs SLR vs SA80 (which ever variant) - we all have our vices and crosses to bare.

Thank you all for continuing to support the Association and its values, to encourage the younger generation to attend the meetings and remind them the blazer, collar and tie days have long gone and it's up to the individual if they wish to wear them.



Assistant Secretary General



24446066 Neil "Henry"

Rice joined the Battalion at the end of 1975 and given that he is 6'6", there was very little doubt

what company he was to join, so he found himself in 3 Platoon Prince of Wales Company. I was a 'Jam-Boy' throughout our tour in Berlin and when we returned to Elizabeth Barracks, Pirbright I was sent off to the Intelligence Collation course in preparation for our 1979-80 tour to South Armagh. As a result of this, I was transferred to Headquarter Company and worked in the Int' Cell until our return from Northern Ireland. Then, I was dragged kicking and screaming into the Orderly Room, only escaping back into the Jam-Boys when they needed me - including the very memorable day in Windsor when the Colonel of the Regiment renamed us The Prince of Wales's Company. I stepped off in 1981 and had very little to do with anything Regimentally for many years. So, I went back University, raised two fine boys and carved out two careers - one in industry and the other as a professional photographer and it wasn't until 2015 that I really began to reform old friendships and start many new ones. The Welsh Guards Reunited Branch of the Association was a real eye opener as it opened the door to a whole network

of old and new friends and before very long, I was immersed in all manner of activities. St David's Day parades, the Darts and Shoot Competition, the annual "Ride to the Wall" where thousands of ex-servicemen bikers visit the National Arboretum to remember and pay our respects to the fallen and many more formal and indeed, not so formal, gatherings. When Brian Keane stood down as Secretary General, I was greatly honoured to be asked to support Maldwyn, the new Secretary General as his Assistant and what an interesting and busy two years it has been.



The Welsh Guards Association

Taken from Regimental Standing Orders (2015 edition)

137. The Welsh Guards Comrades Association was formed in 1919. The title was changed to Welsh Guards Association in 1966.
138. The Welsh Guards Association. Following a reorganisation of the regimental funds in 2014 it was agreed that the Association Fund would be transferred to the Welsh Guards Association and used for the purposes of that charity. The Welsh Guards Association was registered with the Charity Commission on 9 October 2014 and as a result of a uniting direction (made on 29 October 2014) made by the Charity Commission it is regarded as part of the Welsh Guards Charity for registration and accounting. The Welsh Guards Association is thus linked to the Welsh Guards Charity, but it still retains its own charitable status, as Charity Commission number 1152766-1. However, it continues to be governed by the terms of its Constitution and is administered by its own trustee body. The purposes of the Welsh Guards Association are:
- To promote the efficiency of the Welsh Guards by fostering esprit de corps and by such other means as the trustees shall from time to time determine.
 - To assist persons who are currently serving or who have served in the Welsh Guards and the dependants of such persons who are in conditions of need, hardship or distress.
 - To commemorate and remember those members, or former

members, of the Welsh Guards who have lost their lives or suffered injury or put themselves at risk of loss of life or injury, in service to the public.

The Trustees of the Association consist of:

- President – appointed by the Regimental Lieutenant Colonel Welsh Guards
 - Not more than 2 Vice Presidents appointed by the President
 - Treasurer – the Assistant Regimental Adjutant Welsh Guards
 - Secretary General – appointed by the Trustees
 - Regimental Adjutant Welsh Guards
- The trustees are responsible for the day to day administration of the Association and are charity trustees with the meaning of the Charities Act 2011.

Branches

139. There are 17 Branches of the Association in Wales, the Border Counties, London, the Midlands and the North of England. One of the branches, Welsh Guards Reunited is web based.
140. **Officers Membership.** All Officers automatically become full members of the Association when they are commissioned. Wherever possible they are affiliated to the Branch of their choice by Regimental Headquarters. When in the United Kingdom they are to attend the Association Annual Dinner and to give their Branch all the support they can. On retirement, Officers are encouraged to continue their membership and to take an active

interest in their Branch affairs.

141. **Guardsmen Membership.** All Guardsmen automatically become members of the Association when they successfully complete their recruit training.

Cups and Trophies

142. **The Leatham Trophy.** This Trophy was presented by the late Colonel R.E.K Leatham DSO, before the 1939-45 war. It is awarded to the winners of a shooting competition between Branches of the Welsh Guards Association.
143. **The Aberdare Cup.** Presented annually to the best individual rifle shot in the Leatham Trophy. Presented by the Aberdare Branch in 1973.
144. **The Monmouthshire Cup.** Presented annually to the serving Welsh Guardsman who, in the opinion of the Regimental Lieutenant Colonel, is the "Sportsman of the Year".



The Welsh Guards Comrades Association

Actual copy of minutes of the first meeting

Welsh Guards Comrades Association.

The first General Meeting of the Association was held at Cardiff on Saturday, 29th November, 1919, when the following were present:—

Colonel W. Murray-Threipland, D.S.O., (Chairman).	
Lt. Col. The Hon. A. G. A. Hore Ruthven, V.C., C.B.; C.M.G., D.S.O.	
Lt. Col. T. R. C. Price, C.M.G., D.S.O.	
Lt. Col. Sir Rhys Williams, Bart., D.S.O., M.P.	
Capt. J. J. P. Evans, M.C.	Capt. R. W. Lewis, M.C.
Capt. G. C. H. Crawshay.	Capt. W. A. F. L. Fox Pitt, M.C.
Superintending Clerk C. E. Woods (Honorary Secretary), and about 80 members and former members of the Regiment.	

1. After the Chairman's opening remarks, the proposed rules of the Association were read by the Honorary Secretary.
2. It was proposed by Lt. Col. The Hon. A. G. A. Hore Ruthven, V.C., C.B., C.M.G., D.S.O., and seconded by Mr. H. F. Cox, that the rules read, be adopted.
Carried Unanimously.
3. Lt. Col. T. R. C. Price, C.M.G., D.S.O., proposed, and Mr. W. J. Church seconded, that the undermentioned Officials be elected.

<i>President.</i>	Col. W. Murray-Threipland, D.S.O.
<i>Vice-President.</i>	Lt. Col. The Hon. A. G. A. Hore Ruthven, V.C., C.B., C.M.G., D.S.O.
<i>Honorary Secretary.</i>	Superintending Clerk C. E. Woods.

Carried Unanimously.

4. Lt. Col. Sir Rhys Williams, Bart., D.S.O., M.P., explained in full the objects and aims of the Association.
5. The question of formation of local branches was discussed and it was made clear that where a sufficient number of members reside to justify the formation of a branch, a proposal to form a branch should be sent to the Honorary Secretary.
The suggestion was discussed and agreed to, that branches should hold a social gathering on or as near as possible to the anniversary of the formation of the Regiment, viz 27th February.
6. A vote of thanks to the Chairman for presiding was unanimously carried.
7. After the Meeting, a branch of the Association for Cardiff district was formed, of which Lt. Col. Sir Rhys Williams, Bart., D.S.O., M.P., was elected President, and Mr. H. F. Cox, 1, Amesbury Road, Penylan, Cardiff, Honorary Secretary.
Members of the Association who live in the Cardiff district and are desirous of joining this branch, should communicate with the Honorary Secretary of the branch, at the above address.
It was further decided to form a Branch for Monmouthshire, with Headquarters at Newport, and Capt. G. C. H. Crawshay was elected President of the Branch.

W. MURRAY THREIPLAND, Colonel.
President,
Welsh Guards Comrades Association.



Transcribed minutes of the first meeting for clarity

The first General Meeting of the Association was held at Cardiff on Saturday 29 November 1919, when the following were present:

- Colonel W Murray-Threipland. DSO (Chairman)
- Lieutenant Colonel The Honourable AGA Hore Ruthven VC CB CMB DSO
- Lieutenant Colonel TRC Price CMG DSO
- Lieutenant Colonel Sir Rhys Williams Bart DSO MP
- Captain JJP Evans MC
- Captain RW Lewis MC
- Captain GCH Crawshay
- Captain WAFL Fox Pitt MC
- Superintendent Clerk CE Woods (Honorary Secretary)
- Approximately eighty members and former members of the Regiment

After the Chairman's opening remarks, the proposed rules of the Association were read by the Honorary Secretary. It was then proposed by Lieutenant Colonel The Honourable AGA Hore Ruthven VC CB CMG DSO and seconded by Mr HF Cox that the rules read be adopted. This was carried unanimously. Lieutenant Colonel TRC Price CMG DSO proposed, and Mr WJ Church seconded, that the undermentioned officials be elected:

President: Colonel W Murray-Threipland DSO

Vice President: Lieutenant Colonel The Honourable AGA Hore Ruthven VC CB CMB DSO

Honorary Secretary: Superintendent Clerk CE Woods

This was carried unanimously.

Lieutenant Colonel Sir Rhys Williams Bart DSO MP explained in full the objects and aims of the Association. The question of formation of local branches was discussed and it was made clear that, where enough members reside to justify the formation of a branch, a proposal to form a branch should be sent to the Honorary Secretary. The suggestion was discussed, and agreed to, that branches should hold a social gathering on or as near as possible to the anniversary of the Regiment - 27th February. Amended to 26th February. A vote of thanks to the Chairman for presiding was carried unanimously. After the meeting, a branch of the Association for Cardiff District was formed of which Lieutenant Colonel Sir Rhys William DSO MP was elected President and Mr HF Cox, of 1 Amesbury Road, Penylan, Cardiff, Honorary Secretary. Members of the Association, who lived in the Cardiff District and are desirous of joining this branch should communicate with the Honorary Secretary of the branch at the above address. It was further decided to form a branch for Monmouthshire with its Headquarters at Newport and Captain GCH Crawshay was elected to President of the Branch.

Colonel W Murray-Threipland

President Welsh Guards Association

Copies of the subsequent minutes are kept at RHQ.



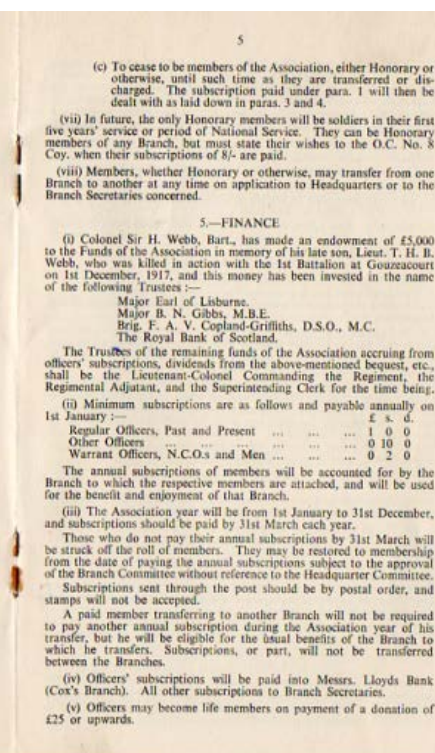
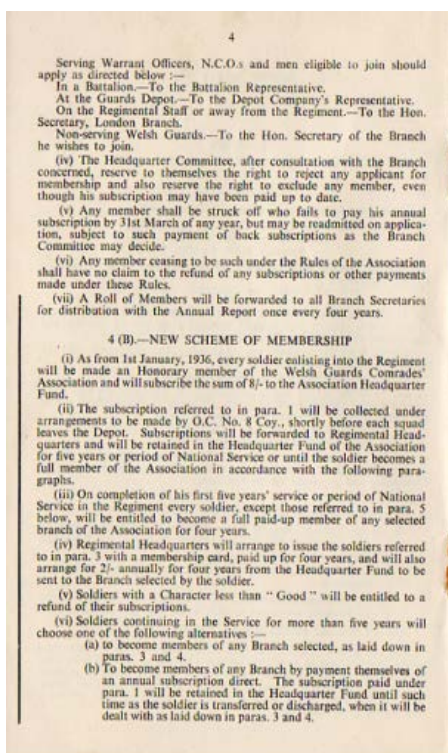
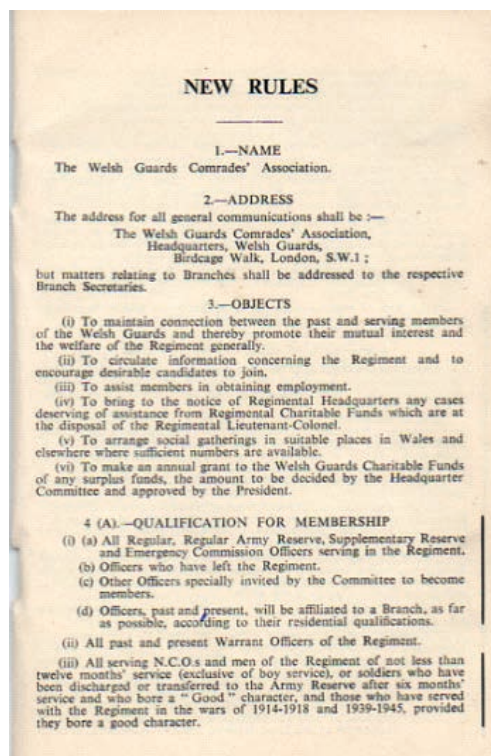
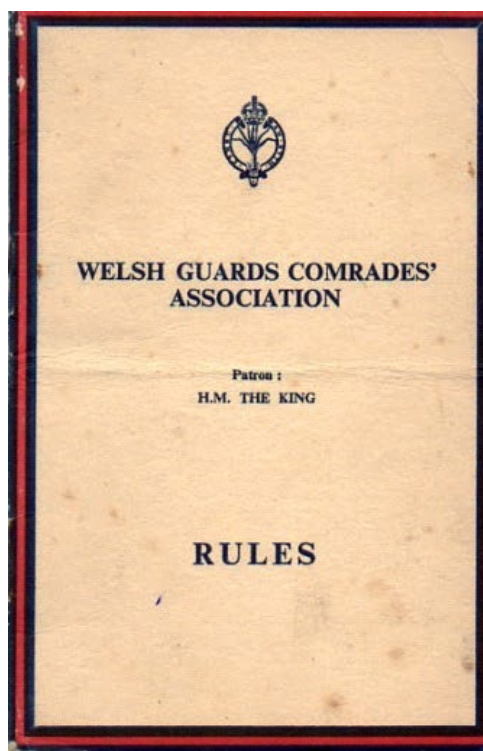
List of all Presidents and Secretary Generals

Years		President
From	To	
1919	1921	Colonel W Murray Threipland DSO
1921	1925	Colonel The Honourable AGA Hore-Ruthven VC CB CMG DSO
1925	1928	Colonel TRC Price CMG DSO
1928	1934	Colonel REK Leatham
1934	1937	Colonel MB Beckwith-Smith DSO MC
1937	1945	Colonel WAFL Fox-Pitt MVO MC
1945	1948	Colonel Sir Alexander Stanier Bt DSO MC
1948	1951	Colonel GW Browning OBE
1951	1954	Colonel JC Windsor-Lewis DSO MC
1954	1957	Colonel Davies-Scourfield MC
1957	1960	Colonel HCL Dimsdale OBE MC
1960	1964	Colonel C A la T Leatham
1964	1967	Colonel MC Thursby-Pelham
1967	1972	Colonel VG Wallace
1972	1976	Colonel JWTA Malcom
1976	1978	Colonel MR Lee OBE
1978	1982	Colonel SCC Gausson
1982	1986	Colonel DRP Lewis
1986	1987	Colonel CJ Dawnay
1987	2004	Brigadier JF Rickett OBE
2004		Colonel TCS Bonas

Years		Secretary General
From	To	
1919	1927	Warrant Officer Class One (Superintending Clerk) CE Woods
1927	1934	Warrant Officer Class One (Superintending Clerk) IM Smith
1934	1937	Warrant Officer Class One (Superintending Clerk) JC Buckland
1937	1946	Warrant Officer Class One (Superintending Clerk) J Copping
1946	1947	Warrant Officer Class One (Superintending Clerk) JW Edwards
1947	1951	Warrant Officer Class One (Superintending Clerk) HW Humphreys
1951	1956	Warrant Officer Class One (Superintending Clerk) DJ Griffiths
1956	1961	Warrant Officer Class One (Superintending Clerk) RC Williams
1961	1965	Warrant Officer Class One (Superintending Clerk) KD Lewis
1965	1968	Warrant Officer Class One (Superintending Clerk) DS Wilcox
1968	1971	Warrant Officer Class One (Superintending Clerk) DL Jones
1971	1974	Warrant Officer Class One (Superintending Clerk) IG Jones
1974	1976	Warrant Officer Class One (Superintending Clerk) GL Evans
1976	1979	Warrant Officer Class One (Superintending Clerk) GF Taylor
1979	1984	Warrant Officer Class One (Superintending Clerk) L Ellson
1984	1986	Warrant Officer Class One (Superintending Clerk) CFG Owen
1986	1990	Warrant Officer Class One (Superintending Clerk) PJ Richardson
1990	1992	Major KD Lewis MBE
1992	2002	Mr R Lewis
2002	2017	Mr B Keane
2017		Mr M Jones Mr N Rice

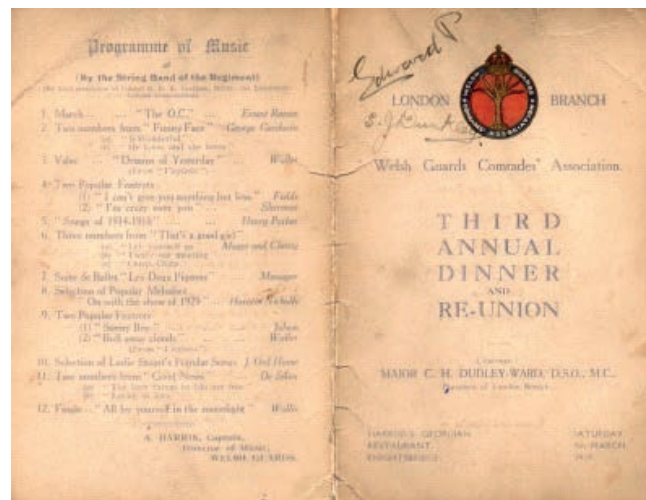
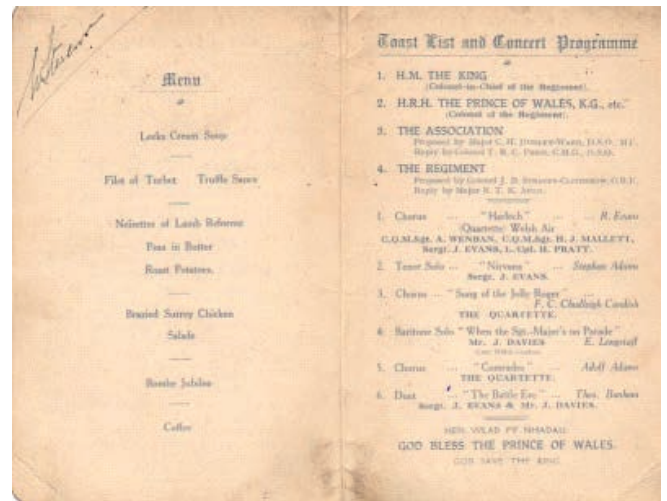
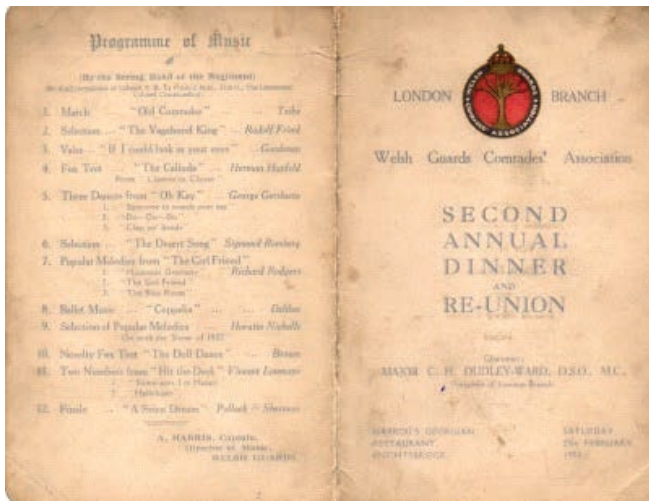


First Rule Book - produced 1920





Early Association Dinners



If you look closely at the second image you will see the signature of our first Regimental Sergeant Major Stevenson – Regimental Number 1. On the Third Dinner card you can see the signature of HRH Edward VIII The Prince of Wales, Colonel of the Regiment and Warrant Officer (Drill Sergeant) S Dunkley – Regimental Number 351



The Welsh Guards Association

By The Welsh Guards Poet Laureate - Alan Parry-Booth

*When they formed the Welsh Guards Regiment
back in nineteen fifteen,
The lads marched off in glory
Before the King and Queen.*

*And then intensive training
Many weeks without a rest
Which turned them into fighting men
Competing with the best.*

*Every man in perfect shape
Obvious at a glance
And soon our first Battalion
Was on the boat to France.*

*Three years of heavy fighting
Battles honours won
Many lives were sacrificed
To beat the ruddy Hun.*

*Some were gassed or shell shocked
Many lost a limb
One poor Lad was sightless
But his mates looked after him.*

*And then it was all over
The armistice was signed
The lads embarked for "Blighty"
The trip for which they'd pined.*

*Patched up, with discharge papers
Each one had stood the test
Home had come the hero's
But many couldn't rest.*

*Being home was peaceful
But it didn't make amends
For the lack of wit and banter
They really missed their friends.*

*Then Colonel Murray-Threipland
Conceived a great idea
Connected points of contact
For Welsh Guardsmen far and near.*

*Branches in all areas
Each one staffed and manned
A deal where every member
Felt that he could play a hand.*

*A century has passed and now
We have this celebration
To mark the hundredth birthday of
The Welsh Guards Association.*



The branches of the Association

Cardiff Branch

President: Lieutenant Colonel Charles Dawnay
Chairman: Mr Dave Parry
Secretary: Mr Terrence O'Shea
Treasurer: Mr Tom Fundell

East Glamorgan

President: Captain Tommy MacDonald-Millner
Chairman: Mr Dai Gaule
Secretary: Mr Ken Haynes
Treasurer: Mr John Hooper

Llanelli Cardiganshire & Pembrokeshire

President: Major John Harding
Chairman: Mr Keith Horrell
Secretary: Mr Alan Cunningham
Treasurer: Mr Rob Rees (RAF)

London Branch

President: Lieutenant Colonel Charles Stephens
Chairman: Mr Richard Doughty
Treasurer: Position vacant
Secretary: Mr Jeff Heenan

Merthyr Tydfil And Aberdare

President: Captain Harry Legg-Bourke
Chairman: Mr Thomas Peters
Secretary/Treasurer: Mr Errold Jones

Monmouthshire

President: Captain Marcus Scriven
Chairman: Mel Devlin
Secretary/Treasurer: Mr Steve Liversage BEM

Montgomery Shropshire & West Midlands

President: Captain Barney Branston
Chairman: Mr John Bates
Secretary/Treasurer: Mr John Williams

North Of England

President: Position vacant
Chairman: Position vacant
Secretary: Mr Stephen Ollerhead
Treasurer: Mr Arnold Brassey

North Wales

President: Captain Chris Hopkins
Chairman: Mr Graham Binnie
Secretary: Mr John Burns
Treasurer: Captain Chris Hopkins

Ogmore Branch

President: Major Alan Denman MBE
Chairman: Mr Paul Mockett MBE
Secretary/Treasurer: Mr Mike Jones 01

Swansea & West Glamorgan

President: Major Charlie Carty MBE TD
Chairman: Mr Karl Trenchard
Secretary: Mr David Williams (Jock)
Treasurer: Major Charlie Carty MBE TD

Welsh Guards Band

President: Position vacant
Chairman: Position vacant
Secretary: Mr Richard Hunter
Treasurer: Position vacant

Welsh Guards Reunited

President: Lieutenant Colonel Tony Davies OBE
Chairman: Mr Keith Smith
Secretary: Mr Dennis Knowles
Treasurer: Mr Mike Cummins

CLOSED BRANCHES

Aberdare (details taken from the 2010 magazine)

President: SC Rhodes Esq
Chairman: John Coleman (22217873)
Secretary: Michael Williams (2335233)
Treasurer:

Pembroke (details taken from the 2014 magazine)

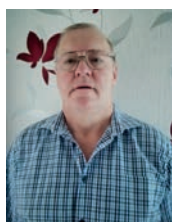
President: Major I B Ramsden MBE
Chairman: J Lloyd (23290247)
Secretary: R Davies (24753414)
Treasurer:

Cardiganshire (details taken from the 2008 magazine)

President: Lieutenant Colonel REH David OBE
Chairman:
Secretary: Nigel Owen (24513423)
Treasurer:

Midlands (details taken from the 2016 magazine)

President: Captain TC Macdonald-Milner
Chairman: K Bartlett (23523202)
Secretary: Jonathan Bayliss (23523208)
Treasurer:



Cardiff (formed 1919)

Secretary: Terry O'Shea (24047142 served: 1968 – 1973)

Served with Number Three Company and Mortar Platoon - Support Company.

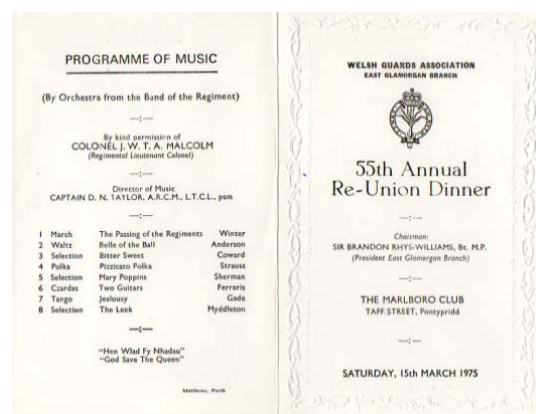
The Branch meets every second Friday of the month at 7 30pm in the United Services Mess, Wharton Street, Cardiff. The venue was changed to make it easier for those working to attend at the working week.



East Glamorgan Branch (formed 1920)

Secretary: Ken Haines (23523287)

Enlisted at Caterham Barracks in 1958 and immediately proved to his instructors that he was a little bit special when it involved any fitness. As soon as he joined the Battalion in Pirbright, he soon became a regular in the Athletics and Rugby teams – the pinnacle being winning the army Rugby cup in BOAR 1963. Ken works tirelessly for the promotion of his branch and the Regiment and has been responsible for many new recruits from within his 'patch'. Legends from the East Glamorgan Branch - Robert Bye VC and RSM Bert Hillier DCM. The photograph below shows a very famous 'Ponty Boy' - Sir Tom Jones, along with his son and manager. You will notice Sir Tom is wearing a Regimental blazer badge, does anyone out there know of the occasion?



Llanelli Branch (formed 1974)

Secretary Alan (Alfie) Cunningham (24125105 served 1969-1974)

Alfie arrived at the Guards Depot, Pirbright Camp and joined Number Eight Company. Whilst a recruit he represented the Company at boxing and won the Heavyweight Championship. After training, he joined the 1st Battalion at Elizabeth Barracks. He returned to the Depot as a Trained Soldier, which was followed by promotion to Lance Corporal at the end of his tour. As an established Non Commissioned Officer, Alan was stationed at Chelsea Barracks where he organised a show to welcome the Coldstream Guards from a tour of Northern Ireland - amazing, as the total of the Corporals' Mess kitty at the time was just £60! He was a former secretary of the Swansea Branch under Major Glyn White MBE, but work took him to London and the Cavalry and Guards Club. He returned to Swansea and took up the position of Secretary Llanelli Branch where he has served for the past 19 years. He has spearheaded Branch trips on battlefield tours and, more recently, a visit to the Welsh Guards Museum in Oswestry.



London (formed 1926)

Secretary: Jeff Heenan (23523251 served 1958-1967)

Jeff became Branch Secretary in 1990. With 29 years loyal service, Jeff is the second longest serving Secretary since the Association was formed in 1919. Jeff served most of his 9 years' service in Headquarter Company in the orderly room.

Monthly Branch meetings are normally held in the London District Sergeants' Mess in Wellington Barracks.



Merthyr Tydfil (formed 1953)



Secretary: Errol Jones (24581438)

In 1947 Merthyr Tydfil became a sub-branch of the East Glamorgan Branch (based in Pontypridd) of the Association. The first dinner was held at the Bell View Hotel in Merthyr, where sixty-seven members attended. Regular monthly meetings then commenced at the Vulcan Hotel, where mine host Mr E.Thomas happened to be a branch member. In 1957, the Branch was accorded full status and that year, ninety-six members and friends attended the Annual Dinner at the Peter Pan restaurant on the high street.

Branch officers at this time were:

President: **Major J D Gibson-Watt MC**

Vice-Presidents: **Colonel R Freeman MA; Melbourne Thomas Esq.**, Chief Constable.

Chairman: **D O Williams** Treasurer: **L Smith** Secretary: **R Jones**

Over the years, the Branch became extremely active, supporting and attending all Association events. They acquired the nick name of F Troop which originated from a fictitious American spoof programme televised in the 1960s. On return of the Regiment from the Falklands in 1982, members contacted local trades people and organised consignment of 'comfort goods' such as toiletries and beer etc, to be given to the wounded at Woolwich Hospital. Several members hired a coach to transport these items and to visit the Guardsmen. This was very much appreciated by everyone and contact with 'Old Soldiers', with their dry humour, helped brighten the day. Over the years, membership has dwindled due to various factors; but until a few years ago, the Branch held monthly social evenings at Merthyr Railway Club (now demolished) where eighty to ninety members and guests regularly attended.

If you fancy a chin wag, why not come along, pull up a sandbag and catch up with the gossip. Monthly Branch meetings continue at the Ex Servicemen's Club in Merthyr on the first Monday of the month and, due to reorganisation in 2017, Aberdare Branch has now become part of the Merthyr Branch bearing the new title of Merthyr Tydfil and Aberdare Branch.



Monmouthshire (formed 1920)

Secretary: Steve Liversage BEM

Joined the Regiment in August 1969. After training, he joined the Battalion in Munster. Serving in Germany, Northern Ireland, Persian Gulf, Cyprus, Berlin, Kenya, the Falklands Conflict, Canada and the Gulf War with the Scots Guards. He became Company MT Sergeant in 1975. Posted to Support Company, MT Sergeant in 1981. When the Battalion left Hohne he stayed on with the Scots Guards. In 1989 he received the British Empire Medal. Steve became Branch Secretary in 2009.

Branch meetings are held at 7.30pm on the second Thursday of February, April, June, October and December at the Angel Hotel Abergavenny. August meeting at the Conservative Club Ebbw Vale. Annual Dinner held on 26th October Angel Hotel. A night not to be missed!



Montgomery, Shropshire And Midlands (formed 1950)

Secretary: John Williams (23960183 served 1962-1968)

John is originally from Porthmadog in North Wales. He served in the 1st Battalion Welsh Guards from May 1962 to May 1968. Initially serving with No 2 Company, he was then posted to Infantry Junior Leaders Battalion Park Hall Oswestry. Hence his current location. Due to work commitments John didn't become involved with the Branch until 1990. He became Vice Chairman in 2002, Chairman in 2003 and took over as Treasurer/ Secretary in June 2013 when Captain (Retd) Ben Parry retired. The Branch was officially formed on 28 February 1950 and the first meeting was held at the Old Post Office in Shrewsbury on 12 July 1950. Brigadier Sir Alexander B G Stanier Bt DSO MC was appointed Branch President and temporary Chairman. The post of Treasurer and Secretary was later held by Mr A E (Ted) John. In November 1951, Mr R H Davies was appointed Chairman; Mr A E John, Vice Chairman; and Mr Price H Davies was appointed Secretary. Army numbers were not recorded but a number of members like AM John and Harold Harley were referred to as Sergeant and the earlier Branch meetings must have looked more like a Police Club rather than a Welsh Guards meeting!

Branch meetings are held at the Shrewsbury Beaconsfield Club Shrewsbury.

The Midlands Branch was formed in 1939. In 2017 the Midland Branch and two others in the South Wales area were amalgamated, due to falling membership, with other Branches. The Midlands joined the Montgomery & Shropshire Branch to become The Montgomery, Shropshire and Midlands Branch.



North American Branch (formed 1986)

Upon the death of Dai Tilley (pictured), who had been part of the liberation of the Dutch Royal Family in the Hook of Holland 1944, the Branch was placed into suspended animation due to dwindling numbers.



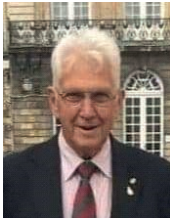
North Of England (formed 1946)

Secretary: Steve Ollerhead

The Branch is in fine fettle and continues to meet on the last Sunday of every month at the Tudor Rose Hotel at Ledsham on the Wirral at 12.00pm. We normally have ten to twelve members in attendance each month, but we are always trying to recruit new members. Very shortly, we shall be setting sail on a restaurant narrow boat from Chester for a cruise along the Shropshire Union Canal with lunch and drinks on board. Naval attire is optional. We hope it will be a great day as it is difficult to find a day when everyone can attend - everyone is so busy with their lives and families. As usual we would love to see any new recruits to the branch and anyone wishing to attend would be made very welcome. The Branch motto is:

"Ymhell I ffwrdd ond yn agos o gallon"

"Far apart but close at heart"



North Wales (formed 1936)

Secretary: John Burns

At the time of publication, the position of Branch Secretary was vacant, and the Secretary General Maldwyn Jones contacted Spider, who had been Secretary for many years, to supply this information.

The inaugural Branch Dinner was held in the Wynnstay Hotel Wrexham on 18 April 1936 which was twenty-one years after the Regiment was formed. Owing to the indisposition of the President Lord Harlech KCB, TD the Chair was taken by Lord Delemere. There have been highs and lows within the Branch, given the area we cover getting people together. It took over sixty years before we had our first Branch Standard which was blessed in Bodelwyddan Church with 2nd Battalion members present, this was followed by a short service at the memorial in the graveyard of Lance Corporal Anthony Burkea, a victim of the Falklands conflict. On the 35th Anniversary of the Falklands parade at St Giles's Church Wrexham, the Standard was laid up after attending many battlefields across Europe and every repatriation in Royal Wooten Bassett in 2009. Our history to date, lies within the walls of St Giles's - a former Branch Secretary, Hywel Hughes (93), who served in the 2nd Battalion was in office for over thirty-nine years - longer than anyone to date.

Cymru am Byth



Ogmore (formed 1982)

Secretary: Mike Jones (23523201 served 1958-1980)

After passing out from recruit training in Caterham, Mike joined the Training Battalion in Pirbright. Mike applied for selection to the Guards Parachute Company and soon proved his credentials as an airborne infantry soldier. He served with the Guards Independent Parachute Company for four years. His many accomplishments include the climbing of Mount Kilimanjaro. He completed his service in the Welsh Guards as RQMS of the 1st Battalion under then Major (later SQM) Brian Morgan 16 MBE.



Swansea and West Glamorgan (formed 1927)

Secretary: David Williams (24623938 served 1982-1995)

Dave took over the position of Branch Secretary from Peter Williams (300) in June and states "he is enjoying the challenge of following in the footsteps of so many great Secretaries."

The Branch meets on the third Monday of each month at the Cymfelin Club, Cymbrwla, Swansea where a good gathering can always be guaranteed. The Branch organised a Falklands memorial stained-glass window to be installed in St Mary's Church.



Welsh Guards Reunited

Founded in 2006, by a former Welsh Guards Drummer Mike Cummings, Welsh Guards Reunited enables past, present and future members of our fine Regiment, their families, friends and relatives to continue to enjoy the camaraderie of the Welsh Guards wherever they may be in the world. The sense of belonging that we have all known, of friendships fostered through adversity and shared experiences in times of difficulty can all be replicated through the pages of Welsh Guards Reunited. Old friendships can be rekindled, and new friendships bonded. The friends lost many years ago, found through the pages of our extensive membership database. With thousands of pictures in our galleries, reigniting a memory somewhere long forgotten.

Our membership spanning several generations, provides a wealth of personal knowledge and experience, not only as serving Soldiers but as Spouses, Mothers and Fathers of serving soldiers also. Our members have served in many theatres around the globe, whether on Operations, Exercise or static postings. They have been there, lived it and done it and can pass these experiences on. Whether answering a question from a



general enquiry, putting a worried mind at ease or offering practical assistance. The Welsh Guards family is reborn with Welsh Guards Reunited.

Our on-site historians working hard in their own free time provide a superb research service and have helped countless people trace the service of their ancestors. You will find we have an active Welsh Guards events calendar providing details of all known Regimental events and many more besides. So, whether you are planning a reunion, holding an event or simply wishing to attend an event, have a look through the calendar first. We fully support our members that are active in organising and attending fund raising activities throughout Wales.

Many Welsh Guards Reunited members are staunch members of both the Welsh Guards Association and Welsh Guards Reunited. Enjoying the camaraderie offered locally by belonging to a geographical Welsh Guards Association Branch, whilst also enjoying the wider, national and international camaraderie offered by belonging to Welsh Guards Reunited, both complement each other perfectly and Welsh Guards Reunited encourage this.

As a visitor to Welsh Guards Reunited website it is assumed that you are either serving in the Welsh Guards, have served at some time or have a family member who has served in the Welsh Guards or you are just interested in finding out more about what makes this great Regiment tick. You are all welcome, whether you visit the site often or only occasionally, a warm welcome will always await you.



Welsh Guards Reunited (formed 2006)

Secretary: Dennis (Knocker) Knowles (24122474 served 1969 – 1991)

Dennis is the Branch Secretary and Standard Bearer for Welsh Guards Reunited

He served in the Welsh Guards from May 1969 until September 1991, mainly in the signals world of the Battalion. His duties began in Number Three Company, before moving to the Signals Platoon and being attached to various rifle companies including Support Company as Recce Platoon signals rep; he served in many different countries during his service including Cyprus, Northern Ireland and the Falkland Islands during the 1982 conflict.

On retiring, it was a case of “you can take the man out of the Welsh Guards, but you can’t take the Welsh Guards out of the man”. Although now a ‘civvy’ he found himself missing the friendship that was so strong whilst serving. He joined his local branch of the Association until he heard of an online website for old soldiers no longer serving.

This was just what he’d been looking for. Mates to chat with at any time of the day or night. Somebody would always be there. The website continued to thrive and was eventually invited to be a new branch of the WGA. In due course, Dennis took over as Branch Secretary and Standard Bearer.

As a branch, it differentiates from all others. Being online it can meet every day not just once a month. You could call it the “Quick Reaction Branch” when it comes to spreading the word of all things Welsh Guards. The Branch have members from all over the world - New Zealand, Australia and America to name just a few. These members need to stay connected to the Welsh Guards world and that’s what the Branch strives to do. It has helped people find long lost relatives and friends, and return lost items including medals to their rightful owners etc;

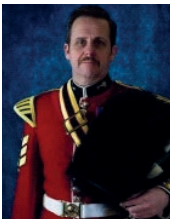
Dennis is also Standard Bearer for the Branch and is available to represent the Welsh Guards Association at parades, remembrance and, all too often, at the funeral of a lost Brother. The Branch liaise with the family of those deceased and Funeral Directors to give a Welsh Guards theme to a Brother’s last parade.

This is what Welsh Guards Reunited do and Dennis is very proud of the small part he plays in making the Branch successful. CYMRU AM BYTH.



Regimental Band (formed 2018)

Secretary: Richard (Norman) Hunter (served 1994 – 2018)



Richard is currently in the process of forming a Committee for the newly formed branch of the Association. He encourages as many ex members of the Regimental Band to join as possible to enable the Branch to flourish and be an active part of the Association. Richard has recently retired from the Army and, at present, can be contacted through Regimental Headquarters at Wellington Barracks.

Regimental Veterans Officer



24908590 Jiffy Myers

Telephone: 07456 985729

Facebook: Jiffy Myers or Welsh
Guards Regimental Veterans Officer

WhatsApp: 07411 950784.

Email: welshguardsrvo@gmail.com

Jiffy Myers has been employed by the Regimental Trustees since 2014 as Regimental Welfare Officer. This role provides welfare support to all veterans of the Regiment, family members, bereaved families and, in some cases, serving soldiers who are posted to permanent Recovery Units, awaiting discharge.

Jiffy joined the Guards Depot Pirbright in 1990 as a Junior Leader and passed out as the Junior Regimental Sergeant Major. He joined the Battalion, who were also based in Pirbright and was assigned to Number Three Company. He served Operational Tours of Northern Ireland in Number Three Company and was then transferred to the Mortar Platoon.

During his ten-year service in the Mortar Platoon, Jiffy deployed to Northern Ireland, America, Canada, Germany and Bosnia. Jiffy was then transferred to the Welfare Office where

he served for six years covering unit moves and operational deployments to Bosnia, Iraq and Afghanistan. He was awarded an MBE for services to Army welfare in 2011.

Jiffy's final tour of duty was as Senior Drill Sergeant. He covered the period of the Battalion's re-role to ceremonial duties, the funeral of Margaret Thatcher and the Queen's Birthday Parade in 2013. Since completing 24 years' service, he has been employed in a new Regimental role, providing welfare advice and support to the Regimental family. He conducts home, hospital and care home visits to veterans in need. He also processes all grant applications from Service Charities, presentations, forums and briefings are attended, highlighting veterans' issues.



Association Golf

Secretary: Mr Martyn Griffiths

Martyn joined the Welsh Guards at The Guards Depot on 13 September 1977, where he joined the Ypres 4 Platoon. He served for a total of twenty-two years, including two years under the age of eighteen. Martyn left the Regiment on 24 August 2001. During his time in the Welsh Guards, Martyn served in Berlin, Pirbright, Hohne, The Guards Depot, Swansea Careers Office and finished his time with the Recruiting Team in Maindy Barracks, Cardiff.

Martyn's interest in golf started by accident. He was walking across the athletics field at the Guards Depot when he saw someone hitting some golf balls. On further investigation, he noticed it was Roger Barton - a member of the Regimental golf team. Having hit a few shots, Martyn realised he had enjoyed the experience so much that he felt the need to purchase Roger's old clubs from him for a sum of £100!! (It was a good job that Mrs Griffiths was there as she wouldn't have believed him). Martyn was the invited to participate in the Guards Division Championships at Worplesdon. They had three teams in at this stage and Martyn was now hooked. A few years down the line at the Worplesdon meeting it was decided it would be a good idea to get all personnel interested in playing golf to come together at venues across the country. Captain (Retd) Dai Davies (21), who was the Assistant Regimental Adjutant in Maindy Barracks, became the organiser of the golf. The inaugural meeting was held at Oswestry Golf Club with twenty members attending. The first winner of the meeting was none other than the

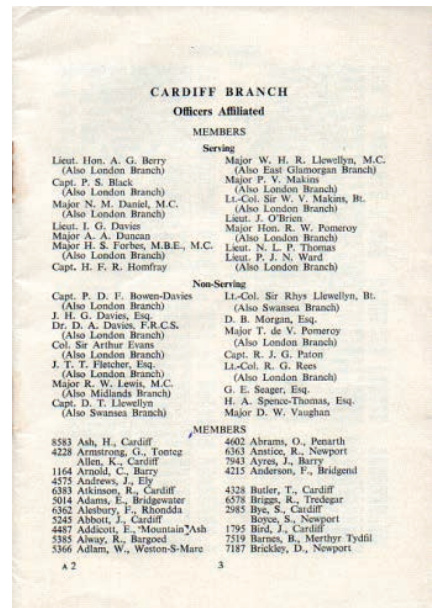
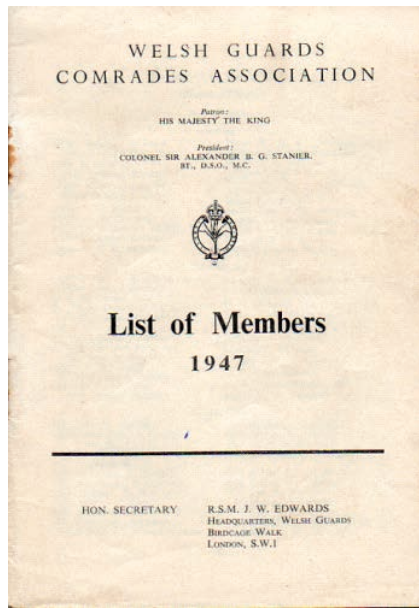
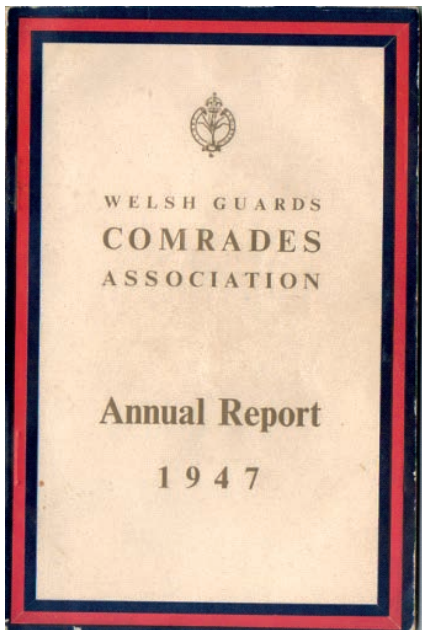
person who got me hooked on golf - Roger Barton. Colonel Sandy Malcolm kindly donated a silver Dragon to the Golf Association, to be presented to the Welsh Guards Golf Association Golfer of the Year. Other trophies have also been donated, which are presented annually - The John Powell trophy and the Efion Jones trophy both stalwarts of the Golf Association and both sadly not with us anymore. However, their memories live on in the tournament played each year.

Captain (Retd) Davies carried out this appointment until 2006 and did a sterling job. It is only when you have done the job you find out how difficult it can be. It was then down to Martyn to carry on where Dai had left off. He decided it was only fair that a meeting should be held in all Welsh regions, West Wales, South Wales, East Wales and finally North Wales where we found out who had won the prestigious Colonel Malcolm Trophy.

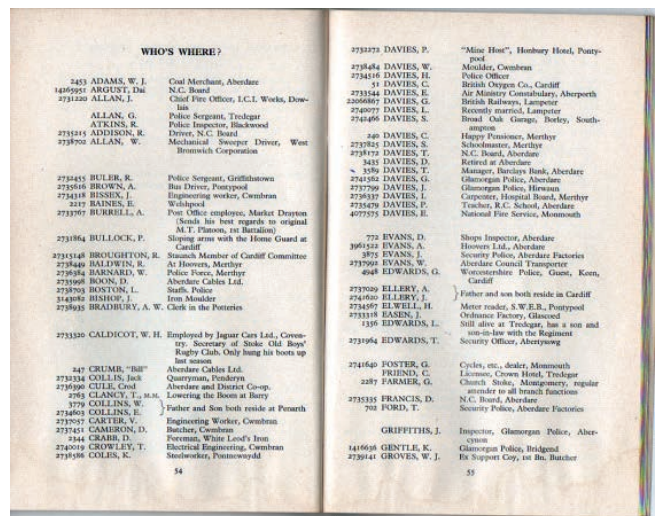
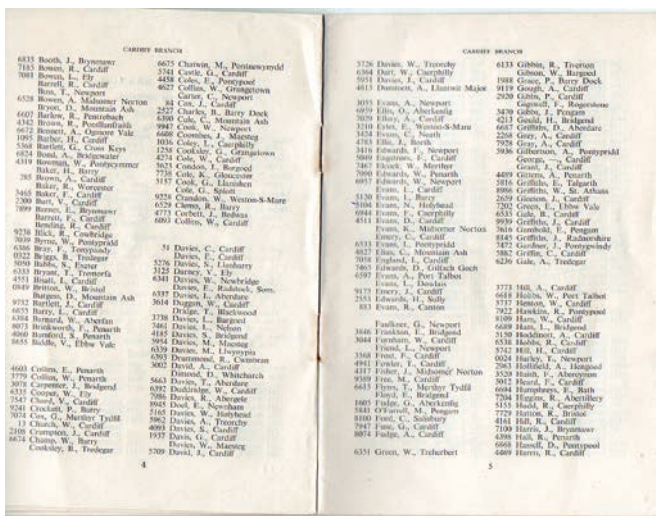
The Association has been going from strength to strength especially now the Regiment is sending members along to the meetings, where they can be released, and it is now reflecting in the standard of golfers we are producing with some great results in the Guards Division Championship and long may it last. If anyone is interested in joining us for a walk and a meal afterwards, please contact me on the following: Email: martyn.griffiths@sky.com, Mobile: 07764531125, Work: 01554891882.



Early Branch Booklets



These early branch reports list every member and above is just one page of six showing you members of the Cardiff Branch.



Further information on the booklet, above right, shows what occupation its members are employed in. A huge help, if one was seeking employment.



Branch Dinners



1965 Cardiff City Hall. Guest of Honour HM The Queen

Change Of Title

At the Association AGM held in 1966 it was decided to rename the **Welsh Guards Comrades Association** to **The Welsh Guards Association**.

Battlefield Tours



30-year liberation tour Brussels, 1974

Regimental Battlefield tours are still very popular and visit Hechtel every year, normally every September. Seats are of a premium so make enquiries early to Regimental Headquarters.



On A Lighter Note...

2735036 Guardsman Bill Williams Author of *Tough at the bottom*

This is a personal account of his service during and after the Second World War. For those who never had the privilege of knowing Bill, if you can imagine Private Walker of Dads Army fame, the resemblance in sight and manner are uncanny with the exception that Bill had dyed jet-black hair and the pencil thin moustache.

His Account

During the 1990 Poll Tax riots, Bill was appearing in a London court on a charge of not paying his Poll Tax for over six months. After evidence from the local Council was heard the Judge summed up by awarding the case to the Council and ordered Bill to pay the arrears. Bill answered that he could not pay the arrears and was without funds and financially embarrassed.

At that point, the Judge noticed Bill was wearing a Brigade of Guards tie and asked him to approach the Bench. He asked Bill, in a whispered voice "Have you served in the Brigade and in which Regiment?" In a crisp precise voice Bill replied, "Yes your Worship with the Welsh Guards - man and boy". "Did you see any war service?" asked the Judge. "Yes Sir, I did the lot from '39 until '45 and was active in the defence of the Châteaux in West Capel with Madame

De La Plonque. The Welsh Guards lost a lot of damn good men and Officers that day."

"Listen Mr Williams, this arrears must be paid, it's the law."

"I would love to pay your Lordship, Sir. But I only just get by on my pension."

"How about we arrange a payment of say £5 per week?"

With a sharp intake of breath and a slight shake of his head, Bill said "I would dearly love to Sir, but I could never manage with what I would have left."

"Could we say £2.50 then?"

"That would stop me visiting my disabled comrades for comfort Sir."

"Well, what could you afford?"

"At a push, I could pay maybe a £1 a week regularly my Lord."

"Well so be it Mr Williams and when you visit your disabled comrades tell them the Judge was a BLUE RED BLUE also!"

"Say no more Sir it will be my duty to carry out that order."

Bill left the court walking tall and smiling knowing it was the tie that saved the day and his pension.

On the subject of the tie

Many years ago, I was travelling from Crewe to London Euston for some business at Wellington Barracks. Whilst sat on the platform waiting for my train a stranger standing by the door of another stationary train asked, "Which one?" I said, "Pardon Sir?" To which he replied, "Which regiment of the Guards?"

"The Welsh." I replied.

"Can I guess your rank?" he said

"If you like" said I. "Warrant Officer?" he suggested. "I'm afraid not Sir, just a Drummer. That's the truth."

At the time I noticed there were Brigade ties about with small leeks on them and thought this would alleviate something like that happening again. I was able to purchase the afore said tie from an internet auction site. The next time I was on business in Wellington Barracks, being old school and following protocol, when I entered the London District Sergeants' Mess, I looked for the senior Non-Commissioned Officer to ask his leave to use the Mess. Something that no one seems to do nowadays. Stood in the left-hand corner of the bar in a place reserved for him was Garrison Sergeant Major Perry Mason.

In my opinion, the most impressive figure in the Brigade of Guards at that time. "May I have your leave to use the Mess, Sir please?" "Certainly Stan," he replied, "but what the hell is that around your neck?!" I felt I was feeling for the seam of my trousers, "A Brigade tie Sir" I answered.

"There are no leeks, bombs, shamrocks, ►

An excerpt from his book *Tough at the Bottom ...*

"We were pink-faced rugby players from Welsh Wales. The land of grass topped mountains, pits and steelworks. Very few of us had ever been further afield than Porthcawl. We were innocents abroad, but I'll tell you what, we had some guts, we had some staying power. We were WELSH GUARDSMEN and the Germans will remember us if nobody else does!"

Cymru am Byth



thistles or bloody roses on a Brigade tie. It is just blue, red, blue and that's the same for all of us." At the time I was quite a lot older than Perry, but felt I was a recruit all over again.

"Now we understand each other Stan, what would you like to drink?" I have never worn anything else but Blue, Red, Blue since! It was very hard earned and not to be messed with and recognised by everyone as being elite and unique.

Different Blazer Badges



Some famous Associate Members

Sir Tom Jones (singer)

Windsor Davies (actor)

William Bendix (actor)

Sir Harry Secombe (singer and presenter)

Ivor Emmanuel (singer and actor)

Sir Stanley Baker (actor)



Nicknames

Throughout everyone's service they will have come across nicknames. Terms of endearment that are associated with individual for various reasons. It is quite acceptable to call each other by these names within the Regiment but probably not very wise for non-Welsh Guardsmen to use them as the response would be totally different. Have a browse through them I'm sure you will recognise several and I am sure that, over the decades, new ones will always be created.

Ack Harris 88, Acker Bland, Aggie Somerset, Alfie Sherwood, Ali Barber, Algie Thomas

Billy Budd, Black Cat Carron, Blitz, Bram Phillips, Beaker, Badger Bates, Badly Bent, Bald Eagle 13, Beanz 57 Davies, Bend The Knee 83, Benny King, Big Ugg, Black Flash, Black Tom 18, Buck Reed, Big Dai 62, Big Jenks, Billy Bellis, Bob The Back, Black Wack, Blind Pugh, Bram Phillips, Billy The Bully, Black Griff 76, Black John, Bob The Slob, Boy Wonder 08, Buckshot Betts, Bull Davies, Bull Neck Pierce, Butch Ackerman, Blind Pugh, Bowser Bland.

Chops Davies, Cass Butler, Chalkie White, Champ Bob Mills, Crash Test Dummy, Chinkie Dai, Chris The Crease, Clickety Click, Chin Harris 88, Cush Lewis, Chocolate Frog, Cliener Williams 53, Claud Harford, Commander Cox.

Dagwood, Devil Head, Dai The Flute, Dinkey Doo, Dodger Bannister, Dicky Mint, Dusty Miller, Dusty Smith 79, Duff Cooper, Dixie Dean.

Eddy The Frog, Fagan Fry, Fag Pates, Fuddy Felkin, Filleted Fred, Fingers Hugh, Fyze Myatt, Fozzie Elliot, Flintstone, Flab Richards, Eighteen Months.

Gargoil, Ginger Will, Ginchy West, Gazzan Ellis, Grab A Brush 21, Grandad Pop Yearsley, Grouch, Gunner Sayle, Granny Pakes.

Hammer, Hocky Davies.

Ian The Hand, Ian The Bang, Ian The Liar, Ian The Elbow.

Jap Sidnall, Jessie James, Johnny Z, Jiffy Harvey, Jet Harris, Jack Frost, Joe 90, John Valley.

Knocker White.

Limpy Llew, Lord Godfrey, Licker Roberts, Loose Link, Little Snowy.

Mick The Grease, Mick The Miller, Mary Langford, Moggsie, Mick The Burn, Mad Mack, Merve The Swerve, Misty Ricketts.

Noddy Owen, Nubber Cole, Nelly Wallace, Nobby Clarke, Nobby Cross, Nipple Lip, Noddy Owen.

Oggie Wynn.

Para Pete, Petal, Preying Mantis Foster, Pill Parry, Pierre La Gattrell, Poison Dwarf, Punchy Price 06, Punchy Morgan, Paddle Arse, Pancho, Piggy Rees, Pepsi Dent, Paddy Daley.

Queeny Young.

Rupert Evans 87, Rowdy Marchant.

Sagger, Scab Evans 267, Secret Squirrel, Shanny Sheane, Six Inch, Skiddy Liddy, Screamer, Scruff Lloyd, Scruff Thomas, Sam The Brow, Skull Jones, Shady Lane, Scout Tyler, Sledge 37, Sinners, Spike Hughes, Squeak, Slug Herbert, Shuffler Shone, Sticks Thomas, Smiles Isles, Skiff Pearce, Sticky Phillipson, Swill Phillips, Smokey Lloyd, Snowy Baher, Spud Tailor, Snakey John, Spider Webb, Swap Frog, Stumpy Evans 13, Suave Harve, Spud Browne.

The Banter Wallace, The Druid, Tabbs Griffiths, The Fridge, Tab Hunter, Taggy Thompson, The Grey Gnasher, The Bear, Tea Bag, The Poison Dwarf, The Hogg, The Crunch, The Shark Cox, The Rat, The Dog Jemnkins, The Slip Richards, The Road Runner, The Mouse, The Vicar 37, Tiger Davies, The Newb, Thursday Friday, Timber Woods, Tiny Thompson, Twitch Arse, Tulip, Toe Joe, Talk A Lot, Trapper Goode.

Viper Lloyd.

Wonkeye Hughes, Wacky Jones 34, Yossa Hughes.

Zakkie Stephens.



An extract from *Bearskins, Bayonets and Body Armour* by Trevor Royle

Numbers as names: Welshmen with the same names

In Welsh regiments it has long been the practice for soldiers with a 'common' name, such as Davies, Evans, Jones, Hughes, Roberts, Thomas or Williams, to be referred to by their last two or three digits of their regimental numbers. This immediately identifies the individual. This system has evolved over many hundreds of years and is peculiar to Welsh regiments. No English, Scottish or Irish regiments have anything similar.

It is a practice that works extremely well at platoon and company level, and is used as a very good bonding and team tool. It has long been the envy of other regiments, when referring to the close relationship of officers and other ranks in Guards Regiments, well known and envied for their discipline whether in the field or on parade. Certainly this system has been practised in the Welsh Guards since its formation. It is common practice, not casualness, for officers to refer to junior ranks by their 'last two', indeed a Guardsman suddenly referred to as Williams/

Davies/Jones would wonder what he had done wrong. And Jones 64 is always Jones Sixty-four, not Jones Six Four.

One story says it all. In Caterham three new recruits joining Support Company from basic training were marched before the Company Sergeant Major. He pointed to the first and said, 'What's your name?' to which the Guardsman replied, 'Jones, Sir.' Leaning sharply across his desk the CSM said, 'Don't they teach you lot anything at the Depot these days? What's your last two?' 'Twenty-four, Sir', came the reply.

He quickly moved on to the second and said and 'Who are you?' 'Davies, Sir.' Turning to the sergeant he said, 'Jesus Christ another one. What's your last two?' 'Twenty-two Sir,' to which the CSM said, 'Well that's two North Walians.' Looking at the third he said, 'And who are you?' 'Radmilovic Eighty-eight, Sir.' There has only ever been one Radmilovic in the Regiment since 1915 but he was known as 'Eighty-eight' throughout his Army service.



Parades / Standard Bearers

The post of Standard Bearer is a very important and sometimes unappreciated position. To represent a Branch or in fact the Regiment in this position can be the icing on the cake no matter what the occasion may be. Standard Bearers often travel the length and breadth of the country to say farewell to a Brother as he enters that great parade ground in the sky.

The photograph below shows six bearers at the Guards' Chapel Wellington Barracks for the funeral of Lieutenant Colonel Rupert Thorneloe MBE (killed in Action Afghanistan 1 July 2009). The Bearers are, from left to right, Jeff Heenan (London), Stan Evans 67 (North of England), Dave Webb (North Wales), Terry Evans 37 (Cardiff), Neville Hamer (Merthyr) and Ray Gorringe (Ogmore).





Association Lapel Badges



1. 1st Issue with Kings Crown By Gaunt of London was relieved, (Fretted out).
2. Reverse of No1 showing four-digit number and crescent fitting.
3. Another example of Gaunt numbering.
4. Last issue with Kings Crown. (Unfretted).
5. Reverse of No4 without numbers, still crescent fitting.
6. 1st issue with Queens Crown, again made by Gaunt of London.
7. Current issue but with lighter blue garter surround.
8. Reverse of 6 & 7 with pin clip fitting.

It was thought that the four numbers on the first issues were the Regimental Numbers of the owners because before 1919 every Regimental Number was between 1 and 6000. Other thoughts were that it is a maker's production number. However, Gaunt couldn't substantiate this theory.

I have never seen any with less than four numbers or any with more. Renumbering took place in 1919 because Welsh Guards numbers were encroaching on the Irish Guards. All new numbers were to be preceded with 273. So, Regimental Sergeant Major Stevenson was 1 and became 2730001, Drill Sergeant Bland 2 became 2730002 and so on.





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