

Regimental Remembrance

Remembering Gdsm JBC Reynolds DCM SG Killed in Action in the Falklands, June 1982

Medals and Citation at Regimental Headquarters



24539305 Gdsm JBC Reynolds DCM Scots Guards

On the night of 13th/14th June 1982, on the island of East Falkland, the 2nd Battalion Scots Guards attacked well entrenched enemy positions on the craggy ridge feature of Tumbledown Mountain, seven kilometres to the west of Port Stanley.

During the attack, Guardsman Reynolds' Platoon came under fire from a group of enemy snipers. His Platoon Sergeant was killed instantly. A confused situation developed and his section became separated. Guardsman Reynolds immediately took command. Having located the enemy snipers he silenced several of them himself.

That done and showing a complete disregard for his own safety, he moved forward to render first aid to a wounded comrade. He himself was wounded in the hand by enemy sniper fire, but continued to aid his colleague. While doing so he was killed by enemy mortar fire.

Inclusion of 24539305 Gdsm JBC Reynolds DCM SG on the War Memorial, Bridge of Weir, Renfrewshire

by Major (retired) Mark Cape

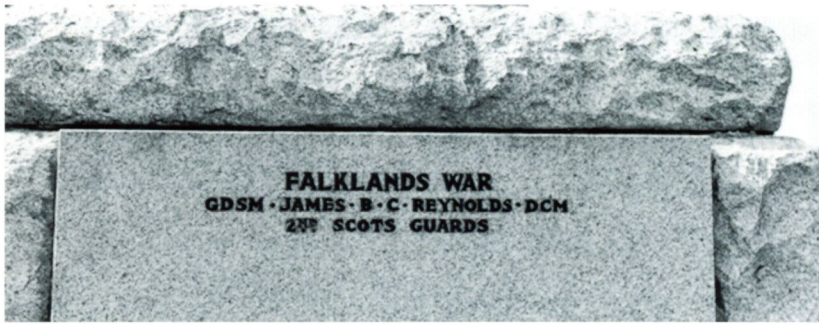
Background

On the night of 13th/14th June 1982, on the Island of East Falkland, the 2nd Battalion Scots Guards attacked well-entrenched enemy positions on the craggy ridge feature of Tumbledown Mountain, seven kilometres to the west of Port Stanley. During the attack, Guardsman Reynolds, who was with 13 Platoon Left Flank came under fire from a group of enemy snipers. His Platoon Sergeant was killed instantly.

A confused situation developed, and his Section became separated. Guardsman Reynolds immediately took command. Having located the enemy snipers, he silenced several of them himself. That done and showing a complete disregard for his own safety, he moved forward to render first aid to a wounded comrade. He himself was wounded in the hand by enemy sniper fire but continued to aid his colleague. Later whilst being evacuated by stretcher, he was killed by enemy mortar fire. After this heroic action Jim was awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal (Posthumously).



Eddie Brown with the Tumbledown Veterans and Families Association Standard.



War Memorial

The council of Renfrewshire was petitioned to include the name of Gdsm JBC Reynolds DCM on the Bridge of Weir war memorial, recognising that he was one of those children housed in Gryffe House (orphanage) with his sister from the age of four until he joined the Scots Guards.

The petition was successful and on Sunday the 18th August 2024, the St Columba's School Pipe Band led a parade consisting of the Lord Lieutenant of Renfrewshire (Col P McCarthy DL, The

Governor of Edinburgh Castle (Maj Gen A Bruce OBE VR DL) the SGA, TRBL Scot, and representatives from the local council all marched from the car park at Livery Walk to the War Memorial at Kilbarchan Rd, Bridge of Weir.

Once we reached the war memorial there was a poignant service followed by an emotional speech from Major General A Bruce OBE VR DL (former PI Comd of the Jim Reynolds DCM prior to the Falklands Campaign) this was appreciated by all those in attendance. On completion of the



The front rank with Scott Binnie, Mark McKay, Neil Crocket and Capt Eddie Edmonstone.

service, we marched back to the car park at Livery Walk where we were dismissed for light refreshments and sandwiches in Cargill Hall.

Lost and Found

From Mount Tumbledown, Falkland Islands to Regimental HQ, Wellington Barracks. The story of Guardsman James (Jim) Reynolds DCM lost ID Card

by Captain (Retired) David Dickinson RAOC

I have been asked to share my story and hope that it brings back some positive memories and pride for those that served in the Falklands, while also remembering those who we sadly lost.

Just post the conflict, the Falklands were gradually being turned into a viable and re-enforceable deterrent. In 1985 I served there as a young 2nd Lieutenant. This was prior to the Mount Pleasant Airfield and complex being completed and becoming operational. So most British forces were centred around Stanley, with air defence and radar in other locations, for example Mount Kent and on West Falkland.

We were based to the east of Stanley. The Royal Engineers had repaired the runway at RAF Stanley, so RAF Phantoms could provide air defence. Marston matting sourced from the US military was used to extend the runway. Temporary fabric shelters were erected for the jets and their equipment.

We were housed in 'Coastels' three floating barges (the RAF one was painted blue!) which were clean but very cramped. I worked on the new Falklands Intermediate Port and Storage System (FIPASS), so it seemed like I was afloat for most of my tour. We were also on 'Phandet' every now and then, with the night-time guarding of



The author on a motorcycle below Mount Tumbledown.

the RAF Phantoms.

As a former Royal Marine, I was keen to explore the islands and understand the campaign. My stepfather and most of my fellow marines had fought there in 1982, so I had a deep interest in discovering what had happened on the ground. We worked six days a week, so with our one day off (usually Sundays) we would explore the islands. I also organised numerous

battlefield tours of all the main battle sites, including Mount Longdon, Two Sisters, Mount Harriet, Wireless Ridge and of course Mount Tumbledown. These were attended by soldiers and RAF of all ranks, as well as civilians, including BA aircrews who were running the flights to/from the UK at that time.

A special trip using off-road motorcycles was to Top Malo House which the Royal

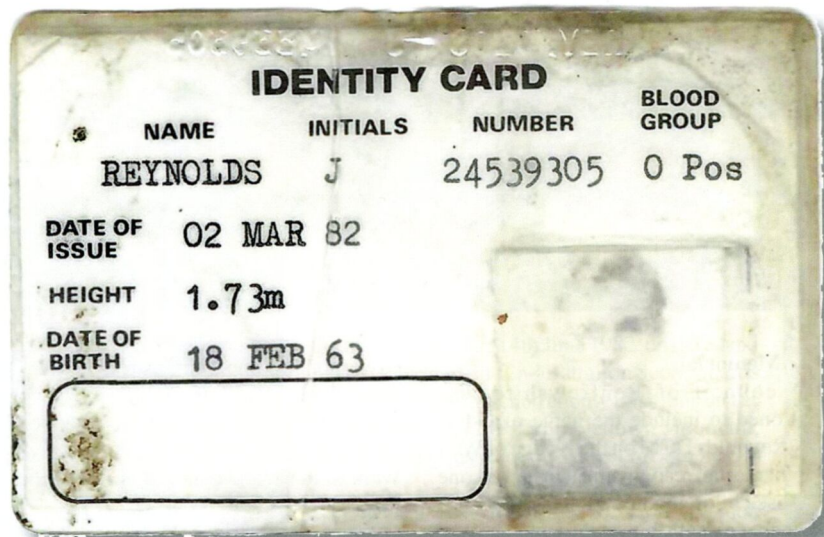
Marines Mountain and Arctic Warfare Cadre had captured after a fierce firefight with Argentine Special Forces. As anyone who has been to the Falklands will know that the roads were non-existent, what ones they had were essentially stone tracks that shook our vehicles to bits. You relied on walking, the occasional Land Rover or motorcycle, and of course helicopters to get about. The ground itself was a mixture of peaty bog, tough elephant grass, rocks and had minimal tracks. Overall, you could liken it to Sennybridge or Dartmoor training areas, but far worse, and with much more extreme weather.

I also organised a march/yomp from Port San Carlos to Stanley via the northern route and Teal Inlet. This followed the steps of 45 Commando and 3 Para and really exposed you to the tough terrain, the poor weather, and the tremendous distances involved while carrying all your kit. I ran this exercise twice during my tour and I understand it was still going years later.

Mount Tumbledown became a favourite site to explore, study, and to understand the battle. Not just because of its proximity to Stanley, but for the sheer audacity of the attack. The situation was difficult in the days before, with the Royal Marines from 3 Commando Brigade having taken Two Sisters and Mount Harriet, and 3 Para taking Mount Longdon, though with many casualties. These hard-fought night-time victories prepared the ground for 2nd Battalion Scots Guards to launch their difficult attack on Mount Tumbledown. Walking the ground, you were able to follow the diversionary attack, trace the



The author and Argentinian Sangar, Mount Tumbledown.



James Reynolds' ID Card - returned after a 42-year absence!

approach to the main objective, cross the rough ground, and appreciate the enormity of the task. As well as the quality of opposition in the Argentine 5th Naval Infantry Battalion.

Unlike Argentine positions elsewhere, on Tumbledown you could see the well-made stone-built Sangars, the fields of fire and the effective use of the natural ground over the whole ridge. It only reinforced my respect for the Scots Guards and what they had achieved against all the odds in a difficult night of fighting.

One Sunday, I was walking the ground on Tumbledown from the start line to the main ridge. At that time, there were marked

minefields, and the whole mountain was still covered with unexploded ordnance, empty cases, munitions of various types, as well as abandoned equipment. There was even an Argentine Field kitchen under a rock overhang at the eastern end of Tumbledown. Due to the nature of the ground and what was potentially there, you always had to be careful.

Spotting something out of place I came across a MOD 90 identity card, lodged between some gorse and rocks, I thought it very strange, as it was not in a wallet or in any clothing or equipment. It had been left exposed to the Falklands weather for over three years, and so was badly faded, but still legible and in one piece. It is a miracle that I found it.

Looking closely, I could see that it belonged to a Guardsman Reynolds. I put the ID card in a safe place intending to return it to his unit when I got back to the UK. However, I misplaced it and life moved on. I subsequently left the Army in December 1992.

In June of this year, I was packing up my house to move home. I came across the ID card again 39 years later! It was stuck between photographs that I had taken in the Falklands. I quickly researched the name and then realised the significance of the card owner Guardsman Reynolds. He had been killed in action on the final day of the war 14th June 1982 and had been posthumously awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal (DCM).

Thinking back, I can only imagine that the ID Card was in his top pocket and when he was hit or was moved, it somehow dropped out and was then left on Mount Tumbledown.

Researching Guardsman Reynolds, I found out that James (Jim) was born in

Dennistoun, Glasgow 19th February 1963. He didn't have the best of starts in life and as an orphan was taken into care at the Gryffe Children's Home at Bridge of Weir, from the age of four until he turned eighteen. He was educated locally at the Bridge of Weir Primary school and then Park Mains Secondary school, Erskine. He was remembered as a cheerful lad with a good nature. As an independent young man and aged just eighteen, he joined the Scots Guards directly from Gryffe Children's Home. I can only imagine that the Scots Guards and the friends he made became the family that he had never had.

Guardsman Reynolds was deployed to the Falkland Islands with the rest of the 2nd Battalion SG as part of 5 Infantry Brigade. His DCM citation reads:

'On the night of 13th/14th June 1982, on the Island of East Falkland, the 2nd Battalion Scots Guards attacked well entrenched enemy positions on the craggy ridge feature of Tumbledown Mountain, seven kilometres to the west of Port Stanley. During the attack, Guardsman Reynold's Platoon came under fire from a group of enemy snipers. His Platoon Sergeant was killed instantly. A confused situation developed, and his Section became separated. Guardsman Reynolds immediately took command. Having located the enemy snipers, he silenced several of them himself. That done and showing a complete disregard for his own safety, he moved forward to render first

aid to a wounded comrade. He himself was wounded in the hand by enemy sniper fire but continued to aid his colleague. Whilst doing so, he was killed by enemy mortar fire.'

Guardsman Reynolds' body was repatriated back to Scotland. He is buried at Knadgerhill Cemetery, Irvine in a grave next to his fellow Guardsman David Malcolmson who was sadly killed in the same battle. Jim had no other connections with Irvine, except vicariously through his colleague's friendship. David Malcolmson's family knowing that Guardsman Reynolds was an orphan and that he had no family or home of his own, generously suggested that he be buried beside their son.

So, after finding the ID card again after nearly forty years, what to do? I remembered that the Scots Guards CO at the time, Lt Colonel Michael Scott, had been interviewed by Patrick Bishop, the war correspondent and historian from the Battleground Ukraine podcast. Patrick was reporting in the Falklands in 1982, and with Saul David they had produced a brilliant 40th Anniversary series of the Falklands war. So, with some trepidation, I emailed Patrick in the hope that he would be able to reach the now Major General Scott to see if the ID card could be returned to the Regiment.

I subsequently received a very kind and generous email from Major General Mike Scott who was totally surprised by my find.

He also could not believe the timing of my email. As just the following weekend on the 18th August, Guardsman Reynolds DCM name was being added to the Bridge of Weir War Memorial in a formal and fitting ceremony. We agreed that the best place for the ID Card was with Guardsman Reynolds medals, DCM citation and photo at Regimental HQ, Wellington Barracks, London. Where his memory is honoured and cherished.

I can only apologise for the length of time it has taken to return the ID Card to its rightful home, it was never my intention for it to have taken so long. Firstly I would like to thank Patrick Bishop and Saul David from the Battleground Ukraine podcast (I can certainly recommend listening). I would also like to thank Major General Mike Scott CB, CBE, DSO and Major Randall Nicol (Chair of the Regimental Historical Committee), for their help and advice in making this all happen.

The Falklands has stayed with me for all these years, and it is something that I know veterans will often think back to. The hardships that they endured, the sacrifices that were made, but most of all to the comradeship and friendships that pulled them through.

Finally, for me, I see it as a journey completed. With the card being returned to perhaps where Guardsman Reynolds would have wanted it to be, with his adopted family the Scots Guards.

Gdsm Reynolds' Memorial Cairn renovated



After: Bobby and Duncan MacDonald, Nigel Kirkman and Iain Thompson in front of their finished work.

The Highlands & Islands Branch of the Association became aware in the Autumn of 2023 that the Cairn on Sallachy Estate erected in memory of Gdsm JBC (Jim) Reynolds DCM, who was killed in the Falklands on 14th June 1982, had fallen

into quite a state of disrepair. The branch resolved at that time to ensure that the cairn was brought back to its rightful condition.

The cairn was erected by then-Lt Alastair Bruce of Crionaich, whose father Commander Bruce owned Sallachy Estate

at the time. Alastair Bruce is of course now better known as Major General Alastair Bruce of Crionaich OBE VR DL, Governor of Edinburgh Castle, journalist, and Sky TV correspondent. The cairn includes the following inscription:

'This cairn was erected by Alastair Bruce of Crionaich in memory of his loyal orderly Gdsm JBC Reynolds DCM SG killed in action Mt. Tumbledown Falkland Islands 14 June 1982 whilst assisting a wounded comrade.'

The campaign to have the cairn renovated was led by Duncan MacDonald and his wife, Bobby. Duncan completed his National Service with the regiment in 1957-1959, then served with the police including a spell with the Glasgow City police in 1965-1974, before returning north. He has been a long-term member of the H&I Branch. He and Bobby liaised with the Estate Agent, Dr Fiona Fraser, to have the work done, now that the good weather was with us, on 14th May. The team consisted of Duncan and Bobby, Iain Thomson, the Estate Factor, his son Elliot, and Nigel Kirkman a volunteer conservation specialist who travelled up from Oxfordshire to assist. They eventually filled 3 trailers and 2-ton bags of vegetation.

The work included the removal of the fence posts and gate, which didn't really serve any practical purpose as the deer do not eat the bracken and sorbaria. The estate maintenance staff will now regularly cut this area on a voluntary basis, and the



During: Down tools was the order - teas up!

branch has committed to visiting the cairn annually.

Now that the work is done, the branch intends to hold, on the anniversary of Jim's death in 2025, a rededication ceremony attended by the Falklands veterans in the

branch, our standard bearer, pipers, other branch members, the Lord Lieutenant, the Inverness Legion Padre and other invited guests, especially the Fiona, Iain, Elliot and Nigel to whom we owe a debt of thanks for the excellent work done.



Before: The Cairn still hidden in the bushes.