

POPPY

STORIES

poppy 
scotland

Summer 2022

Remembering the 40th Anniversary of the Falklands.



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Welcome to Poppy Stories.

Forty years ago, some 8,000 miles from home, our brave military set out to regain control of the Falkland Islands. The following 74 days would see acts of incredible heroism, tragic losses and, ultimately, victory.

On this milestone anniversary, *Poppy Stories* is proud to pay tribute to the brave men and women who fought in that small corner of the South Atlantic Ocean. We'd also like to take this opportunity to remember the veterans of the Falklands, and other modern conflicts like Iraq and Afghanistan. Many need Poppyscotland's support with housing, employment and financial difficulties to this day. Furthermore, the nature of illnesses like PTSD (Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder), where symptoms can lay dormant for many years before striking, mean many others will come to rely on us in years to come.

This is one of many reasons why your continued support is so important to Poppyscotland. With you at our side, we are able to offer help and support to the Armed Forces community living in Scotland whenever crisis strikes. Thank you.



Gordon Michie
Head of Fundraising and RAF veteran.

We're always here for you.

We understand that many in the Armed Forces community may have found recent world events distressing. You, or someone you care about, may have been left struggling with difficult memories and emotions and may be in need of support.

Poppyscotland acknowledge that asking for help can feel daunting. We would like to take this opportunity to reassure you that you are not alone. Our Welfare Services are on standby with a sympathetic, non-judgemental ear for you, your family and all those you Served with.

We therefore urge anyone who is struggling in any way to please contact us on **0131 550 1557**. Poppyscotland are at your side with help and support whenever you need us.

Get help online.

If you would prefer not to pick up the phone, you can access our support services at www.poppyscotland.org.uk or by emailing GetHelp@poppyScotland.org.uk

E-Newsletter

If you would prefer to receive this newsletter in your inbox instead of your letterbox then sign up for our e-newsletter at www.poppyscotland.org.uk

Connect   

Keep in touch with us on social media at the addresses below:
[facebook.com/poppyscotland](https://www.facebook.com/poppyscotland)
twitter.com/poppyscotland
[youtube.com/poppyscotland](https://www.youtube.com/poppyscotland)

Contact details

Poppyscotland, New Haig House,
Logie Green Road, Edinburgh EH7 4HQ.

Tel: 0131 557 2782

Email: supportercare@poppyScotland.org.uk

Visit: www.poppyscotland.org.uk

If you would prefer not to receive our newsletter please get in touch with us using the contact details above to let us know.

We value your support and would like to keep you informed of our work. Please help us to contact you in the most appropriate way by completing our online form: www.poppyscotland.org.uk/contactpreferences

You helped us to be there for...

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 We provided **1,383** Members of the Armed Forces community with life-changing support.

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 We awarded more than **£520,000** for home repairs and mobility adaptations, household goods and more.

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 We received **1,692** calls and emails from clients, and referrals from our partners through the **GETHELP** line.

There's no denying that the last couple of years have been challenging for everybody. At Poppyscotland, we are beyond grateful for your support during this difficult time, which has helped us overcome every obstacle put between us and the ex-Servicemen and ex-Servicewomen who need our support.

To show you just what a difference you make, in each issue of *Poppy Stories* we will provide an update on some of the amazing things you have helped us achieve. Here are a few highlights from our Welfare Services team since your last edition of *Poppy Stories*, which show just how many veterans rely on you.

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 Our Welfare Support Service conducted over **3,000** meetings with our Armed Forces community (face-to-face and by phone).

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 Our Regional Team received **1,540** enquiries providing **157** people with 1 to 1 advice and support.

Helping David take back control of his life.

Having grown up in care, David joined the Royal Highland Fusiliers when he was 16. He Served from 2003 to 2007, including a tour in Iraq, but found life away from the Army hard. Poppyscotland funded a special course so he could start working at heights on bridges and viaducts.



Just as things were looking up, David suffered a personal tragedy. "The death of my sister hit me really hard. I wasn't looking after myself and I went downhill," he said. David had been living with his sister, but suddenly found himself living on the streets and struggling with PTSD.

Thanks to your support, Poppyscotland was there for David again. Our advice services helped him to apply for the benefits he was entitled to and secure a one-bed council flat. "If I hadn't had the support of Poppyscotland I wouldn't have managed to get rehoused," David said.



A donation of £20 could go towards funding a course for another veteran like David, helping them to find a secure job after Service.

Remembering the 40th Anniversary of the Falklands conflict.

Please honour 40 years since the Falklands Conflict with a £40 Anniversary gift.

On 2nd April 1982, Argentinian forces invaded the British overseas territory of the Falkland Islands. This act of aggression sparked a ten-week conflict.

Despite being 8,000 miles away in the South Atlantic, Britain undertook the extraordinary feat of sending a task force of warships and merchant ships to reclaim the islands.

After many weeks at sea, the taskforce arrived. Fighting at sea led to the sinking of both HMS Sheffield and the General Belgrano, before 3,000 British troops landed at San Carlos Water. They came under almost immediate attack from Argentine troops supported by the Air Force. Fierce battles at both Goose Green and Darwin laid the way for advancements towards the capital, Stanley.

A night of bravery and sacrifice.

One of the pivotal events of the advance was the fight for Mount Tumbledown. A battalion of Scots Guards was tasked with seizing this strategic high point from dug-in Argentine forces. The battle was brutal, raging all night long on the freezing mountainside.

After nine terrifying hours of hand-to-hand fighting the exhausted Scots Guards prevailed. Shortly after, word came through that the Argentinians had surrendered Stanley. However, elation was mixed with grief – eight brave Scots Guards lay down their lives on that windswept mountain. Their sacrifice was immortalised in the famous poem Ode to Tumbledown, a fitting tribute to the bravery and selflessness of those eight proud Scots.



Donald's personal tribute to commemorate the Falklands.

A lasting legacy of battle.

In total, 255 British military personnel, 649 Argentine military personnel and three Falkland Islanders were killed. While Britain was ultimately victorious, many veterans returned injured and traumatised and continue to suffer the effects 40 years later.

Whether struggling with physical injuries or the mental scars caused by Service, Poppyscotland are proud to stand by the brave men and women who gave so much. Your support in this milestone 40th Anniversary year will ensure that every member of the Armed Forces community living in Scotland gets the support they deserve.

"I didn't get hurt in the Falklands. Not physically, anyway..."

Donald McLeod was one of the proud Scots Guards tasked with taking Mount Tumbledown. Faced with freezing temperatures, total darkness and a determined enemy, Donald and his brave comrades fought tirelessly to secure the vital high ground.

It was only when he returned home that Donald realised the events of that night would affect the rest of his life. Donald couldn't settle, was getting himself in trouble and was later diagnosed with PTSD. One day his landlord decided to sell the flat he was renting. Almost overnight, Donald was homeless and out on the streets of Edinburgh.

Thanks to the generosity of supporters like you, we were able to offer Donald a job at Lady Haig's Poppy Factory. Making poppies and wreaths has given Donald the stability and secure income he needed to get his life back on track, and allows him to honour his fallen brothers every day.

Please commemorate the 40th Anniversary of the Falklands Conflict with a donation of £40 to help support another veteran like Donald.



"Ode to Tumbledown"

*It was the Guardsmen of the Crown
Who scaled the Heights of Tumbledown
And fought that night a bloody fight
To see victory by dawn's first light.
From crag to crag amongst the rock,
They skirmished on, numbed by shock.
Through shell and mortar fire they moved,
Till at last the ground they'd proved
Port Stanley lay there... just ahead,
As they began to count their dead.
But where the glory, where the pride,
Of those eight brave men who died?
They who made that lonely sacrifice
And through each death paid the total price
In their final and heroic act,
Did surely speed the warring parties pact.
Each one who there his life laid down,
Saved countless others from their own unknown.
So those of you who live to talk,
Let your pride hover as does the hawk.
And never let men these acts forget,
Nor the memory of our dead neglect,
But once returned across this vast sea,
Remember then just what it was to be...
A Scots Guardsman.*

Lieutenant Mark Mathewson, Scots Guards

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Ten weeks that are still felt today.

2nd April 1982:

The first Argentine troops land at 4.30am.
More troops arrive, and by 9.30am the 80-man garrison of Royal Marines is vastly outnumbered.



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5th April 1982:

First task force ships leave Portsmouth.
The fleet of more than 100 ships will take nearly three weeks to sail to the South Atlantic.



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2nd May 1982:

General Belgrano sunk with loss of 368 crew.
The sinking causes the first major loss of life in the Falklands War.

4th May 1982:

British destroyer HMS Sheffield sunk with loss of 20 crew.
The crew is forced to abandon ship, but 20 men die. It is the first British warship to be sunk in the conflict.



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21st May 1982:

British troops land at San Carlos Water on East Falkland.
Three thousand troops establish a beachhead for attacks on Goose Green and Stanley.

28th May 1982:

Battle for Darwin and Goose Green.
Seventeen British and 250 Argentine soldiers are killed in a fierce battle which lasts a day and a night.



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8th June 1982:

British landing craft Sir Galahad and Sir Tristram bombed, with 51 troops killed.

13th June 1982:

Mount Tumbledown taken.



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14th June 1982:

British forces liberate Stanley.
After taking the heavily defended high ground, British forces march into Stanley almost unopposed.

20th June 1982:

British forces declare end to hostilities.
The conflict lasted just 74 days, but cost nearly 1,000 lives. Many more were wounded and still suffer the consequences of the conflict, both physically and mentally, four decades later.

Our amazing Poppy Pledgers raise over £100,000!

After a year of fundraising, last November saw the final sponsored strides, pedal turns and car washes by our amazing Poppy Pledgers. What a herculean effort it was! Over £100,000 was raised to commemorate 100 years of the Poppy and support the Armed Forces community living in Scotland.

One keen fundraiser was Billy Morrison. Now working as a delivery driver for Tesco, as a former member of the Royal Artillery, Billy is no stranger to a challenge. So he set himself the target of cycling the distance from John O'Groats to Land's End. Although a keen cyclist, the training was gruelling. "One day I remember it was absolutely lashing with rain," he said. "That's when the reason I was doing it kept driving me on."

Billy visited every large Tesco store in the Lothians, and finished his challenge on a stationary bike in the Musselburgh store. After 855 miles he raised an incredible £10,193!



Move over Sir Chris Hoy! Billy raised over £10,000.



Summer's great-uncle Tommy was a Scottish MI5 officer during WW2.

Talented trio's fitting tribute.

A school trip to Lady Haig's Poppy Factory, in Edinburgh, fired the imagination of three budding fashion designers who created a wonderful tribute to the Armed Forces community living in Scotland.

Summer Saunders, Kate Miller and Olivia Przygoda, from Wellington School in Ayr, used discarded strands of Poppy silk from the factory floor to create this wonderful dress, entitled 'In Flanders Fields'. Summer even wore the dress at our Poppy Days in Dundee and Edinburgh, bringing a splash of glamour to the occasion.

"We were hugely inspired by the disabled veterans who work in the factory, they put so much work in and everything is handmade," said Summer. "We want to keep our generation involved with Remembrance, we want to keep it going" Kate added.

The talented trio have family connections to the military. Kate's great-grandfather survived Dunkirk, was taken prisoner in Greece and escaped from no less than three prisoner of war camps. Summer's father, grand-father and great-grandfathers all served in the Army, while her great-uncle Tommy was an intelligence

officer. He orchestrated many disinformation campaigns, including persuading the Germans that D-Day landings were going to occur elsewhere.

The Lady Haig Poppy Factory, in Edinburgh, will be welcoming visitors for tours again this Autumn. Arrange your visit at www.poppyscotland.org.uk/factory-tour-enquiry

Thanks to an unsung hero.

If you ever visit the Garden of Remembrance in George Square in November, the chances are you would have bumped into one of our unsung heroes, Robin Shields. Robin has been volunteering for us for over five years and has a strong interest in military history, which he puts into good practice in George Square helping the public put crosses beside each regiment and raising money through donations. He is there in all weathers and we would like to say a very special thank you for all of his efforts.

Come rain or shine, Robin is a fixture in George Square.



If you'd like to join our amazing army of volunteers head to www.poppyscotland.org.uk/get-involved

Passing the baton.

Remembrance is a very popular time for fundraising, and Glasgow and Strathclyde University Officer Training Corps pulled out all the stops with a 72-hour baton relay around Glasgow. Members of the Corps kept the baton moving night and day through all weathers, raising a fantastic £1,500 for Poppyscotland.



An amazing £1,500 raised for veterans.



Our volunteer Poppy sellers were once again a colourful sight around the country.

All on board for the Poppy Appeal.

After the restrictions of COVID-19, our Poppy sellers were excited to return to streets and train stations across Scotland last November. We raised over £2 million with over £11,000 in Glasgow alone, even though COP26 meant we had to collect two weeks earlier than usual. We would like to say a huge thank you to Scotrail, Network Rail, all our Poppy-selling volunteers and, of course, you for helping to raise such a huge amount.

If you fancy taking on a fundraising challenge visit www.poppyscotland.org.uk/things-to-do



Band of the Royal Regiment of Scotland return.

After two years focussed on public duties and assisting with COVID-19 relief efforts, the Band of the Royal Regiment of Scotland are back on stage! We are very excited to be teaming up for five concerts, with all ticket sales in aid of Poppyscotland. We can't wait to see you at one of the following performances:

Get your tickets now at poppyscotland.org.uk/band-tour

Hamilton
Friday 2nd September

Livingston
Friday 30th September

Montrose
Friday 21st October

Bankfoot, Perthshire
Friday 4th November

Hawick
Thursday 15th December
(Special Christmas performance!)

Don't miss out on Poppy Quest.

Discover hidden gems in Glasgow and Edinburgh with Poppy Quest, a fun 10K walking challenge taking place on Saturday 11th and Sunday 12th June.

Take the challenge on by yourself, bring along friends and family or even your four-legged friend! You'll receive an official t-shirt, a medal to celebrate your achievement and, if you raise £100 in sponsorship you'll be awarded a special Poppy Quest pin badge.

Sign up now at www.poppyscotland.org.uk/poppyquest



Kiltwalk returns!

After the success of Glasgow's Kiltwalk in April there will be more opportunities to show off your pins later in the year. Kiltwalk will be coming to Dundee on 21st August and Edinburgh on 18th September, with a Virtual Kiltwalk taking place on 7th – 9th October.



Find out more at www.poppyscotland.org.uk/kiltwalk

Saddle up for veterans.

After a two-year break, the legendary Poppyscotland Sportive will be taking to the roads once again on Sunday 25th September. With three distances to choose from – 45, 68 or 102 miles – this epic event is a great challenge for cyclists of all abilities.

Starting in Prestonpans, riders will zip along stunning coastal roads and enjoy the glorious East Lothian countryside. We will also have our redesigned cycling jersey for sale, celebrating the centenary of the Poppy Appeal.

Find out more and sign up for this epic day out at www.poppyscotland.org.uk/sportive



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