

Grenadier News

The Autumn Newsletter of the Grenadier
Guards Association



Edition 3, October 2016

Association Headquarters

President: Colonel REH Aubrey-Fletcher

General Secretary & Regimental Treasurer: Major AJ Green

Association Senior Non-Commissioned Officer: Sgt R Broomes

Regimental Headquarters

The Lieutenant Colonel: Lieutenant General Sir George Norton, KCVO, CBE

Regimental Adjutant: Major GVA Baker

Regimental Archivist: Captain AGH Ogden

Assistant Equerry: Captain FCB Moynan

Regimental Quartermaster Sergeant: WO2 (RQMS) M Cox

Regimental Affairs Non-Commissioned Officer: LSgt R Haughton

Regimental Property Non-Commissioned Officer: LSgt M MacMillan

Civilian Clerk: Mr Edward (Yomi) Fowowe

Wellington Barracks, Birdcage Walk, LONDON, SW1E 6HQ

REGIMENTAL HEADQUARTERS

The Regimental Adjutant

In January, the 1st Battalion mounted its last Queen's Guard and on completion moved from London District to the 11th Infantry Brigade. The Battalion has a challenging two years ahead. In 2017 it will assume the role of lead Battlegroup of the NATO Very High Readiness Joint Task Force; this force is designed to deter further Russian aggression in Eastern Europe. 2016 is being spent training in preparation for this role. Some may recall that in 2015, the Battalion earned glowing reports for its performance on exercise in Kenya; in June this year, the Battalion deployed once more to Kenya and earned another first class report, this time whilst carrying out an even more demanding exercise. Currently, and until the end of the year there are various exercises in the UK, Germany and Eastern Europe. The Battlegroup will consist of Battalion Headquarters, a rifle company, Support Company and logistic support from the 1st Battalion, together with

Dutch, Albanian and Latvian Companies. Obviously it is proving to be a mammoth task to develop the Battlegroup into a genuinely operational force, but it is exciting and interesting.

On 26 Feb 16, there was an Op GRANBY 25th Anniversary Reunion at Wellington Barracks. The Reunion started with a Service in the Guards Chapel which was attended by The Colonel. Thereafter, everyone retired to the Garrison Sgts' Mess for a Reception. There, The Colonel presented the MSM to SBSM Andrew Wood and then toured the rooms talking to many of the assembled multitude. It would appear that the whole event was greatly enjoyed by all who attended. The event was the brainchild of Gary Eldershaw, his initiative and hard work is to be commended.



It is 'business as usual' for Nijmegen Company, and it found No 5 Guard for the Queen's Birthday Parade. Similarly, the Regimental Band has been exceptionally busy carrying out routine ceremonial. With regard to the Band, I have seen unhelpful comments on 'social media' bemoaning the fact that the 'status quo' has altered and that our Musicians are members of the Corps of Army Music and therefore not 'proper' Grenadiers. Whilst no one would have wished for this change (and it is hardly 'latest news'), we are where we are, and I would remind everyone that the Regimental Band gives outstanding support to the Regiment and we are lucky to have it; the Regimental Trustees take the view that the Musicians of the Regimental Band go on parade as Grenadiers, and as such they will receive the full support of the Regiment.

Regimental Remembrance Day took place on Sun 15 May. Sadly, The Colonel was unable to join us but the day was well attended and seemed to be enjoyed by all those who came.





Grenadier Day took place on Sun 17 Jul 16 at Lille Barracks. The Battalion had just returned from Kenya during the previous week, and everyone made a tremendous effort to lay on a successful day. The emphasis of this year's day was to provide more "in house entertainment" with an Inter-Company Tug of War competition (won by Headquarter Company), Pace-sticking and a No Two Company 'It's a knockout' competition, as well as the Band and Corps of Drums. The 1st Battalion also laid on some excellent equipment stands. The Colonel paid a visit during the afternoon, touring the arena area and talking to lots of people. He presented prizes at the end of the afternoon and departed to a rousing Three Cheers from the assembled multitude. WO2 (RQMS) Mark Cox (RHQ) is to be congratulated for organising such an enjoyable event.

Finally, a word about the Bruges Weekend which took place between 2nd and 4th September 2016; Nijmegen Company, the Regimental Band and the Company of Pikemen and Musketeers left Wellington Barracks at an uncivilized hour of Friday morning; the Advance Party having left the day before, and arrived at their Barracks near Bruges in the late morning. In addition, members of the 1st Guards Club and Association had been arriving in 'dribs and drabs'. The first event was the Unveiling, by HRH the Crown Princess of the Belgians, of a Bust of King Charles II on the house where he had lived in Bruges. This was immediately followed by a Parade in Burg Square with Belgian Grenadiers, Nijmegen Company, The Company of Pikemen and Musketeers and the Regimental Band. After the Parade, the City of Bruges entertained everyone at various Receptions. On Saturday 3 September, the Grenadier contingent, along with the Pikemen and Musketeers, were inspected by the Mayor of Bruges, accompanied by the Regimental Lieutenant Colonel, and then marched through the City to the Guild of St Sebastian where, following a further parade, including an impressive display of 17th Century drill by the Pikemen and Musketeers, The members of the Guild lavished generous hospitality on their British guests.



On Sunday morning, the Grenadier contingent moved to Pont-a-Marcq in France to commemorate the battle that took place during the advance to Brussels on 3 Sep 44. At Pont-a-Marcq, there was a Church Service and a march through the town laying wreaths along the way; this was followed by a Reception and Lunch which was generously given by the people of Pont-a-Marcq. After lunch, everyone moved to Ypres to take part in the Last Post Ceremony at the Menin Gate. The Regimental Band gave a brief marching display in the Market Square and then took part in the Ceremony at the Menin Gate. It was a weary team of Grenadiers who later returned to London that night, but it was a hugely successful and enjoyable weekend in which the Regiment was enthusiastically received wherever it went! Major Stephen Dehnel MBE organized and ran the whole weekend with characteristic thoroughness, attention to detail and flair; we owe him our thanks for doing such a superb job.



So, here we are again in the Autumn of another year, but to briefly look forwards, Regimental Remembrance Sunday is on Sunday 21 May 17 and the date for Grenadier Day has yet to be decided.

ASSOCIATION NEWS

Welfare

With the support of funds provided by the Regiment and others the Association is able, wherever possible, to support those members and former members of the Regiment who find themselves in need. This is managed routinely through Branch Secretaries. More substantial support, usually of a one off nature due to unforeseen circumstances, can be sought in the first instance from The Royal British Legion or SSAFA by requesting a visit from a case worker. Further advice and details of how to make contact with either organisation can be obtained from local telephone directories, the internet or by calling the Association Office on 0207 414 3225/3285.

1st Battalion Grenadier Guards Southern Cameroons 1961

After a very successful reunion on the 10th September in Loughborough of 37 Grenadiers, wives, partners and friends Jim Veary (Treasurer of the Reading Branch), discussed with all present the possibility of dedicating a Tree with a Plaque in remembrance of Gdsm John Lunn and all members of the Battalion who served in the Southern Cameroons in 1961. The Tree would be planted in the Mall leading up to the Household Division Memorial at the National Memorial Arboretum. The cost would be £600 and Jim already has £100 in the Tree account. It is hoped to hold a reunion/parade to dedicate the Tree and Plaque on Sunday 1st October 2017 (Cameroons Independence Day).

If you wish to help and donate please send a cheque, payable to J F Veary to Jim at Bamenda, Broad Town, Swindon, Wiltshire, SN4 7RL or for more information Tel 01793 731213 or e-mail veary@hotmail.co.uk



The Ramada Hotel, Loughborough. Saturday September 10th. 2016

A Reunion to Celebrate the 1st Battalion Grenadier Guards Posting to the Southern Cameroons. May - October 1961

***Back Row:- Tony Womersley - Haddon Hooper - David Westbury - Jim Veary - David Dutton - Frank Short - Rodney Curtis - David Hill - Jeff Smith
Paul Taylor - Neville Platter - Dennis Johnson***

***Middle Row:- Doug Roberts - Jack Meath - Alan Beecroft - Arthur Fuller - Cliff Dowling - Charles Bailey - Reg Winning (R.E.) - Glen Moyle
Arthur Dutton - John Pearce - Alexander Heroys - Shaun O'Conner - Brian Woodcock - John Wright***

Front Row:- Bob Woodford - John Gibson - Bryan Lusty - Frank Corrigan - Alf Crowdy - Lester Cruse - Bill Lawson - Norman Sylvester - Frank Malone

Association Shop

The Grenadier Guards Association Shop has continued to see steady sales so far this year and the income derived supports our general welfare effort. Customers are able to pay by credit/debit card; PayPal; or bank transfer. There are new Mappin & Webb company tie pins and lapel badges in the pipeline, so please keep an eye on the website. There is no longer a forward invoice or credit facility available due to the amount of administration involved. As a result all goods purchased will need to be paid for at the time of ordering.

THE 1st BATTALION

Commanding Officer: Lt Col A R McKay MBE

Adjutant: Captain M W S Dobson

Sgt Major: WO1 (RSM) M Howlin

Lille Barracks, Aldershot, Hants, GU11 2NQ

Captain HRW Hardy, Intelligence Officer

The 1st Battalion has had a very busy, but hugely rewarding period over the last few months with elements of the Battalion deploying in various guises to Kenya, Germany, Albania and Thailand.



Following a build-up of smaller scale exercises in Catterick and Thetford, designed to practice tactical actions, planning, logistics and command, the Battalion deployed for six weeks to Kenya as a Battle Group. This saw the Grenadiers join up with Artillery, Engineer, Logistic, Medical and other supporting elements to test themselves in a combined arms environment. Ex ASKARI STORM was designed to test the Battalion in all areas of offensive, defensive and enabling actions, with the added friction of the Grenadiers having exercised in Kenya the year before.

To accommodate this, British Army Training Unit Kenya (BATUK) leased a previously unused piece of terrain in which to test the Battalion against the full spectrum of Light Role Infantry operations. This was to prove a real test of the Grenadiers resolve as the Battle Group had to deal not only with a live and reactive enemy, provided by a Squadron of the Household Cavalry, but also with untamed Kenyan bush.

A machine gun section provides over-watch in Kenya

Boulder-strewn highlands, steep gorges, fast rivers and intense heat, combined with a multitude of dangerous animals, tested the Battalion's ability to execute complex manoeuvre. Additional challenges to those on the ground included the Battle Group's determination to 'own the night'. This saw the majority of our manoeuvre being conducted silently with only the night vision equipment of the individual to allow the soldier's transit of this often treacherous landscape.

Despite these difficulties the Battle Group excelled, earning 'greens' across all areas that it was tested in, setting us up for the challenges looming in the form of the Spearhead Battle Group for the NATO Very High Readiness Joint Task Force Land (VJTF (L)).

The Battalion, haven taken some leave, returned to work in late August, ready to begin further build up for moving onto readiness in the New Year. Elements deployed to Germany to conduct interoperability training with 20 Brigade, who are providing the VJTF (L) Headquarters, as well as the three sub-units attached to the Grenadiers for next year. The Battle Group will be supplemented by a Dutch Royal Marine Squadron and Albanian and Latvian Infantry Companies. The three weeks spent out there provided an ideal opportunity for us to get to understand our new colleagues and work together to maximise our capability. Ex VENERABLE GAUNTLET also allowed the Grenadiers to see the wider capability within the VJTF (L) Brigade in the form of Danish Armoured Infantry, British Main Battle Tanks, Polish Mechanised Infantry, Czech CBRN units and Spanish artillery amongst other multinational elements.

Concurrently, elements of Number Two Company deployed on exercise to Albania which again enabled further co-operation with our new NATO partners. Those deployed exercised with soldiers from the United States Marine Corps as well as a Battalion from the Albanian armed forces. At the time of writing a platoon is still deployed, providing an opposition force for the Royal Marines, who have also been exercising in Albania.



Members of the Regiment with the 1st Infantry Regiment, King's Own Bodyguard, resplendent in their colourful oxtail

made of oxtail rather than bearskin and can be seen in a variety of vibrant colours.

The Battalion has also sent a return trip to Thailand, having hosted a party of Thai officers in England earlier in the year. The visit focussed on meeting with our regimental counterparts; the 1st Infantry Regiment, King's Own Bodyguard. Formed in 1859 they are largely based on the British Foot Guards due to the experiences of the then Crown Prince, and latterly King Rama V, as an officer cadet at the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst. Their caps are however

This period has been a very busy, but hugely successful period for the Battalion, and very bright, but also full of exciting challenges.

The final stages of training for the VJTF (L) commitment are rapidly approaching, with a deployment on Ex SILVER ARROW in Latvia and a return trip to Germany before Christmas leave. This will see the battalion ready to deploy, should it be called to do so next year.

RECRUITING AND THE REGIMENTAL SUPPORT TEAM

Captain Ty Bearder – MTO and Recruiting Officer 1 GREN GDS

Since returning from Exercise ASKARI STORM in Kenya earlier this year the Regimental Support Team has been supporting some of the Grenadier Recruiting Sergeants in their areas of responsibilities. We spent two days in Birmingham with LSgt Casburn and three days in Wolverhampton with Sgt Findler, their local knowledge and enthusiasm gave the Team and members of Number 2 Company plenty of ideas of when and where the best places to recruit potential Grenadiers were.

The Regimental Support team and members of Number 2 Company have recently conducted a Mobile Army Recruiting Stand (MARS) in Swindon town centre and local area. We spent a day in Chippenham town centre and a day in Cirencester town centre followed by a day on an Army stand in Trowbridge assisting the Swindon office.



Now that we have forged close links with the London Regiment we have been supporting them on joint stands in and around London, this will continue for the remainder of 2016 and we look forward to working closely with them in 2017 to help recruit for both the Regular and Reserve forces.

The team has just received our new recruiting trailer, this will be livered soon and used on all future displays, a fantastic base for us to work from and I look forward to being able to show you all some pictures of this piece of equipment.





The Regimental Support team has supported Guards Company in Catterick with reassurance evenings with the Trainee Guardsmen ensuring that they understand what life as a Guardsman is really like. The team will be at the Army Foundation College in Harrogate later this year to speak to the Junior Soldiers before they move to Catterick next year.

Our next big event will be the world skills show that is at the NEC in November. This is one of the biggest events that the Army attends and we are very fortunate to have a stand at this event. We are looking at a footfall of about 70,000 14-20 year olds over the 3 days and 30,000 gate keepers from all over the country: <https://www.worldskillsuk.org/the-skills-show> for those of you on Social media you can follow us on Twitter @joingrenadiers or on Facebook at The Grenadier Guards.

Finally the Regimental Support Team has recently seen some changes with Gdsm Viggars leaving the Army and CSgt Fry handing over to Sgt Langdown as he prepares to leave the Army. I would like to thank CSgt Fry and Gdsm Viggars for their hard work and support over that past year and wish them all the very best for their futures.

THE REGIMENTAL BAND

Director of Music: Major P Stredwick
Bandmaster: WO1 S L Marinescu
Band Sergeant Major: WO2 M I Buckley

LSgt G Hall

The mainstay of engagements through the early part of 2016 saw the Band as committed as ever to State Ceremonial. The ever important duties of Queens Guard Mount, Household Division Beating Retreat and of course the Queen's Birthday Parade were executed with the precision and flair reserved for such important national occasions. Support to the Royal Welsh during duties at The Tower of London gave some of the Band's Cornet players the rare opportunity to perform The Last Post as part of the Ceremony of the Keys, something which has taken place every night for over 700 years.

The Band was honoured to be asked to take part in a Fahnenband Parade held in Düsseldorf in early August. The Parade also marked the 70th Anniversary of the formation of the State of Northrhein-Westfalia formed by British Forces in 1946. A Fahnenband is the highest honour that the German State can award to a foreign unit based in the country for a minimum of five years.



The worthy recipients on this occasion were the Paderborn based 1st Battalion Princess of Wales Royal Regiment, representing the 20th Armoured Brigade. Amongst the high profile assembly of VIP's were His Royal Highness, The Duke of Cambridge and German Chancellor Angela Merkel who were the saluting officers as the Band paraded through the streets of Düsseldorf.

In late August the Band made a return visit over the English Channel along with Nijmegen Company to celebrate the 360th Anniversary of the formation of the regiment by King Charles the Second whilst exiled in Bruges. The Band and Nijmegen Company were permitted to march through the streets of this historic city on two separate occasions and enjoyed the hospitality of the Guild of Saint Sebastian on the very site where the Regiment was formed in 1656. The final day of a very busy weekend saw the Band travel between France and Belgium, starting the day in Pont-a-Marcq where they took part in a church service to remember French and Grenadier soldiers who made the ultimate sacrifice. A march through the town to several memorials allowed all those assembled to pay their respects through an Act of Remembrance and allowed three members of the Band to pay their own respects by playing The Last Post. The afternoon journey back into Belgium was largely trouble free but did hold a sense of excitement, which grew as the convoy neared Ypres. The Band performed an early evening Beating Retreat in the Town Square before marching through the streets towards the Menin Gate, the memorial to the 54,395 British and Commonwealth Soldiers who lost their lives in the region in World War One, and who have no known grave. The Menin Gate is steeped in history and just like the Tower of London, performs a Last Post Ceremony every night to remember the fallen. Time with any part of the Regiment is a rare treat for the Band and allows members to form or renew friendships and celebrate everything that The First or Grenadier Regiment of Foot Guards represent. All details of the band's future activities can be found on their Facebook pages at: <https://facebook.com/BandoftheGrenadierGuards>

To request the Band of the Grenadier Guards for any future event, a minimum of 6 week's notice is required and for further information please contact Mrs Donna Manuel, the Band Administrator on 020 7414 3267 or at: donna.manuel164@mod.uk

Scarlet and Gold

The Bands of the Household Division will once again present their concert Scarlet and Gold at the Cadogan Hall, London, SW1X 9DQ on 25th & 26th November 2016. Tickets start from £20 and can be booked by calling the box office on 020 7730 4500 or online at www.cadoganhall.com



FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Sergeants' Mess (Past & Present) Club Dinner – Sat 17th Nov 2016

Grenadier Guards Association Annual General Meeting (AGM) – Sat 25th Mar 2017

Regimental Remembrance Day – Sun 21st May 2017

Beating Retreat 14th & 15th Jun 2017

The Queen's Birthday Parade (1st Battalion Irish Guards) – Sat 17th Jun 2017

(The Major General's Review – Sat 3rd Jun, The Colonel's Review – Sat 10th Jun)

In addition to the two tickets available to each Branch from RHQ, tickets for seated stands around Horse Guards Parade are allocated by ballot. Up to a maximum of 3 tickets can be applied for Trooping the Colour. The Reviews have no restriction on the number of tickets applied for but HQ Household Division reserve the right to reduce numbers if demand exceeds supply. Ticket prices are as follows for successful applicants: £30.00 each for Trooping the Colour; £10.00 each for The Colonel's Review and tickets are free of charge for The Major General's Review. Applications (without payment at this stage) should be made in **January or February 2017 only (any application other than the period stated will not be included in the ballot)**. Please write to:

Brigade Major
HQ Household Division
Horse Guards
Whitehall
London
SW1A 2AX

Grenadier Day – date to be confirmed

USEFUL INFORMATION & NOTICES

Regimental Christmas Card

The Regimental Christmas Card is distributed each year by the Regimental Affairs Non-Commissioned Officer – LSgt R Haughton. The card is advertised well in advance of the deadline, which will be the last 'working day' of July each year. To avoid disappointment, those wishing to purchase cards must ensure they have returned a completed order form by the deadline given. Order forms can be found on the website accompanying the alerting news article or by contacting LSgt Haughton at regtlaffairsnco@grengds.com or by phone on 020 7414 3284 for those who are not online.

The Household Division Website

The Household Division website contains useful information and dates for forthcoming events, including information about the Guards Museum and Guards Chapel. The website can be found at www.householddivision.org.uk

Veterans Hip & Knee Surgery Service – Update from Ian Stannard

In the last Grenadier News Newsletter (Edition 2, October 2015), the Useful Information & Notices section featured an advertisement for the Veterans Hip & Knee Surgery Service. We have since received a letter from Ian Stannard, a former Lance Sergeant in the Regiment who went on to use this service following a referral by his GP. Ian wrote in to inform us of the process, his personal experience and the wonderful treatment he received. In summary he experienced a very positive outcome, supported by the fact that he is no longer in pain and was able to March in Bruges and Pont-a-Marcq!

Queen Mary University of London School of Law – Free Advice Service

The Queen Mary Legal Advice Centre's 'Law for Forces' programme doesn't exist to pass judgement on the rights and wrongs of war – we're here because we believe there is a need for our services. There are an estimated 3,000 charities in the UK that assist those currently serving or those who have served in the armed forces, but very few of them provide free legal advice.

That's where we come in. We offer free legal advice to those currently in the Armed Services, to those who have served, and to their families. We provide a safe and confidential environment for you to talk about your legal issues and will give written advice within fourteen days of an appointment. If we can't help, we will signpost or refer you to an alternate organisation that can.

Through our 'Law for Forces Project', we offer free legal advice in areas of law such as:

- Family (cohabitation; civil partnership; financial claims upon separation)
- Company (start-up businesses; businesses with a turnover of less than £100,000)
- Property (landlord disputes; freehold/leasehold disputes)

There are many more areas covered, and more information can be found on our website www.lac.qmul.ac.uk or by calling 020 7882 3931

The Royal Star & Garter Homes

This year marks the Royal Star & Garter Homes 100th anniversary of caring for the nation's military family, which has successfully adapted and evolved to the changing needs of many generations of military personnel, by implementing and maintaining renowned quality specialist nursing, therapeutic and dementia care. They have award-winning Homes in Surbiton, Surrey and Solihull, West Midlands and have begun building a third new Home in High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire. By Spring 2018 they will care for some 198 residents, with 71 of those rooms providing specialist dementia care. They will

also continue to offer short stays for those veterans and their families who require respite care (This includes service with the Reserve Forces or on National Service)

Before an application to live at a Royal Star & Garter Home can progress it is necessary for funding arrangements to be in place. For applicants seeking long-term residence, there are generally four possible sources of funding; Self-Funding; NHS Continuing Care Funding; Social Services Funding; Veterans Agency Funding with varying fees. For detailed information regarding different sources of funding and quotes of the latest fees applicable, please contact: **Solihull Home enquiries: Julia Wareing on 0121 711 6330** or email solihull.enquiries@starandgarter.org or **Surbiton Home enquiries: Colette Hammond on 020 8339 5100** or email surbiton.enquiries@starandgarter.org

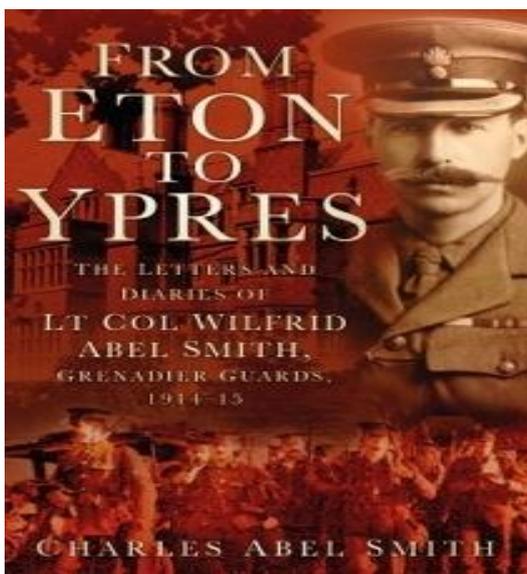
Employment Support for Household Division Veterans

SaluteMyJob is a Social Enterprise that provides employment and recruitment services, both to employers and veterans. Clients include companies such as Capita, Balfour Beatty, Diageo, PA Consulting, Wordplay, Babcock and other employers who are keen to recruit former servicemen and women. SaluteMyJob is staffed by a mix of former servicemen and women and commercial HR and recruitment professionals who provide:

- a. expert, veteran focussed consultancy, recruitment and assessment services to employers.
- b. support to ex-military people into employment by translating their knowledge, skills and experience; and help candidates better understand the strengths they can offer a commercial employer and provide the evidence the employers require.

For more information you can access their website via www.grengds.com or directly at www.salutemyjob.com

From Eton to Ypres – A Review by Major Philip Wright (Honorary Regimental Archivist)



Lieutenant Colonel Wilfred Abel Smith was Commanding Officer of 2nd Battalion Grenadier Guards, one of the finest battalions of the original British Expeditionary Force that crossed over to France in August 1914. The battalion war diary recorded fourteen officers and 375 NCOs and men killed or wounded in the first nineteen days of September. German shelling was taking its toll when Wilfred took over command on 19th September in trenches at La Cour de Soupier Farm in the Aisne Valley. Using his letters home and diaries woven into a background narrative, accompanied by numerous excellent photographs and maps, his great-grandson, Charles Abel Smith, has written a vivid and deeply moving account of his eight months in command. His book, *From*

Eton to Ypres –The Letters and Diaries of Lt Col Wilfred Abel Smith, Grenadier Guards 1914-15 (History Press £20.00), covers the dark desperate days of First Ypres. By the end of the battle the Battalion had lost 959 men killed, wounded and missing, practically its entire strength. On 10th November, Wilfred noted in a letter to his wife, Violet, “One of the saddest days of my life. I have lost over 300 men in this wood and we have been at it for ten days, day and night.” Major Lord Bernard Gordon Lennox was one of five officers killed. There is nothing more heartrending than the summary of the four “rest days” given to the battalion between the 11th to 15th November. It was meant to have been a quiet time, but, under four Generals with different orders from each, in reality they spent three of the nights marching about and each day were moved up to different parts of the line under heavy shelling. The narrative continues describing the horrors of trench warfare in the first winter on the Western Front, with bitter cold, rain and snow in water-logged trenches. Christmas brought its own problems for Wilfred who wrote in a letter to his wife: “I am told the rations of the Army are to be held up for twenty-four hours to allow Princess Mary’s presents to come up, and I have reams of orders as to their distribution.” On Christmas Day, Princess Mary’s present of a box containing a pipe, tobacco and cigarettes was distributed to every man and Wilfred wrote: “I am sending home my Christmas present from Princess Mary. Bless her - she has been a nuisance.” The penultimate chapter describes how Wilfred was mortally wounded in the head at the battle of Festubert on 18th May 1915. In his Foreword, Lord Carrington, who was a cousin of Wilfred, writes: “He must have been an outstanding commanding officer and a very brave man, as manifested by the moving tributes to him from his colleagues and battalion.” These tributes in the last chapter of the book begin with this description in the Regiment’s official history of Wilfred’s exceptional qualities: “Never was a Commanding Officer more mourned by his men; he had endeared himself to them by his soldier-like qualities and constant care for their welfare. He was a gallant and distinguished soldier, imperturbable in action, never flurried or disconcerted in perilous situations, a strict disciplinarian, but the kindest and best of friends and his loss is keenly felt by all ranks of the Regiment.” A fly leaf note about the author mentions his hope that, as his generation of the family is the first to have failed to serve in the Grenadiers in over 100 years, his book will provide some amends to the Regiment by reminding readers of the role it played in defending the nation during the Great War. He can rest assured that he has done a singular service to the Household Division and in particular to the Grenadier Guards by his painstaking research and comprehensive account of his great-grandfather. It will serve as a permanent record of Wilfred’s distinguished service and be keenly read by previous Commanding Officers and all those still aspiring to the post, as well as with great pleasure by everyone with an interest in the history of those turbulent times. (**Amazon, The History Press Foyles Waterstones**)

Island View Forces Respite Association – Respite Holiday Home



Glenbarr is home to a recently built holiday home for serving and ex-serving personnel and their families, offered by the Island View Forces Respite Association. Situated in Argyll, Scotland it boasts beautiful views of the sea and nearby islands. The property can accommodate up to nine people. It has two large bedrooms on the first floor (both with double beds) and one single room on the ground floor. There is also a family sized bathroom, with a shower on the ground floor for those with mobility

issues. Nearby shops and supermarkets are situated in the local town of Campbeltown, which also has a Doctor's Surgery close by. As a registered charity, there is no charge for the use of the property, although we ask for a nominal fee of £25 to cover the cost of utilities. If you are interested or know of someone who would be interested, please contact Mr P Heard on 01583 421139 or write to him at School House, Glenbarr by Tarbett, Argyll, PA29 6UT.

