

Once a Grenadier Always a Grenadier



# Grenadier News

The Autumn Newsletter of the Grenadier  
Guards Association



Edition 4, October 2017

## **Regimental Headquarters**

*The Lieutenant Colonel:* Brigadier CRV Walker, DSO

*Regimental Adjutant:* Major GVA Baker

*Regimental Archivist:* Captain AGH Ogden

*Assistant Equerry:* Captain BRN Tracey

*Regimental Quartermaster Sergeant:* WO2 (RQMS) M Betts

*Regimental Casualty Officer:* Mr Matthew Ellmer

*Regimental Affairs Non-Commissioned Officer:* LSgt R Haughton

*Regimental Property Non-Commissioned Officer:* LSgt M MacMillan

## **Association Headquarters**

*President:* Colonel REH Aubrey-Fletcher

*General Secretary & Regimental Treasurer:* Major AJ Green

*Association Senior Non-Commissioned Officer:* Sgt R Broomes

**Wellington Barracks, Birdcage Walk, LONDON, SW1E 6HQ**

## **REGIMENTAL HEADQUARTERS**

### **The Regimental Adjutant**

After an uneventful start to the year, on 19 April, the Regiment hosted The Queen and The Colonel for lunch at a 'gastro-pub' near Windsor in order to celebrate 75 years of The Queen being a Grenadier. The lunch was a great success with Her Majesty seeming to enjoy the rather different experience of being able to order from a menu.

Regimental Remembrance Day took place on Sunday 21st May and was attended by The Colonel. The Guards Chapel was full and The Colonel spoke to a large number of people both after the Service and after laying the wreath at the Guards' Memorial.

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No one can have missed the announcement that, after 65 years of loyal service, The Colonel would retire from carrying out royal engagements. This does not mean that he is stepping down as Colonel! He has said that he is very happy to continue for the moment and already has the November Council meeting firmly in his diary; however, it does mean that he will only carry out very 'light duties'.



On the day after the Queen's Birthday Parade, Lieutenant General Sir George Norton, KCVO, CBE handed over to Brigadier Roland Walker, DSO as Regimental Lieutenant Colonel, after 5 years at the helm; we should be most grateful to him for his wise and steady hand in guiding the Regiment forward during his time as the Lieutenant Colonel.

Grenadier Day took place on Sunday 9 July 17 at Lille Barracks. After the success of last year, the emphasis of this year's day was again to provide more "in house entertainment" along the lines of Tug of War, public order demonstrations and other competitions, as well as performances from the Band and Corps of Drums. As you can imagine, the cost of "buying in" arena events is becoming prohibitive and we feel that it is just as much fun to do our own thing. I am sure some of you attended and that everyone would agree that RQMS Betts did a fantastic job in organising the whole event.

Regimental Headquarters, under the Regimental Adjutant Major Grant Baker, continues to be the home of the Regiment. Captain Ben Tracey has taken over from Captain Fred Moyonan as the Assistant Equerry to The Colonel. RQMS Betts took over from RQMS Cox in January and Major Andy Green remains in post as Regimental Treasurer and General Secretary of the Association.

Regimental Remembrance Sunday will take place on 20 May 18. Due to the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion deploying on operations next Summer it has been decided not to hold Grenadier Day in 2018. There are currently no other major Regimental events scheduled for 2018, apart from a Commemoration for Viscount Gort, VC, on the Embankment near the Ministry of Defence, probably in October.

## THE REGIMENTAL CASUALTY OFFICER

### Matthew Ellmer

2017 has been a busy year so far for me and the Colonels Fund. I have taken on more cases ranging from Northern Ireland Veterans through to the Gulf War and our more recent tours in Afghanistan. We now look after 59 Grenadier Veterans and 17 bereaved families.

On the 14th May a charity memorial concert was held in Droylsden in memory of Guardsman Tony Downes. It was organised by a family friend and the Band of the Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service performed throughout the evening. The event was

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supported by members of The Regiment and over £1,000 was raised for The Colonel's Fund.

We had 124 bereaved family members and wounded attend this year's Regimental Remembrance Day.



Ronnie and Sheryl Downes along with the RCO, members of the Regiment, the Mayor of Droylsden and members of the Yorkshire Fire & Rescue Service Band



Some of our families and wounded watching the Parade

Also in May former LSgt Mark Smith became Britain's Strongest Disabled Man. He followed this up by competing in the World's Strongest Disabled Man in September at the Olympic Park in London where he finished an impressive 4th.



LSgt Mark Smith with his trophy after becoming Britain's Strongest Disabled Man.

June was a busy month with the Snowdon Challenge. Guardsman John Dawson who was injured on Op Herrick 16 in 2012 decided that he needed a new challenge. Among the others that took part for similar and a variety of different reasons were Major Bernie Broad, former Guardsman Jake Millburn, the family of Guardsman David Atherton along with some Grenadier Veterans, me and my wife Averil, LSgt Nick Rowe our adventure training leader and all in aid of the Colonel's Fund – some challenge too!

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The Snowdon Team at the summit

Finally I would like to take this opportunity to thank all Grenadiers, their families and friends who have raised money for The Colonel's Fund. I see at first-hand what a positive effect their generosity makes to so many deserving people – its incredible stuff.

A more detailed report will be included in the 2018 Grenadier Gazette.

### **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](mailto:regtlaffairsnco@grengds.com) or by phone on 020 7414 3284, for those who are not online.

## **THE ASSOCIATION SHOP**

This year the Association Shop has added Mappin & Webb's sterling silver Company Lapel Badges & Tie Pins to its range of items. They have been praised for their detail and have seen steady sales since being made available for purchase.

Customers are encouraged to look at the shop online (or ask someone to do so on your behalf) for the latest shop items and prices, as the price list is no longer placed in the Grenadier Gazette each year.

## **THE 1<sup>st</sup> BATTALION**

*Commanding Officer:* Lt Col AR McKay MBE

*Adjutant:* Captain MWS Dobson

*Sgt Major:* WO1 (RSM) M Howlin

## **Lille Barracks, ALDERSHOT, Hampshire, GU11 2NQ**

### **Captain Charlie Williams, Intelligence Officer**

Despite having 48 hours notice to effect for NATO and therefore supposedly being left to concentrate on readiness, spring and summer in Lille Barracks has felt as busy as ever. The third Sunday in May was a particularly warm day for Regimental Remembrance Day. As ever, there was a phenomenal turnout and a great opportunity to catch up. It was superb to be joined by the Colonel in his final year of solo public appearances.

The Queen's Company, having bolstered the Welsh Guards at the start of the year, found themselves back on Salisbury Plain for the end of June and July. This time they were playing enemy to 1 Royal Anglian. The brave Guardsmen, Non-Commissioned Officers and Officers of The Sovereign's Company (The Limerian Freedom Forces to use their correct title for this exercise) had the opportunity to employ guerrilla tactics on the NATO forces. 'Playing enemy' provided an opportunity to look at attacking and defending from an alternative perspective, and provided the opportunity to manoeuvre in unconventional ways. We proved adept at infiltrating enemy forces in the confusion of battle; there were lessons learned on where conventional British tactical or operational weaknesses could be exploited. The Company was also highly effective at disrupting reconnaissance on a number of occasions. Exploitation of captured Royal Anglian intelligence allowed us to ambush and destroy enemy standing patrols, giving us a heartening one-up on them.

Whilst The Queen's Company was proving to be a thorn in the side of NATO forces at home, Battalion Headquarters, Number Two and Support Company were in Romania with our allies on Exercise Noble Jump Two. The array of uniforms and vehicles was striking. As well as the Albanian, Latvian and Dutch members of our own Battle Group, the congested training area had Romanian, American, Polish, Spanish, Norwegian, Danish and German troops moving around it for the first fortnight in June. It proved to be a fascinating and challenging exercise with the headquarters and companies building on the integration lessons learnt from Albania and Latvia in 2017. It gave Battle Group Headquarters the opportunity to run through a number of planning cycles in the new streamlined and highly mobile headquarters, with the Carpathian Mountains providing a

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stunning backdrop. The companies ran some excellent independent low-level training packages. This included a great deal of aviation training with our US counterparts. The final attack of the exercise saw the Battle Group being inserted by Chinooks, with a squadron of Apaches in support on to targets that had been located by British and Norwegian recce.

There was a small amount of time for R&R on completion of the exercise and the distinguished visitors day. This involved a trip to Dracula's Castle, sports matches and competitions against the other nations and a number of confused Romanian soldiers watching Number Two Company take on the rest of the Battalion and attached arms at cricket!

As soon as the Romanian contingent returned to the UK in July it was straight into preparations for Major General Wooddisse - GOC 1 Div to visit and Grenadier Day. Both were huge successes with the GOC leaving impressed with how the Battalion is going about its current role and training for future taskings. As ever, Grenadier Day was fantastic and provided another occasion to catch up with many of the old and bold and show ourselves off to the local community.

Remaining on NATO readiness has not hampered the continued and numerous sporting endeavors and Adventurous Training (AT). Lt Chris Wood took a large number of The Queen's Company on a fantastic multi-activity AT trip to Cyprus in May. Back in the UK, led by the Commanding Officer, the sailing team achieved numerous successes at the Household Division and Army Regattas. In the Devizes to Westminster canoe race the Senior Major and Sergeant Major finished 11<sup>th</sup> and the Fairley brothers 39<sup>th</sup>, out of 158 boats. This was a tremendous achievement and led to both teams being called up to Army canoeing trials. At the time of writing we have just returned from Cornwall where 250 members of the Battalion undertook Adventurous Training and a battlefield tour of English Civil War sites. The Bn Football team reached the semi-finals of the Army Champions League, losing 3-2 to the eventual winners at Farnborough Town's ground in front of the rest of the Battalion.

Whilst commitment to readiness continues until 31<sup>st</sup> December, the remainder of the year will see focus start to switch towards the operational deployments of 2018. In September The Queen's Company started their pre-deployment training for their tour to Kabul. By the final couple of months of 2017, Battalion Headquarters and Number Two Company will be shifting focus to Iraq and The Inkerman Company to South Sudan. No rest for the wicked!

### **THE REGIMENTAL SUPPORT TEAM**

#### **Sergeant Barry Orrell**

The Regimental Support Team has enjoyed a very busy period over the last six months; attracting the next generation of Guardsmen being our primary mission. Whilst still maintaining our enduring outreach and supportive tasks, we have found ourselves having to adapt to new ways of getting our message out.

There have still been plenty of public appearances in town centres and job fairs the length and breadth of the country. Following a spot of Easter leave, the Team jumped straight

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into an open day with the Honourable Artillery Company. The public were invited into Finsbury Barracks to see what the Army had to offer in terms of regular and reserve roles with a plethora of equipment and set piece displays. The Regimental Support Team had a prime spot near the entrance to catch our target audience both on the way in and out of the barracks.



As Part of Recruiting Group's targeted areas, May and June found the Team involved with the Midlands Combat Surge. The main effort was to get teams out into as many town centres across the midlands as possible to show what the infantry had to offer. Over a period of three weeks we went to Stoke, Stafford, Wolverhampton, Cannock, Dudley and Walsall to name a few and with the aid of social media, attracted quite a few potential recruits.

The Regimental Support Team and Regiment had success supporting the creation of a new Combined Cadet Force - Ash Manor Detachment at a local Surrey School. We are also invested in developing the unit in its early stages of growth. Towards the end of June the Team hosted Cadets from Shropshire on a visit to the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion in Aldershot. The Cadets enjoyed a tour of Barracks and activities in camp ranging from Drill to a shooting competition. It culminated in a 48 hour exercise where the Cadets received instruction on the basics of Fieldcraft, Navigation and Stalking.

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Our school visits are always well received and very enjoyable. Having visited several schools in the Milton Keynes area and more recently the David Napier Academy of Derbyshire, we provide a day full of challenging command tasks. These are designed to bring out potential leaders within a group, but also to foster team spirit and allow individuals strengths to come to the fore. These visits also allow the students to gain a worthwhile exposure to the Army, and more specifically the Grenadier Guards.

The Regimental Support Team continues to visit the training establishments of Catterick and Harrogate to update the recruits on Battalion activities and what they are likely to be involved with in the near future once they finish training. It is also an opportunity for a recently 'Passed Out' Guardsman to offer them some words of encouragement and give some credibility to the statement that there is 'light at the end of the tunnel'.

More recently the Team has begun to engage with the Regimental Insight Courses (previously named Look at Life). This is an opportunity for any potential applicant to gain a better understanding on what the Infantry and Guards Division has to offer with a week full of instruction, activities and visits.

The Motivational Preparation College for Training – (MPCT and formerly Military Prep) have been endorsed by the government as a fantastic tool for preparation for the services. The Team is currently meeting with managers of the colleges with the intention of supporting the courses with our instructors and experience.

Finally the Battalion recently enjoyed a weeklong visit to Cornwall on an Adventure Training package. The Regimental Support Team used this fantastic opportunity to get ourselves down to the South West. Throughout the week we managed to get into Newquay and Truro centres, engage with a local MPCT and visit two different Cadet units.

Our next big event is the World Skills Show at the Birmingham NEC from the 15<sup>th</sup> to the 19<sup>th</sup> of November 2017. We look forward to seeing many of you there. For those on Social Media you can follow us on Twitter @joingrenadiers or on Facebook at The Grenadier Guards.

### **NIJMEGEN COMPANY**

*Company Commander:* Major AWE Bayliss

*Second in Command:* Lt E R Harmer

*Company Sergeant Major:* WO2 (CSM) J Bennett

**Wellington Barracks, Birdcage Walk, LONDON, SW1E 6HQ**

### **Major AWE Bayliss**

Nijmegen Company have had a busy year incorporating a full program of ceremonial duties, developing infanterring skills through a range of exercises, embarking on

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adventurous training as well as being able to respond to the terrorist attacks that have unfortunately become regular occurrences in London throughout this year.

2016 was rounded off with a Company party aboard HMS Belfast which was thoroughly enjoyed by all before departing for Christmas leave. On returning in January half of the company headed out to Val d'Isere to complete their entry level ski qualifications and were blessed with good snow and clear skies despite the rest of the Alps suffering from poor conditions. On return from the ski trip, newly arrived Company Sergeant Major Bennett was quick to make his mark as the Company performed very well on the Major General's inspection setting them up for success later in the year.

In February the Company enjoyed a fantastic day firing foreign weapons in Warminster where all members had the chance to fire an array of weapons from around the world as well as some historical British weapons - a great insight into potential enemy weapon capabilities.

After Easter leave preparation for the Queen's Birthday Parade began in earnest with a study day in Hounslow with the Irish Guards tackling the challenge with their usual mix of humour and professionalism. An unusually large number of new faces in the Company added a challenging dimension; however the Company produced an excellent display as Number 4 Guard. The clear skies and 35 degree heat on the day demanded increased discipline, skill and determination from the Guardsmen but every man rose to the occasion in true Grenadier spirit.



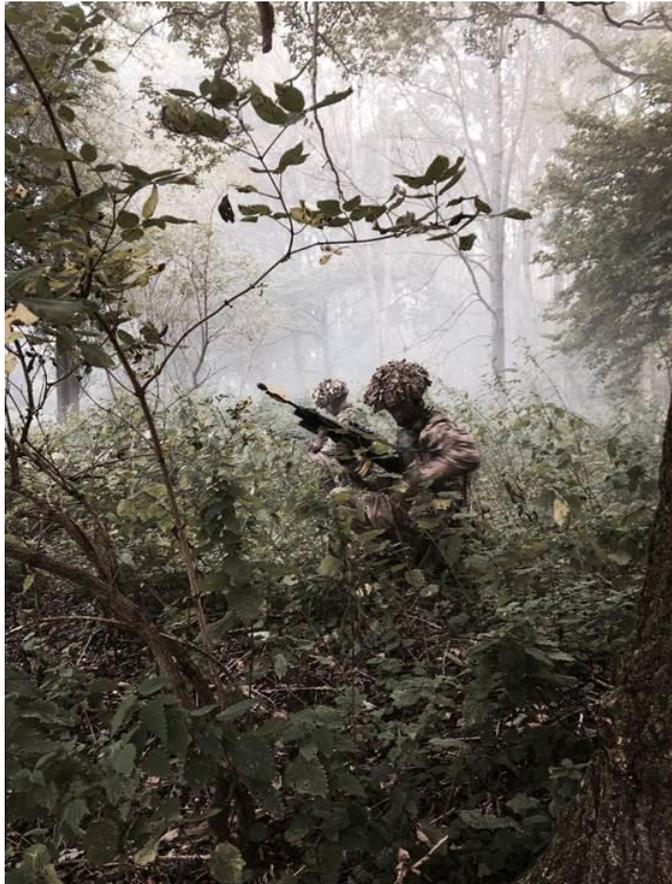
Amidst the preparation and delivery of the Troop, London suffered several attacks that required soldiers to take to the streets in order to assist the Police on Op Temperer. Nijmegen Company was elevated to immediate notice to move however the threat level was decreased before the Company was required to deploy on the streets. The readiness for Op Temperer has been maintained throughout the year requiring a developed understanding of judgemental shooting and rules of engagement from all members.

Nijmegen has periodically supported the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion on their year as the Very High Readiness Joint Task Force (VJTF), supplying personnel for key exercises such as Ex NOBLE JUMP 2 in Romania. This has provided an important link and has provided consistency in developing areas such as night fighting and inter-operability with other NATO armed forces.

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In September Nijmegen Company continued to develop its soldiers and Officers with a week of Live Fire Tactical Training on Salisbury plain followed immediately by a dry exercise. These exercises practiced tactical actions, planning and command at various levels as well as marking the beginning of the preparation for those who will deploy on operations next year with the 1st Battalion. The Company is looking forward to another exercise in November before being on ceremonial duties over the Christmas period at Windsor Castle.

With a full-on timetable taking into account tactical exercises, support to the Metropolitan police, Public Duties and training for operational deployments next year Nijmegen Company is proof that in the Grenadier Guards you are very much, twice the man.



## THE REGIMENTAL BAND

*Director of Music:* Major Michael Smith BA (Mus) LRSM CAMUS

*Bandmaster:* WO1 Sarah Marinescu LRSM BA (Hons)

*Band Sergeant Major:* WO2 Mark Buckley MA DIP ABRSM

### Lance Corporal Simon Hicks

Once again the Grenadier Guards Band has had a busy year, with engagements across the country utilising the musical talents of the band members in a variety of ensembles. And it wouldn't have escaped anybody's attention that we enjoyed an often baking June, with temperatures well into the thirties for our performances at Royal Ascot and touching 30 degrees for the Queen's Birthday Parade. Many people have said it was the hottest Troop of their careers.

One of the highlights for many members of the band was receiving their Long Service and Good Conduct medals and bars from the Colonel at Black Sunday. His Royal Highness joined the Regiment for the Remembrance Service in the Guards' Chapel and the wreath laying ceremony at the Guards' Memorial with the Regimental Band providing music support for both.



The Colonel presenting the Long Service and Good Conduct medal to Sergeant Gavin Hall

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Viewers of Her Majesty's Christmas message wouldn't have missed the Household Division massed Foot Guards Bands as they took centre stage outside Buckingham Palace. The filming took place on a cold October morning when the majority of Londoners hadn't left their houses. Under the musical direction of the Senior Director of Music Household Division, Lt Colonel Kevin Roberts, the technical direction and production of Senior Band Sergeant Major Household Division, WO1 Beckett and the all-seeing eye of Garrison Sergeant Major WO1 (GSM) Stokes, the band played a selection of Christmas music and, of course, the National Anthem for an audience of millions watching from home on the special day.



The Massed Band formed up in front of Buckingham Palace

A staple in the band's annual calendar is Grenadier Day at Aldershot. For 2017 WO2 (RQMS) Matthew Betts arranged for the Regimental Band to provide a performance of 'Bandstand' music in sets throughout the afternoon, as well as a small marching band display with Nijmegen Company, The Company of Pikemen and Musketeers of the Honorable Artillery Company and the Staffordshire and West Midlands Cadet Force Corps of Drums. This change to the usual plan appeared to be well received by the listening audience and the band members on what was a beautiful summer's afternoon.

Not only did the band provide the music for the day, but it also entered a team into the tug of war competition. Unfortunately they were beaten in the semi-finals by the eventual winners, the Grenadier Association team. It was great fun, but many individuals in the crowd advised us not to quit our day jobs!

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The Battle of Passchendaele took place on the Western Front from July to November 1917, and it is often known as the Third Battle of Ypres. It is remembered as one of the harshest battles of the war, with heavy rain contributing to the Allies gaining only five miles of ground in three months. It is thought over 240,000 British soldiers lost their lives during the battle. To commemorate the 100th anniversary of the Grenadier Guards Passchendaele Battle Honour, the Regimental Band hosted a free concert in the Guards' Chapel. The programme of music for the evening featured music from that era and works by former Grenadiers; Sir Arthur Bliss, Lt Colonel Rodney Bashford and Major Denis Burton, in what proved to be a very successful evening's entertainment with the band on top form.



You can see the Regimental Band in public performances on the following occasions in 2017:

4<sup>th</sup> November – Regis Centre, Bognor Regis; Sussex Branch concert.

5<sup>th</sup> November – The Space, Sevenoaks; Army Benevolent Fund Concert.

11<sup>th</sup> November – Royal Albert Hall, Kensington; TRBL Festival of Remembrance.

21<sup>st</sup> November – Chequer Mead Theatre, East Grinstead; SSAFA Concert.

6 & 7<sup>th</sup> December – Scarlet and Gold Concerts, Cadogan Hall, Sloane Square, Chelsea featuring the Massed Bands of the Household Division.

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24, 27, 29 & 31<sup>st</sup> December – Public Duties, Buckingham Palace.

For more information please email [bandgg-icmedia@mod.uk](mailto:bandgg-icmedia@mod.uk)

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](mailto:donna.manuel164@mod.uk)



The Bands of the Household Division will once again present their concert Scarlet and Gold at the Cadogan Hall, London, SW1X 9DQ on 6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup> December 2017. Tickets start from £20 and can be booked by calling the box office on 020 7730 4500 or online at [www.cadoganhall.com](http://www.cadoganhall.com)

All details of the band's future activities can be found on their Facebook pages at: <https://facebook.com/BandoftheGrenadierGuards>

### **THE GUARDS TRAINING COMPANY**

#### **Infantry Training Centre Catterick**

Guards Training Company was delighted to recently host a veteran Grenadier Warrant Officer for lunch at the Infantry Training Centre. The gentleman in question was Henry Dyer who recently turned 91 and was looking rather youthful for his age. He was hosted and looked after throughout by Sgt Perry, LSgts Battison, Kotze and Ogden all serving Grenadier Instructors here at Guards Training Company.

Mr Dyer enlisted into the Grenadier Guards on the 14<sup>th</sup> February 1944 aged just 17. He arrived at the Guards Depot at Caterham where he did 14 weeks basic training under the watchful eye of Cpl Eastwood. From there he went to Windsor for 8 weeks training with the Battalion where his Platoon Sergeant was Sgt Fred Clutton MM MVO.

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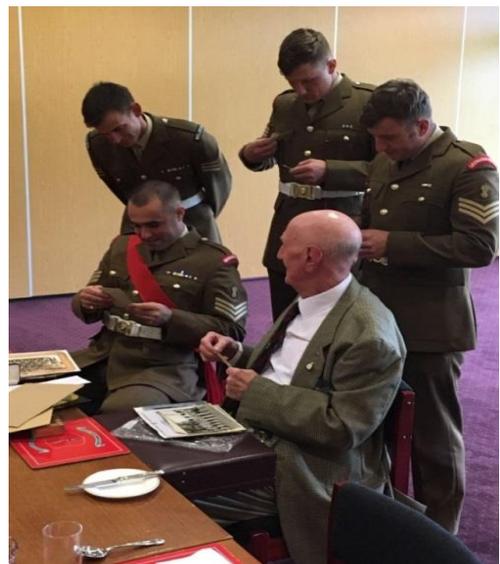
Once training was completed he was sent to Wellington Barracks due to being under 18 years old. After a short stint at Wellington Barracks he returned to Windsor and the Training Battalion and was promoted to LCpl. Shortly afterwards he joined the demonstration platoon and was promoted to LSgt. He then joined the 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion in 1946 and was sent to Palestine where he was promoted to Sergeant and undertook the role of Platoon Sergeant.



Upon his return to the UK from Palestine in 1948, Mr Dyer was posted to the Guards Depot at Caterham as a Superintendent Sergeant. Although he enjoyed his time there Henry volunteered to go back to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion as they were to be deployed to Malaya during the emergency. As Number 7 Platoon Sergeant within 3 Company Henry was in command of a lot of young men who had enlisted as conscripts. He took over as CQMS in Malaya from Bill Davies and returned to the UK in 1949 to Chelsea Barracks.

Mr Dyer and Major Rowan both received a Mention in Dispatches for their work in Malaya (something Henry did not elaborate on). Whilst in Chelsea Barracks he handed over CQMS to Sid Dowling who was a former SAS soldier, Henry then took on the role of Sergeant in Charge of Musketry and was also sports secretary.

In 1950 Mr Dyer was posted to Pirbright as a Platoon Sergeant. Whilst there he went to Pickering as acting CQMS of the whole camp before returning to Pirbright a few months later where he was promoted to CQMS in the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion. Henry was then moved to 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion as CQMS and was sent to Egypt, Abu Sultan Wharf in 1952.



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Returning to England in 1954 he was posted to Windsor once again and was promoted to Warrant Officer Class 2 and took the post of CSM 3 Company. After a few short months in this job he was posted to the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion in Hublerath, Germany. Once he returned from Germany in early 1955 he asked to terminate his service as he had married and wanted more family time, Mr Dyer left the army on the 15 February 1956.

Not only did Mr Dyer do all of this he was also a very successful cross country runner, something he remains passionate about although he is not as active these days but that can be forgiven for a man of 91 years of age. Henry took great pride in showing his medals from various competitions he had taken part in and had plenty of pictures and memories to share. Henry, or 'Ginge' as he was known by his comrades due to his thick ginger hair, is still immensely proud of his Household Division heritage. Our hosts felt privileged and humbled to meet him and listen to his stories in intricate detail, as Henry proved his memory is extremely good and the smallest of details he explained mesmerised us all.

Since Mr Dyer left the Regiment he did a number of different civilian jobs, but most importantly when it came to his retirement it is safe to say it didn't last long as he got bored almost straight away and got himself a job at B&Q which he very much enjoyed but eventually called it a day at the age of 82.

He was delighted with the presentation of a bottle of port engraved with his details; a small token of our appreciation of his service. The pictures and stories he had to tell were a delight to all at lunch, his razor sharp memory at 91 was quite incredible. Henry was a pleasure to host and we hope to meet him at a Grenadier Day or Black Sunday again in the future. On behalf of all at Guards Training Company we would just like to wish Mr Dyer all the best for the future.



From left to right: LSgt C Kotze, Sgt S Perry, Mr Henry Dyer, LSgt M Ogden and LSgt T Battison

## CADET NEWS

Lt Aliysha Long

County Music Officer | Staffordshire & West Midlands (NS) Army Cadet Force

Detachment Commander | Stafford Corps of Drums | C Company | Site 4 | MOD  
Stafford Mobile: 07528942842 | Email: [8491lon@armymail.mod](mailto:8491lon@armymail.mod).

Our cadets have been extremely busy with various events locally and nationally, earlier in the year two of the Corps of Drums detachments within the County became badged Grenadier Guards making all four Corps of Drums in the County badged Grenadiers and especially keen to wear their new uniforms kindly donated to us; the cadets' enthusiasm shines through



After a very successful weekend held at Wellington Barracks in April consisting of tutoring from Regimental Musicians and specialist training from Drill Instructors and Drum Majors, Staffordshire & W. Midlands ACF had the pleasure of performing at Grenadier Day where we provided a stand-alone performance followed by one together with the Regimental Band for the finale.

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We are looking forward to more events together and further training from professionals to continue to grow as a County. RHQ have secured us a slot on next year's Household Division Beating Retreat on Horse Guards Parade and we thank the Regiment for their much appreciated continual support.

### **FORTHCOMING EVENTS – KNOWN DATES**

East Midlands Breakfast Club – 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Each Month – The Young Vanish, S44 5NB

Sergeants' Mess (Past & Present) Club Dinner – Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> Nov 2017

The Queen's Company Reunion – The Royal British Legion, Melbourne, Derbyshire, DE73 8FE – 11<sup>th</sup> Nov 2017. Hosted by Malcolm Mayoh 07733 328962

Number 3 Company Reunion – The Lock Keeper, Canal Side, Chester, CH1 3LH – 17<sup>th</sup> March 2018. Hosted by Steve Guest 07932 753472

Grenadier Guards Association Annual General Meeting (AGM) – Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> Mar 2018

Regimental Remembrance Day – Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> May 2018

Support Company Reunion – Llandoger Trow, Bristol, BS1 4ER – 26<sup>th</sup> May 2018. Hosted by Keith Smith [keith-smith19@hotmail.com](mailto:keith-smith19@hotmail.com)

The Major General's Review – Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> May 2018

The Colonel's Review – Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2018

Beating Retreat Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> & Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> Jun 2018

<http://www.householddivision.org.uk/beating-retreat>

The Queen's Birthday Parade (1<sup>st</sup> Battalion Coldstream Guards) – Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> Jun 2018

<http://www.householddivision.org.uk/trooping-the-colour>

'Guardsfest' – Hunsworth Lane East, BD19 4DT – 8<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> Jun 2018

Number 2 Company Reunion – Quarry Bank Inn, 151 Bloomsbury Lane, Hale, Altrincham WA15 6NY – held in September 2018. Hosted by Andy Richardson 07737 981706 (date tbc).

## USEFUL INFORMATION & NOTICES



Helping your brand go places...

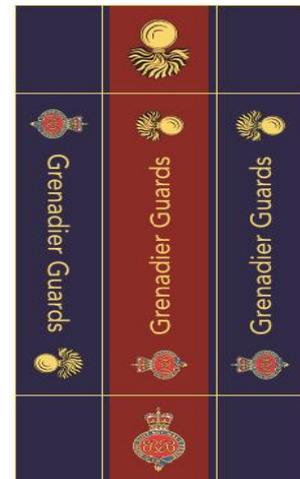
At BeeNoticed we have over 20 years' experience in the design, print and supply of exhibition stands, banners, flags, marquees and everything else you will need for an exhibition or event. This is where we can help you – by using our services we are able to provide you with personalised and tailored exhibition stands, banners, flags, marquees and much more – which includes Coffin Drapes.

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Item above was designed for the Manchester Branch of the Grenadier Guards Association





Green Local Gardeners – a National retired military garden maintenance service - provide garden maintenance services for private individuals, commercial clients and communal spaces and we are recruiting now.

We are seeking those who are:

- ✓ Friendly and hard-working
- ✓ Enjoy the great outdoors
- ✓ Retired military men and women
- ✓ Want to be self-employed

No qualifications or prior horticultural experience is required, as we will offer short preparatory courses for new members, although those experienced gardeners have the opportunity to provide evidence and referees in place of attending a course.

Typical tasks include lawn mowing, pruning, hedge trimming and weeding. We provide support with your admin, promote your services locally and handle enquiries for you. We take care of invoicing and payments on your behalf, leaving you free to enjoy the work and help people in your local area.

Find out more online at [www.greenlocalgardeners.co.uk/careers](http://www.greenlocalgardeners.co.uk/careers)

## **CLERICAL COLLEAGUES**

With the demise of the role of Regimental Clerk in 1993, Barry Owen together with another veteran Grenadier, Malcolm Harding - a former clerk in the 2nd Battalion, Guards Depot, Orderly Room Colour Sergeant / Orderly Room Quartermaster Sergeant 1st Battalion and Household Division have set up a Facebook Page (Clerical Colleagues) with an aim to make contact with others to share experiences and photographs.

So far the group has 40 members.

Were you a Regimental Clerk?

Would you like to get in touch with friends and colleagues that you served with?

Then you might be interested in joining our Facebook Page:

To find out more contact either:

Barry Owen [barry.jowen@sky.com](mailto:barry.jowen@sky.com)

Malcolm Harding [malcolmharding67@googlemail.com](mailto:malcolmharding67@googlemail.com)

## **STAR MORTGAGES**

For many years we have provided a home-buying/mortgage service for members of HM Forces - the advice is completely independent (Whole-of-Market) and free of charge - the normal adviser fees of £395 have been waived for Forces, PCS Union members and FCO staff. We also provide regular articles on a variety of home-buying/topics to various military newsletters/bulletins/magazines (a recent one was in the JSHAO Housing Matters)

Because we have recently dealt with somebody from a Regimental Association (Black Watch) who was being charged a fee (£495) for mortgage advice but was directed by a colleague to us before paying the advisers fee, we wanted to make more military associations aware that the service is there for their members. Full details are on our website: [starmortgages.co.uk](http://starmortgages.co.uk) our free phone number is shown there as well.

A recent article was entitled: The interest-only mortgage 'time-bomb' - something that we get asked about more frequently, as many of these mortgages near their end and many people have either a shortfall in their repayment vehicle (most commonly and endowment) or having nothing in place see: <http://starmortgages.co.uk/2016/10/15/the-interest-only-timebomb/> there are a number of articles on the News/Blog page on our site: [Click Here](#)

Please get in touch if you'd like any further information, we'd be happy to help a serving soldier or Association member.

## **VETERANS' GATEWAY**

In November 2016 the Ministry of Defence announced £2 million of funding from the Covenant Fund for a one-stop service to better support British Armed Forces veterans in need. The service responds to calls from veterans' charities and groups for help in navigating the wide range of services and organisations set up to support those who have served in the Forces.

The service will be the first point of contact for veterans and their families to access information, advice and support on a range of issues including healthcare, housing, and employment. It will allow information and services from partners to be accessed from one place and all enquiries will be followed up to ensure that veterans receive the right support.

The Veteran's Gateway will provide website, online chat, phone line and text message services available to any veteran, from anywhere in the world, 24 hours a day. Veterans can access face-to-face support through the Veterans' Gateway network of partners and organisations across the UK and overseas.

<https://www.veteransgateway.org.uk/>

Once a Grenadier Always a Grenadier



## **THE MILITARY MUTUAL**

*Owned by you, to serve you and the Military Family*

Whether you are serving, a veteran, a family member or a proud supporter of our Armed Forces, we - The Military Mutual - offer insurance cover designed around you.

As a mutual we are owned by our members. Because we don't have shareholders who expect to be paid dividends, any surpluses belong to members and can be used to re-invest in products and service to support the wider military community, however, you don't have to be in the Armed Forces to be a member or take cover with us.

As a discretionary mutual, all our directors are members of the mutual. The directors have the power to agree claims that are not covered if they decide that the circumstances justify them doing so.

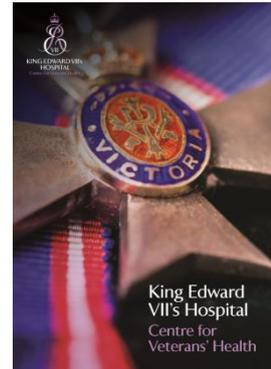
The Military Mutual also offer other products including:

- > Kit Insurance
- > Landlord Insurance
- > Small Business Insurance

You can contact The Military Mutual on freephone 0800 088 2283 or visit their website at [www.themilitarymutual.com](http://www.themilitarymutual.com) to see their full range of products

(Electronic readers [click here](#) to view one of their leaflets)

## KING EDWARD VII'S HOSPITAL



King Edward VII's Hospital was established in 1899 to care for soldiers returning from the Second Boer War. Ever since then, whilst we are now open to everyone and aim to provide the best possible care and treatment for all our patients, we have not forgotten our military heritage. To celebrate this heritage, we have created The Centre for Veterans' Health as a continuation of our significant commitment to the military, and to recognise the great sacrifices of the Armed Forces.

We offer an extensive range of surgeries, procedures and investigations with leading consultants. We are the only hospital in the country to invite consultants to become part of the staff which maintains the highest possible standards of medicine. Our nursing care is also known to be outstanding.

### **How this is possible?**

A means-tested grant offering up to 100% towards the hospital costs of procedures carried out at King Edward VII's Hospital.

**All military personnel, veterans, spouses, and widows are given an automatic (not means tested) 20% discount** for any procedures, imaging or surgery carried out at the hospital.

**The Centre for Veterans' Health Pain Management Programme.** Launched in February 2016 in partnership with Supporting Wounded Veterans.

**Veterans Pain Clinic.** Veterans will be able to see a specialist pain consultant on a normal "book and see" basis. A GP referral will be required.

**Research.** A lead researcher and two research assistants have been engaged to write and publish papers on veterans' health issues. For further information please visit: [www.hvrt-mac-veteranshealth.org](http://www.hvrt-mac-veteranshealth.org)

**How do I apply?** For a grant application form please contact [veteranshealth@kingedwardvii.co.uk](mailto:veteranshealth@kingedwardvii.co.uk) or call 0207 467 4348.