

REPORT ON THE COLONEL'S FUND GRENADIER GUARDS AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2018

The Colonel's Fund continues to be supervised by a Steering Committee on behalf of the Regimental Trustees. The Steering Committee reviews the Fund's activities on a regular basis, whilst day to day management is carried out by the Director of Welfare and the Regimental Welfare Committee. The basic thrust of this year's report remains much the same as last year because the work that is being done, the challenges faced and the support offered have continued unchanged.

The Fund remains busy. During 2018, donations have continued to come from organizations and individuals. Their generosity is very much appreciated. At 31 December 2018, the fund had raised £3,947,660 (including investment income).

The Colonel's Fund continues to focus on providing support to injured Grenadiers and their families as well as our bereaved families.

There has been an increasing incidence of cases of Grenadiers with mental difficulties arising from their service, both in Afghanistan and other past conflicts; however, there are likely to be other cases that have not yet come to light. It has become clear that the National Health Service [NHS] currently lacks the capability to offer some of them the complex treatment that they need to make them well again. We are continuing to use a specialist trauma consultant to help with our severe cases, whilst also helping to 'sign-post' less severe cases into the NHS system, which has recently been overhauled and now needs to be made to work.

In 2018, the Fund made individual welfare grants to the value of £38,573. The majority of these were for:

- Mobility aids/improvement.
- Home modifications.
- Employment Training
- Career/family loss of earnings.
- Bereaved family & injured personnel holidays.
- Financial advice.
- Counselling.

Matt Ellmer, the Regimental Casualty Officer who is employed by the Fund, continues to do an outstanding job providing support to 67 injured Grenadiers and 15 bereaved families. His responsibilities remain:

- To ensure that the Regiment is involved at every stage of a wounded Grenadier's rehabilitation. He monitors their Individual Recovery Pathway (IRP) to ensure that they have access to the key services and resources required to help them, either to return to duty, or to make a smooth transition into civilian life. This involves:

- Maintaining a strong working relationship with the 1st Battalion's Unit Welfare Officer (UWO).
 - Developing a network of serving and retired Grenadiers, charities and the commercial sector in order to identify sources of support and employment.
 - Drawing on the Colonel's Fund to give financial assistance in providing advice, welfare, and benevolence quickly to the point of need.
 - Co-ordinating holiday offers, sporting and adventure training opportunities and other generous offers of help, all of which are geared to aiding recovery.
 - Effective mentoring to assist individuals explore new ideas for the future.
 - Constantly being alert for opportunities to upgrade Individual Recovery Plans (IRPs) with practical and financial help from either the Colonel's Fund or the ABF Operational Fund. Examples of this are the provision of funding for training courses, specialist orthopaedic beds, exercise bikes and light weight wheelchairs.
 - Providing the reassurance that wounded Grenadiers have the full support of the Regiment behind them, and highlighting the benefits that this brings. This bespoke support helps build self-esteem, mental strength and resourcefulness at times when individuals may be feeling low or depressed.
- To provide support to bereaved families. The RCO co-ordinates all the Regiment's efforts to alleviate the stresses and strains on these families. This involves:
 - Acting as a Regimental point of contact, offering reassurance, giving confidential advice, mentoring, and actively seeking opportunities for their lives to be enhanced as they recover from their loss.
 - Assisting families in a myriad of ways, supported by appropriate financial assistance from the Colonel's Fund. A "nothing is too much trouble" approach from all Grenadiers has helped to build a strong connection with the families concerned for which they often express their gratitude. We are proud to have them continue as members of the Regimental family.

Finally, we are delighted and proud to welcome The Colonel, HRH The Duke of York as Patron of the Fund in succession to HRH The Duke of Edinburgh.