



Grenadier News

The Autumn Newsletter of the
Grenadier Guards Association



Edition 7, October 2020

Regimental Headquarters

The Lieutenant Colonel: Major General CRV Walker DSO
Regimental Adjutant: Major JPW Gatehouse
Honorary Regimental Archivist: Captain AGH Ogden
Assistant Equerry: Captain JC Palmer-Tomkinson
Regimental Quartermaster Sergeant: WO2 (RQMS) R Wiseman
Regimental Casualty Officer: Mr M Ellmer
Regimental Affairs Non-Commissioned Officer: Sgt 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

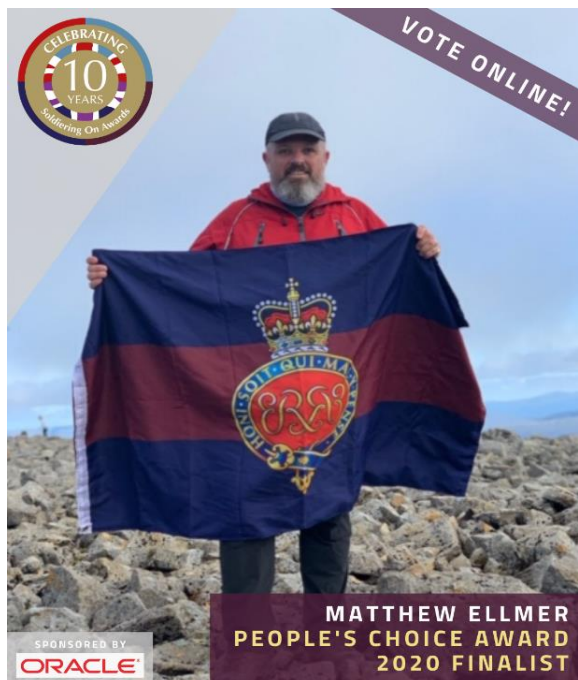
Wellington Barracks, Birdcage Walk, LONDON, SW1E 6HQ

THE REGIMENTAL CASUALTY OFFICER (RCO)

By Matthew Ellmer

2020 has been a busy year so far for me and the Colonel's Fund, but also a very different one due to COVID 19. I continue to help look after 72 Grenadier veterans and 18 bereaved families.

Coronavirus has changed many people's lives and sadly taken many too. I had to adapt my support to those that I look after when I could no longer carry out face to face visits. The answer was communication; phone calls, texts, media messaging, video calls, Zoom, Teams and WhatsApp. I have a routine list of calls, ranging from weekly, fortnightly, monthly and of course as and when required. My visits are now currently carried out on a need rather than a want basis and in line with Government guidelines. On a personal note I have walked every day since lock down and started to post daily pictures on Facebook which some people said helped them as the photos cheered them up.



I was nominated for a People's Choice Award as part of the Soldiering On Awards 2020 and chosen by the judges as a finalist. The event was meant to take place in April but was postponed due to COVID restrictions. The virtual award ceremony took place on 15th October and my category winner was a WW2 veteran from the Isle of Man.

My 16-day Coast to Coast fundraising walk with Andy Green was completed successfully on 17th September. We trained long and hard during the build-up and this paid dividends. Once lockdown restrictions were eased we started to meet more regularly on longer and more challenging walks. One particular training day in the Lake District (below left at Ennerdale Water) was certainly a case of 'if it ain't raining, it ain't training'.

We met some lovely people along the way and were joined at various stages by some very supportive Regimental characters (Colonel's Aubrey-Fletcher and Heroys with us for the start of Leg 2 at The Shepherds Arms Hotel, Ennerdale Bridge).



Our intent at the outset was to raise £10 -15k for the Colonel's Fund. Due to the kindness and generosity of around 350 supporters that figure, after expenses will comfortably exceed £20k and we thank each and every one of you.



On Saturday 26th September in South Wales I supported the family and friends (pictured left) of the late WO2 Steve Sadler. We climbed Pen y Fan and scattered his ashes on the way. Many former members of the Regiment turned out and the family were very appreciative of their support. The weather was good and for many this was their first return to 'The Fan' for years too many to contemplate.

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. As a result of more recent operations it continues to support our wounded, their families and our bereaved in the best possible way.

REGIMENTAL CHRISTMAS CARD 2020



Her Majesty the Queen coming forward to inspect the 3rd Battalion on the occasion of their Farewell Parade, held in the garden of Buckingham Palace on 8th July 1960. This large painting, by Terence Cuneo, was commissioned by the Regiment and now hangs in the Officers' Mess at Wellington Barracks.

In a message written by General the Lord Jeffreys, Colonel of the Regiment, prior to his death in December 1960, he wrote "For over 300 years the 3rd Battalion has, to the best of its ability, served its Sovereign and its country at home and in many foreign fields. The Battalion has always exemplified the highest standards of a soldier by its courage and courtesy, its loyalty and endurance and never has it failed in any of the varied roles it has been called upon to play."

The Inkerman Company was formed to keep alive the spirit of the 3rd Battalion and it remains the left flank company of the Regiment. The Colours of the 3rd Battalion were never laid up but instead placed into the safe keeping of the Chapel at the Guards Depot, Pirbright where they are to this day.

The Christmas Card Order Form can be found at www.grengds.com in the relevant latest news article.

THE ASSOCIATION SHOP

The Association shop continues to see good levels of sales and to offer items of interest to our customers. Throughout the current pandemic it will remain open on Tuesdays and Wednesdays only. All orders received throughout the week will be sent out each Wednesday (due to current manning levels, enquiries will generally only be answered on these days too).

The shop will be closed for this year's Christmas & New Year break from **Friday 4th December 20 until Sunday 4th January 21 inclusive**; orders placed between these dates will not be sent out until after the shop re-opens in January 2021.

THE 1st BATTALION

Commanding Officer: Lt. Colonel JCM Greaves

Adjutant: Captain RE Thompson

Sgt Major: WO1 (RSM) C Dougherty

Lille Barracks, ALDERSHOT, Hampshire, GU11 2NQ

There is no doubt that 2020 has been one of the most tumultuous years for the 1st Battalion in recent memory. It is hard to believe this time last year the Battalion was deployed in Belize on exercise. Exercise Mayan Storm was a resounding success with the Companies deployed into the jungle for over 30 days. Low level skills were revised, and all members of the Battalion mastered some of the basic techniques required to operate in the jungle. A tough exercise was capped with an outstanding R+R package in Mexico's well-known Cancun beach resort. Much fun was had!

State Ceremonial and Public Duties dominated Battalion activity on return from Belize though time was found to allow the Companies to rotate through the yearly ski trip to Val Thorens which remains as popular as ever. Novice Guardsmen had the opportunity to learn how to ski and those who had learnt in previous years had the opportunity to develop their skiing.

Yearly Spring Drills took place in March and was perhaps a fine example of 'Twice the Man' as the Battalion conducted the Major General's Inspection in the morning of 19 March followed by a full COVID planning session in the afternoon for the impending crisis. And then everything changed!



The Battalion was recalled to camp at zero notice on 23 March and began an immediate training package to provide support to the civil authorities. We were held in camp for 10 days as the immediate reserve for London before dispersing for a short period. As COVID developed our potential task was revised until

we took on the role as Mobile Testing Units. This saw eight to twelve-man teams deploying into London Boroughs and setting up mobile COVID testing stations. If you saw a photo of a soldier in London testing members of the public, it was probably a Guardsman. From April through until 31 July the Battalion operated seven days a week and tested over 115,000 members of the public; something we should all be very proud of.



While many Army units dispersed home the Grenadiers were at the centre of the national fight against COVID.



Looking forward, the Battalion is in a period of uncertainty, but normal activity continues. The Inkerman Company deployed to the Falklands in July and has been operating in the Southern Atlantic cold and snow (above left). The Queen's Company replaced them on 27 October and Number Two Company have spent three weeks training in Brecon.

A small team from Support Company deployed to the Cayman Islands to help train the Cayman Armed Forces (above right) and other small teams are preparing to deploy to Kenya and other locations.

The ceremonial aspect of Public Duties is currently suspended so the Battalion finds itself in the rare position of a clear forecast of events and the chance to conduct lots of training. We are making the most of it!

NIJMEGEN COMPANY

Company Commander: Major THR Hargreaves
Second in Command: Captain FCN Ide
Company Sergeant Major: WO2 (CSM) D Oliver

Wellington Barracks, Birdcage Walk, LONDON, SW1E 6HQ

By Lt Sean Marren

In what has been an unpredictable year, Nijmegen Company has retained its role as the 'gatekeepers' of the Regiment, continuing to receive our most junior Guardsmen from ITC Catterick and preparing them for life in the 1st Battalion. Despite the onset of a global pandemic, the company has had a hugely busy year. Whether it has been in the Falkland Islands, the Three Valleys, the Royal Palaces, or Sennybridge Training Area, life in Nijmegen has largely stayed on course.



A CASEVAC during Ex CAPE BAYONET

After a great deal of build-up training, the beginning of the year saw the company deploy to the Falkland Islands to complete Ex CAPE BAYONET, a demanding live firing exercise on the unrelenting Onion Ranges. This provided a fantastic opportunity for young Guardsmen to conduct platoon and company actions under the guidance of high-quality NCOs, with a particularly memorable river crossing and helicopter insertion that many will not forget in a hurry!

The challenging time in the field promoted a large amount of development amongst the Guardsmen, who were justly rewarded with a tour of Mount Tumbledown and a visit to the island's penguin population upon completion of the final attack.

Upon returning to the UK in February, several lucky Guardsmen from the Company headed to Val Thorens with the 1st Battalion to gain their Ski Foundation Level 1 qualifications. This period also

saw the outbreak of COVID-19 and an unprecedented change in the conduct of public duties. With traditional guard mounts ceasing to occur, the Company switched to week-long duties at the Royal Palaces. This extra time on guard was put to good use, however, through teaching lessons in preparation for the summer exercise and inventive PT sessions. More recently, 5 Platoon decided to use their time on Tower Guard to run 4 miles every 4 hours for 48 hours, raising £1,460 for the Defence Medical Rehabilitation Centre (DMRC) Benevolent fund – a fantastic effort by all involved.

To break up the week-long guard rotations, the Company deployed on a summer exercise to Sennybridge Training Area, Brecon, in July. The two-week exercise sought to develop confidence in navigational ability and basic soldiering skills, as well as to conduct a day and night live-firing package up to section level. The exercise provided a great training opportunity, with a particular highlight being the Platoon Patrol Competition at the end of the first week. This involved a 45km march around the perimeter of the training area, with four challenging command tasks spaced out at checkpoints along the route.



Members of 5 Pl raising money for the DMRC Benevolent Fund

Whilst 6 Platoon narrowly clinched the victory, every man in the company completed the event in its entirety – an outstanding achievement of mental and physical resilience.

Despite some very sore feet the next day, the Company was rewarded for their efforts with a glorious BBQ, made possible by the culinary skills of CQMS Sutton and Gdsm Shahry.

The Company made the most of the Indian summer enjoying marksmanship training at the Royal Military Academy and Ash Ranges, before returning to the parade square for 'Autumn Drills' in preparation for the resumption of public duties in the future. The Company's most recent commitments involved a Guard of Honour for both the Head of the Lebanese Armed Forces, and the Prime Minister of Ukraine.

The Company has bidden farewell to Major Charlie Williams and Capt Rufus Harding, who go to Staff College and the 1st Battalion as Intelligence Officer respectively. Their watchful eye and exacting standards have delivered excellence in both hemispheres, and the Company wishes them well for the coming years. The Company welcomed Major Tom Hargreaves from 16 Air Assault Brigade and Capt Fred Ide from the Anti-Tank Platoon as the new team, with WO2 (CSM) Oliver providing continuity in Company Headquarters. The final few months of 2020 will see the Company continue to train concurrently to its guard commitments, with both a Battlefield Tour of the Battle of Britain and a week-long conventional training exercise in the pipeline. Several members of the Company will also be attempting the demanding P Company, hoping to earn their maroon berets and open up the possibility of serving in the Guards Parachute Platoon.

THE GUARDS TRAINING COMPANY

Infantry Training Centre Catterick

By Lieutenant Jake Sayers

Guards Training Company has been a busy place over the past 9 months; Coronavirus caused The Infantry Training Centre to close for over a month resulting in a back-log of potential soldiers waiting to start training and a deficit of newly trained soldiers joining the field army. This has meant that almost all of our platoons in the Company have been fully manned and at the end of September this year a tenth platoon formed up to ensure that the Company will hit its end of year target of Guardsmen passing off the square.

Instructors and recruits have had to adapt training to accommodate all of the Coronavirus mitigation measures. This has proven challenging in many of the training aspects in particular the field exercises, especially the URBAN exercise but it has not hindered the key training outputs that ensure our Guardsmen are at the standard to join the field army as professional soldiers. Unfortunately, it has meant that many of the Trainee Guardsmen have missed out on visits such as the Week 5 Parents' day and the Week 4 London visit where the trainees get an insight into life in London District. However, this has pushed us to move with the times and make the most of numerous online tools used for distance learning and online meetings which have proven to be very effective. As a Company we have taken this in our stride and the standard of training has only improved and it will continue to do so.



Receiving a set of orders for an Ambush



Patrolling in extended line on exercise.

The ever-evolving Combat Infantryman's Course (CIC) has been very successful over the past 2 years and further developments have been made to see the introduction of the CIC 21 in the new year. The structure of the CIC 18 will remain but the new course will pay more attention to current operational outputs, for example instead of just conducting the pistol weapon handling test, recruits will receive further training on the weapon system and conduct the Annual Combat Marksmanship Test. This new course will see our Guardsmen even more ready for the Army's future operations than they already are.

Last year we saw the first females joining Guards Training Company and their success has seen more join this year with almost all Foot Guards regiments having female recruits in training at the moment. This year has also seen an increase in Foreign and Commonwealth recruits joining the Company from countries such as Malawi, Fiji, India and Ghana. The

new 'Agnostic Loading' scheme is now in full flow and has resulted in a good balance of Guardsmen joining the five regiments ensuring that all Trainee Guardsmen go to the regiment that is best for them and The Household Division.

Unfortunately, the pandemic has prevented lots of adventurous training from going ahead and Exercise FROSTED BLADE is up in the air at the moment, however I am sure that in the new year great opportunities like this will arise. Despite the increase in manning, promotion courses such as the Platoon Sergeant's Battle Course are back up and running and a number of Section Commanders have been successful, setting them up nicely for their return to Battalion.

Lieutenant Sinclair has arrived as a Platoon Commander, Sergeant Elliott has arrived as a Platoon Sergeant and LSgts Williams, Kelly and Smith have arrived to command sections. Major Budge (WG) has now moved onto his next posting and we welcome Major Morrell from the Coldstream Guards to the Company who will lead all 10 platoons into a busy year.



Trainee Guardsmen soon to be Grenadiers from 20 Platoon on a visit to the National Memorial Arboretum.



*Adjutants inspection at the end of the basic phase.
Upon passing, the recruits will receive their regimental
headdress*



Initial contact on exercise

THE REGIMENTAL BAND

*Director of Music: Major B Mason
Bandmaster: CSgt Mattias Per Anderson
Band Sergeant Major: WO2 D Buckles*

Wellington Barracks, Birdcage Walk, LONDON, SW1E 6HQ

by Musician D Griffiths



One of the most important traits of being a member of the Band of the Grenadier Guards, or any part of the Armed Forces for that matter, is versatility. Being able to adapt to any situation at short notice. This year has given the band the opportunity to demonstrate just how versatile Army musicians must be. Just nine months ago, members of the band were standing on a stage in front of over 5000 people as part of a seven-piece fanfare team. The fanfare team was performing as part of the 'Christmas at the Royal Albert Hall' series – sharing

the stage with the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, Royal Choral Society and the National Youth Choir of Great Britain. A few months later and those same members of the band were

on the parade square at Lille Barracks being trained to carry out the testing of people for coronavirus during the global pandemic, working alongside the 1st Battalion.

Like the rest of the British Army, Household Division Bands had to prepare for the new challenges that Covid-19 presented, by assisting with the Mobile Testing Units that were being deployed around the country. The new operational role saw musicians facilitate the testing of between 150 and 250 tests a day across London.



Despite the challenges faced on the Mobile Testing Units, the Band of the Grenadier Guards still had important musical events to perform at. This year saw members of the band take part in a specially adapted tribute to Her Majesty the Queen on the official date of her birthday at Windsor Castle. Musicians also performed as part of the celebrations for the 75th anniversary of VE Day at Buckingham Palace in May as well as performing on 'VJ Day 75: The Nation's Tribute' for the 75th Anniversary of Victory in Japan and to commemorate the conclusion of the Second World War.

Although this year has been very different, the musicians of the band will continue to show that they are more than just a marching band. No one is quite sure what the rest of the year has in store for us, but the Regimental Band will continue to show its versatility and perform to the highest of standards whenever and wherever they are called upon.

As this issue of the Grenadier News is being printed the band is busy rehearsing for a recording of carefully selected music that the new Director of Music, Captain Ben Mason has composed and arranged for the band. Recent recordings of all Household Division Bands are uploaded to the following website: www.householddivision.org.uk

USEFUL INFORMATION & NOTICES

VETERANS' RAILCARD

The government has announced that all veterans will be eligible for a rail discount card from 11 Nov 20 – Armistice Day. The new rail card will be available to 830,000 veterans and will give them a third off most rail travel. This is regardless of their age, therefore, extending discounts to veterans not yet covered by existing discounts. The new card offering discounted rail fare is the first step in the Government's plans to do more to support those who have served their country, and comes after the Government created a new Office of Veterans' Affairs (OVA).

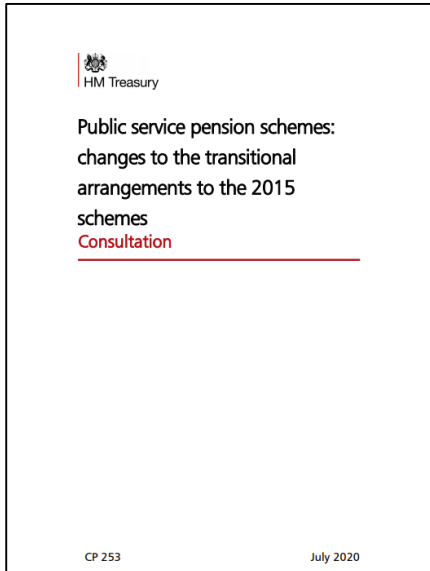


Full details of the rail card are yet to be revealed, including what restrictions there might be to discounted travel.

The card will cost £21 during the initial introductory period, then increase to £30 at a later date. For more information, see the gov.uk website (railcard-for-military-veterans).

2015 PUBLIC SERVICE PENSION SCHEME REFORMS

In 2015, with the exception of those within 10-14 years of their normal pension age, a large number of public service pension scheme members were transferred to a reformed scheme with benefits calculated on a Career Average Revalued Earnings (CARE) rather than final salary basis.



In a written ministerial statement on 25 March 2020 the government confirmed that it would take steps to address the difference in treatment across all schemes, and that it would do this for all members with relevant service, not just those who had lodged a legal claim (firefighters and judges).

The government has agreed in a number of Employment Tribunal cases that claimants should be entitled to membership of **their appropriate legacy scheme**. Claimants and non-claimants will be treated equally by having access to the same pension changes.

Therefore, HM Treasury have published a consultation paper: *Public Service Pension Schemes: Changes to the Transitional Arrangements to the 2015 Schemes*. This

consultation sets out proposals to remove the discrimination for all affected members across the majority of the affected public service schemes – **which includes all affected Armed Forces Personnel, currently serving or not**.

In summary it sets out proposals on the changes that will ensure regular service members can either stay on the 2015 scheme or **revert back** to a legacy scheme (1975 or 2005 Schemes), depending on what will benefit them the most.

This paper is very useful and reassuring reading for any personnel that have been unhappily affected by the 2015 changes. Go to www.gov.uk/government/consultation/public-service-pension-schemes-consultation-changes-to-the-transitional-arrangements-to-the-2015-schemes to read the complete document.