

# The Grenadier Gazette

THE REGIMENTAL JOURNAL OF  
THE GRENADEER GUARDS



# 2018



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# THE Grenadier Gazette 2018



THE REGIMENTAL JOURNAL OF THE GRENADIER GUARDS

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### DIARY OF EVENTS ..... Inside Back Cover

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## Foreword

by Major General CRV Walker DSO

We should all be very grateful for the Editors and those who have supported them in compiling this edition of the Grenadier Gazette. In a digital world with almost infinite information to hand, instantly imported to any number of devices, it is now an *affair of the heart* to put together this sort of publication, and a rare skill to make it as informative and interesting as our team does. It's an account as much for today's generation, who I hope can take a moment to pause busy lives to reflect on some recent history about who has been doing what and where, as it is a valuable record of a year in the life of the Grenadiers which will inform future generations about how things once were, and what seemed important enough for folk to write about. Highlights, holidays and honourings are the usual uplifting diet, picked out as a contrast to the backdrop of conversation and debate about the Army of the day.

A highlight of note, and an honour in every regard, has been the appointment by Her Majesty of HRH The Duke of York as The Colonel of the Regiment, in succession to HRH The Duke of Edinburgh who held the appointment

for an impressive 42 years. We marked the succession with a small parade at Windsor Castle in March 2018, where I was able to thank both of Their Royal Highnesses, on behalf of the Regiment, for Their support over the years past and future.

One important military conversation circulating at the moment, amidst successive attempts to align national ambition for defence and security with adequate provision of means (via a strategic defence and security review in 2015, a national security capability review in 2017 and the recently announced Modernising Defence Programme for 2018), is the need to restate the utility of forces that fight on and from the land. To many this might seem a curious conversation to be having – but such is the thirst for 'first principled' strategic analysis to keep pace with a fast-changing world.

What is not in doubt is the need for the British Army to adapt to the ever changing character of conflict if we are to remain a useful instrument of national power. This takes hard thinking by enquiring and critical minds to divine how our adversaries will move against us in the future, trust in the wisdom of those charged with strategic leadership, and a confidence check that the fundamentals of 'our way' are still the right way.

One of those fundamentals is the regimental system, which remains the bedrock of the British Army's organisational model. While the names of regiments come and go with time, the system of raising, training and using the Army by regiment stays the same. It works extremely well for some, but by no means for all, all of the time; and there is a rather Darwinian 'survival of the fittest' feeling to it at the moment. So 'institutionally fit' we must continue to be if the heritage of 362 years of loyal service to 14 monarchs, and 78 battle honours proving our pedigree as a fighting regiment, is set fair to continue long into the future.

The Grenadier Gazette is one of the ways we can all keep in touch, and keep our own conversations going about what is important to us. I think we'll find the continuities over time will bear out the truism that 'there is nothing new on the battlefield'; a truism which is in part a refuge from the unrelenting winds of change; but also in part a confidence boost that there is no problem that has or will happen that we cannot adapt and overcome if we stay true to what it means to be a guardsman.

It is with that responsibility in mind that I look forward to the next five years or so as the Lieutenant Colonel, playing my part alongside all Grenadiers in keeping our Regiment as healthy as possible; and, by extension, that of the Foot Guards and the broader Household Division too.



Our new Colonel.

## Editorial Notes

by *Brigadier DJC Russell-Parsons*

Here is our annual Regimental journal again – a twelfth edition for a still Riyadh-resident editor, and the sixth together with Major Andrew Green with his grip on the Association section. This edition is a little different as a result of Army data policy and our decision not to include the Regimental and Battalion nominal rolls - they will be maintained inside Regimental Headquarters instead.

We would aim for the journal to stay a model for research, and include every contribution from the serving, those extra regimentally employed and all those in the Association. This should be 126 pages packed with contemporary and historical articles. We have some interesting perspectives this year, all supported by all colour photos again in this edition. The Association features prominently with branches getting a full or half page about the year's activities, packed with photos. Yet again, registering from afar what the Regiment has accomplished throughout 2017-2018 is an entertaining, impressive and fascinating hobby. It has been an absorbing experience in receipt of every submission.

Once again, this is to thank all those committing themselves to writing this year and the serving parts of the Regiment for maintaining their annual inputs. We are also particularly grateful to Major General Ben Bathurst whose comprehensive Divisional update puts all Regimental activities into perspective and shows how much consultation and change is happening. There are significant challenges and whilst it would be simpler to have just a few big issues to crack at the strategic level, the reality is progress is being achieved through delivering a series of marginal gains, each one of which improves the overall situation.

Meanwhile it would be equally important to acknowledge the very considerable contributions made by other collective parts of the Regiment. Readers will know about the headlines of the new Defence and Security Review, and Defence having to take some very, very painful decisions into this year and beyond. Change programmes, early release schemes and cuts all point to a very different Army after both this review and the latest planning round. This all has very uncomfortable downstream implications for our business. This is all difficult and the leadership challenges are considerable, especially when faced with a tsunami of information from different sources on change

and drawdown. Those at the heart of all Regimental organisations deserve real acknowledgement for how traditional standards are being maintained despite such pressures.

The core Regimental team has continued to share some fascinating reflections in the journal – the new Lieutenant Colonel, the Adjutant, the Battalion as well as the very loyal contributors: Philip Wright and Alan Ogden. There is always room for more and we would ask for the same levels of your input next year – we are ready to receive anything as soon as the 2018 edition is circulated, and we look forward to incorporating absolutely everything you submit. We hope you enjoy this year's collection meanwhile. Thank you to everybody for helping.

As we launch into another year of commitments and reflect on what has been achieved this year, do make use of this journal, your magazine. Tell us what else is happening, and what we have missed this year. You will realise that there is already quite a lot of material on the cutting room floor as we have squeezed every last bit into this edition. As ever, all Grenadiers, serving and retired, should know that they can write in at any time ([regltreasurer@grengds.com](mailto:regltreasurer@grengds.com)).

## A small tub at the front

by *Philip Wright*

When hostilities broke out in 1914, the Prince of Wales was given a commission in the Grenadier Guards. At the end of November, he was sent to France on the staff of Sir John French, Commander in Chief. Lord Claud Hamilton, a young Grenadier captain, was appointed his personal ADC and remained with him until the end of the war. He was one of the four surviving officers who brought the remnants of 1st Battalion out of the first battle of Ypres and had been awarded the DSO. The Prince strove endlessly to get permission to re-join his regiment and in May 1915, his efforts to get closer to the front met with some success when he was transferred to the HQ of 1st Army Corps. It was still staff work but he wrote "doing all my work riding, biking or on foot. That keeps me fairly fit...." Conditions were more spartan than at GHQ: "No tap, no pump, the only source of water is from a very deep open well and it takes 3 minutes to draw a small tub!!"



The Prince of Wales with Lord Claud Hamilton.

## *by The Regimental Adjutant*

After an uneventful start to the year, on 19 April, the Regimental 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 both Her Majesty and The Colonel 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.

On the day after the Queen's Birthday Parade, Lieutenant General Sir George Norton, KCVO, CBE handed over to Major General 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 those of you attended and that everyone involved would agree that RQMS Betts did a fantastic job in organising the whole event.

One thoroughly annoying thing that happened at Grenadier Day, although quite amusing in retrospect, was the fact that the locking system for the van (an ex-Royal baggage van with a complex electronic locking system), which was carrying the Association Shop stock and all the prizes for the day, failed with stock and prizes inside. The AA was summoned to no avail, crowbars and jemmies were deployed, also to no avail and thus, no prizes or Association stock! When the van was eventually recovered to Wellington Barracks, there were threats of a huge bill to Regimental Headquarters for the damage caused by the crowbars and jemmies – until it was discovered that the firm employed to break it open had to destroy the doors of the van in order to get inside! An amusing tale perhaps, but it was a great shame that the Association Shop sold nothing on its biggest trading day of the year.

Over the summer months, it became clear that The Colonel was feeling that the time had come for him to stand down as our Colonel. On 31st October, The Duke of York paid a very successful visit to the 1st Battalion. He was briefed by the Lieutenant Colonel and the Commanding Officer, met a number of Grenadiers carrying out a variety of training activities, had drinks in the Sergeants' Mess and lunch in the Officers' Mess. From our perspective, it was a most enjoyable visit. On 1st December, it was announced that HM The Queen had approved the appointment of HRH The Duke of York as Colonel, Grenadier Guards, in succession to His Father. There will be a very small parade in St George's Hall at Windsor Castle on 22nd March 2018 to mark the change of Colonels.

Regimental Headquarters, under the Regimental Adjutant Major Grant Baker, continues to be the home of the Regiment. Captain Ben Tracey been the Assistant Equerry to The Colonel, since May 2017 and leaves us in April to become Adjutant of the 1st Battalion. 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 20th May 18, but Grenadier Day will NOT be held in 2018 owing to the Battalion's deployment to Iraq and Afghanistan.

There will be an Association Battlefield Tour to Flanders, during the period 24th-28th September, which will concentrate on actions fought by the Regiment on the Western Front during the later years of the Great War. In particular, it will examine the 4th Battalion's desperate defensive battle at Hazebrouck in April 1918, when 4 Guards Brigade prevented the breakthrough of the Ludendorff Offensive through to the Channel ports, followed by the 1st Battalion's attack on 27 September 1918, when as part of the general advance, within weeks of the armistice, the Guards Division fought its way across the Canal du Nord on the Hindenburg Line. The Victoria Cross was won by Capt Pryce (posthumously) at Hazebrouck and by the Commanding Officer, Lt Col Viscount Gort, at Canal du Nord.

The Regiment will support Westminster City Council with the laying of a Commemorative stone for Field Marshal Viscount Gort, VC, on the Embankment near the Ministry of Defence, probably in early October.



# Director of Welfare's Report

*by The Regimental Adjutant*

## Introduction

This is the annual report on the welfare support that the Regiment, Association and Colonel's Fund give to serving and past Grenadiers who are in need. The Regimental Adjutant is Director of Welfare, but the vast bulk of the welfare effort is carried out by the Secretary to the Welfare Committee (Major Andy Green), the Association NCO (Sgt Rob Broomes) and the Regimental Casualty Officer (Mr Matt Ellmer). We are all extremely grateful for the dedicated efforts of these three.

## The Regimental Association

The Association budget continues to support Grenadiers (and their families) in need in a variety of ways. Grants have included Supplementary Benefits, and substantial financial support in the form of Individual Welfare Grants to past and present Grenadiers. Much of the Association's expenditure is supported by an annual grant from Regimental funds which is currently £50,004.

## The Colonel's Fund

The Colonel's Fund continues to be the source of much needed and very welcome support to those who have suffered physical and mental injury as a result of recent operations and to the bereaved families of those killed in action.

## Grants

### Supplementary Benefits

This benefit is paid at £107.50/quarter, £430/year. Currently 22 people are in receipt of this allowance. The total spend for Supplementary Benefits in 2017 was £9385 at the year end.

### Christmas Gifts

In 2017 Christmas Gifts were paid to 220 Association Branch applicants at £25 per head. In addition, £25 is also paid to each of our 4 In-Pensioners at The Royal Hospital, Chelsea. The total spend was £5,400 at the year end, after returns.

### Individual Welfare Grants

Grants, totaling £38,505 (£36,259 net, after returns) at the year end, have been made to 72 individuals in need for such things as home improvements, mobility aids, brown/white goods, debt relief and other miscellaneous items. The total amount paid for Individual Welfare Grants increased in 2017, in the main due to large grants made during the year, including:

- Between January and September 2017, grants totaling £1230 were made to a Widow for necessary home improvements. The ABF made contributions totaling £2150.
- In August 2017, a contribution of £2500 was made to SSAFA to help a former guardsman with a housing adaption. The ABF supported this case with a grant of £3951.

## The Household Division Welfare Fund

The General Secretary attends committee meetings for this but in 2017 there were no Grenadier applications for grants.

## ABF The Soldiers' Charity

These are two extracts from recent letter from General Martin Rutledge (Chief Executive of the ABF):

This year I am delighted to report that we have helped 51 serving and former members of the Grenadier Guards and their immediate families in the last year, to whom we distributed a total of £46,600.

Over the course of 2016/17 our charitable expenditure was over £9.2m representing a 9.6% increase on the previous year. Some £3.5m was directed towards helping individuals, and a similar amount provided to 92 charities and organisations who deliver on our collective behalf across 59 countries, plus all the critical enabling activity including the Army share of the Casework Management System costs.

## The Colonel's Fund.

The Colonel's Fund is 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.

During 2017 donations have continued to come in with many individuals contributing and their generosity is very much appreciated. As at 30 Sep 2017 the fund had raised a total of **£3,980,061** (this figure can go down as well as up in line with the value of investments) and had made **£826884** worth of welfare payments (including the cost of the Regimental Casualty Officer), since inception in 2007. The net value of the fund currently stands at **£2,287,560**.

The majority of individual welfare grants are made for:

- Mobility aids/improvement.
- Home modifications.
- Employment Training.
- Career/family loss of earnings.

- Bereaved family & injured personnel holidays.
- Financial advice.
- Counseling.

While our policy is based on assisting individuals as soon as is practically possible, we also provide support in the longer term. In order to achieve this, the Fund continues to support the crucial work carried out by the Regimental Casualty Officer, Mr Matthew Ellmer, who not only is at the forefront of the delivery of the support outlined above but is also instrumental in forging close links with other Service charities and Government Agencies so that we know where to turn when help is needed. The employment of our Regimental Casualty Officer continues to provide excellent value for money.

The RCO is responsible for 59 veterans who have suffered life-changing injuries and these can be broken down as follows:

5 x Double amputees  
 9 x Single amputees  
 2 x Paralysed (one from the neck down)  
 4 x Brain injuries (one in a near vegetative state)  
 9 x Blast/Fracture injuries  
 5 x Sight loss in one eye  
 5 x Serious gunshot wounds  
 6 x Multiple injuries  
 26 x Mental Health issues (Some of these are included in the figures above)  
 16 x Bereaved families

These are some examples of support that the Colonel's Fund has given during the year:

**Case A** – A Grenadier who was injured in Afghanistan. He lives in the Midlands and runs his own business, which the Colonel's Fund has supported him with the start up costs. This support has enabled him to carry out a job that supports his family and has given him the confidence that he needs to move forward.

**Case B** – A Grenadier was injured in Afghanistan. He has children and although living alone, he sees them on a regular basis. The RCO gives a lot of support to this young man, as he has no regular visitors apart from his children, and he has encouraged him to take up golf and have lessons. This support from the RCO is not only helping him to move forward and form easier relationships with his children but also is helping him with his recovery. The Colonel's Fund has recently helped fund his new accommodation, which is the next step in his recovery.

**Case C** – A former Grenadier who was medically discharged, having suffered injuries in Afghanistan which left him with complex PTSD. The RCO has supported this young man through some extremely tricky times. The Colonel's Fund is also funding professional mental support for his Complex PTSD. Without this support he would have run into severe difficulties.

**Case D** – A sibling (whose brother was killed in Afghanistan) has been having problems with his education and home life. He is now attending a different College and this initially resulted in him being excluded for disrespectful behaviour in his second week there! However, he has now settled down and attends three days a week and is fully engaged in both physical and educational activities and enjoying it very much. This has resulted in his behaviour becoming more manageable at home and he is now respectful to family members, going to bed at a reasonable hour, understanding his commitments for the following day, and he has established a normal sleeping pattern for the first time since the death of his brother. This has happened due to the support of his Family, the RCO and the continued ongoing support of a mental health professional.

The Colonel's Fund Committee always anticipated that mental health problems would begin to surface as a result of operational service, in many cases years after the event. Sadly, there has been an increase in such problems emerging, in some part due to the fact that the symptoms are now more widely recognised. Consequently, the Regiment is providing support to a number of Grenadiers suffering from complex mental health difficulties.

### **Applying for Grants**

Providing welfare support is one of the key purposes of the Association and is the key objective of The Colonel's Fund. Both are there to provide help when it is needed.

Those Grenadiers, or their families, who are in need of support as a result of more recent active service, can be supported by The Colonel's Fund. They should, in the first instance, make contact with the Regimental Casualty Officer (Mr Matt Ellmer ([rco@grengds.com](mailto:rco@grengds.com))), who will advise on the best way forward.

All other Grenadiers or their families, in need of help, can be supported by the Association Welfare Funds. In the first instance, they should contact their local SSAFA Branch (for which contact details are readily available on the internet) which will then assign a case-worker to prepare a case and then submit it to Association Headquarters. Although this process sounds laborious, it means that we are able to access support from the Army Benevolent Fund and Royal British Legion in addition to our own resources.



# Household Division Update 2018

*by The Major General*

## **Operations and Exercises**

We are well set at Division with both Grenadier Guards and Welsh Guards deploying in 2018 to Iraq and Afghanistan. Scots Guards are deploying on Op TOSCA in Cyprus in October 2018 - April 2019 and will then resubordinate to 1 Brigade and will be committed on Op ORBITAL as well as the Strike Experimentation Group role with the Household Cavalry Regiment. Coldstream Guards and Irish Guards will follow on; Coldstream Guards have Ex TIGER GOLD in Malaysia in October 2018 and will then have a Falkland Island Reinforcement Company from November 2018 - February 2019. Irish Guards have a Falkland Island Reinforcement Company there now and then have a demanding Ex ASKARI STORM to prepare for and complete in September - October 2018; the London Regiment has Ex SOUTHERN WARRIOR in the Falklands in September 2018. London District also has 10 places in the USAREUR Sniper competition in Graffenwoehr 28 July - 3 August 2018 for which units can bid. On recent achievements, a particular mention must go to Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment for their outstanding achievement of winning a Gold Medal in the Cambrian Patrol, along with F Company Scots Guards' impressive Silver Medal.

## **Adventurous Training and Sport**

The Grenadier-led leg of Ex PACIFIC LONGBOW (Equador to Hawaii) is underway with pan-Household Division representation on board; the Household Division leg (New York to Nova Scotia) is Jun-Jul 18 and the project officer has written to you all on that. Please make more use of Gladeye, the Household yacht with an outstanding bosun available. We will run the Lawson Cup athletics at Eton again in May. The Household Division boxing in December was a triumph of competitive spirit and organisation by Maj Milly Butler. Foot Guards winning the Inter-Regimental Polo was outstanding and we are keen to maintain the momentum. Guards Cricket goes from strength to strength under Lt Col Rich Green and well worth supporting at Burton Court if you are in the area. Football, Rugby and Skiing plus a whole range of other sports thrive at battalion level.

## **State Ceremonial and Public Duties**

We conducted a Guard of Honour for the President of France at Sandhurst and we have the significant Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) with 52 Commonwealth Heads of State and Her Majesty in April. The Royal Wedding will likely have some

Household Division involvement. The Queen's Birthday Parade will see 1st Battalion Coldstream Guards Troop their Colour. We will continue the regularised Public Duties schedule (Queen's Guard: Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Sunday (24 hours) and Windsor Guard: Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday (24 hours) and Sunday). We will also concentrate on the most efficient training for the Queen's Birthday Parade. This includes early rehearsals on Horse Guards itself with the maximum numbers of Guards which worked well last year and saved us when we lost a week and two Guards Mounting on Horse Guards to the Op TEMPERER deployment; we will also be using a Guard Mounting from Horse Guards to integrate the Mounted element earlier than the day of my Review. We also have assistance in backfilling the duties which were previously covered by the resident Line battalion in London District; this will be in the form of three separate Public Duties Reinforcement Companies over the year. We will also have the Queen's Colour Squadron in the RAF 100 year, and are also likely to have a Canadian Air Force Squadron and possibly one or two others too. We have a much better coordinated Household Division/London District scheduling process in which all units/sub-units participate. Please continue to support Beating Retreat which is an excellent engagement opportunity; this year we will have visiting Bands from USAREUR and UAE. Please note that on the subject of tickets for the Queen's Birthday Parade, I have in the last year increased ticket allocations to Regimental Headquarters and to the Household Cavalry (who, strangely, were under-allocated); I am happy to entertain any justified requests for increased allocations for 2019 so please track this in 2018 and then bid (including Londons). Note that we have moved to an electronic ticketing system for 2018 ([www.qbp.army.mod.uk](http://www.qbp.army.mod.uk)) so those with allocations will get a code to use with their payment which will be done online; members of the public can then buy the remaining seats online.

## **Organisation**

We are well on the way to integrating the London Regiment into the Guards Division of Infantry and under operational command of London District. The London's role is to deliver individuals and formed bodies to Foot Guards battalions in 11 Brigade but not discounting 1 SG in 12 Brigade who have taken London's on Ex LIGHTNING ACE, or for that matter, the Household Cavalry Regiment in 1 Brigade. So we are looking at all ways to advance this: operations, exercises, routine training, adventurous training, sport and social etc. London District is taking more responsibility for Army music as we have the greatest demand, understanding and appreciation of military music and it makes sense to leverage this. Pre-dating this was my decision to take the Assistant Director of Music of the Welsh Guards Band (Capt Bethan Waters) as my ADC as 1 WG will be in Kabul. Please ensure that you make every effort to

appreciate/embrace/include your Bands as they are a key part of the Household Division. I have subordinated the Household Division Stables under Commanding Officer Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment as he is the Mounted Ceremonial Delivery Duty Holder, reporting to me as the Operational Duty Holder; this makes sense from a range of G1-G9 reasons. However, the Brigade Major remains responsible to me for the overall delivery of Parades and for ensuring Household Division officers who are mounted do attend the required training, just that training will be overseen by Commanding Officer Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment as the Mounted Ceremonial Delivery Duty Holder.

### **Infrastructure**

Defence Infrastructure Organisation responsibilities will be delegated to the 3 Services from April 2018. Work is underway on London Defence Estate Optimisation on whose Board I now sit, with Director Basing and Infrastructure as the Chairman. Both Wellington Barracks and Elizabeth Barracks, Pirbright are now part of the Army Estate Modernisation Programme which will bring much needed improvements. The move of the Household Cavalry to Bulford is being tracked carefully but looks on track for 2019. The exact date of the move of 1 WG to Windsor will be worked carefully with the State Ceremonial and Public Duties programme in 2019. We are awaiting the outcome of the Aldershot Assessment Study as this will impact on the move of 1 IG; important to note though that 1 IG's re-subordination to 11 Brigade will occur as planned in 1st Quarter 2019 and their physical move was not before 2020. The exact date will come out of the Director Basing and Infrastructure/ Defence Infrastructure Organisation study on the Aldershot area barracks. 1 GREN GDS and 1 COLDM GDS remain in place in Aldershot and Windsor respectively. We are almost all in place for the foreseeable future, which will reduce churn and help stability for married and single soldiers/officers alike, nearly all of whom have partners who have careers of their own. The stability also means that we will be able to take a much longer term approach to our barracks and invest time and effort in them. Battalions will change role every 3 years but not their Barracks as all will be the same commuting distance from central London.

### **Recruiting**

As I have stressed for the last 18 months, this must be our main focus after operations in order to sustain our delivery in the medium to longer term. We have reinforced Headquarters Foot Guards (in both Warminster and London) using officers released by Commanding Officers from their Battalions in order to operate in a more coordinated pan-Foot Guards manner. Working to Lieutenant Colonel Foot Guards, Lieutenant Colonel Peter Macmullen IG, we now have Captain Nathan Allan

COLDM GDS as the lead SO3 and point of contact with Recruiting Group; CSM Patterson IG embedded in Recruiting Group itself. We have divided responsibility for Foot Guards recruiting into two, matching the Recruiting Group boundaries. Captain John Ford SG is now SO3 Foot Guards Recruiting (North) in Recruiting Regions 1,2 and 6. Captain Martin Howlin GREN GDS is SO3 Foot Gds Recruiting (South) in Recruiting Regions 3,4 and 5. Captain Charlie Ross WG runs the London District Recruiting and Engagement Team in London; set up by Captain Jack Carefoot, the team is going from strength to strength and the more we do here the better and we are, after all, London's local regiments. Major (Ret'd) David Sewell continues to work in Wellington Barracks. We are doing really well on communication on social media which is coordinated by Miss Alanna Overton in Headquarters Household Division, with Miss Karen Lim working on marketing. All of our Regiments now post every day, all year round so please do follow us on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter. Therefore the Household Division is fully focussed on the need to devote significant effort in support of ARTD on recruiting and we are mobilised with a good plan which is well underway, with practical steps which we are measuring the effect of.

### **Career Management**

We continue to compete very strongly in Career Management terms. Credit for this goes to Commanding Officers and their Regimental Career Management Officers, working with Ben Jesty (and Steven Mann) and Steve McMichael (and Elizabeth Kennedy) at the Army Personnel Centre and of course with Lieutenant Colonel Foot Guards. Areas to concentrate on in 2018 are early preparation of warrant officers for Late Entry Commissioning, not leaving it to the year in which they apply. Commanding Officers are looking closely at Sandhurst instructor applicants as the cadre is being reduced so we have to be more precise in our pre-selection; despite the manning challenges, we need to continue to push candidates forward for Special Forces where we are doing very well and also to the Guards Parachute Platoon in 3rd Battalion The Parachute Regiment. Our Extra Regimentally Employed are being reached out to and so they do not feel 'out of sight, out of mind'. On reports, we follow best practice and take any opportunity to sit on Army Personnel Centre Boards to take advice from other Board Members. Better career management is also helping to retain our people, especially young officers where we have tended historically to be higher; the last two Quarters of the Infantry Battle Strength Report show us having the lowest outflow of all Divisions and as the attached slide shows, we have brought it down progressively. One approach that has been widely welcomed is the Brigade Major and Staff Captain organised Young Officers Day and we held the third of these 6 monthly events in December. Thanks to all those who presented at that and it seems to

work well explaining what life beyond Regimental Duty holds, expanding on the offer this time to include pensions with a brief from the Forces Pension Society which went down well. Regimental Adjutants were also able to attend and I am keen for them to be more involved as a third party between Commanding Officers and Subject Officers as their experience is invaluable and can often help broker a solution. Finally, particular congratulations to the Army Sergeant Major on his OBE and also to the Garrison Sergeant Major who in 2017 achieved both his conversion to a Regular Commission and then promotion to Major on the Beige List at the earliest opportunity; so despite the Garrison Sergeant Major wearing the rank of OR9 WO1, he is (underneath his tunic and bearskin) actually a Late Entry Major so we have the best of both worlds; younger officers will do well to understand this. Further details on career related achievements are as follows:

### **Honours and Awards: 4 State Awards and 2 Commendations**

OBE: WO1 Haughton GREN GDS  
 MBE: Lt Col Ed Launder COLDM GDS, Lt Col James Leask SG, Lt Col Tom Parsons SG  
 CGS' Commendation: Maj Anthony Seddon GREN GDS  
 Comd HC Commendation: Maj Pete Middlemiss SG

### **Beige List: 25 Captains selected for promotion to Major**

Household Cavalry: 6 x DE and 2 x LE  
 Foot Guards: 11 x DE and 6 x LE

### **Regular Commissions: 30 across Household Division**

Household Cavalry: 10  
 Foot Guards: 20

### **Late Entry Commissions: 7 Household Division out of 45 across the Infantry**

7 successful candidates consisted of 2 x WO1's and 5 x WO2's this year, noting we had a lot of Regimental Sergeant Majors commissioning last year and will do so again this year.

### **Appointments**

At our Divisional Assignment Board (senior Captain and Majors at Regimental Duty and E1), we filled nearly every DE and LE position, less a couple of Majors who we have brought from other Divisions, and we now have a policy of bringing in outsiders to command Support Companies, rather than Rifle Companies, where possible; on current trends, we will shortly be in a position where we export. We have a healthy degree of cross-fertilisation across the Foot

Guards to balance surplus and deficit and to give our people the best chance of competing; this includes cross-Household Division posting with a Household Cavalry officer serving as a Company commander in 1 WG. Continuing our efforts to push more Captains to Staff and restrict the number of acting Majors (less Guards Training Company and Public Duties Incremental Companies and on the latter, all 3 Company Commanders are off to ICSC(L)), we have secured some excellent SO3 positions. Many of these SO3 posts are on operations and puts a different perspective on 'Staff' from the commonly held view amongst some. Please note that Lieutenant Colonel Guy Stone WG has taken over as the Brigade Major to carry on the outstanding work done by Lieutenant Colonel David Hannah IG; the Deputy Commander London District leaves the Army in the Summer and his replacement will be announced shortly; the Chief of Staff's post will come up for replacement in 2019; following Beige List success we need a new Adjutant London Central Garrison in Sep 18 and a new Staff Captain in Dec 18, both really important and interesting jobs with an excellent track record now of being promoted out of. As you know, we also have a number of important ADC and AMA posts which we need to fill to support Household Division (and other) General Officers.

### **Conclusion**

I hope this overview gives you a good snapshot of where we stand as the Household Division with so many positive areas and opportunities. However, it would be wrong to gloss over the challenges, especially recruiting, and therefore we need to continue to put every effort into rectifying the situation, working closely in support of the Army and Recruiting Division. We must not under-estimate the importance of turning the situation around. Whilst we could fall back on the excuse that it is an Army and Recruiting Division (with Capita) responsibility to man the Army, that approach will not get us anywhere. We to continue need to press hard on this issue and chip away at every obstacle to give marginal gains and not to become deterred or depressed at the figures. Just as we would not take a negative approach to adversity on operations where we rise to every challenge, we need to take a similar view to the manning challenge and fight persistently until we turn the trends around. Finally, a word on standards and bearing in mind that our ethos is one of unrelenting pursuit of excellence, please ensure that we maintain standards to the customary Household Division level. These standards must be higher than elsewhere and as broken windows are to crime, if you let standards slip in the Household Division, the whole edifice will come down. As we approach the arrival of Women in Ground Close Combat (notwithstanding our female attached Arms/Services already), I would like you all to re-double your efforts on seamless integration and ensuring that Respect for Others is at the forefront of all our minds at every level. So let's look forward positively to 2018 and lead from the front.



## BAND OF THE GRENADIER GUARDS

### A Year in Review

by Lance Corporal Chris Barber

The Band of the Grenadier Guards began 2017 with its traditional role of public duties, changing the guard at Buckingham Palace and Windsor Castle. Our Cornet players were also utilised throughout the year for the daily ceremony of the keys at the Tower of London, a 700 year old tradition which this year, alongside the footguards regiments, saw both the Mercian Regiment and Royal Logistics Corps mount Guard. Being involved in such a poignant, historic ceremony is always a highlight for our cornet players.

2017 saw the return of Major Michael Smith who quickly got to work rehearsing for the band reunion.

In the prestigious surroundings of the Guards chapel and in front of an audience of ex band members (often difficult to impress!), the band performed a varied programme which featured a relatively unknown piece, the very moving *The Story of Ann Frank* composed by



**The Band performing at the 2017 Poppy Appeal Launch at Waterloo Station. This performance helped raise £58,000 towards the Poppy Appeal.**

O.M Schwarz which featured the Bandmaster WO1 Sarah Marinescu on solo violin. Other pieces included *Trinity of Heroes* composed by our own Lance Corporal I Shepherd and the band's favourite *Malaguena(dier)* an arrangement by the Director.

Black Sunday, the regiments annual Remembrance Day was particularly memorable for several members of the band, as they were presented medals and clasps from the Colonel, His Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh. Clasps went to: Major Smith; Band Sergeant Major, Warrant Officer Class Two M Buckley; Colour Sergeant D Hull and Lance Corporal P Cowley. Long Service and Good Conduct medals were awarded to Sergeants L Henaghan and G Hall. Congratulations to these recipients!

The summer season was as hectic as ever, seeing the celebration of the Queen's Sapphire Jubilee with an incredibly hot Queen's Birthday Parade. With the mercury rising to 30 degrees Celsius it was certainly a struggle but very rewarding as usual. The band also took part in the Household Divisions annual Beating Retreat which this year commemorated the 100 year anniversary of the battle of Passchendaele.

The band also spent five days entertaining the crowds at Royal Ascot. This involved bandstand performances throughout the day as well as of course welcoming Her Majesty at 2pm sharp for the royal procession. The highlight of each day had to be the traditional singing around the bandstand which happened every evening. Whilst the days were long and hot it was certainly a fantastic opportunity to perform at such a prestigious, high profile event.

November was a busy month for the band beginning with the launch of the Royal British Legion's Poppy appeal. The event brings together personnel from across



**The Regimental Band making the front page of the Daily**

all three services collecting at train stations across the country. The band performed three sets at Waterloo Station through the busiest periods in the day entertaining the crowds. Fundraising at Waterloo raised over £55,000 pounds for the RBL, a fantastic achievement for a very worthy cause.

We also had the honour of being visited by the newly appointed Defence Secretary Gavin Williamson who had a go at conducting the band. Major Smith even made the front cover of the Daily Telegraph!

As ever the band were on parade for Remembrance Sunday at the Cenotaph and many members took part in the Royal British Legions Festival of Remembrance at the Royal Albert Hall.

November saw the band perform alongside the Eynsford Concert band (who the director also conducts). The concert hall at Sevenoaks School was sold out and the repertoire ranged from *Fields of Honour* by Thierry Deleruyelle to *The Inkerman March* by Rodney Bashford which commemorates the anniversary of the Grenadier battle honour that took place on the 5th November 1854 (the same day as our concert). Our soloists included principal clarinetist Lance Corporal D Wong who performed *Flamme and Co* by Jérôme Naulais And Musician R Bowering who sang *Bring Him Home* from *Les Misérables*. The concert also saw the 18th century band don their uniforms and tights to perform *Handel's Music for the Royal Fireworks*.

December saw many members of the band take part in the Household Divisions annual concert Scarlet and Gold showcasing the finest musicians in the division. The



**The Colonel presenting Sgt Gavin Hall with his Long**

concert featured an exciting performance of *Bolero* arranged by Lance Corporal I Shepherd.

Sadly, the band has had to say goodbye to some of its members this year too. We wish them the best of luck in the future. They are Colour Sergeant M Aintree, Sergeants A Starbuck, L Henaghan, P Scott and Lance Sergeant T Newlands.

This year saw the well-deserved promotions of Musicians P Cowley, B Ellard and D Wong to Lance Corporal. G Hall and S Hall both promoted to Sergeant and J Smout to Colour Sergeant. We also welcomed Musicians W Parsons and A Rouse joining us from phase 2 training at Kneller Hall. Two experienced musicians joined us, this time from the Scots Guards, Sergeant M Dean and Lance Sergeant D Pile-Gray. We also welcome the return after a 12-year hiatus to Lance Sergeant N Turner.

Next year we look forward to welcoming HRH The Duke of York as new Regimental Colonel at Windsor along with another busy program of concerts and public duties.



**The Secretary of State meeting the Director of Music.**



**The Regimental Band leaving Buckingham Palace in Slow**



## 14TH COMPANY Infantry Training Regiment, Catterick

by *Lieutenant R D S Laing*

Whilst the 1st Battalion Grenadier Guards begins to enter into the pre-deployment cycles for their various deployments on operations this year, Number 14 Company, the Grenadier detachment of Guards Training Company, Infantry Training Centre (ITC), Catterick, continues to produce the guardsmen of the future. It has been a successful year for the Grenadiers posted to ITC, as well as the recruits passing through, in what has been a challenging and changeable time for the Infantry.

Firstly, a brief reminder for those that are unaware of where Guards Training Company, and thus Number 14 Company, sit within the Infantry Training Centre, Catterick. Guards Training Company forms part of 2 Infantry Training Battalion (2ITB), based in Helles Barracks. Alongside us in 2ITB are the Parachute Regiment Company, P Company, Anzio Company (the line regiment Harrogate recruit training company) and Gurkha Company. The Guards Combat Infantryman's Course 16 is a 28 week long course which focuses on training future Grenadiers and other Foot Guard recruits from a civilian to a soldier who has reached the required standard to pass out to their regiment. The training programme is a continually evolving course, which is continually being improved in order to ensure that the best possible recruits pass onto their regiments in the time available. Guards Training Company has 10 training teams, the most number of platoons in 2ITB, and are thus constantly busy, with recruits and permanent staff alike making the most of their time in North Yorkshire.

Training has continued to evolve within Guards Training Company, the most notable new dimension being the successful introduction of Project Omega, an ITC wide policy focusing on the gradual introduction of physical training and slow increase in load bearing activities throughout the course, as well as a renewed

focus on nutrition, strength and conditioning. Guards Training Company's successful adoption of this and embrace of the evolving physical training programme has resulted in a significant drop in the number of injuries to potential Grenadiers without reducing their physical capability or seeing a fall in the number of failures in mandatory physical tests. Since April 2017 Guards Training Company has passed out 49 Guardsmen, with a further 32 still in training at the time of writing.



Another evolving aspect of training has been the focus on trying to encourage the 'thinking soldier'. The recruits that pass out of ITC are not only the Guardsmen of today but the non-commissioned officers and warrant officers of tomorrow, who will play a great role in shaping the Grenadier Guards and Household Division in the years to come. Through successfully encouraging all soldiers to constantly think about their job, the implied tasks that need to be done, and future tasks, which would not have been possible without the high calibre of permanent staff provided by the Grenadier Guards and other Foot Guard regiments, the recruits are passing out more ably suited to modern operations. Indeed, Grenadier recruits are taking to this well, performing to a high calibre and winning

numerous awards. Gdsm Simmons (Guards 20 Platoon – passed out June 2017) and Gdsm McKnight (Guards 21 Platoon – passed out November 2017) are both testament to this.

The Grenadier Guards' permanent staff continue to go from strength to strength whilst in Yorkshire. Various non-commissioned officers have managed to find the time to successfully complete the Platoon Sergeant's Battle Course, attend AT, take part in the World Pace Sticking Championships at RMA Sandhurst, whilst also successfully doing their day job and instructing the soldiers of tomorrow. One special mention must go to LSgt Moore, who was awarded a Commandant's Commendation and was one of 2ITB's nominations for





the ART(D) trainer of the year award. These were both thoroughly deserved awards.

As such, as the various Companies of 1st Battalion Grenadier Guards look to deploy on operations in the summer of 2018, Guards Training Company, and thus Number 14 Company, continues to produce high quality

recruits for these deployments as well as all of the ceremonial commitments that Nijmegen Company undertakes. Recruits arrive eager to join the Blue Red Blue family, and they and permanent staff alike look forward to continuing to serve in the Grenadier Guards.

## OLYMPIC BOBSLEIGH – LSGT LAMIN DEEN

### *Editor's Note*

This is to congratulate LSgt Lamin Deen, the pilot of the GB1 4 man bobsleigh. The Regiment has a fantastic athlete, and a Grenadier for us all to be proud of. He represented Great Britain as part of the GB Winter Olympic Team.

He flew out with the team 30 January and was in a Training Camp before moving up to The Olympic Village prior to their event. The 4 Man Bobsleigh event is a race

is over 4 runs; the first two on 23 Feb, the second two on the 24 Feb 18.

You will be interested to know that he (and other athletes) had a very tough time last year. This year, he was back on the podium in a World Cup race and is seeded back in the world's Top 10. Irrespective of the fact that his team did not come home with a medal this time, we should applaud him for all that he has achieved and I know that all Grenadiers will join me in wishing him the best of luck in the future.

# 1st BATTALION

## Battalion News

### A Look Forward to 2018

*by Major Hamish Hardy*

This year is a case of “out of the frying pan and into the fire”. The Battalion completed the final few months of 2017 as the Very High Readiness Task (VJTF) Force Lead Battlegroup and at midnight on the 1st of January stepped down from immediate to a more sedate 28 days notice to move. This meant that finally all members of the Battalion were able to indulge in some well-earned leave prior to returning to work in late January. The final few months of 2017, whilst remaining on NATO readiness, saw the Battalion switch focus onto preparations for deploying on Operations in 2018 with Pre-Deployment Training (PDT) starting in earnest, alongside numerous Adventurous Training (AT) and sporting endeavours.

The change from VJTF to preparing for three separate Company deployments on Operations TORAL,

TRENTON and SHADER was preceded by a change in the organisational structure of the Battalion with the Inkerman Company being regrouped and reformed. 10 Platoon's return to the Inkerman Company coincided with the return of the Corps of Drums from Support Company and “The Ribs” now look like a sizeable organisation capable of dealing with the challenges that the South Sudan may throw at them in the forthcoming months. The prospect of operations overseas has provided all the motivation required for individual training to be undertaken with gusto; the Company has focussed heavily on Assault Pioneering to enable the Company to undertake a supporting role to 36 Engineer Regiment in South Sudan. The Corps of Drums, as well as preparing for deployment on operations in South Sudan, have also been keeping a weather eye on the Battalions return to Public duties and have focussed on developing new drummers as part of the long term plan to ensure they are ready for 2019. An enduring theme for all has been the support to other units and organisations and some members of the company joined 3 Royal Welsh for a thoroughly successful and interesting live firing and



His Royal Highness The Colonel with the Officers during His visit to the 1st Battalion 30th March 2017.





Tactical Training package in Germany. 12 Platoon continues to set the benchmark for the effective rehabilitation management of those returning to fitness from injury. 11 Platoon have also recently rejoined the Company after a successful attachment to Number 2 Company for the duration of the VJTF task and has begun their collective MST for Operations.

The autumn of 2017 saw The Queen's Company focus increasingly on Foxhound driver training in preparation for their deployment to Kabul as part of the Welsh Guards Battlegroup later this year. Their pre-deployment training started with a chilly deployment to Germany with the Welsh Guards for a Combined Arms Staff Training (CAST) Exercise. The arrival of a Foxhound fleet with the Battalion has also proved invaluable in permitting the Company's drivers and commanders the opportunity to weave these protected vehicles into night training on the local areas and roads and to gain some much needed experience on the platform which will be their chosen method of transport on the slightly more precarious roads and areas around Kabul, in a few months time. The transition from Light Role to the mounted Protected Mobility is complex and novel both

to the guardsmen and Commanders alike, and adds an interesting dimension to our future operations. The last few months have also seen a changing of the guard with Major Simon Gordon Lennox handing over to his Second Captain, Captain Tom Hargreaves as 'The Shadow Captain' until his replacement, Major Neil Stachan, arrived in late January 2018. The Company also bade a fond farewell to WO2 Roper who departed to take up his new post as a Company Sergeant Major at the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst. He handed over the mantle of Company Sergeant Major, The Queen's Company to WO2 Archer.

Number Two and Support Company remain as the lead company on NATO's Very High Readiness Joint Taskforce until 1st Mar 18 when they relinquish the task to The Rifles and switch interest to their forthcoming deployment to Iraq on Op SHADER. Despite still currently being on such a short notice to move, both companies have been incredibly busy with RAAT and other extra-curricular activities. Support Company returned from Summer Leave 17 and hit the ground running with all the platoons going their separate ways to a variety of training areas to conduct their annual specialist weapon cadres; the first time they had operated independently out of their VJTF ISTAR grouping for some time. The Mortar took two weeks out of camp to bring their 'numbers' up to scratch for an autumn of training support tasks and live firing. Anti-Tank Platoon travelled West to Dartmoor, typically an area high in footprinting the Royal Marines, and did not find themselves out of place when put through some rigorous training on the hills. The Recce platoon and our Snipers chose Lydd as their holiday destination of choice, conducting some varied training over three weeks including Urban Recce, some live ranges and a brilliant week of close quarter combat provided by the civilian company POLARM and organised by Gdsm Culloty.

Mid-September 2017 saw around 300 members of the Battalion deploy on Exercise Grenadier Getaway, a Civil War Battlefield Study and Adventurous Training trip to Cornwall. The battalion took part in numerous activities including coasteering, sailing, mountain biking, rock-climbing, surfing and a walk along a serious chunk of the North Cornwall Coastal Path as well as a study of the Civil War battle sites around Fowey. The trip also coincided with a number of the Battalion's clerks and the Regimental Administration Officer arriving on bike at Land's End having started at John O'Groats about a week before. A jolly week was had by all and, remarkably, not a single arrest was made by Newquay's finest during the trip!

The Battalion also deployed to sunny, if chilly, Brecon for a week long Live firing package which saw all Companies undertake live firing under various conditions including black light. This was invaluable and we are confident that the Battalion is in a great place to





fulfil our future roles on operations in three different operational theatres in 2018.

At the end of November the Battalion ski team 'deployed' to Val d'Isere on Exercise Frosted Blade ably led by Lieutenant Tristram Reames and Alex Wilson. Back in the UK, the football team reached the semi-finals of the Army Champions League, before being knocked out by the eventual winners. The Battalion was out in force to watch the team play at Farnborough Town's ground in what was a seriously exciting, if agonising, 3-2 defeat. The team are however looking to retain their SE Championship this season. The rugby team, which continues to go from strength to strength, made a winning start to the season and is set to continue its drive throughout the next few months.

At the start of December, Capt Bearder and SSgt Emmerson organised a hugely successful Battalion Boxing night, in the Aldershot Gym, with Number Two

Company eventually winning the inter-company cup. The boxers all went on to represent the Battalion at the very successful Household Division Competition, also held in Aldershot. Away from Aldershot, LSgt Dean won a silver medal at the Bobsleigh world cup in Canada with the British four-man team and is shortly due to compete at the Winter Olympics.

Three members of the Battalion completed All-Arms Pre-Parachute Selection (P Company) in September, before moving to 3 Para. This included Lieutenant Chris Wood who has now taken over as the Officer Commanding, Guards Parachute Platoon. The Battalion also entered two teams into the Cambrian Patrols Competition where the Queen's Company team, led by Lieutenant Fred Ide gained a silver medal, the second in a row, in the arduous competition in the Black Mountains. The second Battalion team gained a bronze for their stirring efforts in what can only be described as testing meteorological conditions.

Earlier in the year, HRH The Duke of Edinburgh announced that he would be retiring from Public Events and on the 1st December it was announced that with immediate effect he would hand over as Colonel to his son, HRH The Duke of York. The new Colonel attended a very successful visit to the Battalion in October, spending a great deal of time speaking to the Guardsmen, before a fire side chat with the Sergeants' Mess and lunch with the Officers. We are thrilled to welcome him into the Regiment. It is with a heavy heart that we say a fond farewell and express our deepest gratitude to HRH The Duke of Edinburgh following an immaculate 42 years as our Colonel; *Once a Grenadier, Sir, always a Grenadier.*



## THE QUEEN'S COMPANY

by Lieutenant T Bolitho

After a long summer leave, a short but worthwhile Ashake out on Ex KIWI STRIKE proved to be the perfect way to get back into battalion life. Urban Warfare instructors guided the guardsman through various room clearances, culminating in a series of platoon night attacks onto Imber Village. Lt Wood and Sgt Hayden accompanied a small number of Grenadiers to the Pont-a-Marcq commemoration in Northern France. They were very much welcomed in the town and accompanied by World War II veteran Albert Green. The commemoration remembers the 23 Grenadiers killed during a violent battle in which German forces were expelled from the town.

Soon after, the company was off to Cornwall for Ex GRENADIER GETAWAY with the rest of battalion. A great opportunity to do some adventure training and try and cling on to the last of the summer. The weeks that followed proved to be a mix of activities with members of the company sent to all corners on various courses in preparation for deployment, in support of the Welsh Guards, on Op TORAL. No doubt a continuously changing matrix for the Company Sergeant Major and 'Shadow' Captain Tom Hargreaves to get their heads around.

Lt Ide led a Cambrian team to great success, earning a hard-earned silver medal despite losing two team members to injury. He is eagerly looking forward to the opportunity to enter again soon. November also gave the

opportunity for The Queen's Company to say a fond farewell to a few members during a casino night in the Corporal's Mess. Most notably The Captain, Major Gordon Lennox, and Company Sergeant Major Roper, both of whom were and still are devoted Queen's Company members. Once fuzzy heads had recovered and after a week of stand down (amidst plethora of courses) it was back to Lille Barracks.

The battalion enjoyed a week's live firing in Brecon, where The Queen's Company began getting to grips with new platoon orbats and slightly damp insertions; Gdsm Bird content to spend most of his time in deep water. The company continued to be busy in the background preparing for Op BRIDGE and Sgt Hendy readying the boxing team for fight night. LCpl Tracey won his first two fights and earnt a spot in the big lights of Battalion boxing night; unfortunately, losing to the eventual Household Division champion. Perhaps it can be put down to a lack of support, with the majority of The Queen's Company deployed on Ex KABUL LION and only able to 'e-watch' on the Facebook live feed. Ex KABUL LION was an 11X test exercise with the Welsh Guards in preparation for Op TORAL using the CATT trainers in Germany. It gave the Foxhound Commanders and drivers a great chance to get to grips with the role we will be playing in Kabul, once they had figured out how to turn on their simulators and finished crashing into computerized wadis and traffic.

Next year holds many exciting opportunities with the prospect of a four month deployment to Kabul focusing training and the minds of all ranks. We will also say goodbye to the 'Shadow Captain' Tom Hargreaves and welcome Major Strachan and Captain Robbie Thomson

as the Captain and Second Captain respectively. No doubt it will continue to be busy as the company gear up for deployment.



LCpl Curzon, Lt Wood, Sgt Hayden, Gdsm Hammond and



The Queen's Company mid-smoker.



## NO 2 COMPANY

by *Lieutenant E Harmer*

For the last few months of 2017 Number Two has been on 18hrs notice to move as the lead Company group for NATO's Very High Readiness Joint Task Force (VJTF); a role that was filled until midnight on December 31st. Whilst on VJTF the Company was deployed at short notice on two challenging overseas exercises to Latvia and Romania as part of a multinational Battle Group overseas.

The Company has begun the New Year at a run, immersing itself in Pre-deployment training for Op SHADER. Thus far this has involved, Foxhound and Civilian Armoured vehicles driving courses, a spell of TLFTT, and All Arms Search Team Courses to mention but a few. As we continue into the year the collective

training will build up and see the Company deploy on various CT2 level exercises wherein we will incorporate the scenarios we may face on SHADER. This will culminate in a two week final Mission Rehearsal Exercise that will seek to test and challenge the Company to ensure our readiness for the tasks on tour.

Despite being very busy the Company has still managed to ensure a varied curriculum of Adventurous Training and Sport. Most notably the Company won the Battalion Boxing and three fighters went on to take part in the Household Divisional Boxing, two of whom won their bouts. The Company has also only recently welcomed back the Skiing team from Exercise Frosted Blade with some members going on to represent the Infantry in further competition.



## THE INKERMAN COMPANY

*by Captain K Varmuza*

The Inkerman Company has returned from leave once again complete, with 11 Platoon re-joining the Company after their support to Number Two Company on VJTF. Following a highly successful run-out with the Battalion on LFTT in November, The Company is now preparing itself to support operations in both South Sudan and Iraq, providing flexible options to the Battalion. Prior to leave, the Company also enjoyed success at the Battalion's Boxing Night, with both fighters who made the finals winning their bouts. The New Year has begun in earnest with the Company deploying on exercise the first week back, and the

majority will now remain deployed on various exercises until Easter Leave. The continued support of the Pay Sergeant and his team in providing a well-stocked NAAFI complete with cheese toasties and hot dogs after patrols and attacks has kept spirits high, even in Brecon in the winter. As well as the anticipation growing as we get closer to operations, the benefit of our varied pre-deployment training for junior Guardsmen is tangible; with many gaining new qualifications and licences as Assault Pioneers, and as Mastiff and Foxhound drivers. The Company will now push into the second quarter of the year with renewed enthusiasm as we finalise our preparations to deploy overseas together.



## NIJMEGEN COMPANY Wellington Barracks, London

*by Lieutenant T Holmes*

Regular visits to Pirbright in April could only mean one thing – Troop Training season was here. Early mornings and long spells on the square ensured an immaculate display on the day from all on parade, despite 30+ degree temperatures. With 'silly season' in full swing, Nijmegen Company also manned Numbers One and Two Half-Companies for the State Visit of Their Majesties the King and Queen of Spain in July.

With the 1st Battalion acting as the spearhead element of NATO's Very High Readiness Joint Task Force Land (VJTF (L)), Nijmegen Company needed to ensure that the Guardsmen that would be posted to Battalion from the Company were ready to jump into their busy training

programme. This was to be achieved through various exercises, all aimed at decreasing the training burden of the 1st Battalion. Whenever the Company had a couple of weeks off from Queen's Guards, the opportunity would be seized to practice the Company's soldiering skills. Throughout the year, the Company bounced between the training areas of Salisbury Plain, Pirbright, Brecon, Bramley and Thetford. Each exercise took on a different form; static ranges, LFTT and blank training, with the only constant being the enthusiasm of the Company for swapping buff belts for webbing and bearskins for helmets.

This year was Nijmegen Company's turn to support the Royal British Legion's Festival of Remembrance. Thirty members of the Company had the privilege of leading out the Army to the march that is synonymous with all members of the regiment, both past and present - The British Grenadiers. With chins raised and chests pushed out, Nijmegen Company proudly marched down onto the stage of the Royal Albert Hall. For some, it was chance to remember and reflect on the lives of friends or family members that have paid the ultimate sacrifice on previous operational tours. For others, it was an opportunity to reflect on the importance of the sacrifice that everyone who has fallen, in all conflicts, has made. For all, it will be a poignant memory of the power of remembrance.

The year has ended with a change of personalities within the Company. Major Alex Bayliss has departed for



Nijmegen Company about to march passed in slow time.





**Nijmegen Company after the Festival of Remembrance.**

Staff College and in his place is Major Hamish Hardy, having returned recently from operations. The Company Second in Command, Captain Jonny Silver has left to take over the Anti-Tank Platoon in Support Company, and his place has been filled by Captain Ed Harmer. There have been changes at the Platoon level as well; Sgt Farrell and Sgt Richards have come in, replacing Sgt Warrick and Sgt Parker. Finally, the Company says a sad goodbye to Company Sergeant Major Bennett. The Company's loss is the 1st Battalion's gain as he returns as the Drill

Sergeant. He will be replaced by Company Sergeant Major Dacey who moves over from Number Two Company.

Nijmegen Company now turns its attention to supporting the 1st Battalion as pre-deployment training begins for operations, whilst maintaining excellence in our normal commitments. 2018 will no doubt be an excellent year.



**A guardsman prepares to assault an enemy occupied**



**A guardsman suppresses the enemy during a section**

## Fear and Loathing at Staff; fact and fiction

by Lieutenant J C M Greaves

*The author has completed four staff tours and is in the early stages of his fifth. The first was as the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion's Liaison Officer to Task Force Helmand in 2009-10, the second as an SO2 at the Permanent Joint Headquarters (PJHQ) on the Broader Middle East desk, the third with US Special Forces as the J5 Director, and then briefly as a deputy Military Assistant. He is currently MA to Chief of Joint Operations (CJO), Vice Admiral Tim Fraser CB.*



Lt Gen Sir John Lorimer's outer office at his PJHQ Dining

Career discussions with young Subalterns and Captains inevitably lead to talk of what roles and appointments exist beyond Regimental Duty. As a junior officer, I was apprehensive about what military employment looked like beyond the Battalion or the training establishments of Catterick and Pirbright. The jobs lists can be confusing and daunting to an aspirant SO3; they do not make easy reading. The appointments are not easily translated into what is expected, what the job actually does day-to-day, or an understanding of the hierarchy that supports it. The only clear element to the list is geography; not the best determiner for job selection. Underlying this initial confusion is the inevitable separation from those immediate friends made in the crucible of fun and hard work at the Company and Battalion level.

Set against this unhelpful background, it is small wonder that, coupled to societal changes and generic

concerns over the future of the military package (not discussed here), there is a general reticence to stay in the army beyond initial Regimental Duty. Therefore, to hopefully dispel some of the myths, this article seeks to aid young officers make the *positive* decision to go to a staff appointment. This choice should be made confident in the knowledge that training, experience and judgement will allow for professional fulfilment, a sense of enjoyment and the opportunity to thrive. Instead of seeing staff appointments as detrimental, or something to be avoided altogether, young officers can appreciate the wider perspective they bring; a chance to broaden horizons and the opportunity to benefit from the experience of others. The UK faces a multitude of challenges; to be given a genuine opportunity to discuss, plan and deliver coherent military options to troubled spots around the globe in a tri-service and multi-agency environment is something that young Grenadier officers should actively pursue.

### Time at Staff in PJHQ

After the shock of capture of working on an open floorplate, with a conglomeration of different cap badges and a healthy inter service rivalry, the intoxicating blend of planning for and delivering operations around the globe quickly inspires and captures the imagination.

All three single Services broadly adhere to similar values and standards. Therefore any office, or HQ environment (particularly PJHQ), is automatically permeated with common traits that allows the newly joined officer to quickly understand their new surroundings. A clear and effective handover dispels unfamiliar terminology and working practices. Individual personalities aside, the shared heritage of those from one's own service are quickly established. Working with other cap badges is enlightening. Biases aside, peers who have specialist knowledge across all thematic elements (J1-9) provide invaluable advice when considering plans at the tactical and operational level. Broadening further, the single Services are also fascinating; the same problem set is viewed differently, exploring options in a logical fashion,



PJHQ J5 Broader Middle East team in July 2014.



but not necessarily in a way that is initially comfortable with an army officer. This is to be encouraged; it dispels the tendency towards group think and stimulates debate on how best to plan.

PJHQ currently manages 28 operations in different parts of the world. Nestled in the leafy suburb of Northwood (Metropolitan Line), the HQ uses the standard J1-9 template and geographically breaks the globe into Europe and Asia, the Broader Middle East (including the Levant), Africa, and the Rest of the World. Although some



**2016 London Marathon – running for charity and raised £3.5K for the ABF.**

of the areas focus on familiar locations, such as Afghanistan, others are completely new and may not be set against a physical enemy, Daesh for example, but following the devastating effects of a hurricane and the subsequent requirement to deliver Humanitarian Aid and Disaster Relief. The military response after Hurricane Irma in the West Indies under Op RUMAN is a recent example. The scope and scale of each operation is set following a military strategic estimate having received broad planning guidance from the Ministry of Defence.

### **Understanding the broader perspective**

Staff appointments, generally speaking, can come with a stigma. Although easy to find error and negativity, PJHQ seeks to be open and welcoming in its approach. This should allay concerns over how one works in a staff environment. Staff work itself is formulaic by design (and therefore relatively simple to follow); it should be easily read, digested and deciphered. Simply put; the purpose of staff work is to allow those with soldiers directly under command to receive and prepare simple, effective and clear orders. If one bears the guardsman in mind, thorough preparation and consideration of all factors available will provide the clarity of thought required for the best outcome.

Importantly, it is not always military factors that affect a plan (or the process of planning); political, civilian and economic (not exhaustive) inputs will all impact in some way. In what can sometimes feel like unrealistic planning assumptions, thoughtful and considered guidance must be given to satisfy strategic or specific governmental direction. The interconnected nature of today's world compels military planners to consider issues concerning the political to the tactical, and everything in between. Planning is done in unison with other nations, within time and resource constraints, and with the knowledge that nothing can be

kept completely from the media. With this in mind, the young officer is expected to keep up with modern technology, military advancements and understanding political interactions as much as he or she is expected to use the 7 Questions. Given the fascinating spread of challenges facing the UK, and the West more generally, personnel from all ranks and services are working on some of the most complex issues in recent times. To be involved in how they may affect the UK, and what could be done about them, is hugely rewarding, both professionally and personally.

What is important to acknowledge is that hard work is expected; as it is in any profession, military or civilian. Results are expected in a timely fashion. Critically, human interaction and the resultant relationships – the creation of a network – are vital in ensuring overall clarity of intent; something that is extremely important and valued when working in any environment, business or vocation. The use of precise language taught at Catterick, Sandhurst and Shrivenham minimises confusion and therefore the formulation of an articulate point of view. Maintenance of an open mind, considered judgement and empowerment across all ranks is the norm, not the exception. In Operational Planning Teams (the backbone of PJHQ staff effort) rank, although never ignored, is broadly irrelevant given that all ideas are aired and considered. Subject matter experts come from across the government spectrum; many will not conform to a perceived military stereotype.

### **Summary**

In the Joint environment, a combination of shared decency, a common understanding of purpose, effort and a sense of fun (and the ridiculous occasionally!) permeates PJHQ and staff jobs in the round. In short, although it may be difficult to see beyond the brotherhood of life in the Battalion, there is something assuredly familiar about life on the Staff. I will not pretend that Regimental Duty can be replicated; however the pace of life, absorbing challenges and diversity created with different cap badges and the other services makes time on the Staff at PJHQ worthy of consideration.



**Flight with 100 Sqn, July**





## Le Tommy de Saint-Maurice

### Guardsman Harold Harding Grenadier Guards 1888-1914

by Robert Bullock

*Solitary war graves are few and far between and the following article describing the last resting place of Guardsman Harold Harding, 2nd Battalion Grenadier Guards, was published in the Municipal Magazine of Saint-Maurice, a town two miles South East of Paris, in February 2017. This English translation appears with the kind permission of the author, Robert Bullock. In September 1914, Harding, who was on active service with 2nd Battalion during the opening stages of the Great War, died of his wounds at the French Military Hospital (now the Hôpital National, rue du Val d'Osne), only a few weeks after the start of hostilities and was buried there.*

At the beginning of August 1914, Europe was on the brink of war. Both France and Germany mobilized, and on 3rd August, the German Empire declared war on France. The next day, Britain entered the conflict on the side of France following the invasion by the Kaiser's troops. Over the next two weeks, the 100,000 men of the British Expeditionary Force (BEF) disembarked at Le Havre and Rouen before deploying a few days later along the Belgian frontier in a bid to counter the advance of the German Army. Harding left for France with his Regiment on 12th August

For the BEF there followed several violent clashes with the Germans at Mons, Landrecies and Le Cateau at the end of August and then the long retreat towards the Marne under a scorching sun. On 1st September 1914, at Le Rond de la Reine in the Forest of Villers-Cotterêts some 50 miles north of Paris, 2nd Battalion fought a bitter rearguard action against the Prussian infantry of General Von Kluck. There were heavy losses on both sides and it was probably during this fierce fighting that Harding was seriously wounded. Nearly 300 officers and men of the Battalion were killed in action and there were a large number of wounded which the British were forced to abandon as prisoners-of-war in their continuing retreat before the onslaught of the German Army as it advanced inexorably towards Paris.

The Germans entered Villers-Cotterêts and set up a



Harold Harding's death certificate, issued at Saint Maurice on 25th September 1914.

field hospital where the wounded of both sides were treated. It seems likely that Harding was among them, but following the withdrawal of the German Army in the middle of September after its defeat on the Marne, Villers-Cotterêts was retaken by the French and the wounded found there were evacuated to hospitals behind the front.



In all probability, it was then that Harding was transported to the Military hospital in Saint-Maurice on the south-eastern side of Paris, but he failed to recover from his wounds and died during the early evening of 24th September 1914. His death certificate was issued at the Mairie (Town Hall) the following day, but it was only four days after he died that the British military authorities were

informed. At first, Harding was buried in a temporary military cemetery in the hospital's grounds which is thought to have been located just opposite the town's church, but as with the remains of some thirty soldiers who had also died of their wounds at Saint-Maurice Hospital between 1914 and 1924, his body was exhumed and reinterred in the municipal cemetery in 1925.

What do we know today about Saint-Maurice's Tommy? According to his Service Record, received from the Grenadier Guards Archives in London, Harding was born in 1890 in Wilton, Wiltshire, in the South of England. He was 6 feet 4 inches tall and aged 18 when he enlisted in the Grenadier Guards on a 3 year engagement. In May 1910, he was on parade at the funeral of Edward VII in London, and a year later, in June 1911, he was again on parade at the Coronation of George V.

Having completed three years service, Harding was discharged in 1911 and then studied to become a school teacher. On 10th May 1910, he had married Avis Emptage, but the couple never had time to start a family. When war broke out, Harding was called up as a reservist and a week later left for France with 2nd Battalion. As for nearly a million other servicemen of the British Empire and almost a million and a half French soldiers, he would never return.

Today, his grave can be found in Section 3 of Saint-Maurice Cemetery. The headstone shows the Grenade emblem of the Grenadier Guards and his name and initial, his serial number, rank, regiment and date of death, engraved initially as 28th September 1914. This date was erroneous since his death certificate indicates 24th September 1914. The mistake probably stems from

the fact that as the British military authorities only learnt of his death on 28th September, they may have assumed that this was the date he died. The Commonwealth War Graves Commission was informed of this error and had the date corrected to 24th September during the summer of 2016.

On a monument erected in the Forest of Villers-Cotterêts to the memory of Lieutenant George Cecil, Grenadier Guards, and his comrades who fell there on 1st September 1914, are engraved the words "Passant, Arrête-Toi" ("Passer-by, Pause Awhile"). The message is still as pertinent today, more than a hundred years later. Let us spare a thought then, for Harold Harding and his French brothers-in-arms, Giraud, Moulin, Peltier and others, who were also cut down by the war in the prime of life and whose graves are to be found not far from his. They deserve our gratitude.

*George Cecil was 18 when he was killed. The monument, which was unveiled in 1922, was placed there by his mother, Lady Edward Cecil. The author is grateful to Mme Chantal Cardoso, Registry Office, Saint-Maurice Town Hall, M. Hatem Friha, Caretaker of Saint-Maurice Cemetery and Captain Alan Ogden, Archivist, Grenadier Guards, for their assistance in writing this article.*



**Grave of Guardsman Harold Harding, Saint Maurice Cemetery (before his date of death was corrected).**



### **Lieutenant Wood, 1 Platoon**

The village of Pont-a-Marcq might seem like a small insignificant town in the shadow of neighbouring Lille, but it is a town of remarkable people. During the Second World War the town had been home to a German garrison, and Allied plans originally saw the destruction of the town by bombardment. However, nearby and as ever up for the fight, the then King's Company offered the chance to fight through and liberate the town. On the 3 September 1944, the Sovereign's own company fought a hard-won battle to liberate the town of Pont-a-Marcq, with twenty-three Grenadiers laying down their lives to see that this small French town lived on.

In 1984, Jim Hague who had been a Platoon Sergeant during the action returned to the town and met with people there to describe what had happened. In the years that followed, Jim Hague and those surviving comrades who he was still in touch with returned to Pont-a-Marcq annually to reflect on their experiences, but also to commemorate those absent friends. As the years condemn, Albert Green (now ninety-seven) is the last surviving member of the King's Company from that day, and alongside the Hague and Bennett families, he marked the commemoration this year with a small detachment of five Grenadiers from 1 Platoon, The Queen's Company.

It is impossible to describe the immense and genuine gratitude displayed by the people of Pont-a-Marcq towards the Grenadier Guards, and perhaps difficult for us islanders to understand the significance of liberation. The people of Pont-a-Marcq are truly remarkable in their dedication to remembrance, and it was a pleasure to have attended this year's commemorations, and particularly also, privileged to have bridged the widest generational gap between living Grenadiers. Despite significantly different experiences, the young Guardsmen and Albert Green were not so far apart – once a Grenadier.



### **Guardsman Curzon, 1 Platoon**

At the start of every September in the French town of Pont-a-Marcq, the liberation from German occupation is commemorated, which was conducted by the Grenadier Guards in World War II. Furthermore, it marks the remembrance of twenty three members of the Regiment who lost their lives partaking in this battle.

After arriving on the Friday we were given a warm greeting by locals from the town escorting us to appropriate places. The local people would go out of their way to tend to any needs. We were taken to settle ourselves at the accommodation and refresh after a long journey.

We were then transported to a town hall where we were greeted by many more locals and refreshments. We were told to take our seats in a lecture theatre where a small montage had been created of the previous years' celebrations. I had been given a small insight into the significance of the event, but until witnessing the film, I never really understood the scale of how important it was to these people. This event was almost taken religiously by the local people and they couldn't emphasise their condolences and praise to the regiment enough, particularly to veterans who served during the time.

After finishing the video we had chance to meet Albert Green, the last surviving King's Company member from the battle. This itself was an honour – being able to exchange questions about what he went through as well as learning the history of our Regiment. It gave me a huge boost and made you feel even more proud to serve within the same Regiment and company as such a man.

As the night went on we met more and more people who would share their gratitude and endless thanks to the job we uphold. The night was kept short and sharp as many people had preparations to fulfil for the next day of commemoration where we would visit the graves of those fallen Grenadier Guards.

### **Guardsman Ray, 1 Platoon**

Following our very warm welcome on the first evening, we started the Saturday morning with tea and toast, providing us ample opportunity to get to know the other guests, including Albert Green, the last surviving member of the King's Company who liberated the town during World War Two. Once we finished breakfast it was time to change into Home Service Clothing in preparation for the visit to South Lille cemetery.

Upon arrival we had a brief introduction into what happens at the ceremony, and then we marched to where the twenty-three British Grenadier graves were located, and paid our respects by



placing down crosses with poppies. The French were very respectful and thankful for everything. From there we again formed up and marched towards the French resistance memorial and paid our respects in the same fashion, except rather than us placing down the wreath, Albert Green, in true Grenadier fashion, laid down the poppy reef and initiated a two minute silence, in memory of his fallen friends and comrades.

After the ceremony we moved on to the celebration side of the day, and the locals had organised a trip to Flanders where they, in true French fashion, had a three course meal prepared at a local restaurant. That however was not the end of the trip. Albert Green, keeping to old traditions, is a fan of beer and had previously been employed in a brewery, so the locals had a surprise trip to

a brewery up their sleeves. The tour itself consisted of showing us all the fundamentals of making beer, from hop growing all the way through to the mixing process. The highlight however was almost certainly the tasting of the freshly made beer, with the brewery owner very generously gifting all the visiting Grenadier Guards with a souvenir beer glass.

Spirits were high and the celebrations were not over, as we returned back to the town hall where a buffet and bottomless beer were offered and graciously accepted. The highlight of the evening would have to be the firework display, lasting for just over twenty minutes it was magnificent, one of us lucky Grenadier Guards also got a front row seat next to the man of the weekend, Albert.

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## Miles Marriott

*by Major General Sir Evelyn Webb-Carter  
KCVO OBE*

Whilst in Brussels in February to work on the Waterloo Commemorations we visited the cemetery at Evere on the City's outskirts to see the Waterloo Memorial erected on Queen Victoria's instructions in 1880 to match the growing number of National Memorials at Evere. On the way out of the cemetery I spotted a Commonwealth War Graves Commission cemetery and as ever curious went in to have a look for any Grenadier graves. Someone with me pointed a particular Grenadier grave which was of Captain MRR Marriott which rang an immediate bell for this was the Miles Marriott of the Trust fame. I knew he had been killed in the closing stages of the war whilst in Neville Wigram's, my father-in-law, squadron, No Two Squadron. The regimental history states he was fatally wounded on the 24th April 1945 whilst the Guards Armoured Division attacked Zieven, a town to the east of Bremen, which is a long way from Brussels.

At the weekend after my visit Neville Wigram came to lunch and naturally we talked about Miles. He hadn't been very long in the Squadron and the circumstances of his death were very unlucky as he was wounded by a random shell. He was evacuated to the rear and presumably to various Field Hospitals and must have found himself in a Base Hospital in or near Brussels where he died ten days later on 4th May. My father-in-law despite being in his 100th year could remember very clearly the time as he had leave given to him in the first week in May in order to attend the christening of his younger daughter, my wife. Whilst in England he went to visit the parents of Miles who lived in Eaton Square. It was a distressing experience as Miles was the only son of much older parents and the sacrifice that war demanded was particularly poignant. The Marriott parents were pathetically grateful to Neville

and on departure they gave him a silver tankard with the Marriott crest which has been a well known decoration of the Wigram table ever since. Martin Fitzalan-Howard, who had been wounded earlier in Normandy was Miles Marriott's best friend and the parents also gave him a George II silver tankard.

The Marriotts were very generous people and they decided to create a trust to help Grenadier officers educate their children. Although initially for Etonians to send their sons to Eton it has since been amended to make it much more inclusive. I for one benefitted from the generosity of this sad family so it was somehow fitting I should bow my head at their son's grave.

There is a sequel of sorts, Neville Wigram died on the 23rd May 2017 and Celia my wife on going through an old file came across letter which had been published by the Times on August 18th 1945. We have no idea who wrote it but it's very moving:

"Captain Miles Marriott, who died of wounds in a Brussels Hospital, while his friends were celebrating 'V. Day,' was a soldier and would not have complained of the manner of his death. Always he showed a calm in the presence of danger, almost a contempt for death, which seemed to many, reckless. Yet we who knew him well, appreciated his deep faith in God, and it was because of this that Miles could never think of Death as an end. He was gay and generous. He gave with both hands. His courage shone from him like a star; a lovely challenge to the timid heart. It inspired his friends and allowed Miles no peace unless he shared in the fiercest hour of an engagement. It was never dimmed, although his imagination was touched by the beastliness of war, and he suffered. True courage is the noblest and loveliest virtue of all. It does not die, nor lose its splendour as the years pass; and all who love it, loved him."

## On this day in 1918:

The fearless British flying ace who cheated death and triumphed in the skies

from *The Daily Telegraph*,  
5th February 2018

**D**ouglas Leigh-Pemberton was born in Westminster on 27 April 1896. He was educated at Eton, and in March 1915 commissioned into the Grenadier Guards. He was 18 years old.

He immediately deployed to France with the 4th Battalion Grenadier Guards, where he served on the Western Front, and fought in the trenches at the Battles of Loos and the Somme. In late 1916 he volunteered for the Machine Gun Battalion, and served with it until the following year, when he was seconded to the Army's new aerial wing: the Royal Flying Corps. They trained him as a pilot, and he was commissioned as a Flying Officer in November. By January 1918 he was serving at the front with 20 Squadron, flying their new Bristol F.2 "Biff" biplanes.

A hundred years ago today, on 5 February 1918, and aged only 21, Leigh-Pemberton took off in his Bristol with Lt Norman Taylor of the Canadian Army as his observer and gunner. Their mission was to bomb a German long-range gun emplacement that had been shelling their part of the line.

After locating and destroying the enemy position, Leigh-Pemberton turned for home, only to find himself in the sights of five German single-seater Focke-Wulfs. They engaged, and as the dogfight intensified, the Lewis gun mounted in Taylor's rear cockpit jammed. Leigh-Pemberton immediately climbed to 10,000 feet, allowing Taylor time to clear the jam.

"Not for the first time were we saved by the lovely Rolls Royce engine in our Bristol fighter," Leigh-Pemberton later recalled. He returned to the fray, where Taylor shot down two of the Focke-Wulfs, and damaged a further one or two of the remaining three, which all then withdrew.

Clear of the fight, Leigh-Pemberton headed for base, but the contact had not been without cost to the Bristol, which had been holed in the petrol tank, and lost all power. With no alternative, Leigh-Pemberton crash-landed it behind German lines.

The impact threw him from the cockpit, and he broke his arm against the engine cowling and propeller. He had been in a hurry that morning, and had not attached his seat belt – an oversight, he always maintained, that saved his life. Behind him in the rear cockpit, Taylor was also

injured, with a fractured ankle. Aware the Germans would have seen the plane come down and would dispatch a search party to the crash site, the two men quickly abandoned the Bristol, made for a ditch, and concealed themselves with earth and loose branches.

When the German search party arrived, one of the soldiers fired several rounds into the ditch to ensure it was clear. Taylor, who had stayed with Leigh-Pemberton's family in the summer, suddenly thought he heard the voice of Leigh-Pemberton's mother, and twisted his head to look. At the same instant a round thumped into the earth where his head had been.

When the Germans eventually moved off, the pair crawled out of their hide and made for the front line, moving only under cover of night, avoiding the German patrols hunting them, and reaching safety several days later.

The following month Leigh-Pemberton was invalided back to Britain, and shortly afterwards, on 1 April 1918, the Royal Flying Corps merged with the Royal Naval Air Service to form the Royal Air Force.

In June, Leigh-Pemberton was awarded a Military Cross for his bravery, but by October he had talked his way back into the 4th Battalion Grenadier Guards, and was on the Western Front again, where he took part in the closing engagement of the war at the Battle of Mons.

When the war was over, Leigh-Pemberton resigned his commission, and returned to the family estate, which he managed until his death in 1964. Taylor went home to Canada, and after his experience being shot at in the ditch, believed he had survived only through divine intervention, and entered the priesthood. The two men remained lifelong friends.

Lt Douglas Leigh-Pemberton MC is believed to be the only Grenadier Guardsman ever to have been awarded a Military Cross for aerial gallantry.



## Courageous Conduct and Moral Courage

by Major Philip Wright OBE  
formerly Grenadier Guards

During the battle of Festubert on 16th May 1915, it was decided that 3 Company, 1st Battalion Grenadier Guards, commanded by Captain J S Hughes, should make a bombing attack down a German communication trench leading to a small house. The Company advanced successfully down the trench clearing about 300 yards of it and killing a number of Germans.



Lance Corporal Duffy DCM.

one of the company bombers, also "showed the greatest courage and resource," in this action and he too was awarded the DCM. Promoted to Lance Corporal, he was killed in action five months later and his name is on the Loos Memorial for those with no known grave.

In 1915, Kitchener called for more volunteers. One of them, Private N D Cliff, described in his book *To Hell and Back with the Guards* joining 3 Company in 1st Battalion, now considerably depleted as a result of the battle of Loos. Getting off the train, his group sprang to attention at the brisk command of a florid faced NCO wearing a DCM ribbon. This was their first encounter with Langley who, although his commands were sharp, impressed the new arrivals with his manner and attitude and immediately won their respect.

This initial impression was confirmed when Cliff asked a member of 2 Platoon, Private F Hann, what Langley was like. "The finest soldier in the Battalion" declared Hann, "You're lucky to come to his platoon. They say he was a coachman in civvy life, but he's a damn fine soldier. He's strict but just, and he's efficient. Our chaps would follow Bill Langley anywhere. He doesn't know what fear is. We've been having a pretty awful time, but if we hadn't had Langley it might have been a damned sight worse. You play the game with Langley, show you're willing and you'll find he's alright. Slack, and it doesn't matter if

you're his best friend, you'll be for it. He stands no nonsense from anyone, but is never unfair. If you get into trouble with Langley, it's your own lookout."

Within a few days Langley ordered his platoon to pack up ready to move nearer the front line on the following day. Each man was carrying: rifle, bayonet, pack, haversack, two bandoliers of ammunition, full water bottle, entrenching tool, smoke helmet, gas helmet, a day's iron rations, emergency ration, mess tin, greatcoat, mackintosh and cape, waterproof sheet, leather jerkin, shirt, pants, socks, gloves, muffler, holdall, gum boots and a spade or pickaxe. There was an air of bravado. Langley was as exacting in his inspection of chins and buttons as on the drill parade. Yet even he was exchanging jokes with the other NCOs in a louder voice than usual.

The winter that followed was spent in and out of the line north of Neuve Chapelle and from March to July 1916 in the northern part of the Ypres Salient. Cliff described it as "Nothing less like a battlefield as normally imagined was this Ypres scene. A chaos of rat-infested debris, human and material, in a sea of green and yellow mud pock-marked with shell holes overflowing with slime, and crossed by irregular lines of muck heaps, once trenches, now burial mounds on which rotted the bloated bodies of men and horses. Hanging over



The Ypres Salient – pock-marked with shell holes overflowing with slime.

the whole area, so all-pervading as to be almost as visible as a mist, was the foul stench of death, presiding, penetrating, permanent and horribly inescapable."

For the first half of the year 3 Company was under the command of Captain the Viscount Lascelles. Tall and slim, with sandy hair and moustache he was extremely elegant even in battle dress. His Sam Browne and riding boots were superbly polished and he brought



Private Cliff packed up and ready to move.



an atmosphere of Mayfair into the grimy trenches. His most pronounced characteristic was a distinct lisp, which was inevitably mimicked, although his long and gallant service in the line earned admiration. Twice wounded and awarded the DSO, he ended the war in command of the 3rd Battalion. In Langley, he found a tower of strength. Time had reinforced the men of 2 Platoon's respect for this fair disciplinarian, who treated them as



The only war grave in the Fontaine-le-Sec Communal Cemetery.

partners whose co-operation he counted upon. He addressed them as responsible individuals and had won their complete allegiance. Every one of them was prepared to go anywhere with Langley at their head. He led them on a series of raids on the German line which became more frequent. One of the enemy posts away on the right flank kept up a persistent daily fire which presented a threat to any advance. One morning Lascelles appeared, attended as usual by Langley, and ordered him to organise the Company for a direct assault on this stronghold. Langley was visibly shocked, tightened his lower lip, and said loudly and firmly: "But that would be a certain massacre. I will not sacrifice my men on any such hopeless action, Sir." Taken aback by this blunt refusal of an order by the man he

knew to be the bravest in the Battalion, Lascelles replied: "Very well, Sergeant, we must think of something else." Langley soared even higher in the estimation of those who witnessed this minor mutiny, many of whom undoubtedly owed their lives to his strength of character and utter fearlessness.

It is therefore all the more of an enigma that such a respected man, who had by now been promoted to Company Quartermaster Sergeant, should have been murdered in the words of the inquest, "by some person or persons unknown." However, a Scots Guards officer noted in his diary "That a Grenadier had been murdered by a jealous French husband." This happened while the Battalion was out of the line in the sandpits at Meaulte on 6th November 1916. Langley's is the only war grave in the Fontaine-le-Sec Communal Cemetery.

In Westminster Abbey on 28th February 1922, Princess Mary, the only daughter of King George V and Queen Mary, was married to Viscount Lascelles DSO, who succeeded his father as Earl of Harewood in 1929.



HM Queen Mary, Viscount Lascelles, HRH Princess Mary and HM King George V.

## Training Junior Soldiers at the Army Foundation College, Harrogate

by *Lieutenant R E Thompson*

It is a topic which attracts comment around the world from the admiration of the our American allies to the condemnation of Child Soldiers International but on whatever side of the argument you fall the training of 16 year old soldiers in the British Army has a long and successful history. It was with some trepidation that 18 months ago I began the long drive up the M1 to begin my posting at AFC Harrogate, with the Deepcut inquiry still on going and allegations of past institutionalised misconduct within training centres rife in the media there seemed little encouraging news to begin such an

appointment. It has been, however, a rewarding experience which has taught me a great deal about the development and training of soldiers as well as educating me on how the rest of the Army conducts its business.

Training at Harrogate is designed to take 16 year olds, often straight from GCSE's with few qualifications, and give them the basic skills required to be in the military as well as achieving some of the GCSE equivalents the Army necessitates for promotion in their future career. The JS then move to their trade specific Phase 2 training establishments where on completion they are ready to join their Regiments at 18 years old. To summarise the change and work which goes into the development of these soldiers in two sentences does not do justice to the College. The training is loosely based around the previously model of Junior Leaders where the Junior Soldiers are required to develop their leadership styles but with an emphasis on training up to a standard rather than selecting out.



**The multi-cabpage nature of training at AFC (H).**

With the short course (6 months) running for JS destined for the Corps and long course (12 months) for the Combat Arms, I was at first a little disappointed to find myself on the short course and unable to directly influence the training of the 24 future Grenadier Guardsmen that were at Harrogate. This is done however to ensure an even spread of training skills across the college. The short course is fast paced and leaves little room for complacency however the long course requires a patience of training that would make a Saint wince.

There are several traits that Permanent Staff at Harrogate need to have when training these young soldiers which can be used moving forward into a busy training and deployment year in Battalion. The first is one that Grenadiers are generally very good at achieving which is the modelling of behaviours that are good practice that we want to see in our subordinates. This takes huge personal discipline to achieve all the time but the rewards are soldiers that do the right thing from the start of their careers with little need for encouragement whether that is administration in camp or the basics of personal hygiene in the field. The second trait is something we can all improve on. The management of frustration to channel it towards great and interesting training not just meeting the standard required. It is no secret that the basic standard required of a trained soldier is not particularly high on finishing Phase 1 but this does not mean that the standard of instruction can be lowed. It is all too easy to fall into the 'in my day' attitude



**Platoon Sergeant delivering a 'Too little Camouflage' lesson.**



**Briefing the JS before the Graduation Parade.**

without adding to the value that is delivered.

For those reading this article as a guardsman or JNCO I would encourage you look at Harrogate as a positive posting. The college does not just give the tools to be able to instruct but also to instruct well, developing the leadership style of the individual in a structured environment that welcomes innovation without criticising the occasion failures in testing training methods. Recruitment across the Army is falling but our foot print at Harrogate as a Regiment is large so there is the opportunity to shape the future soldiers that we will receive and the chance to ensure that the Army as a whole at least has the bearing and turn out that only a Grenadier can deliver to their soldiers. The College also offers a chance for furthering personal education that may not be possible under the busy timetable in Battalion. It has been a gratifying experience for me personally over the preceding 18 months and I look forward to bringing some of the development and training methods with me forward into my new role as The Second Captain in what will be an exciting year for the Regiment.



**Somethings in training never change.**



## High Bullen – October 2017

*from The Guards Magazine*

The October 2017 half term saw a group of bereaved Household Division families, consisting of 8 adults and 16 children aged 4-17, meet up for a third year in a row at the High Bullen hotel on the edge of Exmoor for three days of fun, support, relaxation and reflection.



High Bullen is situated on top of a wooded hill with lovely views towards Exmoor and is primarily a golfing hotel with a very good kitchen and a slightly older clientele. However, it also has an air of cheerful informality which has embraced our special group and this seems to be reflected in the atmosphere of our stays







there; in particular, the dynamic between all the children is incredibly supportive, and the combination of the pool table and the swimming pool seems to be a winning one. Which means that adults have been spotted reading newspapers and drinking coffee whilst at High Bullen; a rare moment of downtime and hugely appreciated!

As previously, we arranged a mixture of activities throughout the stay. All are voluntary, but in fact everyone tends to join in. One day, we all drove across a very foggy Exmoor to visit the Tarr Steps, a seriously beautiful and ancient clapper bridge across the River Barle. We then walked along a very beautiful wooded valley on a three mile circuit that included rope swings and pooh sticks. No otters, but, perhaps we were making too much noise. Another day, we hired bicycles and made our way along the Tarka Trail from Barnstaple to Bideford, a 30 km round trip. Our outward bound trip was all for the more impressive for cycling against the wind and rain, but, after a pub lunch, the sun came out and, with a gentle breeze on our backs, we shot back down the pretty estuary to Barnstaple, with Johnny and Joseph Roland – aged 5 – leading the way into Barnstaple train station. A huge achievement for everyone and smiles all round.

That night, the children had their own group supper followed by an everlasting game of pool for the older children, and babysitters from the local nursery for the younger ones, and the adults were able to have an excellent meal in the High Bullen restaurant and reflect on another year passed. The following feedback perfectly sums up the positive experience of our 2017 stay: *“This time we were more relaxed about talking over the things that had happened to us all as well as other aspects of our lives. There is never any pressure to talk in the group but the atmosphere of not having to explain anything was really comfortable. In the real world contact with people (mainly officials:- school; the NHS; work colleagues etc) normally involves going over painful ground and can be wearing. People are sympathetic but can't really understand. A break from this into a safe space really helps.*

*“The best thing is that you know there are lots of friends there and you also know that there will be lots of fun adventures ahead of you.”*

*“The best thing is that the people we meet there each year are relatable and willing to talk about their experiences, which you don't find elsewhere.”*

*“We all felt that the best thing was meeting our friends again and we liked the swimming in the pool first thing in the morning. We really loved to ride the bike because we were able to ride really fast for a long time. Next year, we would like to try indoor climbing and would be happy to go bike riding again.”*

Many thanks, again, to the Household Division Welfare Division and especially to Major William Style for being so supportive. It is a wonderfully restorative short break and thoroughly enjoyed by all who attend.

*The Household Division Charity intends to sponsor a similar stay at High Bullen during the October 2018 half term. Please contact William Style – [hdftrreasurer@gmail.com](mailto:hdftrreasurer@gmail.com) – if you would like to be included or know of someone who may be interested in being included.*



# COMBAT KINGS!

GUARDS ADOPT CLOSE-  
QUARTER DRILLS TO BOOST  
AGGRESSION LEVELS

AARGH!

THUD!



# IT'S MORE OF A MENTAL EXERCISE



*Editor's note:* Given the recent high profile media coverage of the 1st Battalion training in martial arts, this contribution from the *Soldier* magazine will be of interest. We are grateful to the *Soldier* Magazine's Editors for their support in including it. Pictures/cartoons remain Crown Copyright.

**C**ONTROLLED aggression is a key component of an effective soldier. So when this important trait was perceived to be dwindling among certain personnel from the Grenadier Guards those in charge wasted no time in upping the intensity levels.

For the past year the regiment has been engaged in close-quarter combat training – an activity that sees troops mastering martial arts moves under the watchful eye of an expert instructor – and the results have been impressive.

"This all came about after the Commanding Officer and I went to watch an exercise in Albania," WO1 Martin Howlin, Regimental Sergeant Major of 1st Battalion, Grenadier





➔ Guards, told Soldier.

"We were chatting about a dry attack that we felt lacked aggression and started discussing ways we could help the blokes improve on that, and then channel it in the right way.

"So we looked at martial arts. I knew a civilian instructor who has been doing this for years; he loves the military lifestyle and was the perfect man for the job."

A two-week trial followed and with the students posting positive feedback the sessions have become a regular fixture at the unit's home in Lille Barracks, Aldershot.

Operating under the guidance of instructor Neil Webster (pictured left), of the Epsom-based Kung Fu and Tai Chi Academy, the focus has been on developing technical skills rather than simply striking a punchbag.

They have progressed from learning basic punches and holds to thwarting a potential knife attack while dressed in full combat kit (see overleaf).

The training has been delivered at a busy time for the Grenadier Guards.

In 2017 they formed part of a high readiness joint task force with personnel from Albania, Latvia and the Netherlands, which saw them tackle a series of challenging overseas exercises.

And this year they will have companies deploy to South Sudan, Afghanistan and Iraq.

"We are not doing this to enhance our capability; it is more of a mental exercise," WO1 Howlin explained. "It is learning about how to build aggression and turn it on when needed.

"This training has helped to create a particularly effective battalion. It has also given the guys something different to do that is fun and builds team spirit and confidence.

"Having an activity to focus on and enjoy adds to the variety on offer in the Army, and can only help with retention."

After being offered the opportunity to work with the soldiers Webster had to tailor his training to the students he was working with, as his usual civilian approach would not be appropriate in this setting.

"I really had to give it some thought and it has been a learning curve," he said.

"The end result is that these guys may actually have to kill someone and that is obviously very different to working with members of the public.

"The focus has been on developing power, how to strike properly, hit hard and look for effective targets.

"One of the key things is not to remain static so we have concentrated on footwork and keeping balanced.

Instead of learning set techniques we have created a method that covers all eventualities.

"I've been getting some really nice feedback. It is fun, good for team cohesion and a very useful activity.

"Who knows, one day they may have to use this for real."

# Training talk

Troops from the Grenadier Guards share their thoughts on the close-quarter approach...

It's good to be tackling a new skill. We started by learning how to throw a punch and from there it has evolved into manipulating the body and how to repel a knife attack.

**It has been great for team cohesion.**

Gdsm Richard Halliburton



## Mentally and physically, it is something different.

Many of these guys come from different sporting backgrounds – boxing, karate or other martial arts – and this can only help in a combat role.

LSgt Kane Peters

## These guys are at the peak of their training

when it comes to weapon systems, tactics and fieldcraft, but hand-to-hand combat is something we don't do that much. This is a way for them to focus their aggression and build discipline; they love it.

Maj Rupert King-Evans

**At the start I was sceptical but we are enjoying it and want to carry on.**

It's better than being stuck in a classroom!

Gdsm Tom Dell

**THUD!**



## Frosted Blade

by Lieutenant Colonel A J K Wilson

This Christmas, the Battalion took a team of eight willing Grenadiers to Val d'Isère to take part in Ex FROSTED BLADE 33, the Infantry's annual ski competition. The thought of six weeks of ski training and racing, as well as the possibility of meeting a 'Snow Queen' in Val d'Isère, no doubt perfect motivation towards the end of a busy year. The team drove out mid-December and begun to get to grips with their skis. With experience ranging from never skiing before to Ex FROSTED BLADE veterans, everyone still had something new to learn.

During the first two weeks the competitors, numbering over two hundred, were split into an A Hill and a B hill. Competent and ever-patient instructors took us through our paces making it all look far too easy. After the first two weeks both hills began to train on gates. The competition is split down into four disciplines: slalom, giant slalom, super g and downhill. Each discipline getting progressively faster and with fewer turns until it feels as though you are testing less your technical skill and more your nerve. Competition is fought on both a team and individual level. Mornings and afternoons were spent racing the course and getting pretty damning feedback at the bottom, only to go again and forget everything you've



Lt Wilson pensive after a race.

just been told as your focus switches to not falling over. Eventually though, improvements came on both hills.

It is impossible to mention Ex FROSTED BLADE without talking about the fantastic conditions. Unfortunately it did mean that a few days training were lost and at times it felt the snow would never end. During New Year there was over 1m of snow in 48 hours with some teams stranded in their accommodation for three days and curfews enforced by Val d'Isère to prevent any harm to those living in resort. Those with their own powder skis reaped the benefits whilst stragglers on giant slalom skis spent the majority of their time removing snow from everywhere and anywhere.

Club des Sports were incredibly welcoming and organised some great events for us. The team enjoyed their fancy dress dual slalom on Christmas Eve and night slalom against the other infantry teams and seasonnaires. New Year's Eve saw the team get together to eat 140 chicken wings and play games in the slightly cramped apartment before a night in questionable fancy dress.

With the turn of the New Year came a more focused look at race training (when the snow allowed). Eventually race week came around and the team donned catsuits ready to ski the incredibly well put together courses. Success varied on both hills, with the team competition incredibly difficult to do well in as soon as a racer crashed out. On the A Hill there was various success with the team coming 4th of the infantry teams in giant slalom and Lt Wilson finishing 2nd in the individual super g. The B Hill saw a great performance from a majority novice team, with LSgt Foxcroft taking home a bronze in the slalom.

Of course, if you are good enough, you can extend your stay in the Alps for what seems like an indefinite period and congratulations must be made to Lt Wilson who made it onto the Infantry Ski Team and is enjoying fabulous conditions as I write. For the rest of us, it was a long drive back, after removing the meters of snow around the car, reminiscing about a fantastic exercise and plotting our return for the next one.





## Operating as NATO's High-Readiness Multi-National Battle Group Grenadier Guards 2017

by Major Hamish Hardy

In 2017 the 1st Battalion, Grenadier Guards formed the spine of NATO's Spearhead Battle Group as part of the Very High Readiness Joint Task Force (Land) – the VJTF(L). We have provided the headquarters, a rifle company and a support company while taking under command rifle companies from The Netherlands, Albania and Latvia. The Spearhead Battle Group forms a potent light role infantry force within the wider VJTF(L), which is based around 20 Armoured Brigade and units from 14 partner nations.

The VJTF(L) refers to the Land Component of the VJTF, which is the lead element of NATO's Response Force (NRF). Its creation was announced at the Cardiff NATO Summit in August 2014. The VJTF would be the first element to deploy in the event of a crisis response or an Article 5 operation. It would be reinforced by an Initial Follow on Force Group (IFFG) and then by a Follow on Force Group (FFG). The mission of the VJTF is to "assure, deter and contribute to countering threats against Alliance territory and populations, with a priority to Article 5 in order to demonstrate a collective Alliance response throughout SACEUR's AO and potentially beyond." Within that the Land element is to provide a rapid demonstration of force and early establishment of a NATO military presence.

While the command and control of these various forces is a complicated process at the highest levels, it has been practiced and tested at the BG level on exercises throughout 2016 in Germany, Albania, and Latvia and confirmed in Romania this summer. Despite some obvious frictions and the Dutch having a better grasp of the English language than we do, the battalion has formed strong relationships with our attached arms and partner nations. We have gained an understanding and overcome the inevitable difficulties of operating with very different armies. While the explanation of The Captain's title still provokes wrinkled foreheads, we have achieved a great deal of integration.

Throughout 2017 the battalion maintained elements on forty-eight hours' notice to move (R1), with the remainder on five days' notice to move (R2). The R1 elements consisted of the Battalion Headquarters, one of the rifle companies and elements of Support and Headquarter Companies. This has all been in the shadow of having to prepare for deployments to Afghanistan, Iraq and South Sudan in 2018. The Inkerman Company Headquarters provided liaison to the partner nation companies and 20 Brigade Headquarters, throughout the build up to and execution of our time on VJTF(L).

The Battalion has been able to prove that despite the expected difficulties, working in a multi-national battle group is not only possible but high levels of soldiering can be achieved. The partnerships have reshown the importance of detailed rehearsals as well as the assets and skills that smaller and less experienced NATO militaries can bring to bear. Whilst we have not deployed 'in anger' as part of the VJTF, the liaison and interoperability lessons learnt will, no doubt, be invaluable during next year's mentoring roles on operational deployments.

The Inkerman Company has returned from leave once again complete, with 11 Platoon re-joining the Company after their support to Number Two Company on VJTF. Following a highly successful run-out with the Battalion on LFTT in November, The Company is now preparing itself to support operations South Sudan, remaining flexible to manage other taskings should they arise. Prior to leave, the Company also enjoyed success at the Battalion's Boxing Night, with both fighters who made the finals winning their bouts.

The New Year has begun in earnest with the Company deploying on exercise the first week back, and the majority will now remain deployed on various exercises until Easter Leave. The continued support of the Pay Sergeant and his team in providing a well-stocked NAAFI complete with cheese toasties and hot dogs after patrols and attacks has kept spirits high, even in Brecon in the winter. As well as the anticipation growing as we get closer to operations, the benefit of our varied pre-deployment training for junior Guardsmen is tangible; with many gaining new qualifications and driving licences. The Company will now push into the second quarter of the year with renewed enthusiasm as we finalise our preparations to deploy overseas together.





## Where are they now?

by **Major Ben Jesty**

(written as at Feb 2018)

As I approach the end of my first six months as the ASO2 Foot Guards I echo my predecessor's comments on the pace of life in the Army Personnel Centre. Having just returned from nearly two months sailing across the Pacific with a number of other Grenadiers I wonder where the time has gone! In compiling the following I have noticed a couple of distinct trends in both the locations of our officers and the management of handovers. I'll leave you to enjoy working them out for yourselves...

**Lieutenant General Sir George Norton KCVO CBE** is expected to remain as the United Kingdom's Military Representative to NATO and the EU until mid-2020. It will no doubt be reassuring to know that there is continuity in at least one area as Brexit unfolds. In June 2017 he handed over his responsibilities as Regimental Lieutenant Colonel to **Major General Roly Walker DSO** who is taking over other new responsibilities in London. **Brigadier David Russell-Parsons OBE** is still the United Kingdom's Defence Attaché to Saudi Arabia and editor of this Gazette both of which burdens we hope he will continue to carry for the foreseeable future. **Brigadier James Bowder OBE** continues the Grenadier influence at the heart of the Army having taken over from General Roly as Director Strategy. **Colonel Richard Maundrell MVO** is now Commander British Forces, Somalia in which capacity he has also been looking after a brood of Grenadiers and other Foot Guards Officers that have been passing through East Africa over the last few months.

**Lieutenant Colonel Andrew James MBE** continues his tour of Europe's gastronomic highlights and is now the British Liaison officer to the French Force Preparation Centres Command in Champagne. **Lieutenant Colonel Simon Soskin** is still wielding his magic wand as SO1 Infantry Manpower Plans in the Directorate of Manning Army. **Lieutenant Colonel Martin David MC** is about to come back from being the Senior United Kingdom Liaison Officer on Op TURUS in Chad and will return to Paris as an exchange officer. **Lieutenant Colonel Richard Green** is still commanding Headquarters Regiment at ATR Pirbright and is the driving force

behind Guards Cricket. **Lieutenant Colonel Alex MacKay MBE** has finished his tour of Eastern Europe and The Solent as Commanding Officer of the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion and has departed to manage Force Generation within the Operations Directorate. Conveniently this is a role recently vacated by **Lieutenant Colonel Piers Ashfield DSO** who having finished in the Operations Directorate will now be marking his own homework as Commanding Officer. He will soon be deploying the battalion to Iraq, Afghanistan and South Sudan. **Lieutenant Col Guy Denison-Smith** has completed his military service as an SO1 at the Defence Academy and retired in September 2017. We wish him well.

**Acting Lieutenant Colonel Major James Greaves** continues as one of the Military Assistants to Commander Joint Operations. **Acting Lieutenant Colonel James Green** is now a student at the Advanced Command and Staff Course. Both will become substantive Lieutenant Colonels on the 30th June this year.

At the SO2 level, **Major Dom Alkin** has moved on from the Irish Guards and taken over as the Academy Adjutant. **Major Ed Paintin** has reluctantly torn himself away from the Army Personnel Centre having left a lasting impression on his colleagues and the furniture. He has relieved **Major Andrew Seddon** as the Senior Major which frees the latter up to return to Afghanistan as the Chief of Staff of the Kabul Security Force at a challenging time. **Major Simon Gordon-Lennox** has finished as The Captain and is now SO2 G7 Training at RMAS. That leaves **Major Neil Strachan** as The Captain alongside **Major Rupert King-Evans** as No 2 Company Commander. The Inkerman Company and Support Company are commanded by **Major Tim Rogers IG** and **Major Ben Powell MERCIAN** respectively. **Major Ben Jesty**, your author, has moved to continue what is becoming a Grenadier-tied post as SO2 Foot Guards at the Army Personnel Centre. **Major James Shaw** has moved on from 11 Brigade and is now SO2 Communications Policy within the Headquarters of the Assistant Chief of the General Staff. **Major Andrew Tiernan** is still seconded and finding it difficult to plan his diary around short notice deployments. **Major William Harries** is coming to the end of his time as the SO2 Operations, British Peace Support Team Kenya. The Foot Guards' East African diaspora will be one man poorer for his departure when he returns to take over

as No 2 Company Commander in the summer. **Major Mike Dobbin DSO MC** is filling an SO2 appointment in London. **Major Paddy Rice** has continued the Regimental Custom of taking over a job from another Grenadier by succeeding Major James Shaw as the SO2 Operations and Commitments in 11 Brigade. **Majors Alex Bayliss, Richard Da-Gama, Tom Hendriksen, James Taylor and Adam Wellesley-Wood** are all students on the Intermediate Command and Staff Course at the Defence Academy, Shrivenham and will shortly be departing for postings new. **Major James Brown** remains elusive but will be following them there later this year.

**Captain Hugo Cartwright** has brought some noticeable Grenadier élan to Headquarters 16 Brigade and has been rewarded with promotion on Beige List 18. He will be joined at Staff College by **Acting Major Johnny Hathaway-White** who will leave a considerable gap in 11 Brigade Headquarters and is remarkable for not having a Grenadier successor...yet. **Captain Chris Stevenson** completes the triumvirate of Grenadier promotions on Beige List 18 and after returning from Somalia will head to Shrivenham via a short stint in the Army Directorate of Operations and Commitments. **Captain Alex Budge** has moved from the Support Weapons School to be SO3 Operations B in Headquarters 3 (UK) Division. **Captain Will Harris** is currently deployed in East Africa and upon his return will take up a NATO staff appointment in Turkey – one that until recently was filled by a Grenadier. **Captain Mike Dobson** will soon hand over as Adjutant to **Captain Ben Tracey** and will head off to be Assistant Military Assistant (I don't make up the job titles) to General Roly. **Acting Major Hamish Hardy** has returned from Op BLANCA and is now the Officer Commanding Nijmegen Company. **Captain Ben Conway** has handed over as the Anti-Tank Platoon Commander to **Captain Jonathan Silver** upon his return from sailing the Pacific. **Captain Thomas Parkes** is handing over as the Reconnaissance Platoon Commander to **Captain Robert Laing** who has also just returned from the Tropics. Both Captains Conway and Parkes will be hoping to join **Captain Alex Shirreff** on secondment. **Captain Kaspar Varmuza** has taken over as Operations Officer and will be in post for the Battalion's deployments this year. Similarly, **Captain Charlie Williams** will provide insight as Intelligence Officer throughout. **Captain Chris Wright** continues in Nijmegen Company. **Captain Tom Hargreaves** is shortly to deploy to Afghanistan as a Liaison Officer to Afghan Special Forces. **Captain Oliver Wace** remains in command of the Mortar Platoon. **Captain Kit**

**Naughton** has finished as the Regimental Signals Officer and is now learning about the joys of staff work within Headquarters Home Command. **Captain Richard Phillips** is still a Platoon Commander within Guards Training Company whilst **Lieutenant Robert Thompson** is training the junior leaders of tomorrow at AFC Harrogate. We welcome **Captain Chris Pollard** to the Regiment from the Intelligence Corps, he is currently Second-in-Command of The Inkerman Company having taken over from **Captain George Barnes** who moved on to a long course. **Acting Captain Oliver Staunton** is Second-in-Command of No 2 Company while **Acting Captain Thomas Bolitho** is keeping an eye on General George as his ADC.

**Lieutenant Rufus Harding** is part of the Grenadier family in Somalia before returning to take over as a Platoon Commander at Catterick this summer. **Lieutenant Chris Wood** has taken over as Platoon Commander of the Guards Parachute Platoon, the first Grenadier in the post for a number of years. **Lieutenants Jonathan Palmer-Tomkinson, Alex Wilson, Fred Ide and Second Lieutenants Tristram Reames, Jake Sayers and Felix Tracey** complete the complement of Rifle Platoon Commanders of the 1st Battalion. In Nijmegen Company **Acting Captain Edmund Harmer** and **Lieutenants Thomas Holmes and Duncan Thorne** help settle young Guardsmen into the Regiment while ensuring standards are maintained on the forecourt and in the bars of West London.

We welcome **Second Lieutenants Mark Osmond, Phineas Riall and Oliver Watterton** to the Regiment and wish them well on the Platoon Commanders Battle Course.

In 2017 we said farewell to **Captains Kit Sanford, David Welham, Nico Wills, Jamie Garton, Fred Moynan and Alex Stonor** who all departed the Army to try their hands at something new. We wish them well and hope to see them at First Guards.

Of our Late Entry Officers **Lieutenant Colonel Vince Gaunt OBE** commands the London Central Garrison and looks forward to a well-earned retirement later this year. **Major Gordon Gask** is the Deputy Chief of Staff of the School of Infantry having relinquished command of Headquarter Company. **Major Neil England MBE** continues to marvel at the modern recruit as the Regimental 2ic of the 1st Bn ATC Pirbright. **Major Andy Butcher MBE** is for the time being in HQ 11 Inf Bde as the SO2 G1 Ops but looks forward to taking over as the Officer Commanding Support Company, 1st Battalion Irish Guards later this year. **Major Stumpy Keeley MBE** is SO2 G4 at RMAS. **Major Ian (Faz) Farrell**



has handed over as the Quartermaster of the 1st Battalion to **Acting Major Steve Munro** who has been selected for substantive promotion. **Acting Major Glenn Haughton** approaches the end of his time as the Army Sergeant Major and will be looking forward to attending Staff College early next year. **Captain Darren Westlake** has handed over as Regimental Careers Management Officer to **Captain Howard Lawn** and has himself moved on to become the Quartermaster Technical. **Captain John Frith** is the Command Sergeant Major of 3 UK Division.

**Captain Ty-Lee Bearder** is the Mechanized Transport Officer and has also been doing sterling work as the Battalion Boxing Officer.

A glance down the list of achievements of the Regiment's officers at Regimental Duty and beyond is just cause for pride for all Grenadiers, serving or retired. With a talented group of young officers coming through we can all be confident that the future of the Regiment is as bright as its past and present.

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

**Major Michael Smith** joined the Army as a clarinetist, serving in England, Northern Ireland and Cyprus with The Worcestershire & Sherwood

Foresters Regiment before being selected to attend the Bandmaster Course at The Royal Military School of Music, Kneller Hall. He graduated in 1996 winning the Commandant's Prize and the coveted Worshipful Company of Musicians's Medal and then completed his Bachelor of Arts Degree and gained his Licentiate of the Royal School of Music in Conducting.

As an Army Bandmaster he served with The Band of The Prince of Wales's Division (Clive) based at Ternhill, and the Band of the Grenadier Guards in Central London. He then returned to the Royal Military School of Music in the appointment of Training Design Warrant Officer where his role included the design and maintenance of the Bandmaster Course and the selection of Student Bandmasters to commence training.

In April 2008 he was selected for a commission into the Corps of Army Music and was appointed Director of Music The Band of The Royal Irish Regiment (TA) based in Holywood, Northern Ireland. This was followed by a 6 month assignment as Project Officer, Headquarters Corps of Army Music.

In October 2010 he was appointed Director of Music The Band of the Corps of Royal Engineers in Chatham, Kent. After just 8 months with the Engineers Band he was asked to take up the much coveted appointment of Director of Music the Band of the Grenadier Guards in June 2011.

In July 2013 he was assigned to Headquarters Corps of Army Music in a staff officer post dealing with the deployment of Musicians on Overseas Operations. After 6 months he assumed the role of Corps Secretary, Corps of Army Music and then in April 2015 was appointed Chief Instructor at the Royal Military School of Music.

In March 2017 Major Smith had the honour and unique distinction of returning to the Grenadier Band as their Director of Music.

Outside of his military duties he conducts Eynsford Concert Band, based in Kent, leading them to be crowned 2014 National Concert Band champions and also as the UK representatives at the European Championships for Wind Orchestras held in Holland in May 2016.



## Warrant Officer Class One Sarah Marinescu LRSM BA (Hons) Bandmaster

**W**O1 Sarah Marinescu joined the Army as a violinist, clarinettist and pianist, having graduated from Bath Spa University with a First Class Honours degree in music. Prior to joining the Army, she had a career in the legal profession and also spent time working in Andorra, Austria and France.

WO1 Marinescu completed Phase 1 training in Winchester and Phase 2 training at The Royal Military School of Music, where she won prizes for performance, academic and string playing. On completion of training, she was assigned to the Band of the Irish Guards and performed in all State Ceremonial and Household Division events. She has performed regularly as a soloist and with the CAMUS Sinfonietta and Household Division String Orchestra.

In 2009, she was selected to attend the Bandmaster Course at The Royal Military School of Music. On completion of the course in 2012, WO1 Marinescu gained a Licentiate Diploma in Wind Band Direction from the Royal School of Music and also won the Academic Prize for her studies. After graduating, she was assigned to work in the role of Training Development Team Warrant Officer at Headquarters Corps of Army Music.

In 2013, WO1 Marinescu was appointed Bandmaster to The Band of The Army Air Corps. During this period, she was selected for a specialist role as Strings Capability Champion during the restructuring period of Army Music under FAM2020. In May 2014, she moved to the Training Design and Courses Warrant Officer position at the Royal Military School of Music.



In August 2016, she returned to the Household Division on appointment as Bandmaster to the Band of the Grenadier Guards.



## OBITUARY

### *We will remember them*

The Executive Committee deeply regrets that notification has been received of the death of the following Grenadiers.

|               |                           |                                 |          |                             |                                 |
|---------------|---------------------------|---------------------------------|----------|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 22545446      | M Bacon                   |                                 | 24378385 | S Jones                     | Yorkshire                       |
| 23450852      | P Bagg                    | Norfolk                         | 24950504 | D Jones                     | 1st Battalion                   |
| 22662533      | W Bailes                  | Walsall                         | 2624279  | DJ Keenan                   |                                 |
| 2626380       | N Ball                    | Wigan, St. Helens<br>& District | 22545865 | MR Kilduff                  | East Kent                       |
|               |                           | Suffolk                         | 23265261 | JE Lamb                     | Nottinghamshire                 |
| 23688127      | A Beecroft                |                                 | 22545810 | D Langfield                 |                                 |
| Major         | DV Bendall, CMG, MBE      |                                 | 24405600 | K Lee                       | Northumbria                     |
| 21006178      | SA Bennett                | Wolverhampton                   | 22213739 | EH Legg                     | Lincoln                         |
| 23688674      | EJ Bennett                | Gloucestershire                 | 24141065 | G Lightfoot                 |                                 |
| 23879891      | TW Bingham                | Nottinghamshire                 | 2626625  | CV Limb                     | Chesterfield                    |
| 24048753      | KP Blanshard              | London                          | 22213442 | CH Lovell                   |                                 |
| 22213365      | JI Brampton               |                                 | 24193099 | MD Male                     | Yorkshire                       |
| 22765621      | D Branson                 | Norfolk                         | Lord     | Roger Mannors               |                                 |
| 22955638      | B Brown                   | Walsall                         | 14220383 | FH McDonald                 | London                          |
|               | K Bruce, Esq              |                                 | 22677838 | Father R McGivern           | Wigan, St. Helens<br>& District |
| 2622790       | FWV Bryan                 | Wolverhampton                   |          |                             | Gloucestershire                 |
| 2628254       | SC Butcher                | 2016                            | 22955978 | EH Miller                   |                                 |
| 22955769      | JBW Bycroft               | Windsor                         | 2620362  | N Mitchell                  |                                 |
| 23293101      | AJ Callan                 | Manchester                      | 2629256  | F Neal                      | Chesterfield                    |
| 22213246      | FG Carter                 |                                 | 24263631 | R Norris                    | Worcester & Hereford            |
| 2625122       | RF Charlton               | Manchester                      | 22886368 | R Norris                    | Essex                           |
| 14028487      | WH Clarke                 | Cambridge                       | 2626649  | D Norsworthy                | Bristol                         |
| 22232594      | PR Cleverley              | North America                   | 14865901 | P Palmer                    | East Kent                       |
| 23688665      | C Clitheroe               | Manchester                      | 23509716 | DI Parr                     | March                           |
| 21006175      | FE Coe                    | Windsor                         | 23879726 | RE Peach                    | London                          |
| 2624445       | SA Collins                | Windsor                         | 23509656 | J Pearce                    | Oxfordshire                     |
|               | JS Cresswell Turner Esq   |                                 | 23865023 | C Pendry                    | Shropshire                      |
|               | TB Cubitt, Esq            |                                 | 2627490  | K Perkin                    | London                          |
| 14576571      | H Curzon                  | Manchester                      | 19165172 | W Pickford                  | Matlock                         |
| 24021002      | GR Davenport              |                                 | 23252105 | H Plater                    | Walsall                         |
|               | PJS Dixon, Esq            |                                 | 22955619 | J Porter                    | London                          |
| 14701896      | PS Durrant                | Wessex                          | 2615843  | GEB Pritchard               | Shropshire                      |
| 2628824       | MA Fairey                 |                                 | 2615982  | R Puleston                  | Wessex                          |
| 23437010      | JA Peakings               | Norfolk                         | 2617892  | R Raines                    | 2016                            |
| 23509229      | RD Fellows                | Worcester & Hereford            | Major    | D Randell, MBE              |                                 |
| 24048759      | P Fern                    |                                 | 2628942  | J Renney                    |                                 |
| 22899720      | J Fox                     |                                 | 23252405 | JW Revill                   | Matlock                         |
| 24599256      | D Friend                  |                                 | 23509475 | P Ridgley                   | Aylesbury                       |
| 2626496       | TC Gentle                 | Kingston                        | 2628294  | RO Russell                  | Windsor                         |
| Captain       | GCB Gidley-Kitchin        |                                 | 22955390 | P Sanders                   | Walsall                         |
| 22213520      | JH Gittins                | Shropshire                      | 2625409  | VJR Saunders                |                                 |
| 24598258      | KJ Goddard                | Chesterfield                    | 22503307 | SD Scott                    | Wessex                          |
| 22157771      | R Goldstein               | East Kent                       | 24021869 | A Sharman                   |                                 |
| 23179467      | TA Goode                  |                                 | 22673193 | JR Smith                    |                                 |
| Major General | BC Gordon Lennox, CB, MBE |                                 |          | JB Sumner, Esq              |                                 |
| 24048626      | K Gosling                 | Lincoln                         | 22955489 | MA Taylor                   | London                          |
| 24336193      | AD Gransden               |                                 | 23509760 | JV Thomas                   | Bristol                         |
| 22213711      | A Gregory                 | North Staffordshire             | 2622714  | S Thomas                    |                                 |
| 2627517       | R Hadley                  |                                 | 2627670  | JV Tidd                     | Nottinghamshire                 |
| 23144509      | LA Haigh                  |                                 | 23509268 | D Truffett                  |                                 |
| 2621641       | F Hamer                   | London                          | 22955106 | DF Wedge                    | Surrey & E. Hants               |
| 2627697       | RT Hardy                  |                                 | 22955228 | RD Wemyss                   | 2016                            |
| 23575989      | HN Heath                  | Lincoln                         | 2627498  | HC West                     | East Kent                       |
| Captain       | JP Hodge                  |                                 | 23929583 | RJ Whittington              |                                 |
| Captain       | DD Horn                   |                                 | 2626484  | JJ Whyte                    | North America                   |
| 23509181      | JM Hovenden               | London                          | Lt Col   | The Lord Wigram, MC, DL, JP |                                 |
| 23737539      | MD Hunt                   | Windsor                         | 23050521 | GJ Willis                   | Gloucestershire                 |
| 2626851       | WEA Ivery                 | Wessex                          | Captain  | RF Willmott                 |                                 |
| 23629557      | C Jackson                 | Manchester                      | 21006140 | WE Wilson                   |                                 |
| 2624154       | AE Jefferies              | Gloucestershire                 | 24104706 | IA Wotherspoon              | Lincoln                         |
| 2623330       | FW Jones                  | Bristol                         |          |                             |                                 |



## Major General B C Gordon Lennox CB MBE

### *Late Grenadier Guards*

*"Legendary, awe inspiring Grenadier, the like of which may never be seen again."*



**B**ernard Gordon Lennox, who has died aged 85, was, to many who served with him, the very embodiment of the Regiment. With a formidable and decisive personality, his reputation for upholding and insisting upon the very highest standards ensured that his presence was felt before, during and after any meeting with

him. Highly principled, resolute and with firm views, he commanded the respect of all those he encountered, but it was his understanding, support, concern and care for all, whether family, employees, guardsmen or Generals, that earned him the love and affection of a huge body of devotees.

Born in London, he was the eldest son of Lieutenant General Sir George and Lady Gordon Lennox (Nan), he was Page of Honour to King George VI between 1946 and 1949. After Eton, where he shone academically and played cricket for the First XI, and Sandhurst, where he won the Sword of Honour, he was commissioned into the Grenadier Guards in 1953. This was the regiment of both his grandfather, Major Lord Bernard Gordon Lennox, who was killed in action near Ypres in 1914, and his father who had served gallantly during World War II. Thereafter his career advanced as, forthright and full of ideas, he proved his exceptional ability and relentless energy in both regimental and staff appointments.

Postings to Berlin with the 1st Battalion, then as Assistant Adjutant of the 2nd Battalion in Egypt followed, before being appointed Adjutant of the 1st Battalion. It was here that his formidable reputation for high standards became established. A keen eye for detail ensured that any drop in standards through laziness, lack of effort or inefficiency was rewarded with extra duties or time in the guard room for the miscreant. There aren't many who served with him then who haven't got a story to tell, told fondly now, or indeed many (or any) who escaped penalty. Unusually for the time, whilst Adjutant, he found time to make the best decision of his life; to marry Sally-Rose Warner, his devoted wife of over fifty nine years.

After the Royal Military College of Science and Staff College between 1962 and 1963, he returned in 1964 as Captain of the Queen's Company, 1st Battalion, an

appointment he viewed with honour for the rest of his life. In 1965, they deployed on a six month operational peace keeping tour in Cyprus with the United Nations. When not keeping the peace he played cricket and polo and on one occasion, while playing polo he was told that a murder had been committed nearby. He galloped off to investigate wearing his United Nations blue cravat and carrying his polo stick. The startled villagers had never seen anything like it. Uncomfortable without a tie, he wore that cravat for many years thereafter as his attempt to "dress down".

Bernard was Police Military Operations Officer on the Staff of HQLF Hong Kong in the 1966 to 1967 emergency. He organised excellent police and military liaison in quelling serious riots and joint actions against revolutionaries and recognised the dividend of a strong Special Branch and the firm action taken by the Ghurkha Brigade on the Hong Kong border which perhaps influenced his approach later during the Northern Irish troubles. He was appointed MBE at the end of his tour for his "sympathetic and energetic efforts to quell the riots".

In 1968 when he went to the Guards Depot as Officer Commanding 14th Company he was responsible for the Athletics team which swept all before them. This was followed as Senior Major 2nd Battalion during its deployment on one of the first emergency tours to Northern Ireland in 1969. At a Christmas party in the officers mess a game of charades was played and Bernard was handed a folded piece of paper with his nickname "Bernie the Bolt" written on it. He leapt about the room firing imaginary arrows, with his brother officers all pretending that they could not guess what he was attempting to mime.

Swapping his operational combat clothes for a frock coat, he was appointed Brigade Major, Household Division, in 1971 where once again his reputation for high standards was reinforced, this time amongst the whole of the Household Division. He was next promoted to Commanding Officer 1st Battalion who were stationed in Munster, but were soon deployed to Londonderry on a four month emergency tour from March to July 1974. Bernard set about the task with his customary energy and tough, uncompromising approach and his priorities were first to dominate the Creggan and neutralize the gunmen, and second to build up the intelligence picture. It was a very successful tour and a final flourish from the local press read: "Grenadiers – A New Arrest Interrogation Record?" Londonderry was a safer place as a result and Bernard, who had personally arrested many terrorists, was Mentioned in Despatches. On leaving, as was the custom, he sent a valedictory signal to Brigade Head Quarters to which the Brigadier replied personally with words to the effect "Thank you for your signal; on the contrary may I say how much I have enjoyed serving under your command".

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The Battalion returned to Chelsea and during 1975, HRH Prince Philip was appointed Colonel and the Battalion trooped the Colour, with Bernard, following some opera training to hone his voice, commanding. He relinquished command in January 1976, to his brother David Gordon Lennox on a six week training exercise in Kenya. Neither he nor his brother had any hair to speak of which prompted two more nicknames...on this occasion ones that he knew. On handing over, Bernard once again sent a signal, this time to The Major General in London. "Kojak, handed over to Brojak, I'm alright Jack" to which they got the response "Don't be so bloody cheeky...signed Stavros, 11th Precinct". Bernard was an aficionado of Kojak, Starsky and Hutch, Dad's Army, 'Allo 'Allo, Agatha Christie, opera and all musical theatre, much of which inspired open, guffawing laughter and enjoyment.

He became a Colonel in 1977 and was with the Army Directing Staff at the RAF Staff College. The following year he was promoted to Brigadier and appointed Commander 20th Armoured Brigade at Detmold, then temporarily named "Task Force H". Still very much at a time of cold war, this was a plum, much coveted, job and he threw his energies at it. The cavalry, infantry, Army Air Corps and B echelon soldiers under his command didn't quite know what had hit them but by the time he returned to London as a Member at the Royal College of Defence Studies in 1980, their standards had been vastly improved.

He was posted to HQ South East District as Deputy Commander and Chief of Staff the following year. During this time General Galtieri invaded the Falkland Islands and 5th Infantry Brigade formed part of the Task Force sent to recapture the islands. Try hard as he might, he didn't manage to sail with them, but having made a telephone call to some old family friends, he secured tens of thousands of acres of Welsh mountains where he trained them in the run up to embarkation.

He was promoted to Major General in 1982 and assumed the appointment of GOC of the British Sector in Berlin from 1983 to 1985. In practical terms his responsibilities were to train and administer the servicemen under his command, but also to be responsible for Herr Hess, the solitary prisoner in Spandau Prison, and also the large Berlin budget, to act as the Senior British Diplomatic Representative in West Berlin, and to act as the sheet anchor for the British intelligence agencies based in Berlin. He and Sally-Rose were fantastically convivial hosts to Royalty and Ministers and their house, the Villa Lemm, positively buzzed with life and laughter. It was a challenging but fascinating and ever-changing job and Bernard was appointed CB at the end of his tour. Finally, in 1986 he became Senior Army Member at the Royal College of Defence Studies, before retiring from the Army in 1988.

After a short dalliance with a motoring association, he threw his all, as was his custom, in to his next challenges. This was no real retirement, just a different focus or focuses, making the most of all his passions.

He remained close to the Regiment and was appointed the first honorary Regimental Lieutenant Colonel in 1989, the same year the Regimental Council was formed and chaired by the Colonel, HRH Prince Philip. That Nijmegen Company was retained when the 2nd Battalion finally went into suspended animation in 1994 was in no small measure due to Bernard's drive and determination. He handed over in 1995.

Bernard inherited Gordon Castle on the River Spey on the death of his father in 1988. There was much to do as is so often the case with generational change. He stabilised the situation but at the same time realised what an important role Gordon Castle fishings had to play in the region and on the river as a whole. He brought his trademark directness and common sense to the management of the river and sat on the Spey District Fishery Board until he retired in 2008. He ran the family involvement with fishing, as Chairman of the Brae Water Trust, with a very polite rod of iron. Bernard loved nothing more than entertaining friends, his children and his children's friends at Gordon Castle. He loved supporting and encouraging them and there are many stories of him stalking up and down the river, immaculately dressed as ever, willing fish to get on the end of their lines....it's surprising that they didn't just do as they were told... and a few stories of him taking off socks and shoes and plunging into the river to net the fish on their lines. He ran Gordon Castle and the fishing on the Spey, the largest single managed fishery in Britain, often catching thousands of salmon a year, for 20 years.

He was asked to be Chairman of the Guards Polo Club at Smith's Lawn at the point at which it morphed from a military to a civilian club. He was an accomplished and respected Chairman from 1992 to 1999. These were testing times with old military traditions trying to meld with the high stakes, high rolling pressures of the modern commercial, sponsor driven, world. He did it with aplomb, toughness and diplomacy, although many suspected he would have loved to have to treated some of the billionaire "patrons" as he had dealt with those young officers all those years ago when he was Adjutant. He was gloriously unaware of the "A list" celebrities he had to entertain in the Royal Box, although he did once observe that a certain Oscar winning female American movie star was "very well put together"!

Bernard may have had soldiering in his blood, but he was a sportsman at heart and a family man to the core. He had played all manner of sports to a high standard and was an excellent shot and accomplished fisherman.

Although there are famous stories about his unique

batting stance and slow scoring as an opening batsman, none compare with the serendipitous story of him eking out a single to reach a century when well over the age he should have stopped playing, and the Regimental band at Burton's Court striking up "The British Grenadiers" on the boundary as if to celebrate. Thereafter, he kept up with his love of cricket where previously he had played extensively for the Eton Ramblers, Izingari, Free Forrester's and at Burton's Court, by following his children and grandchildren across the country to support and cajole them. Having previously embarrassed many an ADC, beaten by a man twice their age, he was still playing squash, another passion, well into retirement, humiliating younger players, including his sons. Having said that, his children and grandchildren have benefitted enormously from Bernard's genes, excelling at cricket, squash and tennis.

He married Sally-Rose Warner in 1958 and she was a wonderful support all his life. They had three sons: Edward, who followed him into the Grenadiers and having also won the Sword of Honour at Sandhurst is now a leadership consultant, Angus, also a Grenadier, later became an investment banker and now runs the family Gordon Castle estate and Charlie, who founded the Keyholding Company in London. He was "Bompa" to his eight grandchildren. His wife and sons all survive him.

There will be a Thanksgiving Service to celebrate his life at The Guards Chapel at 2.30 pm on Friday 23rd March.

## Captain D D Horn

### *Late Grenadier Guards*

*by Colonel A T W Duncan LVO OBE  
Formerley Grenadier Guards*



David Horn, who has died aged 77, was born on 11th August 1939. His maternal grandfather served in the Boer War with the Iniskilling Fusiliers. His father and his paternal grandfather both served in what became the Royal Army Medical Corps. He intended to become a silversmith and training for this profession delayed

his call up for National Service until 1960, when he was summoned to the local Recruiting Office.

He discovered that if he signed on for three years instead of two he would be able to join the regiment of his choice. As an accomplished horseman, he opted for the Household Cavalry until he was informed, untruthfully, by a Grenadier recruiter this would mean signing on for

nine years. He was also informed that the Grenadiers had horses without being told that these were very few and ridden only by officers. However, David fell for the bait and signed on as a Grenadier.

Unlike most of his fellow recruits, he enjoyed his recruit training at the Guards Depot at Pirbright. Towards the end of his training he injured one of his hands and was put on light duties in the Depot Stables cleaning tack. It is possible that this brief period began his interest in saddlery and horse furniture in which he became such an expert later in life. On completion of his training he was posted to 1st Battalion Grenadier Guards at Tidworth.

Due to his immaculate handwriting he was given an employed job as the Quartermaster's Clerk. Although he did well and was promoted to Corporal, to his mind it was not proper soldiering. When asked if he would sign on at the end of his conscription he replied "Not as a Clerk". He was immediately cross posted to The Queen's Company. He rose steadily through the ranks, serving on operational tours in the British Cameroons, Sharjah and Northern Ireland. On promotion to Warrant Officer he was posted first to the Guards Depot as Company Sergeant Major of 14 Company and then to Sandhurst as Company Sergeant Major of Rhine Company.

He returned to 1st Battalion two years later and was appointed a Drill Sergeant. On promotion to Warrant Officer Class One, he was selected to be the Regimental Sergeant Major of the Infantry Battalion of the Honourable Artillery Company (HAC). This began an association which lasted throughout his life. At the end of his tour he was selected for a Short Service Commission and posted to 2nd Battalion Grenadier Guards in BAOR as Families Officer. He coped well with responsibility for some 350 wives and children and found time to run a very successful Saddle Club. The Battalion returned to Chelsea Barracks and having successfully re-housed the families in the London area, David handed over and moved to a new job as Camp Commandant Wellington Barracks.

The Barracks was just completing a major rebuild, including a purpose built Guards Museum. David joined the Guards Museum Committee. It quickly became obvious with his interest and expertise in the Militaria and Regimental Artefacts of the Foot Guards that he would be ideally suited to become the first curator. He was appointed as such before the completion of his Short Service Commission. As Curator he proved to be an excellent choice. Through his enthusiasm, knowledge and vision he gathered a superb collection of Regimental items displaying the history of the five Regiments from their founding to the present day and showing their close link to the Sovereign.

He made the Guards Museum the finest Regimental Museum in the Country. Under his stewardship, it



became the first to be awarded Registered Status under the Museums Libraries and Archives Professional Standards Scheme. He masterminded six major exhibitions in the Museum, including one to mark the 350th anniversary of the Grenadier Guards, and he played a major role in fund raising events including two Massed Band Concerts in the Festival Hall in the presence of members of the Royal Family. He also advised the major Television Companies for several years on The Queen's Birthday Parade and on numerous military and ceremonial events.

On his return from Germany, he had renewed his association with the HAC. He joined the Company of Pikemen and Musketeers and rose to command it as Captain of Pikes. In this capacity, he would lead the Company on horseback, wearing armour and a helmet, when it took part in the Lord Mayor's Show. In 2006, he led the Company when it went to Rome to participate in the 500th Anniversary Celebrations of the Papal Guard, the Swiss Guard in the Vatican. The Pikemen were the first foreign contingent ever to parade with the Swiss Guard. The Pikemen also found the Bearer Party at David's funeral.

David retired as Curator in 2005 after 22 years and handed over to Andrew Wallis, who built on the framework that David created and has given the Museum an international reputation. David remained actively involved as a consultant. In retirement at Ampport in Hampshire, David became involved with Riding for the Disabled teaching others less fortunate than himself to ride. He also took part in other community activities until failing health made this impossible.

He is survived by his son Chris and daughter Sarah. He was so proud when Sarah accompanied him when he rode out from Knightsbridge and equally proud when Chris served in the King's Troop RHA. David had a wonderful sense of humour, which never deserted him even during the last sad days of his illness. Every visit brought a smile and reminiscences often brought much laughter. He was man of delightful personality and many talents who will be much missed by his family and his many friends.



## Lieutenant Colonel The Lord Wigram MC

*by Major General Sir Evelyn  
Webb-Carter KVC OBE*



Neville Wigram who died aged 101 on 23rd May was always very proud of being a Grenadier. As a child he had watched the sentries outside Norman Tower in Windsor Castle where his father lived whilst Private Secretary to King George V. In young Neville's opinion, which of course was not then of much importance, the

smartest sentries, (by far he would tell me) were Grenadiers and so at a young age he resolved to join them. He was a godson and Page of Honour to King George V and his association with the Royal Family continued. On one occasion whilst Regimental Adjutant he was instructed to wear a new type of military dress which had to be approved by the King George VI. The Director of Ordnance Services was very concerned whether Major Wigram would understand the etiquette but the Director was taken aback when the King entered the room and said "My goodness Neville, you do look a guy".

Neville was educated at Winchester College and Magdalen College Oxford; he was very proud to be the Sen Man at Winchester. He had a lifelong love of cricket and delighted in going to Lords whenever he could. However whilst still at Oxford he found himself in Forres playing for the North of Scotland XI against the Australian Test touring team captained by Sir Donald Bradman. Batting as a tail ender he scored 16 runs in his first over against Chipperfield including a six, 6 in his second and by the end of the match he was 28 not out. As he put it "for a short time I was a hero".

In 1937 as he had long intended he joined the Grenadier Guards alongside Miles Fitzalan Howard with whom he remained a lifelong friend always sitting next to him at First Guards Club Dinners. Before joining the 1st Battalion he reported to the Lieutenant Colonel Commanding the Regiment, Charles Britten, affectionately known as "The Ancient Britten" who proffered the startling advice that if he were going to purchase a car he should ensure it had a high enough roof for a top hat! In due course he was trained as the Battalion's Motor Transport Officer and it was in that role that in September 1939 he went to France and Belgium as part of 7th Guards Brigade in the Division commanded by Bernard Montgomery. I remember very clearly that whenever 'Monty' came up in the

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conversation Neville would recall how lucky the battalion was to be in his Division. In May as the crisis developed, he was responsible for recovering as much of the Battalion's transport and move them back to the coast. At La Panne Neville and his group of drivers having been forced to abandon their vehicles marched down the coast to Dunkirk; it was a journey he would never forget. He had a lucky escape when a shell fragment hit his water bottle inside his small pack which probably saved his life. He kept the pack as a keep sake and a few years ago had the eyes of a group of schoolchildren out on stalks as he described his experience. He returned safely on the Ben-My-Chree, an Isle of Man to Liverpool ferry.

Various appointments followed during the retraining of the Army from 1940 to 1944. Two events occurred during this time, one happy and the other tragic. In July 1941 he married Poppy Thorne, the daughter of General "Bulgy" Thorne. It was to be a lifelong romance but in September 1943 his brother Francis was killed at Salerno serving with the 6th Battalion of the Grenadiers. In 1945 it was as commander of a Squadron of Sherman tanks in the 2nd Armoured Battalion that he next saw action in Belgium and Holland. Having crossed the Rhine in March his squadron working with the King's Company came up against stiff resistance from a unit of the SS in the small town of Aalten. For his courage and leadership at Aalten Neville was awarded an immediate Military Cross. In 2010 Celia, my wife and I accompanied Neville, then aged 95, to a moving ceremony in the town where he was most warmly welcomed.

In April 1945 Neville's squadron supporting the 1st Battalion helped to liberate a German POW camp at Sandbostel and the conditions he found there were appalling and the evidence of cruelty left a lasting impression on him. Just after this action one of his subalterns, Miles Marriott, an only son was killed by shellfire and later when on leave Neville went to visit the boy's parents. It was a sad duty but as a result the Miles Marriott Trust was established to assist Grenadier officers to educate their children.

After the War Neville and Poppy went with their two children to New Zealand as Neville had been appointed Military Secretary to Lord Freyberg, The Governor General. Three happy years ensued and as there was no rationing there the family prospered. In 1950 Neville was Regimental Adjutant whilst Geordie Gordon Lennox was The Lieutenant Colonel and from the stories it seems he spent most of his time working on the arrangements for Geordie to take over the lease of Gordon Castle. Some readers who have had to learn a phrase or two in a foreign language when commanding a Guard of Honour can thank or otherwise Neville for

the custom. In March 1950 he was nominated to command the Guard of Honour for the State Visit of the President of France, Monsieur Vincent Auriol. Before the war Neville had got most of the way to pass the interpreters exam in French but this was interrupted by the war. So, on his own initiative he presented his Guard of Honour to the President in French. The King so approved of this courtesy that it continues to this day; maybe not to everybody's comfort!

In 1955 he took over command of the 1st Battalion in Hubbelrath but sadly not long after taking command Neville was involved in an accident with an Austin Champ, notoriously dangerous vehicles as they had a habit of turning over and on this occasion Neville was thrown through the windscreen and suffered serious head injuries. The squadron leader in the vehicle lost the use of his legs. In due course Neville recovered but it meant having to leave command very early and was then invalided out of the Army. All this was a great disappointment to him but, as ever pragmatic; he turned to farming and bought Poulton Fields, a lovely farm in Gloucestershire where he and his family lived in great happiness. He became an accomplished breeder of Clun Forest sheep winning many prizes at Country Shows and as ever loyal to his regiment managed to recruit a Grenadier foreman and tractor driver.

He became very involved in County affairs and was soon in much demand with Scouts, The Lieutenancy and the local church. He was a much loved and respected President of the Bath and Bristol Branches of the Grenadier Guards Associations. Outside Gloucestershire he was a Governor of The Westminster Hospital as indeed his father had been and today there is a Lord Wigram Ward in the Chelsea and Westminster Hospital. Also he was a General Commissioner of Income Tax for Cirencester, President of the Bath and West Show and Governor of both Rendcomb College in Gloucestershire and The Lord Wandsworth College. Tragically his wife Poppy died in 1986 aged 69 but he continued to lead a busy life until his 90s when he moved into a bungalow in Fairford. Remarkably he remained healthy and retained his memory and wonderful sense of mischief to the very end. Always courteous, modest and patient he was a wonderful father and father in law. I never once heard him raise his voice. He was a true "English Gentleman".

He loved his family; he had nine grandchildren and seven great grandchildren and nothing more he liked than the gatherings of the whole family at Christmas, at christenings and weddings and most especially his 100th Birthday Lunch. He will be particularly missed by his three children, daughters Cherry and Celia and his son Andrew, also a Grenadier, who has served the Royal Family and has succeeded to the title.

## Captain B D Double

*Late Grenadier Guards*



We are very sad to record the death of Captain Barry Double, peacefully at St Nicholas Hospice, Bury St Edmunds, on 2nd February 2018. Barry followed a clerical path up the ranks of the Regiment and in doing so acquired an encyclopaedic knowledge of it; this stood him in good stead as a notable Superintending Clerk at

Regimental Headquarters from 1977 to 1980. He later became Regimental Treasurer and General Secretary of the Grenadier Guards Association and was widely acknowledged as THE authority on the 'workings' of the Association; Association General Secretaries who followed him (to say nothing of Regimental Adjutants!), frequently had cause to be grateful for his knowledge and advice. One of his hobbies was mounting and framing medal groups, and many of those displayed at Regimental Headquarters were a result of his endeavours.

A full Obituary will be put forward for inclusion in an edition of the Guards' Magazine later in the year, and in the Grenadier Gazette in 2019.

## Captain D Randell MBE

*by Major S H Dehnel MBE*



"Come here that horrible-looking cadet, Sir!". A dry rasping voice rang out across the Victory Collage parade ground at Sandhurst, indicating that some unsuspecting cadet had made the 'tactical error of coming into vision of the then Company Sergeant-Major of Rhine Company. A hazard well known and remembered by the many

officers who were trained at the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst by the legendary "Joe Randell".

Dennis (Joe) Randell died peacefully aged 91 following a fall that rendered him unconscious but his indomitable character sustained him for several weeks. Joe was born in 1925 in Southampton and was the youngest of four brothers and a sister. He started working life as an apprentice bricklayer but that was short lived, he enlisted in the Grenadier Guards in Caterham in 1943 at the age of 18 years.

To start at the beginning of his career; records state that Randell, D., enlisted into the Grenadier Guards on 2nd December 1943. Although it is hard to imagine a Sergeant-Major as a recruit, he is remembered as sitting to attention on his bed at Caterham glaring at his kit, while cleaning it, that burning look became renowned in later years. From there he was posted to the Training Battalion stationed at Windsor and promoted to Lance-Corporal in 1945.

He was then posted to the 1st Battalion during the final advance through Germany to the Elbe. After VE Day the Battalion moved to Berlin and Corporal Randell was a member the Guard of Honour at the Brandenburg Gate for the Russian Marshals Zhukov and Rokossovsky, when they were presented by Field-Marshal Montgomery with the GCB and KCB respectively; later he was also on the Guard of Honour at Gatow Airport for the Prime-Minister (Winston Churchill) when he arrived for the Potsdam Conference – who could have known that twenty years later Sergeant-Major Randell was to train the bearer party for Sir Winston Churchill's funeral!

In 1946 he was posted to the Guards Depot as an instructor and was promoted to Lance-Sergeant. Eighteen months later he returned to the 1st Battalion as a Gold Sergeant to serve in Palestine and Tripoli until May 1949, he was then posted to the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst. This was the first of three outstandingly successful tours. Firstly as a Sergeant for three years between 1949 and 1952, serving with Waterloo, Rhine, Dettingen and Normandy companies; then as the dreaded





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Company Sergeant-Major of Rhine Company from 1954 to 1956 when the Company won the coveted Drill Competition twice running. Finally, as College Sergeant-Major of Old College from 1960 to 1962. It was Sandhurst where Sergeant-Major Randell really made his name. What is for certain, is that many generations of young cadets would have left Sandhurst and risen to high office with the virtues that Joe had instilled in them. These virtue would have stood them in good stead throughout their lives.

On his return to the 1st Battalion at Chelsea in 1952 he was appointed Pay Sergeant of Headquarter Company and was on parade for the Coronation. In 1953 the Battalion moved to Germany where he was appointed Company Sergeant-Major of Support Company. Then after his second tour at Sandhurst he went to the 3rd Battalion at Windsor as the Assistant Drill Sergeant, moving to Cyprus in 1956. In 1957 he moved to Windsor to join the 2nd Battalion and was promoted Drill Sergeant, thereafter they moved to the windswept wastes of Lydd and then to Cyprus. Six months later, after a brief pause at Lydd again, they moved to Germany. He left the 2nd Battalion in 1960 returning to them in 1962 as The Sergeant Major. The Battalion was then stationed at Caterham, but they were soon off again, this time to British Guiana. Here many a platoon sentry on exercise in the jungle could be excused for thinking that the tropics had claimed yet another victim, as they observed an immaculate figure in starched khaki drill, with gleaming boots, forage cap and pace-stick advancing towards them down a most improbable track, only to be jerked back to reality by a roar, "If you don't challenge me, 'boy' ....!"

The Battalion returned to Caterham and London duties in March, 1964, where Sergeant-Major Randell took a detachment to Australia for the British Industries Trade Fair. In November 1964 the Battalion moved to Cyrenaica, North Africa, on training, thus surely setting something of a record in peace-time travel for a Sergeant-Major.

In 1965 he played a critical role at the Funeral of Sir Winston Churchill, both in training the Bearer Party, and as the Chief Warrant Officer Marshal of the Procession. During a particular rehearsals for the funeral, His Grace the Duke of Norfolk as the Chief Marshal, asked the Sergeant Major, if he had thought about changing the Bearer Party at the Tower of London, The Sergeant Major's reply was cutting, "You stick to running the House of Lords and I'll stick to military funerals – SIR".

This was an immense undertaking and because of the locations, St Paul's Cathedral and the wharf at the Tower of London, many of the rehearsals had to be done at night during the small hours. Those that took part still have vivid memories of the seemingly endlessly up and down the steps at St Paul's and to and fro across the small bridge between the wharf and HMS Havengore with The

Sergeant Major saying "we will do that just one more time" – again and again! On the day there was a near disaster when the Bearer Party was nearly at the top of the steps at St Paul's Cathedral, when The Earl of Attlee who was in front stumbled and the Bearer Party had to come to a shuddering halt. Where upon, they lost their momentum and nearly dropped the coffin! Only saved by the endless rehearsals and meticulous attention to detail that the Sergeant Major had given in rehearsing the Bearer Party.

For his outstanding contribution to this major State occasion, he was made a Member of the British Empire in 1965. In 1966 Sergeant-Major Randell was commissioned in the Regiment and remained with the 2nd Battalion as the Transport Officer but retired from the Army shortly after that.

On retiring Joe went to work for Bowater Scott as their Senior Personnel Manager in charge of some 800 employees. He also had to engage with a number of Unions who were always eager to protect their workers' rights! They found Joe to be a formidable adversary but also a person that was straight talking, "he said what he meant and meant what he said". Needless to say he commanded their respect. The 70s, were a turbulent time for the printing industry and Joe had the unpleasant task of issuing redundancy notices to all his staff culminating with his own, which in later life he found highly amusing!

Joe was a great family man and with Rosemary they had five children Phillip, Dennis, Robin, Penney and Patrick who all went on to be successful in life. But service life is not easy, there were many challenges, not least for Rosemary on the home front with the children who had to endure the long and frequent periods of separation and the immense pressure of Joe's demanding career – unfortunately they separated.

In the mid 80s Joe met Daphne and they moved to Cornwall where they married and enjoyed many very happy years together. They travelled extensively in Europe and Joe loved his walks and his pipe. He worked tirelessly on their house, the Vicarage, keeping concrete and araldite very much in business.

With Daphne's three children Liza, Sarah and Edward and Joe's five, between them they produced 15 Grandchildren and 19 Great Grandchildren, of which he was immensely proud. Not least of Dennis who followed him into the Regiment and was promoted through the ranks to Captain with his Son, Mark also joining the Regiment as a mainstream officer, he retiring as a Captain.

Joe had many characteristics, he was a disciplinarian of the old school with extremely high standards but he was straight and fair in all that he undertook and under that austere manor he was jovial with considerable wit and a dry sense of humour.

# GRENADIER GUARDS ASSOCIATION

**Patron:** Her Majesty The Queen

**President:** Colonel R.E.H. Aubrey-Fletcher

**General Secretary and Treasurer:** Major A.J. Green

**Association Non-Commissioned Officer:** Sergeant R. Broomes

## **Life Vice Presidents:**

Captain H.C. Jenkins

Captain B.E. Thompson, BEM

Colonel G.W. Tufnell, CVO, DL

Colonel D.H.C. Gordon Lennox

Colonel A.T.W. Duncan, LVO, OBE

Lieutenant Colonel A. Héroys

Major General Sir Michael Hobbs, KCVO, CBE

Major General Sir Evelyn Webb-Carter, KCVO, OBE

Major R.G. Woodfield, MBE

Mr R.E. Jones

Colonel E.T. Bolitho, OBE

Lieutenant Colonel C.J.E. Seymour, LVO

Lieutenant Colonel T.J. Tedder

Captain (QM) T.A. Rolfe

Colonel E.H. Houstoun, OBE

## **Executive Committee:**

**The President (Chairman)**

**Lieutenant Colonel T.J. Tedder** (Life Vice President)

**Major General C.R.V. Walker DSO** (Regimental Lieutenant Colonel)

**Major G.V.A Baker** (Director of Welfare)

**Lieutenant Colonel P.R. Holcroft, LVO, OBE** (Financial Adviser)

**Lieutenant Colonel P.L. Ashfield DSO** (Commanding Officer 1st Battalion Grenadier Guards)

**Major H.W. Hardy** (Officer Commanding Nijmegen Company Grenadier Guards)

**W01 (RSM) S. Brooks** (Sergeant Major 1st Battalion Grenadier Guards)

**Mr G. Severn** (Chairman Finance Committee)

**Mr B. Taylor** (Northern Area Representative)

**Mr G. Hallam** (North Midlands Area Representative)

**Mr R.E. Jones** (Midlands Area Representative)

**Mrs T Day** (Southern Area Representative)

**Mr A. Reid** (South Eastern Area Representative)

**Mr R. Donaldson** (Eastern Area Representative)

**Mr K. Smith** (Western Area Representative)

**Mr M. Mayoh** (Virtual Groups)

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**Hon Solicitors:** Wrigleys Solicitors LLP, 19 Cookridge Street, Leeds LS2 3AG

**Bankers:** Lloyds Bank plc, Cox's & Kings Branch, 7 Pall Mall, London SW1

**Auditors:** Messrs Saffery, Champness, Lion House, Red Lion Street, London WC1R 4GB

## OBJECTS OF THE ASSOCIATION

1. To promote the efficiency of the Grenadier Guards (hereinafter called "The Regiment") and to maintain its history, traditions and esprit de corps.
2. To relieve either generally or individually, persons who are serving or who have served in the Regiment and their dependants who are in conditions of need, hardship and distress.
3. In furtherance of these Objects the Association through its Trustees shall have the following powers:
  - a. To take all necessary action to publicise and disseminate information concerning the Regiment's history, deeds and traditions and to encourage recruiting.
  - b. To execute and administer charitable trusts.
  - c. To receive, take and accept any gifts of property whether subject to any special trusts or not.
  - d. To receive and accept contributions by way of subscriptions, donations or otherwise and to raise funds for the said Objects provided that the Trustees shall not undertake any permanent trading activities concerned solely with the said raising of funds.
4. To assist distressed and needy beneficiaries or their dependents by way of grants, gifts, supplementary allowances or otherwise and where necessary to promote their education and advancement in life.
5. To pay for such items, services and facilities by way of donations or subscriptions to charitable institutions or organisations which provide or which undertake in return to provide such items, services or facilities for distressed and needy beneficiaries.
6. Subject to such consents as may from time to time be required by law to purchase, take lease or exchange any property required for the purposes of the Association and lease, exchange or otherwise dispose of the same.
7. Subject to such consents as may from time to time be required by law to borrow or raise money for the purposes of the Association on such terms and such security as may be thought fit.
8. To invest funds and property of the Association for use for purposes of the Association in such investments as may from time to time be authorised by law.
9. To accumulate funds of the Association for such periods as may from time to time be authorised by law.
10. To constitute and form branches of the Association to further the Objects of the Association in accordance with the By-Laws established by the Association for its Branches.
11. To do all such other things as shall be necessary for the attainment of the said Objects.

## QUALIFICATIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP

12. There shall be four categories of membership:
  - a. **Serving Members.** All serving Officers, serving Warrant Officers, Non-Commissioned Officers and Guardsmen who have completed recruit training.
  - b. **Members.**
    - (1) All Officers who have formerly served in the Regiment.
    - (2) Officers and Soldiers of other Corps or Regiments who have formerly served in the Grenadier Guards and the Regimental Band.
    - (3) Discharged Soldiers, provided that they have completed their recruit training in the Regiment and have been awarded a character assessment of not less than "SATISFACTORY."
  - c. **Associate Members.** Members of Associations of other Regiments of the Household Division are known as Associate Members.
  - d. **Honorary Members.** Ladies and Gentlemen who have not served in the Grenadier Guards, but who have given outstanding service to the Regiment (e.g. Medical Officers, Chaplains etc.) and others as described in the By-Laws for Branches, Section II, paragraph 41.
13. The Executive Committee reserves the right to reconsider the membership accorded to all categories mentioned in paragraph 12 above.
14. Discharged men or Army Reservists with character less than 'SATISFACTORY' may apply to join the Association provided that they can show that their conduct since leaving the Colours has been satisfactory. Applications should be made in writing to the General Secretary for special consideration by the Executive Committee who are empowered to elect or re-elect them.
15. Serving members who have completed their Colour service will be eligible for continued membership as follows:
  - a. A serving member who has subscribed to the Day's Pay Scheme for a minimum period of two years shall be given Life Membership.
  - b. A serving member who has not subscribed as in subparagraph 15.a. above shall be invited to take up membership in accordance with the rules in force at the time.
  - c. A serving member must have been awarded a character assessment of not less than "SATISFACTORY" to be eligible for membership under sub-para a and b above.
16. Any member shall be struck off who has been convicted by the Civil Power, if, in the opinion of the Executive Committee, the offence is of a serious nature. Members dealt with under this Rule may apply for re-election, being subject to the provision of Rule 14.
17. The Executive Committee reserves to themselves the right to expel any member or exclude any applicant from membership.
18. Those members of the Association who cease to belong under the Rules shall have no claim to a refund of any subscription or other payments made by him under these Rules.



## DONATIONS AND SUBSCRIPTIONS

19. Subscriptions shall be as follows:

a. Officers of the Regiment.

(1) Serving Members. All serving members shall be required to make an annual donation of £3 to the funds of the Association. This money shall be paid through Regimental Funds from the Officers Day's Pay Scheme contributions.

(2) Past Members. All past officers shall be deemed to be Life Members and are invited to make an annual donation to the funds of the Association.

b. Warrant Officers, Non-Commissioned Officers and Guardsmen.

(1) Annual membership subscription: 50p per annum. For serving members this will be paid through Regimental Funds from the Day's Pay Scheme.

(2) Life membership subscription:

(a) Up to age 55 years: £5.00.

(b) 55 years of age or over: £3.00.

20. All members shall be actively encouraged to donate an annual sum to the Association and where applicable, by way of a Gift Aided Donation. This enables the Association to claim a refund of income tax on all such donations; thereby helping to further the objects of the Association.

21. All donations to the Central Fund of the Association (including Gift Aided donations) and legacies will be transacted through the Association Office. Member's donations/subscriptions of a routine nature should be sent to the Branch Secretary concerned, for retention by the Branch.

## LIFE MEMBERS

22. All past Officers shall be deemed to be Life Members. Warrant Officers, Non Commissioned Officers and Guardsmen, on completion of their Colour Service, may become Life Members in accordance with Rules 12.b. and 15.a. and b.

23. Associate and Honorary Members are not eligible to become Life Members.

24. Free Life Membership may be granted at the discretion of Branches to those discharged soldiers who qualify under Rule 12.b. (3), and whose circumstances preclude them from paying annual subscriptions.

## BRANCHES OF THE ASSOCIATION

*The following shows the location of all Branches of the Association. The address and telephone numbers of each Branch Secretary. can be obtained from Association HQ on 020 7414 3285 or email [assnco@grengds.com](mailto:assnco@grengds.com) or on the Regimental Website [www.grengds.com](http://www.grengds.com)*

**Aylesbury & District; Bath; Bristol; Cambridge; Chesterfield; Derby; East Kent; Essex; Gloucestershire; Kingston & District; Leicestershire; Lincoln; Liverpool; London; Manchester; March; Matlock; Medway; Norfolk; Northamptonshire; North Lancashire; North Staffordshire; Nottinghamshire; Oxfordshire; Reading; Shropshire; Suffolk; Surrey & East Hampshire; Sussex; Tamworth; Walsall; Wessex; Wigan St. Helens & District; Windsor; Wolverhampton; Worcester & Hereford; Yorkshire.**

**Overseas: North America.**

## BRANCHES OF THE HOUSEHOLD DIVISION ASSOCIATION

*The following shows the location of all Branches of the Household Division Association.*

*Further details can be obtained from Association HQ on 020 7414 3285 or email [assnco@grengds.com](mailto:assnco@grengds.com)*

**Birmingham; Blackpool; Chester; Cleveland & South Durham; Colchester; Louth; Luton; Manchester; Morecombe Bay; Reading; Solent; Telford; Warrington; Wiltshire; Wolverhampton; North Yorkshire; Household Division Corps of Drums Association.**

## News from the Norfolk Dining Club

by *Ross Donaldson*

Unfortunately 2017 has been another 'quiet' year, at least with regard to interesting happenings, although dinners have been well supported and are far from quiet! Thetford Lunches have become a fixture for several who prefer to meet during the day to avoid an evening drive to Norwich.

Having observed that, we changed the October Dinner date to a Lunch and this turned out to be a popular move so for 2018 we are going to hold both the February and the October dates as Lunches. These being the two held while the days are short, we hope will make it easier, certainly for our members who travel a long distance, to attend. Norfolk covers a large area and when one considers we also have members from Suffolk, Cambridgeshire and Hertfordshire it often means a journey of two hours, or more, in each direction.

Unfortunately lunches are often difficult to attend for the working, younger Grenadiers who we know live in the region. Once again we appeal to anyone reading this – if you have any ideas as to how we could make the Club more accessible to you – such as different location, different day, or different menu – do please let us know. Providing its food related – we are a Dining Club after all!

Sadly we lost three of our Diners during the year. **John Feakins** who had been a stalwart of the Club, almost from it's beginning, hardly ever missing a dinner, **Peter Bagg** and **David Branson**. John had fought a long battle against ill health but had managed to attend,

almost up to his death. Peter had not been well for a long time, having suffered a stroke, and had been in a residential home. His main claim to fame, in addition to being a very skilled carpenter, was that he spent some of his National Service as Orderly to General Sir 'Geordie' George Gordon-Lennox. David was an 'original' Lynn Lunch Club member, always cheerful despite being unable to attend recently due to his wheelchair restrictions. We miss them all.

Our regulars from surrounding Counties are always welcome and we were very pleased that **Andy Green** was able to join us on two occasions this year. We close by repeating our standing invitation to *any* and *all* Grenadiers, of whatever age or rank, if you can be in Norfolk for one of our gatherings, please come and join us, they are very informal and relaxing.

At the time of writing we are looking forward to our December 1st (2017) evening, when we invite our wives, partners, friends and families to an evening to get everyone in the mood for Christmas. This year, in addition to a good meal, a splendid raffle, party poppers and convivial Grenadier company we have a magician to entertain us. There is a slim hope that he can conjure up a few new members!

The dining dates for 2018 are: **April 20th Dinner, June 22nd Dinner, August 10th Dinner, October 13th Lunch, December 7th the Christmas Family Dinner**. The *provisional* dates for lunches at Thetford are **May 8th** and **November 6th** – both Tuesdays. Just give the Club organiser, **Ross Donaldson**, a call on 01328 838469 or Email [norfolkclub@grenngds.com](mailto:norfolkclub@grenngds.com) for all details.

We really hope to hear from you but in the meantime we wish everyone Best Wishes and Good Health for 2018.

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## ISTANBUL TO WELLINGTON BARRACKS ON A BIKE 10th – 20th JULY 2017

By *Darren Smith*

As the plane taxied on to the runway suddenly our 'little' cycling trip became a reality...

Having been involved in raising money for the Colonel's Fund for the past ten years or so, I wanted to challenge myself to something that would really push me to the extreme. A chance meeting with a guy who had cycled from London to Istanbul, and the seed was planted!

The challenge was set, cycle from Istanbul to London,

fully self-supported in ten days. An e-mail was sent out asking for any willing volunteers to tag along. Up stepped **Wayne 'Skid' Marks**. Wayne and I had served together in the First Battalion in the early to mid 90's; Once a Grenadier Always a Grenadier.

Our flight landed in Istanbul slightly later than scheduled, by the time we had cleared immigration and built our bikes it was around 3am. Our next task was to find a water source to fill our bottles. Staff within the terminal helped and the smiles and shakes of their heads as we conversed in broken English telling them of our plans told us what they must have been thinking 'Crazy English Men'.

Outside the airport we discovered that our Garmin Satnavs weren't working, so had to revert to the trusty map and compass. We also introduced ourselves to a



‘friendly’ taxi driver outside to point us in the right direction. He wasn’t quite as friendly as we had anticipated, he was insistent on giving us a lift out of Istanbul, when we declined his offer he threatened to stab us! We quickly jumped on our bikes and we were off, heading north.

Istanbul has to be the lowest city in the world; we spent the next several hours climbing out of it. It was whilst we travelled through the dark and quiet streets we encountered the first sign of wildlife, a pack of stray dogs decided to chase us out of town. Somehow we managed to find an extra gear to stay just in front, after what seemed like a life time they gave up and returned to their turf!

As we left the outskirts of Istanbul we decided to pull up for a quick rest, this was soon cut short. We had decided to rest directly next to a Mosque and it was around 05:30hrs. Our eyes had just closed when the calls for prayer were bellowed out. Back on the bikes bleary eyed we continued to head North.

As the sun rose we could see the Mediterranean shimmering to our left and the heat was starting to hit our backs. How tempting the sea looked, but we had a schedule to keep.

We were travelling on the main arterial route heading towards Bulgaria; we decided that we would sleep during the hottest part of the day, then cycle in to the night; six hours on, three off!

At around 11am we took sanctuary in a small copse next to a bridge, which provided shade over our make-shift camp. We had decided to take hammocks and tarps for our comfort, this proved to be a wise choice. Soon after slinging our hammocks we were in a deep sleep; however this was to be short lived. I woke suddenly having sensed

something in our camp; I looked down to see a 6 foot snake as thick as my wrist winding its way beneath us. We hit the road once more soon afterwards.

We had settled into a sound routine, stopping regularly at service stations to refresh and stock up on water, we were consuming in excess of 15 litres a day. It was as we left one of the service stations we had our second encounter with a pack of dogs, for some reason the station Rottweilers decided to make sure I left at a rapid rate of knots, much to Wayne’s delight. Soon after we were stopped by a white van that pulled in front of us, the passenger jumped out and confronted us with 2 ice creams. This gesture was well recieved.

We continued our journey in to the night, and as dusk fell we slung our hammocks once more and reflected on the last 24 hours. We were up at 4am to set off once more, this was when catastrophe struck. Wayne came off his bike causing his rear mech hanger to snap, we were able to turn his bike in to a single speed, but needed to find a bike shop.

We managed to locate a shop in a town close to the border with Bulgaria, we cycled through the midday sun and by the time we had found the shop I was close to delirious and had to take shelter in the shade outside. The mechanic in the shop was able to make running repairs to Skid’s bike, and we were soon back on the road. As we headed towards the border with Bulgaria, we couldn’t help notice that we appeared to have travelled back to the 1940’s.

It took a while to pass through border control, partly due to the border guard’s admiration for Skids bike, it turned out that he was a keen cyclist and insisted on showing us photos of *his* beloved bike!



As we heading in to Bulgaria I noticed that my hands had started to go numb, we found somewhere to sleep for the night. We managed a few hours before we set off again at 4am. As we set off I noticed that my hands were significantly worse, I found it difficult to tie my laces, but more importantly to brake. The heat was unbearable; even the water in our bottles was warm. There were no services on the horizon and we were soon running on reserves.

We arrived at a busy intersection where there was a service station on the other carriage way, we abandoned the bikes and crossed. Inside we gorged on ice cream, sandwiches and crisps, washed down with Red Bull. We also located a shower in the cleaner's cupboard. Sticking our necks out, we were able to shower before crossing the road and back on the bikes. That evening as we headed to Sofia we made the decision to rest and take the train; this proved to be an adventure on its own!

The Bulgarian train guard was not impressed with two smelly English travelers that had boarded her train, taking up vital space with their bikes. Though we could not converse, her 'Non-Verbal Communication Skills' were plain to see.

The next 48hrs saw us travel to Belgrade, Zagreb then Stuttgart. In Stuttgart we treated ourselves to a hot meal and a bed in a hostel. We set off early once more, after a steep climb we were soon hit with another set back as Skids rear mech failed once more, and the chain began to break. We located another bike shop and the bike was transformed to a single speed. Back on the road we left the city and were out in to the countryside. That night we slept amongst the vines in a vineyard.

Another early start and a full day spent in the saddle, and a day of what felt like a constant climb. An evening meal of dry food loomed as we cycled through the middle of nowhere. Then out of the blue we stumbled across an American themed ranch. It was like a scene from 'Dusk til Dawn'. But the sign clearly stated 'Bikers welcome' I'm not sure that they were ready for Skid in his Lycra. The cheese burgers that we consumed were the best I've ever tasted. We slept once more under the stars.

We had changed our routine, cycling from the early hours until the light started to fade, we would then find somewhere to charge our electrical devices. Then make our way to the outskirts of the town/village to sleep. Repeat...

One evening we thought our cunning plan had failed, it was not too dissimilar to the Marie Celeste. We spotted a local family returning from a shopping trip, so

in basic German I started a conversation, they told us to go to the next hamlet where they were holding a festival; what did we have to lose? We arrived around 20 minutes later, sure enough there was a live band and the party was in full swing, 'When in Rome' well Relsberg to be exact. We participated in the local brew and food, cheekily charging our devices in the village hall. We stayed later than scheduled, due to the devices needing longer to charge than anticipated! The next morning with heavy heads we set off and it didn't take long for our heads to clear.

The next few days saw us travel through Luxembourg and Belgium. Our final night in Europe was spent in Ypres, an emotional and inspiring location. Somewhere I have visited on many occasions and it never fails to move me. We spent some time reading the names listed on the walls of the Menin Gate.

The final day and our final push, we set off from Ypres heading to Dunkirk. Then from Dover to London, resting in bus shelters on route to grab 40 winks. We cycled through the night arriving on the outskirts of London at around 11am. Slightly ahead of time I managed a quick trim courtesy of a Turkish barber in Lewisham!

At 13:00hrs we cycled through the gates of Wellington Barracks. Being greeted by the Band of the Grenadier Guards, and the guys from Nijmegen Company was a touching end to our amazing adventure.

Our objective had been to travel from Istanbul to London, completely self supported in 10 days with our bikes to raise money for The Colonel's Fund and the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation.

We arrived 5 minutes before, with money raised for both charities.....



**Darren Smith (left) and Wayne Marks.**

## GRENADIER DAY 2017



Clockwise from the top: Staffordshire C of D; try this for size; the smoke of battle; the Boyton Cup winners (Medway) with the Lt Colonel; Pikemen and Musketeers; Public Order or lack of it and Tug of War winners.





## GRENADIER DAY 2017



Clockwise from the top: Our Henry, 202 years ago, Bristol Branch cider, Averil and Matt Ellmer, the Finale.





## REGIMENTAL REMEMBRANCE DAY 2017



The Colonel; Ray Huggins; Norman Mitchell;  
George Hughes and Sean Craddock; Reveille

## REGIMENTAL REMEMBRANCE DAY 2017



Clockwise from the top: George Evans, Major Mick Holland, Major Sandy Gray, Albert Green, Pete Hales and Colonel Richard.



## A VISIT TO NIJMEGEN

*By Gerard Sprenger, Amsterdam 2017.*

In September 2017 I went to Nijmegen with a pleasant British/Dutch/American group to commemorate the battle of September 1944 for the all-important road bridge. Our small one-day battlefield tour was undertaken to honour the soldiers, both British and American, who fought there in one of the fiercest battles of the North West European campaign. They achieved victory and the way to Arnhem was open. Arnhem became a tragedy but not because they failed. We always emphasise on trips like this, that the troops involved gave their utmost in the face of formidable enemy resistance. And we never forget to accentuate that it was **Sergeant Robinson** on the bridge and not Robert Redford!

Before setting out we contemplated at large the virtues of the Market Garden Operation or the lack of them. A 1951 map of the area presented us with an interesting comparison with the present-day network of motorways. It gave us a startling view of the difficulties that confronted the highly mechanised British Second Army in the Garden part of the campaign. Then we made our way to the former Hell's Highway, the salient 60 miles long and 40 yards wide. There we followed the young **Lieutenant David Fraser's** experiences as written in his book *"Wars and Shadows"*.

The Grenadier Guards were leading **Major General Adair's** Guards Armoured Division and also XXX Corps under **Lieutenant General Horrocks**. Both General Allan and Sir Brian were excellent and well-beloved

leaders. They crossed the river Maas over the bridge taken by paratroopers of 82 US Airborne. **Lieutenant General "Boy" Browning**, was now in command of the 1st Airborne Corps, consisting of 1st British, 82 and 101 US Airborne Divisions. **Major Alec Gregory-Hood**, in command of 3 Squadron and a former subaltern in 'Boy's' 2nd Battalion, went covered in dust to salute him but wasn't recognised at once. "Good God", Boy said, "I always said it would be cleaner to come by air."

It was Tuesday afternoon on D+3. The road and railway bridges, that should have been taken by surprise were still in German hands. Guards Armoured joined the American paratroops and got on with them like a house on fire. Almost literally, because Jerry burned down complete streets without any regard for the inhabitants. Attacks through densely built up areas brought them into the town centre but not yet to the bridges; the anti-tank fire was too much. They lost tanks and **Lieutenant John Moller** was killed. The Post Office was taken by **Major George Thorne**, (son of "Bulgy") and his 3 Company. The buttons to blow the bridge that should have been there, according to the Resistance, proved an illusion, but at least he had a comfortable HQ.

A new plan was instigated by **Lieutenant Colonel Eddy Goulburn**, Commanding Officer of 1st (Motor) Battalion; a larger area of town was to be occupied to gain freedom of manoeuvre. A surprise attack on the German fortifications on top of the Valkhof would bring the road bridge and its access under British and no longer under German fire.

The Germans expected an attack from the south as before, but the King's Company, reinforced by 2 Company crossed the street to the west of the Valkhof, climbed the hill, cut the wire and rushed the Germans from their trenches. **Major James Bowes-Lyon's** Squadron of 2nd (Armoured) Battalion was in support. Surprise was complete, the enemy was beaten and the bridge came under British fire. **Captain the Hon. Vicary Gibbs** and several men were killed in the fighting and command was taken by **Lieutenant Dawson**.

4 Company under **Major Stanley** fought its way to the bridge along the Huner Park. Heavy German fire forced them to join the Americans approaching from further East. Together they neared the bridge chasing the enemy from the burning streets. The German fortress at the Huner Park with the SS Headquarters and the fortified Belvedere Tower were



The road bridge seen in the direction of Arnhem and the "Island." The picture was taken from the Belvedere. The bridge was under our fire from here and from the Valkhof to the left.



taken by platoons led by **Lieutenants Greenall and Slob**, the latter a Dutchman who came to England in 1940 and joined the Grenadier Guards. Hundreds of Germans were killed during this action.

In the failing Autumn light the Grenadier Group and their American friends were ready to rush the bridge. **Sergeant Robinson's** troop of the 1st Squadron under command of **Captain Lord Carrington** crossed the bridge under heavy fire and it wasn't blown up as feared. **Lieutenant Jones**, a sapper, risked his life and cut the demolition cables. Some distance to the North of the bridge the Grenadiers met, to their intense surprise, American paratroopers. who belonged to the Combat Group that had crossed the river earlier that afternoon.

Imagine, veteran paratroops dropped, as elsewhere, on only one side of the target, who now had to cross a fast flowing river rowing with their helmets and arms in boats they had never seen or handled before. Tanks of 2nd Battalion Irish Guards and the guns of the Leicestershire Yeomanry supported them. The smokescreen they laid down was blown away too soon but the German 88's couldn't be lowered enough to be of much effect. Half the first wave of 26 boats was lost but two more waves got through. From their bridgehead they took further German positions and the northern accesses to the bridges.

**Captain Neville**, temporarily in command of 3 Squadron, had been almost surrounded with his men for two days after the initial attacks on the bridges. Now he took the railway bridge and its defenders during the morning of Thursday 21st September. During the night the fighting continued. Infantry was desperately needed but the 43rd Division and all reinforcements had to come along Hell's Highway, regularly disrupted by German attacks.

**Lieutenant Fraser** accompanied his Commanding Officer, **Lieutenant Colonel Rodney Moore** across the bridge. They realised that its only significance was the road to Arnhem. It was also clear to them that the land between Nijmegen and Arnhem, soon known as the 'Island' was definitely not tank country; roads on dikes in the polderland made tanks easy targets. An impossible landscape and ideal for defence. That same morning the Germans finally took the North side of the Arnhem bridge and reinforcements could then be sent directly to Nijmegen.

The incomparable 2nd Household Cavalry Regiment as usual provided reconnaissance for the Guards Armoured.



**Jonkerbosch Military Cemetery.**

**Captain Richard Wrottesley** and his troop made the first link-up with **Urquart's** beleaguered Airborne. Alas, in spite of all that was done to turn the tide, such as the crossing of the Dorsets, the battle of Arnhem was lost and the remnants of the 1st British Airborne Division were successfully withdrawn in Operation Berlin.

We went to the Jonkerbosch Military Cemetery. As with all the cemeteries of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission, this is a wonderfully kept and beautiful place where our fallen are buried and we know they rest there among friends. It was, as always, good to be with them. An American lady who was with us and whose father fought with the US 79th Division from the Normandy beaches to the end of the war in Germany laid our Poppy Wreath at the Cross. We Will Remember Them.



Before laying our wreath at the monument we commemorate our fallen. Here we are at the grave of **Lieutenant Adriaan Slob**. His Dutch tombstone differs

## REMEMBRANCE

*By John Knight,  
Secretary of the Kingston Branch*

Something happened recently which made me think. Nothing as profound as a religious revelation like the road to Damascus I'm afraid, simply a name on a memorial. At the going down of the sun and in the morning, we will remember them. What is it though that we remember, the sacrifice certainly but who was the person behind the name; someone's father, mother, brother, sister, son, daughter?

In mid-September I managed a short break with Maureen in Burnham Market, Norfolk. I'm not that familiar with the village and when one looks around, many of the surrounding towns and villages are prefixed with Burnham. Within a couple of miles there is Burnham Thorpe, Horatio Lord Nelson's birthplace. There's Burnham Overy an original town now much reduced in size, then there is Burnham Overy Staithe now its neighbour's larger creek-side harbour. Until the middle ages navigation was possible to the town but due to silting that is no longer the case.

On one of her patrols in Burnham Market, Maureen noticed that a new car park had appeared behind the existing buildings off North Street; we decided to investigate.

From North Street, Foundry Place leads to a new development named Foundry Fields consisting of a car park, retail units and residential accommodation. In terms of the size of the village the car park is enormous. There can't have been more than half a dozen cars parked on it leaving what amounted to an open space to explore during our recce. Within its boundaries there are a couple of new buildings described as barns, intended for retail activity. The site is bordered on three sides by residential and retail accommodation, some of it new.



St Margaret's Church interior showing screens.

Near the entrance there is an informative notice board.

As one enters the site from Foundry Place the new pavement is bordered by mood lighting. A timeline through the ages is etched into the edging stones ranging through prehistoric times, Saxons, Normans, Plantagenets, Tudors and so on. Away from the street the site takes on a sharp upward rise and the far boundary opens on to a vista looking across fields on a downward slope. At about one o'clock and at the limit of the view is a stand of trees and just visible over them was what looked like the circular tower of a castle. On investigation what we had seen was not a castle but the circular tower of St Margaret's Church at yet another Burnham, Burnham Norton.

We found St Margaret's about a mile out of town and it was a delightful place, unusual for several reasons. It has an entrance on the North Side said to have been because the lord of the manor would have lived to the north. At the end away from the aisle the pews were sheltered by solid screens, proof against the north wind. The church tower is unusually circular rather than square. Horatio Nelson's father had been rector and David Jamieson VC is buried here.

Over the altar is an art deco window depicting St Margaret of Antioch patron saint of childbirth.

Inside the church on the north wall was a small framed memorial in remembrance of six of the fallen from WW1 and two from WW2.

One of the names immediately caught my eye; **Thomas W. Francis – Grenadier Guards**. I remember wondering what the initial W stands for and I resolved that when I got home I'd try to find out who this guardsman was. I'm still in investigation mode but what I have gleaned so far, I note in what follows.

Using my Ancestry account, I looked for public family trees that might include Thomas's name and I found several and my original question about the initial W was answered; his name was not Walter or William but Wiseman. Not a name that I would have guessed correctly.

On the 1911 census for the First Battalion at Wellington Barracks the statutory declaration was signed by **Frederick Rudolph Earl of Cavan**. Interestingly there were only a total of 176 listed as being in barracks on the night of the census, two of those were officers. The first name listed as present was **Henry Lancelot**





**Aubrey-Fletcher**, 2nd Lieutenant. **Thomas Wiseman Francis** is listed with the rank of Lance Sergeant.

Linda Francis a descendant of Thomas has a public family tree on Ancestry and she was kind enough to reply to my contact message. She is from Canada but has visited the Church at Burnham Norton. From her family history she was able to tell me that Thomas held the

Coronation Medal 1911. His father John Philip Francis is buried at Stibbard and his mother is buried at Burnham Norton along with two of his sisters, two brothers and maternal grandparents. He was killed in action in the Western European Theatre of War and his rank was Lance Corporal. The following handwritten excerpt was found among family records: "Tom Francis



The framed memorial.

(Rosa and John's son) was killed October 29th instantly at Ypres leading his men at a very critical stage of the battle. He had been specially promoted for gallantry in rallying his men under very heavy fire – his conduct was brought to the notice of the proper authorities and he was named in dispatches – he was only a non-commissioned officer – he made a brave ending to his life. In 1915 **Lieutenant Fletcher** wrote that Tom was magnificent, always brave, cheerful and reliable. Lord and **Lady Ardee** also wrote most sympathetically."

From online records The War Graves Commission note that Thomas died at Ypres sometime between 26 October 1914 and 8th November 1914 and that he was Mentioned in Despatches. His name is included on Addenda Panel 57 on the Ypres Memorial, the Menin Gate. The implication here is that at the time of the inscription there was no known grave.

Another resource UK, Soldiers Died in the Great War, 1914 – 1919 notes the date of death as 17th November 1914. That's a slight disparity that I can work on. Since Linda's date of 29th October is based on family record I'm happy to accept that version of events.

Sadly I haven't been able to put a face to the name as yet.

## GRENADIER GUARDS CLERICAL COLLEAGUES LUNCH AT THE UNION JACK CLUB – 21 JUNE 2017

Our first get together at the Union Jack Club was a great success. Members came from far and wide to be with us. One person even travelled all the way from Sweden – although **Rick Kitchen** didn't know what the fuss was as he'd come from Swindon! Feedback has been excellent and everyone thoroughly enjoyed themselves.

The group was the brainchild of **Barry Owen** and **Malcolm Harding** and was established at the beginning of 2017. The idea being to enable fellow ex-Regimental Clerks to be able to make contact with old friends, share experiences and occasionally get together; we have also set up our own Facebook Page. We currently have 45 members but would like to make contact with other clerical colleagues.

If anyone would like further details about the group and the date of the next reunion then please contact either:

**Barry Owen**

barryjowen@sky.com

**Malcolm Harding**

malcolmharding67@googlemail.com



**Barry Owen, Dennis Harper, John Taylor, John Evans, Al Cameron, Brenda Taylor, Les Bendle, Rick Kitchen, Cath Evans, Gary Reinke, Barry Double, Elsa Owen, Keith Stevenson, Tony Matthews, Cindy Bendle,**



## A MEMORIAL AND DEDICATION SERVICE TO LSGT J H RHODES VC, DCM AND BAR

*By David Robins, Secretary  
North Staffordshire Branch*



**I**t was on 9th October 1917 that **15122 LSgt John Harold Rhodes** of the 3rd Battalion Grenadier Guards was involved in an action in Third Battle of Ypres, Passchendaele. A concrete pill box and machine gun nest had been preventing the Battalion's advance. **LSgt Rhodes** was in charge of a Lewis Gun section. Alone, he left his section and advanced across no man's land

towards the block house with heavy shell and machine-gun fire coming from his front and rear. With his rifle he killed several Germans, captured the position single handed and took nine prisoners including an officer, who was in possession of vital intelligence and the Battalion was then able to advance. For this brave and gallant action he was awarded The Victoria Cross. His Commanding Officer subsequently wrote "His VC was the first to be gained by anyone in the Battalion during this war; consequently, we are enormously proud of him. No other recipient has done more to earn this decoration". **John Rhodes** was no stranger to outstanding bravery, he had already been awarded a DCM and Bar, a second DCM, earlier in the war.

**John Rhodes** was born in Stoke-on-Trent in May 1891 joining the Grenadier Guards in February 1911. Having served for three years he transferred to the Reserve in February 1914. For a few months he worked at the Chatterley Whitfield colliery, Stoke-on-Trent, before being recalled to the Colours in August 1914. He joined the Regiment's 2nd Battalion and was soon in France being awarded his DCMs at Rue de Bois and Givenchy. He was wounded in July 1915 and posted home to the 5th Reserve Battalion.

He was married to Elizabeth in December 1915 and subsequently posted to The Regiment's 3rd Battalion in France in January 1917. His son **John**, whom he was never to see, was born in May of the same year. **LSgt**

**John Rhodes VC** was killed in action on 27th November 1917 the very week that the award of his Victoria Cross was announced in The London Gazette. He is buried at Rocquigny Cemetery, Manacourt. He never knew that he had won his country's highest award for bravery.

In 1984 The North Staffordshire Branch of the Association in the presence of his widow, **Lizzie** and other members of the Rhodes family along with representatives from the Regiment, unveiled a memorial to his memory at the Chatterley Whitfield colliery. This event was featured in the 1985 edition of the Grenadier Gazette; a longer report about him had been published in the 1979 edition. Following the closure of the colliery the memorial was moved to the site of **John's** school in the north of Stoke-on-Trent. A memorial service is held there in November every year. There is also a memorial plaque at the place of his birth and a local road has been named in his honour.

On the 9th October 2017, the 100th Anniversary of the above action, more than 200 people gathered in the Stoke-on-Trent Minster for a Service of Dedication and Remembrance to commemorate the incredible bravery of **LSgt John Rhodes VC** and that of another local hero **Sgt Albert Egerton VC** of The Sherwood Foresters.



**Drum stack, Branch Banner and Drummers in Stoke Minster.**



**The Civic Party arriving at Stoke Minster.**

Those present were honoured by the presence of **John's** grandson **Dr Christopher Rhodes**, great Grandson **Ben Rhodes**, great-great grandchildren and other members of his family. The congregation was also joined by The Lord Lieutenant of Staffordshire, **Mr Ian Dudson**, The Lord Mayor of Stoke-on-Trent, **Cllr Ross Irving**, **Judge Fletcher** and other local civic leaders and dignitaries.

On arrival at The Minster the VIPs and congregation were met by a Guard of Honour formed by Guardsmen from Nijmegen Company, soldiers from the Mercian Regiment and Royal British Legion Standard Bearers all under the very capable command of Grenadier **Sgt Richards**. Inside the Minster an immaculate drum stack, along with The North Staffordshire Branch Association Banner had been placed in front of the altar and was flanked by two Drummers from the Battalion, two other Drummers were stationed at the entrance to receive guests and hand out copies of the Order of Service.

There then followed a Service of Remembrance and Dedication led by **Canon Andrew Wickens** and the **Revd Chris Rushton**. After the service in The Minster all present moved across the road to the Stoke-on-Trent Cenotaph which is adjacent to The Civic Centre. To the front of the Cenotaph two plinths have been erected supporting the memorial tablets to the two VC recipients, which were covered with Regimental Banners. The Cenotaph was flanked by four soldiers, two Grenadiers and two Mercians. The Guard of Honour stood to the side and two other Grenadiers were on duty distributing poppy wreaths. When everyone had assembled again a second brief service began with an Act of Remembrance. This was followed by the unveiling of the two memorials by The Lord Mayor assisted by members of the Rhodes and Egerton families. The Exhortation was then spoken followed by The Last Post and Reveille sounded by **LCpl Cowley** of the Regimental Band; wreaths were then placed on the memorial. After the final blessing the service was

concluded and so ended a solemn, fitting and appropriate tribute to a brave and outstanding Grenadier who was one of the Regiment's most highly decorated Non-Commissioned Officers.

Thanks must go to the Lord Mayor and the City of Stoke-on-Trent for the major part that they played in organising and financing this event. Thanks are also due to Grenadiers **WO2 (RQMS) Matt Betts**, **WO2 (CSM) James Bennett**, **Drum Major Harry Sutton**, **LCpl Cowley** of the Regimental Band, NCOs and Guardsmen from Nijmegen Company and Drummers from the Battalion and their Commanding Officers and the Regimental Adjutant. It is due to their input, enthusiasm and immaculate drill that the whole event was carried out in great style and in a truly Regimental manner. The fact that all the Grenadiers commenced their journeys to the Midlands at 0530hrs was also greatly appreciated. Special thanks should also go to local solicitor and First World War enthusiast **Tony Birchall**, who initiated and co-ordinated this splendid event.

All photographs by kind permission of Mepics Photography.



**John Rhodes' grandson and great, great granddaughter by his memorial** Everyone then adjourned to the Civic Centre where the City entertained all of those present to an excellent



**Afternoon tea.**





Bamenda Camp.

## REMEMBERING THE CAMEROONS

*By Lieutenant Colonel Alexander Héroys*

**F**rom May to October 1961 1st Battalion Grenadier Guards carried out a six-month tour in the then British Cameroons, West Africa.

On 1st October 2017 over a hundred Grenadiers, including their families and their friends, gathered at the National Memorial Arboretum to recall the camaraderie, remember the fallen and reflect on the history of that overseas tour. A short service of dedication of the Memorial Tree and Plaque was held. A Wreath was laid in memory of **Guardsman John Lunn** – Killed in Action 10th July 1961.

**The Idea.** **John Gibson** who was a Guardsman in No 6 Platoon stationed in Bamenda recalls how this story all began:

‘In 2015 whilst visiting the loft to get a box, I came across a photo album of my time in the Cameroons. After looking at the photos, I wondered if any other Grenadiers would like to see them, as I’m sure that when I pass on they are destined for the tip. I asked Jim White who does

a Grenadier weekly email blog to see if there was any interest in the photos. In response to the interest that this aroused I decided to write an account of my time in the Cameroons: “As I Remember.”

‘I soon realised that I would need some help with finances in order to have the book printed, so I started to look around for a Sponsor. Whilst searching for additional material I had contacted Fyffes’ Archives – Colin Barret, to see if they had any photos/information, (Fyffes had plantations in the Southern Cameroons which we patrolled). They provided me with a couple of photos, but more importantly, Fyffes Bananas came to my rescue with a more than generous offer to finance the book. The excess of £200 was donated to the Colonel’s Fund. Following the production of 100 copies of my experiences, it was suggested, by a number of those who





had read the account, that a reunion be held.

‘Accordingly, I organised a lunchtime/afternoon reunion on 10th September 2016 at the Ramada Jarvis Hotel, Loughborough. Eighty Grenadiers, including partners, attended the reunion. Terry (the video man) captured the scene of virtual strangers coming together after 55 years and within a short period of time, after greetings and hand-shakes, there was a buzz of conversation and laughter, memorabilia/photographs being produced for perusal and memories being recalled. Whilst we were enjoying the buffet, **Jim Veary**, Treasurer of the Reading Branch, suggested that it would be nice to have a lasting memory which would take the form of a Plaque and a Tree at the National Memorial Arboretum. This was agreed by all and Jim took on the responsibility of organising it and of raising the necessary funds.

‘A few weeks later we heard that Jim had been busy; he’d contacted the Arboretum and, after some discussion, had agreed a date of 1st October, the day that the Southern Cameroons achieved independence, and following a discussion with the Royal British Legion he’d also agreed a location and an appropriate plaque.’

**The Camaraderie. The Earl of Meath**, formerly **Lord Jack Ardee**, who had been a Platoon Commander in The Queen’s Company in the Cameroons spoke at the

Dedication Service. We recalled how we had been so very young on that African adventure, how we had journeyed out and back on the last ever troop ship, SS Devonshire, how we had been extremely travel sick crossing the Bay of Biscay homeward bound, how welcoming the locals had all been with their cheery smiles and greetings of: “Hello Jo!”, how we had been a mix of National Service and Regular soldiers, but all had made the most of the unusual experience, how appallingly wet the tropical rain was, how we had patrolled through swamp, jungle, coffee and banana plantation, mountain and moorland, how colourful were the local markets and ‘mammy’ wagons, how we had carried out the Queen’s Birthday parade in Bamenda town, and how we now recalled the fun and camaraderie of that tour.

**The Fallen.** During the tour, a major assault on the terrorist camp situated right at the top of a remote mountain was launched by a combined force of The Queen’s Company and No 2 Company. Despite the appalling wet weather and a serious set-back when a lorry containing a platoon of The Queen’s Company slid off the road and rolled over and over, **Major Philip Haslett** made the courageous decision to continue with the operation. The long column of over 150 Guardsmen toiled up the sodden mountainside all night long struggling through the pitch-black darkness until the open



The Queen’s Birthday Parade in Bamenda.



moorlands were reached at the break of day. The cordon was put in place and the assault platoon went in. There was a brief machine gun burst from the terrorist camp and **Guardisman John Lunn** fell dead. The camp was then successfully cleared and destroyed. John's body was carried off the mountain next day and laid to rest with full military honours in Bamenda. His grave continues to be tended by the War Graves Commission to this day. The Lunn family were present at the National Arboretum, a

wreath was laid in his memory, his name was seen carved in the stone of the Armed Forces Memorial and they were all embraced by the Grenadier family as they remembered the tragic event of his sacrifice on active duty.

**The History.** The Battalion had been given the task of overseeing the safe transition, following the outcome of the plebiscite held in 1960, for the Southern Cameroons to merge with La Republique de Cameroun. This decision had come as a surprise to many as the natural choice might have been to merge with Nigeria with its English language, currency, legal system, etc., rather than with La Republique de Cameroun with its French language and government structures. But the locals knew the tribal scene and thereby avoided being caught up in the appalling civil war in Nigeria that followed shortly afterwards in 1967. However, malevolent influences sought to disrupt this transition process through acts of terrorism. The Battalion countered this threat with regular patrolling throughout the country and a major assault on the terrorist camp high in the mountains. The success of these actions ensured a safe and peaceful transition to independence for the Southern Cameroons on 1st October 1961 and the subsequent merger with La Republique de Cameroun/the Republic of Cameroon. This country has been a success story of its own over the past several decades and is now a member of the Commonwealth. The Grenadiers can reflect on this tour and be very proud of a job well done all those years ago.

**In Summary.** As a result of these initiatives, **John Gibson** was able to hand to **Major Andrew Green**, the Regimental Treasurer, a second cheque for £600, making a total of £800 towards the Colonel's Fund. **John Gibson** summarises the day:

'**Jim Veary** has to be congratulated for the time and effort to make sure all ran smoothly on the day. The day went very well; even the weather was kind to us (despite a dire storm warning!). I think we all left the Arboretum feeling the book had now been closed and thanks to Jim, we'd left a lasting memory for those who may come after'.



Grenadiers, their families and friends after the Service of Dedication at the Guards Memorial.



## A BATTLEFIELD REVISITED

by Catherine Bartrum

My father, **Sandy Gray** celebrated his 92nd birthday in December 2016 and announced that he would like to return to Holland and Germany where he served with The 6th Guards Tank Brigade on Operation Veritable in January and February 1945.

I arranged a three day visit through 'In the Footsteps Battlefield Tours' and we departed as a family group of seven, including my mother **Diana Gray**, my sister and her husband, brother and my Grenadier husband **Oliver**. **Ian Gumm** was our guide and driver.

We stopped in Louvain to see where Sandy had parked his Churchill tank having driven for 36 hours from

Belgium and Maastricht where 4th Grenadiers spent a jolly Christmas with '4 bottles of beer per man'. Not surprisingly my father had little recollection of either place owing to exhaustion or the beer or the passing of 72 years.

We discovered that fortuitously we had arrived in Holland on 4th May 2017, their Remembrance Day and watched the wreath laying ceremony from The Hague at our Hotel. The following day

was Liberation Day and a holiday in Holland. Everywhere we went our Veteran and Liberator received a tremendous welcome with gratitude and thanks being warmly expressed.

We then drove to Straeten where my father had his first taste of battle when he motored through the town without firing a gun but **Sergeant Dye**, **Guardsman John Aslin** and **Guardsman John Brown** were all killed on 23rd January 1945. Visiting Brunssum Cemetery to lay flowers we were overcome to find a candle on every gravestone and a white rose laid on every grave – this gesture of remembrance and gratitude is carried out each year by schoolchildren throughout Holland. We found the graves of the three Grenadiers together and close by that of **Lt A.D Winch** who was killed on 24th January.

**Ian Gumm** had done extensive research and took us along the road from Nijmegen to the start line of Veritable. It was a huge offensive with 1,000 guns, 6 infantry divisions, 1,500 tanks and over 300,000 men. The weather had been terrible and Sandy could recall 'the rain pounding down incessantly' as he joined **Major Willie Pike's** tank (the Squadron Commander) as radio



Three Grenadier graves at Brunssum Cemetery.

operator. We heard **Willie Pike's** account from his visit in 1967 which brought memories flooding back to Sandy. The crossing of the Siegfried Line was a tremendous achievement for the 4th Grenadiers and we followed the route Sandy took through the Reischswald Forest, Kleve and Goch.

**Ian Gumm** expertly traced the location of the barn where Sandy was wounded on 27th February and took us to the very spot. The Barn is still in the middle of a field surrounded by woods and we were so pleased to find it as development looked rather imminent.

It was the most memorable and interesting visit to a Battlefield and wonderful to take Sandy with us and be able to share the story of his long and lucky life.



A Liberation Day tribute.



Sandy Gray at the barn where he was wounded.





The Corps of Drums at the Tower of London.

## CADET NEWS

*(Courtesy of 2nd Lieutenant Simon Protano County Public Relations Officer Staffordshire & West Midlands (NS) Army Cadet Force and Sgt J G Tillotson SI (PRO) County & A Company PRO Suffolk ACF).*

As its reputation continues to grow, Staffordshire & West Midlands (NS) ACF has continued with its expansion plans for its highly successful Corps of Drums, which has had another fantastic year.

In April, the cadets visited Wellington Barracks for a taste of ceremonial life and expert musical tuition before marching out on to the parade square in front of hundreds of tourists with their cameras gathered at the fence line. The weekend was a great insight into the Regiment, Cadet Toni Farrugia-Dunn said 'I never wanted it to end, it was the opportunity of a lifetime and I'll never forget it'

With the relationship between RHQ Grenadier Guards and the County becoming stronger than ever and with the level of support far exceeding anyone's expectations the cadets have been overwhelmed by the Regiment's recognition of their commitment and dedication. This has further been strengthened by the arrival of our new Deputy Commandant Lt Col Simon Donegan who is a former Regular Irish Guards Officer. Amongst his many responsibilities will be the overall management of the County's Corps of Drums

It was the support from RHQ that led Colonel Ric Logan to the obvious choice of rebadging the whole Corps of Drums across the County to demonstrate the ACF's commitment to the long term partnership which now makes Staffordshire & West Midlands (NS) ACF the largest cadet unit affiliated to the Grenadier Guards in the UK.

The West Midlands has long been a recruiting area for the Regiment and the new closer relationship has been clearly welcomed by our cadets, aged between 12-18 as we have had a marked increase in numbers joining the Corps of Drums to proudly wearing their new cap badge.

Since the issue of their new tunics the Corps of Drums



**LSgt Loftus of Nijmegen Company with Cadets under instruction.**

have been busier than ever this year as they once again performed at the 2017 Stoke Military Tattoo which supports ABF The Soldiers' Charity, performed at the Tower of London for the Stannah Lifts Gala Dinner night and supported The Royal British Legion at a number of events including this year's Military Football match between Stoke and Leicester City where the cadets provided an escort for the original football used by **Captain Wilfred Nevill** during the First World War. However the highlight for all the cadets and Cadet Force Adult Volunteers had to be performing in front of hundreds of serving and former Grenadiers at this year's families day held at Lillie Barracks where they stood side by side with regular troops.

We now look forward to the very exciting prospect of parading our Corps of Drums at Beating Retreat on Horse Guards this year on a worldwide stage. We have very recently welcomed **Mr Tony Taylor** ex-Drum Major of the Coldstream Guards as our new County Drum Major who will be pivotal in ensuring the success of this event.

We look forward to ever increasing ties with the Household Division and particularly the Grenadier Guards who have given us such amazing support.

On Saturday 29th April at 0515hrs Grenadier Cadets from **Suffolk ACF** departed for Wellington Barracks and arrived in time for a cooked breakfast.

They had an outstanding day with the Regiment which proved to be one of the highlights of their year. The Cadets were split into groups and went off to the various activities that were laid on for them. During a demonstration of all the weapons that are currently used by Nijmegen Company, the Cadets were given the opportunity to scrutinize them close up under the supervision of trained instructors.

In a large purpose built sandpit the Cadets had the opportunity to operate the mine sweepers with various objects hidden in the sand for them to locate. The

musically minded Cadets managed to get 'hands on' in the music department under the instruction of Regimental Musicians.

Meanwhile out on the parade square drill lessons took place; **Cadet CSM Mercer** was given a Pace Stick and instruction from **RQMS Betts**. A visit to the Guards Museum was also enjoyed by the Cadets who learnt more about the Regiment, its history and bravery in battle.

Later in the day the Cadets formed up on the square with our Cadet Corps of Drums and those from Staffordshire ACF. As soon as they struck up and the Cadets began marching tourists flocked to the fence to watch. It was fantastic to watch and see what the Cadets had achieved during the day from training given by the Grenadier Guards. The Guardsmen certainly seemed

proud of what they had achieved with the Cadets.

We were made really welcome and it was a great privilege to spend the day with the Grenadier Guards, they really looked after us. We are very proud to be associated with them and to feel part of their proud history.

A massive thank you to the Grenadier Guards, **RQMS Betts**, **SMI Simon Utting**, **SSI Utting**, all our Adult Staff and all those others who helped make this such a memorable day.



**Practical application of a new skill.**

**Editor's Note – Regimental Athletics Part 2 1985-2017:** Due to a family illness Alan Hughes is yet to complete his article and ensure that all times and distances recorded by regimental athletes are correct. He is going to produce a set of Regimental Athletic Records and needs help on 3 events; the Pole Vault, Javelin and High Jump. If anyone has old programs or other information with regards to these events he would be most grateful if you could contact him on [ah2325@outlook.com](mailto:ah2325@outlook.com)



## THINKING OF LEAVING A LEGACY TO THE REGIMENT?

### It's as straightforward as including a simple sentence in your will or adding a codicil.

In most cases, the first priority of members of the Regimental family will be close relatives and friends. However, many people also leave gifts to charities, known as legacies, in their wills.

Through its welfare work with the Battalion, the Association and the Colonel's Fund, the Regiment qualifies as a charity. So a legacy can be left to the Regiment, the Colonel's Fund, or the Regimental Association.

There are three types of legacy you can leave.

- **A fixed sum of money** [Pecuniary]  
This is the simplest option.

- **A percentage of the net value of your estate** [Residuary]  
A residuary legacy means you can leave a set proportion of your estate to the Regiment after all the other beneficiaries are taken care of.

- **Individual possessions** [Specific]  
This could be typically land, property or shares.

If you're not sure about what kind of legacy you would like to leave to the Regiment, please talk to your solicitor who will be able to advise you further.

If you have already made a will but now want to leave a legacy to the Regiment, you can make an addition or change it without rewriting your current will. This addition is called a codicil and either we or your solicitor can provide you with a form of words.

#### **Tax benefits**

If you leave a legacy to the Regiment, its value will be deducted from your estate before inheritance tax (IHT) is worked out. In some cases leaving a legacy may help bring the total value of your estate below the taxable threshold (£325,000 for 2018-19). Gifts to the Regiment made up to seven years before your death may also qualify for exemption.

**The Regiment is proud of its tradition of taking care of the extended regimental family. The two world wars of the last century made great demands on its charitable funds and the deployment in Afghanistan necessitated the introduction of the Colonel's Fund. The future, as always, is uncertain and the need to care for the welfare of members of the Regiment and their families will remain as important as ever.**

#### **Beneficiary details**

The Regimental Charity of the Grenadier Guards [Registered charity 1062257]  
or The Colonel's Fund Grenadier Guards [a sub-fund of the above]  
or The Grenadier Guards Association [Registered charity 287265]

**Regimental Headquarters Grenadier Guards, Wellington Barracks,  
Birdcage Walk, London SW1E 6HQ  
0207 414 3225 [regltreasurer@grengds.com](mailto:regltreasurer@grengds.com)**



## BRANCH NOTES

### AYLESBURY & DISTRICT

(Formed 1929)

**President:** Mr L JEFFREY

**Vice Presidents:** Major THE HONOURABLE LORD CARRINGTON, KG, CH, GCMG, MC; DH MILLER, Esq; Colonel REH AUBREY-FLETCHER; Capt SIR BEVILLE-STANIER, Bt (Welsh Guards); Capt I DUNCAN-SMITH, MP (Scots Guards)

**Chairman:** Mr D DOVER, Esq

**Secretary:** Mr RG BAKER, 48 Somerville Way, Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire, HP19 7QT

**Tel:** (01296) 426506

**Email:** rgbakker@aol.com

**Treasurer:** Mr D HIBBLE, Esq

**Meetings:** Held on a quarterly basis. Contact the Branch Secretary for further details

This year for Grenadier Day we decided to organise a minibus for our members but our coach company had to let us down with only four short days' notice, so it was panic time. In the end we managed to find a minibus company in Aylesbury which was willing to help, so a sigh of relief was taken by us all.

**22685138 Norman Hinds**, one of the Grenadiers on duty at the Coronation in 1953 outside the Chapel and one of our stalwart members, journeyed with us to Lille Barracks and had his photo taken there by our secretary **George Baker**. Norman managed to borrow a forage cap and proudly, with his walking stick certainly looked the part of a true Grenadier, well done Norman.



Norman Hinds at Grenadier Day.

Our secretary received a phone call from a daughter of **Len Maydon** who passed away in 2010 aged 91 asking if the Branch would like a framed embroidered Grenadier badge which was presented to Len on his 90th birthday and made by his Great Granddaughter Chloe. The secretary was unable to collect it but it was kindly received on his behalf by his wife **Rose**.

Remembrance Day in November in Aylesbury was once again attended by the locals, but we did notice Old Soldiers were a bit thin on the ground and our Branch could only muster three; wreaths were placed and saluted. Our Chairman **Don Dover** attended Tring church which was absolutely full and the home town of **Edward Barber VC**. Don placed a wreath by the monument and saluted with honour.

Our Branch held a lunch at The Old Thatched, Adstock, Buckinghamshire. Sad to say we were down on numbers due to it being held mid-week and therefore may have been difficult for some members to attend, but with 15 seated the food was quite excellent and met with nods of approval from around the tables. Our Chairman **Don Dover** proposed a toast to Her Majesty the Queen, The Royal Family and Grenadiers past and present.

Sadly, we have to report the passing of **23688307 Gdsm Michael John Catlin** in May 2017; our sympathy was extended to **Dora** his wife.

Finally, thanks to Regimental Headquarters and best wishes to all.

### BATH

(Formed 1952)

**President:** Major HA BAILLIE

**Vice Presidents:** Lieutenant Colonel SIR ANDREW FORD, KCVO; Major GVA BAKER; Major R KIRKWOOD

**Chairman:** Mr V DUNNE

**Secretary:** Mr V DUNNE, 1 Broadwood Close, Warminster, Wiltshire, BA12 8PL

**Tel:** (01985) 219872

**Email:** vince.dunne3@sky.com

**Treasurer:** Mr A BILLETT

**Meetings:** Held on the second Tuesday of each month at Coombe Down Rugby Club, Hollys Corner, Bramble Way, Bath, BA2 5DE, at 1930hrs

The Bath Branch has had a busy year once again and one where our change agenda has played a part in how we as a Branch will function going into 2018. We have moved our Branch Headquarters to the Globe Public House which is a great venue with plenty of parking. It offers a wide range of food, service, catering and excellent meeting facilities.

Our meeting routine has changed and our Branch meetings are now more informal and take place on the 2nd Wednesday every other month starting at 1930hrs, although we like to meet in the bar at 1900hrs. As always we offer a warm welcome to all, and should you wish to join us then please do so. At the time of writing meetings



**Branch Headquarters: The Globe, Newton St Loe, Bath,**

in 2018 are planned for January, March, (AGM), May, July, September, & November

This is the 65th year of our Branch since its formation in 1952, and we continue to 'March On' in true Grenadier Style; we take this enthusiasm into 2018 where we hope to be more active in what we do and find ways of increasing our membership by remaining positive.

We held our Spring Lunch on St Georges Day, and once again 65 members, guests, family & friends enjoyed a lovely lunch on a glorious spring day laid on for us at Cumberwell Park Golf Club.

Branch members attended Regimental Remembrance Sunday, Grenadier Day, and some of our younger members attended company ruins around the country, and all had an excellent time.

The Branch newsletter this year was a great success and very informative, our thanks go to **Glenn & Tania Shattock** for producing a fine article, Glenn, being our editor is more than happy to include items into the newsletter, so if you have something which you would like included then please let us know.

Illness has affected some of our Members this year and on behalf of the Branch we wish them a speedy recovery. **Paul Cooper** our Welfare Officer is available should anyone need his assistance.

Sadly we have to report the passing of **22545732 Earnest William Smith**, who passed away in July 2017. "Ernie" as he was known to us all, served with the Regiment from 1953 to 1956 and upon leaving joined the Reserves for another 4 years. Ernie served with



**Earnest 'Ernie' William Smith – Lest We Forget.**

the 2nd Battalion in Egypt, Malta and Cyprus and was recalled for a further six months for the Suez Crisis. Enrie also did many Public Duties and Trooping The Colour during his service. In his later years as illness took over and he became house-bound, Ernie found this to be very frustrating, however the one thing that stood out was that he kept his sense of humor to the end.

On 11th November the Branch turned out for the Remembrance Parade at Combe Down, Bath in the presence of the Bishop Of Bath, The Lord Mayor & Deputy Mayor of Bath. **Vince Dunne** our Chairman was the parade marshal and **Nigel Till** carried the Branch Banner. Although the weather was very poor a good turnout was achieved and once the parade was over members retired to the Hadley Arms for a drink and some hot food.



**Left to Right: Vince Dunne, Andy Davey, Nigel Till (Banner Bearer) Keith Channel, Glenn Shattock, and Paul Cooper.**

The 2017 Branch Christmas lunch was held at Cumberwell Park Golf Club. The event was brilliantly supported by 100 members, honorary members, family, guests and friends attending, a great turnout; thank you.

A delightful four course lunch of various choices along with wine was enjoyed in a lovely setting which was dressed in our Regimental Colours. Our President **Major H A Baillie** proposed the loyal toasts which were followed by a most impressive after lunch speech given by **Major Andrew Butcher MBE**, who updated everyone present on the Regiment, its current activities and plans for the future. Once the speeches were over we went into the raffle, where once again many prizes which had been donated were won by individual members & guests.

As this Branch Annual report draws to a close we very much recognise the challenges that lay ahead, but as always our Branch remains upbeat and willing in true Grenadier style. It goes without saying that the Bath

Branch still continues to flourish, support and promote our Branch and the Regiment and would welcome all visitors, friends and families to any of our meetings or functions.

It would be wrong of us to conclude without thanking the President, Committee, Branch Members and Honorary Members of the Bath Branch Grenadier Guards for their continued support to the Branch and Regiment, which we are all very proud to be part of.

## BRISTOL

(Formed 1919)

**President:** Major General SIR EVELYN WEBB-CARTER, KCVO, OBE, DL

**Vice Presidents:** Colonel ET BOLITHO, OBE Lord Lieutenant of Cornwall; Lieutenant Colonel PE HILLS, FLCM, PSM; Colonel LCA RANSON, TD; J FROST, Esq; Lieutenant Colonel RM DORNEY, MBE, MStJ; C SAVAGE, Esq; K JONES, Esq; Capt J BUXTON; Lieutenant Colonel MH SOMERVELL, MBE; AF LOCK, Esq

**Chairman:** Mr M O'GORMAN

**Secretary:** Mr M ALLEN, 51 Vowles Close, Wraxall, Bristol, BS48 1PP

**Tel:** 07891238866

**Email:** bristolbranch@grengds.com

**Treasurer:** Mr AF LOCK

**Meetings:** Held at 1400hrs on the last Sunday of each month at the Port of Bristol Social Club, Nibley Road, Shirehampton, Bristol, BS11 9XW, (except in February, August, October and December). A complimentary buffet is provided and Wives & Partners are most welcome to attend

**Website:** [www.bristolgrenadiers.org](http://www.bristolgrenadiers.org)

The first official engagement of 2017 was the annual St George's Cup skittles competition which was held in April at the Port of Bristol Authority Sports and Social Club in Shirehampton. We were hoping to bring to an end our run of bad luck in the competition as we have had to endure the misery of watching the Coldstreamers walking away with the trophy for three consecutive years but alas, despite our best efforts they were once again victorious albeit by the narrowest of margins. We did however manage to take second place with the Monmouth Branch of the Welsh Guards Association bringing up the rear in third place. The highest Branch score was attained by **Jack Dummer** who, for his efforts was presented with the Cambridge Memorial Shield at the Branch Dinner later in the year. The lowest Branch score was achieved by the Branch Chairman **Mike O'Gorman** who managed to attain a dismal score of 17 and for his lack of effort and commitment on behalf of the Branch was presented with the wooden spoon at the same Dinner. Those Branch Members present enjoyed a thoroughly pleasant afternoon in the company of our friends in the

Coldstream and Welsh Guards Associations, of course the complimentary buffet and extremely reasonable bar prices added enormously to the convivial atmosphere. The 2018 competition will take place in April where the pressure will most certainly be upon our team Captain **Roy Godwin** to produce a result. All Branch Members are most welcome to come along and support the Branch, full details will be published in the Spring Branch Newsletter.

We had a very good attendance at Regimental Remembrance Day in May with some thirty of our number travelling on the Branch coach. On the journey up to London we stopped at the Beefeater Restaurant in Swindon to partake of the hearty breakfast on offer and to embark our Branch Members from that area and on the return journey we were once again made most welcome by **Bob Gilbert** and the Windsor Branch at their clubhouse for a Fish and Chip Supper. Although the stop at Windsor is very popular with our Members it does place a huge strain upon our coach driver as it makes it very tight for him to get back to Bristol and drop us off within his legal driving time, therefore the Branch Committee have made the decision not to stop at Windsor on future return journeys. The Bristol Branch take this opportunity to extend our grateful thanks to all at the Windsor Branch for their hospitality over the years.

Also in May a small detachment from the Bristol Branch headed North to the Gloucestershire Branch annual President's Lunch, as always this was a most pleasant afternoon and those attending from Bristol would thank **Colin Knight** and the Gloucestershire Branch for making them so welcome.

We also enjoyed a good attendance on the Branch coach for Grenadier Day in July, the journey to Aldershot was assisted greatly with there being no Farnborough Air Show this year and we arrived to find that our Secretary had the Branch cider stall set up and ready to start trading.



The Bristol Branch Cider Stall ready to start trading at Grenadier Day.



Although we were blessed with glorious weather we were unable to sell all of our stock of cider and had to return to Bristol with six barrels unsold, whilst the unsold barrels are returned to our supplier (Thatchers) on a sale or return basis the Branch funds do suffer with the low number of sales as Grenadier Day is the only source of income for the Branch and with there being no Grenadier Day in 2018 the Branch Treasurer **Tony Lock** is certainly having some sleepless nights. We entered a team into the Boyton Cup who, under the leadership of **Andy Dane** came a very creditable second behind the Medway Branch. It should be noted that the Branch Vice Chairman **Peter Finch** scored zero in the competition and in mitigation offered the feeble excuse of "haven't fired a bloody gun since Suez". On the return to Bristol it was the consensus of opinion that despite the poor cider sales the day had been a huge success and our thanks go to all at RHQ and the Battalion for their tremendous efforts in making it such an enjoyable day.

In September a small contingent of Branch Members journeyed along the M4 to London for a Branch trip to The National Army Museum in Chelsea, it was our intention to partake of the breakfast at the Beefeater Grill in Swindon as we do for Regimental Remembrance Day but upon our arrival we were informed that they were unable to accommodate us due to a large wedding party having booked the entire restaurant, this was obviously a devastating blow as all on the coach had arrived in Swindon with rumbling stomachs and faced the daunting prospect of continuing our journey unfed. This was until our gallant coach driver **Mike Hawker** came to the rescue and suggested another venue that he knew of five minutes away. So having embarked those Branch Members from Swindon we headed, with a spring in our step to a garden centre nearby where we were served a particularly decent breakfast which all agreed was exceptionally good value for money.

Sustained we continued our journey to Chelsea where upon our arrival at the Museum we split up into small groups to wander around and enjoy the exhibits at our leisure. All those attending said that they had thoroughly enjoyed the Museum and considered the trip worthwhile; we would strongly recommend The National Army Museum as a possible future trip for other Branches. Afterwards we were congregating outside to await the arrival of our coach for the return journey when the Branch Secretary **Matthew Allen** stated that he was going to walk up the road to see how the development of Chelsea Barracks was progressing, but he only got as far as the entrance to the Royal Hospital where he got engaged in conversation with the sentry on duty and after ten minutes or so was invited to go in and have a look around, at this point another of our party, **Brian Womack** walked past and was also invited in. The Secretary and **Brian** spent around thirty minutes wandering around the grounds and buildings that were



**Brian Womack poses with a resident at the Royal Hospital.**

accessible and were thoroughly impressed with their visit; they also took great delight in telling the others on the coach what they had missed out on.

In October we returned to the Holiday Inn in Filton for our Annual Branch Dinner which we are delighted to report was a huge success, some ninety Branch members and their guests enjoyed a fabulous evening which was made even more memorable by the attendance once again of **LCpl Alan Shellard** and the wind quartet of The London Military Band who entertained us throughout the evening.



**LCpl Alan Shellard and members of the London Military Band.**

2017 was the third year that we have employed the services of the Band and were delighted with the ambiance that they bring to the evening. We were also delighted to welcome once again **Squadron Leader 'Johnny' Johnson MBE DFM**, the last surviving British member of 617 Squadron 'The Dambusters', who was presented with a Branch Certificate and a Grenadier Guards wall plaque by the Branch President **Major General Sir Evelyn Webb-Carter KCV OBE DL** to commemorate his becoming an Honorary Member of the Bristol Branch.

Some of our number travelled great distances, as they do every year to attend the dinner and we were honoured

to welcome our Vice President **Lt Colonel Phillip Hills FLCM psm** and **Mrs Hills** who once again made the arduous journey north from their home in Cornwall. We



**Major General Sir Evelyn Webb-Carter presents an Honorary Member Certificate to Squadron Leader 'Johnny' Johnson.**

we were also delighted to welcome from afar our Vice President and former Branch Chairman **Chris Savage**, former Sgt Major 1st Battalion, and his wife **Hilary** who had journeyed from their home in Essex. We were delighted to learn that **Chris** has now been appointed to the post of Messenger Sergeant Major of the Yeoman Warders of

Her Majesty's Bodyguard; all at the Bristol Branch send their congratulations and best wishes to **Chris** and **Hilary** on this appointment.

Our thanks also go to another of our Vice Presidents, **Lt Colonel 'Skid' Dorney MBE MStJ** and his wife **Sue** for once again attending our dinner. Also present was the Honorary Secretary of the Gloucestershire Branch **Colin Knight** and his good lady **Elaine**. Our guest speaker this year was the renowned artist **Sean Bolan** whose work



**Sean Bolan presents his painting to Lt**

will be familiar to many readers as he is often invited to design the Regimental Christmas Card. **Sean's Father Ted Bolan** served with the 1st Battalion and was later resident at the Royal Hospital. **Sean**, an authority on Regimental History, treated us to a fascinating

account of the lesser known aspects of this subject and also gave us an account of a Regimental Drum that he had brought along which once belonged to his Father and has an amazing history of its own. **Sean** also very generously donated one of his original paintings to the Branch for inclusion in the raffle at the end of the evening.

This Year we were honoured to welcome **Lt Colonel Simon Soskin** as our Regimental speaker who is currently working at Army HQ in Andover. He gave us a very humorous account of Battalion life as well as

updating us on the lesser known areas where the Regiment are currently deployed and much to his delight he was also the winner of **Sean Bolan's** painting!

As the formalities of the evening drew to a close there were a few presentations to be made. In keeping with tradition the Cambridge Memorial Shield was presented by **Beverly Spriggs**, daughter the late **Lance Cambridge**, to **Jack Dummer**.



**Beverly Spriggs presents the Cambridge Memorial Shield to Jack Dummer.**

The Branch Secretary then produced the wooden spoon, an award that he had instigated at the previous year's dinner for the lowest score in the competition, and much to everyone's amusement the Secretary announced that the Branch Chairman, **Mike O'Gorman** was this year's winner. The Secretary then asked Vice President **Lt Colonel Martin Somervell MBE** to present Mike with the spoon.

The dinner was widely considered to be a huge success; some present even suggested that it was probably the best yet. We shall be returning to the Holiday Inn for the 2018 Dinner and look forward to a good attendance from not only Bristol Branch members but also from any of the wider Grenadier family who wish to experience a truly good night out.

2017 was an extremely successful year for the Bristol Branch and we look forward to this continuing into 2018, but as with all Branches of the Association we have suffered a number of losses in the past year and it is with great sadness that we report the deaths of,

**2626649 D Norsworthy;**  
**2617892 R Raines;**  
**2623330 F Jones;**  
**23509760 JV Thomas** and **A M Nutt** (service number not known). It was also our very sad duty to record the passing of our former Branch President and Life Vice President **Lt Colonel the Lord Wigram MC DL** who passed away in his 102nd year. Lest we Forget.



**Branch Chairman Mike O'Gorman is presented with the wooden spoon by Lt Colonel Martin Somervell.**

## CAMBRIDGE

(Formed 1932)

**President:** Capt CNR BROWN.

**Vice Presidents:** Mr W GIBBS; Mr M DRAPER

**Chairman:** Mr T FOREMAN

**Secretary:** Mr A FRETWELL

**Email:** fenmanpestcontrol@hotmail.co.uk

**Treasurer:** Mr P SANDERSON

**Meetings:** Held at 1230hrs on the second Monday in February, April, August, December and on the second Sunday in the months of June and October. The venue will be local. Contact the Branch Secretary for further details.

Another year has gone by so quickly. The Branch tried to arrange some outings but due to the cost of transport and lack of numbers these did not prove viable. We did meet up with one another at a number of lunches which were enjoyable with an average of 25 members, guests and our Ladies who like to keep in touch.

We sadly have to report the passing of **14028487 William Henry (Bill) Clarke**. Bill held the position of Branch Chairman for 29 years and had to retire due to ill health.

Many thanks go to **Peter Sanderson** (Treasurer) and **Harry Gelsthorpe** (Welfare Officer) who give great support to the Branch and those Members who require assistance.

## CHESTERFIELD

(Formed 1952)

**President:** VACANT

**Vice Presidents:** Mr M CARNALL; Mr D LEECH; Mr C LIMB; Mr M GARRETT

**Chairman:** Mr D LEECH.

**Secretary:** Mr D BRIGNULL, 85 Deerlands Road, Wingerworth, Chesterfield, Derbys, S42 6UZ

**Tel:** (01246) 206054.

**Email:** d.brignull@yahoo.co.uk

**Treasurer:** Mr D BRIGNULL

**Meetings:** Held on the second Monday bi-monthly at the Welbeck Inn, 18-20 Soresby Street, Chesterfield, S40 1JN. Contact the Branch Secretary for further details.

Unfortunately this year we have to report the death of two members.

**2629256 Fred Neal** had been ill for some time but maintained contact with us when possible. Until last year Fred took great delight in attending the Black Sunday parade. Although confined to a wheelchair he said that joining the parade was the highlight of his year. Both Fred and the Branch were indebted to former Branch member,

**24281477 P Brown** for helping to make this possible. Our best wishes go to Fred's widow **Di**, together with thanks for her support to Fred and the Branch over the past years. Fred's funeral was attended by our chairman **David Leech** and Vice-President **Michael Garrett**.

We must also report the death of **24598258 Kevin Goddard**. Kevin had not been able to attend the Branch for many years but had, earlier, supported us in most of our annual commitments. Kevin had, albeit for a short period of time, served as Branch secretary; our sincere condolences to his widow **Ann**.

On a brighter note we are able to report that the Branch thrives due to the actions of some long standing supporters. Unfortunately our active membership is somewhat depleted due to the ever advancing age profile. We still maintain regular contact with members who, due to ill health, are not able to attend meetings. Our best wishes go to **2626625 C Limb**, **22894448 J Metcalfe** and **22648847 D Thompson**.

We have been unable to attend some of the functions that we did in the past. We were, however, represented at Black Sunday and **Michael** and **Maureen Garrett** continued their much valued fund raising at a local fete.

We look forward to another eventful year and with this in mind we extend our sincere thanks to our chairman **23444637 David Leech** and Vice-President **23135571 Michael Garrett**. It is also good to see **23862880 Michael Carnall** when he and his wife **Enid** are in the country; our thanks also to **Major Green** and **Sgt Broomes** for their invaluable help and advice.

## DERBY

(Formed 1914)

**President:** VACANT

**Vice-Presidents:** VACANT

**Chairman:** Mr G GADSBY

**Secretary:** Mr I SUTTON, 9 Orchard Close, Boulton Moor, Derby, DE24 5AE.

**Tel:** (01332) 755156

**Email:** ian.sutton80@ntlworld.com

**Treasurer:** Mrs H SUTTON

**Meetings:** Held on the third Wednesday of each month at The Alexandra Hotel, 203 Siddals Road, Derby, DE1 2QE, at 1900 hrs

Last year several Branch and family members attended Black Sunday in May but unfortunately none could attend Grenadier Day. On the 16 September 2017 our Chairman **Geoff Gadsby**, Secretary **Ian Sutton** and Treasurer **Helen Sutton** attended the Northern Ireland Veterans Association Annual service at the National Memorial Arboretum in Staffordshire. After a service in the Millennium





**Branch Chairman and Banner Bearer Geoff Gadsby with Branch Secretary and Standard Marshall Ian Sutton at the National Memorial Arboretum with the Derby Branch Banner.**

Chapel the Standards, Banners and Veterans formed up and marched down to the Ulster Ash Grove for a wreath laying service. Ian had the privilege of being the Standard Bearer for the march and Geoff carried the Derby Branch Banner.

In October we had a fund raising coffee morning in the Jacob Rivers VC Room at the Council House in Derby. The room is named after Jacob; one of two Derby WW1 soldiers awarded the Victoria Cross. We had the honour of this year's Mayor of Derby Cllr **John Whitby** attending and helping with the raffle.

The year ended with several remembrance parades, the main one in Derby Market square on Sunday 12th



**Assistant Chairman's wife Val Allcock at the cake sale and coffee morning.**



**Ian Sutton and Geoff Gadsby before the Derby Remembrance Parade.**

November. **Geoff Gadsby** carried our Branch Banner, **Terry Allcock** laid a wreath and **Ian Sutton** was the Wreath Marshal.

Last year we recruited a former Irish Guardsman **Alan Oakes** and this year we will be promoting our Branch to hopefully recruit more new members. Finally we record the sad passing of **John Butler** and may he Rest in Peace.

## EAST KENT

(Formed 1948)

**President:** Major D BRADLEY, BEM, DL

**Vice Presidents:** Lieutenant Colonel RM DORNEY, MBE, MStJ; JG CLUFF, Esq, DL; RC GOODSON, Esq

**Chairman:** Major D BRADLEY, BEM, DL

**Secretary:** Mr T JONES, Esq, MBE

**Tel:** 07808768070

**Email:** eastkentbranch@grengds.com

**Treasurer:** RC GOODSON, Esq

**Meetings:** Held at the Hythe Sports and Social Club, 2 St. Leonards Road, Hythe, Kent, CT21 6EN. Please see the Branch website or contact the Honorary Secretary for details.

**Branch website:** [www.ekb.org.uk](http://www.ekb.org.uk)

**Facebook:** EKBGGA

Sadly, since our last report, we bade farewell to 22712094 **Donald Richard Harrington**, who passed away on 11 January 2016 (aged 82), to 22545865 **Martin R Kilduff**, who passed away on 08 March 2017 (aged 82) and to 22157771 **Ronald Harris Goldstein**, who passed away on 14 March 2017 (aged 86).

Our reporting year starts in November 2016, when members were on parade for the Armistice Day Parade in Hythe. We commenced proceedings with the customary open air Church Service at the Hythe War Memorial during which, young children from local schools read out the names of those inscribed on the Hythe War Memorial. This was followed by the laying of wreaths. Branch members then formed up and led the march up the High Street with a salute being taken at the Town Hall. **Trevor Jones MBE**, once again carried our Branch Banner on this parade.

During December 2016 we held our Christmas Function at the Hythe Sports and Social Club. Our entertainment was the ever popular **Gavin Bull** who performs under the stage name of 'One For The Road'; another excellent event enjoyed by all who attended.

Our Annual General Meeting was held in March 2017. The Branch President **Major Dennis Bradley BEM DL** advised members that our Secretary, Treasurer and Webmaster **Bob Goodson** and his wife, **Sue**, were planning for early retirement and would then be out of



Tables ready for dinner.

the country for up to six months of each year. As that would prohibit Bob's ability to perform these roles, successors were being sought.

Pleasingly, **Trevor Jones MBE** said he was prepared to take on the Secretary's role and was voted in as Assistant Secretary for the duration of the handover. It is hoped that the handover can be completed by our next AGM in April 2018.

As no one stepped forward to assume the Treasurer's role, our plan is for **Bob Goodson** to continue and maintain the accounts remotely over the Internet whilst away; **David Grassham** will assist in the role of Assistant Treasurer. Bob will also continue in the role of Branch webmaster and continue to assist with event planning.

The highlight of our year was our Annual Dinner which was held at the start of September 2017 and celebrated the 69th anniversary of the formation of our Branch. This event was held at the sumptuous Royal Temple Yacht Club which is a delightful venue overlooking Ramsgate harbour. Thanks to some exceptional fundraising activities throughout the year, we were able to heavily subsidise this event and make it more affordable for those attending.

The weather was lovely and attendees were able to take advantage of the views from the veranda.

Our entertainment was provided by **Kevin Kay-Bradley**, a former Musician with the Band of the Coldstream Guards, who has the extraordinary talent of being able to play piano and trumpet; both at the same time. He was accompanied by **Chrissie Grimsdale**, a soprano singer.

As ever, the meal and service were exceptional.

Our Guest Speaker was **Captain Chris Wright** from Nijmegen Company who gave an excellent resume of events and brought diners up to date with Regimental activities.

Pleasingly, one of our honorary members, **Victor Barley OStJ**, along with his wife **Maxine**, were able to join us as was **Lieutenant Colonel Wayne Hopla** and his wife **Jean** who had moved to our part of the country. **Wayne** was the Bandmaster of our Regimental Band and later the Director of Music of the Irish Guards and Senior Director of Music of the Household Division. He is now



Captain Chris Wright.



the Director of Music of our County Regiment Band, the Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment.

We also had the company of **Gdsm Tom Goodwin**, a serving Grenadier with Nijmegen Company. Representing the Royal Temple Yacht Club, our guests of honour were **Commodore Andy Beaumont-Hope**



**Commodore Andy and Mrs Beaumont-Hope.**

and his wife **Sarah**.

During the Annual Dinner, **Bob Goodson** was made a Vice President of the East Kent Branch.

Attendance at meetings has remained constant and, thanks to **Joe Moran**, a Sunday luncheon at the Hythe Sports and Social Club is organised to coincide with our meetings. This provides a great opportunity for members to relax and enjoy each other's company on a regular basis throughout the year. Finally, a huge thank you to all our loyal members, their ladies and our many friends who continue to support us and our activities.



**The Branch President and Ron Keeble.**



**Ramsgate harbour from the veranda at the Royal Temple Yacht Club.**



## ESSEX

(Formed 1946)

**President:** Lieutenant General SIR ANTHONY DENISON-SMITH, KBE, DL

**Vice Presidents:** MW GILES, Esq; G COURTAULD, Esq DL; Major TH BREITMEYER, DL; Capt CIT WHITE-THOMSON; Mr R KEEBLE

**Chairman:** Mr C WILLIS

**Secretary:** Mr S NORSWORTHY, 47 Ashmore Road, Maida Vale, London, W9 3DR

**Tel:** (01992) 787407 / 07730075126

**Email:** s.norsworthy@me.com

**Email:** essexbranch@grengds.com

**Treasurer:** Mr M LAND

**Meetings:** Held at the Prested Hall Chase, Feering, Colchester CO5 9EE. Contact the Branch Secretary for further details.

This year has been a good year for the Branch with members attending various Branch, Regimental & national events. Our membership has also increased slightly.

We started the year on Sunday 12th March with our annual spring lunch, held at Prested Hall, Feering. Over 40 members and partners attended and all had an excellent lunch. At this lunch, our then Chairman **26233167 Mr Ron Keeble**, who joined the Home Guard at the outbreak of WW2, then transferred to the Regiment in 1942, announced at the age of 94, he was to stand down. In honour of his outstanding service to the Regiment and many years with the Association, our President presented Ron with a 1925 Guard Order figure of a Grenadier on a mahogany base.

On Sunday 9th April, the Branch held its AGM at The Secret Garden Centre, Writtle Rd, Chelmsford. It was well attended with a lot of useful information discussed. **23398937 Mr Chris Willis**, 1st Bn, was elected as our new Chairman. Our finances remain in very good order thanks to **Mr Mark Land**. **Captain Barry Double** proposed that **Mr Ron Keeble** should be made a Branch Life Vice President and this was voted in by all. At the conclusion of the AGM we sat down to an excellent roast lunch.

During the year, the Branch had members attending Regimental Remembrance Day at Wellington Barracks, Grenadier Day at Lille Barracks, The Colonels Review and Trooping the Colour. Unfortunately our Branch visit to The Royal Hospital, Chelsea had to be cancelled but we intend to visit in the not too distant future.

On Sunday 6th August we held our annual summer garden party. After the success and excellent spread of last year, we returned to the Secret Garden Centre. An excellent turnout of members and friends was greeted with warm sunny weather and a superb spread of top quality homemade food. The venue was decorated with

Regimental bunting, union flags & Regimental posters which added to the atmosphere.

The Branch held its Christmas lunch on Sunday 3rd December at Prested Hall. Once again Prested pulled out all the stops and made the dining room and the tables very festive. The food was excellent. 50 members, partners and friends attended. Our Secretary and his Girlfriend once again ran a very successful raffle. We were honoured to have **Captain Charlie Williams**, Intelligence Officer 1st Bn, as our guest speaker. He gave a full and very informative talk about what the Battalion had been up to during a very busy year and described what will be expected of it in 2018.

Sadly we report the passing of **23509621 David Albert Willson**.

In February, our secretary's father, **2626649 David Norsworthy**, 3rd Bn 1944-49 passed away. He found amongst his dad's belongings, an album of photos documenting the 3rd Bn Corp of Drums during their 1946-47 tour of Palestine. He was very proud to be a Grenadier and once carried the wreath at Regimental Remembrance Day.

We would like to conclude this report by thanking **Major Andy Green**, **Sgt Rob Broomes** and all the staff at RHQ for their help. We look forward to another great year.

## GLOUCESTERSHIRE

(Formed 1949)

**President:** Colonel LCA RANSON, TD

**Vice Presidents:** Lieutenant General SIR JOHN KISZELY, KCB, MC, DL; Major General SIR EVEYLYN WEBB-CARTER, KCVO, OBE, DL; THE LORD VESTEY, KCVO, DL; Capt JGL PUGH; Capt MJ MACKINLAY MACLEOD; WJ EYKYN, Esq; Major THE LORD ANDREW WIGRAM, MVO; Lieutenant Colonel JG PEEL, TD, DL; Capt AW FERGUSSON-CUNNINGHAME; Major SA MARCHAM, MBE; NJ SIMMS, Esq; PD GWILLIAM, Esq; Lieutenant Colonel CJE SEYMOUR, LVO; DAE GEORGE, Esq; Capt EC GORDON-LENNOX; Colonel GW TUFNELL, CVO, DL; Capt GL BANKS; SIR HENRY WG ELWES, KCVO; C MALET, Esq

**Chairman:** Mr D ERRINGTON

**Secretary:** Mr C KNIGHT, 'Ridgeway' Bream Road, St. Briavels, Lydney, Gloucestershire, GL15 6TL

**Tel:** (01594) 530154

**Email:** grenadiersglos@tiscali.co.uk

**Treasurer:** Mrs E KNIGHT

**Meetings:** Held on the last Thursday in the months of March (AGM), May, July, September and November. The Victory Club, Burlington House, Lypiatt Road, Cheltenham, GL50 2SY, commencing 1930hrs. (A free hot snack is provided during the interval)

**Website:** www.gloucestershiregrenadiers.co.uk

**Facebook:** Grenadier Guards Association Gloucestershire

This will be the thirty second annual report with **Colin Knight** as Branch Secretary. The year has been once more a busy and active one for us.

Unfortunately there has been a loss of members since our last report. These past twelve months have seen the passing of **David Leighton** who was our Welfare Officer, **Anthony (Tony) Jefferies** a former founder member of the then Cheltenham Branch, **Ernest (Ernie) Miller**, **Edward (Ted) Bennett**, **Gordon Willis** and **Lord Wigram** who had been a Vice President of the Branch from we believe, not long after its original foundation. We also lost Honorary Member **Steve Hares**. All but one of the funerals was attended with a Guard of Honour being formed at each.

It is pleasing to report that the Nominal Roll holds well with several new additions; the advent of communications via the internet is credited for this as the Branch endeavours to make full use of technology. We are indeed very fortunate to have an excellent assortment of Associate and Honorary members who support the Branch so well.

Meetings are held every other month bar January commencing at 1930 hours normally concluding by 2145 hours or even later. During the interval it is customary to serve complimentary hot pies which continue to prove popular. To make meetings more interesting we endeavour from time to time to get a guest speaker, which helps to hold the interest of members attending. Our last speaker was a professional in the world of Will Making and Lasting Power of Attorney. The presentation was indeed not only interesting but very well received. The Branch is indeed fortunate to have the Victory Club in Cheltenham to hold our gatherings; large comfortable rooms with excellent bar facilities at affordable prices. Car parking is also no problem.

Our Welfare Officer **David Leighton** suddenly passed away during his ninth year in office; the sad loss of a very dedicated and conscientious man and felt by every one of us. **Jeanette** his wife had loyally supported him in this roll and he will indeed be a very hard act to follow. That being said the Branch can pride itself for yet another year with regard to its overall welfare effort, members have rallied round and undertaken many visits including to the several we have in care homes. Christmas cheques were personally given to twenty of the more senior or infirm members including those who for whatever reason, have not enjoyed good times of late.

Almost all our allocation of tickets was taken for the Muster for the Service of Remembrance at

Cheltenham Town Hall. Our Branch Banner was paraded by **Ivor Jones**.

Our thanks must go once more to the Social Secretary **Alan Holford** for being the promoter of our Christmas lottery. His wife **Alice** ably assists **Alan** who would be really lost without her help and guidance. Every year fingers are crossed that sales will not fall and it is pleasing to report that together with the Fifty Club, which holds four draws a year, sales and proceeds have held well.

The attendance at the Branch Christmas Social, a little down on previous years, concluded our calendar for 2016. A hot two course lunch was served together with a host of interests to keep the audience on their toes. At the time of writing it is intended at the forthcoming committee meeting, to discuss perhaps a change of the long-honoured programme we have run successfully now for some twenty or more years.

March 2017 saw our Annual General Meeting at which all officers retained their posts except for the election of **Peter Jones** as Social Secretary. **Alan Holford** who had held this position for some 25 years stood down for health reasons. Our utmost thanks must be recorded for **Alan's** total dedication in this role within the Branch. The Committee remained unchanged except for the inclusion of **Michael Beasley** who was voted in.

Sunday 7th May saw a first for the Branch in as much as we fielded a crew of fourteen plus a drummer in the Dragon Boat Racing in Gloucester Docks. It was a gloriously sunny day with the event being watched by a crowd of several thousand. Our crew, including our 70 plus year old secretary did not win, however they did not capsize or let the side down. It was also rewarding to see our President **Lance Ranson** and one of our Vice Presidents **Charles Malet** (Coldstream Guards) in the



The Gloucester Branch Crew in scruff order consisting of the Branch President, a Coldstream Guards Officer, Grenadiers, an Irish Guardsman, children and grandchildren of members.



The Crew at full steam ahead with thousands watching from the opposite bank.

crew. We hope to participate again next year with the expectation that several serving Grenadiers may see fit to join us. Two days later, thanks to **Derek Knott** a party took a walk over Cleeve Hill and at the conclusion enjoyed lunch in the Golf Club House.

Next on the calendar was Regimental Remembrance Day and our numbers were up from previous years. Both on the outward and return journey we stopped at the Guards Club, Windsor, where on our return everyone was well looked after with a Fish and Chip supper. Thanks to the Windsor team especially their Secretary **Bob Gilbert** and his wife **Sue**, who together ensure that everyone is always made most welcome.

Late May saw us holding an experimental Formal Spring Branch President's Luncheon at Hatherley Manor; the event has traditionally taken place in the late Autumn. Unfortunately and too late, it was realised that arrangements had been made for a Bank Holiday weekend. The attendance was still good albeit a little down on the previous year. **2Lt Tom Holmes** attended and gave an up to date account of Regimental activities.

Saturday and Sunday 24th and 25th June saw almost a full complement leave Cheltenham for a visit to the National Memorial Arboretum which was also hosting Armed Forces Day. On conclusion the party moved on to take rooms in the nearby four star Holiday Inn hotel. From there the party visited the Winery Restaurant in Burton where a first class evening meal was taken. A special thank you must go to **Dennis Ward**, one of our members living near Burton who assisted in making these arrangements for us.

The next morning saw the party off to the Black Country Museum for a most interesting visit. All

appeared more than satisfied with the arrangements made together with the price charged. It paid to put the arrangements together ourselves and to bypass agents. This was followed a few weeks later by a complimentary visit to Highgrove House to view the gardens. A full complement was taken with arrangements having been made with our thanks by Branch member **John Aylmer**, who is on the staff at Highgrove.

July saw the Annual Garden Party at the home of **Colonel John Peel**. It was held on what turned out to be a day of inclement weather making it necessary to withdraw to the large shed. Amazingly this had the effect of improving the day somewhat as members were in closer proximity to each other along with the Chedworth Silver Band; the result was a lot of satisfied customers. A first class barbecue was enjoyed courtesy of **Ivor Jones** and **Derek Dean**, who for the umpteenth year, showed off their culinary skills over the hot coals. Thanks go to them both and all the helpers who assisted on the day.

September saw a large party attend a Gurkha Restaurant to sample traditional Nepalese Food. Thank you to one of our Honorary Members **Graham Barton** for assisting in the arrangements. A couple of weeks later, again thanks to **Derek Knott**, a party walked along the tow path of the Stroud Water Canal enjoying hot bacon butties en-route and afterwards lunch at Wetherspoons on a glorious sunny day – always a bonus. We will conclude the year with our Christmas Social which as has been the case now for many years, will be held at the Victory Club, Cheltenham.

Birthday cards continue to be sent to every member for whom a date of birth is recorded. The scheme now nine years old is well received by the membership and is now



run by **Peter Jones** and his wife **Pamela**.

Our Branch has embraced modern technology with 159 members who can now be communicated with by Email. Seldom does a week go by without members on-line receiving some form of Branch communication. Those without Email had five newsletters sent to them by snail mail during the past twelve months. Keeping in regular touch with the entire membership is believed to be one of the main ingredients of the continued success of the Branch.

Our Branch has a presence on Facebook which is being monitored by our Chairman **David Errington** ably assisted by **Mark Evans** (Welsh Guards); this must be one of the more positive ways forward. Any member wishing to gain access to the site should please follow the usual procedures.

Our President **Colonel Lance Ranson** is as always very active and gives the Branch tremendous support throughout the year. We would like to thank him for his continued leadership and guidance.

Many members of the Branch are in receipt of the weekly newsletter from **Jim White** who yet again is to be commended for his enthusiasm and indeed very personal effort in undertaking this task. It would not be Sunday now without his newsletter coming through.

The report is concluded by thanking **Major Andy Green**, **Sgt Rob Broomes** and the small staff at Regimental Headquarters who are all very dedicated to keeping the spirit of the Association very much alive as the Gloucestershire Branch continually endeavours to do.

For up to date branch information including newsletters please visit our website: [www.gloucestershiregrenadiers.co.uk](http://www.gloucestershiregrenadiers.co.uk)

## KINGSTON & DISTRICT

(Formed 1935)

**President:** Brigadier GK BIBBY, CBE

**Vice Presidents:** Major (QM) DR ROSSI, MBE; Mr LW SPENCER

**Chairman:** Mr FS HOLLOWAY

**Secretary:** Mr JLH KNIGHT, 228 West Barnes Lane, New Malden, Surrey, KT3 6LT

**Tel:** (0208) 336 1884

**Email:** [grenjohn.jk@gmail.com](mailto:grenjohn.jk@gmail.com)

**Treasurer:** Mrs L EDWARDS

**Meetings:** Held on the first Monday of each month at The Royal British Legion Club, St Mary's Road, East Molesey, Surrey, KT8 0ST.

**T**his has been an unusually quiet year for the Branch, a reflection of our reduced numbers perhaps, we shall see.

With our outgoing finances for the previous year

finalised and a transfer of funds completed, in January we donated £1000.00 to The Colonel's Fund. The Regimental Adjutant wrote a letter of thanks to the Branch President.

In the previous two years the Branch had organised a pre-Christmas lunch at the Aversa Italian restaurant in Molesey. We slightly altered that this year by arranging a lunch in the New Year and with a change of venue suggested by **Jenny Butcher**. On the 29th January 2017 a total of nine enjoyed an informal lunch at the Inn on the Lake, Silvermere Golf Club, Cobham; a meal enjoyed by all.

**Stan Hollaway** our Branch Chairman now attends the Remembrance Day Parade at the Cenotaph each year. He had been saddened that there were apparently only six Grenadiers marching and he hoped that there would be a larger attendance in future.

**Mark Worsfold** managed to keep fit by undertaking challenging adventurous expeditions; we hope he might make his own report on his efforts.

At the Branch Annual General Meeting our Secretary raised the viability of holding a Branch meeting when attendance was very low. **Reg Burton** proposed that a quorum would consist of a minimum of seven members; one of those should be an elected Branch official. That proposal was seconded by **Stan Hollaway** and adopted unanimously.

We still muster several stalwarts from within our ranks to attend and march on Regimental Remembrance Day.

As a Branch we are fortunate that the Royal British Legion Club, East Molesey make their first floor bar area available to the Branch for monthly meetings. There was no other accommodation for formal meetings on the ground floor. During the April Branch meeting our Secretary wondered whether there would be merit in holding a formal Branch meeting once every two months. In months where there would be no formal meeting then members could gather informally in the ground floor bar area. One benefit of that would be that the less able who could no longer manage the stairs could still get together. **Tom Gentle** thought that he could manage that together with the kind offer of transport from **John Knight**.

We lost track of **Tom Gentle** again in July but it was easier to track him down this time through contact with his daughter. We learned from **Sally** that **Tom** had died in the Phyllis Tuckwell Hospice at Farnham on Sunday 9th July. She had been staying with him and had spent that afternoon with him in the garden; they had enjoyed ice cream.

Branch members attended the funeral at Woking Crematorium on 25th July and joined the family afterwards at The Cricketers, Horsell Birch. **Tom** was the last but one of the 'Old Guard' who could remember back to the Branch's glory days and through the presidency of both **Captain D G Bibby** and **Major K B Bibby**, father and grandfather respectively of our current president **Brigadier G K Bibby CBE**. **Major D R Rossi MBE**

had served as a very successful and popular Branch President immediately before **Brigadier Bibby** took post. Only **Liz Howell** could share the memories back as far as **Major Bibby** with **Tom**. Liz's father the late **Sergeant Bill Berresford DCM** had been Branch Chairman.

**Liz Howell** has regularly maintained contact with **Luke and Maureen Spencer** including visiting them at home in Weymouth. The Branch sent **Maureen** some flowers on her discharge from hospital.

Branch members were unable to stock or staff a stall at Grenadier Day but some of our number did attend. What should have been the Branch stall area was used as a focal point for members. It was good to reconnect with members that we rarely see due to work commitments. **Martin and Karen Burgess** had made it up from Kent, **Ian and Brenda Fenton** from Cobham. **Mark Worsfold** and his mother were there as was **John Knight**.

On 26th October several of our members joined **Les Cox** and London Branch members for a visit to the Tower for the Ceremony of The keys. An evening enjoyed by all but will be the last under current arrangements

Save for Branch meetings there was nothing else planned for the rest of the reporting year but we look forward to the coming year with anticipation.

## LEICESTERSHIRE & RUTLAND

(Formed 1927)

**President:** RH MURRAY-PHILIPSON, Esq, OBE, DL

**Vice Presidents:** SIR JOHN CONANT, Bt; Capt RT CONSTABLE-MAXWELL; RE JONES, Esq; D TREDINNICK, MP; J MORREY Esq.

**Chairman:** J COWLEY Esq.

**Vice Chairman:** J MORREY Esq.

**Secretary:** Ms KITTY LOWE

**Tel:** (0116) 229 9004

**Email:**

**Treasurer:** To be appointed.

**Meetings:** Held on the second Sunday of each month at Westcote House, 55 Westcotes Drive, Leicester, LE3 0QU, at 1230hrs (Lunch available if ordered through the Branch Secretary).

## LINCOLN

(Formed 1923)

**President:** Major D BRADLEY, BEM, DL

**Vice Presidents:** Mr A HILL, Major I FARRELL

**Chairman:** Mr JD MARSHALL

**Secretary:** Mrs A MARSHALL, 84 De Wint Avenue, Lincoln, LN6 7DZ

**Tel:** (01522) 871184 / 07791290498

**Email:** marshall84@ntlworld.com

**Treasurer:** VACANT

**Meetings:** Held on the third Friday in the months of February, April, June, August, October and December at the MS Therapy Centre, Outer Circle Drive, Lincoln, LN2 4JH, at 1930hrs.

Our Branch remains active mostly due to the hard work of the committee and to our loyal members who attend both meetings and Sunday lunches. Our Branch meetings are held on Friday evenings every other month and are always at the same venue but the Sunday lunch venue changes each time, travelling to different parts of the county; often attracting those from that area who cannot make it to our meetings. Unfortunately we lose a few members each year but also seem to be gaining a few new ones which is keeping our numbers steady. Along with one or two other new members we are pleased to welcome **Richard Garmory MM**, who is originally from Lincoln and **Steve Vaughan** and is wife **Mo** who have been attending our dinners and other Branch events for several years now, and after moving to the County to be closer to family, Steve has transferred from the Medway Branch.

As is our usual custom Branch members attended the Remembrance Day Service in Lincoln Cathedral. As always our thanks go to **Keith Harvey** for parading the Branch Banner and **Pat Houldridge** for laying the poppy wreath during the service. This was followed by a round of drinks at a local watering hole and then to The Bentley Hotel for lunch. Several other Branch members and their wives also joined us for lunch after they had attended other services in their local towns and villages.

On Friday 21st April the Branch held its AGM where the Chairman and Secretary were re-elected. However the Treasurer resigned his position and we are currently looking for a replacement. **Charlie Short** was also re-elected as the Branch Welfare Officer.

Several Branch members attended Regimental Remembrance Day but unfortunately most of our regulars never made it for various reasons.

An enjoyable day was spent in Aldershot at Grenadier Day meeting with old friends. The Branch set up their pitch as usual, but it was decided that this





**Richard and Pam Singleton on their way to Regimental Remembrance Day.**

would only be used as a meeting place thereby giving everyone the freedom to spend the day as they pleased with no commitments necessary back at the Branch stall.

The Annual Dinner and Dance was held in October at The Bentley Hotel, Lincoln. Unfortunately our President **Major Dennis Bradley BEM DL** could not attend this year and his place was taken by our Vice President **Major Ian Farrell** who was also our Regimental guest. He brought us up to date with all the Regimental news and events; a smaller number of guests than usual, for differing reasons. However, those who attended had a very enjoyable evening. Thanks go to all who supported this event but particularly members such as brothers **Mark and Keith Melbourne** and their wives **Alison and Nicola**. Originally from Lincoln but living further afield now, they always make the effort to attend this event. Our thanks go to **Neil and Sheila Crowther** for organising the excellent raffle.

We were also very pleased to welcome **Sam and Coralyn Swanwick**, **Richard and Doreen Radford** and **Rick Garmory MM** from the East Midlands Breakfast Club to the dinner and hope to



**Keith and Nicola Melbourne.**



**Bill and Sue King.**

see them again at future events. Following the meal 'Ryan' provided the entertainment for the evening, again filling the dance floor which made for a very enjoyable and lively evening.

Sadly during the last year we lost **R Wilson** (ACF Associate Member) and **22213739 E H Legg**. We also acknowledge the loss of **22545446 M Bacon**, a longstanding member of this Branch until moving away. Our condolences go to their families.

Please check our website [www.grenguards.lincoln.org.uk](http://www.grenguards.lincoln.org.uk) for up to date information on forthcoming events. Finally the committee would like to thank all Branch members for their support and the team at RHQ for their assistance during the past year.



**Richard Garmory MM (left) and Sam Swanwick.**



# LIVERPOOL

(Formed 1920)

**President:** THE EARL OF DERBY

**Vice Presidents:** Mr C YATES; Mr G HUGHES; Mr GH NORRIS; Mr L EDGE

**Chairman:** Mr R THOMSON

**Secretary:** Mrs J CHAMPION, 11 Oulton Close, Prenton, Wirral, CH43 0XD

**Tel:** (0151) 652 4029 / 07912846197

**Email:** julie.champion@me.com

**Treasurer:** Mrs L JONES

**Meetings:** Held on the last Thursday of each month, except August and December, at 2000hrs, at the Premier Inn, Vernon Street, Liverpool, L2 2AY

**Facebook:** Grenadier Guards Association – Liverpool Branch.

To wrap up 2016 on Sunday 21st August we visited The National Arboretum Memorial to be a part of the unveiling of the Cyprus Rock. We were so pleased to have had the opportunity of seeing the Cyprus Memorial Rock unveiled for the fallen of the Cyprus Emergency Campaign 1956–60. It was a proud day for **23252262 Gdsm Robert Thomson** as he remembered his time in Cyprus between 1956–1959. A formal wreath was laid by Lord Maginnis of Drumglass on behalf of the British Army.

On Saturday 19th November 2016 we celebrated our 96th year with an Annual Dinner and Dance at The Mercure Atlantic Tower Hotel in Liverpool city centre, 99 attended the dinner with many guests staying the night to make the most of the hotel's excellent facilities. We were delighted to welcome **Major James Shaw** our guest from the Regiment who updated the members with all news from the Battalion.

**Dame Lorna Muirhead** Lord Lieutenant of Merseyside and her husband **Ronald** also joined us as guests for the evening. Dame Lorna gave us a fascinating insight of her journey from midwife to personal representative of the Sovereign on Merseyside; she shared lots of endearing stories of her time with the Queen and especially of the time when The Queen visited Liverpool. Dame Lorna told us how she believed people need to have someone to look up to and in our society that that person is our Queen, She connects us with our past and is moving us all forward to our future. After her speech Dame Lorna spent a lot of time talking with Branch members before



**George Hughes, Dame Lorna Muirhead and Julie Champion.**

leaving for home. The raffles were a great success raising £419.20 for Branch funds; all in all a great evening.

Our AGM was held on Thursday 26th January 2017 with a total of 15 members present. The committee was elected and agreed that **Mr George Hughes** be elected Chairman; **Mrs Julie Champion** was elected as Secretary. **Mrs Barbara Pennington** stepped down from treasurer to assistant treasurer and **Mrs Linda Jones** was elected as our new Treasurer. **Julie** and **Linda** attended their first AGM at Wellington Barracks in March, found it very informative and enjoyed meeting all the other secretaries and taking on board ideas as to how to keep our Branch going and moving us forward.



**Les Edge, Dame Lorna and Charles Yates.**

On Saturday May 20th a full coach of 49 members, friends and family set off to London bound for Regimental Remembrance Day staying for two nights in the London Brentwood Hotel. After a superb dinner in the hotel, we were invited to the club premises of the Royal Hospital Chelsea and were warmly welcomed into the club by the secretary. The entertainment was as always great and we all had a very special night. Sunday morning after breakfast we made our way across London to spend a leisurely few hours shopping and taking in the sights. After dropping a few off at Buckingham Palace, the rest of us headed on to Covent Garden.

We were honoured this year to be asked to provide a wreath bearer for the Parade and **Mr George Hughes** our Chairman proudly represented the Branch and did an excellent job. We then had a super surprise for **Mrs Barbara Pennington**.

Barbara's husband **Frank** had been our secretary for over 25 years and we sadly lost him suddenly in 2016. **Major Green** noted that he had never received his



**George Hughes, Barbara Pennington and Julie Champion.**

Colonel's certificate and arranged to have it framed and presented to Barbara after the service by the Colonel himself. Barbara proudly and humbly accepted the certificate on Frank's behalf.

After the presentation The Colonel kindly spent some of his time talking with our members. He seemed to have a good chat with **Les Edge** comparing their medals, **George Hughes** about our Branch and its history and **Robert Thomson** about his service. At the end of the day our coach returned us to our hotel for a very welcoming three course evening meal and a leisurely evening for most in the bar.



**The Colonel with Les Edge.**

Earlier on in the year **George Hughes** had secured a place for 10 members to travel over to the Tower for The Ceremony of the Keys; what a fantastic tradition, the Yeoman Warder was informative, funny and really made the visit.

On Monday morning after breakfast we had a meeting with the reservation manger where she secured our rates for 2018. We commenced our journey up north to our next stop at Stratford upon Avon, again the weather was beautiful and we all had a lovely afternoon shopping & sightseeing finally arriving home around 6.30pm.

At our June Meeting we welcomed Matt Ellmer the Regimental Casualty Officer. We were overwhelmed with all that he does in his role and everybody was inspired by his talk which highlighted all he does for bereaved families and the injured.

As part of The National Armed Forces Day Celebrations on Sunday 25 June the Lord Mayor of Liverpool invited our Branch members to 'The People of Faith, serving the Nation Ceremony' at Our Lady and St Nicholas Church in Liverpool. It was a lovely day with afternoon tea. **Mr Charles Yates**, **Mr Robert Thomson** and **Mr John Gregory** represented the Branch and even got to meet up with some of the Chelsea Pensioners.

In August instead of our meeting we had a lovely afternoon tea in The Shrewsbury Lodge Hotel on the Wirral. It was a beautiful sunny day and everybody had a great catch up during a leisurely afternoon where the prosecco and tea was a great success

In closing we would like to thank our Branch Chairman **Mr George Hughes** for all his support and everything he has done for us. He lives quite a way from where we have our meetings and manages to attend come rain or snow. We are also indebted to **Mrs Linda Jones** our Treasurer for all she does to help with the smooth running of the Branch and **Mrs Barbara Pennington**

for her continued support and for always keeping **Frank's** legacy alive. A huge thank you too is extended to all our wonderful members for their continued support; for turning up at all our meetings and for their generosity during our raffles and to Branch funds. We also **thank Major Andy Green, Sgt Rob Broomes** and **Sgt Robert Houghton** for their help and support throughout the year.

## LONDON

(Formed 1920)

**President:** Lieutenant Colonel RG CARTWRIGHT, LVO

**Vice Presidents:** Colonel ATW DUNCAN, LVO, OBE; Lieutenant Colonel PR HOLCROFT, LVO, OBE; Lieutenant Colonel H FLOOD; Major THE LORD R GLENTORAN, CBE; Major N BOGGIS-ROLFE, TD; Major TH HOLBECH, MBE; Major ARG CARTWRIGHT; Major PAJ WRIGHT, OBE; Major JED BROWNE; Major DM BRADDELL; Capt THE HON JA FORBES; Dr Ian Reid, MA; Capt TBCH WOODS; Capt RAC DUNCAN; Capt CAG KEELING; Capt A CLUFF; Capt RJB PINFOLD, Esq; Mr B SMITH; Mr G GIBBS; Mr A WALLIS, MBE

**Chairman:** Mr PA LANES

**Secretary:** L COX, 6 Hill View Lane, Great Billington, Leighton Buzzard, Bedfordshire, LU7 9BH

**Tel:** (01525) 852229 / 07966203799

**Email:** lescox1@sky.com

**Email:** londonbranch@grengds.com

**Treasurer:** Mr F Hooley

**Meetings:** Held on the third Wednesday each month from April-September at the London District Sergeants' Mess, Wellington Barracks, SW1E 6HQ, at 1900hrs, and at the Union Jack Club, Waterloo, SE1 8UJ at 1200hrs during October-March.

**Website:** Londonbranch-Grenadierguards-Association.com

**W**e are very happy to report that the London Branch is still alive and kicking and trying to move with the times with the likes of Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, LinkedIn, Snapchat, Pinterest, Google and YouTube; oh and of course Email – what happened to the phone and letters?

Our problem is the older the Branch gets so does its membership. We are like all the other Branches trying to get the younger members of the Regiment to understand what we are here for and getting them to join.

**Mr Frank Lowe QGM** has stood down as our Welfare Officer due to health problems that prevent him from fulfilling his role but have been very lucky to find a new one in **Mr Richard Sutton-Joines**.

**Richard** is to be commended on what he has achieved so far which has included a life-saving call to the emergency services on behalf of one of our members and very valuable involvement in three funerals. We are indebted to him.

The London Branch has enjoyed a good social calendar this year with trips to watch the Ceremony of The Keys at HM Tower of London; a visit hosted by Yeoman Warder **Matt Pryme**. Some of our members also went to the Houses of Parliament by kind invitation of our secretary's local Member of Parliament **Andrew Selous MP**.

On the 30th of May six members went to a Garden Party at Buckingham Palace hosted by the Not Forgotten Association where **HRH Prince Harry** was in attendance. In his usual style he spent lots of time talking to everyone he possibly could and making their day even more special.

June is a busy month and we were able to provide tickets for some of our members to attend both Reviews for The Queen's Birthday Parade and for 12 to attend the Parade itself. All reported back with news of a very enjoyable day.

Sadly for some of our members that had never been before the trip to watch the Garter Service at Windsor Castle was cancelled due to the General Election. We were however able to get members to go to Founders Day at the Royal Hospital, Chelsea; a day not to be missed. The Chelsea Pensioners parade in their scarlet uniforms and even at their age they stand tall and then proudly march off. Afterwards there was a party to end all parties with a large bar, different types of food and even belly dancers. These Gentlemen and Ladies know how to party!

Grenadier Day was held with the kind permission of the 1st Battalion at Lille Barracks, Aldershot. There were lots of stalls selling their wares and again it was a fantastic day. Our branch stall did very well; our main seller was the beach/bath towels designed by our secretary decorated with the Royal Cypher. We smashed all records on the day by taking £2400.00 and would like to say thank you to all those who helped.



**Our new towel.**

(We now have a new towel which is larger than the last 'The Brigade of Guards' showing all five Foot Guards Regiment's cap badges. These can be purchased from our Website Shop, EBay or direct from the Secretary). For the first time the Bar stayed opened till 2100hrs with live entertainment kindly arranged by **W02 (RQMS) Matt Betts**.

Our last trip of the year was to HM Tower of London to watch the Ceremony of the Keys in October. At the time of writing we are looking forward to our Branch Christmas Draw in December which is being held at the Union Jack Club where our guest Speaker will be **Mr Sean Bolan**, who has produced many watercolours for the Regiment.

Sadly we have to report the passing of members since last year's publication: **Captain David Horn, 14220382 Mr FH McDonald, 22955228 Mr RD Weyss, 22955489 Mr M Taylor, 23879726 Mr R Peach, 2627490 Mr I Perkin, 22213644 Mr K Brown, 23509181 Mr J Hoverden, Mrs M Hodges and Mrs B Haughey**. All will be missed by the Branch and our sympathy goes out to their family and friends. **Lest We Forget**

It is very hard to thank everyone that has helped throughout the year but thank you to our hard working committee; the Branch would not run without you, to our President **Lt Colonel R G Cartwright LVO** for his guidance, and of course our loyal members. Thanks also to the staff at RHQ for supporting our secretary.

## MANCHESTER

(Formed 1913)

**President:** Lieutenant Colonel CE KITCHEN, MBE

**Vice Presidents:** Mr F GREEN; Mr RA FALLON

**Chairman:** Mr M COTTRELL

**Secretary:** Mr RA FALLON, 58 Newhouse Road, Heywood, Lancashire, OL10 2NU

**Tel:** (01706) 360818

**Email:** robert.fallon@talktalk.net

**Treasurer:** Mr J PARRY

**Meetings:** Held on the first Wednesday of each month, (except August) at Longsight Sports and Social Club, 140 Kirkmanshulme Lane, Longsight, M12 4WB

**Facebook:** Manchester Grenadier Guards Association

The past year has been somewhat mixed with highs and lows and it is difficult to see how we can address the problem. We saw out 2016 with our Christmas dinner and dance but the attendance was lower than expected with only 79 members and guests present; our normal attendance would be nearer to 100. We did however have a fabulous evening with live entertainment, excellent food, lots to drink and very good company.

At the beginning of March our treasurer, **Jim Parry** and his son **Martin** arranged for the Branch to visit RAF Honington in Suffolk where **Martin** is serving. We knew very little about this air base, and it turned out to be one of the most important bases in the fight against chemical warfare. They have crews there that are on high readiness





**L to R: Pam Fallon, Lynda Tarkenter, Mike Tarkenter, Jim Parry, Bob Fallon, Anne Parry, Tony Jennings and Eunice Jennings.**

to be deployed anywhere in the world where chemical weapons have been found, and their job is to make safe and destroy them. We were given a full tour of the base, including a very good Museum and the hospitality was extremely good. At the end of our three day trip we were presented with a plaque with a miniature SLR rifle on it and given an open invitation to visit again in the future.

In early March our secretary received a phone call from **Dennis Ward**, a Grenadier who acts as a guide for Branches when they visit the National Memorial Arboretum. The invite was for two members of the Branch to attend the grand opening of the new entrance hall, restaurant, shop, interactive museum and memorial garden; another invite was sent to the Gloucestershire Branch.



**L to R: Dennis Ward, Colonel Lance Ranson, Bob Fallon, Colin Knight and Mick Cottrell.**

**HRH Prince William** was the guest of honour and opened the centre at 0945 hrs on Wednesday 29th March, after a rather long session of speakers telling us how they had raised the £10m to complete the work; it certainly makes the entrance more appealing.

The Branch Annual dinner and dance was held on Saturday 29th April and we had 74 members and guests



**L to R: David and Maureen Webster, Linda and Rick Kitchen.**

sitting down. Our Regimental guest was **Lieutenant Colonel David Webster** who gave us a very interesting and amusing speech that set the tone for the rest of the evening, well done Sir!

During the evening we presented our 'Inkerman Cup' to this year's winner **Doctor Antony Edkins**. This award is for a non-Grenadier who has supported the Branch by way of donations and raffle prizes for a number of years.

The Branch was again unable to get



**Doctor Antony Edkins with our**



**Alan Marshall MVO, Mrs Marshall & Jimmy Jewell, three long standing Honorary members of the Manchester Branch enjoying themselves.**

enough members together as a group to go down for Regimental Remembrance Day, so once again only our secretary and Mike Tarkenter along with their wives were on parade.

Our secretary **Bob Fallon**, holds another important position, that of Chairman of the Household Division Association Manchester of which many Grenadiers are also members. In his position as Chairman he organised a trip to the NMA on Saturday 24th June which happened to be National Armed Forces Day. This free trip was open to all veterans and included a full day of activities, entertainment and a fly past; everyone thoroughly enjoyed themselves.



**L to R: M Tarkenter, B Fallon, C Burrage, J McBean (SG), K Davies (WG), D Ward, Brigadier Ross OBE and B Jones.**

For Grenadier Day we joined forces with the Wigan & St Helens Branch, staying at a hotel in Aldershot just two minutes from the Barracks. Saturday evening was spent at the Windsor club and we thank them for their hospitality. Sunday turned out to be another fabulous day with the Regiment. We would like to thank **WO2 (RQMS) Matt Betts** for putting it all together and everyone else involved who all made it run so smoothly. Our journey back was interrupted by a visit to the NMA, this time to hold a small dedication of a bench supplied by the Wigan Branch which is now situated to the left on the approach the Guards Memorial.



**Back Row: Steve Vaughan, Andy Reid, Paul Blagden and Bob Fallon. Front Row: Keith Bowen, George Smith and Dennis Waby.**

On Saturday 14th October the secretary's wife **Pamela Fallon**, celebrated her 70th Birthday at the Britannia Country House hotel. There were 120 family and friends who came to help her celebrate, most of them staying overnight and there were some very familiar faces from their army days.

Finally we must end on a sad note. The following Grenadiers have passed away during the last twelve months, some were members and some were not, but they were all Grenadiers. Rest in Peace: **2625122 R F Charlton**, **23688665 C Clitheroe**, **2626436 J Cooper**, **24405600 K Lee**, **Paul Lannon** and **24355009 J Weston (Edge)**.

## MARCH

(Formed 1968)

**President:** Major AJ GREEN

**Vice Presidents:** Capt (QM) TA ROLFE; Mr W GIBBS;

**Chairman:** Mr E SALMON

**Secretary:** Mr CM WHITEBROOK, 21 Davie Lane, Whittlesey, Cambridgeshire, PE7 1YZ

**Tel:** (01733) 350059

**Email:** whitebrook9834@hotmail.co.uk

**Treasurer:** Mrs M WHITEBROOK

**Meetings:** Held at The Conservative Club, 14 Creek Road, March PE15 8RD on the second Wednesday each month, with their AGM held in March.

**I**t is hard to come to terms with the speed with which the year is passing. So often the complaint is that it just feels like yesterday, when in reality a good few months have already passed. In discussion with younger members as well as some of the real old and bold it is a matter of agreement; did we really have all that time in the years past? We worked hard and long hours were prevalent, we played even harder but yet there was always that extra bit of time to relax and enjoy.

At our Branch functions we are fortunate that we can enjoy each other's company, with ribald rivalry twixt differing Battalions; good-natured banter with a mutual respect for all and by all. We do of course sympathise with those who join us who never had the privilege of being amongst God's chosen.....Grenadiers.

Parades in Peterborough and the majority of Fenland Towns were well supported by the Branch on Remembrance Day 2016. The Branch thanks **Des Pritchard** for laying the Branch Wreath yet again at March. Members on Parade at differing venues were **Chris Whitebrook, John Porter, and Neville Patter.**

As a Branch we had to consider the venue for our Branch functions, for so many years we have met at the Conservative Club in March. With our long standing caterer being replaced were we really going to receive the same standard? The comment from the new caterer that "I've never cooked for that number before" did not fill us with hope for a smooth transition. Fortunately our fears were dispelled. Yes there were a few teething niggles but following words of advice the standards are rising and we are almost back to where we were. We have found that the new Steward at the Conservative Club is of a mind to go along with the improvement.

The Christmas Lunch was slightly down on the numbers that had attended previously, however this is mainly due to the increasing age of the members rather than a lack of interest. Some new faces amongst the guests were welcomed and all had a great time. Our thanks for a splendid Raffle go to our Treasurer **Mrs Morag Whitebrook** and Chairman **Edward Salmon** and his wife **Caroline**. Yet again it was a function that people did not wish to rush away from.

Our Branch Secretary **Chris Whitebrook** was in attendance at the AGM at Wellington Barracks enjoying the opportunity of meeting with so many other Branch officials and hearing the news at first hand.

The 2017 Annual Lunch was a more intimate gathering. At least it felt that way as we were well short of our usual numbers. Despite this a very good meal was followed by the usual Loyal Toasts and the report on the Regiment. Regrettably our new Branch President **Major Andy Green** was unable to be with us, however he had arranged for briefing documents to be sent to **Chris Whitebrook** who gave a very comprehensive report on the Regiment. Our thanks go to **Malcolm and Pam Clifford** for their assistance in the running of the Raffle.

Black Sunday, the rehearsals for the Birthday Parade and the Birthday Parade itself, together with Grenadier Day were supported in the usual manner by the Branch. Our thanks go to **Major Andy Green, RQMS Matt Betts** and **Sgt Rob Broomes** for their support and hard work in making all of this possible.

During the summer **Malcolm Clifford** has worked hard in attempting to set up a Breakfast Club. This has met on a number of occasions approximately 4 to 6 weeks

apart and is designed to facilitate the opportunity for Grenadiers to get together informally. Mainly aimed at those who are in employment and unable to attend midweek lunchtime functions, attendance is slowly growing and it is hoped that in due course it will become a more regular, better attended feature of the Branch programme.

The last social event of our year, the Sausage & Mash Lunch was particularly special in that it was the first opportunity for our President to attend a Branch function. It seemed as though he had always been part of the Branch, socialising and getting into conversation with everyone present. **Major Andy Green** was warmly welcomed and made himself at home. He managed to put all those present at their ease and the only complaint raised after the event was that time did not allow for more time to be spent with him. The good news for the Branch is that he has already booked the dates for this year into his Diary!

As a Branch we look forward to another year of happy memories, well-attended functions and looking after each other as our bones creak and we get progressively older.

## MATLOCK

(Formed 1955)

**President:** Mr DW RAWSON, BEM

**Vice-Presidents:** VACANT

**Chairman:** Mr JD KILLINGSLEY-SMITH, FInstLM

**Secretary:** Mrs YJ BALL, 12 Westwood Lane, Chesterfield, Derbyshire, S43 1PA

**Tel:** 07391576380

**Email:** yjball@hotmail.co.uk

**Treasurer:** Mr D BRIGNULL

**Meetings:** Held at 1230hrs on the last Friday of each month, (except in August and December) at The Grouse Inn, Dale Road North, Darley Dale, Derbyshire, DE4 2FT

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At our Annual General Meeting held on 28 October 2016 the existing Committee was unanimously re-elected. Notice was received from the Admin Secretary, **John Wright** and the Vice Chairman and Minutes Secretary, **Fred Knight** that they only wished to serve until the next Branch Meeting on 27 January 2017. Agreement was reached that a new Honorary Administrator/Secretary should be sought through local advertisement.

Members of our Branch were present at various 2016 Remembrance Sunday parades. **David (Bill) Rawson** attended Bakewell Memorial, **Derek Killingsley-Smith** and his wife **Kate** attended St Mary's Church, Crich, **Fred Knight** attended Parwich Parish Church and **Bill Pickford** and his wife **Vera** attended Longnor





**John Wright at the NMA.**

Church. **Bernard Bonser** attended Ilkeston and finally **John Wright** attended St Peter's Edensor Church on the Duke of Devonshire's Chatsworth Estate.

On 1 October 2017 **Bill Rawson**, **Fred Knight**, **John Wright** and their respective wives **Tina**, **Ann** and **Margaret** attended the National Memorial Arboretum at Alrewas to pay their respects to a new memorial erected in remembrance of all members of the 1st Battalion Grenadier Guards who saw active service in the Southern Cameroons May – October 1961. **John Wright** is our only surviving member who deployed on this operation.

On the social side, on 14 December 2016 we had an excellent Christmas lunch at the Grouse Inn at Darley Dale. On 3 May 2017 the Spring Luncheon was held at Bakewell Golf Club, attended by 31 members and friends. Our hosts provided an excellent meal and so there was no hesitation in re-booking the same venue for our Autumn Luncheon held on 6 October 2017. On this occasion we had a guest speaker – **2Lt Duncan Thorne** from Nijmegen Company who updated us on their current activities and those of the Regiment.

A special thanks to **Bill and Tina Rawson** and **John and Margaret Wright** for making both Luncheon events very enjoyable. As well as being highly organised they provided excellent raffle prizes so that everyone went home happy with the Branch successfully raising money for The Colonel's Fund. Another fund raising event was selling bric-a-brac on a stall at Bakewell

Market again thanks to **Bill and Tina Rawson**. Money raised also went to The Colonel's Fund.

On 27 October 2017 at our Annual General Meeting the President, Chairman and Vice-Chairman were re-elected for another year. **John Wright** stepped down as Branch Secretary and **Yvonne Ball** was unanimously elected to this position. **John Wright** agreed to act as the Branch Social and Welfare Secretary thus ensuring our social events continued with gusto.

On 10 November 2017 our Chairman **Derek** and his wife **Kate** attended a memorial event along with players, staff and management at Chesterfield Football Club's Memorial Garden. Chesterfield born Guardsman **Arthur Revill** was remembered. He saw service with the Grenadier Guards before the war and was called back to the Colours in 1914 joining the 2nd Battalion posted to France as part of the British Expeditionary Force. He was wounded in action during the battle of Loos and died of his wounds on 29 September 1915. **Guardsman Revill** is buried at La Pugnoy in France. (He played 73 games for Chesterfield FC).

On Remembrance Sunday 2017 **Bill Rawson** attended Bakewell Memorial and **Derek Killingsley-Smith** attended St Mary's Church, Crich. Additionally **John Wright** and his wife **Margaret** were in Australia visiting family and they took the opportunity to attend a Remembrance Day Service at the coastal town of Redcliffe, Queensland organised by the Returned and Services League (the equivalent of The Royal British Legion).

Sadly we have to report the loss of members since the publication of the last Grenadier Gazette: **23403074 Brian Lister Wall** served the bulk of his service with the Regiment in Cyprus. In his retiring years he played bowls at County level and enjoyed gardening.



**Brian Wall.**

**Brian's** funeral took place at Markeaton Crematorium on 30 November 2016. Our Chairman read the Regimental Collect at the service and a Guard of Honour was provided by **Derek Killingsley-Smith**, **Fred Knight**, **John Wright** and friend and former Guardsman **Brian Heath**. Respective wives **Kate**, **Ann**, **Margaret** and **Jean** were also in attendance.

Another loss was that of **Mrs Lynn Ford**, wife of the late **Michael Ford**, who passed away in December 2016.

On 28 March 2017 **Derek Killingsley-Smith** and his wife **Kate** attended the funeral of former guardsman and friend **23252404 John William Revill**. The



**John William Revill.**

first National Servicemen to transfer into the Regiment. He retained his interest in the Guards and in 1957 he joined the newly formed Matlock sub-branch of the Chesterfield Branch which eventually became a Branch in its own right and was a continuous member of it until his death on 3 August 2017 just 3 days short of his 89th birthday.

Over the years there were many fund raising and purely social events including the Garden Parties at Buckingham Palace which Bill always felt privileged to attend and too many to mention local events. After his retirement, Bill was Chairman of the Matlock Branch

for many years and always spoke of the friendship within the group. It was very moving to see, and would have been important to him to know that his friends from the Branch were present at his funeral. The Regimental Collect was read by **David Rawson**. They will be all missed by the Branch and our sympathy goes to their families.

Whilst Branch numbers dwindle the remaining members are stalwarts with a positive outlook for 2018. Our next Spring Luncheon will take place on Wednesday 16 May 2018 at Bakewell Golf Club.

P.S. From our Chairman **Derek Killingsley-Smith**: I want to give a warm welcome on behalf of the Branch to our new Honorary Secretary, **Yvonne**, who was appointed to the post at our October AGM. She has been 'learning the ropes' over the last few months and has adapted to the position superbly and is already a 'stalwart' as mentioned in the previous paragraph. We look forward to her valued input and hope for a long and mutually beneficial 'tour of duty'.

funeral took place at Ripley, Derbyshire and the Chairman read the Regimental Collect. The Regimental Slow and Quick marches were played at the Crematorium.

**19165172 William (Bill) Pickford** served his National Service from May 1947 until May 1949 with the Grenadier Guards, being one of the



**Bill Pickford.**

## MEDWAY

(Formed 1976)

**President:** Lieutenant Colonel P HARRIS, MBE

**Vice Presidents:** Lieutenant Colonel S TUCK, BEM; Capt CD LEIGH-PEMBERTON; Capt AJH HOLLOWAY, MP; Mr AJ WEST, BEM; Capt RC WORTHINGTON.

**Chairman:** Mr M ROBINSON BEM

**Secretary:** Mr M ROBINSON, BEM 44 The Queen Mother Court, Rochester, Kent, ME1 3JF

**Tel:** (01634) 818996

**Treasurer:** Mr K JEFFRIES

**Meetings:** Held on the first Wednesday of each month, at 2000hrs at the Warren Wood Social Club, 99B Warren Wood Road, Rochester, Kent, ME1 2XA.

**Website:** [www.medwaygrenadiers.co.uk](http://www.medwaygrenadiers.co.uk)

Another year has flown by and it is once again time to look back at what we have been involved in over the past twelve months. The local Remembrance Day Service at Rochester Cathedral in November 2016 was attended by members of the Branch, some of whom took part in the parade; **Tony West** took part in the wreath laying ceremony. The Branch Christmas Draw followed in December and was very well attended (almost standing room only). The event was a great success thanks to the organisation and planning of the event Sub Committee consisting of **Chris Warden**, **Karen Flynn**, **Morris Robinson** and **Derek Colley**.

Into the New Year and the Branch Annual General Meeting held in February. This saw some changes in committee members' roles and some new faces as a result of our Honorary Secretary **Steve Vaughan** standing down due to his re-location to Lincolnshire. Our thanks to **Steve** for all of his hard work over the years and we wish him and his wife **Maureen** all the very best in their new home. The Secretary's position is now shared between **Morris Robinson** and **Des Flynn** and the Welfare Officer's post has been taken up by **Karen Flynn**.

April and the Branch attended a St George's Day lunch at the St George Hotel in Chatham, which was well attended and enjoyed by all those present.

The annual Armed Forces Day was the next event and we turned up with a team to run the Branch stall. Unlike the previous year when the event was concluded earlier than the planned time due to heavy rain, this year's event saw blue skies and sunshine. Our 'Golf Challenge' proved to be as popular as ever with the public and assisted in boosting our Branch funds.

Armed Forces Day was shortly followed by another band of volunteers making the trip to Aldershot to attend Grenadier Day. This year's event proved to be a rather cosy affair with the Branch Stalls being confined to a smaller area than normal. We all breathed in (by



**Our Annual Dinner Group.**

numbers) and this just gave us enough room to set up the Golf Challenge. Our Boyton Cup team consisting of four members turned up at the firing point at the allotted time only to be advised (wrongly as it turned out) that this year's competition required teams of five. We beat a hasty retreat to our Branch Stall and wasted no time in volunteering one more member to join the team. This year's competition was something different to the norm, a Laser Clay Pigeon shoot. The team, made up of **Alan Edmonds**, **Des Flynn**, **Allen Slack**, **Dave Trimble** and **Chris Warden** won the competition and therefore retain the title for at least one more year.



**Some of the Gang at Armed Forces Day.**

Meanwhile in the nearby Arena, our very own **Mike Gear** was huffing and puffing his way through the Tug of War competition. A guest team was thrown together on the day and was captained by **Mike**. With the knockout stages completed the guest team found themselves in the final and with one last effort emerged as the winners of the competition. This was no mean feat for a bunch of strangers thrown together on the day and must have come as a bit of a shock to the other teams taking part.

September and the annual Petanque Competition was

the next event in the Branch calendar. This is a competition played between the Medway Branch and a local league team – The Whitehouse. The competition takes place outdoors and included a break for a BBQ lunch. The individual winner of the competition was this year playing for the newly introduced **John Chapman Memorial Cup**, introduced in memory of one of our Branch members. The cup was won by **James Edmonds** playing for the Branch team and the trophy was presented by **Kay Chapman**, **John's** widow, which was a nice touch.

October brought our flagship event, the Branch Annual Dinner which took place at the Holiday Inn Hotel, Chatham and was attended by sixty four members and guests. Our Guest of Honour this year was **RQMS Matt Betts** who gave us an update on the Regiment. **Matt** socialised with as many of those present as he could and we enjoyed his company. We were pleased to be joined once again by our President **Lt Col Paul Harris** and his wife **Pauline**, who made the trip over from Spain. We were also joined this year by the President of the Wigan, St Helens & District Branch, **Barry Taylor** and his wife **Adel**, who made the trip south to support the event. The event included an attractive raffle and mention should be made of the hard work carried out over the months by **Jen Robinson** and **Karen Flynn**, whose efforts made this happen. Also worthy of mention is our enthusiastic Master of Ceremonies for this and other events, **Chris Warden** (Entertainments). All in all an enjoyable evening with a nice meal, rounded off by music and dancing to **Sally Layne**.

Since the last edition and with regret we have to announce that we have lost one of our long standing members, **John Chapman**. Although he was an Honorary Member, **John** was a very enthusiastic member of our Branch who held various positions on the committee over a number of years and he will be sadly missed. The Petanque Memorial Cup is a fitting tribute to a very popular man.



# NORFOLK

(Formed 1938)

**President:** Capt PJS ALLEN, BEM

**Vice Presidents:** Capt TRE COOK; Major JFQ FENWICK, QC;  
Capt DJT LANG; R DONALDSON, Esq; JM BATTEN, Esq.;  
CH MITCHELL, Esq.; Lieutenant Colonel HML SMITH; BL  
BARBER, Esq; RF BARWICK, Esq.

**Chairman:** Capt PJS ALLEN, BEM

**Secretary:** Mr TA McCLENAHAN, 10 Barrett-Lennard Road,  
Horsford, Norwich, NR10 3EQ

**Tel:** (01603) 893054 / 07917605859

**Email:** terry.mcclenahan@btinternet.com

**Treasurer:** Mr CR WARREN

**Meetings:** Held in March and September at The White Horse  
Public House, The Street, Trowse, Norwich, NR14 8ST, at  
1930hrs

Our AGM took place in March at the White Horse public house in Trowse and was attended by those who could make the journey.

Our London trip for Remembrance Day was cancelled as we could not get enough members to fill a mini bus. A few members however made their own way up and enjoyed the day.

In June there were two events; one to the Langham Dome and the other to The Suffolk Branch Barbecue. Our first event on 3rd June to the RAF Langham Dome Heritage Day was organised by Captain Allen.



**The Langham Dome.**

It proved to be a fun-filled, action-packed family day out. A Battle of Britain Memorial Flight Spitfire flew over the Dome, followed by an aerobatic display by a Tiger Moth. A static Gypsy Moth was on display, along with a range of military vehicles and numerous other stalls including Stiffkey Wooden Boats, the Royal British Legion, the RAF Radar Museum and the Norwich and District Aviation Group.



**Captain Allen with Air Marshal Sir Christopher Harper.**

Hunger pangs were satisfied with a BBQ and thirst quenched by a licensed bar run by a local pub, The Binham Chequers. The Blighty Belles provided an appropriate 1940's atmosphere. The raffle was drawn by Air Marshal Sir Christopher Harper

KBE and the first prize was a 90 minute Boeing 737 simulator experience. Last but not least there was a prize for the visitor in the best 1940's dress. Entry and parking were free, but a donation per visitor was appreciated.

To cap the day we also heard that **Captain Allen** had been awarded the BEM and **Captain Cook** turned out in his 1914 Rolls Royce Silver Ghost!



**Captain Cook's Silver Ghost.**

a big thank you to all at the Suffolk Branch.

September saw our annual lunch at the Park Farm Restaurant and Spa in Hethersett near Norwich. As usual it was well attended. There was an enjoyable drink of Bucks Fizz or fresh orange on arrival to welcome all our members and their guests. All were seated by 1300hrs to enjoy a four course meal, which as usual was excellent.

**Captain Allen** briefed everyone after dinner with regard to news from the Regiment which preceded our Raffle, and again the generosity of our members was terrific. Thanks go to **Sandra McClenahan** for selling the tickets and also to **Edwina** our President's wife who got everyone's prize to them at a cracking pace. Thank you to all that could attend for making the day so successful.

Sadly we have to report the passing of **Jean Potter** one of our widows and three of our members: **23437010 John Feakins**, **22765621 David Branson** and **23450852 Peter Bagg**; We Will Remember Them.



**The Blighty Belles.**

Later in June a few members, wives and friends attended a Barbecue given by the Suffolk Branch. The weather was kind to us, the food excellent, and the company was great. We all had an entertaining afternoon;



## NORTH LANCASHIRE

(Formed 1953)

**President:** Major M OWEN

**Vice Presidents:** R PACKER, Esq; J WHITE, Esq

**Chairman:** R PACKER, Esq

**Secretary:** ROSEMARY EMMONDS Westview 57 Aspen Drive,  
Brunshaw Park, Burnley, BB10 3FB

**Tel:** (01282) 451208 / 07738562357

**Email:** rosemary.emmonds@nhs.net

**Treasurer:** ROSEMARY EMMONDS

**Meetings:** Held on the first Thursday of each month, except January and August at The Hapton Inn, Accington Road, Hapton, Lancashire, BB11 5QL, at 1900hrs

## NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE

(Formed 1933)

**President:** SIR ALGY EH HEBER-PERCY, KCVO, JP, LL

**Vice President:** VACANT

**Chairman:** Mr K WRIGHT

**Secretary:** Mr DG ROBINS, Nabb Cottage, Nabb Lane, Alton, Staffordshire. ST10 4AY

**Tel:** (01538) 702 974 / 07968 037082

**Email:** david.robins@hotmail.co.uk

**Treasurer:** Mr DG ROBINS

**Meetings:** Please contact the Branch Secretary for details.

The Branch continues to soldier on at a steady pace as befits the advancing ages and infirmities of those members who regularly attend our meetings. Monthly meetings are now a lunchtime event at a hostelry to the north of Stoke-on-Trent which suits members from North Staffordshire and South Cheshire.

In November 2016 members participated in a Remembrance Service along with the pupils from **John Rhode's VC** school at Burslem, Stoke-on-Trent. Also in November several members visited Shrewsbury where they were entertained by the Shropshire Branch at their excellent Christmas luncheon.

The Branch held their 2016 Christmas meal at The British Ceramic Manufacturer's Club, known locally as The Potter's Club in December and an excellent meal was enjoyed in splendid surroundings. The most important business in December though was the distribution of Christmas gifts. This involves the Chairman and Secretary making a tour of the Branch's largish patch with a number of tea and mince-pie calls and with a very grateful reception. The generosity of The Association is always greatly appreciated.

There was very little action in January 2017 apart from Branch officers scratching their heads a little over the annual accounts. Lunch meetings were held in the following two months where the necessary 'official' business was dealt with.

In April members of the Branch and their partners were kindly invited to lunch at Hodnet Hall, the home of the Branch president **Sir A E H Heber-Percy KCVO, LL** and **The Hon Lady Jane**. Members were joined by their friends from the Shropshire Branch and the Shropshire and Montgomery Branch of the Welsh Guards Association. Hodnet Hall and gardens are the most splendid of venues and the excellent meal, enjoyed by everyone was certainly in keeping with the beautiful surroundings.

Lunch meetings continued to be held through the summer months and members visited London for Black Sunday, The Birthday Parade and travelled south again, for Grenadier Day. The Branch continues to liaise with the local Grenadier Cadet Corps of Drums.

In August the Branch was contacted by a local First World War enthusiast, **Tony Birchall**, who had approached Stoke-on-Trent council about the possibility of utilising the government sponsored VC memorial paving slabs. He was keen to investigate the possibility of providing one of these for local Grenadier hero **John Rhodes VC, DCM and Bar** and arrange for a fitting Memorial and Remembrance service. He was anxious to obtain some Grenadier input and the Branch was able to be of some assistance and numerous meetings followed. A report on the outcome of all these meetings and the subsequent event is published elsewhere in this journal.



The Branch Chairman and Secretary at the Rhodes VC

Our Branch is fortunate in that The National Memorial Arboretum is located in Staffordshire; members have visited several times with visiting ex-Grenadiers, during the past year. On October 1st however there was a very special visit when **Keith Wright** and **David Robins**

went there to meet up with other 1960's vintage Grenadiers to commemorate and remember the Camerons tour. They had a splendid day and met several old friends. Congratulations to **Jim Veary** for instigating and organising this memorable event.

Sadly The Grim Reaper continues to strike. In October, we lost another of our Suez Canal veterans; **Albert Gregory**. Although totally immobile he remained a proud Grenadier right to the end and an example to everyone. His funeral began and ended with Regimental marches.

The Branch is short of numbers but with support from head office and our 'no plume' friends and honorary members it continues in good heart. If anyone reading this feels that they can inject a little of the 21st century into the Branch please don't hesitate to contact one of the Branch officers, you will be made more than welcome.

## NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

(Formed 1929)

**President:** C MANNERS, Esq

**Vice-Presidents:** Capt THE HON TI BRASSEY; Major JCF MAGNAY; Lieutenant Colonel JS SCOTT-CLAKE; Major JM HIRST; Capt R WILMOTT, DL; Colonel REH AUBREY-FLETCHER; P GOUDIME, JP; Brigadier DJC RUSSELL-PARSONS, OBE; Mr A CRAWLEY; AE PACKE

**Chairman:** Mr G STANGER

**Secretary:** Mr A McDERMOTT, 27 Woodlands Avenue, Corby, Northants, NN17 1JH

**Tel:** 07918 733194

**Email:** nhantsgrenadier@aol.com

**Treasurer:** Ms T CLARK

**Meetings:** Held on the first Thursday of each month (except January), at 2000hrs at the Royal Naval and Royal Marines Club, Lorne Road, off Barrack Road, Northampton, NN1 3RN

2017 has proved to be another successful year for us with the Branch yet again growing in membership from all generations of Grenadiers.

Black Sunday was well attended and a coach was hired to take our party to London so that former members of the Regiment could pay their respects to, and remember, comrades from their time with the Regiment.

Following our arrival to waving crowds, we de-bussed and looked for familiar faces. Many members met up with former comrades, with a number spending time outside the Chapel and inside of the Sergeants' Mess reminiscing of days past and long missed friends and remembering both fun and sad days during their service period. A special moment was taken to remember 269720 **Gerald Hamilton Britton**, an associate member of the branch who had sadly passed away on 21st February 2017.

Our social calendar kicked off in April with river boat trips on the good ship Titanic on the river Nene for 24 of

our members and their families, which included a ride along the river; lunch at a public house and then a fairly safe return journey under the helmsman ship of one of our most senior members directed by the drunken navigation of several self-professed experts in water-born assault tactics. Note to **Colin**: never turn right when the river goes left despite what anyone tells you.

In June we held the fourth Waterloo Ball and Annual Association Dinner. Over 120 members of the Branch and



**A scene from our Waterloo Ball.**

their families attended the new Northamptonshire Masonic Hall to celebrate the victory at the Battle of Waterloo and the naming of the Regiment.

The evening commenced with the traditional speeches and toast by our new President, **Charles Manners**, after which dinner was served accompanied by light music from members of the Household Division Band. A raffle was held to raise funds for a memorial bench at the National Arboretum, The Royal British Legion and The Colonel's Fund which raised over £1,000 and when put with the profits from the dinner, a healthy amount was donated to these noble causes. Bookings for the 2018 ball are now being taken.

Following the formal part of the evening, entertainment was available which included more music by the band and dancing with carriages at midnight. With the last members leaving by 1245 am the night was deemed a success and the rear guard retired for the night.

July 2017 saw our first garden party at our new President's house where **Charles** and **Nic Manners** and family invited us to view their garden and to stomp their roses, (a tradition started in our former President's garden at Flore). At this event we enjoyed the President's special reserve wine to wash down the delicious nibbles prepared by **Nic** whilst Household Cavalry members were happily clustering in the garden and feeding the birds with sausage rolls. Next year, they may even be allowed in to the hall. We look forward to 2018 and the re-enactment of the Battle of Waterloo we are planning to hold in the garden!

In late October members of the Branch visited the National Memorial Arboretum to lay a wreath at the





**Paying our respects at the Household Division Memorial.**

Household Division Memorial and to inspect the bench that the Branch had sponsored. Former Household Division personnel formed up with the Branch Banner and bearer party and marched down and halted at the Memorial site. A minutes' silence was held, a wreath laid and the Exhortation was recited by **23970862 Dave Robinson**. Pictures were taken before the parade was



**100 year commemoration ceremony for LSgt William**

On 30th October 2017 members of the Branch organised a Commemoration Ceremony for **13094 Lance Sergeant William Head**. He passed away at Duston Military Hospital on 30th October 1917 from infections picked up in France and Flanders during the Great War. A member of the Branch, **Mike Bayliss**, found his grave whilst short-cutting through Rushden cemetery and was instrumental in helping to organise the ceremony. It was attended by dignitaries county wide including three local mayors, a senior Police Officer, local serving reserve and retired members of the Armed Forces, Regional and Town

representatives of The Royal British Legion (and standards) and topped off with the Northamptonshire Standard accompanied by two senior Grenadier Guard NCOs; **Sergeant Haughton** and **Lance Sergeant MacMillan**, both in Home Service Clothing to add some colour and style to the event and to represent the Regiment.

Our final social event of the year was our traditional Christmas raffle held at the Royal Naval and Royal Marine Club, where over 40 members and guests joined together to chat, buy raffle tickets, win prizes, drink drinks and eat the buffet. With over 40 prizes available most, if not all, came away with a prize or two, excluding our President whose tickets we forgot to put in the hat. Thanks to **Jean and Sue Elvy** for the excellent catering.

Overall, with eleven branch meetings and numerous social events held throughout the year, Northamptonshire Branch, Grenadier Guards Association is alive and well.

Branch meetings are held at 8:00pm on the first Thursday of each month, excluding January, at the Royal Naval and Royal Marine Club, Lorne Road, Northampton, NN1 3RN, where social event information is available on request. If you live in or near Northamptonshire, and it has been a while since you saw old comrades or just fancy getting into a lively social network, why not pop down to one of our monthly meetings and see a few of the members. All members of the Household Division are welcome.

It is sad news that our extraordinarily talented ex Branch Secretary Mike Britton passed away 10 March. Our condolences go to his wife Shirley and his family; we will remember him always. We owe him an enormous debt for all his hard work whilst he was secretary of the Branch for 15 years. Tony McDermott has kindly taken on the role as secretary.

## NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

(Formed 1914)

**President:** VACANT

**Vice Presidents:** SIR ANDREW BUCHANAN, Bt, KCVO; Mr. G SEVERN; Mr RL SHARPE; Mr GE HALLAM

**Chairman:** Mr AM DUTTON

**Secretary:** Mr GE HALLAM 14 The Lawns, Whatton-in-the-Vale, Nottinghamshire, NG13 9EZ

**Email:** nottinghambranch@grengds.com

**Treasurer:** Mrs MJ GREENBERRY

**Meetings:** Held on the second Friday of each month at The Victory Club, Church Drive, Daybrook, Nottingham, NG5 6JG, at 1900hrs

Since the last edition of the Gazette we are pleased to have added the following to our membership: **23425230 Gerald R Pedge, 24220765 David Hallam**



**Members at the Christmas Social dressed to kill! Richard and Sue Grocott, Graham Worrall, Jeff Smith, Geoff Hallam**

and 24738319 Michael Barr; a very warm welcome to them all.

An excellent social evening took place at Branch HQ on 9th December 2016. The premises were fully trimmed to mark the festive occasion. The food, provided by **Malcolm and Michelle Greenberry**, **Larry and Mandy Straw** was excellent. The music for dancing and general entertainment was provided by **Graeme Bexon** with his disco; 50 or so people attended. The organisers of the Tombola, **Arthur Dutton** and **Chris Dunne** raised a small profit for Branch funds. A great evening



**Members awaiting Lunch at the Willow Tree, Basford.**



**John Hadley carrying the Branch Banner at the Parade at**

was enjoyed by all and a similar event was planned for the 8th December 2017.

**Graham Worrall** the Social Secretary has excelled



**Members resting on a full stomach after our tour of**

himself this year. He has organised several successful functions including lunch at the Willow Tree Public House on 26th February, a Troop Breakfast at the Hogs Head Hotel, Awsworth on 17th June, and a Parade and Remembrance Service at Eden Camp (Modern History Theme Museum), Malton, North Yorkshire on 10th September where our Banner was proudly carried by **John Hadley**.

A tour of Beauvale Priory Gardens at Moorgreen followed by a cream tea was enjoyed on 7th October 2017.

A coach load attended Regimental Remembrance Day although the majority being elderly did not march. The numbers were swelled by our associate members and friends from the Chesterfield and Derby Branches. The weather was reasonable and the day was enjoyed by all. Very few members went to Grenadier Day this year possibly due to the distance to be travelled. Nevertheless it is understood that those who did go had a good time.

Nottingham City Council, due to financial constraints, did not sponsor Armed Forces Weekend in 2017. Nevertheless at the request of Councillor **K Girling** a former Grenadier, the Branch gazebo and stall was positioned in Newark Market Place on 25th June. Five members participated in the parade with our Banner being carried by **John Hadley** once again.

The stall displayed a variety of prizes, items for sale, goodies and pictorial displays. Thanks go to those who toiled at the tables throughout a very hot day namely **Jeff**



**Graveside of Harry Nicholls VC, Wilford Hill Cemetery 11am 11th November 2017. T Cookson, M Roberts, A M Dutton, B Twigger, G E Hallam, B Withers, S Davis, R**



and **Edna Smith, Stuart Davis, Mandy and Larry Straw and Geoff Hallam**. Visitors were in abundance and a financial profit was made for Branch funds. Thanks too to those who provided the prizes and **Pat Davis and Edna Smith** for knitting the woollen Grenadiers and other dolls.

Following an invitation from the Leicestershire Branch some members attended a Garden Party on 9th July at the West Leicestershire Conservative Club. For Remembrance Day 12 people including family, attended the grave of Harry Nicholls VC for a short time to pay respect to this Nottingham Grenadier; the Last Post was sounded and wreaths were laid.

Finally sincere thanks are given to those who have worked so hard to motivate the members and organise activities for our membership during 2017. Not forgetting those individuals who have attended meetings and given support in many other ways. Thank you all.



**Michael Barr and Banner Bearer John Hadley at the Graveside of Harry Nicholls**



**Armed Forces Day at Newark: L Straw (front), right R James (right), S Davis and G E Hallam who all marched.**



**A member of the Local British Legion with T. Cookson, C Cookson and Gerald Pedge who attended St Andrews Church Granby on 12th November 2017. The Secretary Mr G E Hallam read out all the names of Grenadiers Killed on Active Service in Afghanistan and laid an Association**

The condolences of members go to the families of the following Grenadiers who have passed away since our last report: **22170525 K A Redfern, 23180616 F Wood, 23879894 T W Bingham, 23265261 J E Lamb and 2627670 J Tidd.**

## OXFORDSHIRE

(Formed 1936)

**President:** Colonel ET HUDSON, CBE

**Vice Presidents:** THE HON Mrs RS TYSER; Major AH GRAY; SIR JOHN GRAHAM, Bt, GCM; LORD RAGLAN; THE VISCOUNT ESHER; Major DPG IRVINE; D MASON, Esq; Major General THE LORD ALVINGHAM, CBE, DL; Major PFL KOCH de GOOREYND; M COCHANE, Esq, DL (Scots Guards); D PALMER, Esq, DL; Colonel RT MAUNDRELL, MVO; Major RM POTTER (Scots Guards); P COOK, Esq.

**Chairman:** Mr P BROOKS

**Secretary:** Mr D WRIGHT, 31 Blenheim Way, Horspath, Oxford, OX33 1SB

**Tel:** (01865) 874819

**Email:** wright.dcw@btopenworld.com

**Treasurer:** Mrs J SHAYLER

**Meetings:** Contact the Branch Secretary for further details

Another year has slipped by and as usual all our functions were well supported. On behalf of our President and committee we wish to thank all our members, friends and particularly members of the other Household Division Associations who support our Branch activities.

As usual our year started off with 30 members and friends attending the morning Household Division Carol service and socialising afterwards. Whilst the Sergeants' Mess was closed, we managed to find a local pub to reminisce in.

In April the Branch held its AGM at The Plough Inn Wolvercote. Although sparsely attended it was very lively and afterwards we all sat down to an excellent lunch organised by **Peter Brooks** who also on behalf of the Dining Club organised a carvery in July and in December our Christmas lunch; both events were held at The Four Pillars Hotel, Oxford.

In April our secretary **David Wright** and our treasurer **Janet Shaylor** represented the Association at the 100th Anniversary Victoria Cross commemoration of **Edward Brooks VC** at Oakley, Buckinghamshire where a special plaque was dedicated and unveiled at the war memorial by **The Lord Lieutenant of Buckinghamshire Sir Henry Aubrey-Fletcher**. Although he was serving with The Ox and Bucks Light Infantry at the time of his conspicuous act of bravery **Edward Brooks** had already served seven years with the Grenadier Guards. In July they again represented the Association at the unveiling



of a Blue Plaque at **Edward Brooks'** old residence in Headington, Oxford.

In June we again teamed up with Reading Grenadiers, Oxford and Reading Coldstreamers and Henley Guards Association and held a BBQ and tea party at The Home of **The Hon Lady Monson**. Over 80 members and friends attended and were entertained during the afternoon by The White Waltham Silver Band. Besides this entertainment there were many games, branch stalls and a giant raffle to keep everyone happy and all went home well fed and many took home 'goodie bags'. We cannot praise **John Southern** and his family enough for all the preparation and hard work that they put in and especially his son in law who did the cooking, **Christine** who prepared the salads and sauces and the grand children who ran the ice cream stall. We must not forget to thank the ground workers who set up the gazebos and tents on the previous Friday. We enjoyed a glorious sunny day and all for a fiver.

The Branch supported Grenadier Day by having their usual table top fund raiser. Congratulations to **Peter and Margaret Cook** who not only donated the Tombola prizes but also ran the stall together with a very fishy game which when encouraged by **Peter** was enjoyed by young and old alike raising over £80 for Branch funds. The Regiment provided the colourful arena entertainment on a lovely summer's day.

The Grenadier members continue to support The Henley Guards Association which continues to thrive albeit three members have passed away. They did though welcome a new Coldstream member who everyone is familiar with in the person of **Fred Barrett** the late Guards Chapel Keeper. Once again members are indebted to the secretary **Barrie Padwick** and his wife **Pat** who arranged for our annual cheese and wine party hosted by **Mr Herbert** at Bradenham, Bucks when 30 or more members sat out in the garden and enjoyed the victuals provided; our host was presented with a 2 litre bottle of whisky.

Other events **Barrie** organised and attended by members were our annual lunch in September and later in December our annual Christmas get together; both events being held at The Springs Golf Club where members enjoyed a buffet and drinks. Finally the usual two lunch time skittles events at the Hungerford RBL club where all monies raised went to the Lung Foundation in memory of **Bill May** late member of The Reading Branch Grenadier Guards Association.

In September 18 members and friends of the Branch joined The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers in their annual trip to commemorate the 103rd anniversary of the battle of the Marne. As usual we attended all the ceremonies and luncheons organised by our French hosts. Special thanks go to **Richard Adams** who organised the trip and to our hosts at The Hotel Auberge, Champenoise who organised two evening dinners for us with enough wine to give us



**The Marne group at the Memorial at La Ferte.**

all a good night's sleep and do everything to keep us happy.

Late September saw our final social event with a joint skittles evening with The Alfred Lodge at The Woodstock Masonic Hall. Over 40 people enjoyed the evening (more chatter than skittles) and especially the buffet; a profit of £280 was divided between the two sides.

The Branch held its annual lunch at The Banbury Cricket Club on the 28th October and 80 members and friends sat down to enjoy a superb four course lunch provided by **Nikki** and **Joanne**. **Lisa Stanhope** a Grenadier's daughter gave us an entertaining and amusing talk on her involvement as an officer in The Light Dragoons in the re-enactment of the Battle of Waterloo and also proposed the toast of the Regiment. **Lieutenant Colonel James Greaves** then gave us an excellent insight into what was happening in the Regiment and he concluded by proposing a toast to the Association. Sadly this would be our last lunch at Banbury as **Nikki** and **Joanne** are retiring. The Branch chairman **Peter Books** presented them each with a bouquet of flowers in appreciation of all their service to us and wished them well for the future.

On the welfare front two former Grenadiers contacted the Branch for assistance and whilst our President was most generous in his response to one applicant both cases were eventually taken care of by **Matthew Ellmer** and **SSAFA** and Regimental Headquarters. We now have 25 widows in our Branch and the Secretary together with **Don Thompson** make sure that each one is contacted personally to ensure that there are no problems with their welfare when delivering their Christmas gift.

Our condolences go to the family of **23509656 J (Wilfey) Pearce** who passed away in August 2017.

Finally our thanks to **Lieutenant Colonel E T Hudson CBE** all and to **Mr Colin**



**Hessey** our auditor who keeps our finances in order. Last but not least to all members from other Household Division Associations who give their support in order to make us all one big family.

## READING

(Formed 1913)

**President:** Lieutenant Colonel HS HANNING.

**Vice Presidents:** THE HON Mrs JEREMY MONSON;  
JG SOUTHERN, Esq; Mr P FLOWERDEW

**Chairman:** Mr J SOUTHERN

**Secretary:** Mrs T DAY, 1 Harness Close, Reading, Berkshire,  
RG2 8PF Tel: (0118) 986 8328

**Email:** t.day661@btinternet.com

**Treasurer:** Mr J  
Veary

**Meetings:** No  
Monthly Meetings

**Facebook:** Guards-



**L-R Standing:** Brian Wilson, Doug Roshier, Theresa day, John Southern, Henry Hanning, Robin Kellow, Robert Wood. **Seated:** Christine Southern, Evelyn Tumar,

Association-Reading-and-District-Branch

We held our AGM in March this year and **Lieutenant Colonel Henry Hanning** agreed to continue as our President. Our Chairman **Philip Flowerdew** was



**In-Pensioners Ray Huggins and Norman Mitchell.**



**L to R: Eric Hallett, The Hon Mrs Patricia Monson, Roger Coppock and Newbury Town Crier Brian Sylvester.**

pleased to accept our proposal for him to become a Vice-President of the Branch and stood down as Chairman. Our Vice-Chairman **John Southern** agreed to become Chairman; other committee members agreed to continue in their posts.

Black Sunday was well attended once again. We were welcomed at the Chapel by the Regiment and very pleased to see the Chelsea Pensioners who attend our Branch Lunch.

Our first Event was a BBQ for all the Guards Associations in our area and once again **The Hon Mrs Monson** offered to host this event for which we thank her very much. The event was masterminded by our Chairman and with help from members of all the Association Branches it was very successful. It was held on a beautiful Summer's day with the White Waltham Band providing the music and with a fantastic buffet it made for a lovely day in beautiful surroundings. **Roger Coppock** and **Eric Hallett** agreed to dress up as Palace

footmen – they really did look the part and with the Town Crier from Newbury they were a great asset to the day.



**Derren and Richard White.**

Grenadier Day at Lille Barracks in July was held on another lovely Summer day.

**John and Christine Southern** organised a Teddy Bear raffle stall which was very popular while our Honorary Members **Richard and Derren White** displayed their model soldiers. It is always interesting visiting the other Branch stalls and watching the displays in the arena, it is a good family occasion and we thank the Regiment for giving everyone a good day out.

This year our Branch Lunch was held in September and our welfare officer **Robin Kellow** played us in. Our President introduced our speakers and this year we were very pleased to welcome **Andrew Wallis**, curator of the Guards Museum. He spoke about the Flanders Memorial outside the Guards



**Norman Mitchell receiving his raffle prize.**

Chapel, how it was created and the enormous amount of work that went into making it. Bringing soil back from Flanders was a major project and many children were involved in part of this work.



**More lucky winners – Michael and Beryl Hopkins.**

Many thanks also to **Captain Ben Conway** for coming to our Lunch and bringing us up to date with news of the Regiment. We also thank the Chelsea Pensioners for coming as we cannot imagine a Branch Lunch without them. They keep us highly entertained. Two of our invited guests **Keith and Bruni Lewis** could not attend as they had been asked to attend the Guards Chapel for a book launch. **Keith** is the last survivor of the V1 bombing of the Guards Chapel in 1944. A book has been written by Jan Gore about this attack called '*Send More Shrouds*'. **Jim Veary's** father was one of the firemen who attended the bomb site to help rescue any survivors. The grandmother of **Major General Bernard Gordon-Lennox**, our Vice-President was killed in the bombing and our Honorary Member **Paul Stamp's** uncle **Keith Stamp** of the Welsh Guards was the youngest person aged seventeen and a half to be killed in the attack.

**Jim Veary** organised a very successful Cameroon Reunion on Sunday 1st October at the National Memorial Arboretum that was attended by many veterans and relatives of **John Lunn** who was killed during their deployment.

Sadly, three of our members have passed away this year, **Barry Cubitt**, **Dennis Gravenor**, who was a staunch

member of the Branch for many years and our Vice-President's wife **Pamela Flowerdew**. **Pamela** was the excellent Assistant Secretary of the Branch. Members of the Branch attended their funerals and may they rest in peace.

Once again, we thank RHQ for their help and support and for their quick reply to Emails; it is much appreciated. We send all good wishes to all Branches for a happy and successful 2018.

## SHROPSHIRE

(Formed 1927)

**President:** Major GV INGLIS-JONES

**Vice Presidents:** SIR AEH HEBER-PERCY, KVCO, JP, LL; C BECK Esq; HW SPENCER, Esq; Capt G WHITAKER; Mr WSI KENYON-SLANEY OBE, KStJ, DL

**Chairman:** Major RG WOODFIELD, MBE

**Secretary:** Mr C BECK, 133 Victoria Road, Bridgnorth, Shropshire, WV16 4LL

**Tel:** (01746) 761501

**Email:** christiebeck@btinternet.com

**Treasurer:** Mrs A FIELD

**Meetings:** Contact the Branch Secretary for further details.

We began the year by holding our AGM on 9th April 2017 at the Lord Hill Hotel with 19 members attending and eight apologies for absence. We were delighted to welcome **LCpl Neil Simmonds**, a serving Grenadier from Bridgnorth who was on leave at the time and said he wanted to come along and see how the Branch was doing.

**Major Giles Inglis-Jones** took the opportunity at the meeting to present **Major Bob Woodfield** with a Grenadier statuette to thank him and his wife **Joan** for all the work they have done for the Branch over the years. We were not doing so well when Bob and Joan came to live in Shrewsbury in 1983 and we believe it is safe to say that without their efforts we might not be here today.

2017 marked 90 years since the Branch was formed on 21st May 1927 at a meeting in the Shirehall in Shrewsbury. The first elected President was **Colonel Ralph Leeke**, other founder members were **Brigadier General A H O Lloyd**, **Captain R O R Kenyon-Slaney**, **Lt A G Heber-Percy** with **Samuel Joseph Fowler** elected as Branch Secretary. Samuel was Orderly Room Sgt Major to **Lord Kitchener** and distinguished himself by once capturing a house full of Dervishes single-handedly during the time of Omdurman. We were hoping to contact as many relatives of our founder members as possible and invite them to our Christmas anniversary lunch. We already have in our Branch as Vice Presidents the descendants of two of them.

Sadly we have to report the deaths of some of our



number; **Mrs Eileen Cookson** who was the wife of **John Cookson** and both staunch members of the Branch. **2615843 George Pritchard** our oldest member who was 95 and who had served with The Corps of Drums of both the 1st and 2nd Battalions. Our thanks on this occasion are due to **David Robins** and **Keith Wright** of the North Staffordshire Branch who both attended George's funeral and for bringing their Branch Banner. Finally **23865023 LSgt Colin Pendry** who served with the 2nd Battalion in the 1960's. The Branch was represented at their funerals and our condolences sent to their families.

Our Branch AGM in April 2018 will be very important as by then we will be without a Chairman, Treasurer and possibly a Secretary. If these posts are not filled then the future of the Branch will be in jeopardy.

The Shropshire Branch wishes all Grenadiers and their families, wherever they may be, a very Happy and Prosperous 2018.

## SUFFOLK

(Formed 1926)

**President:** Colonel DHC GORDON-LENNOX

**Vice Presidents:** Major FAO CLARK; FA WALLACE, Esq; Mr DC BEAUMONT

**Chairman:** PGD T del C NISBETT, Esq;

**Secretary:** Mr G REINCKE, BEM 54 Highfield Road, Sudbury, Suffolk, CO10 2QJ



**LSgt Macmillan with Hector.**

**Tel:** (01787) 379158

**Email:** ggasuffolk@gmail.com

**Treasurer:** VACANT

**Meetings:** Contact the Branch Secretary for further details.

Unfortunately, we must report the following deaths since the last report; **23688124 Alan Beecroft** who served in the Regiment in the late 50s early 60s died on 4th March 2017, **Bob Naden Coldm Gds** an Associate Member who supported the Branch at many of our



**Garden Party at Butlers Hall.**



**Derek Beaumont receiving his President's Certificate.**

functions died in May 2017 and Mrs Gwen Hartley a widow from Felixstowe died in July 2017.

However, we have the pleasure of welcoming the following new members to the Branch; **24797499 Carl Clarke** (Ipswich) on 8th March 2017, **30255426 Steven Keane** (Serving) in March 2017 and **23929559 Leslie Spink** (Ipswich) on 10th April 2017. We hope to meet you all at future Branch events.

Our annual Branch Christmas lunch was held on Sunday 11th December, 2016 at Hintlesham Golf Club where we were, again, treated to an excellent meal. We were at more or less capacity for the room we were in; about 50 which is a very good sign and everybody agreed that it was a great event.

We had a Garden Party and BBQ at the home of **D R Midwood Esq**, Butlers Hall, Wickhambrook and would like to thank **David and Jane Midwood** for all their hospitality in providing their lovely garden for what turned out to be a very successful event.

57 of us enjoyed a wonderful afternoon, the only rain we had was just as the barbeque was ready but otherwise the sun shone and we all ate and drank our fill. After lunch we had a group photograph followed by a presentation. Our President, **Colonel D H C Gordon Lennox**, was pleased to present **Derek Beaumont** with a framed President's Certificate on his retirement as Branch Secretary after five years and to thank him for all his hard work and dedication. His wife **Janet** received flowers for supporting her husband through some difficult times.

And finally, a very big thank you to **LSgt Matt Macmillan** who travelled up from Regimental Headquarters for the afternoon and entertained us, particularly the youngsters. Everyone has commented on how it made the afternoon so special.

## SURREY & EAST HAMPSHIRE

(Formed 1925) as Caterham Branch then in 1931 it changed names to Surrey Branch, then again in 1986 to Surrey & East Hampshire Branch.

**President:** Colonel EH HOUSTOUN, OBE

**Vice Presidents:** Lieutenant Colonel RM DORNEY, MBE, MSTJ; Lieutenant Colonel HMP de LISLE; Lieutenant Colonel SIR JOHN SMILEY, Bt.; Lieutenant Colonel TJ TEDDER; Lieutenant Colonel DJ WEBSTER; Lieutenant Colonel GR WHITEHEAD, RVM; Capt CH COX; Capt CTF FAGAN, MBE, DL; Capt R HUTTON; Mr P HODGKINSON, BEM  
Mr S KEYWORTH, MBE.

**Chairman:** Mr A REID

**Secretary:** Mrs B REID



**Address:** 71 Wyke Avenue, Ash, Aldershot, Hants, GU12 6EA

**Telephone:** (01252) 316757

**Email:** babsग्ga@gmail.com

**Treasurer:** Mr T JOHNSON

**Meetings:** Held on the third Wednesday of each month, except December, at 1930hrs at the Warrant Officers' & Sergeants' Mess, Army Training Regiment, Pirbright, Surrey, GU24 0QQ.

Our branch had two new members join us this year. They are **24388923 Peter Silcox** and **30142927 LSgt Ashley Kirkham-Wingate** a serving Grenadier from the 1st Battalion.

Our Christmas Lunch was held on Saturday 25th November 2016 at the Clandon Regis Golf Club, Epsom Road, West Clandon, Surrey which boasts a really beautiful setting. The weather was cold and foggy but a lovely warm welcome awaited us inside with **Jenny** our host greeting us once again with a big smile on her face. Our room looked amazing, very festive with lots of gold and glitter. We had 90 people attend; a wonderful turn out from our members who were joined by members from other Branches along with a few of the Scots Guards Association, Surrey Branch.

Our Guests this year were **Mrs Wendy Moseley** a lady who always helps us out on our social nights and offers help free of charge to our Branch. We also had the Sergeant Major from the Army Training Centre at Pirbright ATC (P) HQ WO1 (RSM) **Billy Bigger** who has always supported our Branch, letting us use the Sgts' Mess for our meetings and socials, arranging tours for us around the camp and helping in any way he could. Unfortunately, **Billy** left in January 2017 moving on to become the Garrison Sergeant Major at Colchester. By way of a thanks from all our members our President **Colonel Euan Houstoun OBE** presented **Billy** with a crystal glass whisky decanter and two glasses with our Regimental Cypher engraved on them. **Billy** was wished every success in his new posting.

Once again the food and company was outstanding and a fun time was had by all with flying balloons, party hats and crackers that always go down very well. Our lunch was followed by our grand raffle where there were lots of prizes to be won and most people went away with something. We are pleased to tell you that the postal raffle went well for those members unable to attend and some of them won multiple prizes. We also had an auction of some of the prizes won by members who put them back. This made a little extra money for Branch funds.

Our Annual dinner this year was held on Saturday 29th April at the Double Tree Hotel, Victoria Way, Woking with 57 people attending. Our President welcomed everyone especially three serving Grenadiers along with their partners. **Colonel Euan** said how wonderful it was that **Joe and Anne Marshall**, **Neil and Sheila Crowther** the collective backbone of the Lincoln Branch were able to

join us and further what has become a wonderful tradition of each other's presence at respective parties. We also enjoy a constant presence at our events from Kingston, London, Medway and the Windsor Branch members; he wished all a very warm welcome.

We were very lucky to have the Grenadier Guards Association President **Colonel Richard Aubrey-Fletcher** as our guest speaker. The dinner was enjoyed by all and afterwards we had the normal flower presentation on behalf of our members presented by our Chairman **Andy Reid** to **Mrs Caroline Aubrey-Fletcher** and **Mrs Joanna Houstoun**; our raffle was called out by our very own live wire **Windy Miller**.

Regimental Remembrance Day 2017 was attended by a few of our members who enjoyed another good service in the Guards Chapel. We were also able to catch up with some of our friends in the Garrison Sgts' Mess following the march and wreath laying at Horse Guards.

On the 9th July we set up our stall for Grenadier Day at Lille Barracks, Aldershot. Although we thought there were not so many people there our Branch did very well with sales on the day making a healthy amount for Branch funds. We attracted lots of people who wanted to look at the old squad photographs that are on display on the



The Branch Stall at Grenadier Day.

At the beginning of September we had our Branch Holiday in a hotel at Sandown, Isle of Wight where we had a fabulous four days. Everyone went out and did their own thing during the day, met up for dinner in the evening and enjoyed the entertainment provided by the hotel in the evening.



Our Branch BBQ this year was held on Saturday 9th September at the Clandon Regis Golf Club and we were very lucky to have the weather on our side.

We continue to hold our Sunday Lunches on the last Sunday of every month at the Lakeside International Hotel, Wharf Rd, Frimley Green, Surrey, GU16 6JR (1230hrs for 1300hrs). These continue to be well attended and we have fixed this location as it's popular with those members who normally attend. Should anyone wish to join us, you would be made very welcome by our members, just contact our Secretary to let us know you wish to come along.

Branch Meetings and Socials are still held on the third Wednesday of every month (1900hrs for 1930hrs) in the Sgts' Mess, Army Training Centre Pirbright. We alternate them with one as a meeting and the next as a social where we invite someone to give a talk, or we have a games night with bingo and a quiz. At the socials we also have a buffet and raffle. This format continues to be very successful and we still find that more members turn up on those nights.

Finally we close our report by thanking everyone at Regimental Headquarters for their hard work and support throughout the year.

## SUSSEX

(Formed 1947)

**President:** Capt JS GREENWOOD

**Vice Presidents:** Lieutenant Colonel TEM DONE; Capt SG WITHERIDGE; AD MAYHEW, Esq; Colonel JC RICHARDSON, MA (RAMC)

**Chairman:** MW BRACKSTON.

**Secretary:** Mr J NORRIS, 1a Sea Lane Close, East Preston, West Sussex, BN16 1NQ

**Tel:** (01903) 786247

**Treasurer:** VACANT

**Meetings:** Formal meetings are held on the second Thursday of each month at 1100hrs to 1400hrs except in April, August and December when other functions take place. Meetings are held at the Royal British Legion, Lancing, BN15 9AX. Contact the Branch Secretary for further details.

We finished our 2016 activities with a Christmas Lunch held as usual at the Windsor Hotel, Worthing on the 18th December. This has proved to be a very popular event particularly with the ladies as it gives them a chance to dress up and socialise. We were also joined by members who cannot attend our monthly meetings due to work commitments.

The Branch Dinner took place in April 2017, again held at the Windsor Hotel (we do not have shares in it). We were again blessed with an extremely good Regimental Speaker in **Captain Oliver Staunton** of the 1st Battalion who brought us up to speed as to what is



**The Regimental Support Team in Bognor Regis.**

happening in the Regiment.

**Captain Staunton** was kind enough to say he would like to come back and visit us again; we hope he will. The DJ produced some good music and a number of people took to the floor. The comments received afterward called for slower numbers on the next occasion. We are not sure if it was for health or romantic reasons.

We were represented on Remembrance Sunday at Wellington Barracks by **John Norris** and **Jim Stevens** who marched (without the aid of oxygen) whilst **John** met the Colonel. Unfortunately Branch members were unable to attend Grenadier Day at Lille Barracks. Our Annual Barbeque took place in August at the Windmill Inn Rustington. The weather was good, the food was good and the company was excellent; what more can we say!

Our big event of the year saw us organise a concert given by the Regimental Band in aid of the Colonel's Fund and Help for Heroes. It took place in Bognor Regis at the Alexandra Theatre on 4th November. We were also lucky to have the Regimental Support Team (RST) with us for the day. As **John Norris** is also the Vice Chairman of the Theatre it became a Grenadier Barracks for a day. The RST arrived at 9:30 am and set up in the High Street. It was great to see the uniform complete with Bearskin Cap and it certainly attracted a lot of attention.

**Sgt Orrell** and his men not only carried out their duties in the town, but were with us in the evening producing that extra sparkle that made it a very special event. It made us feel very proud to have served in the Regiment.

The Band arrived at 3 pm and started to rehearse under **Major Mike Smith**, the Director of Music, they were a great bunch of Musicians to work with.

The Concert was attended by a number of local dignitaries notably The Deputy Lord Lieutenant of West

Sussex, the Mayor of Bognor, the Leader of Arun District Council and the Chief Executive of Arun District Council.

The Band was superb; they performed a number of military and popular songs from both world wars, from Glen Miller to Sussex by the Sea. They mingled with the audience during the interval which was much appreciated. **Major Smith**, the Bandmaster **WO1 Sarah Marinescu** and the Band Sergeant Major **WO2 Mark Buckley** are to be congratulated for a truly excellent evening. We have had some great feedback from a number of people who saw the concert and can only recommend the same to all other Branches if they have a chance to stage a similar event, it is well worth it and left us all with a lovely memory.

Very sadly our treasurer **Ms Jayne Peachey** died suddenly in October aged 57 years. Her funeral took place on the 10th November in Arundel and was well attended with a strong Grenadier presence. Jayne was an honorary member of the Association and had acted as our treasurer for the past two years; her work was invaluable to us. Her father had served with the Regiment for most of his working life and then became the Comptroller of Arundel Castle. Her childhood was entwined with Grenadiers and in later life Jayne founded her own very successful accounting practice. She will be missed as treasurer but so much more as a person.

We also regret to announce the death of two other members, **23509157 Louis Berwick Laws** who served for three years in the 3rd Battalion in Cyprus, Libya, and London during 1957-1961. His funeral took place in Brighton on the 23rd October. It was very well attended and a guard of honour was provided by the Fire Service in which Lew had served for 30 years. The Association was well represented and provided a Regimental Wreath. Lew was a regular attendee at all our meetings and functions and we shall miss him; he was 79 years of age. **2622214 Edward James Buchan** served from 1941-1946 with the 3rd and 5th Battalions, he was 96 years old when he passed away. May they all Rest in Peace.

Our grateful thanks to **Major Andy Green**, **Sgt Broomes** and **Sgt Haughton** for their help and assistance during the year.

## TAMWORTH

(Formed 1965)

**President:** VACANT

**Vice Presidents:** Mr AW WALE

**Chairman:** Mr B WATTON, Esq

**Secretary:** Vacant

**Email:** tamworthbranch@grengds.com

**Treasurer:** Vacant

**Meetings:** Held on the second Sunday of each month at Aldergate Club, Aldergate, Tamworth, Staffordshire, B79 7DL,

at 1230hrs.

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Our report starts at the end of 2016 with a fully attended Christmas lunch which was thoroughly enjoyed by all. Unfortunately this was followed on 10th January 2017 by the funeral of **Roger Pointon** a Support Company Drummer during Suez.

Meantime our Chairman when on holiday in Brighton visited an old Cyprus colleague, **Brian Eaton** who mentioned that he had his father's medals from the Second World War, including a Military Medal. As **Peter Maguire** had had previous contact with the Guards Museum, it was suggested that he send the medals to him and duly did so. Peter then rang the curator who suggested that he post them to his assistant, **Gary Gibbs** who acknowledged receipt to them both. We believe they are now on display.

Members were in attendance at Regimental Remembrance Day, the Queen's Birthday Parade and the local RAF Battle of Britain parades. Our September meeting was held at the National Memorial Arboretum where **Dennis Ward** was our Branch guest.

The Branch also attended the 1st Battalion memorial tree planting at the National Memorial Arboretum on 1st October in remembrance of the tour of the Cameroons.

## WALSALL

(Formed 1974)

**President:** Major J COLEMAN

**Vice Presidents:** Mr G PHILLIPS; Mr CS JONES

**Chairman:** Mr B DOYLE, Esq

**Secretary:** Mr CS JONES 94 Delves Green Road, Walsall, West Midland, WS5 4NH

**Tel:** (01922) 620970

**Email:** Cliffjones94@sky.com.

**Treasurer:** Mr G PHILLIPS

**Meetings:** Held on at 1200hrs on the second Monday of each month at Short Heath Royal British Legion Club, Church Road, Willenhall, WV12 5PT.

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Our Christmas Social and Buffet was held at the club on Monday 11th December 2016 with 40 persons attending. The Branch AGM was held in January 2017 with all officers being re-elected.

We ran two trips to the Down Inn in Shropshire in May and July; 31 members attended and all were treated to a lovely Carvery Lunch on each occasion. On Friday 8th September we held a social evening and meal at Calderfields Golf and Country Club, Walsall with 40 members and guests in attendance. The State of Affairs for the Regiment was provided by **Sgt Haughton** and was read out to members present by the Secretary.

Remembrance Sunday was observed at the cenotaph in

Walsall town centre, our wreath being laid by **Bill Bakewell**. A wreath was also laid at Willenhall by **Glyn Phillips, Peter Smith and Ray Smout**.

As we write we are looking forward to our 2017 Christmas Social and Buffet Lunch which is being held at 12noon on Monday 11th December at the British Legion Club. We are looking forward, with support, to organising further events in the near future.

Unfortunately numbers on sick parade are increasing and in fact exceed the number of members attending our monthly meetings. This is mainly due to Anno Domini catching up at last. With sadness we report the death of the following Member: **22662533 William Bailes**

All members of Walsall Branch send greetings to all Grenadiers and their families everywhere. Special thanks to **Major Andy Green, Sgt Rob Broomes and Sgt Robert Haughton** for their help and advice over the last 12 months.

## WESSEX

(Formed 1949)

**President:** Lieutenant Colonel AC McC MATHER, CVO, OBE  
 Capt CR ACCapt CR ACLAND; JTS BOWER, Esq; PH CORDLE, Esq; Capt CTF FAGAN, MBE, DL; Lieutenant Colonel A HEROYS; CJ HOPE, Esq; MFMO JODRELL, Esq; Lady CLAIRE LINDSAY; Capt (QM) BE SHEEN; THE RT HON SIR HUGO GW SWIRE, KCMG, MP

**Chairman:** Mr D BAKER

**Secretary:** Mrs J MASLIN, 16 Nightingale Drive, Broadway, Weymouth, Dorset, DT3 5SU

**Tel:** (01305) 814555

**Email:** janmaslin@gmail.com

**Treasurer:** Mrs A CREW

**Meetings:** Meetings in January and November will be held around lunchtime. Contact the Branch Secretary for further details. Other meetings are held on the third Monday of the month from February to July, and also September, at 1930hrs. Meetings are held at The Conservative Club, 22 Christchurch Road, Ringwood, BH24 1DN.

Despite the torrential rain and flooding in the region at the time, it was nice to see as many of us make it to our November lunchtime meeting in Wimborne. We enjoyed our meal followed by a raffle in the lovely coal-fired room which was so welcoming after our journey. Pleased to say that after a couple of days, the adverse weather front passed through and left us alone!

Our 2016 Christmas Social was 'magic' with members being entertained by 'DekAbra' who with his tricks gave us a little insight into the magician's world. The MC for the night was **Alan Maslin** who kept the party flowing smoothly with a quiz, and jokes! The Christmas Draw winners shared £170 – with a hamper being won by **John Harrison** – so our congratulations to them. Food was



Afternoon tea was served at The Willows, Shillingstone.

plentiful and thanks to everyone for bringing along such an array of nice nibbles.

The first meeting of 2017 was held, again, at our regular venue of Haskins Garden Centre, Ferndown. There was a nice group of us and we all enjoyed lunch followed by a raffle along with lots of catching up.

The Branch AGM was held in February at the Conservative Club, Ringwood. After the meeting, at which the Committee was re-elected, we enjoyed a light supper followed by a raffle.

On a sunny day in June 17 members went along to a delightful cottage tea room, in Dorset, where we enjoyed afternoon tea. We were treated to homemade scones, cakes and a selection of finger sandwiches. When we arrived the scones were still baking in the oven so one could not have asked for anything fresher than that. A lovely time was had by all. We hope to make a return visit



The Branch stall all ready for the off at Grenadier Day.





**A group of us enjoying a lovely lunch at our Summer Garden Party.**

there in the near future.

Grenadier Day – what a scorcher! As can be seen, our stall was set up and raring to go. We were ready for what turned out to be a very busy and successful tombola and wine and champagne raffle. We would like to say a big thank you to everyone who supported us and all of those who took part. Congratulations to all the winners and well done to those at RHQ for organising such a successful event.

With all things great – food, company, and weather our annual Garden Party, such a popular date in the Branch calendar was, once again, held in August at the home of our President, **Lt Col Anthony Mather** and his wife **Gaye**. We thank them for opening up their home to us and hosting the event – we all had such a lovely day.

At our September meeting we had as our guest speaker **Mr John England** whose father, **George**, served in the Regiment during WW1. The talk covered his early life,



**Our President and his wife Gaye, in conversation Major General Richard Barron and his wife Margaret.**



**Mrs Maureen Sheen and Lieutenant Colonel Alexander Heroys in conversation with Lieutenant Colonel Piers**

and with reference to his father's diaries, **John** made a visit to France and Belgium. He brought along photos and other memorabilia and it made for a very interesting evening.

Our Branch Annual Luncheon was held at The Marsham Court Hotel, Bournemouth in October and **Ann Crew** selected from the menu a very pleasant meal on our behalf for which we say a big thank you. We were pleased to have as a guest speaker **Major General Richard Barron CB**, (late The Queen's Royal Hussars), who was accompanied by his wife, **Margaret**. His talk was full of humour and he recalled events of his time at Sandhurst. Although he never served with the Grenadiers (in his active service), he did however, as a cadet, come across three distinguished Grenadiers. They were namely, the Commandant, **Major General Gordon-Lennox**, **Academy Sergeant Major Lord** and **Colour Sergeant Page**, who had a lasting impression on him.

We were also very pleased to welcome from the Regiment, **Lieutenant Colonel Piers Ashfield DSO**, who brought us up to date on tours of duty that the Battalion would be undertaking during 2018. He also mentioned how important the Association was to serving members and their families. We would also like to congratulate him on his appointment as Commanding Officer, 1st Battalion. We were pleased to have raised £149.00 on the raffle and also a water colour painting was auctioned which fetched £25.00 making a grand total of £174.00 towards Branch funds; a very good effort from everyone.

We are very lucky not only to receive such dedicated support from our President and Gaye, but also have a very busy Committee along with members who attend the Branch meetings on a regular basis; a big thank you to each and every one of them. Thank you also to members of the Association at RHQ for their continued help throughout the year.

If you live in the Wessex area and have been thinking

about joining the Branch please come along to one of our meetings – you would be made most welcome.

It is with sadness that we have to report the passing of the following: **2615982 Robert Puleston** (Jan 17), **22503307 Stuart D Scott** (Mar 17) and **14701896 Peter S Durrant** (Jul 17). Lest We Forget.

## WIGAN, ST HELENS AND DISTRICT

(Formed 1974)

**President:** Mr B TAYLOR

**Vice Presidents:** Capt (QM) TA ROLFE

**Chairman:** Mr D WELLING

**Secretary:** Mr B TAYLOR, 51 Holly Road, Haydock, St. Helens, WA11 0DR

**Tel:** (01744) 601663

**Email:** barrytaylor.in.retirement@hotmail.co.uk

**Treasurer:** Mr E RADCLIFFE

**Meetings:** Held on the last Tuesday of each month, at 1945hrs at Whelley Ex-Servicemens' Club, 180 Vauxhall Road, Wigan,

WN1 3LU.

Having had a very busy 2016 (and a very wet one), the final official duty of the Branch was to attend the Remembrance Sunday Parade in Leigh. As always, **John Barkley** paraded our Branch Banner impeccably and was well supported by Branch members.

December brought about our 'winding down' period – we don't meet during this month, with our traditional Branch Christmas Lunch at The Village Club in Culcheth. As always, a well attended day for Branch members, families and friends.

And so, into 2017 we marched with gusto and hope. January, February and March are normally pretty quiet months for us with monthly meetings and preparation for events and functions for the year ahead. One of those functions was our annual St. George's Day Lunch held in April once again held at The Village Club and was very well attended. Both our annual lunches are very casual and relaxed aimed at producing genuine family events.

Our AGM was also held in April with the committee standing down and re-elected. The 2016 Culcheth May Day was abandoned due to bad weather but 2017 was a great improvement. We borrowed a pop-up gazebo from



David Yates and Garry Ball unveiling the bench at the National Memorial Arboretum.





Ladies of the Wigan and Manchester Branches at the NMA.



Gentlemen of the Wigan and Manchester Branches at the NMA.



the local rugby club thanks to **David Yates** as our Branch gazebo was destroyed in the 'great storm' of 2016. We brought out all the second hand goods donated by members and friends and did our best to sell everything on our bric-a-brac stall; a very successful day financially, and very enjoyable. Thanks go to all who donated and those who helped **Adel** and **Barry Taylor** on the day – our Chairman **Dave Welling** and his daughter **Nicola**, our Vice Chairman **John Barkley** and his new fiancée **Marilyn Moore** and our Treasurer and oldest member **Eric Radcliffe**. Armed Forces Day arrived in June and we paraded as a Branch once again in Leigh; a good parade with our Branch banner proudly on display.

When we voted earlier in the year it was decided that we would attend Grenadier Day in July giving Regimental Remembrance Day a rare miss – cost prohibits attending both. So, come July, come another weekend away. We boarded our coach accompanied by members of Manchester Branch on Saturday 8th and headed for the Holiday Inn, Farnborough. We had a stop on the M6 Toll Road to eat our packed lunches arriving at our hotel with plenty of time to check in and get ready for dinner. After dinner we were back on the coach heading for The Grenadier Club in Windsor. What a great night we had! We were made most welcome and enjoyed a disco and raffle. Thanks to everyone at the Windsor Branch for a good time. (It's no wonder we want to go back!).

Sunday of course saw us at Lille Barracks for Grenadier Day. We don't have to tell you that it was a superb day. If you were there you will know that but if you were unable to attend you missed out. A bonus for us was the hotel being so close to the barracks meaning we didn't have to board the coach too early and, indeed, some of us were able to attend on foot. The Manchester Branch had a plot with their gazebo selling goods and **Adel** tagged on by selling her knitted dolls and Grenadiers giving the Branch a healthy return. Thanks **Adel** and **Barry** would have helped but the Bristol Branch needed an opinion on the quality of the cider!

After a brilliant weekend we boarded our coach on Monday morning and headed for home stopping off at The National Memorial Arboretum (NMA) and with good reason. Earlier in the year the Branch received very generous donations from Branch member **David Yates** and his wife **Susan** and also from **Garry Ball**, son of Branch member **Norman Ball** who had recently passed away. **Garry** made the donation on behalf of the family.

After much discussion it was decided that we would donate a bench to the NMA in honour of past, present and future Branch members. Monday 10th July saw us unveil and dedicate the bench. It is situated on The Mall and is close to The Household Division Memorial and everyone is invited to take a little rest on it during visits to the NMA.

Annually, the Branch makes awards to our local Army Cadet Force named The Walter Massey Award for

Excellence and the Most Improved Cadet. All cadets are marked throughout the academic year on Military Skills and this year six finalists gave presentations to compete for the awards. The panel of judges consisted of their OC **Major Robert Macdonald**, **Barry Taylor**, **Dave Welling** and **Eric Radcliffe**.

Well, what a job we had. Imagine being aged 15 to 16 and having to give a presentation to your OC and 3 strangers! These young people are amazing but we had to choose winners. We could not pick an outright winner so decided to opt for joint winners of the main award in **Cadet Sgt Major Bradley Turner** of The Kings Royal Hussars Detachment and **Cadet Cpl Torny Blackwood** of The Grenadier Guards Detachment. The Most improved cadet award, awarded by the Branch President, went to **Cadet Cpl Adam Jackson** of The Kings Royal Hussars Detachment. Well done to all the finalists and all who took part – it was a close call.

October came round, as it does, and time for our annual dinner and dance held at The Village Club, as always. We were down on numbers this year due to a number of illnesses and deaths but that didn't stop us from enjoying the evening; great food, great wine, great company and superb entertainment from **Andrew Dunn**. Thanks to **David and Susan Yates** for their sterling work in making the raffle a huge success. We were fortunate to have **Captain Christopher Wright** with us as our Regimental guest speaker who gave a concise run down on Regimental affairs. He did very well to stay alert as he had attended the Yorkshire Branch lunch earlier in the day and had to leave early for Wellington Barracks due to Platoon commitments the next day.

It has been a busy and enjoyable year for the Branch which was unfortunately tarnished by the loss of some Branch members. **2626380 Norman Ball** was a founder member of the Branch and a staunch and loyal supporter until the end; **22677838 Father Ron McGivern** who turned to the Priesthood after the death of his wife and was our Branch Padre sadly lost his battle with motor neurone disease. We also lost the wife of our Branch

Chairman  
**D a v e**



**Welling.** Sue fought a very brave battle against cancer but eventually succumbed to this dreadful disease. May they rest in peace as they will all be sorely missed.

Our Branch continues to flourish and it is with thanks to the committee, members and friends that it does so. Special thanks to everyone at RHQ for the support they give us without which life would be so much harder.

## WINDSOR

(Formed 1926)

**President:** Major MB HOLLAND

**Vice Presidents:** Capt DW LING; Major General SIR MICHAEL HOBBS, KCVO, CBE; Mr JA STEEL, BEM; RA DOBSON, Esq; Mrs SR HOWELL; RC GILBERT, Esq; Mrs JS GILBERT

**Chairman:** Mr MG BULLION, BEM

**Secretary:** Mr RC GILBERT, 84 Kennel Lane, Warfield, Bracknell, Berks, RG42 2EX

**Tel:** (01344) 485 307

**Email:** windsorbranch@grengds.com

**Treasurer:** Mrs JS GILBERT

**Meetings:** Held on the first Wednesday of each month from April to September, at 2000hrs. The first Sunday of each month from October to March, at 1230hrs. All meetings are held at the Grenadier Club, Maidenhead Road, Windsor, SL4 5EY.

**Website:** windsorbranch@grengds.com

Another year has flown by and it is that time of year to write another report for the Gazette. On Sunday 13 November 2016 the Service of Remembrance was held at Holy Trinity Garrison Church in Windsor. The President, **Major Mike Holland** represented the Branch carrying the poppy wreath with other members attending the service and meeting up at our Club later with members from other local Associations based in Windsor.

The festive events started earlier this year on the last weekend of November. Instead of the normal Christmas Dinner at the Club we held a Festive Cocktail Party. Invitations were sent to Branch and Club members resulting in about 120 attending. The Chairman **Tony Steel BEM** and Secretary **Bob Gilbert** served cocktails for the first two hours. **Sue Gilbert** was helped by **Ruth Booth**, **Sylvia Bullion**, **Fely Steel** and **Sheila Howell** serving canapés to our guests. When the cocktails finished we carried on dancing to Rob's Disco Music.

On the first weekend of December **Sylvia Bullion** organised a coach trip for Branch and Club members to Western Super Mare for a Turkey and Tinsel weekend. On Saturday 10th December the Branch held its Christmas Draw. **Sue Gilbert** had done another great job of collecting many prizes from local business resulting with over a 100 waiting to be won by the many members, family and friends attending. Half way through the draw we paused

and enjoyed a finger buffet that was prepared by the Ladies of the Club. We would like to thank all those who supported the draw by buying and selling tickets and donating prizes which helped to boost the Branch funds.

**Karen Holmes**, one of our Club members provided the last quiz of the year on Wednesday 21st. It was well attended with about 50 to 60 members and friends being tested on their knowledge on a variety of subjects. Our Chairman **Tony Steel BEM** opened the club on Boxing Day lunchtime. About 30 people called in and there was much to talk about with some of the children telling us what Santa had brought them. **Tony** opened the bar again on New Years Eve with approximately 50 members and guests gathered to celebrate, and see in the New Year. A few sore heads the next morning!!

There were no major events at the Club in the first two months of 2017. **Terry** and **Ruth Booth's** daughter **Emma** and her husband **Chris** continued to teach Line Dancing on one Saturday of each month. Friday night is Bingo and the last Wednesday of each month a Quiz Night with a Fish and chip supper. On Saturday 18th March we held a social evening with music from the 60's 70's and 80's played by Rob our local DJ. Not many attended but those who did enjoyed a great evening.

Our AGM was held on Wednesday 5th April. The Secretary **Bob Gilbert** gave an over-view of the past years events. The Chairman **Tony Steel BEM** read out the Branch and Club audited accounts that were accepted by members present. The President **Major Mike Holland** addressed the meeting and thanked the Chairman **Tony Steel BEM** who has retired from that task after ten years of immensely loyal and devoted service to both the Branch and Club. **Tony** will stay on the committee running the bar and helping out.

During a short interval a finger buffet was provided by the Branch. When we resumed after the break **Mick Bullion BEM** was elected as the new Chairman. The following members were re-elected as Officers to manage the Branch and Club: Vice Chairman **Terry Booth**, Secretary **Bob Gilbert**, Treasurer **Sue Gilbert**, Welfare Officer **Sylvia Bullion** and **Sue Gilbert** as Club Secretary. Other members who help manage the club are **Tony Steel BEM**, **David Boucher**, **Sheila Howell**, **Ruth Booth**, **Herbie Morgan**, **Peter Geary**, **Fred** and **Irene Deacon**.

On Saturday 13th May we held another Social Evening with Rob's music. This time more members attended and a good time was had by all. Sunday 21st May was Regimental Remembrance Day and at lunchtime the Gloucestershire Branch called in for a refreshment break. Members from our Branch were able to travel with them to the Parade in London. The Bristol Branch and The Gloucestershire Branch called in again on their way home for a fish and chip supper. Sadly, due to the fall in numbers there was no coach trip to Epsom for the Derby.

The Saturday evening before Grenadier Day we held

another Social and had pleasure hosting **Barry Taylor**, the Secretary and members of the Wigan, St Helens & District Branch along with **Bob Fallon**, the Secretary and members of the Manchester Branch. It was good evening catching up on old times and listening to Rob's music (not too loud).

The next morning we were off to Grenadier Day. **Bob** and **Sue Gilbert** arrived mid-morning at Lillie Barracks and erected the gazebo, Branch members travelled by coach from the club. We still had some old Grenadier Gazettes and other Guards Magazines to display so they could be taken in exchange for a donation to the Branch funds. The weather was good and everyone enjoyed meeting up with old friends or watching the arena displays.

On the afternoon of Saturday 15th July a surprise party was held at the club to celebrate **Captain David** and **Sheila Ling's** 50th Wedding Anniversary. Their family had planned this surprise and it clearly worked as when David and Sheila arrived, it was great to see the looks on their faces; some of their old friends had made long journeys to celebrate this occasion with them.

In the month of September **Alan Merry** held another re-union at the Club for members of his intake 43 years ago. The club held a social evening on Saturday 23rd with music from the 60's 70's and 80's played by Rob our local DJ.

The last event of the reporting year was our Branch Annual Dinner and Dance held on Saturday 21st October, and for the second year running it was held at the Royal Adelaide Hotel, Windsor. They looked after us very well last year so it was a no-brainer to return and they did not let us down. Members had a choice of a three course menu followed by a cheese board and a glass of port. Our President took the opportunity to announce that **Sue Gilbert** had accepted the position of a Branch Vice President. She was presented with a bouquet of flowers by our President's wife **Sue Holland**.

We were privileged to have as our guest of honour **Lieutenant Rufus Harding**, Platoon Commander, The Inkerman Company, 1st Battalion, who updated us on the Regiment. Those who attended said it had been a very good evening. The service was slick and the food was hot and very tasty. After the speeches we had music played again by **Rob** who is becoming somewhat of a fixture at our events. Thanks very much **Rob**.

It is with deep regret that we report the sad loss of some members during the last year:

**22545869 Mr P R G Taylor, 23737539 Mr M D Hunt, 2628294 Mr R O Russell, 22955769 Mr J B W Bycroft RVM, 2624445 Mr S A Collins and 21006175 Mr F E Coe.** They had all been great supporters of the Branch and Club but sadly, over time, they had not been able to attend due to ill health.

The Branch now holds its monthly meeting on the 1st Wednesday at 2000hrs. These timings are from April to September, and the 1st Sunday at 1230 hours from October to March. The change is to enable those members who

cannot, or do not wish to drive on dark winter evenings, to attend the meetings. The AGM is still held on the 1st Wednesday in April of each year.

The Club still continues to hold regular Friday Night Bingo sessions and Quiz Nights with a fish and chip supper on the last Wednesday of the month. We have also been holding Line Dancing evenings one Saturday of each month.

The Club is currently open on Friday nights 1930hrs to 2300hrs and the 1st and 3rd Sunday of each month from 1200 to 1500 hrs. If any members of the Association and their families are in the area, you are more than welcome to visit the club.

Our thanks go to our loyal Branch and Club supporters who keep our Branch alive and to **Major Andy Green, Sgt Rob Broomes** and all the staff at RHQ for their continued support.

## WOLVERHAMPTON

(Formed 1917)

**President:** Mr L THOMAS

**Vice Presidents:** WSI KENYON-SLANEY, OBE, KStJ, DL; D ROBINSON, Esq

**Chairman:** Mr J SNEAD

**Secretary:** Mrs J SNEAD, 92 Van Diemens Road, Wombourne, Wolverhampton, WV5 0DE

**Tel:** (01902) 896547

**Email:** wolverhamptonbranch@grengds.com

**Treasurer:** Mr B GILLON

**Meetings:** Held on the last Wednesday of each month, at RAFA Club, Goldthorn Road, Penn, Wolverhampton, WV2 4PN. In March, June, September and December we will hold a Sunday lunch. Please contact the Secretary for further details.

**Facebook:** Grenadier Guards Association Wolverhampton Branch.

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**Our Chaplain Rev Jean Spragg with RQMS Matt Betts.**



Our Branch has had a good year; our meetings are regularly attended by our supportive members and friends. Our quarterly Sunday lunches held at our regular venue, The Bell at Trysull, are also very popular amongst our members and friends.



**Founder's Day at The Royal Hospital, Chelsea.**

Our President **Len Thomas** and his wife **Phyllis** celebrated their 90th birthdays in December 2016. Our AGM was held on 22nd February 2017 and all officers were returned.

At Regimental Remembrance Day it was such a pleasure to see the Colonel present. It was well attended



**Our Chairman Jack Snead and the Help for Heroes Mascot.**



**L to R: John Rogers, Maureen Wilson, Jean Bennett, Don Robinson, Mavis Bailey, Len Thomas, Phyllis Thomas, Jean Spragg and Christine Rogers.**

by our members and friends and they enjoyed meeting up with comrades and colleagues on a warm pleasant day.

The Major General's Review was well attended by our Branch on 3 June 2017 many of our member's wives and daughters took advantage of a visit to the London shops on completion of the Review! **Jack** and **Jenny Snead** enjoyed their visit to the Royal Hospital Chelsea Founder's Day Parade on 8 June.

Armed Forces Day in Wolverhampton held on 24 June 2017 was an event not to be missed. The Mayor of Wolverhampton pulled out all the stops to make it a successful event for the City. Our Branch had a stand in the main shopping area along with representatives from other services, including Army Recruiting, RAF Cadets, The Royal British Legion and other veteran associations; it was well attended by local people. **Jack**



**Jack Snead, Mayoress Mrs Mattu, Mayor Elias Mattu and Jenny Snead.**

**Snead** and **Bob Davison** took part in the meet and greet in the arena.

Our Chairman **Jack Snead** took part in the flag lowering ceremony in the main shopping precinct arena where various events had taken place during the day including various bands and the Wolverhampton ACF musician badged Grenadier Guards had performed during the day too.

On the 12 July the Mayor of Wolverhampton, **Councillor Elias Mattu** held a Reception as a thank you for those that took part in the Armed Forces Day event.

One of the regular features of our year is now our annual canal day trip on the Staffordshire and Worcestershire Canal. It was very much enjoyed by a party of our members and friends on 13 July and included

refreshments and a fish and chip lunch.

We have said a sad farewell to **21006178 Stanley Bennett** who passed away in February.



**Stan Bennett.**

We would like to thank **Andy Green** and **Rob Broomes** at RHQ for their continuing support and hard work during the year.

**21006178 Stanley Bennett**

**14th January 1928 –  
15th February 2017**

**Stan** was born in Pattingham, Staffordshire, and joined the Grenadier Guards in 1948. He served in the 2nd and 3rd Battalions in Germany, Malaya and Borneo. During his service in the Regiment he was a keen athlete and took part in long distance running.

On leaving the regiment in 1953, Stan worked as a long distance driver and then at Goodyear Tyres, Wolverhampton until he retired. He was a keen fisherman, gardener and kept an allotment for many years. Stan and his wife **Jean** enjoyed many holidays together.

Stan was a staunch supporter of the Wolverhampton Branch and had been a member for over 40 years during which time he had served for 10 years as Branch Chairman.

**Stan Bennett** died on 15 February 2017 and is survived by his wife **Jean**, daughter **Carol** and son in law **David** and family.

## WORCESTER & HEREFORD

(Formed 1922)

**President:** Capt HL GRAY-CHEAPE, JP, DL

**Vice Presidents:** Lieutenant Colonel PR HOLCROFT, LVO, OBE; Major DJC DAVENPORT, CBE, DL; Lieutenant Colonel K EDLIN, MBE; Lieutenant Colonel LCA RANSON, TD; Major RG WOODFIELD, MBE; Colonel SIR THOMAS DUNNE, KG, KCVO; Capt D MORGAN; D SPENCER, Esq; REG SEALE, Esq; GJ ROSE, Esq; JA BARTLETT, Esq; TW HEWLETT, Esq; D TURNEY, Esq

**Chairman:** Mr T HEWLETT

**Secretary:** Mrs VM BAYLIS

**Tel:** (01905) 422569

**Email:** grenguardsworcs@gmail.com

**Treasurer:** Mrs J EVANS

**Meetings:** Held at Sixways Rugby Stadium, Warriors Way, Worcester, WR3 8ZE, at 1930hrs. The dates for 2018 are as





**Ken Allen holding the poppy wreath at Harlebeke.**

follows: February 13th, April 19th, (AGM May 13th), August 7th, November 13th. Contact the Branch Secretary for further details.

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**K**en Allen joined members of the Gloucestershire Branch in June 2016 to visit the Harlebeke New

British Cemetery in Belgium. Ken said that they found the grounds of the cemetery in immaculate order, which showed great respect for our fallen soldiers. (Unfortunately the photo arrived too late to go in last year's Gazette).

On 4th December 2016 we held our Christmas Lunch at The Pear Tree Inn at Smite, Worcester. It was very much enjoyed by all who attended; the food was excellent and there was a wonderful atmosphere throughout the



**The President (left) with Lt Col Patrick Holcroft and Major Grant Baker.**



**On the steps at Wellington Barracks on Regimental Remembrance Day.**





**Presentation of flowers to Patricia Smith by the Branch President.**

afternoon. Our musician **Ruth Hinsley** provided us with thoroughly enjoyable Christmas Carols throughout. Our President read out the messages of Loyal Greeting and **Major Grant Baker** who attended with his wife Lucinda, updated us all on Regimental news. **Bruce Baylis** finished off the afternoon with a Christmas Poem.

Our AGM was held on the 22nd February at Six Ways in Worcester. **Patricia Smith** had decided to stand down as Branch Secretary after very efficiently undertaking this role for the previous three years. The President thanked Patricia for all her hard work and presented her with silver and pearl earrings and a bouquet of flowers. At our March meeting she was also presented with a Marks and Spencer voucher as well as a framed certificate. **Veronica Baylis** was elected to take over as Branch Secretary and the meeting was followed by a very enjoyable two course lunch.

We managed to cover the cost of the coach to get us to Wellington Barracks for Regimental Remembrance Day and as is the norm, it was great to catch up with old friends in the Sergeants' Mess and outside prior to the service in the Guards Chapel. HRH The Colonel was in attendance this year and it was lovely for some of our members to have a chat with Him following the service.



**At Victoria Park with visiting Chelsea Pensioners.**

As usual the Guards Chapel was well attended and we enjoyed a very moving service and music provided by the Regimental Band. Once again we have to thank **Ken Allen** for organising the trip and of course a heartfelt



**Our Stand at Grenadier Day.**

thanks to the Branch members, family and friends for supporting us.

Some of us attended Armed Forces Day at Victoria Park, Malvern on the 24th June. It was a very pleasant sunny afternoon with lots of interesting activities. It was such a pleasure to also meet up with **John Bartlett**, who had been brought by **Una**, his daughter in law.

In July a total of eighteen people travelled by coach to Lille Barracks for Grenadier Day. We spent a very enjoyable afternoon watching the events and visiting the stalls. It was not as busy as previous years but the



**Stephen Marriott, Mary & David Westbury, Ken Allen,**

weather was extremely kind to us. **Patricia Smith** organised a colouring competition for the children which was popular and quite well attended. **Ken Jones** made two Grenadier sentry boxes and people were asked to put in offers. They were sold for a total of £61 and many thanks to Ken for this kind donation. We also brought some of the Branch photograph albums which were popular and well perused. Many thanks to **Sean Hinton**



**Bruce Baylis with Ken Allen and friends.**

for bringing the two gazebos which sheltered us all from the sun, to **Kath Hinton** for making some beautiful earrings for us to sell and to the members and their families who supported us on the day.

**Harold and Joan Evans** celebrated their 60th Wedding Anniversary on 30th March. They had requested donations toward breast cancer instead of gifts.

**Betty Seale** celebrated her 90th Birthday on 8th July. A scented patio rose was presented to her on this very special occasion. Unfortunately the extreme hot weather had not been too kind to the roses by the time **Bruce and Veronica Baylis** made delivery but it had plenty of buds to produce beautiful scented flowers for **Betty and Ray** to look forward to.

The Social Committee deserve our thanks for arranging a skittles and quiz evening at the Portobello Inn in St Johns, Worcester on the 13th October which was attended by around 30 people and followed by a fantastic buffet. These always prove to be such enjoyable evenings and we have already been asked when the next one will be! Apart from it being a very sociable event it is also a good fundraiser; big 'thank you' to **Clinton Haywood** for picking up and replacing the skittles during the game.

Sadly we have to report the death of **23509229 Richard Fellows** (April 2017), **24263631 Raymond Norris** (June 18th 2017), **Joyce Jeynes** (5th July 2017), partner of **Terry Barrett**, **Bill Hayler** Coldm Gds (7th July 2017) and **Val Scott** (8th September 2017) a staunch supporter of our Branch and long-time partner of the late **Alf Tyler**

Finally we w

anch members,



ladies and friends who have supported us during the past year. Their support is very much appreciated and is invaluable to us. Our thanks also go to **Major Andy Green**, **Sergeant Rob Broomes** and the team at RHQ for their help and advice throughout the year.

## YORKSHIRE

(Formed 1948)

**President:** THE LORD HOTHAM, DL

**Vice Presidents:** THE MOST HON THE MARQUESS OF ZETLAND; D BURNETT; Brigadier DJH MADDAN; W WALL

**Chairman:** A DANIEL

**Secretary:** Mr M SPENCER, 52 The Grange, Woodham Village, Newton Aycliffe, County Durham, DL5 4SZ

**Tel:** (01325) 321218

**Email:** michael-spencer2@sky.com

**Treasurer:** A DANIEL

**Meetings:** Contact the Branch Secretary for further details.

Our Branch remains active due mainly to the support of the core of loyal members. The AGM was held at The Black Bull, Escrick, on Saturday 8th April 2017, 14 members and guests enjoyed a traditional pub lunch. Our



**Ready for lunch.**

President, Executive Officers, and Committee all agreed to continue in office for a further year. **Lord Hotham** welcomed the members and thanked the Branch Officers for all the hard work they put into the organisation of the Branch during the year to ensure that all ran smoothly for the benefit of the members.

**Tony Daniel** continues to attend Regimental Remembrance Weekend and the Sergeants' (Past and Present) Club dinner. We were fortunate in obtaining





Above and below: After The Queen's Birthday Parade.



tickets for members to attend The Queen's Birthday Parade and they thoroughly enjoyed the day.

Following the success last year of The Queen's 90th birthday celebration at Swinton Park Hotel, Masham, it

was once again our venue to celebrate both the Battle of Waterloo and The Queen's Birthday Parade weekend with a lunch on Sunday 18th June 2017. **Dennis Burnett and Martha** also celebrated their 70th wedding anniversary on this occasion. It was a perfect Summer day with a reception on the lawn before lunch in the Library.



Swinton Park Celebrations.





**The Branch at Swinton Park.**

On Saturday October 14th we held our Annual Lunch at the Waterton Park Hotel, Wakefield where and 32 members and friends enjoyed an excellent meal. **Tony Daniel** welcomed **Captain Christopher Wright** Grenadier Guards who travelled from Wellington Barracks on the day to give us an insight into Regimental activities.

On Sunday November 12th Branch members attended the Remembrance Service at All Saints Church, Ripley. **Mick Male** acted as Banner Bearer, and **Tony Daniel** laid a wreath on behalf of the Yorkshire Branch. 23 members enjoyed lunch afterwards at the Boars Head Hotel



During the year the Northumbria Branch has closed and from them **24193099 Mick Male** and **2624989 Jack Dutton** of the Wigan, St Helens and District joined our fold.

**John** and **Anne Fear** moved home from Selby to Panborough, Wells, Somerset earlier in the year. Sadly, we must report that **Anne Fear** passed away in September 2017.

One of our wider family **Derek Wilson** is pictured bottom left with **4456999 Tommy Bamforth** now living at The Royal Hospital Chelsea. **Tommy** is 96 years old and joined the DLI in 1939; he was discharged in February 1946.

Thanks are due to our President **The Lord Hotham**, our Chairman **Tony Daniel** and to the active members of the Branch and their friends and families, who keep the Branch alive with their attendance at our functions. We look forward to an excellent 2018 for our 70th Anniversary year.

Special thanks to **Major Andy Green** and **Sgt Rob Broomes** for their ongoing help and advice.

## NORTH AMERICA

(Formed 1972)

**President:** Lieutenant JA TRIGGS

**Vice-President:** Mr D MACKINTOSH

**Chairman:** Mr R BROWN, BEM

**Secretary:** Mrs E PICKERING, Unit 48, 500 Sunnystone Road,  
London, Ontario, N5X 4R4, CANADA

**Tel:** 519-679-2894

## TURKS AND CAICOS

**President:** Brigadier DH FUMBLE-POTTINGSHED-FUMBLE OBE MC.

**Chairman:** SIR HARDLY WORTHIT.

**Secretary:** F. LUENT, Much Binding in the Marsh.

**Email:** Turks&urks@assnhq.com.cai.

**Meetings:** At each Full Moon or whenever hungry.

On a recent visit to RHQ our chairman was surprised to discover to what lengths RHQ would go to empathise with us after our recent hurricane experiences. Whilst trouble invariably comes in threes; (normally much better than pairs), this year the bank of Bad Luck was totally drained. What have we, with our evenly spaced loin-cloth fasteners done, to be hit by not only Hurricane Harvey but also Hurricanes Irma and Maria? Even Drill Sergeants only get one assistant!

Whether or not Battersea heliport's increase, to unacceptable levels, of landing prices was a Brexit funding scam we know not; but they did it and with a very noisy result for RHQ! How might this impact on coconut prices in the Caribbean? – Very easily if you have the franchise for supplying compost to the CCC (Caicos Coconut Consortium). For years the Regimental Coconut Major (*genus Baker*) (RCM) has had unchallenged access to CCC. From RHQ, which has a perennial surplus of Soft Stuff, he ships copious quantities to our islands. In return we milk the turquoise blue waters here and send him Blue Forms to propagate the next generation of coconuts.

Sadly now in Wellington Barracks, the peace is all too frequently shattered by the arrival of helicopters landing on the square. Surrounded as they are by

plane trees there comes a time when gravity and exhausted leaves unite to create fallen detritus worthy of First Guards Area Cleaners. Those serving in Buller Barracks years ago will remember the successful employment of this technique when the local AAC flight was invited to conduct driver training over Buller Barracks to expedite leaf fall before the Major General's visit.

Although a highly effective, if slightly unenvironmentally friendly way, of dealing with leaf-fall, it works; although the scope for the law of unintended consequences is enormous. With the Wellington Barracks central heating system, which it is suspected was liberated from Hougoumont Farm, the need to have all windows open is imperative to avoid heat exhaustion. The effects of the rotors' downdraft is entirely predictable resulting in most ground floor offices being smothered knee deep in latent leaf mould. Readers will be delighted to hear that Entrepreneurial spirit still thrives in the motherland. Under the aegis of World Trade Organisation rules a cut-throat cottage industry has grown up in Wellington Barracks. A myriad of small traders are now dealing direct with CCC and are undercutting the RCM. Denied access to this source of additional funding the RCM, amid mutterings of 'resignation matter', has done the dishonourable thing. Being unable to find a sword, on which to fall, because of the Board of Officers, he has thrown his coconuts out of his bunk, thereby creating large trip hazards and much unwanted additional work for the area cleaners.

P.S. Even as a non-sailor I would prefer Gladeye as booty rather than a dodgy second hand Belgian heating system.

## YOUR LETTERS...

### Barrier Bother

Dear Grant,  
The attached letter from an old naval friend is, I fear, self-explanatory!  
As aye  
Michael.....

Dear Mike,  
On Friday I made a caseworker visit to Lille Barracks, Aldershot to interview an applicant serving with 1 GREN GDS who needs help from The Royal British Legion. At

the entrance barrier I clearly gave my name and business, and showed my TRBL ID card, clipped to a neck ribbon covered in TRBL poppies. The young Guardsman at the barrier then phoned the applicant and said "There's a bloke from the Foreign Legion here to see you."

I just thought that you ought to know this.

Best wishes,  
Bill

## Regimental Remembrance Day 2017

Dear Major Green,

In-Pensioner Norman Mitchell and I attended 'Black Sunday' last year. After the service in the Guards Chapel and the wreath-laying at the Mareth Cross, The Colonel came towards the Cross where we were standing and we were presented to His Royal Highness by General Norton. I explained to Him about Norman's involvement – Norman (now 97) was a member of the 6th Battalion of the Regiment that took part in the battle for the Mareth Line, North Africa in 1943. Due to bad intelligence, the Battalion took very heavy casualties; 23 Officers and 256 Other Ranks. Mareth is one of the Regiment's Battle Honours from WW2.

The Mareth Cross was erected on the Battlefield and much later moved to the UK where it was placed in the Guards Depot, Pirbright. When the Depot closed, Norman started and led a campaign to move the Cross to the Guards Chapel and due to his efforts this eventually happened; all of this I explained to The Colonel.

Norman then told Him that the first duty Her Majesty the Queen, as Princess Elizabeth, carried out as Colonel of the Regiment in 1942 when she was 16, was to inspect



the newly formed 6th Battalion before it embarked for the Middle East to join the 8th Army and that he, Norman, was on parade.

Norman then asked if His Royal Highness would tell Her Majesty that having carried out extensive research, only four members of that Battalion were left; The Colonel said he would do so.

In all, a very good day!

Ray Higgins

## Commemoration of the Battle of the Comines Canal

Dear Major Green,

My name is Gillian G. Welton, (nee Hardy) – note G.G! My father 2613354 W. F. Hardy MM served in the Grenadier Guards from 1932 to 1936 during which time he was awarded medals for swimming, football and running. He was recalled to duty in August 1939 and after a period of training joined the BEF.

We have enjoyed an invitation from Francois Maekelberg, Chairman of the Patriotic Association Comines, for many years to attend the Commemoration of the Battle of the Comines Canal (27 – 29 May 1940 and part of the withdrawal to Dunkirk) where we visit a communal cemetery which contains approximately 100 British Servicemen. 11 of them are Grenadiers, one of whom is my father. He lies near the grave of his Officer, Lieutenant Crompton-Roberts MC and among those of V M Ansett, W R Bradley, A J Cassford, S F Cracknell, F W Gibbs, J A Hope, W Mannion, C Powell and W A Swallow. We



attend this special occasion because we wish to remember them and support the local people.

Anyone with relatives there can contact: Francois Maekelberg, Chairman Administration Communale De Comines-Warneton, 21 Place Ste-Anne, 7780 COMINES-WARNETON, Belgium.

Yours sincerely,

Gillian G Welton

*Letters to the editorial team for inclusion in the Gazette should be sent to: Major (Retd) A J Green, Regimental Headquarters Grenadier Guards, Wellington Barracks, Birdcage Walk, LONDON, SW1E 6HQ.*



## ASSOCIATION DIARY OF EVENTS 2018

|     |    |   |        |   |
|-----|----|---|--------|---|
| APR | 7  | Sussex Branch Annual Dinner, The Windsor Hotel, Worthing BN11 2LX   | 24-28  | Grenadier Guards Association Battlefield Tour – France  |
|     | 15 | March Branch Annual Lunch, Conservative Club, 14 Creek Road, March PE15 8RD   | 29     | Number Two Company Reunion, The Quarrybank, 151 Bloomsbury Lane, Timperly, Cheshire, WA15 6NY                   |
|     | 21 | Her Majesty’s Birthday  |        |   |
|     | 21 | Manchester Branch Annual Dinner, Britannia Country House Hotel, Palatine Road, Didsbury, Manchester M20 2WG                     | OCT 5  | March Branch Sausage & Mash Lunch, Conservative Club, 14 Creek Road, March PE15 8RD                             |
|     | 22 | Wigan, St. Helens & District Branch St. George’s Day Lunch, The Village, Culcheth, Warrington, Cheshire, WA3 4LY                | 6      | Wigan, St. Helens & District Branch Annual Dinner & Dance, The Village, Culcheth, Warrington, Cheshire, WA3 4LY |
|     | 22 | Liverpool Branch St. George’s Day Afternoon Tea, The Shrewsbury Lodge 31 Shrewsbury Road Prenton CH43 2JB 2PM -5PM              | 6      | Bristol Branch Annual Dinner, The Holiday Inn, Hambrook, Filton, Bristol, BS16 1QX                              |
|     | 28 | Surrey & East Hampshire Branch Annual Dinner, Mercure Farnham Bush Hotel, The Borough, Farnham, Surrey, GU9 7NN                 | 14     | Wessex Branch Annual Lunch, Marsham Court Hotel, 3 Russell Cotes Rd, Bournemouth BH1 3AB                        |
| MAY | 20 | Regimental Remembrance Day, Wellington Barracks   | 20     | Windsor Branch Annual Dinner, Royal Adelaide Hotel, 46 Kings Road, Windsor, Berkshire, SL4 2AG                  |
|     | 26 | Major General’s Review, Horse Guards’ Parade  |        |   |
|     | 26 | Support Company Reunion, Llandoger Trow, Bristol, BS1 4ER   | NOV 8  | Field of Remembrance, Westminster   |
| JUN | 2  | Coronation Day  | 10     | Festival of Remembrance, Royal Albert Hall  |
|     | 2  | The Colonel’s Review, Horse Guards’ Parade  | 11     | National Act of Remembrance – Cenotaph Parade   |
|     | 6  | Beating Retreat 1, Horse Guards’ Parade   | 17     | Liverpool Branch Annual Dinner & Dance, The Mecure Liverpool Atlantic Tower Hotel, Chapel St, Liverpool L3 9RE  |
|     | 7  | Beating Retreat 2, Horse Guards’ Parade   |        |   |
|     | 8  | Guardsfest, East Brierly, West Yorkshire, BD4 6PY   | DEC 2  | Worcester & Herefordshire Branch Annual Lunch, The Pear Tree Inn Hotel, Smite Lane, Worcester, WR3 8SY          |
|     | 9  | The Queen’s Birthday Parade, Horse Guards’ Parade   | 7      | March Branch Christmas Lunch, Conservative Club, 14 Creek Road, March PE15 8RD                                  |
|     | 10 | HRH The Duke of Edinburgh’s Birthday  | 9      | Wigan, St. Helens & District Branch Christmas Lunch, The Village, Culcheth, Warrington, Cheshire, WA3 4LY       |
|     | 16 | Northamptonshire Branch Annual Dinner, Freemasons’ Hall, Sheaf Close, Northampton, NN5 7UL                                      | 9      | Liverpool Branch Festive Afternoon Tea, The Shrewsbury Lodge 31 Shrewsbury Road Prenton CH43 2JB 2PM -5PM       |
|     | 17 | Yorkshire Branch Queen’s Birthday Parade Lunch, Swinton Park, Masham, Ripon HG4 4JH   | 16     | London Branch Annual Lunch, Union Jack Club, Sandell Street, Lambeth, London, SE1 8UJ                           |
|     | 18 | The Garter Service, Windsor Castle  |        |   |
| SEP | 8  | East Kent Branch “70th Anniversary” Dinner, Royal Temple Yacht Club, Westcliff Mansions, Pegwell Road, Ramsgate, Kent, CT11 9HY | 2019   |   |
|     | 16 | Reading Branch Annual Lunch, The Calcot Hotel, 98 Bath Road, Reading, RG31 7QN  | FEB 19 | The Colonel’s Birthday  |

*This list covers events which have been notified to the General Secretary prior to publication.  
If you wish to add an event please email Sgt Broomes at [assnnco@grengds.com](mailto:assnnco@grengds.com)*

