

The Grenadier Gazette

THE REGIMENTAL JOURNAL OF
THE GRENADIER GUARDS



2019



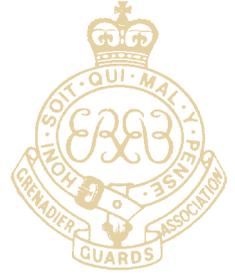
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Members of Nijmegen Company lining the West Steps of St. George's Chapel for the wedding of HRH Princess Eugenie.



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THE APPOINTMENT OF HRH THE DUKE OF YORK AS COLONEL, GRENADIER GUARDS

by Major Grant Baker

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1918 CENTENARY – A MOST GALLANT GRENADIER

by Steve Snelling

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NO 2 COMPANY ANNUAL REUNION & 40TH ANNIVERSARY 2018

by Andy Richardson

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THE ASSOCIATION BATTLEFIELD TOUR 2018 – A DIARY

by Chris Whitebrook

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The Editor accepts photographs for publication on the understanding that those submitting them have, where required by data protection legislation, obtained consent to publication from those depicted. Anyone who believes this is not the case or has a DPA related concern should contact the Editor.

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The opinions expressed in the articles of this magazine are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the policy and views, official or otherwise, of the Regiment or the MOD. This publication contains official information. It should be treated with discretion by the recipient.

Foreword

by Major General Roly Walker DSO

It's my pleasure to offer a foreword to the The Grenadier Gazette, a publication which not only tells the stories which the editorial team feels matter, but reflects on the ones which matter enough for contributors to write in. I hope the extensive compilation of material, all easily readable and beautifully laid out, inspires even more Grenadiers to put pen to paper, or fingers to keyboards, next year.

The publication of the Gazette also marks a moment in time, like the closing of company accounts, when what was planned is crystallised for posterity into what was done. It's such an important way to keep in touch, to learn about the ups and downs of the regimental family, what folk are doing, will do, or have done, up and down the land, from these shores or others. A real window into the health of the Regiment, which I hope you find in good shape.

We are indebted to Brigadier David Russell-Parsons, his support team and all those who have kindly set precious time aside to write a story worth us all reading about. I'd also like to pay tribute to all those in positions of leadership and responsibility within the regiment, for their contribution to enhancing the good order and efficiency of the Grenadier Guards – we are only as good as our people, and our people only as good as they are led.



The Lieutenant Colonel receiving the Freedom of the City of London as an Ironmonger.

On a personal note, I'm really enjoying being the Regimental Lieutenant Colonel. The day job keeps me very busy but the opportunity to spend time with Grenadiers is welcome and restorative. And broadening too. I was delighted to mark the excellent affiliation we have with the Ironmongers by becoming a freeman of the Company recently, and by association a freeman of the City of London. If found inebriated within the City boundaries, the latter means I now have the right to be escorted home safely by a constable! More seriously, the Company has been characteristically generous in supporting The Colonel's Fund, which alongside the other regimental charities, does so much good work for the few of our company who sadly need a little help.

I particularly enjoyed visiting the 1st Battalion in Iraq last year, a visit arranged for The Colonel which I was able to coincide with, fortuitously. Unfortunately, he couldn't make it at the last minute, for want of some frustrating travel protocols, so I was able to take full advantage of the otherwise unaccustomed VIP package laid on for him, including a very decent dinner at the residence of our ambassador and a full motorcade of Iraqi police and a private security detail to whisk me up to Taji and back, avoiding the atrocious traffic jams which mark Iraq's return to normality. My own return to normality occurred when dumped, somewhat unceremoniously, curbside opposite the departures gate of Baghdad International, first experienced in very different circumstances in 2003 but now fully functioning as a gateway to the world.

I was unable to link up with Grenadiers in Kabul, missing them by a matter of days, nor sadly those in South Sudan; but reflections from across the board painted a picture of a fine battalion, well led and in good spirits, making a meaningful difference to the security situation, and taking advantage of every opportunity to better themselves in the profession of arms.

We should all see evidence of this excellence later this year as the 1st Battalion troop their Colours on the Queen's Birthday Parade, not only in the high standards to which Grenadiers are accustomed, but in the extensive range of new campaign medals accumulated by guardsmen during active operations overseas in 2018. We will also see Nijmegen Company and the Regimental Band on parade, who themselves have been supporting a busy and equally active schedule of state ceremonial and public duties, public engagements, contingency operations and military training.

The band played brilliantly at Peter Carrington's memorial in Westminster Abbey, and in both prayers, tributes and reflections, the Grenadiers featured as a large part in his extraordinarily selfless and successful life. Perhaps as Grenadiers march past Her Majesty



The Lieutenant Colonel with the Commanding Officer and members of the 1st Battalion in Iraq.

and the assembled grandees on Horse Guards this year, they'll do so with extra pride, in memory of him, the life he led for the greater good of Great Britain in perilous

times, and all the other Grenadiers who did likewise and who left us this year?

Once a Grenadier...

Editorial Notes

by *Brigadier David Russell-Parsons OBE*

Our congratulations go to General Sir Mark Carleton-Smith, formerly Irish Guards, for being appointed Chief of the General Staff this last year, and it has been heartening to hear him re-affirm to the Army the value of ceremonial to the Monarchy and the Nation. We welcome Major (Retired) James Gatehouse, our new Regimental Adjutant, to the fold again after all his previous service and we wish his predecessor, Major Grant Baker, every success for the future.

This edition of our journal contains an excellent mixture of articles from both the serving and retired elements of our Regiment and a full and lively range of Association reports masterfully marshalled yet again by Major Andy Green. Our Divisional context is terrifically described by the Major-General Commanding the Household Division, Major-General Ben Bathurst, who has worked tirelessly to update all parts of the Division on every item of mutual interest, from recruiting, to accommodation and promotions. Major Grant Baker's wonderful article on our new Colonel for the Guards Magazine is reproduced here, together with its photographs.

There are one or two new contributors this year – thank you – and every submission has been carefully read. I continue to be hugely grateful to everyone giving up their time in submitting articles and all other contributions

and my inbox is always richer with a constant flow of proposed articles from Major General Sir Evelyn Webb-Carter. I am particularly grateful to Philip Wright who, in addition to his intriguing article about the South African war, has once more taken the time to write or edit this year's obituaries which are so important to us.

The result is a rich reflection of current and historical information, spiced up by some superb photographs and illustrations. While we remain constrained by data protection laws in not publishing the Regimental rolls, our editorial aim is to maintain your journal as an up-to-date and readable record of Regimental activities for the past 12 months, and stay alert to how we can develop both readability and readership. In particular, we remain on the hunt for serving guardsmen who have perhaps have more to offer, and my aim is encourage them to come forward with articles for publication.

It has been interesting to take stock of your comment on the both the format and style of the Gazette. Set against other Household Division in-house journals, we do stand apart a little in size. Current thinking is that we should stay the same and enjoy the difference, but we are open to challenge and other ideas. The Gazette would really benefit from any volunteer keen to offer more on this front. As ever, all Grenadiers, serving and retired, should know that they can write in at any time (regltreasurer@grengds.com).

2019-2020 promises to be an even better edition if we can all keep spreading the word and inviting anybody with a Grenadier story to tell to share it with us.

HOUSEHOLD DIVISION UPDATE

*by Major General Ben Bathurst CBE
Major General Commanding the
Household Division*

The New Year has seen the safe return of 1st Battalion Grenadier Guards from Iraq and 1st Battalion Welsh Guards from Afghanistan; the latter had the Queen's Company attached. Inkerman Company from 1st Battalion Grenadier Guards also returned from South Sudan. 1st Battalion Scots Guards are on Operation TOSCA in Cyprus and the Guards Parachute Platoon are deployed to Kabul with 3rd Battalion The Parachute Regiment.

Shortly, 1st Battalion Coldstream Guards and 1st Battalion Irish Guards will transition to 11th Infantry Brigade after three years in London District. Having trained in Kenya in October 2018 and following a period on high readiness, Irish Guards will then deploy to Iraq. Following behind, Coldstream Guards will exercise in Kenya in September 2019 and then deploy to Iraq after the Micks. They are also scheduled to take part in Counter-Illegal Wildlife Trade operations in Malawi. Three years in London is too long so we will be reducing the rotation to two years in future.

In their place, 1st Battalion Grenadier Guards and 1st Battalion Welsh Guards will transition to London District in March 2019. Grenadier Guards will Troop their Colour in 2019 and will then exercise as a Battalion in the jungle of Belize, followed by a Company deployment to the Falklands later in 2019. 1st Battalion Welsh Guards will follow Grenadier Guards by sending a Company to the Falklands and they then will deploy a Company to exercise in Belize, before turning their attention to Trooping their Colour in 2020.

A constant feature of serving in London District these days is our commitment to United Kingdom Operations. Every day, we have Guardsmen on standby to assist the civil authorities in the event of a terrorist attack (Operation TEMPERER), natural disasters (eg. flooding or a pandemic) or any other task the Government wishes the military to assist with. In fact, I have more troops committed on a daily basis for United Kingdom Operations than for Public Duties but in the end, the same set of troops do both, as well as training for contingent operations abroad.

Household Cavalry have been particularly busy with the Household Cavalry Regiment on Exercise SAIF SAREEA in Oman, both as exercising troops but also acting as the opposing force and managing to get many Troopers away sailing at the end as a reward. Household Cavalry are now concentrating on converting to the new AJAX

armoured cavalry vehicle which will be a generational change in capability, well armoured and highly technical. They will also move to Bulford, collocated with the other AJAX Regiments around Salisbury Plain.

Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment continue to work hard, having delivered a successful Escort for the State Visit of the King and Queen of the Netherlands and all the usual staircase lining commitments over the last three months of 2018. They then prepared those horses to be turned out for the winter, retaining sufficient to conduct The Queen's Life Guard but also to allow the Regiment to take leave in two split blocks so that all duties are covered. The horses are now back from grass but should get away on Troop training up at Melton Mowbray in the spring.

Under the Commanding Officer London Central Garrison, the three Public Duties Incremental Companies have found time to get away on exercises in the United Kingdom and Adventurous Training. Whilst it is sometimes difficult to get a whole Company away, they are adept at combining forces to ensure the Guardsmen get the variety they need. For example, they run a very successful combined alpine ski camp with a platoon from each Company participating.

Readers will recall that until comparatively recently, there was always a Line Infantry Battalion in London District to assist with a share of the Public Duties. These days, we get reinforced for two months at a time by 'Public Duties Reinforcement Companies' that make up for the Line Battalion.

Having the Royal Navy, Royal Air Force and the Canadian Army taking on an element of Public Duties also really helps. As well as freeing up time for our Guardsmen go off to train elsewhere, those outside units really enjoy the privilege too; so it is a neat solution and one to be encouraged.

The Senior Director of Music no longer directs a Band and is now Commanding Officer of the Household Division Bands. This ensures the Directors of Music of the Household Cavalry Band, the five Foot Guards Bands and the Countess of Wessex's String Orchestra are properly commanded. They have all worked very hard for the State Visit and for Remembrance and we had a very successful Household Division Bands Concert in Cadogan Hall in November.

As well as having a Commanding Officer Household Division Bands, there is now a Commanding Officer Regional Bands. From April 2019, all Army Bands will come under me as General Officer Commanding London District and I will oversee all their taskings. This will ensure unity of command and through working closely with the Director Corps of Army Music, we can ensure

that our military music remains world class.

Following a successful exercise in the Falklands, The London Regiment continue to grow steadily. Whilst not formally part of the Household Division, they are now under the command of myself as General Officer Commanding London District with the embryonic G (Guards) Company joining A (London Scottish), D (London Irish) and F (Rifles) Companies. This takes the London Regiment forward as the *'Guards Reserve Battalion'* envisaged under the Army 2020 Refine programme. Recently retired veterans are strongly encouraged to join the Army Reserve.

We are nearing our final set of basing moves that will see all Regiments and Battalions stay in place, rather than moving ever few years which unsettles families' schooling and employment prospects. Household Cavalry will conduct a farewell to Windsor parade on 18 May 2019 and move from Windsor to Bulford in the summer to a brand-new Barracks. The Household Cavalry Mounted Training Wing will remain in Combermere Barracks, as will the Band of the Household Cavalry and a Household Cavalry Detachment of the Army Cadet Force.

1st Battalion Welsh Guards will then move into Combermere Barracks, alongside 1st Battalion Coldstream Guards who will remain in Victoria Barracks. The final plan is that at any one time, we will have one of those Battalions in London District whilst the other will be part of 11th Infantry Brigade. 1st Battalion Grenadier Guards will stay in Lille Barracks in Aldershot and 1st Battalion Irish Guards will move to the Aldershot/Pirbright area (the exact details are yet to be announced).

1st Battalion Scots Guards will move to Catterick in 2020.

Every two years, the 4 light role Foot Guards Battalions will re-subordinate between London District and 11th Infantry Brigade without having to move barracks; this will give welcome stability for all and result in better management of infrastructure. 1st Battalion Scots Guards will remain permanently in the Mechanised role in Catterick as that is the most efficient way to deliver that capability; it will also help their retention and recruiting, as most prefer to be closer to home; a number of Coldstream Guards are expected to want to join them there.

The Household Division has been working hard on recruiting and we are now beginning to see the fruits of our labour. Household Cavalry recruiting is strong, with a number of female officers and troopers coming through. We have reinforced Headquarters Foot Guards and Lieutenant Colonel Jerry Levine has taken over from Major David Sewell as SO2 Foot Guards, based in Warminster.

We now coordinate all our recruiting teams better and in turn, the Infantry is working more collaboratively to ensure a joined-up approach. We have increased our numbers in the recruiting pipeline significantly and we now have as many as the other best recruited Division

of Infantry.

However, there are many more significant improvements underway as a result of initiatives by Home Command and the Army Recruiting and Initial Training Command, led by Lieutenant General Urch and Major General Nanson respectively, in partnership with Capita. They are focussed on reducing the time it takes to get a candidate through the pipeline and loaded to training with a range of measures in train. I am now confident that the issues that have beset us in the past are now being resolved and this is showing clearly in the numbers coming through.

On wider Household Division matters, the Guards' Chapel Organ Appeal is going very well and we are on track to raise the £1.5 million needed for a new pipe organ with a 50-70 year life, helped by a generous donation from Grenadier Guards. We are now sufficiently confident to proceed with the invitations to tender but we do still need further individual donations to get us to our target, so anything that readers may be able to spare would be very much welcomed.

The Guards' Museum continues to do well, despite its underground location opposite the Guards' Chapel and suffering from repeated road closures on Birdcage Walk which affects foot fall. Nevertheless, Andrew Wallis the Curator does a very good job with bespoke tours for paying guests as well as dinners which get a guided tour. We have recruited a new leader for the Management Committee and a new Assistant Curator, both of whom are bringing new ideas.

On Sport, Guards Cricket goes from strength to strength, as does Guards Polo winning the Inter-Regimental at Guards Polo Club for the second year in a row. Gladeye is in continual use, managed by the Household Division Sailing Association and a highly effective boatswain, LSgt Stevens Irish Guards. Household Division Yacht Club continues to run excellent regattas with J70 dinghies, kindly lent by the Royal Yacht Squadron.

I hope this gives Grenadier Guards a good overview of the Household Division and the absolute commitment we make to ensuring we are at the forefront of operations in the United Kingdom and abroad. This would not be possible without the leadership of officers, warrant officers and non-commissioned officers and the highly professional and committed 21st century Guardsmen. If you would like to know more, follow each Regiment and Army in London on Social Media (Instagram and Facebook) which shows day to day what the Household Division is up to.

Septem Juncto in Uno

by *The Regimental Adjutant*

At the time of writing this, it is now almost six months since I succeeded Grant Baker as Regimental Adjutant and I would like to thank him, on behalf of the Regiment, for the significant contribution he has made over the 11 years he held the appointment. During this tenure the 1st Battalion deployed to Afghanistan on three separate occasions, three tours which tested the Regimental family in many ways, presenting Grant with a myriad of challenges. Grenadiers are often modest about their achievements, but we owe him a great deal.

It is 22 years since I left the Army as a young Major, so I returned to the Regiment and Wellington Barracks with a degree of uncertainty and trepidation. Much in the Army has changed, numbers have been reduced (fully manned the Infantry establishment is just 17,500) but commitments have not. Nevertheless, the young men serving in the Regiment are as impressive now as they have always been; keen, bright, smart, professional and ambitious. They are cheerful and well led and the 1st Battalion is a hugely impressive, very professional organisation, one of the very best in the Army and highly regarded by all.

Regimental Headquarters is also much reduced in size but it still punches above its weight. It is our spiritual home and the small team there continue to look after many key aspects of the Regiment; past, present and future. Captain Robbie Thompson has become the Assistant Equerry, RQMS James Thompson largely runs the Headquarters, Sgt Rodders Haughton and LSgt Mac Macmillan with Jackson Kentebe run the General Office, Linda Leppard manages the Stores and Captain Alan Ogden and Nayna Shah run the Archives and website and, together with Major Philip Wright, field historical queries. Major Andy Green wears several hats, Assistant Regimental Adjutant, Regimental Treasurer and General Secretary of the Association; he is ably assisted by Sgt Rob Broomes.

The handover between the Colonels was undoubtedly the highlight of the year. Other highlights included the Association Battlefield Tour to Flanders, the unveiling of a memorial to Lord Gort VC in the MOD gardens and a memorial ceremony for Pte Holmes VC in Gloucestershire. The centenary of the 1918 Armistice was commemorated by Grenadiers and their families in many other towns and villages. It is a sad and sober thought that of the 15,600 Grenadiers who served their country in France during the Great War, three in ten never came back.

Reporting to the Regimental Trustees we manage and administer all the Regimental Charities. You will read the Welfare Report elsewhere but it is worth noting that

it is only through the generosity and continuing efforts of all who have raised money that we are able to support as many requests for welfare support and assistance as we do, many in combination with other military charities. The unstinting effort of Matt Elmer, working on behalf of the Colonel's Fund, really is making a significant difference to the lives of a number of wounded Grenadiers and their families. However, none of us can be complacent. The cost of diagnosing and treating complex injuries continues to rise, so I encourage you to continue raising funds. Matt is leading a party up Scafell Pike in June, the highest mountain in England, and I hope many will both join and support this.

On a daily basis, Regimental Headquarters deals with a variety of issue and queries regarding the First Guards Club, Sergeants Mess Past & Present Club and the Regimental Association. All three are vibrant and active and there is much more later in this Gazette from the branches of the Association. I hope and intend to meet many more members of the Association at events over my tenure and it is also very encouraging that a number of reunions have been arranged by, amongst others, the Recce Platoon and another is being planned for Number Two Company. If you haven't been to Grenadier Day for some time, I hope to see you in Aldershot on 14 July.

Manning is a constant challenge but the Regiment is the best recruited in the Foot Guards. Retention is also strong and this is testament to the quality of leadership in both the Battalion and Nijmegen Company, as well as the variety of opportunities available to all. I continue to meet impressive young men, on their way to Sandhurst, and I am confident that we continue to attract dynamic characters who will make a valuable contribution.

Space is limited, so my final point covers affiliations. The Regiment is affiliated to HMS Queen Elizabeth as well as a number of other regiments overseas. We are making great progress with the Canadian Grenadier Guards and it is hoped that an exchange programme with the 1st Battalion, over the next three years, will result in a much closer working relationship. Similarly, since 2014 we have been affiliated to The Worshipful Company of Ironmongers, one of the Great XII Livery Companies of the City of London. The Ironmongers have been very generous, hosting a Families Lunch last October for about 50 wives and children from the Battalion, while it was deployed, and the First Guards Club Dinner. The Company is also very supportive of The Colonel's Fund, having made a substantial grant in November. We hope to host the Master and others at Beating Retreat and the Queen's Birthday Parade. There may also be an opportunity for Ironmongers to visit 1st Battalion later in the year in Belize. I hope to be able to report more about our affiliated units in Australia and France in due course.

The Regimental Cypher

In this age of scanners and digital cameras, we were aware that there was a plethora of versions of the Regimental cypher and indeed cap badge adorning various bits of bumf throughout the land. So a timely consultation was arranged with Garter King of Arms and we were delighted to receive this definitive drawing from the College of Arms. Op CYPHER WATCH is now up and running!

If you would like a digital copy, please email Nayna Shah civiliantypist@grengds.com who will send you an edited version.



Major James Gatehouse, Regimental Adjutant



James was commissioned from Sandhurst in December 1982 and posted immediately to the 2nd Battalion on a six month UN tour in Cyprus, commanding a platoon in No 2 Company based in a deserted farm complex between the Greek and Turkish lines.

In 1984 he was the Ensign on the Queen's Birthday Parade selected, amongst others, by the then Adjutant, Captain

Grant Baker; their paths would continue to cross. That autumn he moved with the Battalion to Belize on a seven-month tour and spent much of his time patrolling in the jungle along the border with Guatemala, professionally a very rewarding experience. There was also time for some enjoyable adventure training on desert islands in the Caribbean.

In mid-1985 the Battalion returned to Chelsea Barracks and public duties followed; later that year it started to prepare for a two-year residential tour in Northern Ireland. He moved with the Battalion to Ballykelly and was there or at Aughnacloy for the next six months before being posted to 14th Company at the Guards Depot in mid-1986 where he was responsible for the training of a

platoon of Junior Leaders in Waterloo Company, followed by a platoon of adult recruits in Caterham Company.

He left the Guards Depot in early 1988 to return to Ballykelly as Signals Officer and then on to Caterham with the Battalion and a testing overseas exercise in Kenya. In 1989 he was posted to RMA Sandhurst as a Platoon Commander and the Regimental Representative at the Academy. Two years later he joined the 1st Battalion in Wellington Barracks as Adjutant to Lieutenant Colonel Robert Cartwright. Two Queen's Birthday Parades followed, both mounted, as well as the Presentation of Colours to both Battalions on Horse Guards in 1992.

In 1993 he was posted back to the 2nd Battalion to take command of No 1 Company. The Commanding Officer was Lieutenant Colonel Richard Aubrey-Fletcher who is now the current Grenadier Guards Association President. This was a sad period as the Battalion moved towards suspended animation and much time and effort was spent looking after the future careers of all the Warrant and Non-Commissioned officers in the Battalion as well as the Guardsmen.

After two years as a Junior Staff Officer in HQ 1 Mechanized Brigade in Tidworth, he returned to the 1st Battalion in 1995 to command No 2 Company. He moved with them to Ballykinler in early 1996 and left the Army that October to pursue a new career in investment management. He became a partner in Killik & Co, a London-based stockbroker, looking after private clients and managing broking teams in the West End and the City.

A keen skier and all-round sportsman, he is married to Miranda and they live in Barnes, South West London. Between them, they have six children ranging from a 23 year-old to a 35 year-old and two grandchildren.

Director of Welfare's Report

For Year ending 31 December 2018

by *The Regimental Adjutant*

Organisation

The Regimental Adjutant is Director of Welfare. He is supported by the Secretary to the Welfare Committee (Major Andy Green), the Association NCO (Sgt Rob Broomes) and the Regimental Casualty Officer (Mr Matt Ellmer) who are responsible for implementation of charitable activities.

The Regimental Association

The Association budget continues to support Grenadiers (and their families) in need in a variety of ways.

1. Supplementary Benefits

This benefit is paid at £107.50/quarter, £430/year; at the end of 2018, 19 people were in receipt of this allowance. The spend for Supplementary Benefits in 2018 was £8,600 at the year end.

2. Christmas Gifts

In 2018 Christmas Gifts were paid to 213 Association Branch applicants at £30 per head. In addition, £25 was also paid to each of our three In-Pensioners at The Royal Hospital, Chelsea. The total spend was £6,465 at the year end.

3. Individual Welfare Grants

Net grants, totaling £33,826 at the year end, have been made to support 90 requests for assistance for such things as home improvements, mobility aids, brown/white goods, debt relief and other miscellaneous items.

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. It continues to be the source of much needed and very welcome support to the bereaved families of those killed on recent operations and to those who have suffered physical and mental injury.

The Steering Committee always expected that mental health problems would begin to surface as a result of operational service, in many cases years after the events that may have caused the problem. Sadly, there has been a continual increase in such problems emerging, in some part due to the fact that the symptoms of such issues are now more widely recognised. The Fund is providing healthcare support to a number of Grenadiers suffering

from very complex mental health difficulties, as well as continuing to engage with the Government and NHS to provide sustainable nationwide support.

During 2018 donations have continued to come in with many individuals contributing and their generosity is very much appreciated. As at 31 Dec 2018 the fund had raised a total of £3,947,660 and made £957,343 worth of welfare related payments since its inception.

In 2018, the Fund made individual welfare grants to the value of £38,576. The majority of made were for:

- Mobility aids/improvement.
- Home modifications.
- Employment Training
- Counselling

The Fund also continues to support the invaluable work carried out by the Regimental Casualty Officer, Mr Matthew Ellmer, who is at the forefront of the delivery of the support outlined above. As well as being the 'fixer', mentor, counselor and friend to our seriously wounded and bereaved, he continues to forge links with other Service charities and Government Agencies so that we know where to turn when help is needed.

The Household Division Welfare Fund

The General Secretary attends committee meetings for this Fund and can apply for a grant in certain cases. No grants were requested in 2018.

APPLYING FOR GRANTS

Grenadiers, or their families, who are in need of support as a result of recent active service, can be supported by The Colonel's Fund. They are directed, in the first instance, to make contact with the Regimental Casualty Officer (Mr Matt Ellmer who will advise on the best way forward.

All other Grenadiers or their dependents, in need of support, 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); SSAFA then assigns a case-worker who prepares the case and then submits it to Association Headquarters. Through this process, we are able to access support from the Army Benevolent Fund and Royal British Legion, in addition to our own.

The Regimental Archives: Improved conservation and greater accessibility

by *Captain Alan Ogden*

General

Since 2014, in line with a directive from the Regimental Council, the Regimental Archives have undergone a process of restructuring as a result of a number of factors including modern environmental storage requirements and digitisation. To all extents and purposes this process is now complete.

Records

In January 2018, we were notified that the MOD had made budgetary provisions for the transfer of all Foot Guards records from Wellington Barracks to the main Government depository at Swadlincote in Derbyshire [a facility outsourced to TNT].

Soldiers records – these were transferred in late March/early April and have subsequently being indexed by number/name/DOB. Access for the public is now through MOD APC Records office in Glasgow. Regimental Headquarters has the full list of names in electronic format.

Officers Records – these records, which were duplicates held by the Regiment, have also been transferred to Swadlincote and are now retrievable along with the original WO/MOD records on the same basis as Soldiers records.

Security – the same restrictions apply as per MOD guidelines. <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/requests-for-personal-data-and-service-records>

National Army Museum [NAM]

Poor environmental storage conditions in Wellington Barracks and a reassessment of what was Government rather than Regimental property resulted in the transfer in 2017 of the majority of historical documents and maps to NAM. In the near future, members of the public will be able to pre-book online material to study in NAM's Templer Study Centre in Chelsea. NAM have re-indexed them and they are searchable on the NAM website – <https://collection.nam.ac.uk/inventory/objects/>

As a guide, our own inventory is published on our website under History and Archives/ the Grenadiers Guards collection at NAM.

The Regimental Library, Wellington Barracks

The library has now been re-catalogued and we have identified a number of valuable books owned by the Regiment. Several have been encased in bespoke sleeves for safekeeping and preservation.

We continue to add selectively to the library and all Grenadier memoirs are most welcome.

A digital version of the catalogue is available to serving and former members of the Regiment and to accredited researchers. Contact regtarchivist@grengds.com.

Guards Magazine

We have a complete set of Guards Magazines kept in the library but it should be noted that they have recently been digitised in a centrally funded Household Division project with the British Library and will soon be available online in a searchable format.

Grengds.com

Our own website has been redesigned to conform with MOD requirements and references to the battalion removed to avoid duplication.

We continue to publish:

- Occasional articles.
- Videos and films.
- Audio tapes.
- Digital books – we now have all four Regimental histories [Hamilton, Ponsonby, Forbes/Nicolson, Oliver Lindsay] in searchable e-formats online. Go to http://grengds.com/static.php?content_id=149
- WW2 citations.

See History and Archives at www.grengds.com

Images

Four years ago we commissioned a project to digitise our Regimental photographs [1858–1959] in hi-res format and in early May 2018 we launched a searchable sister website managed by [Mediastorehouse.com](http://mediastorehouse.com). This enables visitors to search and view Regimental photographs via www.grengds.com and to order hi-res copies and other product applications.

We continue to publish on our own website a selection of miscellaneous images.

Work in Progress

There are a number of routine tasks we continue to undertake to maintain both our physical and e-databases:

- Maintenance of Regimental library and catalogue.
- Additions to the offline Regimental Digital Archive.
- Additions to digital images mindful of OPSEC/PERSEC and provisions of Data Protection Act and GDPR 2018.
- Additions to boxed archives of documents relating to the Queen's Birthday Parade, Memorial Services, other Parades, Laying up of Colours, and Newsletters.

Summary

Our archives are now held in modern secure environmental conditions where they are easily accessible to members of the public as well as to military historians.

BAND OF THE GRENADIER GUARDS

A Year in Review

by *LSgt Michael Sinclair*

The past three years have been an unusually busy time for all members of the Armed Forces due to the First World War centenary commemorations. Naturally music has played a large part in these events and as a result the Band of the Grenadier Guards alongside the other bands of the Household Division have taken centre stage in many of the national and indeed regional acts of remembrance. Of course, alongside this, the regular calendar of engagements has continued at an unrelenting pace.

The band were busy in the practice room during the opening weeks of 2018, preparing in earnest for a Guards Chapel concert entitled *'Legends Myths and Creatures'* which challenged both the band and audience with a varied selection of music taking the listener from Atlantis to Las Vegas. During March and April, the band once again took to the concert stage, travelling to Redhill in Surrey for their annual SSAFA concert. The programme contained a popular selection of traditional music and featured a numbers of the band's fine soloists. This was shortly followed by the fanfare team performing in the familiar surroundings of Westminster Abbey where they heralded the arrival of Her Majesty the Queen at the

annual Commonwealth Service.

Following a typically frantic summer ceremonial season the bands of the Grenadier and Coldstream Guards paraded together, amid heightened security, for the visit to Windsor Castle of the President of the United States of America, Donald Trump. With Windsor virtually locked down, this was a memorable event to be part of due to the extensive media coverage and public interest.

After a well-deserved summer leave, the band's brass ten-piece ensemble travelled to Bruges to take part in a concert entitled *'Song of Freedom, The Long Road from War to Peace'*, part of the larger remembrance project *'Gone West'* undertaken by the Province of West-Flanders. The concert was the culmination of two years of fundraising by the members of the Royal Scout Band of Bruges. The Grenadiers' role paid tribute to the men and women of all nations of the British Empire who gave their lives during the First World War, but specifically those who have a permanent resting place in Flanders Fields.

During the middle weekend of September, the Band performed a Concert entitled *'Coming Home'* in Worcester Cathedral, performing the rousing fanfare, *'Fanfare for Heroes'*, composed by Sir Arthur Bliss, a former Grenadier officer who served during the Great War and would go on to become Master of the Queen's Music. The next day saw the band take the lead in a remembrance parade in Gheluvelt Park, named after the battle honour awarded to the 2nd Battalion The



Worcester Cathedral Band Concert.



The Band in Murcia.

Worcestershire Regiment during WW1 and hosted by the Lord Lieutenant of Worcestershire, Lieutenant Colonel Patrick Holcroft, to mark the county's contribution to the war effort by its servicemen and women, in this centenary year.

During September, the band's principal horn player Sgt Jon Rowles deployed with a Short Term Training Team to Montenegro assisting their Armed Forces Band. The tour involved twelve musicians from across CAMUS and was in support of the British Embassies in Podgorica, Montenegro and Tirana, Albania. After a week of rehearsals in each country, the first of two concerts were held in Podgorica which included bands from Albania and Montenegro in the first event of its kind. The concert was attended by most of the senior officials from both countries, and due to the political differences on each side this has never been achieved before. The second concert was duplicated in the Albanian town of Skodra and was also well attended by both governments and local people alike. For the last week, their version of Armed Forces Day was held in the old capital town of Cetinja. This was a formal parade attended by 70% of the Montenegro Armed forces and was hosted by the countries President, Milo Dukanovic.

In a welcome break from public duties, the band were delighted to be involved in promoting the new film *Fantastic Beasts: Crimes of Grindelwald*. Early on the morning of Thursday 18th October the band formed up flanked by nine huge wizard wands which lit the walkway between the Millennium Bridge and St Paul's Cathedral. Delighted fans and commuters alike listened to the band perform music from the *Fantastic Beasts* and *Harry Potter* films, before marching into the distance over the Millennium Bridge. This was the final engagement of the year in Summer Guard Order as we swapped tunics for greatcoats and began looking in earnest towards the preparations for the national act of remembrance at the Cenotaph which had an even greater poignancy as we

commemorated the end of the First World War.

With the end of 2018 on the horizon, there were muted suggestions that a short trip to Spain might be on the cards in the New Year. Indeed, the rumours were true, and the band travelled to Murcia to take part in the Reyes Magos Fiestas, or 'Festival of Kings' the traditional Spanish Christmas celebrations and the day on which they exchange gifts. The band led the parade through the streets to the town hall and on to the cathedral square where they delighted the large enthusiastic crowd with a stand-up concert. The festival culminated the following day with another performance in the cathedral square as the local population welcomed The Three Kings to the city.

As we look ahead, 2019 promises to be another busy year. Preparations for the summer will soon be upon us with the usual round of inspections and parades ensuring our readiness for the ceremonial season. This year will have an added level of importance as the Grenadier Guards look forward to once again Trooping their Colour on the Queen's Birthday Parade.



Band concert in Montenegro.



Ten-Piece Brass Ensemble in Burg Square, Bruges.

Letter from The Commanding Officer

by Lieutenant Colonel Piers Ashfield DSO

I took Command of the First Battalion in February of 2018, ever mindful of our proud heritage but also of the great men that had passed before me, the impression that they have left on the Regiment and the trust incumbent upon me to nurture their legacy and secure it for future generations.

I was immediately struck by the spectrum of opportunity afforded to the Battalion; four operational deployments to three operational theatres in a nine-month period presented a daunting challenge in terms of preparation and deployment. Particular credit must be given to the Quartermaster's team who had to support the breadth of these deployments ordering an array of kit and equipment to support the Companies, from desert boots for Afghanistan to Wellington boots for South Sudan to cope with the rainy season. The dispersed nature of my first year in command has been a considerable demand but with the aid of modern technology, we have managed to remain in touch with our Companies in the various deployments across the world. To maintain this information link to the wider Regimental family we have redoubled our efforts with social media which is reflected in our frequent posts that are followed so loyally by so

many and I am very grateful for your unfailing support. What has come to the fore in all our operations is the importance of building and maintaining effective relationships, with Coalition partners, host nation forces and attachments.

Getting this right has been critical to our success; during preparation we spoke of a need for commanders to get along, 'commanders' relationships' being more important than 'command relationships'. Without exception the Companies have excelled themselves working for a plethora of higher headquarters; the Coalition against ISIS, NATO and the UN.

The experiences of the Battalion this year are outlined below and I am sure that their impact will be engraved on the consciousness of the Battalion for years to come. 2018 will be characterised by the breadth of operational experience but also by the fact that for a vast majority this was their first deployment. The personal and professional development that is manifest in every deployment but accentuated during one's first tour, will ensure that the Battalion is well poised for the exciting demands of 2019.



The Commanding Officer.

1st BATTALION

Battalion Update

by Captain Charlie Williams

Following 2017 'on call' as part of NATO's High Readiness Task Force, 2018 has been even busier, with the Battalion deployed across Afghanistan, Iraq and South Sudan. The first half of the year saw the 1st Battalion switch fire from Eastern Europe to pre-deployment training (PDT) focused on the Middle East and Africa. The majority of our PDT for operating in vicinity of the equator seemed to take place in, a mostly cold and soggy, Thetford.

In March the Regiment celebrated the Duke of York taking over the reigns from his father as our Colonel in Windsor Castle. The new Colonel inspected a Guard of Honor provided by The Queen's and Nijmegen Companies, under the watchful eye of Her Majesty, in St George's Hall. Sadly the Duke of Edinburgh was unable to attend,

but I am sure that all in attendance had a tremendous afternoon and it was a fitting way to welcome the new Colonel before many deployed.

From August to December over 360 members of the First Battalion have been away on three separate tours, for many their first operational deployment. This is an unheard of achievement in recent British Army history and reflects a mighty effort by all members of the Battalion in deploying in good order, especially the Quartermaster's Department, not withstanding a few visa issues! Only the Inkerman Company will still be deployed, in South Sudan, for Christmas.

Battalion Headquarters, Number Two and part of Support Company deployed in June to four locations on Operation SHADER – the UK's effort to support, empower and develop the Iraqi and Kurdish Security Forces in their continued fight against Da'esh. In Camp Taji, around 40km North West of Baghdad, on the River Tigris, Battalion Headquarters with 77 Squadron 35 Royal Engineers and Force Protection (FP) provided by

members of No 2 Company, delivered infantry, counter-IED, medical and bridge building support training to the Iraqi Army. The aim of all the teaching was to hand as much of it over as possible to enable the Iraq Army to deliver their own future training. Nowhere was this more evident than at the NCO Academy, where a small group of Grenadier officers and non-commissioned officers set up, prepared and delivered and mentored train the trainer lessons alongside Iraqi instructors.

On the other side of Baghdad members of Support Company were assisting the delivery of quality support weapons and C-IED training from the Spanish run camp of Besmaya. Outside Erbil, in the Kurdish Region, the remainder of No 2 Company delivered training to the Peshmerga forces. The Kurds proved a highly receptive audience and clearly appreciate the British training they received. The instruction is delivered in the breathtaking surroundings of the Kurdish mountains. One of the training teams was located in the North of the region, occupying a fort that had been built by Saddam as part of his campaign against the Kurds in the 1990s. The platoon lived with Italian and Hungarian training teams and found new ways to occupy themselves in the absence of the millennial necessity; Wi-Fi! They enjoyed the perks of having European coalition partners, namely a sauna in the camp.

The Queen's Company, Recce, Anti-Tank and the Mortar platoons were attached to the Welsh Guards in Kabul. This involved a different mind-set than many have been used to in the past with LCpls and Guardsmen taking high levels of responsibility as small independent teams responsible for accompanying high ranking advisors and Officers, with little input from their superiors. The Company also provided FP for the trainers based from the Afghan Officer Training Academy. Enabling the instructors to develop the Afghan officers, as they continue their struggle to ensure the future prosperity of their country.

The Inkerman Company and the Corps of Drums arrived in South Sudan in late July on Operation TRENTON, a United Nations mission. Split between refugee camps in the North of the country, the Guardsmen provided protection and assault pioneer support to the Royal Engineers. Everyman has deployed with his issue wellington boots in preparation of rainy season, rest assured that the Officers' Mess members have upgraded to le Chameau or Hunters for the impending mud! The diversity of the UK soldiers and trades alongside a host of other UN contributing countries created a unique operating environment where the challenges were multiple and varied, they will return to the UK in January 2019.

As well as capacity building in all three areas of operation, working within and developing relationships in a multi-national coalition force has been the prevailing theme of all three tours. The Guardsmen made the most of the opportunity to interact with partner and local

forces. Working with so many different nations and services proved an enjoyable and rewarding challenge. However, one Company Sergeant Major's policy of no sunglasses to be worn with berets fell on the deaf ears of the Royal Air Force!

We switch focus again for 2019, resubordinating to London District. The Tailor Shop will be a hive of activity in the New Year to ensure that we will be outside Buckingham Palace, Windsor Castle and the Tower of London by Easter. In June, the Queen's Company will provide the escort, as the Battalion shows off their new medals, on the Queen's Birthday Parade. This will also give the opportunity to focus on sport, extra-curricular activities and adventurous training; a Battlefield study to Belgium, a rugby tour to Las Vegas and a Battalion ski trip to the Alps have already been organised from hot and dusty locations.

Finally there are two major goodbyes; the first is to the Quartermaster, Major Steve Munro. Having taken part in Op GRANBY with the 1st Battalion in 1991, he left it to the younger generation in 2018. He did however command the Rear Operations Group in Aldershot, without his support in this role and as Quartermaster none of the Battalions recent achievements would have been possible. We all wish him the best as he leaves the Atmy to be closer to his family in East Anglia. The second goodbye is to the Regimental Adjutant, Grant Baker. His tireless work supporting the Regiment and Battalion has been invaluable. I think we all know whom the parade in Windsor Castle in March was really for! All members of the battalion wish Major Baker and Lucinda all the best for his newfound 'soft routine'. The hard work, and gripping of ensigns on Queen's Guard rehearsals from the Regimental Headquarters vantage point, will no doubt continue under Major James Gatehouse.

We look forward to catching up with many of you over 2019 at Regimental Remembrance Sunday, Trooping of the Color and Grenadier Day on 14th July in Aldershot.



The Operations Officer continues working in his respirator during a simulated attack.



THE QUEEN'S COMPANY

by Captain Robbie Laing

In August 2018 The Queen's Company Group, comprised of The Queen's Company in their entirety and two platoons of Support Company, said their farewells to the rest of the Battalion who had made their way to Iraq and deployed as part of the second rotation of the 1 Welsh Guards Battlegroup on Operation TORAL 6. This deployment was part of the overarching Resolute Support Mission to the Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, providing advisor force protection to those conducting train, advise and assist roles, and providing security for various camps in Kabul.

Joining the 1 Gren Gds Mortar Platoon in theatre, who had already deployed with the Welsh Guards on the first rotation of Op TORAL 6, The Queen's Company Group was quickly split up and spread to the winds in Kabul. The main body of the Company, along with Company Headquarters, was deployed to Camp Qargha, neighbouring the Afghan National Officer Academy (ANOA), where they were responsible for providing advisor force protection to the mentors working at ANOA, whilst also providing camp security and a QRF for the western half of the city. Reconnaissance Group Alpha, one of the Support Company platoons, was based in Camp Taipan, home of the TORAL Aviation Detachment, where they were responsible for providing camp security and advisor force protection for those working in the Afghan camp, Kabul Garrison Command. Meanwhile, the second Support Company platoon, Reconnaissance Group Bravo, was embedded with No 3 Company Welsh Guards in the New Kabul Compound, where they too were providing advisor force protection.

Op TORAL is a very different form of deployment to Afghanistan compared to what the Battalion previously



Foxhounds travel through the Afghan desert on their way to the ranges.

experienced during the Op HERRICK days, with the appetite for risk much reduced and the role being far less kinetic or proactive. As such, the task, although at times very busy with long days in the vehicles, could be monotonous, providing a challenge to all those involved. However, the Company Group performed with aplomb, contributing to the Resolute Mission and performing well under the beady eye of the Commander of the British Forces in theatre. For many it was their first operational deployment and a good opportunity for them to see how other nations performed and did their business. Some they enjoyed working alongside, such as the Australians and the Danish; others, whom it is probably best not to name by nations, raised a few eyebrows! On the whole, however, it was enjoyable time away and a great experience for all concerned.

The start of 2019 will see the company taking their well deserved post-tour leave before skiing in France and then getting ready to provide the Escort for the Birthday Parade in June. It promises to be another busy, but memorable year for the Sovereign's Company.



Interacting with local children during a patrol in Afghanistan.



The Queen's Company during their tour in Afghanistan.



No 2 COMPANY

Working with the Peshmerga

by Major Will Harries

During Op SHADER 7, a training team formed from No 2 deployed to the Kurdish Region of Iraq (KRI) from Jun-Dec 2019. Our mission was to train the Peshmerga from the Regional Guard Brigades (RGBs) alongside training teams from Italy, Hungary, the Netherlands, Finland, Germany and Slovenia. The RGBs contain a number of units from the former Iraqi Order of Battle, as well as forces whose primary allegiance was, historically, to the largest tribal families and their political parties. The RGBs were established under a programme aimed at reducing this factionalism amongst Kurdish Security Forces. Another objective is the professionalisation of a largely territorial force; often fulfilling a range of different functions: reserve force, welfare organisation, political muscle and traditional proving ground for Kurdish males.

Working with the Peshmerga resulted in a rewarding and stimulating six months for the Company. Training teams have been split between two training centres: Atrush, in the Zagros Mountains near the northern border with Turkey; and Menila, 50km to the east of Kirkuk to the south. Meanwhile, the Company headquarters and a team of force protection and drivers have been based in Erbil. Erbil is a vibrant city that stands on a site

continuously inhabited by humans since around 5000 BC. The various teams have driven thousands of kilometres, enjoyed stunning scenery and enjoyed interacting on a daily basis with our Peshmerga hosts.

The Peshmerga enjoy a degree of mystique, probably stemming from both their provenance as Ottoman era tribal forces and their association with the mountainous terrain in modern-day northern Iraq and southern Turkey. The English meaning of their name – ‘those who face death’ – merely underlines one’s impression of a distinctive military culture. These days, the traditional baggy trousers and broad waist-sashes are still in evidence amongst the Peshmerga but normally only amongst older members and only off-duty. The trademark costume has been replaced by camouflage – ‘uniform’ would be a misnomer given the variety of patterns – from a more standard American battledress, to locally tailored affairs that approximate the kit of various coalition units with whom they have trained and in some cases, fought alongside.

The Peshmerga were an effective fighting force in the campaign against Da’esh. As a territorial force, they could be expected to defend their homeland against the terror group. But the Peshmerga took some by surprise by going on the offensive, backed by a coalition of western Special Forces, coalition air power, and even a number of foreign volunteers. One commander of a battalion undergoing training estimated that his unit lost around 2000 martyrs over 2014-2017. Many of the Peshmerga casualties were sustained in protracted and bloody operations such as the clearances of Mosul, Kirkuk and Makhmor. Alongside other international partners, the UK Training Team is now engaged in helping re-build a sustainable, helping prevent Da’esh resurgence and contributing to a safe and stable Iraq.

Rather than a fabled band of battle-hardened mountain warriors, the most memorable characteristic of the Peshmerga is their friendliness and generosity. Food and drink is soon pressed into one’s hands when the ‘Falafel-Wagon’ arrives on the training area. They are also engaging and keen to learn. It is unclear how many of the current RGB members confronted Da’esh directly but they often have experience of hardship and conflict going back even further. It must,



An Iraqi soldier proudly shows off his Tactical Recognition Flash to Gdsm Redwood.



Cpl Pritchard conducts team medic training.

therefore, take some humility to listen to the lessons delivered by our fresh-faced instructors. Soldiers the world over generally have more in common than outward difference may suggest. The Peshmerga have their fair share of talented instructors, dedicated training centre commanders and eager soldiers. Perhaps just as comfortingly, they also have their shirkers and jokers and they are eager to knock-off early on a Thursday to get on the road. It is not a stretch to state that British soldiers are particularly good at building a rapport with foreign soldiers that is both professional and sociable. We have fostered mutual understanding through PT, drill and football but our professional standards and discipline

have been appreciated above all.

At times, the deployment has been poignant. Until we visited the memorial to the Anfal Massacres, many of us had little understanding of the scale of the Saddam's campaign against the Kurds from 1986-1989. Anywhere between 50,000 to 189,000 Kurdish men, women and children were killed – many through chemical weapons or starvation. The Anfal massacres were recognised by the UK as genocide in 2013.

Operating in the KRI has been stimulating, enriching professionally and will be an unforgettable period in one's army career. The guardsmen have thoroughly enjoyed working with the Peshmerga and have taken every opportunity to absorb the experience of operating in this captivating region.



LCpl Glover teaching urban patrolling to Kurdish Security Forces.



THE INKERMAN COMPANY

by Major Tim Rogers IG

‘And now for Karaoke...’, came the surprising announcement from our hosts as we enjoyed drinks following a Hindu church service, expecting to move through to lunch in the Indian Hospital Officers’ Mess. Surprises such as these rather sum up the experience of Op TRENTON for many a Guardsman in South Sudan, where routine activity is punctuated by UN-isms and scenarios seldom experienced on previous operational tours.

The Inkerman Company journey to Africa began in earnest in January 2018, where our final Platoon, resubordinated for the previous year’s VJTF commitment, returned to the fold alongside the Corps of Drums on loan from HQ Company. Op TRENTON is the UK contribution to the UN Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) designed to improve their operational effectiveness through the development of engineering works. A small logistical hub in Juba supports two main



The African sunset over Malakal.

UK locations in Malakal and Bentiu in the north of the country, each led by a Sub-Unit Commander. A small task force HQ led by 36 Engineer Regiment Commanding Officer Lieutenant Colonel Jones commanded the entire UK contingent and was co-located in Malakal.

In both Malakal and Bentiu the UK bases sit alongside

vast Individually Displaced Persons (IDP) camps. Bentiu is the largest with over 125,000 people, with Malakal at around 30,000.

Pre-deployment training (PDT) flew by, where time was tight to cover the usual myriad of courses, ranges and briefings. This was fitted in around support to other operational tour mission rehearsal exercises (MRX) making for the customary ‘ships in the night’ experience for many of us. The first time the entire Company got together wasn’t until March, when we conducted a pre-MRX run out, focussing on the very unique challenges the worst day in South Sudan might throw at us. The only people missing were the Coy 2ic Captain Pollard, and Lieutenant Holmes who were busy WhatsApp’ing pictures of themselves drinking (coffee I’m sure) in downtown Sarajevo on a ‘UN Gender Focal Point’ course, one of our UN mandated PDT requirements. Fortunately the Company Commander had secured Captain Bolitho, the Company 2ic designate, released briefly by General Norton from Brussels to join the exercise, who having escaped from behind his desk was relishing the freedom and fresh air Barossa training area had to offer. The Taskforce for Op TRENTON is diverse, predominantly Royal Engineers, but also Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers, Medical Corps, Signals and Royal Logistics Corps personnel, most of whom we didn’t meet until the MRX. From a command perspective this is unusual, but again the force generation and mission construct of the UK contribution in South Sudan is unlike traditional deployments. Perhaps the most unique aspect is the splitting of both the Infantry Company (Inkerman) and an Engineer Squadron (70 Sqn, 36 Engr Regt), including the headquarters to create two sub-units operating in geographically dislocated locations. In

Malakal I commanded the Malakal Engineering Group (MEG), supported by the engineer Squadron 2ic, whilst Captain Bolitho became the 2ic of the Bentiu Engineering Group (BEG), working to the engineer Squadron Commander. Similarly the Guardsmen and Drummers were split between the two locations. Each sub-unit consisted of approximately 110–120 soldiers, with large holdings of equipment, vehicles and materiel; a far cry from the tiny stores of a light role infantry company.

The Company advance party deployed on 1st July, though spent three weeks in Kenya which included my handover, waiting for visa approval to finally get into South Sudan. During this time the small cohort of Inkerman Gdsm read books, watched the World Cup and enjoyed a couple of safaris to pass the time, itching to get on with the job at hand. By the end of July the Company were complete in South Sudan and the role of providing force protection to our engineer bases and at times engineer tasks sites had begun.

Pay Sgt Hepburn, who joined the Company shortly before deployment learned new levels of tact and diplomacy. He not only managed over 32 accounts of equipment, but spent much of his time cajoling and persuading the variety of local and international UN logistical staff at the airport to respond to UK requests in a timely manner; no mean feat in the heart of Africa.

In Malakal the Gdsm were primarily occupied with base security but also provided some limited assault pioneer support to Engineer tasks. The Corps of Drums soon had a spring in their step as following weeks of delay received their instruments by airfreight; unsurprisingly there was keen interest in their practice sessions from the children in the IDP camp who watch from the roof of an abandoned excavator. Over in Bentiu force protection

remained the focus, with some variety from airport runs and inner cordons for Engineer tasks within the Protection of Civilians site. The Gdsm were well catered for living in four man rooms, and with stable WiFi had few grumbles beyond the monotony of guard. A ‘rat catching challenge’, earning a free day of unlimited WiFi downloads proved popular; the snakes, sand-flies and aggressive mosquitos less so but this was South Sudan after all. The Platoon Commanders worked hard to ensure that each man got outside the base for small tasks. These included accompanying me into Malakal town on various occasions to join government and opposition



Gdsm Keane with local children.



Volleyball during some downtime in South Sudan.

forces for peace celebrations to providing force protection assurance on recces via helicopter in more austere locations at reach from medical support.

‘Relationships are currency’, was reiterated to me by previous commanders and proved absolutely true. Whilst the British Army works to a normalised operating model, ensuring operational effectiveness amongst all ranks, the UN regional outposts differ considerably. Structurally on paper it all makes sense, however like any large organisation the day to day execution takes place according to ability, desire and communication. To succeed on a UN mission one needs endless patience, a willingness to charmingly object and to put aside expectations of ruthless efficiency. Assessing operational output from the lens of a six month tour is an easy trap to fall into, where delivering significant effect during the first and last month proves challenging, giving just four months to make a difference.



Ribs in RIBS on the Nile. Foreground working back: Lieutenant Holmes, Major Rogers, Captain Bolitho.

In the context of a UN mission, which has been running for years, it makes no sense to complain of slow decision making or seemingly poor coordination; such aspects are a fact of life and in the context of UN progress aren’t actually that slow. The UK contribution forms a tiny part UNMISS, where it is almost impossible to track higher level decision making that might impact the small part

you are trying to play. Time spent conversing face to face, in the office, over dinner, a drink in the UN bar, watching entertainment, attending UN events or playing sport together therefore becomes critical to getting things done.

The interaction with other Troop Contributing Countries has been a key theme of the deployment. The UN places huge emphasis on sport and social activity to gel the force, which initially feels somewhat inappropriate given the environment. Accepting diverse cultural nuances and motivating factors is essential, indeed our own Taskforce was especially diverse and offered much to this UN mindset. The outstanding music from the Corps of Drums



The Corps of Drums cause a stir in the IDP Camp.

added real flair to UK events, whilst my Ghurka Engineer contingent delivered one of the best nights of entertainment Malakal had seen in years as the whole UN family celebrated Dashain, one of the most significant religious festivals celebrated by Nepalese and Hindu people around the world.

Inkerman Day was celebrated in style with a trip for the Gdsm down to the river Nile for a photograph, before we enjoyed supper together, our engineer counterparts covering guard duties for the evening. Historical readings, hilarious videos made by the men to explain unique Inkerman customs to the assembled taskforce, a tot of rum, singing Rule Britannia and video messages from the Ships' Company HMS Queen Elizabeth and the Commanding Officer in Iraq made for a truly memorable evening.

The limited infantry soldiering opportunities beyond

routine force protection are perhaps countered by the other challenges faced during the course of the tour. The experience of a longer term deployment, the hot and humid environmental conditions with event present risk from disease, alongside the mental challenge of guard routine against the backdrop of vast IDP camps, filled with large numbers of very young children living in squalor has provided a unique experience unlike any other current operational deployment.

Many will feel they didn't have enough opportunity to work directly for the people of South Sudan, however such activity is not within the core UK mission mandate; our role has been in support of the UN. Nonetheless, I think all Gdsm will reflect that for all its challenges being a part of this important UN mission in the heart of Africa has been a truly unique privilege.



SUPPORT COMPANY

by Lieutenant Johnny Palmer-Tomkinson

This year Support Company deployed over three continents to cover operational requirements in Sudan, Afghanistan and Iraq. The Assault Pioneers deployed to South Sudan with The Inkerman Company on Op TRENTON; Recce Group's Alpha and Bravo attached to The Welsh Guards and Queens Company Group deployed to Afghanistan on Op TORAL. The headquarters of Support Company and a platoon consisting of members from Snipers, Recce, Tanks

and Mortars, deployed to Iraq as part of the Grenadier Guards Battle Group on Op SHADER, tasked with delivering training and mentoring to the Iraqi Security Forces. Support Company was augmented with other cap badges who provided training teams; experts from the Royal Engineers delivered specialist Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) and Search training and a team from the Royal Logistic Corps delivered specific mentoring to the Iraq Army on exploitation of captured enemy materiel. Together we formed the combined-arms Support Company Group and worked out of an isolated forward operating base under command of the Spanish and only reachable by helicopter.

Pre-deployment training, (PDT) had begun in early 2018 where we were introduced to the Foxhound; a light protected patrol vehicle that was to become our chariot over the ensuing months. Being entirely unfamiliar with the Foxhound the learning curve was steep, as would be expected, but it was not long before a diplomatic balance between equipment maintenance and operational output was found. In due course the Foxhound proved to be an excellent vehicle, perfectly suited to the terrain and job in the Iraqi desert we deployed into. As PDT came to an end Support Company Group performed extremely well on the culminating



A guardian Grenadier watches over an Iraqi bridge building exercise.



LSgt Wintle takes a group through the principles of marksmanship.

Mission Specific Training exercise in Thetford and was in a strong position to deploy at the beginning of June.

However, deployment without a hiccup is rare and by June there were still individuals who had not received visas that were required to enter Iraq. Rather like being left behind on a school trip for not being tall enough to go on the rides, Support Company was forced to deploy incomplete, leaving behind a small group who were yet to receive visas. The silver lining was the way in which it was handled; Support Company was backfilled by members of No 2 Company and HQ Company in order to bring the Force Protection platoon up to effective numbers. These backfills became an invaluable part of the team and merged with Support Company with seamless effort. This was a testament to the overall quality of training and the flexibility of the Battalion as a whole. A number of Guardsmen who transferred for the tour have requested to remain with Support Company on return to Aldershot next year. Another opportunity that arose was diverting a handful of Support Company NCOs, who were late to deploy, to Taji in order to become instructors in the Iraqi NCO Academy. Force Protection is vital and a fundamental attribute to success in theatre, however to be able to pass on the knowledge and experience of Support Company to Iraqi NCOs was a great opportunity.

By the end of July, Support Company Group was complete in Besmaya. Situated to the South-East of Baghdad, Besmaya is a large desert range complex and a hub for Counter Improvised Explosive Device (CIED) and EOD training for Iraqi Security Forces. Besmaya is home to the Iraqi-run Bomb Disposal School, dedicated to training and preparing Iraqi Security Forces to combat and exploit explosive threats in theatre. FOB Gran Capitan was our home, occupied and managed by a Spanish Brigade Headquarters who coordinated delivery of instruction to both the Iraqi Army and Federal Police Force in detecting, countering and exploiting explosive ordnance. With daily periods of instruction being given by the attached-arm specialists, Support Company Force

Protection enabled all training to take place safely.

The tour provided an excellent opportunity for the development of junior leadership. Mounted in Foxhounds or Toyota Hilux vehicles, Support Company worked in small protection teams, often led by Lance Corporals. Ownership of each mission belonged to the Force Protection commander, handing over command to the training teams only when he was satisfied with the security of the training area. For incidents arising on the ground, immediate command was returned to Force Protection. This meant junior leaders were responsible for planning routes, delivering orders, reacting to potential internal and external threats and executing the Coalition intent with little intervention from senior commanders.

The joy of working so closely with the Royal Engineers and EOD teams is not only that Support Company have become proficient in their understanding of explosive ordnance, nor that our attachments have become accustomed to Grenadier nuances as they watched on in awe and (or) surprise but that such good relationships, personal and professional, have developed. Living closely together on what was referred to as the 'UK Street' of accommodation blocks, we worked not as separate elements but as a close-knit team, enjoying quiz and film nights and fitness and sporting competitions together. Of course, on occasion there was regimental rivalry but that is the very fuel that drives us. The attachments were a pleasure to work with and a pleasure to learn from.

At only 300m by 400m, FOB Gran Capitan is not a large base, making it an easy location to establish close relationships with our Coalition partners. Spanish and UK Force Protection were working independently from one another at the start of tour. By tour-end we had broken bread over barbecues, conducted joint ranges and, most importantly, developed a professional relationship whereby Force Protection for Task Force Besmaya saw the UK and Spanish working together for both mission protection and base defence. Similar stories applied to the other Coalition forces working within Besmaya, such as the French, Portuguese, US, and Canadians; the Portuguese over their outstanding barista skills, the Canadians and French over the poker and pool tables, and the US over their enormous supply of free flip flops and cereal bars.

Support Company have had an extremely successful and enjoyable year. Op SHADER was a great achievement and there is no doubt that everyone departed Iraq having left a lasting impression on their Coalition partners and having played a key part in the capability development of the Iraqi Security Forces. 2019 will see the Company receive back the platoons that had deployed to Afghanistan and a stark change as we prepare to return to the forecourt for ceremonial duty. Maintaining light role operational effectiveness will be no less important however, with deployments to both Belize and the Falklands to look forward to later in the year.



NIJMEGEN COMPANY Wellington Barracks, London



Members of Nijmegen Company at the unveiling of a commemorative stone for Field Marshal Viscount Gort VC.

by Lieutenant Mark Osmond

It has been another incredibly busy year for Nijmegen Company, juggling state ceremonial and public duties alongside providing the 1st Battalion with quality, young Guardsmen, ready to deploy on operations around the world.

Despite this hectic schedule, the company found time in early September to conduct a battlefield study and learn of their rich history. The study focussed on the battle of Nijmegen Bridge, one of the key actions within Operation



The Company listen intently at Jonkerbos War Cemetery.

Market Garden. The company spent two days re-tracing the movements of No 2 Company and No 3 Squadron during their liberation of the town, conducting tactical exercises 'without troops' and discussing the tactics that the Regiment, then part of the Guards Armoured Division, would have employed. This culminated in a discussion on the assault of Valkhof; the final offensive action which saw the Grenadiers take control of the bridge and the defeat of the German forces in Nijmegen. During the trip, the Company also visited Jonkerbos War Cemetery and laid wreathes, which served as a poignant reminder of the sacrifices that the Regiment made during the action. The Company was very lucky to have been joined by WO2 Steven Ross MC, whose knowledge of the battle proved invaluable.

Earlier in the year, back in tunic and bearskin, the Company manned Number Five Guard as the 1st Battalion Coldstream Guards Trooped their Colour. Other ceremonial engagements have included: street lining for the visit of Their Majesties the King and Queen of the Netherlands, providing a Guard of Honour for the visit of the French Chief of the Defence Staff and being present at the unveiling of a commemorative stone for Field Marshal Viscount Gort VC. Nijmegen Company were also extremely honoured, at the invitation of The Colonel, to line the West Steps of St George's Chapel at the marriage of Her Royal Highness Princess Eugenie of York and Mr Brooksbank – this was a very special day for



Nijmegen Company line the West Steps at St George's Chapel.

all involved and one that won't be forgotten in a hurry, needless to say the author and the Company Commander are still treasuring their appearance on the front of The Telegraph! Back on public duties, The Colonel was very gracious to visit members of the Company who were on Windsor Guard over the New Year, staying to talk with the Guardsmen for well over an hour and coming armed with platters of mince pies and sausage rolls!

The Company has also found time for green soldiering, deploying on EX ALBERT GREEN'S GLORY and EX SCHELLENBERG'S STORM, a nod to the Company Commander's keen knowledge of regimental history. These exercises in Longmoor, Pirbright, Hythe and most recently, Dartmoor, have been invaluable opportunities



The Company at ENDEX.

to escape the hustle of London and get back to doing some quality infanteering. In September, a Section from Nijmegen Company deployed to Kenya on EX ASKARI STORM as part of a platoon formed from the incremental companies. Needless to say, they performed brilliantly and were more than ably led by LCpl McKnight, their Section Commander, who was particularly earmarked for praise.

In January, 30 members of the Company travelled to French Alps for a weeks skiing in Meribel. The majority of those had never skied before, however, their progress, marshalled by their instructors, was

truly remarkable and a real reminder of the wonderful opportunities that the Regiment does offer.

In terms of personality changes: late 2018 saw the departure of the Second in Command, Captain Ed Harmer who has left for a winter in Kabul, he has been replaced by Captain Chris Pollard. In February, we sadly said goodbye to Company Sergeant Major Dacey who follows the well worn path by becoming the Drill Sergeant, his place has been filled by Company Sergeant Major Bailey.

2019 promises to be another packed year – the 1st Battalion's Trooping of the Colour, a team being entered into the Nijmegen Marches and much more!



A Section Commander assesses his options at Longmoor.



14TH COMPANY Infantry Training Centre, Catterick

by Captain Rufus HJ Harding

The current climate at the Infantry Training Centre (ITC), and indeed at Guards Training Company, is one of change; with a new course, new leadership, new equipment and new policies recently, or imminently, coming into effect. This, once again, is leading the Company into a very busy period, as we look forward to taking on the challenges these changes will bring and also to accommodating an increasing inflow of recruits.

Two years ago, the ITC introduced the Combat Infantryman's Course (CIC) 16, which replaced the old course and sought to introduce more considered and dynamic ways of instructing, teaching and motivating the recruits. The impact of this change has been overwhelmingly positive, with reduced injuries and improved retention rates creating a positive picture. Following this success, a number of changes have been made and the CIC 18 has recently been introduced. The CIC 18 takes a modular approach to training, with the course broken down into different subject areas: i.e offensive actions, defensive actions, urban operations, etc.

Trainee Guardsmen (TGdsm) are required to pass each module before they can progress to the next stage in their training. It is hoped that this will produce a higher quality recruit as a final product and give those who struggle in a particular area the opportunity to re-learn and re-test before continuing with the remainder of the course.

Further thought has also been given to physical training, with even more emphasis to gradual progression and injury prevention. The new Army Physical Employment Standards (PES) has seen the introduction



TGdsm at Number 10 Downing Street as part of their Week 5 London visit.



TGdsm and Permanent Staff meet the Major General at Horse Guards as part of their Week 5 London visit.



TGdsm enjoying some Adventurous Training in Cumbria.

of new fitness tests, which are now fully up and running and apply to both recruits and permanent staff, and indeed to the Army as a whole. PES is meant to better replicate actual activities demanded of infantry and is phased to reflect an insertion with a weight of 40kg, considerably heavier than the current 25kg for an AFT, and a 2km best effort at 25kg, which is heavier than the 15 kg demanded of a 2 miler currently. This is designed to reflect a move to an FUP, followed by a rotation of tasks that include weight lifts and sand bag carries to reflect casevacs and other physically demanding activities that may take place.

In addition to this change there has also been a shift in the equipment being used in the Company. The Light Machine Gun has



TGdsm pose next to Churchill's statue on Parliament Square as part of their Week 5 London visit.

been withdrawn and replaced once again by the General Purpose Machine Gun, which all recruits are now fully trained on. This is a change that has been welcomed by both the Training Teams and TGdsm alike, who are delighted to get hands on 'The General'.

In another positive change, recruits are now being issued with the full complement of VIRTUS body armour which is finally replacing the old PLCE webbing and ECBA body armour. While certainly a handful for Platoon Sergeants to keep on top of, the issuing of VIRTUS to the TGdsm is a big step forward and will better prepare them for their arrival at Battalion.

There are also positive signs in the recruiting situation, which is showing signs of picking up after a rather slow year. The most recent platoon to form up began with 41 recruits, which is a much healthier number than we have seen recently. Future indications suggest this trend is set to continue and the Grenadier Guards also continue to be the best recruited of the Foot Guard regiments, along

with the Coldstream Guards.

Elsewhere in the recruiting sphere, there has been much discussion recently of Women in Ground Close Combat which is now firmly entering the implementation phase. All roles are now open to females wishing to transfer into the Infantry and the first recruits are expected to arrive at ITC from April. There is no doubt that Guards Company will be at the forefront of this change and will do everything it can to embrace it and make it a success.

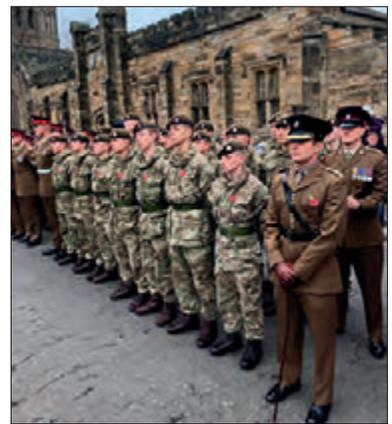
There has recently been a change in leadership within the Company, with Major Budge (Welsh Guards) taking over from Major Dunning (Scots Guards). However, with the 1st Battalion being deployed on operations in 2018 there has been a relatively slow turnaround of Grenadiers in the Company as of late. In September, Captain Harding arrived as a Platoon Commander, after returning from deployment in Somalia, and is currently the only officer representation. Elsewhere, CSgt Mercer has recently taken over as Pay Sergeant and LSgts Kirk and Howcroft are now fully embedded within training platoons. With the 1st Battalion now back from overseas we are expecting to see a number of new faces, and some old, coming into the Company, in what will prove to be an interesting and challenging time.



TGdsm enjoying the delights of digging during their defensive exercise in November.



TGdsm at the Household Division Memorial at the National Memorial Arboretum, Staffordshire.



Remembrance Sunday in Richmond, Yorkshire.



Three Cheers for HRH The Colonel.

The Appointment of HRH The Duke of York as Colonel, Grenadier Guards

by Major Grant Baker

On 1st December 2017, HRH The Duke of York was appointed as Colonel, Grenadier Guards, in succession HRH The Duke of Edinburgh, who had served as Colonel for over 42 years. The time that Prince Philip gave to the role, the interest that he showed in it, and his wise counsel, have been hugely appreciated by Grenadiers past and present over all these years. We are very grateful to him.

On 22nd March 2018, a parade was held in St George's Hall, Windsor Castle, in the presence of HM The Queen, to mark Prince Andrew's appointment. It had been intended that The Duke of Edinburgh would also attend, but sadly he was indisposed on the day.

Two detachments, one found by The Queen's Company and the other by Nijmegen Company, with the Colours of the 1st and 2nd Battalions, commanded by the Commanding Officer, 1st Battalion (Lieutenant Colonel P L Ashfield, DSO) marched into St George's Hall. The Regimental Band played from the gallery

above, watched by 90 guests, drawn from all parts of the Regimental Family.

Once the detachments were 'steady', The Queen and The Colonel, accompanied by the Regimental Lieutenant Colonel (Major General C R V Walker, DSO), the President of the Association (Colonel R E H Aubrey-Fletcher), and the Regimental Adjutant (Major G V A Baker), entered the Hall to a fanfare played by Musicians



HRH The Colonel talking to Sgt Ben Hayden and LSgt Reuben Elliott looking on.



The Commanding Officer, Lieutenant Colonel P L Ashfield DSO, with The Queen and The Colonel prior to the inspection.

of the Regimental Band, and were then greeted by a Royal Salute.

The Colonel inspected the two detachments whilst the Band played incidental music. Thereafter, the Regimental Lieutenant Colonel gave an address paying tribute to The Duke of Edinburgh and welcoming Prince Andrew as our new Colonel. Prince Andrew replied most graciously.

After the order 'Remove head-dress' there followed three cheers for HRH The Colonel and then a final Royal Salute after which the two detachments marched off.

After the Parade, The Queen and The Colonel met the Regimental Trustees and former Regimental Lieutenant Colonels and then honoured the Officers and Warrant Officers of the 1st Battalion, Nijmegen Company and the Regimental Band by sitting for a photograph with them.

A Reception followed, most generously given by Her Majesty, during which The Queen and The Colonel spoke



The Queen accompanied by Colonel R E H Aubrey -Fletcher talking to Sgt Kamal Richards at the Reception; Gdsm Samuel Tudor and Kyle Fogerty looking on.

to many of those who had been on Parade and the guests.

It was a very happy occasion, and a most enjoyable reunion for all those lucky enough to attend. In retrospect, two impressions stand out: firstly, the symmetry and precision of the two detachments after very limited rehearsal time, and secondly the very evident delight of the Guardsmen to be drinking champagne with their Sovereign, their Colonel, and the Major General Commanding the Household Division. Of course, the only sadness was the absence of The Duke of Edinburgh.

To put the Colonelcy in perspective, since the formation of the Regiment in 1656, there have been 26 Colonels of the Regiment. Of these, six have been the sons of Sovereigns and one the consort of Queen Victoria. On 21st April 1942, on her sixteenth birthday, and while the nation was at war, Princess Elizabeth was appointed Colonel, becoming Colonel-in-Chief on her accession to the throne in 1952. In 1975, Prince Philip became Colonel and his 42 years' service make him the second longest serving Colonel of the Regiment, in between the Duke of Cambridge and the Duke of Connaught, who held the post for 43 and 38 years respectively.

There have been several non-royal Colonels, most notably the Duke of Marlborough in the 18th century, the Duke of Wellington in the 19th century, and Major General Lord Jeffreys and Major General Sir Alan Adair in the 20th century.

All present in St George's Hall on 22nd March 2018, those on parade and spectators alike, were privileged to have witnessed Prince Andrew's appointment as the 26th Colonel of the Regiment and wish him every success as a Grenadier in the years to come.

By courtesy of The Guards Magazine



The Parade formed up in St George's Hall.

Working within the UN: a Truly International and Interoperable Operational Tour

by *Lieutenant Tom Holmes*

Previous Operational Tours of Afghanistan and Iraq were undoubtedly international efforts, led by a multi-national force with a chain of command made up of a wide array of nations. The United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) has continued in this multi-cultural/organisational vein, integrating civilian, police and military components, forming an interoperable peacekeeping force. People from Europe, North America, South America, Asia and Africa all work together in the various civilian bodies to deliver the UN's mandate across South Sudan. Police forces from all continents contribute to the United Nations Police (UNPOL) and take the lead on all civilian police matters within the mission. Formed Police Units (FPUs) are made up of civilian police members to deliver the main bulk of monitoring, UNPOL act as subject matter experts, advising and assisting the FPUs on how best to deliver the policing tasks. Military Police are posted across the mission, ensuring that the military component of UNMISS act in accordance with the mandate. Troop Contributing Countries (TCCs) are the military components that deliver effects across the mission. The UK Engineering Task Force (UKTF) in South Sudan straddles both aspects, sitting between the military and civilian components.

The UN considers engineering work as being a largely civilian output. The organisation is used to contracting out these tasks, a civilian Chief Field Engineer leads and manages any engineering activities. The work is eventually delegated to the military engineers from the

contributing nations. Alongside the British military's engineer input is the Indian Horizontal Maintenance Engineering Company (HMEC) who deliver a different type of engineering output. The roles for the UK Task Forces and Indian engineers are considerably different; the British are primarily involved with vertical engineering tasks, such as the construction of accommodation for UN personnel. The HMEC are primarily focused on the maintenance of civilian infrastructure and ground lines of communication.

Grenadiers from The Inkerman Company and the Corps of Drums were split between two locations in South Sudan: Bentiu in Unity State and Malakal in Upper Nile State. The role undertaken in both locations is to provide Force Protection (FP) to the Royal Engineers whilst they conduct engineering tasks on behalf of the UN mandate. These tasks take place within the respective camps, as well as FP taskings in the wider communities.

Working alongside such an international, and therefore multicultural, peacekeeping force has its challenges. The language barrier can be a significant struggle. Although English and French are the two working languages of the UN it can often be difficult communicating with the military components from Africa and East Asia. However, there are certain cultural benefits that far outweigh the difficulties of communication. The Guardsmen and Drummers have enjoyed sharing cultural experiences with their counterparts, both military and civilian, from a wide variety of countries, such as India, Ghana, Rwanda and Mongolia.

Due to the large contingent of civilians that work within the UN, social events have not been difficult to come by. Seemingly weekly gatherings and music 'concerts' are organised by the civilians. The Mongolian Army Band has become a major part of the local music scene and they have shared their passion for music in several UN sites across South Sudan. Our own Corps of Drums have performed on several occasions, much to the delight of our UN colleagues, who appear to have developed a refined taste for the ceremonial marches of Scipio and Grenadiers Return.

Working within this culturally and internationally diverse mission has been an eye-opener to all ranks. It is has been an invaluable experience, however long the British commitment to UNMISS continues this type of UN tasking will continue in different locations. This UN deployment has proved an excellent opportunity to develop skills such as contract management and relationship building, both with other militaries and inter-agency. Whilst it will be a relief to get our regimental headdress back on in 2019, the lessons learnt in the light blue of the UN will prove invaluable going forward for all levels of command within the company.



The Corps of Drums in South Sudan.

The Mutual Benefit of Capacity Building: The NCO Academy Taji, Iraq

by Captain Charlie Williams

In June the Grenadier contingent in Taji, Baghdad, was tasked with assisting at the Iraqi Non-Commissioned Officer Academy as part of the Coalition Force effort to deliver an Iraqi led, lasting defeat of Da'esh and stability to the country. When two captains and five Grenadier non-commissioned officers took over from 68 ANZAC trainers, it was clear that, even if we had wanted to, we were not going to be able to deliver the same kind of training as our predecessors. The Commandant, Brigadier Haider, and his chain of command were keen to deliver an Iraqi managed 'NCO Instructors' Course', with UK mentoring, to 65 NCOs from across all brigades of the Iraqi Army. The first challenge was to get the five-month training program translated and establish where our small training team was best equipped to assist the local instructors.

The first four weeks of the course was, much to the horror of the Rifles taking over from us, a drill phase! This is an area that in recent times, understandably, has been pushed to the side in order to get troops to the front line fight against ISIS. Cometh the hour, cometh the man – Drill Sergeant Bennett stepped to the fore, as a mentor to the talented Iraqi Staff Sergeants Instructors. What became apparent at this early stage is that the level of Iraqi instruction was already at high standard, with well structured and delivered lessons. Apart from the



Joint Swedish, Iraqi and Grenadier urban training.

obvious heat and language differences, the lessons would have reminded the readership of instruction delivered at Guards Depot or ITC Catterick. The background effort at this stage, whilst the DSgt paced the dusty square, was the development of relationships and building rapport within the Academy.

Many hours were spent interacting with the instructors and students in the sidelines of the course, during early morning PT sessions and in a football match against the Iraqi staff (the result of which is not important!). Whilst it may seem trivial, the relationships fostered, over very sugary chai and omelets, became the vital ground of our time at the NCO Academy. They bought us trust and freedoms from the school's chain of command, for example reaching an agreement for the top six students from the course to return to the Academy as instructors, to teach on the next course.

In late July, the Grenadier instructors stepped in to assist with the skill at arms phase. The Non-Commissioned Officers, having familiarised themselves with a multitude of foreign weapon systems from AK47 up to SPG-9, threw themselves into the mentoring of the Iraqi instructors. They quickly picked up the nuances of working with indigenous forces and interpreters. In my experience this is an area that the British soldier finds to be a far more natural process than our coalition partners. With 'capacity building' looking like a key feature of future deployments, this must be a core skill for our Lance



DSgt Bennett and the author at the NCO Academy.

Corporals and Lance Sergeants to develop in order to exploit opportunities on operations and on Short-Term Training Teams the world over. The NCO Academy provides a superb prospect for British NCOs to hone their instructional skills in the alongside the Force Protection (FP) taskings of Operation SHADER.

The progress of skill at arms, field skills, instructional techniques and tactical phases of the course has illustrated the mutual benefit of capacity building, assisting and mentoring tasks. The daily mentoring has seen an vast improvement in capacity of both Iraqi and UK instructors. Enough trust and respect was built that Colonels Hamdam and Mohammed, the chief instructors, would highlight the subjects and areas that their instructors required improvement or greater assistance in. This led to bespoke courses, such as the creation of a Map Reading Instructors Course for the Academy's staff being delivered by LSgts Slater and Jones. This has created the ability to run Iraqi led navigation courses in the future. Learning how to deliver high quality training,

on a shoestring in an austere environment has been hugely satisfying to observe.

Whilst the mission in Iraq remains the defeat of Da'esh 'by, with and through' the Iraqi Security Forces, the mutual benefit of engaging at the Non-Commissioned Officer Academy for Iraqi and British troops is huge. The opportunity to work alongside Brigadier Haider and his instructors created an experience and benefits that cannot be replicated back in camp for the Grenadiers involved. Critical were the high levels of interaction and integration with the Academy at all levels, from the Commanding Officer to the Guardsmen providing FP. These are relationships that the training team continuously built on throughout out deployment and I'm sure will be taken forward by 3 Rifles in 2019. It is reassuring to see that what is funny to a Guardsman from Bristol, Stoke or Manchester is also highly amusing to the soldier from Basra, Baghdad or Kirkuk, not that any of it is repeatable in an esteemed publication such as this!

Working with the Royal Air Force

by Captain Robbie Laing

The Royal Air Force: that famous upholder of a Guards non-commissioned officers' three favourite things – dress standards, a cheek as smooth as a cherub's bottom, and paying the correct compliments to rank. Or am I mistaken, perhaps I have got things mixed up? The only way to find out was to spend an operational deployment based alongside and working with members of the TORAL Aviation Detachment, a Puma squadron from the RAF, surreptitiously take a few notes, and then write it up in the form of an article for the Guards Magazine.



Flying the flag.

An undercover writer was one thing I did not expect to be when I started at RMAS all those years ago.

Reconnaissance Group Alpha, a platoon that deployed as part of The Queen's Company Group to Kabul on Op TORAL 6 from August – November 2018, was based in Camp Taipan, home of the TORAL Aviation Detachment and thus a RAF camp. Upon hearing that this was where the platoon was going to be based those with any connections to anyone that had anything to do with the RAF quickly spoke up about the things that they had heard. The prevailing theme was their high accommodation standards, for it was reported that a standard exercise in 'field' (a somewhat loose description of where they were testified to train) involved stays in a minimum of 4* star hotels. For those with RAF links please don't think that I had any pre-conceived opinions of my erstwhile colleagues from the junior branch of the Armed Forces, I merely report what I had been told.

I confess, however, that my first impression of the RAF on Op TORAL was impacted somewhat by the obligatory 0200 check in at Brize Norton for the 1200 flight, followed by the even more obligatory delay. It must be pre-planned by the powers that be just to make sure that those arriving in theatre are as suitably tired and grumbly as those who have been there for a few months, just to ensure a uniform level of morale.

Once we had arrived in theatre and settled into our new accommodation, the platoon quickly had its first glimpses of what life is like on the other side. Camp Taipan seemed slightly like a Butlin's holiday camp, only with armed sentries as opposed to the famous red coats. That said, had we brought our tunics we could have given a real Butlin's a run for its money. RAF soldiers were seen



PT – RAF style.

to love to wander around in their favourite sunglasses, aviators, sunbathe slightly too much for their own good, play copious amounts of volleyball, and band around the word ‘mate’ both up and down the command chain, often through an impressive range of ranks. Those not on duty exhibited similar traits. It very soon became apparent that the senior non-commissioned officer of our platoon, who is blessed with a thick head of hair (or should I say was?), was worried that that could not be the case by the end of tour. The standards to which we adhere to in the Guards may not be shared by our flying cousins. However, it also soon became apparent why they adopt such a relaxed atmosphere.

As much as I jest about the standards of the RAF, and their sunglasses, very few of those deployed on Op TORAL had worked closely with them and were looking forward to seeing how they did things. Whilst for us the build up towards Op TORAL had dominated the majority of 2018 and indeed represented the first time on operations for many of the platoon, this was not the case for the RAF Puma squadrons. The Puma squadron normally deploy on a 4 month rotation, followed by a 12-16 month stint in the UK, before re-deploying back to Kabul for another 4 months. As such, for many of the squadron it was their third, fourth or even fifth deployment in as many years. I’m not sure even the biggest Butlin enthusiasts return as often as that. Therefore, whilst for us the excitement of being in Kabul was fresh, for the RAF the only thing that changed was the person cooking their food.

The Puma squadrons in Kabul are worked remarkably hard, using aircraft from the 1970s. Despite having very few aircraft in theatre, and those that they do have are constantly breaking due to their age, overuse and the conditions, the Puma squadron manage to outperform their US counterparts, flying in conditions when others

will not, and carry a disproportionate number of passengers. Flying numerous sorties a day, all those within the squadron, from the pilots to the engineers, are working numerous hours. Indeed, the sight of the engineers working until the early hours in order to ensure that the aircraft were ready again for the 0700 lift was a common picture. As such, who are we to comment on their choice of eye wear? Ultimately, if the operational output is met, as it invariably is, that is the most important thing.

Working with the RAF definitely brings to light institutional differences, never more so when compared to a Foot Guards platoon. However, that is no bad thing. Most soldiers go through their early careers with little understanding other regiments, let alone other branches of the Armed Forces. As such, it is a great opportunity for a young Guardsman to look into another culture. Once you look past the differences, and the sunglasses, you see that their culture is effective for what they need to do and suits them, in order to best get the job done.

I for one am very glad to have had the opportunity to work so closely with members of the Royal Air Force. It broadened my view and knowledge of the British military and allowed me to understand how another part of the forces functions. My hope is that those that were fortunate enough to see into the RAF world are also grateful for having had the opportunity. It was eye opening for us, and I’m sure it was eye opening for them, although we will never know due to the obligatory Aviators!



Barbeque night – worth the wait.

Pont-à-Marcq Liberation Annual Anniversary Visit

by *Lieutenant Felix Tracey*

Sunday 3rd September, 1944 is a date typically noted for being the start of the Allied forces liberation of Brussels. For Grenadiers, the date should more pertinently be remembered as the day on which the King's Company and its supporting armour experienced some of the fiercest fighting that the Regiment was to be involved in during the Second World War. The actions resulted in the liberation of the town of Pont-à-Marcq, northern France and allowed the remainder of the Grenadier Group to advance on Brussels. On 31st August, 2018 a detachment from Nijmegen Company travelled from Wellington Barracks to Pont-à-Marcq to continue an annual tradition of some 30 years, commemorating the town's liberation.

In the final days of August, 1944 the Grenadier Group were advancing with haste towards Brussels. Travelling through the Black Country of northern France, now occupied by the Allies, the only obstacles to the Group's advance were the crowds of French civilians that thronged the streets. As such the convoy was caught on the back foot when, on entry to Pont-à-Marcq, anti-tank guns opened fire and knocked out the two lead tanks. Fierce fighting at once ensued, beginning with **Gdsm Binns** successfully neutralising two 88mm Flak guns from his position as the gunner of **Major F. J. C. Bowes-Lyon's** tank, which had itself been hit three times. It quickly became apparent that the size of German force defending Pont-à-Marcq was significant and could thwart the Grenadier Group's intent of reaching Brussels by nightfall. Following a meeting between the Brigade Commander, **Brigadier N. W. Gwatkin** and the Commanding Officer, **Lieutenant Colonel E. H. Goulburn**, it was decided that the Group should find a route around Pont-à-Marcq, while the King's Company, commanded by **Major N. E. W. Baker M.C.** and No 2 Squadron of the 2nd Battalion would fight through the town.

Although well-aware of the historical significance of the weekend, the detachment were nevertheless taken aback by the reception we received upon our arrival in Pont-à-Marcq, during which we were officially welcomed to the town by the Mayor, **Daniel Cambier**. It was a pleasure to present to Mr Cambier a Queen's Company Camp Colour, as well as a letter from The Colonel to **Anny Leroy**, who works tirelessly every year to organise the commemoration and provide the Grenadiers with such a memorable visit. Acknowledgment must go to **Gdsm Molinari** who, without any warning, was called upon to translate speeches in both directions in front of a considerable crowd; he conducted this task in a composed and effortless manner, in true Grenadier

fashion. Following the speeches the town turned out in full force for a live concert and firework display. The evening demonstrated that while the weekend was a time to reflect, the people of Pont-à-Marcq also saw it as an opportunity for celebration, both of their liberation and the very existence of the town today.

In keeping with annual tradition, on the morning of 2nd September we travelled to the nearby Lille Cemetery to lay wreaths at various memorials commemorating those that gave their lives during the World Wars and visit the graves of Grenadiers who fell during the battle of Pont-à-Marcq. For an Incremental Company the primary role of the Regiment, as an infantry fighting unit, can at times seem somewhat distant; visiting the cemetery in Home Service Clothing provided a powerful uniting of our two roles and an opportunity for all to reflect on what it really means to be 'Twice the Man'.



The detachment stands with Mr Brian Bennett at Rue Jim Hague.

The afternoon was spent visiting sites where key actions of the battle took place, the most notable being the factory from which No 2 Squadron were engaged by anti-tank-gun fire, preventing their advance on the village. Regimental records detail **Major Baker** and the King's Company executing a daring company assault on the positions, which saw guardsmen skillfully engaging 88mm Flak guns with 2-inch mortars under heavy fire, eventually overrunning the positions. Visiting the site was made all the more significant being accompanied by **Brian Bennett**, whose late father **Sgt George Bennett** was killed by a mortar shell that landed next to the factory. Mr Bennett has attended the commemoration for a number of years and every year returns to the sight to pay his respects; for the Grenadiers it was a poignant reminder of the sacrifices made not only by our forbearers, but also by their families.

Following a lively evening in Lille the detachment attended a remembrance service in Pont-à-Marcq's church, during which the names of the 22 Grenadiers killed during the battle were read out by Mr Bennett. A parade was then held in the streets of the town, at which



The detachment marches through the streets of the town, visiting memorials to the Grenadiers and French Maquis.



Gdsm Sales and Gdsm Trott make friends during lunch with the town councillors.

the detachment marched behind Pont-à-Marcq's recently formed pipe band, visiting memorials to the Grenadiers and French Maquis to lay wreathes. Laying the wreathes it was impossible not to consider how operating alongside allied nations has been integral to the Regiment for much of its history. Writing this article in a Spanish Base in Iraq, working alongside a number of Coalition nations, makes such a fact all the more pertinent. One memorial of particular note was Rue Jim Hague, a road in the town named after the Grenadier veteran of the battle, **LSgt Jim Hague**, who made the first British link with the commemoration and whose family still attend every year.

An unfortunate absence to this year's commemoration was that of **Gdsm Albert Green**. Albert served as a mortar man during the battle and has attended the commemoration every year for the past 25 years, being the only living Allied forces veteran of the battle to attend in recent years. This year was due to be Albert's last

trip to Pont-à-Marcq, although ill health prevented him attending. Albert's absence was noted with sadness by the whole town, who wish him a swift and full recovery.

After lunch in the Town Hall the detachment were bid farewell from the town in their traditional way, with Guardsmen and residents joining arms to sing 'le chant des adieux'. For the Grenadiers of 1944 there was little respite following their success in Pont-à-Marcq, heading straight to Belgium to join the rest of the Group in Brussels. Just a fortnight later they would be participating in Operation Market Garden and the Battle of Nijmegen; an action in which the King's Company and No. 2 Squadron both distinguished themselves once again. Though only a brief trip, reflecting upon the battle of Pont-à-Marcq and experiencing the gratitude that the town still shows the Grenadiers was pertinent reminder of the impact that the Regiment has had both at home and abroad throughout its history, and continues to have today.



Public duties on the continent... Fortunately members of Nijmegen Company are well-practiced at having their photo taken in Home Service Clothing.

Old Etonian Remembrance Service 12th November 2018

by Major Philip Wright OBE

A Remembrance

Of all the most near, they crossed the bourn
and rest among their peers.
Then shall we mourn their youth, when they live on in
ageless day of fame undying?
Dead they showed the way to sacrifice and peace.
Their glorious end won love from fellow men;
but lost us friends.
Crucifixus etiam pro nobis.



The plaque in memory of Old Etonians of the Grenadier Guards.

The above text is taken from the First World War archive in Eton College Library. It includes letters and plans for a memorial for 2nd Lieutenant Geoffrey Gunther MC. Grenadier Guards, who left Eton in 1917. He was killed in action with 3rd Battalion near the village of Villers-Pol going to the assistance of a wounded officer on 4th November 1918, a week before the Armistice was proclaimed. He was an aspiring artist



Major Lord Valentine Cecil, Major Grant Baker and Captain Alan Ogden.

who had hoped to go to art college after the war. The papers, which include the Gunther Memorial Prize for art, still awarded to Etonian artists every year, were given by his mother, Alice Gunther, in 1919.

On Monday 12th November 2018, Eton College held a Remembrance Service for the 1,158 old boys and masters who died in the First World War. Of the 203 Grenadier officers who were killed or died of their wounds, 96 were Old Etonians. Their names are commemorated on a marble plaque erected 'To the Glory of God and in proud remembrance' by their Etonian brother officers on the wall of Lupton's Tower. Before the Service, three Old Etonians, Major Lord Valentine Cecil, Major Grant Baker and Captain Alan Ogden laid a wreath in their memory on behalf of the Grenadier Guards.

Plaque Unveiling

by Major Philip Wright OBE

The unveiling of a plaque on 9th June 2018 to commemorate the arrival of 3rd Battalion Grenadier Guards in Wakefield in June 1940, after their evacuation from Dunkirk

A moving ceremony was held on 9th June 2018 in St Helen's Church Sandal in Wakefield to unveil a plaque which records the story of the arrival of 3rd Battalion Grenadier Guards in Wakefield soon after their evacuation from Dunkirk. They were billeted with residents of Sandal, Walton and Portobello. On 8th June 1940 the Battalion mustered below St Helen's and a roll call was taken. The Battalion had lost 48 all ranks killed, 104 wounded, 3 missing and 20 known to have been taken prisoner. On Sunday 9th June a Parade Service was held in St Helen's on a day of National Celebration.



The plaque at St Helen's Church, Wakefield.

These events were witnessed by Gerald Southworth, who was eleven years old at the time, and are vividly recalled in his article 'Dunkirk - Wakefield's Link with

the Grenadier Guards' published in the *Grenadier Gazette* 2017. The Regimental History records: 'At Wakefield, their own refound companionship, the welcome of the civilians, and the peace and quiet of the English countryside were sedatives for their tired nerves and bodies, stimulants to the revival of their self-esteem.'

The ceremony was attended by many residents of the Parish and by Squadron Leader David Dinmore MBE, Deputy Lord Lieutenant for West Yorkshire, Mary Creagh MP for Wakefield, Kevin Trickett MBE, President of the Wakefield Civic Society, and Gerald Southworth, whose idea it was. The service was led by the Reverend Rupert Martin, Vicar of Sandal Magna.

The plaque was unveiled by Brigadier David Maddan, DL, formerly Regimental Lieutenant Colonel Grenadier Guards, with the following words:

"It is a great honour to represent the Grenadier Guards at this unveiling ceremony. Soldiers are recruited from the community, serve the country and return to the community after their service. In that sense we are you and you are us.

During tough times fighting abroad and when recovering from the ordeal, soldiers draw on the community to sustain and protect them. We do difficult things for you and you reaching out to us is of immense



St Helen's Church.

comfort. This initiative recalls a striking example of a community reaching out and its commemoration resonates very directly with those who serve today.

It is a great privilege to unveil this plaque on behalf of the Grenadier Guards and especially those who served in the 3rd Battalion in 1940 during the evacuation from Dunkirk."

Grenadiers and 'Layforce': A Chance to Get Stuck In

by *Captain Alan Ogden*

When the evacuation of the BEF from Dunkirk had been completed in June 1940, a new Commando unit, No.8 Commando, was formed at Burnham-on-Crouch in Essex from volunteers from The Brigade of Guards¹. These new raiding units had been raised to hit back at the Germans and were personally sponsored by no less than the Prime Minister. By September it was up to strength with 38 officers and 502 other ranks [ORs] – the Grenadiers comprised 2 Troop – and after training on the Isle of Arran, in February 1941 it sailed from for Egypt as 'B Battalion' commanded by Lieutenant Colonel Dermot Daly SG, part of an ad-hoc force known as 'LAYFORCE' after its commander, Colonel Bob Laycock.

In early April Laycock received orders to begin carrying out raids on the German lines of communication along the North African coast. 'A' and 'C' Battalions were dispatched to attack Bardia, while four Troops from 'B' Battalion embarked on a destroyer, HMS Decoy, and sailed for Bomba. Bad weather resulted in the cancellation of both attacks. Shortly after, the Germans invaded Crete and on 27 May 1941, a detachment landed on Crete with A Battalion (No. 7 Commando) and D

Battalion (Nos. 50 and 52 Commandos) in an effort to hold off the German attack long enough for the garrison to be evacuated. Throughout a five-day period from 27–31 May, they fought a series of rear-guard actions around Sphakia, before they too were ordered off the island. By then it was too late; of the 800 men from LAYFORCE that were sent to Crete, only about 200 escaped.

With Tobruk now under siege, a detachment from No. 8 (Guards) Commando consisting of five officers and 70 other ranks was sent to the town and on the night of 17/18 June it launched a highly successful attack on an Italian position ensconced on a feature known as the Two Pimples. This was the first time that No.8 Commando had been able to put into practice the tactics it had trained so hard for over the last nine months.

Ironically, the next month, the decision was made to disband LAYFORCE and a signal from the War Office was received in Cairo on 27 July asking for the early return to the UK of C Battalion and a number of officers and as many ORs as possible from A and B Battalions. Grenadiers on the list including Captain Lord Milton [8th Earl Fitzwilliam as of 1943], and Lieutenants Desmond Buchanan, Ian Brown and Johnny Pearson Gregory, the latter having just returned from Syria where he had fought as a Section Leader with 4 Commando in a fierce engagement on the Litani River.

Earl Fitzwilliam joined SOE from Combined Operations and under the aegis of Commander Sir George Binney,

DSO, he took part in Op BRIDFORD and made two blockade-running voyages of ‘considerable and unusual hazards’² in October and November 1943 to the Swedish port of Lysekil to load cargoes of steel ball bearings. As the Chief Officer of M.V. Hopewell, a merchant ship operated by the Ministry of War Transport, ‘Mr P. Lawrence’ a.k.a. Captain Earl Fitzwilliam, Grenadier Guards [ret], was awarded the DSC. A Foreign Office telegram of July 1944 described how ‘the operations owed their success to a combination of careful planning, courage, bluff and grand seamanship and an element of good luck as well’. Fitzwilliam was later killed in an air crash in France in May 1948.



Captain Viscount Milton.

Major ‘Kelpie’ Buchanan MC remained in the Middle East and joined the SBS. Captured during a raid on Catania along with Eric Newby, he later escaped from a POW camp in Italy with a fellow Grenadier, Anthony Kinsman, and after an epic journey the two reached Allied lines. He rejoined the Regiment and served as a Company Commander in Palestine. His last posting was with Pasha Glubb’s Arab Legion. Captain Ian Brown was killed in action at Salerno in September 1943 serving with the 6th Battalion. After B Battalion was disbanded, Captain Johnny Pearson Gregory spent 7 months with PAIFORCE with GHQ Liaison Regiment [PHANTOM ops] and in June 1944 joined the 3rd Battalion in Italy as a Company Commander. Badly wounded at Battaglia, he finished the war in Germany on the Allied POW Staff.



Major Kelpie Buchanan.

Many of the Guards ORs in 8 Commando also joined the SAS and SBS, the best known being ‘Gentleman Jim’ Almonds, MM and bar. Grenadiers included ‘Lofty’ Baker, one of the original members of the SAS, who was later captured and executed by the Germans in the Forêt de Saint Sauvant in July 1944 during Op BULBASKET; ‘Ginger’ Brook, 1 SAS, whose aircraft crashed in France during Op HOUNDSWORTH in June 1944 – there were no survivors; George ‘Flash’ Cass, who joined the SBS in 1941, was captured on Op HAWTHORN in Sardinia

in July 1943 and after escaping from a POW camp, was shot dead in a struggle with an armed Italian fascist; Tommy Bishop, LRDG and SBS, killed on Simi 1943; Arthur Dench, 2 SAS, killed on Op JONQUIL Italy 1943; James Henshaw, SBS, killed in Yugoslavia 1945; and Cyril Feebery, who after serving with the SAS and SBS in North Africa, the Aegean, Sardinia, N.W. Europe and Norway, went on to become RSM of 1 SAS.



Sgt ‘Flash’ Cass.



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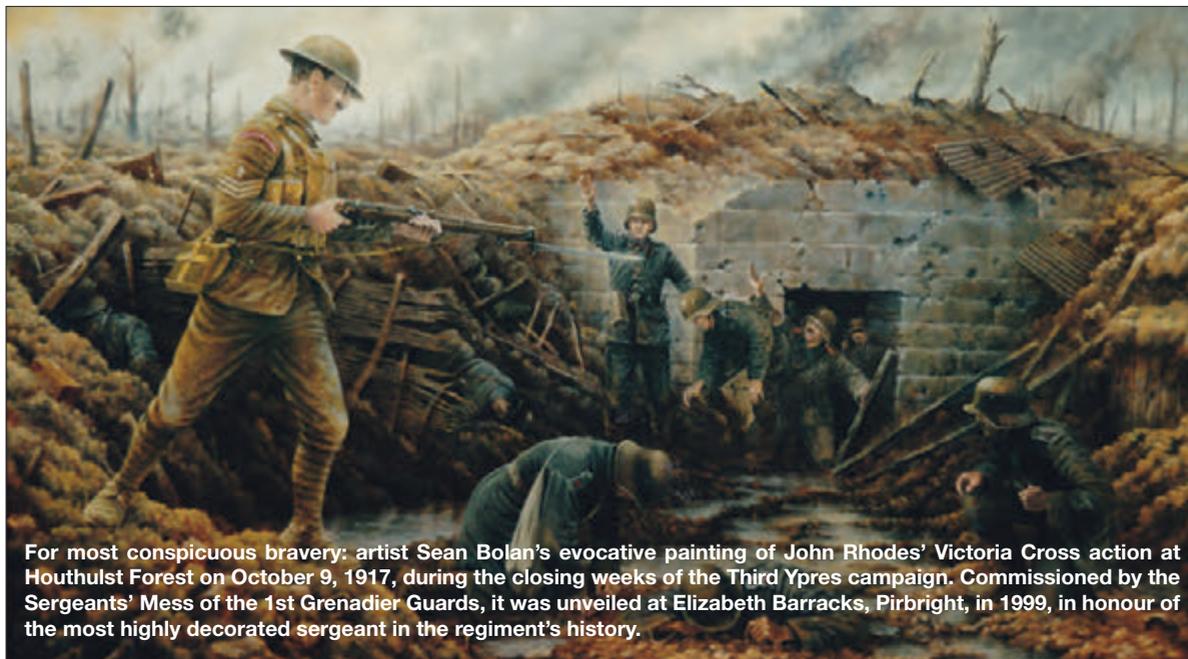


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For most conspicuous bravery; artist Sean Bolan's evocative painting of John Rhodes' Victoria Cross action at Houthulst Forest on October 9, 1917, during the closing weeks of the Third Ypres campaign. Commissioned by the Sergeants' Mess of the 1st Grenadier Guards, it was unveiled at Elizabeth Barracks, Pirbright, in 1999, in honour of the most highly decorated sergeant in the regiment's history.

A Most Gallant Grenadier

by *Steve Snelling*

John Rhodes scaled peaks of valour in Flanders' muddy fields but, as Steve Snelling relates, the most highly decorated non-commissioned officer in the history of the Grenadier Guards died without knowing of his signal honour.

A light cannonade stabbed the morning mist as around 500 guardsmen pushed off into the murk of no-man's-land. Lost to sight but not to sound, their 'perilous progress' towards the enemy's trenches was marked by 'a great rattle of machine-gun fire'.¹

To 2nd Lieutenant Carroll Carstairs, a 29 year old American serving with the 3rd Grenadier Guards, it



Bravest Grenadier: LSgt John Harold Rhodes, VC, DCM and Bar, Croix de Guerre (1891–1917).

appeared as though the 'full orchestra of battle' was on. 'The air seems alive with invisible wires being twanged,' he wrote, 'while the earth is thumped and beaten.'²

Somewhere ahead of him, the leading waves, men who had appeared as 'sinister shadows... cold and wet and dulled with fear', were 'copping it' badly as they edged nearer to the shell-ravaged ruins of Fontaine-Notre-Dame around 0700 on November 27, 1917.

What Carstairs described as the 'zip, whiz, whistle, spin, sing and sigh' of bullets sounded like 'a continuous scream' to the unit's medical officer, Captain Harold Dearden. The slaughter was terrific. 'Our poor lads went down like grass before a reaper,' he later recalled.³

Hampered by the fire and broken ground stretcher bearers struggled to reach the casualties. Around half were killed or wounded, but some, at least, managed to get through.

In the cold, drizzling rain, Carstairs stumbled across one such party as they made their way back through the mist. They were carrying a sergeant who he recognised straight away. 'He was a fine big man,' noted Carstairs, 'but lying deep in the stretcher and covered with a blanket, seems immeasurably to have shrunk. Only his head, immense and white, like an indomitable will appears to keep life in him.'⁴

1 Carroll Carstairs, *A Generation Missing* (Strong Oak Press, 1989 reprint of 1930 edition).

2 *Ibid.*

3 Harold Dearden, *Medicine and Duty: A War Diary* (William Heinemann, 1928).

4 Carstairs *op cit.*

The shock was tangible. John Rhodes had seemed indestructible, his feats of daring the stuff of regimental legend. In the space of a little more than two years' front-line soldiering, he had been awarded a Distinguished Conduct Medal and Bar and recommended for the Victoria Cross.

Now Carstairs could only pity him. He tried to speak to him but Rhodes, though conscious, could barely utter a word. 'Poor man, I am thinking, poor man!' as the bearers lurched away, 'his great strength and courage... ebbing fast'.⁵

'Lucky for us'

John Harold Rhodes was a man apart. Described by those who knew him as 'modest, open, genuine, fearless, staunch and daring', he was a plain-speaking Staffordshire coal-miner's son who found his metier on the battlefields of France and Flanders.

Born in the village of Packmoor, near Tunstall, on May 17, 1891, the eldest of 10 children, he had the reputation of being something of a daredevil as a boy.

One memorable childhood escapade involved a moonlight flit with two of his brothers in tow across rooftops into a neighbouring farm where they mounted a couple of horses before careering through the village and then returning to their beds.

'It was typical of John,' his cousin, Anne Risley recalled almost a century later. 'He was so high-spirited and adventurous. That's why he joined the Army.'⁶

His father had served with the Royal Scots Fusiliers before finding work in the coal-mines, but John, who had followed him into the pits, chose instead the Grenadier Guards.



At the sharp end: John Rhodes, standing far left, had sprouted his familiar martial moustache by the time this picture was taken of the Battalion's trophy-winning fencing team.



Sporting prowess: John Rhodes, seated in the middle of the centre row, played for Packmoor Football Club while working as a miner before the First World War. His passion for sport was later reflected in a letter of condolence sent by the directors of Stoke Football Club to his widow following news of his death in late 1917.

He was 19 when he enlisted on February 16, 1911. The next three years were spent in the ranks of the 3rd Battalion, mostly in and around London, Pirbright and Aldershot, where ceremonial duties alternated with military exercises.

Transferring to the Reserve in 1914, he enjoyed the briefest of civilian interludes before the international crisis brought his work at the Chatterley-Whitfield Collieries in Tunstall to a premature end.

The first few weeks of the conflict passed in a frenzy of activity. Mobilised into No 2 Company, 2nd Battalion, Grenadier Guards at Chelsea, he was in France within nine days of Britain's declaration of war at the start of an epic journey that would take him via road and rail to a bleak industrial landscape that must have seemed like a home from home.

By August 23, following a 24-mile march under a blazing sun which left him feeling 'dead beat', he found himself in the southern outskirts of Mons, amid the slag heaps and pit heads of Belgium's coal-mining country, where units of the British Expeditionary Force fought their first major encounter with the German army.

4th Guards Brigade, sited on the right flank near the village of Harmignies, was not engaged in the initial encounter, but their baptism of fire was not long in coming.

In a letter home to his parents, Rhodes told how his unit had been ordered to reinforce the 1st Division which was 'hard pressed'. He recalled: 'The guns were going it heavy at the time we advanced up towards the firing line, and [we] had got to... a bank when we were met with a deadly maxim and rifle fire.'

'It was lucky for us we were underneath the bank

⁵ Ibid.

⁶ Letter to the author, November 30, 1995.

or else I don't think many of us would have lived to do much fighting. It was our first taste of war except [for] the sound of the guns. All we could do was to lie low, as to advance would have been suicide.

'We stuck it there three hours and then we had orders to retire...'⁷

'Fixed bayonets'

So began the great and gruelling 13-day retreat from Mons to the Marne. It was 'a horrible time' that Rhodes would never forget during which his battalion averaged 23 miles a day in fierce heat with 'hardly any sleep and not too much grub'.

Two days' 'plodding' along roads swarming with refugees brought them, 'foot sore', into the town of Landrecies, where they were to be billeted for the night near a bridge over the river Sambre.



Street fighting 1914-style: an artist's impression of the 2nd Grenadiers' defensive battle fought from behind barricades in the streets of Landrecies on August 25, 1914, during the retreat from Mons. Rhodes, then still a guardsman in No 2 Company, described the struggle there as 'a terrible time'. Recalling their hasty retreat with a note of irony, he wrote: 'We had to leave the town in a hurry, having no time to call for our kits. We were dead tired and didn't we look happy!'

Thankful for the chance of a rest and a wash, they were treated to a barrel of beer to 'wash the dust out of our throats'. What followed, however, was a rude interruption that was destined to take pride of place in the regiment's history.

'We were just settling down to have a good blow-out when the alarm was given,' wrote Rhodes in his unvarnished record of the night's drama. 'We rushed out with fixed bayonets thinking the Germans were on us.

'[But] after standing-to for about half an hour we were told two German spies had been caught dressed in French uniforms. Of course you can guess their fate.

'We went back to back to set about the 'feed', didn't we have a blow-out. We were just settling down for the night when the alarm went again in earnest this time. We had not time to get properly dressed, any order so long as we had our bayonets fixed and ammunition.'⁸

For days Rhodes and his pals had been 'grumbling and wishing they would let us turn round and have a smack at the Germans instead of running away'. Now, at last, they had their chance.

'We were all half-dressed,' wrote Rhodes. 'It appeared the Germans had surprised us. A gendarme brought the news, the Germans were surrounding the town. It was a very dark night which made matters worse.

'The Coldstreams happened to be on the side of the town on which the Germans advanced. They formed line and gave them a warm reception. My Batt. Was told off to defend two big houses on the end of a street.

'We barricaded them and then the battle began and didn't they let it up. Our commanding officer told us we had to hold on at all costs, no matter what happened, which meant if the Germans broke through we should have to do a bit of pig sticking.

'Well, it was a terrible time... Shells were bursting over the house and bullets were pattering against the walls. They set fire to three haystacks in front of the Coldstreams which lighted [sic] up the sky.

'The Coldstreams fought well, inflicting heavy loss on the Germans... We had a terrible time in those two houses. Wounded Coldstreams were passing us and we had no idea how things were going on, but we intended doing our bit if required.

'The shelling and firing was carried on until about 3 o'clock in the morning when we were informed the Germans had retired...'⁹

The repulse brought only temporary relief. Wary of the enemy's presence, the Guards left Landrecies in a hurry, 'dead tired' and minus most of their kit to continue the long trek south.

Surprised again by the Germans a few days later near Villers-Cotterets, they found themselves outnumbered

⁷ John Rhodes, letter to his parents, April 10, 1915.

⁸ Ibid.

⁹ Ibid.

‘10 to 1’, according to Rhodes, and only managed to escape ‘by a hair’s breadth’ being cut off.

The days of retreating, however, were almost at an end. On September 3, Rhodes crossed the Marne and three days later the tide of battle turned with French and British troops going over to the offensive.

‘I saw stars’

Encounters with enemy cavalry rearguards was followed by stiffer resistance in wooded country. Rhodes had a ‘near squeak’ when a man next to him was shot and killed. ‘It was a warm time and no mistake,’ he wrote, ‘but we shoved on.’¹⁰

Passing abandoned and smashed artillery, they harried the retreating Germans all the way to the Aisne where they put in another attack. ‘Talk about a hail storm,’ wrote Rhodes, ‘it wasn’t in it. There were bullets galore. It was marvellous how we got into position at all without more casualties...

‘I blazed away. It was like Hell upon earth. My chums rolled over one after another, but we stuck it... The fighting lasted all day [and] my platoon got cut off from the rest of the Batt.’¹¹

Led by Lieutenant Prince Alexander of Battenburg, they took up position behind a wall where they clung on for two days without relief, ‘living on potatoes and carrots’ plucked from nearby fields.

The war of rapid movement was over so far as Rhodes was concerned. Within a month, the remnants of the 2nd Grenadiers had made their acquaintance with the mud of Flanders and the immortal salient where for four weeks a decimated BEF heroically fought the German army to a standstill.

‘They charged us almost every day,’ wrote Rhodes, ‘but their shelling was the worst.’ Among the many casualties was his best friend who was killed outright by a so-called ‘Jack Johnson’.

His own survival was little short of miraculous. ‘One day I was helping to make a dug-out and was chopping a tree down when a piece of shell cut the tree in half about a yard above my head,’ he wrote. ‘It was a close shave, one of the many whilst in that position.’¹²

Fate continued to smile on him as the rain turned to snow. On a cheerless Christmas Eve, just days after being given his first stripe and command of a section, he was occupying a trench knee-deep in slimy sludge near Givenchy when the Germans began bombarding them with *minenwerfers*.

‘One came and completely buried one of our Sgts,’ wrote Rhodes. ‘After helping to dig him out, being out

of wind, I had just settled down when another came and dropped in front of my trench. I was just springing when I was helped by a tree and some sand-bags.

‘I saw stars and landed up to my neck in mud and water, but they had me out in no time.’¹³

Driven out of a trench for the first time, the Grenadiers scrambled back to a support position from where they beat off the enemy and with that the lines more or less froze into a bloody stalemate that was broken only occasionally by the most resolute and resourceful of men.

‘Narrow shaves’

Typical of these was John Rhodes. During periods of relative inactivity, he was a leading figure in the battalion’s efforts to ‘dominate’ no-man’s-land. Seemingly indifferent to danger, he soon acquired a reputation as one of the unit’s most daring patrol leaders.

His forays between the opposing lines were frequent, but one in particular stood out and resulted in his first award for gallantry – the Distinguished Conduct Medal. It took place on May 18, 1915, in the vicinity of Rue du Bois, in French Flanders.

In a letter written to one of his brothers a few weeks later, he dismissed the incident in a few lines. ‘I suppose by now you know all about the DCM. For myself, I am tired of writing about it... I earned the medal for... going out and getting valuable information and also for getting the wounded in while being fired on.’¹⁴

There was, however, rather more to it than that.

While leading a reconnaissance patrol into no-man’s-land, he had ignored machine-gun fire to get near enough to the enemy lines to pinpoint key positions. Then, having scrambled back to his own trench, he discovered that two men from the unit were lying wounded out in



Promoted hero: John Rhodes, left, wearing the ribbon of his Distinguished Conduct Medal. In a letter to a relative, he said that the medal was being kept for him at Buckingham Gate either ‘until the end of the war or else the end of me’.

10 Ibid.

11 Ibid.

12 Ibid.

13 Ibid.

14 John Rhodes, letter to brother Jabez, July 1, 1915.

the open. Despite being in full view of the enemy, he dashed out twice to rescue them and on each occasion returned unscathed while the guardsman accompanying him was wounded.

It was yet another in an ever-longer list of what he called his 'narrow shaves', through all of which he emerged defiantly undaunted and not a little incredulous.

Writing to a relative, he admitted: 'It is marvellous that I am still sticking it when such a lot of our chaps have gone under. A good many had only been out here a day or so before either getting killed or wounded and some who have been back wounded have come out again only to get killed which is hard lines. There are very few of us left now who first came out with the Batt.'¹⁵

For all the hardships, a spirit of dogged, even cheery, determination shines through the few of his letters that have survived. Despite the wretched conditions, the loss of so many close comrades, he seemed ever 'in the pink', ever ready to exult in spells of 'champion' weather and ever willing to 'have another packet at the Huns'.

However, after months of fighting that seemed to him like years, he was no illusions about the scale of the task confronting them. Writing in July 1915, he observed: 'Let us hope I see the end of the war and that it won't be long, which I am rather doubtful of.'¹⁶

Inevitably, a touch of fatalism occasionally crept into his correspondence. Referring to his award in the same letter home, he explained that he had only received the ribbon of the DCM and not the medal which he said was being 'kept back at Buckingham Gate until the end of the war or else the end of me'.¹⁷

'Rubbing along'

For the time being, at least, the luck was all with him. No sooner had he returned from being feted a hero back home in Staffordshire, than he was back in what he called the 'thick of things' and adding to his reputation for bravery above and beyond the call of duty.

On August 6, near Givenchy, the Germans exploded two mines which lifted the ground 'in one great convulsion' and buried a number of men from a Grenadiers' working party beneath a mass of debris.

Hearing that men were trapped, Rhodes and another guardsman, Timothy Barton,¹⁸ hurried to their rescue. Despite a 'sharp fire' from shells and enemy riflemen, they stuck to their task.

Among those dug out alive was the platoon commander, Lieutenant Harry Crookshank, later 1st Viscount Crookshank and a minister in Churchill's post-war government. He had been completely buried in about four feet of earth and would inevitably have succumbed

but for the selfless rescue effort.

It was a gallant endeavour made all the more remarkable by the fact that Rhodes had persisted with his share of the digging despite being wounded in the right shoulder.

The result was a well-deserved Bar to his DCM and a spell of hospitalisation which led, in turn, to a period of convalescence and a home posting to the 5th (Reserve) Battalion as a newly promoted lance-sergeant instructor.

Sixteen months' in England during which he missed



On the rise: following his awards of the DCM and Bar, a wounded John Rhodes, pictured standing on the left, returned to England to recover. During his time there, he was promoted to Sergeant and posted as an instructor to the 5th (Reserve) Battalion.



Twice a hero: just weeks after earning his first DCM, LCpl John Rhodes, illustrated here on the left, earned a Bar for his bravery in rescuing guardsmen buried alive by a mine explosion near Givenchy on August 6, 1915. This contemporary artist's impression shows him working with Guardsman Timothy Barton, who received a DCM, to release the trapped men under fire. Both men were wounded in the action.

¹⁵ John Rhodes, letter to brother Jabez, April 13, 1915.

¹⁶ John Rhodes, letter to brother Jabez, July 1, 1915.

¹⁷ Ibid.

¹⁸ Barton was awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal.

the entire Somme offensive with all its ghastly battles of attrition and gained a wife was followed by a return to action in January 1917 with the 3rd Battalion, Grenadier Guards in France.

By all accounts, his time away had done nothing to shake his confidence nor his faith in the Allies' ability to finally defeat the might of the German army.

Writing home to his brother Jabez two months after returning to the frontline, he was in optimistic mood. 'I am rubbing along alright and am in the best of health... considering the weather. It was terribly cold when I first came out but it is much warmer now... On the whole there is not much to grouse about considering the circumstances.

'We must put up with all hardships and get this over, the sooner the better, and I believe that in a month or two's time we shall tighten old Fritz up a bit and the outlook of the war will be a great deal different.

'We have been doing well of late... and the Germans must look out when the weather cheers up.'¹⁹

Sea of mud

Unfortunately, the weather in 1917 showed little sign of cheering up. After the bitter winter, the British army's Spring push around Arras was launched in April snow showers while the great offensive in Flanders was fought out in a sea of mud following one of the wettest summers on record.

By the autumn large parts of the battlefield east of Ypres resembled a swamp. A web of wooden duckboard trails snaked across a pitted wilderness studded with concrete pill-boxes and farmhouses converted into miniature fortresses on which the fluid German defence rested.

Almost 10 weeks of relentless fighting had carried the British line barely three to four miles at an horrendous cost in lives, but the success of 'bite and hold' tactics with limited attacks

behind creeping barrages persuaded Field Marshal Haig to persist with a campaign that many considered futile.

John Rhodes' opinion of the conditions endured as he and his fellow guardsman prepared for the next stage of the push towards the higher ground around Passchendaele can only be imagined.

He appears to have left no record of the most significant action of his career, or at least none that has survived, and details for the fighting on October 9, 1917 are sketchy and sometimes contradictory. What is not in doubt, however, is the degree of valour displayed by a man whose reservoir of courage appeared almost limitless.

For five days prior to the attack it had rained almost without break. According to the Official Historian, 'hardly a tree, hedge, wall or building could be seen' amid acres of slime devoid of any landmarks or natural cover save for mud-filled shell-holes.

Rhodes' battalion's objective lay on the northern flank, beyond a flooded watercourse called the Broembeek, in the splintered remains of the Houthulst Forest, where myriad pill-boxes and machine-gun nests were concentrated.

Zero hour for the assault was 0520 hours, but 3rd Grenadiers' involvement was not scheduled to begin until two hours later by which time the first objectives were to have been captured.

Sheer audacity

Despite treacherous conditions the initial advance, behind a carefully-orchestrated bombardment, went like clockwork. The Broembeek was crossed 'without difficulty' and the enemy lines breached. By 0730, when the 3rd Grenadiers started its advance, the day's first two objectives had been secured.

Moving through the consolidating units, the battalion faced a daunting passage over open ground raked by enemy fire. Between them and their final objective in the southern fringes of Houthulst Forest lay a number of pill-boxes, squat and menacing, barring their way.

Together, they represented a formidable obstacle and, according to the unit historian, 'there seemed every prospect of desperate fighting'.²⁰

And so it might have proven but for the individual enterprise and outstanding courage of one man: John Rhodes.

Where a neighbouring unit employed more conventional tactics to out-flank and eventually subdue the block-house in front of them, the 26-year-old Grenadier from the Potteries adopted a more direct approach.

Running ahead of the Lewis gun section he was leading, Rhodes, who had already 'accounted for several enemy', made straight for the strong-point confronting his battalion, a hundred yards short of their objective.



Headline news: on the same day the Staffordshire Sentinel carried news of John Rhodes' Victoria Cross, he was killed in action. At the time, according to the newspaper, his wife was 'anxiously awaiting the homecoming of her hero' who had been dubbed 'Sergeant Daddy VC'.

19 John Rhodes, letter to brother Jabez, March 20, 1917.

20 The Grenadier Guards in the Great War, 1914-1919 by Sir Frederick Ponsonby.



Fund-raiser: the two Staffordshire VC winners, LSgt John Rhodes and Corporal Ernest Egerton, whose awards appeared in the same Gazette, were featured on postcards sold to raise money for the North Stafford Battalions' Comfort Fund under the auspices of Stoke Football Club.

His solo charge took him unscathed through a maelstrom of fire from enemy machine-guns and his own supporting barrage. Nearing the pill-box, he spotted three men emerging from a side entrance and, without hesitation, he headed for the same doorway where he 'effected an entrance'.²¹

By all accounts, no shots were fired, no bombs thrown. Instead, it would seem, his shocking presence and sheer audacity was sufficient to induce an instant surrender from a garrison no doubt convinced he was the vanguard of a much larger force.

Accounts vary as to the number of men taken prisoner by the lone guardsman. His unit historian put the figure at eight, his subsequent Victoria Cross citation gave nine and another eyewitness claimed to have counted 10 men, including an artillery observation officer from whom 'valuable documents were taken'.

What was beyond any doubt was that a position that seemed, in the estimation of the Grenadiers' historian, nigh 'impregnable' had fallen to a single non-commissioned officer in spectacular fashion, thus almost certainly sparing the lives of countless comrades.

'Greatest honour'

Rhodes came through the rest of the day's fighting untouched and shortly afterwards scribbled a letter home to his wife, enclosing a few souvenirs of his most astonishing feat of arms that included a photograph of the German officer he had captured wearing an Iron Cross.

In that same note he mentioned that he had been

recommended for a high distinction. No more was said about it until a few weeks later. Then, on November 26, the day that his richly-merited Victoria Cross was officially announced, Lizzie Rhodes received another letter from her husband, saying he was still not certain if the award would be 'definitely' granted.

The following morning, as newspapers in his home county rejoiced at his honour and plans were laid for a homecoming befitting the region's hero, John Rhodes followed the barrage for the last time towards the ruins of Fontaine-Notre-Dame.

He was still none the wiser about his VC when his luck finally ran out and bullets smashed his thigh. Barely alive when he reached 48 Casualty Clearing Station, he succumbed just as he was being lifted onto a bed.

Not long afterwards, his commanding officer, Lieutenant Colonel Andrew Thorne, arrived with confirmation of his award, but, as he wrote Lizzie, 'it was too late'.²²

The most highly decorated Grenadier guardsman of the First World War, or of any other conflict before or since, was buried nearby, 'on the side of a hill facing the sun'.

Passing his grave a few days later, the unit's chaplain, Captain the Reverend Stephen Phillimore, was moved to write a touching letter to a widow left to bring up alone the son her gallant husband had never seen.

'It is one of the cruellest things of this war that just at the moment of great things the best are taken away,' he wrote. 'Your husband had won the greatest honour any soldier could have and had won it over and over again; yet he was always the same, quiet in his manner, never boastful, always doing his duty, a pattern to soldiers and a pattern to us all.'²³



Brave widow: John Rhodes' wife, Elizabeth (Lizzie) Meir, and their son, named John after him, who he never saw. Due to what were termed 'domestic difficulties', Lizzie was unable to receive her husband's Victoria Cross at a Buckingham Palace investiture and the award was presented to her at a private ceremony in her home on July 15, 1918.

21 Citation for the Victoria Cross, London Gazette, November 26, 1917.

22 Lieutenant Colonel Andrew Thorne, letter to Elizabeth Rhodes, December 5, 1917.

23 Chaplain Captain the Reverend Stephen Phillimore, letter to Elizabeth Rhodes, December 8, 1917.

Lieutenant-Colonel Crabbe and the capture of Commandant Kritzinger

by Major Phillip Wright OBE

In 1899, Lieutenant Colonel E M S Crabbe, Grenadier Guards, as Editor 'with the enthusiastic co-operation of the Household Cavalry' introduced a new and extended *Household Brigade Magazine*. In July he became Commanding Officer 3rd Battalion Grenadier Guards and the following year he led the battalion to South Africa after the outbreak of the Second Boer War in October 1899. He spent the entire war there and was wounded four times. His splendid constitution was attributed to 'The toughening effects of carrying out the duties of Editor'.



3rd Battalion Officers in South Africa.

He was wounded at the Battle of Belmont in November 1899 and mentioned in despatches. He returned to the battalion for the Battle of Magersfontein in December. On 23rd March 1900, he was badly wounded when a small foraging party which he was leading, including Lieutenant Colonel A E Codrington Coldstream Guards, was ambushed at Karee Siding and his Adjutant, Lieutenant the Hon H E Lygon, was killed. Crabbe returned to his battalion by the end of April.

As they marched north towards Pretoria on 1st May, Sir Arthur Conan Doyle described an encounter with him. 'A burly broad-shouldered man with full square black beard over his chest. His arm in a sling, his bearing a medieval knight-errant. It is Crabbe of the Grenadier Guards.' He reins his horse in for an instant while his Guardsmen stream past him. 'I've had my share - four bullets already. Hope I won't get another today.' 'You should be in hospital.' 'Ah, there I venture to disagree with you.' He rides on with his men.'

Any hopes of 3rd Battalion returning to England with Field Marshall Lord Roberts in November 1900 were

dashed. Instead they were sent from Transvaal to Cape Colony to prevent De Wet entering the Cape. In early 1901, the character of the war changed to that of chains of blockhouses, 'concentration camps' and mobile columns against Boer guerrillas. Crabbe, by now appointed CB for distinguished service, became the commander of a mobile column, not re-joining his battalion until March 1902. He had on his staff from the battalion Captain the Hon A V Russell and Lieutenant R H Herman-Hodge, his orderly officer.

Crabbe's mobile column had its first dangerous brushes with Commandant Kritzinger and his commando in July 1901. He was one of the most important among the hostile leaders in Cape Colony and on 17th July was back in the hill country to the west of Cradock.

On 20th July, Crabbe learnt that the Boers were moving east and followed them into the mountains with only his mounted men, leaving his guns and transport behind. He reached a farm in the evening without having seen the Boers and spent the night there within a strong line of pickets. At about 7pm the Boers, who had watched the recall of the pickets, opened heavy fire on the camp. After an hour's skirmishing, Kritzinger sent in a flag of truce saying he was expecting reinforcements and urged Crabbe to surrender, 'to avoid an effusion of blood.' The answer was no and firing was resumed.



Commandant Kritzinger.



Lieutenant Colonel Crabbe and his Staff.

A few hours later the Boer reinforcements arrived and Kritzinger sent another emissary requiring surrender. He was met by Russell, who told him the only course for

the Boers was to attempt taking the camp across open ground without cover. Once again, the flag was withdrawn and fighting went on until nightfall. When darkness fell, Crabbe and his men were without food, only 50 rounds of ammunition per man and surrounded by a superior force. He waited until the moon had set and, aided by a loyal Colonist guide, led his men silently through the Boer pickets, which were not alert. At daybreak, the Boers resumed fire and, only when this was not returned, discovered they had been tricked. On the morning of 15th August, Kritzinger crossed the Orange River with about 100 men, the remainder having scattered. Many weeks passed before he had an opportunity to return with a new force recruited in the Orange Colony. Crabbe had suffered much from the energy of his pursuit,

On the evening of 9th September 1901, General Beatson, who was directing operations, heard that a party of the enemy were at Driefontein about 12 miles east of Laingsburg. Crabbe went on a night march from his camp at Wagon Drift. At daybreak of 19th September he completely surprised the Boers in their laager. During the short resistance that was offered Commandant Van der Merwe was killed in action with one of his men and 37 prisoners were captured. Both Lieutenant-General Lord Kitchener and General French telegraphed to Crabbe their high appreciation of his action.

For much of 1901, 3rd Battalion was employed on blockhouse duty, one every mile covering the railway line between De Aar and Colenso. Battalion Headquarters remained at Hanover Road. On 16th September a small party under Lieutenant M Gurdon-Rebow consisting of detachments along the railway east of Hanover Road moved out to surround a farm house



Commandant Van Der Merwe.

where it was thought Boers were in hiding. Nobody was found there and the party then broke into three returning to their posts. One of these, consisting of nine men, accompanied by Gurdon-Rebow was attacked by 30 to 40 of the enemy. A summons to surrender was refused by Gurdon-Rebow and he and one man were shot dead and two others seriously wounded. Sergeant Priest of the patrol was drowned in a gallant attempt to swim the Carolus River in order to get assistance. Lord Kitchener in referring to the incident said, 'I must also make allusion to the very gallant stand made on Sept, 16th by nine men of the 3rd Batt. Grenadier Guards, under Lieut. Gurdon-Rebow, who found themselves attacked by thirty



Lieutenant Gurdon-Rebow and medals.

to forty of the enemy near Cyferkuil, ten miles north of Riet Siding.'

Due to the relentless pursuit of Kritzinger by Crabbe's column and others, combined with 3rd Battalion's alertness guarding the blockhouse line five miles west of Hanover Road, Kritzinger was captured alive on 16th December 1901. He was severely wounded and 12 men of his Commando were taken prisoner. He and his Adjutant had galloped up to the wire fence midway between two blockhouses, which were a mile apart. They cut the wire to allow the rest of the Commando through. Kritzinger himself, after crossing the line, came back three times to pick up wounded men. At the third attempt he was shot and wounded in the lung. Twelve of those with him were also captured. As soon as he had recovered from his wound he was put on trial. The evidence showed that he had been wrongfully accused of offences against the laws of war and he was acquitted.

On 17th December, General French sent Major the Hon G Legh, Acting Commanding Officer 3rd Battalion, the following telegram: 'I heartily congratulate you and your men on capture of Kritzinger – you have all done well & more than could have possibly been expected of you in the face of so bold and desperate an attack – there must have been more wounded Boers, who you will probably find today.' The copy of a telegram received by the GOC Guards Brigade from the General Commanding-in-Chief, South Africa, and transmitted to O C 3rd Battalion Grenadier Guards read: *Belfast, 17th. – Please congratulate Guards' Blockhouse line at Hanover Road on the efficiency of their work. I am very pleased at the way the line is held and results obtained. The General Officer Commanding is specially pleased at the rapidity in which No. 6430 Private Mc Dowell and No.7627 Private Chapman, 3rd Battalion Grenadier Guards, who were sentries on No's 40 and 41 Blockhouses grasped the situation on the occasion of Kritzinger's Commando crossing the line on the 16th inst.'*

Queen Victoria died in January and Peace was signed

at Vereeniging in May 1902. A Battalion parade was held at Hanover Road to say farewell to Crabbe on 8th July. The battalion remained there until it received orders to proceed to Cape Town for embarkation for England. In May 1903, Crabbe was appointed Chief of Staff, 4th Army Corps with the rank of Brigadier-General at Aldershot, where he served until his death from heart failure on 8th March 1905, in post aged 52. He completed the narrative of 3rd Battalion's history in South Africa only two days before he died. The preface was written by Russell, his former Adjutant and Staff Officer, He became Assistant Military Attaché in Berlin from 1910 to 1914 and later became a Brigadier-General in World War 1. He was mentioned in despatches six times and appointed CMG. He died in 1966.

Russell wrote in the preface that it had been Crabbe's intention to point out: *'When all Grenadiers worked with such unremitting zeal, such cordial and never-failing co-operation, and such conspicuous success, to apportion praise to any particular individual, or individuals appeared to him invidious and unfair.'*



Presentation of South African war medals by the King.

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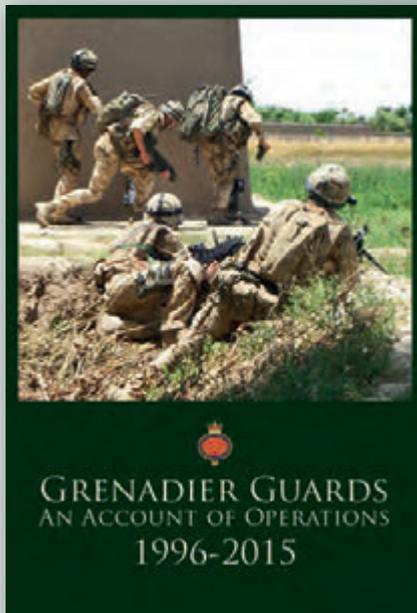
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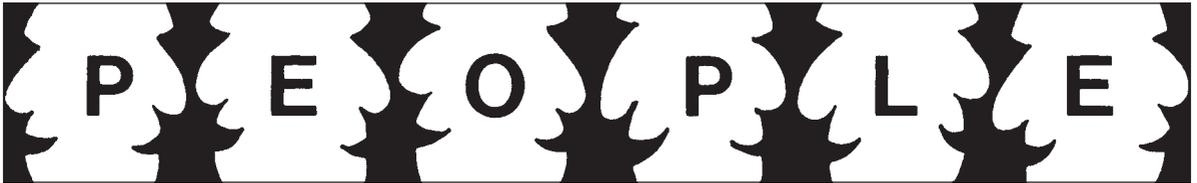
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Where are they now?

by Major Ben Jesty

(written as at Feb 2019)

As I enter the last six months of my tenure as the SO2 Foot Guards I look back upon the last 18 months and wonder where they went. It has been a genuine pleasure to play a small part in helping our officers (and those of other Guards Regiments) to get the most out of their careers. This year the trend of Grenadier to Grenadier handovers is not quite so marked as last year but our officers continue to get out and about around the Army and to make a positive difference.

Lieutenant General Sir George Norton KCVO CBE continues as the United Kingdom's Military Representative to NATO and the EU until mid-2020. I wonder what odds you would get on him leaving the EU before the country does. Major General Roly Walker DSO continues as the Regimental Lieutenant Colonel and shoulders other responsibilities in London. Brigadier David Russell-Parsons OBE has completed his tenure as the UK's Defence Attaché to Saudi Arabia and will be retiring in May. Brigadier James Bowder OBE is still Director Strategy in Army Headquarters. Colonel Richard Maundrell MVO has returned from Somalia and after some well-earned leave he will be moving to the Defence Academy in the summer. Colonel Alex McKay MBE is now the Chief of Staff of 3 (UK) Division. Lieutenant Colonel Martin David MC has been selected for promotion and from May 2019 will be Commander Field Army's Liaison Officer in Lille in the rank of Colonel.

Lieutenant Colonel Andrew James MBE is still the British Liaison Officer to the French Force Preparation Centres Command in Champagne. He is no doubt perusing the menu of potential postings to work out where the next delicacy will come from. Lieutenant Colonel Simon Soskin is now Lieutenant Colonel Foot Guards and at the time of writing is still wearing his previous hat of SO1 Infantry. Lieutenant Colonel Richard Green is now the SO1 Infrastructure Strategy in Andover and continues to drive forward the Guards Cricket Club. Lieutenant Colonel Piers Ashfield DSO is commanding the 1st Battalion which has recently returned from concurrent deployments in Iraq, Afghanistan and South Sudan. Lieutenant Colonel James Greaves continues as one of the Military Assistants to Commander Joint Operations. He has

been selected to be the next Commanding Officer taking over in 2020. Lieutenant Colonel James Green is SO1 Army News in London and will be moving on to command of Wales University Officer Training Corps in September 2019.

Major Dom Alkin and Major Andrew Seddon have been selected for promotion to Lieutenant Colonel. They will be competing for their first Lieutenant Colonel appointments later this year. Major Ed Paintin has been Senior Major for eighteen months now and will be looking forward to his next opportunity at the end of this year. Major Simon Gordon-Lennox will be maintaining the Grenadier continuity as SO2 Foot Guards from summer 2019 – he will be the fifth in succession. Major Rupert King-Evans has moved to be SO2 Plans in Headquarters Home Command, Aldershot. Major Ben Jesty, your author, will be leaving APC and moving to be Second-in-Command of 1st Battalion Scots Guards. Major James Shaw will be taking over from Maj Ed Paintin as Senior Major later this year. Major Neil Strachan is The Captain alongside Major William Harries as No 2 Company Commander. Major Ben Powell has enjoyed his time attached to the battalion so much that he has transferred and is now a Grenadier and continues as Support Company Commander until the summer. The Inkerman Company is commanded by Major Tim Rogers IG and he will be handing over to Major Paddy Rice this summer. Major Andrew Tiernan is still seconded but will be moving to Chief of Staff 12 Brigade later in 2019. Major Mike Dobbin DSO MC is filling an SO2 appointment in London. Major Alex Bayliss is SO2 Force Development within the Directorate of Capability, Major Richard Da-Gama has landed a sunshine posting as SO2 J5 Coordination in Headquarters British Forces Cyprus. Major Tom Hendriksen is the SO2 Plans A in Headquarters Regional Command. Major James Taylor is the Executive Officer of The London Regiment based in Clapham. Major Adam Wellesley-Wood is racking up the air miles as the SO2 Defence Engagement in 4 Brigade.

Majors James Brown, Hugo Cartwright, Johnny Hathaway-White and Chris Stevenson are all students on the Intermediate Command and Staff Course at the Defence Academy, Shrivenham and will shortly be departing for postings new.

Captain Mike Dobson has been selected for promotion and will be heading off to Staff College in August. Acting Major Hamish Hardy is now the Officer Commanding Nijmegen Company. Acting Major Ben Conway will be returning from Afghanistan to

take over Support Company in the summer. **Captain Alex Budge** is still SO3 Operations B in Headquarters 3 (UK) Division and will be assuming an Acting Major appointment in Warminster later this year. **Captain Will Harris** has taken up a NATO staff appointment in Turkey. **Captain Ben Tracey** is the Adjutant of the 1st Battalion. **Captain Charlie Gilmore** has completed his two years as a Full Time Reserve Service Officer and has become a Regular Officer and a Grenadier. **Captain Jonathan Silver** has moved to be ADC to General George in Brussels and may well be unpacking as I write. **Captain Tom Parkes** has recently returned from being SO3 O&D on Op SHADER. **Captain Robert Laing** will be moving on to take over as Assistant Military Assistant to Gen Roly on the departure of Mike Dobson. **Captain Alex Shirreff** is still on secondment. **Captain Kaspar Varmuza** is still Operations Officer and waits to hear his next appointment from the Grade 3 Board. He will be handing over to **Captain Kit Naughton**. **Captain Charlie Williams** is Intelligence Officer and will move to be Nijmegen Company Commander later in the year. **Captain Chris Wright** continues in Nijmegen Company. **Captain Tom Hargreaves** is now established as SO3 J3 in Headquarters 16 Brigade. **Captain Oliver Wace** is about to take over as SO3 G3 in HQ London District. **Captain Richard Phillips** is now the Mortar Platoon Commander. **Captain Chris Pollard** has moved from Second-in-Command of The Inkerman Company to Second-in-Command of Nijmegen Company. **Captain George Barnes** continues on his long course. **Captain Oliver Staunton** will shortly move to take over as Intelligence Officer. **Captain Thomas Bolitho** is Second-in-Command of The Inkerman Company. **Captain Robert Thompson** is now the Temporary Equerry to the Colonel. **Captain Rufus Harding** is a Platoon Commander at Catterick. **Captain Ed Harmer** will be moving to be Regimental Signals Officer this summer. **Captain Jonathan Palmer-Tomkinson** is the Second Captain. **Captain Chris Wood** has been thriving as Platoon Commander of the Guards Parachute Platoon and is deployed with 3 PARA.

Lieutenant Alex Wilson is currently the Regimental Signals Officer. **Lieutenants Fred Ide, Thomas Holmes, Duncan Thorne, Mark Osmond** and **Second Lieutenants Edward Bennett, Sam MacDonald-Smith, Laurence Odum, Alexander Fetherston-Godley** and **Robin Mackworth-Young** complete the complement of Rifle Platoon Commanders of the 1st Battalion.

Lieutenants Tristram Reames, Jake Sayers, and **Felix Tracey** are in Nijmegen Company where they help settle young Guardsmen into the Regiment while ensuring standards are maintained on the forecourt and in the bars of West London.

Of the Late Entry Officers congratulations must go to **Major Gordon Gask** and **Major Stumpy Keeley**

MBE who have both been selected for promotion to Lieutenant Colonel – a magnificent achievement.

Major Neil England MBE is still the Regimental 2ic of the 1st Battalion ATC Pirbright. **Major Andy Butcher** MBE is the Officer Commanding Support Company, 1st Battalion Irish Guards. **Acting Major Glenn Haughton** OBE is now the Senior Enlisted Adviser to CDS. **Captain Darren Westlake** is the Quartermaster Technical and will be stepping across to be the Quartermaster of 1st Battalion Scots Guards in the spring before attending ICSC in 2020. **Captain Howard Lawn** continues as the Battalion RCMO before taking over as the Quartermaster Technical. **Captain John Frith** is now the Motorised Transport Officer in the Battalion. **Captain Ty-Lee Bearder** is a Welfare Officer at the RTMC, Chilwell.

We welcome a number of newly commissioned Late Entry Officers since the last edition. **Captain Martin Howlin** is helping to sustain the Army's lifeblood of new recruits as SO3 Recruiting in London District. **Captain Dan Moore** is the Unit Welfare Officer of the Battalion. **Captain Scott Roughley** is the RCMO of 1st Battalion Welsh Guards. **Captain Sam Brooks** is due to take over the running of Household Division and Parachute Regiment Centralised Courses in Pirbright in July. **Captain John Byrne** will become the Unit Welfare Officer for the Welsh Guards in April 2019. Last but by no means least **Captain Mark Cox** will follow Howard Lawn as RCMO, again in April 2019.

I wrote last year that the achievements of the Regiment's officers at Regimental Duty and beyond are just cause for pride for all Grenadiers, serving or retired. A further sign of the Regiment's good health is that since I last wrote no Grenadier Direct Entry Officers have left the Army. This reflects well on the health and happiness of the Regiment and its leaders and bodes well for the future.

Major Ben Powell



Major Ben Powell has commanded Support Company since May 2017, arriving as a Mercian Officer, he formally transferred into the Grenadier Guards and commanded the company group in Iraq in 2018.

In late 2004 he commissioned into the Cheshire Regiment (which became the Mercian Regiment) where he completed a residential tour of Northern Ireland as part of Op BANNER

where his company were involved in the White Rock riots of 2005. Subsequently he was Machine Guns Platoon Commander before deploying on Op TELIC 11 in 2007 as Company Operations Officer serving in Baghdad and Basra. On return from Iraq he was the Battalion Mortar Officer for two years and spent Op HERRICK 12 as Fire Support Group Commander serving in Sangin, Helmand Province, as part of 40 Royal Marine Commando Battlegroup.

Major Powell spent some time in the training environment as Acting SO2 with Field Training Unit in 2011 before returning to Battalion in 2012 as Adjutant, where the battalion conducted both Hybrid Foundation Training in Kenya and Mission Specific Training leading to deployment on Op HERRICK 17 in Nad-e-Ali, Helmand.

Prior to attending the Intermediate Command and Staff College, Major Powell commanded a rifle company where he deployed on Overseas Training Exercise Askari Storm. As a staff officer in the Organisation Branch of the Strategy Directorate at Army Headquarters he was involved with the structural changes of the Strategic Defence and Security Review, Annual Budgetary Cycle and Army 2020 Refine. He managed Army liability across all Defence Top Level Budgets and other Service liability changes within the Army.

Major Powell lives by the beach in the Witterings, West Sussex, with his wife, two young daughters and family dog. As a keen DIY'er he often has a house renovation project ongoing but when not doing that spends most of his family time on the beach paddle boarding, kayaking and kitesurfing. He is also a keen snowboarder and has represented the Army and Infantry at hockey.

Captain Christopher Pollard



Captain Christopher Pollard has been the Company Second in Command of Nijmegen Company since November 2018. He commissioned in August 2014 into the Intelligence Corps, and upon completion of the Officers' Military Intelligence Course in January 2015 was posted to 1st Battalion Grenadier Guards as the Assistant Intelligence Officer.

During his time attached to the Battalion, he deployed on Op FIRIC to the Falkland Islands, and on Ex ASKARI STORM to Kenya. He also sailed across the Atlantic from Rio de Janeiro to Cape Town on Ex TRANSGLOBE, sailing on the Army boat and beating a combined Navy/RAF boat into Cape Town by two and a half days.

In January 2016, he was posted to 4 Military Intelligence Battalion as a Counter Intelligence/Security Section Commander, responsible for military counterintelligence operations in the south-east of England. During this period, he deployed to the Jordan-Syria border with PJHQ working on counterintelligence and security and served as the Intelligence Officer to the Security Assistance Cell Libya (SAC-L) in PJHQ. Following his excellent experiences with the Battalion in 2015, he submitted a request to transfer in October 2016 and in April 2017 attended the Platoon Commanders' Battle Course in Brecon.

On completion of the Platoon Commanders' Battle Course, he completed the Junior Officers' Tactical Awareness Course and was assigned to the Inkerman Company as Company Second in Command in August 2017. In July 2018, he deployed on Op TRENTON with the Inkerman Company to South Sudan as a Platoon Commander, providing Force Protection to the Royal Engineers working on behalf of the United Nations to improve infrastructure and security for the people of South Sudan. He was assigned to his current post in Nijmegen Company on return from theatre.

A keen sportsman, he has represented the Battalion in cricket, rugby, and hockey, winning the Major Units London District competition in hockey in 2015. He currently plays rugby for London District, and will represent the Battalion in the upcoming Rugby 7s tournament in Las Vegas in February 2019.

WO2 (RQMS) James Thompson



On completion of basic training **James Thompson** was posted to Nijmegen Company who at that time were based in Wellington Barracks, London.

At the beginning of 2001 he was posted to The Queen's Company in a State Ceremonial and Public Duties role. In the same year he passed the Physical Training Instructors Course and his Corporals Course, being promoted shortly afterwards.

A deployment in 2001 to Northern Ireland was followed in the next two years by numerous overseas exercises to Norway, Canada and Kenya. In 2003 he passed the Section Commanders Battle Course and was promoted soon after to LSgt which was quickly followed by a Spearhead deployment on Operations to Kosovo again with The Queen's Company.

Between 2004 and 2006 he was posted to the Infantry Training Centre, Catterick as a Section Commander instructor. On return to the Battalion he took over command of the Recruiting Team and then in 2007 deployed on Op HERRICK 6 working in the Joint Operating Cell.

Subsequent years saw him working in recruiting offices and as the RCMO's Assistant. Between 2013 and 2015 he was CQMS Headquarter Company followed by two years as the Transport Platoon Warrant Officer. During the Summer of 2013 he was selected to be part of the Battalion's Pace Sticking Team which won the world championships held at the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst. Since May 2018 WO2 Thompson has been based in London as the RQMS RHQ.

He has been married to Emma for 15 Years and has 2 children Jack 15 and Grace 11. He is a keen sportsman and during his career he has represented the Battalion at football, athletics and squash.

Senior Drum Major Damien Thomas



Damien Thomas joined the Army in April 2002, completing basic training at the Infantry Training Centre, Catterick. In January 2003 he joined Nijmegen Company Grenadier Guards where he carried out the duties of a Guardsman as well as taking part in The Queen's Birthday Parade as a soldier of Number 3 Guard. On completion of the Class 2 Drummers Course in 2004, he joined the 1st Battalion

Grenadier Guards Corps of Drums. That same year he took part in The Queen's Birthday Parade as a Drummer and deployed on Operation Oculus to Bosnia.

Thomas deployed on Op TELIC 6 to Iraq in 2006 as a multiple second in command in a rifle platoon. In 2007 he was attached to Number 3 Company as the sniper section commander for Op HERRICK 6 in Afghanistan. In November 2008 he was the winner of the Director of Infantry Cutlers Sword (a Drummers sword awarded to an Infantry Non-Commissioned officer displaying the most potential to reach the highest ranks within the Corps of Drums) and in that same year deployed on Op FIRIC to the Falkland Islands.

In 2009, Thomas was posted to the Infantry Training Centre, Catterick as a Section Commander/Infantry instructor and whilst there in 2011 he deployed to Australia to train Australian Defence Force recruits. In 2012 he returned to Afghanistan on Op HERRICK 16 as a Tactical Sergeant.

In 2012 he was appointed Drum Major of 1st Battalion Grenadier Guards. Over the three years he held the appointment, he twice led the Corps of Drums and State Bands on The Queen's Birthday Parade and Beating Retreat. He also travelled to Belgium, France and America. Over his 16-year career he has deployed on numerous overseas exercises including to Kenya, Latvia and Romania.

Drum Major Thomas was selected for the prestigious appointment as the Senior Drum Major of the Household Division in April 2018.

OBITUARIES

We will remember them

It is with deep regret that the Executive Committee has received notification of the death of the following Grenadiers.

2626861	CF Ashmore	London	22545526	G Kelsall	
22897230	CE Ashwin	London	23252728	JS Lambert	
23688725	GE Badley	London	24220609	SJ Langston	Manchester
2629275	J Bailey	Reading	23509322	H Lillicrap	Surrey & East Hants
Major	HA Baillie	Bath	23688738	P Maguire	Tamworth
14220365	RW Balcombe	Sussex	23509388	DA Marshall	Lincoln
22545219	JA Bartlett	Norfolk	22944041	EG Mew	Medway
	MJ Beaver, Esq		2624314	HW Mountford	London
22213207	NT Beech	Windsor	22643441	R Noke	Worcester and Hereford
Major	DV Bendall	Suffolk	2254712	B Norman	
22911454	EK Bland	Gloucestershire	2624826	JH North	Surrey & East Hants
5834230	LC Bozeat, MM	Surrey & East Hants	22955972	A Orchard	Essex
2628187	AJ Brace	Sussex	23438231	MV Pallister	Gloucestershire
2628634	R Britton	Yorkshire	2625232	JF Parker	Surrey & East Hants
2628897	WH Brown	London	22545890	A Parsons	
2622214	EJ Buchan	Sussex	24141634	H Patrick	Lincoln
Major Rt Hon	The Lord Carrington, KG, GCMG, CH, MC		234255230	GR Pedge	Nottinghamshire
			23252597	RW Petty	Walsall
22602857	M Chapman	Bristol	22213354	J Quinlan	
23688481	STE Clayton-Payne	Wessex	22955902	CS Ray	Bristol
24491182	RV Collett		24125386	P Reece	Bristol
23509531	AP Connell	Lincoln	23621943	GNH Rimell	Gloucestershire
Capt	CH Cox, TD	Surrey	22640069	J Rodgers	Manchester
2614539	AEM Crowe	Lincoln	24632976	DT Ryan	
24000292	PG Davis	Nottinghamshire	2620936	RC Sanders	Essex
2627884	DA Day	Shropshire	24253833	A Sands	Manchester
22213478	A Diamond		23122852	J Scott	Walsall
Capt	BD Double		22545249	F Scriven	Shropshire
2625167	J Drage		2628518	REG Seale	Worcester and Hereford
23509202	T Dray	Bristol	23267268	PF Shackleton	
2616402	L Edge	Liverpool	24000382	K Shaw	Nottinghamshire
22545437	W Edwards	Surrey & East Hants	24312469	MA Slade	
22545437	W Edwards	Surrey & East Hants	24513134	C Spacey	
2623998	AE Foreman	Cambridge	21012237	GE Spragg	North Staffordshire
23099207	B Frost		22545753	K Stevenson	Nottinghamshire
2626850	JG Gallagher	Leicester	23509161	L Stewart	Suffolk
22955695	RF Gibbons	Gloucestershire	22213082	S Stokes	Walsall
2624648	WA Gibbs		2628696	FC Tatman	
23199307	EJ Gillam	London	22955620	L Taylor	Suffolk
2623837	F Goodale		22273750	FGH Tetley	Essex
24239544	A Goodman		24060587	K Thomsett	Medway
23509332	CN Grigg	2016	23969893	J Upchurch	Derby
Major Sir	HF Hamilton-Dalrymple		19149340	DL Wallis	London
14943943	D Harper, MBE	Manchester	23451533	C Walters	
2624187	J Haynes	Wessex	24185873	ME West	
22545149	E Herbert		22955796	PJ White	
24460953	L Herbert		23174474	HJ Whitear	Surrey & East Hants
22545338	R Hewitt	Lincoln	24443691	K Whiteley	
14223473	RG Hill, BEM	Wessex	25003691	MD Whittaker	
22213628	G Hitchcock		23509163	AJ Willmore	Worcester and Hereford
22383639	M Hollingsworth	London	23051357	TA Wing	
22213701	F Hollingworth	Nottinghamshire	23067722	L Withey	London
22545304	E Howes		23509329	LD Wright	Nottinghamshire
23879745	L Hughes	Wigan, St. Helens & District	23509150	MJ Wyld	
			23262898	DG Zimmerman	London
24021008	R Jones	North Staffordshire			

Major Hubert Baillie

by Major General Sir Evelyn Webb-Carter
KCVO OBE DL,



Hubert Baillie who died on 1st June 2018 was an archetypal English (although half Polish and half Scottish!) gentleman, elegant, charming, entertaining, witty and with impeccable manners, whose passion for racing and flying his private aircraft generated a good number of amusing stories. All his

life Hubert enjoyed the good things of life, horses, good food and wine, so he would use his aircraft to achieve that enjoyment. On one occasion he flew into a thunderstorm over the Somme on his way to an epicurean treat which caused some considerable turbulence but the pilot, whilst calm and collected but somewhat pale, became disorientated. On landing he enquired if his passengers had noticed they had been upside down for much of the time since the storm!

Hubert Albert Gucewicz-Baillie was born on 18th August 1945. His father, Alexander Gucewicz was a Polish Cavalry officer and his mother something of an heiress from the Borders. He was commissioned into Grenadiers on account of his uncle, Colonel Simon Baillie who was a Grenadier captured whilst serving in the SAS in 1944. As 2nd Lieutenant Gucewicz-Baillie he reported to the Adjutant of the 2nd Battalion who promptly informed him that his name was now Baillie and thus it remained. The Polish connection was, in his early military days, a touch inconvenient as it prevented him being selected for high security appointments. Childhood was spent in Ireland, Essex and Scotland but it was somewhat marred by the early death of his father who had taught the young boy to ride, a skill destined to be an important part of his life. Hubert was educated at Ampleforth and it was here that his strong but discreet catholic faith was established.

In 1969 he was the Motor Transport Officer (MTO) of the 2nd Battalion then based in Magilligan Camp on the North Antrim coast at the start of the troubles. Hugh Lockhart, a brother officer, suggested dinner in Coleraine and off they set in a military Land Rover to a hearty meal which apparently culminated in trying out a local digestif, Irish Coffee; maybe they had two. It was time to return and time was short, so Hugh suggested a short cut over the sand which he said he knew well. Hubert did not demur so off they set. However once on the sand the exit to safety was not so easy to find in the dark and the upshot was that they had to abandon the Land Rover and walk the short distance back to camp. The next morning the

Land Rover was recovered without any apparent damage much to Hubert's relief as he was the MTO. All was well until the gearbox started playing up and on investigation it was found to have been caused by sea water. Oh dear! The outcome was either a Court Martial or pay the £600 (about £5k each today and equivalent to 6 months pay) for the damage. They opted for the latter and had to refrain from further entertainment for some time.

A little later Hubert entered the racehorse owning stakes and now in Germany as the Adjutant of the 1st Battalion he became frustrated by the length of time it took to get back to England to enter a race and return to barracks for the Monday morning. The answer was to buy an aircraft, a Cessna 172, which he did in partnership with Valentine Cecil. Extraordinarily they bought the aircraft through the NAAFI, something I expect has never happened before or since! It even featured in NAAFI News. However Hubert was not sure if his eyes would pass muster, so he arranged for his orderly, Guardsman Upton, to be taught to fly. Upton passed with flying colours first time and became orderly, driver and pilot to Hubert rather outmatching the Commanding Officer! In due course Hubert did indeed learn to fly but he took a little longer than the good Guardsman Upton.

The 1st Battalion in the late 70s was deployed to The Sudan for a joint exercise with the Sudanese Army whilst Hubert was commanding No 2 Company. When it came to prize giving the Battalion was not doing very well for prizes etc., but to great acclaim won 'The Best Visiting Battalion' – there was only one! The prize was a baby camel which was proudly presented to the horrified Commanding Officer, Michael Hobbs. Hubert probably laughed the loudest and was promptly handed the camel and more to the point the problem of what to do with it. The Senior Major managed to get a zoo in England to accept it, the pioneers had a crate made which fitted a Hercules and Rhodri Wynn-Pope was taught how to tranquilise the beast. All going swimmingly until the good old Ministry of Ag and Fish had heart failure and it was all off. Meanwhile Hubert, who was fully occupied with the wretched beast, was briefing the Sudanese who were thrilled and wanted a photograph of the now named *Guardsman Digna* in his zoo. A good deal of backpedalling followed until somebody said there was a custom of handing back such trophies and saying one would retrieve it next time in the country. With a sigh of relief this was duly done and the Sudanese who watched all this with considerable amusement, accepted with good grace. The prize had been a set up for a good laugh which indeed it was for all except Hubert who vowed never to go back to Sudan in case *Guardsman Digna* was returned to him.

Hubert loved his hunting and steeplechasing and for a while this was his priority. Although he never had much glory in the Grand Military he was very successful in point-

to-points and hunter chases. He had several horses over the years but most memorable was a bay gelding called *Half a Sixpence* winning about a dozen hunter chases and placed 25 times. He also ran it in point to points winning 9 times. Amongst his other horses was Inkerman, a good name for a Grenadier which ran in many hunter chases and point to points, achieving several wins and placings. Hubert was a fine horseman and I remember well seeing him crossing the country in Leicestershire in a faultless and smooth manner. He was a neat rider and rather like he dressed, always dapper and well turned out. When Regimental Adjutant to David Gordon Lennox they were often both seen hunting in Leicestershire and elsewhere; I imagine the Superintending Clerk had an interesting line in explaining the double absence. At that time Hubert was Chairman of the Guards Saddle Club and his duties required him to catch the 0815 train out of St Pancras and then catch the branch line to Melton where Sergeant Armstrong, long time manager of the Foot Guard yard and incidentally trainer of Hubert's point to pointers, had his horse impeccably turned for a day's hunting. Oh..! Those were the days!

Hubert was a popular and debonair figure in the Regiment, much respected as a firm but fair Adjutant and then Company Commander who as someone put it, he 'commanded with restraint and good manners'. He always had the looks of a 'Peter Pan of eternal youth' and maintained his immaculate figure, sadly too much so at the end. His flying and racing activities, 'nipping over to Le Touquet for lunch' could have placed him apart but he was always modest and generous. There are two examples of his inherent kindness. He was so appalled that Teddy Stanley, the scion of the Derby family, did not ride that he arranged for him to go on a riding course and made sure he was not called back by the Adjutant for duty. On another occasion he arranged and paid for a Guardsman suffering from cancer and his wife to go on pilgrimage to Lourdes.

He spent his latter years in Wiltshire and Dorset working at Warminster for the Director of Infantry both as a serving officer and until very recently as a retired officer. However, his zest for the good life did not diminish; he established a 'Claret Club' in the Officers' Mess so a selected group could enjoy fine wine. In his spare time he was on the Grand Military Committee for 36 years, was head dressage steward at Aldon Horse Trials, a steward at the Bath and West Show, Chairman of the Parish Council and President of Grenadier Association in Bath and finally he helped me run the Mounted Infantry Club. Tragically five years ago he was diagnosed with cancer and so followed the long race during which he displayed uncomplainingly the same great courage and resolution we all saw during his racing career. It was also a considerable blow to Hubert that his elder brother,

Richard, a Life Guard in the 60s, died earlier in the year.

Our sympathy and love go to Sarah his loving widow and James his son, a keen hunting man and daughter Charlotte, whose own child, Archie, arrived in January and gave great pleasure to Hubert, a proud grandfather. They have lost a wonderful father and I am sure they and we will always have a smile on our faces when think of him. As one of his friends put it we should remember Hubert as 'sometime soldier, amateur gentleman rider, pilot but always a Grenadier'.

Major D V Bendall CMG MBE

by his Grandson, Tristan Elbrick



David Bendall, who has died aged 97, was born in Las Palmas, Canary Islands in 1920. He was sent to prep. school at West Downs, on to Winchester and then up to Cambridge. There he was awarded a Modern Languages Scholarship at King's, and met his future wife, Merrilees Galpin (herself born in

Colombo, Ceylon and brought up in Norfolk). He joined the Regiment in September 1940 and was posted to the 3rd Battalion in December of that year. On 15th March 1941, he was married at St. James's Spanish Place, Marylebone. He became an Intelligence Officer in July 1942 at HQ 1st Army and then GSO 3. In December of 1944 he was appointed senior GSO 2 (Ops) at HQ 5 Corps where he was responsible for planning and overseeing the final campaign in Italy. For his work he was awarded the MBE. He was twice Mentioned in Despatches (July and November 1945). Further staff jobs followed at GHQ CMF until he was released in July 1946. As a talented linguist, a career in the Diplomatic Service followed after the war. He was appointed Third Secretary by the Foreign Office, taking up his post at Allied Forces Headquarters, Caserta, and moving in 1947 to the British Embassy in Rome.

In 1949 he returned to the Foreign Office in London, and was subsequently appointed First Secretary at Santiago, Chile in 1952. Two postings to the NATO International Secretariat at Paris followed in 1957 and in 1962 with the rank of Counsellor, latterly as Deputy Head of the Economic and Finance Division, and Special Advisor on Defence Policy. He was appointed in 1965 to the Embassy at Washington DC (CMG 1967) as Counsellor, before becoming Assistant Secretary of State for Western Europe (1969-1971). Having been sounded out as the next Ambassador to Moscow, and tipped as a future Head of the Foreign Office, he elected instead to

surrender his diplomatic career owing to the precarious health of his wife Merrilees.

Joining Morgan Grenfell, he was at the forefront of the merchant bank's international efforts from 23 Great Winchester Street, focussing on opportunities in Europe, the Middle East, and Latin America. He travelled extensively, bringing home tales of trains in Brazil, the Royal Yacht Britannia, and flying Concorde. He would go on to chair the bank's overseas operations in France, Switzerland and Italy, bringing his strong understanding of the European mind to the successful conclusion of commercial business.

In 1971 he and his wife purchased Ashbocking Hall in Suffolk, which they took great pleasure in restoring over nearly half a century. But a sustained love of Italy also led to an appointment as director of Banca Nazionale del Lavoro, and for over 30 years the Tuscan sea-side enticed him for family holidays at Castiglione della Pescaia.

From 1980 to 1985 he was Chairman of the Red Cross in Britain, while for many years he was also a Director of IISS, the International Institute for Strategic Studies.

In Suffolk life he was a stalwart patron of All Saints, Ashbocking, quietly supporting the church's maintenance and other aspects of parish life. He played tennis competitively well into his 80s, and golf at Woodbridge and Aldeburgh. Rarely missing a Branch gathering of the Grenadier Guards Association, he also enjoyed music at Snape or close to his London mews house at Cadogan Hall. Opportunities to meet with friends in town usually centred around Boodle's, which he greatly enjoyed from 1954. He was a keen shot, and loved fine wines. An engaging conversationalist until his final months, he illuminated many others' imaginations with breadth of experience, depth of knowledge, and a sharp sense of humour. (Those who enquired would also discover he was exceptionally well-read in several languages and had a continuing mastery of both national and international developments).

His wife predeceased him in 2014, and he is survived by their only child, Fern, who married Captain Alfred Johnson Elbrick, USMC, in Washington DC (1967). He was always closely involved in the lives of his grandchildren Tristan, Sophie, Alexia and Xanthe, for whom he was a source of both warmth and wisdom. A committed internationalist, he succeeded in travelling until his final year, to the Amalfi Coast with his grandson and granddaughter-in-law, and to America to visit his granddaughters and six great-grandchildren.

Through his long and full days, David Bendall lived consistently in the spirit of his own motto: 'Bien ou Rien': 'Done Well or Not at All'.

Major The Rt Honourable, The Lord Carrington KG, GCMG, CH, MC, PC, DL

by his Godson, Major Lord Valentine Cecil



Peter Carrington, Lord Carrington 6th Baron, who has died aged 99, was born in Chelsea on 6th June 1919. He was the only son of the 5th Baron Carrington and the Hon. Sybil Colville, daughter of the 2nd Viscount Colville of Culross. He was educated at Sandroyd in Cobham from the age of 9 to 13, and then

Eton where, as a member of the School Corps, he lined the route within Windsor Castle for King George Vth's funeral procession. While at Sandhurst he was made a Senior Under Officer and succeeded his father as Lord Carrington in November 1938. He was commissioned into the Grenadier Guards, the regiment of his father and grandfather.

In January 1939, Peter reported to Regimental Headquarters and was told by the Lieutenant Colonel that he was not to marry before he was 25, to hunt in Leicestershire twice a week and never to wear a grey top hat before the June meeting at Epsom. His brother officers behaved as if he wasn't there for about three months. He sat when off parade in a corner of the ante-room writing letters. He wrote later 'I have never written more letters in my life.'

He fought with 2nd Armoured Battalion across north western Europe until the war ended with the German's surrender and, as Second in Command of No.1 Squadron, was awarded an immediate MC at Nijmegen. His citation read: 'On 20th September 1944, this Officer was ordered to guide a Troop of tanks down to the NIJMEGEN Bridge and then push them across with a view to capturing the bridge intact. The Troop duly attacked, captured the bridge, and then pushed up the main road on the far side for some distance to consolidate their gain. Hearing that the enemy had infiltrated between the Troop and the bridge, this Officer on his own initiative, crossed the bridge in his tank and engaged the enemy, driving them off and remained holding the far side of the bridge until relieved by another tank. He then proceeded up the road and joined the Troop holding the Centre Line. By his devotion to duty and initiative, this Officer was undoubtedly instrumental in control being retained of the NORTHERN approaches to the Bridge at a very vital time.'

His Commanding Officer found Peter on the North Bank 'in control, brisk and assured as usual, but annoyed

OBITUARIES

by a German high velocity gun.' Earlier in August 1944, he had been given 48 hours leave to go to the beach at Arromanches, but his friend David Fraser suggested they get a couple of jeeps and go and liberate Paris with the Americans. There was still some fighting going on when they got there but that did not stop them booking into the Ritz Hotel. Apparently, the German officers were leaving by the back door as they came in the front. The following day they relieved the British Embassy. Later in Germany, there was some looting and Peter admitted that he helped himself to a fine-looking Mercedes. When the Divisional Commander saw him with this Mercedes he said 'Where did get that?' So, Peter said he had liberated it and the Commander said 'That's the most disgraceful thing I have ever heard. Send it immediately to Divisional Headquarters.' The next thing he saw was the Commander riding about in it.

Peter valued his time with the Regiment commenting: 'Comradeship in war obviously has an effect on you and how you think. Any social divisions disappear when you share your life with three other people in a tank. I'll never forget the brave splendid people I served with.'

He remained in the Army until 1949, before launching himself on a political career. He held junior ministerial posts in Winston Churchill's and Anthony Eden's governments, and was High Commissioner in Australia, leader of the Conservative party in the House of Lords in the sixties and Defence Minister in Edward Heath's government. As Foreign Secretary under Margaret Thatcher he once passed her a note about a foreign dignitary to whom she was offering the undiluted benefit of her views 'The poor chap's come 600 miles. Do let him say something.' He negotiated the settlement of the Rhodesia-Zimbabwe crisis which ended the country's long civil war. Three days after Argentina invaded the Falklands in 1982, Peter resigned as Foreign Secretary despite Margaret Thatcher's efforts to dissuade him. He bore little blame for the government's failure to avert the calamity, but he wrote in his memoirs: 'The disgrace must be purged. The person to purge it should be the minister in charge. That was me.'

Peter then served as Secretary General of NATO from 1984 to 1988 when he received the Presidential Medal of Freedom from President Reagan, the highest civilian award of the United States. As well as his political career, he served as chairman of several companies including GEC and Christie's and as a director of many others including Barclay's Bank, Schweppes and the Daily Telegraph. His personal memoirs 'Reflect on Things Past' were published in 1988. He concludes: 'We cannot see the future. To reflect on things past, on the scepticism they teach about human wisdom, may be as sound a support as any in meeting the future with a degree of equanimity.' Peter showed the same qualities

throughout a life which took him to the highest reaches of politics and diplomacy. He was shrewd, pertinacious, courageous, funny, enormously charming, utterly honest and honourable and above all kind. Nobody aroused more loyalty in those who served him

He married Iona McClean at the Guards Chapel in 1942 and described the marriage as 'far the most sensible thing I have ever done'. She was the younger daughter of Lieutenant-Colonel Sir Francis McClean, AFC, who founded the Fleet Air Arm. Their week's honeymoon at the Lygon Arms, Broadway almost bankrupted the groom: accommodation, food and wine cost him £19.10s. Iona, whose genius in creating a garden gave joy to thousands, predeceased him in 2009. He is survived by their two daughters, Alexandra and Virginia and their son Rupert, who was born in 1948, and becomes the 7th Baron Carrington.

We in the Regiment have lost a very distinguished and beloved Grenadier. Peter was a wonderful godfather and, as well as the happiest memories of him, I still have some of the excellent port he gave me, I asked him to my commissioning at Mons in 1972. He was Secretary of State for Defence at the time, which meant he had to take the parade and make a speech. As a result, the Commandant told me that I could no longer be the Senior Under Officer on parade as it would look like a fix. In 1979, when Peter and I were staying with the Queen Mother at Royal Lodge during the Rhodesia-Zimbabwe negotiations, we had a heated argument playing croquet. I tried to persuade him that Mugabe was going to win the election. Peter insisted, from the information that he had been given, that he was not, but showed no irritation at my being rather forward in my views. We both enjoyed the game and, as always, each other's company.

On 20th September 2009, the town of Nijmegen commemorated the 65th Anniversary of the Battle of Nijmegen with a parade attended by Queen Beatrix of the Netherlands, Prince Philip our Colonel, and Peter, who addressed the parade. In his speech, he recalled the battle, the courage of those who took part and the courage of the Dutch people, both during the battle and the harsh winter that followed. I had the privilege of accompanying him as his ADC and witnessed the warmth of the welcome given to him by both the locals and veterans he met. He responded with typical modesty and humour. I was and am proud to have been his Godson.

Major Sir Hew Hamilton-Dalrymple GCVO, JP

by Major Philip Wright OBE



Sir Hew Fleetwood Hamilton-Dalrymple, who has died aged 92 was born on 9th April 1926. One of his ancestors, John Dalrymple, was forced to resign as Secretary of State for Scotland in 1695 for his part in sanctioning the Massacre of Glencoe. He was the son of Sir Hew Clifford Hamilton-Dalrymple,

9th Battalion, of North Berwick and his wife Ann (nee Thorne). He was educated at Ampleforth and was commissioned into the Grenadier Guards aged 18 in 1944. He served in India during the 1947 partition as ADC to General Sir Frank Messervy, Commander in Chief of the Pakistan Army, and witnessed the ceremony in Pakistan that marked its independence.

Sir Hew was promoted to Captain and appointed Adjutant of 3rd Battalion during its tour in Tripoli and the Canal Zone in Egypt from 1951 to 1954. His influence and encouragement of young officers to develop successful careers is well remembered. In 1956 the Grenadier Guards celebrated its tercentenary with a major exhibition at St James's Palace. Nearly a year was needed to collect the exhibits and, thanks to Sir Hew's dynamic energy as Exhibition Secretary, it opened on time for a special view by the Queen and Prince Philip on 26th May before it opened to the public.

The following year he attended the Staff College at Camberley and was posted as Deputy Assistant Adjutant General at Headquarters 3rd Division from 1958 to 1960. After the death of his father in March 1959, Sir Hew inherited the baronetcy as the 10th Baronet. He was Regimental Adjutant from 1960 to 1962 when he retired from the Army as a Major.

Subsequently he served for ceremonial purposes as Adjutant, later President of the Council, and finally Captain General of the Royal Company of Archers. He held the office of Gold Stick for Scotland from 1996 to 2004 and the office of Justice of the Peace in 1987. He was Lord Lieutenant of East Lothian from 1987 to 2001 and was appointed GCVO in that year.

He was a landowner whose property included the Bass Rock bird sanctuary off East Lothian, which has been in his family since 1706. He worked hand-in-glove with wildlife conservationists to preserve the internationally important gannet colony on it. He was vice-chairman of Scottish and Newcastle Breweries from 1983 to 1986 and Chairman of Scottish American Investment

Company from 1985 to 1991. He and his wife were strong supporters of many North Berwick and East Lothian charities and community groups, notably North Berwick Royal National Lifeboat Institution and their local church, Our Lady Star of the Sea. They were well known and loved throughout the county.

He married Lady Anne-Louise Keppel, daughter of the 9th Earl of Albemarle, in 1954. The pair met on a mutual friend's doorstep in April 1954, when both had been invited as godparents to the same child. In under a month they were engaged and married on 25th September the same year. They celebrated their diamond wedding anniversary in 2014 and he was a much-loved husband, father, grandfather and great grandfather. Lady Anne-Louise predeceased him in January 2017, aged 84. He is survived by their four sons, Hew born in 1955, who succeeds in the title as the 11th baronet, John, Robert and their youngest son William the historian, travel writer and broadcaster.

Captain Charles Cox T.D

by Captain Jock Lloyd-Jones



Charles Cox died suddenly on 18th August, aged 70, after a long hard fight against throat cancer and breathing difficulties. He was an immensely kind man, an immaculate Grenadier and then a highly successful Professional Indemnity Insurance Broker in The City. Fiercely proud of his family,

of his time in the Regiment and with the Honourable Artillery Company, he will be enormously missed by his relations and wide circle of friends.

Charles was born in Wiltshire, where his father was a GP. He was sent to prep school at Beaudesert Park and then on to Marlborough where he excelled at athletics and rugby.

He was commissioned into the Regiment and posted to the 2nd Battalion, then stationed at Victoria Barracks, Windsor. As Senior Subaltern, he went out of his way to help the Battalion's new arrivals, lending appropriate bits of kit and often giving guidance on Ceremonial Duties and the pitfalls of life in a Public Duties Battalion.

Away from Windsor, Charles served in British Honduras (Belize) and Northern Ireland (Belfast), the latter being a gritty tour, with members of the battalion killed and wounded.

In 1971, he attended the Para Battle School Advanced Patrol Course, which included free fall jumps from a Dakota. What nobody knew was that in addition to his

Bergen, he was carrying a grapefruit-sized tumour in his neck. Later, during Spring Drills, his weakening voice rendered him unable to turn the squad about, with obvious consequences. Cancer was diagnosed and a life saving operation took place, but that was the end of life in the regular army.

Charles started in The City with Bowrings, before moving to Anthony K. Falcon, and then to Howden and then Lockton. He cut a dash in The City with his impeccable double breasted suits and his smooth Mercedes Benz V12. For 20 years he organised a Varsity Match client event which was hugely popular.

Charles found time to join the H.A.C (closely affiliated to the Grenadiers), where he became the Intelligence Officer, eventually earning him the coveted Territorial Decoration. His forensic attention to detail made him ideal for the task and the H.A.C Sabre Squadrons soon became experts at identifying Soviet armour of all shapes and sizes.

Charles was first married to Anna Bugle dissolved in 1982. He then married Fay London, widow of Nick London (Commanding Officer Designate of the H.A.C). He was a proud father to Oliver and Serena and stepfather to Peter.

In his spare time he pursued an interest in cars, frequently upgrading them for better models and attending the Goodwood Festival of Speed. He was also a Life Vice President and supporter of the Surrey and East Hampshire branch of the Grenadier Guards Association and was an instrumental co-founder and subsequent Treasurer of the Lloyd's Volunteer Forces Fund (LVFF), a charity set up after the Falklands to encourage young people to join the forces.

Charles fought his long illness with great dignity and courage. Preparing for his 15th operation (day 41 in hospital), he decided that he should present himself in good order for the surgeon. He wrote:

"My dear Jock, you will be amused to hear I have had a hospital hair cut, manicure and pedicure all done by a splendid Chinese girl named Ying. It's only the second time since the late 70's that I have not been to Trumper's, when in 2005 one was carried out at Reids Palace Hotel in Maderia. The best bit? Ying charged £40 for the lot. I think I'll be back! Yours ever, Charles."

Sadly it was not to be.

Notwithstanding his illness, he was never far from issuing a compliment or a kind word of encouragement to help someone on their way. Charles was admired and respected by many as the turn out for his thanksgiving service testified.

Captain Barry Double

by Lieutenant Colonel Henry Hanning



Barry Double died on 2nd February 2018 after several weeks of illness.

In 1960 the 19 year old Barry went along to the recruiting office in Ipswich in support of a friend and, encountering the renowned WO2 'Nutty' Slack, was promptly scooped up as a Grenadier as well. Due to his

mother's ill health he spent most of his youth in children's homes where he thrived on the routine and communal life and therefore the barrack room held few terrors for him. His quick intelligence and thoroughness were quickly spotted and he was soon on his way up the orderly room ladder, at speed. He served in the 1st and 2nd Battalions, at Horse Guards and in Regimental Headquarters where in due course he reached the top rung as Superintending Clerk. He counted Sharjah as his best posting and two visits to Belfast as the most difficult and demanding.

Exactly three years after becoming Superintending Clerk he was commissioned to become recruiting officer and General Secretary of the Grenadier Guards Association, continuing in the latter role as a retired officer while taking on the accounts as Regimental Treasurer.

He served as General Secretary for 22 years, in which time he made a profound mark, overhauling and streamlining the organisation and re-writing the rule book. Welfare was his special interest and his reputation led to an invitation to serve on the Grants Sub-Committee of the Army Benevolent Fund, the only serving regimental secretary to do so. His proudest achievements were to introduce a holiday scheme for the most aged members, and to organise battlefield tours on an almost continuous basis. Both activities became extremely successful and won him legions of friends.

It was my special pleasure to work with him on the *Grenadier Gazette*, which had been established only a few years before. As General Secretary, he took on the work of Assistant Editor, looking after all the Association material. This was no small job, much of it laborious and time-consuming, and some downright tedious. But, in his spirit of service, he never complained or cut corners. He suggested excellent ideas and took well-deserved pride in work really well done.

My periodic visits to his office were a delight. He always had a story to tell. It might be of that fine quartermaster George Hackett, whose impressive bearing on a battlefield tour caused him to be mistaken for a general, an impression George was in no hurry to correct. It might be his commuting journey into Liverpool Street, when on one

OBITUARIES

occasion two of his companions came to blows over the opening and shutting of a window and then, on arrival, went off happily arm in arm to seek medical attention. It might be him baiting me with the story (well known to him to be nonsense) of how, as Adjutant, I sometimes went in very early to work and insisted on a clerk being on duty to sharpen my pencils. Or he might have a complaint about some troublesome person. 'Silly ass' (pronounced with an r) he would say. It was about the fiercest expression he allowed himself, though loaded with meaning.

This master of fast and accurate paperwork had many other talents. As a young soldier he owned motor-cycles and sidecars. He was a long-distance runner. He became a highly proficient photographer. Over many years he not only constructed 160 beautifully made display cases but took on the responsibility for designing, mounting and researching the medal collections which are to be seen in Regimental Headquarters and will certainly be admired for years to come.

Barry and his wife Patricia were married for 56 years, raising two boys and also a grandson. In retirement they moved to Sudbury, Suffolk, to be near their younger son and family where he was able to continue his passion for gardening and woodworking. Patricia was a wonderful support to him and together they endured with patience and courage the serious and unpleasant medical misfortunes suffered by Barry over his last years.

Barry's youthful good looks, slim spare frame and modest demeanour concealed a man of great stature and quality, able, industrious and devoted to the regiment he served with such distinction for 42 years without a break. His talent for friendship will leave many proud to have known him and greatly saddened by his departure.

Mr Raymond Seale DL

by Captain H L Gray-Cheape JP DL



Mr Raymond (Ray) Seale, Vice President of the Worcester and Hereford Branch, has died aged 90. He was born in Malvern and after his family moved to Bromsgrove, he went to Watt Close School, becoming one of the first Army Cadets in 1941. In 1945 he volunteered for the Army, but being

underage had to wait five months before being enlisted into the Grenadier Guards.

Ray subsequently served with 4th and 2nd Battalion in Hamburg, Berlin and Wuppertal. Later he saw active service in Palestine and in Tripoli with Headquarters

1st Guards Brigade. He served on operations in Malaya with 3rd Battalion and completed his service as a Gold Sergeant with the Guards Training Battalion in 1953.

It was in that year that he joined the Worcester and Hereford Branch, aged 25, and dutifully served it for the next 65 years as Committee Member, Assistant Secretary, Secretary, Chairman and finally as a Vice President.

No one in the history of the Branch had a greater impact on it than he did, leading by example, inspiring everyone with his enthusiasm and devoting his life to the welfare of all members and widows. Band Concerts, Garden Parties, Dinners and special events were constantly being organised, together with Battlefield Tours for members and friends. He was instrumental in considerably increasing Branch Funds, all of which helped towards the welfare of his members. He wrote and published the book 'Grenadiers of Worcester and Hereford'.

After eight years in the Regiment, Ray joined the former Worcester Constabulary. In 1967 he was promoted to Inspector in the West Mercia Constabulary as deputy commandant of the Force Training School in Droitwich responsible for training cadets, newly promoted sergeants and the force operational firearms team. From 1979 he returned to police duties in Worcester as a patrol inspector and conducting daily police prosecutions in the city's magistrates courts. He was commended by the magistrates for an incident in which visiting football supporters wrecked a coach. After 26 years he completed his police service in 1979.

Ray was also deeply involved with St John Ambulance Association and the Brigade. He was for some years a centre secretary of the Association and Brigade Corps Superintendent (Training) at Coventry City St John's Brigade. He became the first senior instructor for the Casualties Union in the West Midlands and wrote many scripts for competitions. He was responsible for make-up and acting in the BBC series 'Your Life in their Hands'.

Ray was admitted to the Order of St John of Jerusalem in 1967 as a serving brother and in 2001 was commissioned as a Deputy Lord Lieutenant of Worcestershire.

Ray is survived by his wife of 67 years, Betty, their two daughters Jane Snewin and Elizabeth Elderfield, two grandsons, one granddaughter and one great granddaughter. Combining humour with ability he was a devoted and distinguished Grenadier who will be much missed by both his family and friends.



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

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Major J.P.W. Gatehouse (Director of Welfare)

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

Major H.R.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)

Mr J. Southern (Southern Area Representative)

Mr A. Reid (South Eastern Area Representative)

Mr R. Donaldson (Eastern Area Representative)

Position Vacant (Western Area Representative)

Mr M. Mayoh (Virtual Groups)

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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 dependents 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 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 prior to the advent of CAMUS.
 - (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 and members of the Regimental Band of the CAMUS era are known as Associate Members.
 - d. **Honorary Members.** Ladies (including Grenadier widows) 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 in line with the By-Laws for Branches, Section 2, paragraph 2.
13. The Executive Committee reserves the right to reconsider the membership accorded to all categories mentioned in paragraph 4 above.
14. Discharged men or Army Reservists with a character reference 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. 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.
16. The Executive Committee reserves to themselves the right to expel any member or exclude any applicant from membership.
17. 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.

SUBSCRIPTIONS, DONATIONS AND THE DAYS PAY SCHEME

- 18. Subscriptions.** Subscriptions into the Headquarters Fund are not payable by any member.
- 19.** At a local level and at the discretion of Branch Committees with the agreement of members, local rates for subscriptions may be set, collected and retained by Branches to support their general expenditure.
- 20. Donations.** All members shall be actively encouraged to donate an annual sum to the Association Headquarters Fund 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 Headquarters 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.
- 22. The Day's Pay Scheme.** This is a voluntary scheme whereby serving Officers and Soldiers can contribute monthly to Regimental Charitable Funds direct from their pay. All those eligible are encouraged to do so in order to help support the Association's welfare effort which is in turn supported financially by a monthly Regimental grant.

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 or on the Regimental Website www.grengds.com

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

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

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

25th Anniversary News from the Norfolk Dining Club

by *Ross Donaldson*

As it was our 25th Anniversary year we hoped to do something a bit special for 2018 but while the year came in quietly it certainly went out with a bang!

As reported in last year's piece the Club had intended to try a new format with the February and October meetings being held as Lunches, to make it easier for some members to attend. Due to unforeseen circumstances we also changed April to a Lunch. Whilst changing them did not result in any increase in attendance it was apparent that it had prevented a drop in numbers.

Unfortunately, one or two health issues have got in the way of some members attending, the most significant of which was that **Roy Ibson** had to be physically restrained from trying to drive from his home in Harpenden with his foot encased in a plaster cast! Unusually, common sense prevailed and we missed his cheerful optimism on a couple of occasions. That's dedication.

Young **Chris Harrison** (the derbytup.com!) who has moved to Derbyshire but has retained his house in Norfolk, was able to be with us on four occasions which was very good news. When he and **John Pearce** are together selling raffle tickets, the takings always go up a bit.

Not quite so young **Allan Phillips** deserves a mention as at the age of 94, he always takes an interest in the Club and wants to be with us but unfortunately this year has not been able to.

Our members from neighbouring Suffolk, Messrs. **Bartholomew, Waters, Nisbett** and the **Taylor** brothers attend frequently with **Bernie Taylor** having

achieved a 'full house' of all seven occasions this year. **Major Andy Green** was able to join us twice this year which was very good. In October we were pleased to welcome as our guest **Ray Brown BEM**, one time member of the Norfolk Constabulary and now Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer of the North America Branch based in London Ontario, Canada. He seemed impressed and went back to Canada with a few ideas. We thought travelling to Grenadier events in Norfolk was challenging? They have to fly to get near other Grenadiers!

Sadly there are several Grenadiers who are sent the details of events but who no longer reply and we appeal to them to get in touch to let us know if they are still about or if they have moved away.

The magician we had for the 2017 Christmas Evening failed to conjure up any new members but we had him back for the 2018 evening anyway and he provided a very entertaining time for us all.

We all still enjoy getting together for a good meal with convivial Grenadier company but the Honorary Secretary is beginning to feel the strain and it has been agreed that we will reduce the number of events to three Lunches/Dinners at our usual venue, the Stower Grange Hotel near Norwich, plus two 'pub' lunches which will probably be at the Thetford Golf Club as before.

However, while looking back and reminiscing is enjoyable, looking forward is now vital if we are to keep alive what we have developed here in Norfolk.

To that end we are seriously looking for younger Grenadiers who would prefer a less formal (if that's possible!) type of get together, probably at weekends, to enable those working during the week to attend. The first suggestion is to meet for an unhealthy 'Full English All Day' breakfast, followed by watching the Birthday Parade on a big-screen TV. 2019 is going to be



HRH The Colonel with the Norfolk Dining Club on the occasion of their 25th Anniversary.

our Grenadier Troop! **Terry Smith** our young Facebook wizard has this under his wing and already has a good number interested. The date is Saturday 8th June so please come along and supports this. It will also be a great opportunity for everyone to suggest any new ideas.

As I mentioned 2018 went fairly quietly but on December 17th we were very pleased to welcome His Royal Highness The Colonel, to mark the 25th Anniversary of the Club. Not only the Colonel but several new faces that we hope we will see again on a regular basis including **Major Hamish Hardy** who currently commands Nijmegen Company and **Captain Robbie Thompson** the Assistant Equerry to The Colonel. Both these gentlemen are 'Norfolk boys' who have somehow managed to keep themselves hidden in the Mid Norfolk farm land without us knowing. No Longer! **Matt Elmer**, the Regimental Casualty Officer came along and brought **Markus Strydom MC** (one of the newly founded Ellmer Coy). A couple of new 'Smiths' appeared, **Terry Smith's** relatives **Brian** and **Andy** with the Regimental Adjutant Major **James Gatehouse** bringing up the rear to round up any stragglers.

I am pleased to say everyone was on their nearly best behaviour and the evening was a great success. It was a huge honour for The Colonel to make time for us and hopefully enjoy the evening. He is reported to have commented that there should be more gatherings such as ours, which is praise indeed.

We look forward to 2019 with renewed optimism. There will be a slight change in the way we do things – maybe a slight change of image – and an increased presence via Social Media.

Significant dates planned for 2019 in Norfolk are:

Friday 12th April	Spring Lunch – Stower Grange
Tuesday 14th May	Pub Lunch
Friday 21st June	Summer Dinner – Stower Grange
Tuesday 5th November	Pub Lunch
Friday 6th December	Christmas & Ladies Evening – Stower Grange

The Pub Lunches will probably be held at Thetford Golf Club where we have a good venue, good food and a good price, *but if anyone has any suggestions for somewhere else, please let me know!* We also have some other ideas for getting together which we are working on:

- Saturday 8th June**
Big Breakfast and the Birthday Parade on a big screen
- 2nd/3rd November**
Bonfire Night and a BBQ

So Grenadiers everywhere, we will be very pleased to welcome you to Norfolk. Please don't hold back, Norfolk has wide open beaches, woodland walks, museums aplenty, excellent dining *and* a few Grenadiers! We hope to see you. Just call 01328 838469 or email norfolkclub@grenads.com.



The end of the Great War 100 years ago brought the award of additional new Battle Honours to be added to Regimental Colours and Regimental Drums. This photograph is of the master copy used by the artists of Potter's of Aldershot when painting the drums of 2nd Battalion Grenadier Guards with their ten Great War Battle Honours inscribed on them for the first time.

No 2 Company 1st Battalion Grenadier Guards Annual Reunion and 40th Anniversary 2018

by *Andy Richardson*

On Saturday 29th September over 100 Grenadiers and partners descended on the Quarrybank Pub, Manchester for their annual reunion, to mark the 40th anniversary of 1978/9 tour to Crossmaglen and to remember Gdsm Graham Duggan, Gdsm Kevin Johnson and Gdsm Glen Ling who were lost on 21 December 1978.

The event was attended by different generations of Grenadiers from the late 50s to the present day. A very good number from the XMG tour turned up including the Company Commander, Charles Woodrow. Some met again for the first time in almost 40 years but the banter and camaraderie with much hand shaking and back slapping was very evident. Many wore a special top, redesigned from the original company sweatshirt in remembrance of the three men who did not make it back.



From Left to Right: Derek Hartigan, Kim Langton, Rick Garmory and Luigi Petillo.

As the sun was setting and after some words of encouragement from Simon Dodd and I the XMG boys assembled on the bowling green for a company photo. This was followed by a speech from Rick Garmory and a toast to our lost comrades. Charles Woodrow then said a few words,



Charles Woodrow with his Company.



Vern Overton, Bob Cain and Andy Green, members of call sign 21B now.



21B then: Andy Green, Bob Cain, Terry O'Leary and Vern Overton about to be introduced to some judgemental shooting – they all know what happened!

recounted some thoughts and feelings from that time and it was clear how pleased he was to see so many familiar faces again. It was equally clear that we were all over the moon that he had been able to join us. We finished with the Last Post and a minutes silence.

The landlord of the Quarrybank put a Johnny Cash tribute act on for us, and when Johnny wasn't singing a Grenadier took over – gleaming!

The remainder of the night was spent drinking, pulling up sandbags and reminiscing. On the whole it was a truly fantastic occasion and from far and wide, thank you all for attending.

REGIMENTAL REMEMBRANCE DAY 2018



Clockwise from the top: Tea & Cake; the interment of Norman Mitchell's ashes; the H Div Corps of Drums; Vince Gaunt and Bernie Broad; Richard and Caroline Aubrey-Fletcher with the Senior Chaplain; 'Mush' Goddard; The Colonel.



REGIMENTAL REMEMBRANCE DAY 2018



Clockwise from the top: Tony McDermott and Gdsm Mortley (Nijm Coy); The 3rd Bn; The Colonel laying the wreath; The Colonel with Gdsm John Dawson and Matt Ellmer; The 1st Bn; The Colonel talking to Mrs Cheryl Telford and to Mandy Bainbridge.



The Association Battlefield Tour 2018 – A Diary

by *Chris Whitebrook*

Monday 24th September 2018

After some months of eager anticipation on the part of the tour party and many more months of planning by others, we assembled at Wellington Barracks on a pleasant Monday morning; a little earlier than had originally been planned to ensure that our departure would not clash with The Queen's Guard Mount. Needless to say, all those involved duly made their own arrangements to fit and arrived in plenty of time.

Morag, my wife, and I were met at the Guardroom by the smiling face of Sgt Broomes and his very helpful fatigue party of young Guardsmen from Nijmegen Company, ready and willing to guide us towards the Officers' Mess, our assembly point and to help with our luggage. Such a warm welcome was very much appreciated and the chance to meet other members of the party over a brew and a biscuit was equally so.

Soon after the coach arrived and had been loaded we were on our way. The plan was to pick up further passengers in Kent and our guide, Lieutenant Colonel Andrew Duff, late Royal Anglian who had travelled down with Colonel Aubrey-Fletcher. All again went without a hitch and after a quick snack we were on our way to the 'Chunnel' terminal for our crossing to France.

We were a mixed tour party from Branches of the Association, members of the First Guards Club, friends, relatives, and LCpl Simon Hicks from the Regimental Band.

After a smooth and uneventful journey we arrived at our base for the week, the Holiday Inn at Arras, checked

in and settled into our rooms. Prior to dinner at a local restaurant, Andrew Duff gave a general overview of the Great War and outlined the programme for the next four days. Major James Gatehouse took the opportunity of showing us his Great Uncle's medals from the War which included a Military Cross. It was the 100th anniversary of his death, a poignant start to the tour.

Tuesday 25th September 2018

A prompt start and we were off to look at elements of the Battle of the Somme. After Andrew's introduction during the journey we arrived at the Sunken Lane to learn a little of what had happened there and had the opportunity to visit the adjacent Beaumont-Hamel Commonwealth War Graves Commission Cemetery.

Following a short drive and another very informative microphone briefing from Andrew, (which were to become routine and always very enlightening) around this part of the Somme we arrived at the Guards' Cemetery at Les Bouefs. This village was captured from the Germans by the Guards Division and our visit coincided with the centenary of the final action following a ten day battle. Most of the Grenadier graves here are identified individually, and after a quiet prayer and some individual contemplation we gathered for an Act of Remembrance led by our Honorary Chaplain, Peter Hewlett-Smith. The sound of Last Post and Reveille played by Simon Hicks, cut through the stillness and a Regimental wreath was laid by Nicholas Champion.

We then moved to Thiepval to visit the great memorial that commemorates 72,338 British and South African servicemen who perished on the Somme before 20 March 1918 and who have no known grave. There are 568 Grenadiers listed on the roll of honour. There is a cemetery attached to the memorial with 300 British and 300 French Graves. Only 7 British Graves and 47 French Graves are named. Again following time for reflection, a Service of Remembrance was held. Other visitors were invited to join with us and afterwards expressed their gratitude for being allowed to honour their relatives in this way. The Regimental wreath was laid by David Webster.

After a busy morning we made the short journey to Auchonvillers where we enjoyed a fine buffet lunch. The village



The tour group at the Sunken Lane.



David Webster at Thiepval.



Tin Lids at the Wellington tunnels.



Our Group at Thiepval.

was renamed 'Ocean Villas' by British soldiers in 1915. Attached to the tea rooms is a comprehensive museum containing a wide variety of artefacts from both World Wars. In the grounds of this former farm there is part of an original 1st World War trench that has been restored by and is maintained by archaeological volunteers.

After lunch we returned to Arras to learn more about the battle for the city and how it had been so important throughout the War. Following another comprehensive briefing by Andrew we arrived at the Wellington Tunnels.

Donning our helmets and armed with our audio guides we descended some 20 metres into the tunnels that had been dug by British and Kiwi Engineers to link existing quarries and stretched for approximately 12 miles toward German positions. Effectively becoming an underground town there was electricity and running water installed, kitchens, dormitory areas, offices and briefing rooms, a hospital and even a light railway for moving stores.

To assist navigation the tunnels and gallery areas were named after towns in New Zealand and the UK and over 20,000 allied soldiers were housed there prior to the tunnels being opened just a few metres short of the German Front Line positions on the 9th April 1917. This surprise assault pushed the German lines back some six miles.

Following a short period of free time, a chance to change and freshen up it was off to another local restaurant for a fine meal and the opportunity to draw up sandbags and chat about what we had seen and heard during a long, busy, very interesting and most enjoyable day.

Wednesday 26th September 2018

Our first stop was at the Canadian Monument at Vimy Ridge. This imposing structure dominates the skyline and is visible for many miles, placed as it is atop the ridge. Whilst it commemorates all of the Canadian casualties throughout the First World War the ridge it stands upon was also the area of intense Allied fighting. The Guards Division was amongst many allied formations who fought in support of the Canadians who took the ridge from the Germans.

After spending some time at the memorial it was only a short walk across the ridge line to the Museum. Here we found many reminders of what had taken place in the Battle, and in the grounds it was sobering to inspect the well-preserved trench system with only yards separating the opposing lines, and the concrete machine gun housing at the side of the German trench. The entire area is pockmarked with shell and tunnel craters that remain so visible to this day.

A journey then into Belgium to visit the museum complex at Passchendaele, an introduction to the battles for Ypres and to enjoy a picnic lunch.

Tyne Cot Cemetery has almost 12,000 graves of which over 8,000 are of unknown soldiers. Inscribed on the Memorial walls are over 34,000 names of the British and New Zealand soldiers listed as missing after the battles for control of the area.

After a period visiting some of the graves a Service of Remembrance took place. Again, other visitors to the Cemetery were invited to participate and welcomed this opportunity of paying their respect to the fallen. Our wreath was laid below the Grenadier panels by Steve Vaughan and Simon Hicks played impeccably.

We then made our way into Ypres to visit St George's

Memorial Church. Every pew seat had an embroidered hassock depicting different units and personnel. Wall plaques commemorate units and individuals and dominating the Church is the stained-glass window depicting the Guards Division units involved in the Battle for Ypres.

A short period of free time allowed for exploration of the centre of Ypres, which has been so magnificently restored, and the chance to purchase those exquisite Belgian chocolates and other gifts before enjoying drinks and supper at a local restaurant.

It was then time to attend the Last Post ceremony at the Menin Gate. Application had been made for Simon Hicks to join with the Fire Brigade Buglers in sounding the calls. Regrettably this was not allowed. At the appointed time the crowds as always, were stilled and the silence for the calls was almost un-nerving. On this occasion our wreath was laid by Jessica Green, Paul Edwards and Anita Latham. The journey back to Arras was quiet and sombre; the end of a very comprehensive, tiring and thought provoking day.

Thursday 27th September 2018

Our morning was generally taken up visiting the sites of the different actions which took place during the Battle of Cambrai. The battlefield is vast and we criss-crossed the area; into villages, down side roads, stopping at crossroads, parking outside the church for a brief few minutes, all to get the picture of how things developed; how in such a melee of activity, shellfire, mud, fatigue and confusion had so much ground been taken and secured.

After negotiating a few more minor roads we stopped, seemingly in the middle of nowhere at the start line for the assault on Gauche Wood to our front and just up on a slight ridge. The casualty figures from the 2nd Battalion involved in the battle to capture the wood were heavy and amounted to some 160 killed, injured or missing. This battle involved the use of tanks and led to a close Regimental association with the 18th Bengal Lancers and is maintained by the Pakistani Regiment the 19th Lancers to this day.

A picnic lunch was taken at the Tank Museum at Cambrai. The sunshine and calm seemingly so different to that of a century before. It was interesting to see the artefacts in the museum, particularly those monstrous unwieldy tanks that are so different to those with which we are so familiar now.

Passing alongside the Canal du Nord we arrived at our final stopping point of the day. A few hundred yards up a slight incline we could see a cemetery. This was as close as Steve Fisher our coach driver could safely get us and it wasn't too great an effort to walk the rest of the way. What a sight it was on arrival though as we turned to see a Musician in Tunic and Bearskin and our Chaplain in flowing Cassock marching up the hill to join us.

Sanders Keep Cemetery is the last resting place of 31

Grenadiers who fell when the area of the cemetery was taken during the Battle for Cambrai. The major action at this site was carried out by the Scots Guards with the Grenadiers and Coldstream in support. Nearly all of the graves are for soldiers killed on the 27th September 1917, a century to the day before our visit.

A poppy cross was laid at each Grenadier grave, and it became apparent that some of these graves had been visited by family members that morning. There were other family groups present when we arrived, and they were invited to join with us in our Service of Remembrance. They welcomed the opportunity to do so and expressed their gratitude that we had made the effort on this day to honour their relatives amongst others.

In the full splendour of late afternoon sunshine, Last Post and Reveille were sounded by Simon Hicks during our formal Act of Remembrance led by Peter Hewlett-Smith. The Exhortation was read by Colonel Andrew Duncan who then laid the Regimental wreath during what was a most fitting and moving service.



Simon Hicks, Andrew Duncan and Peter Hewlett-Smith.



Simon Hicks with visiting family members.

That evening we enjoyed a more formal dinner in Arras. A pre-dinner drinks reception gave us all the time to reflect on what had been a truly fulfilling and poignant day. Colonel Richard Aubrey-Fletcher took the opportunity to say a few well-chosen words of thanks to us all for coming

on the tour and particularly to our guide Andrew and driver Steve; both were given small presentations to mark our gratitude for their superb service.

Friday 28th September 2018

Having departed the hotel for our journey towards the Channel we first made our way to the site of the 4th Battalion's heroic stand at Vieux Berquin. In support of the Irish Guards the Battalion had been reduced to two Officers, both wounded, and ninety per cent of the rank and file who had either been killed or wounded. This action, part of the Battle of Hazebrouck had denied the German advance towards the Channel Ports and was a major factor in their defeat in the area. We were then afforded the opportunity to visit the Indian Army Memorial at Neuve Chapelle. It is dedicated to almost 5,000 soldiers of the Indian Army whose bodies were never recovered. Approximately 150 yards along the road is the site of the Portuguese Military Cemetery where 1800 of their soldiers were laid to rest. A reminder of the extent of the nations involved throughout this War.

Our final stop was at Le Touret Military Cemetery, which has over 900 graves of Commonwealth soldiers killed in the first year of the Great War and records the names of 12,000 missing during that period. Graves

of Grenadiers were visited before Colonel Aubrey-Fletcher outlined the Battles in the area and Major James Gatehouse read excerpts from the official Regimental War Diaries.

Our arrival back at Wellington Barracks marked the end of our journey in a physical sense and thoughts turned to the routine of everyday life. A life that we are able to enjoy because of the sacrifice of so many that had been brought home to us all over five short days. Their memory will never fade from our thoughts and how honoured we all felt to have walked in their footsteps and to be given the chance to pay our collective and individual tributes to them all; We Will Remember Them.



James Gatehouse reading from the War Diaries.

Remembrance

by *Peter Hewlett-Smith*

I was privileged, as Honorary Chaplain to the Regiment, to be invited to accompany and participate in the Association Battlefield Tour following the exploits of the Regiment on the Western Front during the last two years of the Great War.

We were very fortunate to be led by Colonel Andrew Duff, a very experienced and knowledgeable battlefield guide. Andrew had researched the involvement of the Regiment at each of the battlefields we visited and provided detailed in-depth briefings at each location.

Standing on the actual battlefields, hearing how the battles developed and listening to the personal stories and experiences of those who were there, is an essential element of a battlefield tour. It brings into sharp focus the individual courage and self-sacrifice of those involved and the reality of combat.

During the tour we visited a number of Commonwealth War Grave Commission Cemeteries and Memorials where Grenadiers are either buried or commemorated and are remembered with gratitude for what they had done. Standing at the entrance to the cemeteries eyes are drawn to three things; to the rows of engraved white headstones the silent symbols of remembrance; to the Stone of Remembrance with its moving inscription 'Their name liveth for evermore' and finally to the great

Cross of Sacrifice overlooking the graves.

At each cemetery time was set aside for the opportunity to walk humbly amongst the graves for personal and thoughtful reflection. One could not fail to feel an overwhelming aura of peace and tranquillity – for we were on Holy ground. After a suitable interval and with a deep sense of gratitude we gathered at the Cross of Sacrifice for an Act of Remembrance. This simple service reflected the themes of Comradeship, Sacrifice and Remembrance. The sounding of Last Post and the silence that followed before Reveille was especially poignant as each us silently remembered what we had so recently heard and seen.



So long as we live
They too will live
For they are part of us
And we remember them.

Association Visit to the 1st Battalion 9 May 2018

by Lieutenant Colonel Robert Cartwright
LVO

45 Association members, including representatives from the London Branch, visited the 1st Battalion in Lille Barracks, Aldershot on 9 May. We arrived in time for coffee in the Officers' Mess and could not have been made more welcome with the available officers there to greet us. This was followed by an excellent and detailed briefing by the Senior Major. We learnt that the demanding role of the Very High Readiness Joint Task Force (VJTF) had ended and the focus of the Battalion was now on deployment to three operational theatres: Iraq, Afghanistan and South Sudan. The Battalion would be split between these three locations, with Battalion Headquarters and No 2 Company in Iraq, a Queen's Company Group would be under command of the Welsh Guards in Afghanistan and the Inkerman Company Group would deploy under the Royal Engineers to refugee camps as part of the United Nations Mission to South Sudan.

It was fascinating to hear of this varied deployment involving the Battalion between now and the end of the year. We also learnt that those going to Iraq and Afghanistan had been trained on the Foxhound. The Foxhound is at the cutting edge of protected patrol vehicle technology and provides unprecedented levels of blast protection for its size and weight. The vehicle was originally designed and built in Britain to protect against the threats faced by troops in Afghanistan. However, it is an agile and versatile vehicle that will be a mainstay in the Army for years to come. Being lighter and smaller than other protected vehicles, Foxhound brings a whole new capability to the Army and is ideal for soldiers operating in mentoring and partnering roles. Foxhound has a top speed of 70mph but can still protect against improvised explosive devices thanks to its v-shaped hull.

The briefing was followed by visits to a series of stands: Foxhound; weapons; the gym; and soldiers' accommodation. The Foxhound briefing was followed by a quick 'cabby' around the barracks: it is a far cry from the Snatch Landrover! On the weapons stand, the modern kit was impressive, from the Javelin 'fire and forget' anti-tank missile to the latest sniper rifle and associated Schmidt and Bender telescopic sight and hand held laser range finder. The somewhat unreliable SA80 rifle has been considerably upgraded and modified.

The Gym proved to be a triumph of initiative; a former hangar built to house the Light Gun in the days when Lille Barracks housed a Royal Horse Artillery Regiment has been converted into a well equipped and popular gymnasium. The living accommodation proved



Association members had a chance to look at the latest advancement in weaponry on their visit to Lille.

to have kept pace with the changing times in equal measure to the weaponry and vehicles. The guardsmen have individual rooms with a bathroom and lavatory en suite. There are also kitchens to every group of rooms where the guardsmen can cook if they want to. Clearly, this is very popular but the 'pay as you dine' dining room is still available for those who wish to use it. The Battalion routine includes an early finish on Fridays and a mid-morning start on Mondays, enabling those living far afield to travel home at weekends – something that will not be so easy when the Battalion reverts to public duties in 2019. As visitors we gained the impression of thoroughly modern and morale enhancing facilities for the guardsmen.

The visit was completed with lunch in the Sergeants' Mess hosted by the Drill Sergeant. It was a most enjoyable and interesting visit and we could not have been better looked after. We felt there was a tangible link between the young Grenadiers and those who had gone before them. Once a Grenadier.....

This charming oil painting of a Grenadier Colour Sergeant and his lady c.1830 comes from a 35mm Slide in the Regimental archive. The mystery is that we have no clue as to whom it belongs to nor do we have any provenance about it. Any suggestions would be most welcome.



Contact: assnco@grengds.com

Support Company Reunion May 2018

by Keith Smith

The first Support Company Reunion was held in Bristol on Saturday 26th May 2018 and could not have gone better. To kick start the reunion on Friday some support company members and their wives had a great BBQ meal at the Spitfire BBQ restaurant on the Bristol Harbour side.



The Spitfire BBQ.

On Saturday the main event was held at the Llandoger Trow in Kings Street. The gathering started at 1800hrs (or earlier for the diehards). We had our own private bar which helped immensely as it was a very busy night. For a first reunion there was an outstanding turnout, with some members even making it over from the Middle East to attend.

The reunion brought together the old and bold who in some cases had not seen each other for over 30 years. The event also attracted a good few officers who had served in



The Llandoger Trow.

Support Company at some time in their career. The post reunion comments were very positive, which suggested that everyone who made the effort to attend had a great night catching up and reminiscing.

Due to the success of the reunion there are already plans afoot for the next one, where we hope there will be an even bigger turnout. Details of the next reunion will be published via Jim Whites weekly email newsletter and for those on Facebook via the event page. We hope many more current and former Support Company members and other Grenadiers will come along for another great event.



It was lovely to see some of our wonderful ladies.

Lord Gort VC Centenary Arranged by Westminster Council. 5th October 2018



Above: The Lieutenant Colonel giving his address. Far Left: The Lieutenant Colonel; Chief of Staff London District; the Regimental Adjutant before the ceremony. Left: The President and Councillor Lady Robathan, Armed Forces Champion, Westminster Council.

The Reconnaissance Platoon Reunion 1st Battalion Grenadier Guards 1998 – 2018

by *Wayne Birks*

Whatever county, city, street or family you come from, one day you decide to leave it all behind and catch a train, on a one-way ticket to Brookwood Station.

You arrive not only carrying your one and only suitcase, but also with a 'sick to the stomach feeling'. You get shouted at by a monster of a man who is dressed immaculately, while attempting to march to the waiting buses, all at the same time, looking in awe at your surroundings.

Many months later, if you demonstrated the right attitude, character, sense of humour (and the list goes on...), you make it and join the Household Division. You march off the parade square, just as smart as the man at the station but sporting a bigger smile, it is then that your life changes forever.

As you all know, each Guardsman and Subaltern join their respective Battalion and it is here a different type of adventure begins, every twist, turn and decision you make leads you down a different path.

On returning from a two year Operational Tour in Ballykinler in 1998 the then Commanding Officer of the 1st Battalion, Lieutenant Colonel David Hutchison asked Captain William Smiley and the then CSgt 'Bones' Owen to establish a Recce Platoon on return to the Light Role, based in Pirbright.

After a brief selection cadre, the Reconnaissance Platoon was formed in April 1998. During the following two years, the platoon had many highs and lows – winning the Battalion competition in Pirbright, a jungle exercise in Jamaica, the tragic death of Gdsm Craig Lashley, winning the Battalion's first ever gold medal in the Cambrian Patrol, Exercise Trumpet Dance where the platoon put the Paras in their place in Fort Lewis, adventure training to the Rockies and more Operational Tours to Northern Ireland.

Platoon life was brilliant – this was a time before the conflicts in the Middle East and Op Banner was reducing in size. The Platoon were deployed on numerous exercises, which kept them in the field for weeks at a time adding to their readiness for a Spearhead role. It was also a time when the likes of 'Piggy' Johnson, Bernie Broad, Vern Overton and a number of other notable Grenadiers were knocking about.

20 years later and a Recce Platoon reunion was organised. Civilisation was abandoned and in some of the worst weather in Welsh history, 17 of the original 24 Platoon members took over a hostel in Wales on the edge

of the Brecon Beacons.

Of the 17, two travelled from Canada, two from California, one from Australia and one from Northern Ireland. Of the seven unable to make it, two were on operations (including the current Sergeant Major and the current MTO). Two were detached, one serving as a Major in the Royal Medical Corps and one as a senior Warrant Officer on SF duty. The remainder had professional or personal commitments and could not escape them. The high turnout is either evidence of the pull of the Regimental family or the power of Facebook!

As Storm Callum battered the town of Merthyr Tydfil, the platoon was five miles away, go-karting and attempting a spot of archery. (One individual was too scared to leave the hostel and decided, instead, to remain inside drinking tea and eating bacon butties – Lawny will remain anonymous to those outside the platoon!).

For some of us it had been at least 15 years since we last saw each other; however, it felt like we had just returned from a recent leave – the stories and banter began to flow immediately.



The assembled cohort now have a variety of professions, ranging from Detectives in a Canadian Police Service, Executive Management for a Global Security Firm, a Self-Employed Electrician, the head of a High Security Unit in a Melbourne Prison, a retiree whom spends his time mountain biking in the States, several specialised Police Officers in different forces throughout the UK, a safety supervisor for the Trident Submarine Program, Prison Officers, an instructor for the Territorial Army, a Security Assurance Consultant, while the Platoon Commander works for Goldman Sachs.

While half of the platoon left within a few years, two members went on to become Regimental Sergeant Majors of the 1st Battalion and a total of six have picked up LE Commissions and are currently still serving.

For most of the platoon, this period of our military careers was a highlight; with some saying it was the best time of their service to date. Today there remains a very tight bond between the group, based on strong mutual respect and irreverent humour. The reunion was humbling, but it was also a reminder to us all that there is a special bond within our Grenadier family – that no one understands unless you catch that train to Brookwood!

The Old Farts Golf Society

by *Reg Sargeant*

In 2018 the society held their annual event at Hellidon Lakes Golf Club, Daventry. The event was our 22nd and well supported by 40 players which included guests and past Grenadiers. Pictured are the past captain (2018) John Wall (left) handing over to Brian Forsyth (2019).

This year's winners included Keith Girling (The Dougie Blackford Trophy), John Wall (The Griff Trophy), Dave Evans (Best Guest) and Dave Cochrane (Best Overall).

Any Grenadier (past or present) wishing to join us

in 2019 (to be played at Reading) please contact Reg Sargeant or Brian Forsyth through our Facebook Page or through Regimental Headquarters, everyone would be made very welcome. In 2018 we presented £500.00 to John Farrell for the Holidays For Heroes charity.



The 2018 Golfers.

From Boy Soldier to Top Soldier

by *22955552 David C Pritty*

I joined the 3rd Battalion Grenadier Guards on 8th January 1955, at the Old Chelsea Barracks aged 16 years. Life as a Boy Soldier was tough; but I soon settled in. Sport played a big part – athletics and boxing.

My introduction to Public Duties was to be on the Troop that year as a Drummer Boy – carrying, not playing a B Flat Flute. I managed to carry out all Royal Guards as a Drummer Boy; including Bank Piquet – marching from Chelsea Barracks to the Bank (lantern in hand) and returning in the morning.

My first big parade as a Guardsman was the Tercentenary Parade in 1956. I attended a Corporals Course at Lydd Camp and shortly after the Suez Crisis

started. Reservists were called up and the 2nd Battalion which I had joined were posted. I was a few weeks too young to go on Active Service and was posted to Pirbright where I eventually joined the Battalion with a draft of reservists. I was promoted to LSgt soon after arrival and joined the Transport Platoon in the office, by this time we were in Cyprus serving a one year posting under canvas returning to Victoria Barracks, Windsor.

I carried out the Troop as a LSgt in the ranks of No 3 Guard. We were then posted to Hubblerath, West Germany for three super years, where I met **Hannelore** later to become my wife – giving me three fantastic children, who are now happily married Kim 56, Kevin 54 and Mark 50.

The Battalion returned to Caterham Barracks and Public Duties in late 1961 and in 1962 I was promoted to Sergeant, taking over 13 Platoon in the Inkerman Company.

Our next posting was to British Guiana for the Cuban

Crisis, this was a posting full of events – jungle training, the JFK incident and many more. I returned after 11 months to attend a Small Arms School Course at Hythe in January (very cold!). Then more Public Duties; as a family we were living at Streatham Hill in a hiring, I commuted to Caterham by bus.

My first move away from the Battalion was a short spell (8 months) recruiting at Worcester where I was promoted to CSgt (another family short move); returning to the 2nd Bn in Germany – taking over as CQMS No 3 Coy. This was 1966, a famous year for English football. We were on exercise in Sennelager when at 0600 hrs **Lieutenant Colonel Bowes-Lyon** announced “Exercise ends, we will all return to barracks to watch England win the Football World Cup on TV” (one in the Officers’ Mess, one in the Sgts’ Mess and one in the NAAFI).

In 1968 the Battalion returned to the New Chelsea Barracks and in April I was promoted to CSM No 1 Company just before my 30th Birthday. Public Duties as a Warrant Officer was a big challenge – St James’s Palace Guard, taking the Colour on Parade and acting as Drill Sergeant for Guard Mount at Wellington Barracks. Troop – Right Guide for the escort, Presentation of New Colours at Buckingham Palace; Hannelore and I were then presented to Her Majesty.



Presentation of New Colours.



Meeting Her Majesty The Queen.

Sailors Rest and Derry Jail. We returned to Caterham Barracks and soon after I was posted for the first time

away from the 2nd Battalion to AAC Arborfield REME; this was a short tour, promoted to ADSgt and joining the 1st Battalion back in Germany.

We travelled as a family by car, arriving on a Saturday to be informed our Married Quarter was not available for two weeks, which the family spent in **Dave Webster’s** caravan parked in front of his Married Quarter. I was Drill Sergeant I/W on the Tuesday for a week and then on Thursday I flew out to Northern Ireland on the Advance Party to work in Public Relations based at Riggle Tin Camp in the Creggan.

Again another tour not completed, I travelled back to Germany by air with the Commanding Officer on R&R who informed me that my name had been put forward for the position of RQMS at The Guards Depot, Pirbright – I accepted as this was a job I had always wanted. I was so lucky to serve with two fantastic Sgt Majors – **Alec Dumont** and **Ray Barnes**, they taught me a lot for my next promotion.

In May 1974 I was presented with my LSGC Medal by **Major General Bowes-Lyon**. My final promotion came in 1975 when I was made Sgt Major and took over the Infantry Junior Leaders Battalion at Shorncliffe Barracks – what a challenge and a



My LSGC Medal presentation in 1974.

rare achievement for a Boy Soldier who had never been a recruit at the Guards Depot, never attended a Drill Course at the All Arms Drill Wing – only a Corporals course many years before under **DSgt Whitbread**. Passing out parades, high numbers, a very large mixed Cap Badge Sgts’ Mess and involvement in all sports. My highest accolade was to be the MC for the final of the Army Juniors Boxing Championship against the Junior Guardsman – this was a night to remember.

Then came the big decision; to stay or not to stay after handing over at Shorncliffe. I had been summoned to RHQ and given a chance to extend my Colour Service and carry out The Troop as Sgt Major. My family and I had carried out 14 family moves over 16 years and we had bought a house in Farnborough, Hampshire thinking this was our final move. In the end we decided that I should end my Grenadier Career after 24 years and try ‘Civvy Street’.

The early 1980’s were tough. I secured a position as Depot Manager for Burtons Gold Medal Biscuits in Camberley. After a year I was offered promotion to Distribution Operations Manager, but it meant moving home once again, this time to Blackpool. I commuted

at weekends and eventually found a property fit for any Grenadier at 1 Bowes Lyon Place!

I enjoyed this career which lasted for 22 years and I was responsible for 12 locations in the UK and 650 staff.

I was the President of The Guards Club, Blackpool, for 21 years and have very happy memories of Dinner Dances with VIP Guests such as **Major Fred** and **Olive Clutton** and **Lieutenant Colonel David** and **Maureen Webster** who stayed with us at Bowes Lyon Place; two wonderful Grenadiers and fantastic friends. We were very happy and then **Hannelore** developed cancer and died in November 1997, this was the lowest point of my life.

I continued to work and thankfully re-found Doris whom I had worked with at Burtons Biscuits some years before. This was the rebirth of my life and we married in January 2000. I took early retirement in June the same year.

I have been retired now for 18 years and this has been my best Career; we have travelled extensively and bought a house in sunny Spain where we go four times a year.

I have recently celebrated my 80th Birthday, a fantastic occasion with all of the family including – 9 Grand Children and 8 Great Grand Children.



With Doris on my 80th Birthday. My Mess Dress was first worn during my military career in 1958 at a Summer Ball and finally at my Farewell at Shorncliffe in December 1977. It was made by Niffy Hill, Master Tailor 2nd Battalion and cost me £5.

Become a Mentor with Supporting Wounded Veterans

Supporting Wounded Veterans (SWV) was founded in 2011 (as Skiing with Heroes) and sought to provide rehabilitation, through the challenge of skiing, for wounded veterans. This start quickly expanded into trying to get those veterans who had been skiing back into full time employment via a programme of mentoring, a pain management programme (until recently run by King Edward VII Hospital in London) and through an Occupation/Training/Employment Programme. Currently 61% of SWV's veterans have returned to full time employment. Three Grenadiers have benefited from the SWV programme and have all given positive feedback.

SWV is seeking volunteers to become mentors to help wounded veterans on their journey through rehabilitation to full time employment.

This is an opportunity for those who have enjoyed good fortune in life to give something back to someone who has had less luck. This is an important role which is interesting, challenging and rewarding and one which might suit a former NCO, WO or Officer who is approaching semi-retirement after a steady career in civilian life and who has a desire to 'give something back'.

It is not unduly onerous, and the initial commitment is for one year with a weekly Skype call and 4 face to face

meetings each year, as well as writing a 'Contact Report' on each occasion.

Anyone who is interested should contact Grant Baker (on grantbaker@supportingwoundedveterans.com) or Rikki Jacout, the SWV Mentoring Project Leader, (on rikki@supportingwoundedveterans.com or on 01225 446308/07973 222666), thank you.





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Two of a Kind

by *Julie Champion,*
Secretary of the Liverpool Branch

This is the story of 2625427 Charles Yates and 2624998 George Norris who both joined the Regiment in 1944 when they were just 18 years old. After the war they joined the Liverpool Branch in 1948 and have remained members for 70 years; we are very proud of them.



George Norris.



Charles Yates.

They were both born in Liverpool in 1926 and attended Gurwin Street School and their first memory of each other was sitting on a bench together in school and George remembers being chased around the playground by Charles.

From school they both went to work in Blacklers, a department store in Liverpool city centre, George on the hat counter and Charles driving delivery trucks. As eager as they both were to start a career it was a difficult time, Charles explained that as much as they wanted to establish themselves in gainful employment, employers didn't feel the need to take on young men who would soon be called up.

During the early years of the war and as they were only teenagers, George decided rather than going to work down the Pit he would volunteer for the Grenadier Guards. Charles didn't know what he should do, he was eager at the thought of fighting for his country but he was a little too young to join up. He decided to become a milk man in order to improve his discipline (early starts) and his fitness ready for when the time came. They both remember the blitz of May 1941 in Liverpool; they were both 15 but had little idea of what lay in store.

In 1944 George was already a Grenadier and it was time for Charles to make his move. He saw a recruiting poster in Liverpool for the Grenadier Guards. There was a Sergeant Major standing by it, the Sergeant Major asked Charles what he wanted to do and what he wanted to be? Charles replied "I want to go into the best regiment there is". The Sergeant Major replied "leave it with me

son". Not long afterwards the letter arrived. His family were together at home and his mother said that it felt like the end of the world. His dad opened the letter and asked, "Charles do you know where you are going? Well you're going into The Grenadier Guards!"

Charles and George had a happy reunion in the 1st Battalion. Their basic training in Blenheim Block at Caterham was accelerated to send new drafts to the battalion. It was a matter of keeping up with casualties. They both landed in Ostend and found themselves en route to an unknown destination with very mixed feelings: they were just 18 years old, but they felt brave enough to ask their driver for any sound advice. The driver replied, "just stay out of The King's Company, they're falling like flies"

On arrival they were met by a Sergeant Major wearing a tin hat and full kit. He ordered them to line up and his first words were "Name"? - "Yates" ... "you're in The King's Company". "Name"? - "Norris" ... "you're in The King's Company".

George was ordered to carry the PIAT (Projector Infantry Anti-Tank) and after digging in they were told that Tiger tanks were coming their way. Charles knew George hadn't had enough training with the PIAT and thought he didn't stand a chance, until they spotted overhead Typhoon aircraft which came to their rescue and saved the day; they attacked the tanks and destroyed them. After this the battalion withdrew to a farm where George was put on sentry duty.

The Battalion never seemed to stop and they then headed to Cuxhaven past the Kiel Canal and on to Lübeck. It was here that the battalion came across the most horrific sight, the concentration camp at Sandbostel in Northern Germany.

Charles and George both recall that they arrived late one afternoon, fortunately by which time the Germans had retreated. They were told that there were 25,000 POW there and 8,000 political prisoners in a separate camp. They had by now been split up and were in different companies. They look back on this particular time and recall what they witnessed and how they felt as young soldiers; they describe it as the worst and most horrific experience of their lives.

They had not anticipated being involved in such horror and nothing could have prepared them for much of what they witnessed. LSgt Fred Clutton is a man that features strongly in their memories of this time and he was awarded the Military Medal for his contribution in what was to be the last major operation of the war for the 1st Battalion.

After Germany surrendered Charles and George were moved to Berlin. They took part in the Victory March with mixed emotions amid the devastation of the city but with enormous personal pride and in that of the 1st Battalion. So ended their war.

George returned to London and Public duties there

and at Windsor Castle. As Charles was younger and had joined a little later, he was sent to The Guards Armoured Division in Duisburg.

Charles and George joined up at 18 as young boys, they left the Army in 1946 as young men and began to live the rest of their lives quite separately. The next time they came across each other was when they joined the Liverpool Branch in 1948. The weekly meeting soon became a part of their lives as did meeting on the Kop at Anfield on a Saturday afternoon watching their beloved football team.

George went on to marry Mary in 1959 and had two lovely children, Claire and Geoff. Charles met Joyce and they married in 1948; this year they celebrated their 70th wedding anniversary.

Since 1948 Charles has attended every monthly meeting of the Liverpool Branch. He has attended every Annual Dinner, bought every Gazette and been on Battlefield tours with the Regiment. From the day they joined and for the last 70 years they have both been totally committed to their regiment and to their beloved Liverpool Branch.

So, I asked why, after all these years do you still show such loyalty and commitment? They glance at each other



Charles Yates and George Norris more recently.

and Charles humbly tells me “Well it’s quite simple really; it comes from the Guards Depot, the training and discipline, the standards they taught us – it stays with you for life and becomes like a family”. I think I now realise what it means when they say ‘Once a Grenadier, Always a Grenadier’

Charles and George are true Grenadiers. For 74 years of their lives they have been part of this wonderful Regiment and it is for men such as these and all our marvellous members that we strive to keep our Branch alive and look forward to celebrating our centenary in 2020.

We Should Remember Them

by Sean Bolan

I’ve always been fascinated by old photographs. It’s through them we are privileged to access a rare insight into our past. Regrettably many of the faces looking back at us across the decades are of people of whom we know little or nothing, as so often they are not identified. Such instances are frustrating as they make it virtually impossible to interpret their lives, much less to respectfully commemorate or even honour them.

During Lieutenant Colonel Conway Seymour’s tenure as Regimental Archivist I was fortunate to assist him in many of the queries that he had to deal with. Much of this work entailed the identification of photographs, a most absorbing and challenging process. Inevitably there were some that stubbornly defied recognition. In this short article I’d like to share a few significant examples.

Amongst the now digitised and interesting Regimental collection of photographs are some evocative views showing the 2nd Battalion assembled, and ultimately leaving Chelsea Barracks for the seat of war on the 12th August 1914. The photographs were mostly taken by Mrs Albert Broom, a commercial photographer who regularly photographed the Regiments of the Household Brigade. I have a personal interest in these images as, not only was my grandfather amongst the men assembled that day but also I was commissioned in 2014 to produce a painting of

the event for the Regimental Christmas card.

There are a few named portraits of officers amongst the collection and views showing Queen Alexandra, Prince Michael of Russia & Major General Sir Francis Lloyd amongst others, who came to see first the 3rd Battalion Coldstream Guards and then the 2nd Battalion Grenadier Guards depart.

As is often the case, more questions are posed than answers and the continuing mystery is a group



2nd Battalion officers on the Square at Chelsea Barracks prior to departure for the Front on 12th August 1914.

From Left to Right: Capt D.C.L Stephen (KIA 8.9.14), unknown, Lt R. Wolrige-Gordon, 2Lt G.F.C Harcourt Vernon, Lt R.W Welby (KIA 16.9.14) and Capt A.B.B.R. Gosselin (KIA 7.2.15).

photograph of officers on the Barrack Square who have never been identified as far as I am aware, despite being used many times in various publications. After lengthy research and careful analysis I discovered the names of the Officers shown, with the exception of one. I am fairly certain it's Captain E G H Powell of No 2 Company, but until positive proof is found I cannot be sure.

Two other photographs which relate to the 2nd Battalion at the time are of groups of Officers at Pirbright in 1913 & 1914. Again the faces have not been identified but I have succeeded in working out who most of them are. The significance of these images is plain as in all too many cases they are a final record as the mortality rate for Officers during the first few months of the war was disproportionately high.

This research ultimately leads me to question the provenance of the photograph on the right which has been used frequently in recent publications. It purports to show the 2nd Battalion leaving Le Havre in August 1914. Having done a good deal of research on the 2nd Battalion at this time, it's clear to me that the Officers leading are not identifiable as belonging to the 2nd Battalion and the men behind are tall enough to be The Kings Company. Therefore it's probably the 1st Battalion and two strong contenders for the Officers would be on the left Captain Lord R Wellesley (KIA 29.10.14) and on the right Major



H St Ledger Stucley (KIA 29.10.14). The Sergeant Major behind would therefore be RSM G.E. Parkin who later took a commission in the Royal Flying Corps. Whilst the location is difficult to prove it seems to me that 'if' it is the 1st Battalion then it's entirely possible to be in the New Forest as the Battalion assembled there prior to embarkation in September 1914.

I hope there is someone out there who can further shed light on the uncertainties that remain. We should remember them.



Officers of the 2nd Battalion, Pirbright Camp, Summer 1913.
 Back Row Left to Right: Lt F.W. Des Voeux (KIA. 14.9.14), Lt R.W. Welby (KIA 16.9.14), Capt the Hon W.A. Cecil MC (KIA 10.9.14), Capt A.K MacKenzie (KIA 16.9.14), 2Lt G.G.B. Nugent, possibly 2Lt G.C. Fitz H. Harcourt-Vernon, unknown and unknown.
 Middle Row Left to Right: 2Lt H.H. Prince Alexander of Battenberg, GCVO, Lt E.D. Ridley, 2Lt I. MacDougal (KIA 1.9.14), Possibly Capt E.G.H. Powell, unknown, unknown, Capt the Hon C.M.B. Ponsoby, MVO. (KIA 27.9.15), Capt Lord Henry Seymour, possibly 2Lt P.W. Legh, Capt & Quartermaster J.H Skidmore.
 Front Row (Seated) Left to Right: Major Lord B.C. Gordon-Lennox (KIA 13.11.14), Capt G.W. Duberly (KIA 14.3.15), Lieutenant Colonel N.A.L Corry DSO, Lt & Adjt R.E.K. Leatham, Capt the Hon. R. Lygon.
 Front (on ground) Left to Right: Lt R. Wolrige-Gordon, Possibly Lt H.B.F. Parnell, Lord Congleton (KIA 10.11.14), 2Lt A.K.S. Cunninghame (KIA 25.9.16).



Officers of the 2nd Battalion, Pirbright Camp, Summer 1914.
 Back Row Left to Right: Possibly 2Lt G.R Pickersgill-Cunliffe (KIA 14.9.14), unknown, Lt the Hon. J.N. Manners (KIA 1.9.14), 2Lt R.H.M. Vereker (KIA 25.8.14), Possibly Lt The Hon F.E. Needham.
 Middle Row Left to Right: Possibly Capt E.G.H Powell, Lt E.D. Ridley, Possibly 2Lt P.W. Legh, 2Lt G.G.B. Nugent, Capt A.K. MacKenzie (KIA 16.9.16), unknown, 2Lt G.E. Cecil (KIA 1.9.14), Lt. F.W. Des Voeux (KIA 14.9.14), Lt H.H. Prince Alexander of Battenberg, GCVO.
 Front Row (Seated) Left to Right: Capt D.C.L. Stephen (KIA 8.9.14), Major G.C. Hamilton, Lieutenant Colonel Lord Loch MVO, DSO, Lieutenant Colonel N.A.L Corry DSO, Capt & Adjt I. McDougall (KIA 1.9.14), Major Lord B.C. Gordon-Lennox (KIA 13.11.14), Capt The Hon E.M. Colston MVO.
 Front (on ground) Left to Right: Lt R. Wolrige-Gordon, 2Lt A.K.S. Cunninghame (KIA 25.9.16), unknown, (same officer as at extreme right in back row of previous photograph)

More Memories of the Cameroons

by former WO1 (RSM) L Jeffery

Regrettably I was unable to attend the Cameroon Reunion described by Lieutenant Colonel Heroys in last year's Gazette as I was abroad on holiday. However, it did stir quite a few memories of the past that a small group of us were to play in the future of the country.

I was the Assistant DSgt at the time, stationed in the Base Camp at Beau, when I was informed by the Sgt Major Alan Dobson, that I was to take a small group of NCOs under the command of Lieutenant Algy Cluff, to retrain approximately 150 ex-soldiers and policemen. Our remit was to form them into a quasi-military force that would assist in keeping law and order in the country on our departure.

Apart from Mr Cluff and I the group would consist of SSgt Thompson APTC, Sgts Newsome, Goodall, Smales, Shaw and O'Connor. LSgt Patey would be our cook with Mr Cluff's servant, my batman Gdsm Maddax and the 3-ton driver. Our base was to be at a location north of Bamenda called Jakiri which had been a veterinary station set in rolling hills and grasslands.

On arrival we were met by the Station Manager, a local man called Andrew who had trained at the university in Edinburgh and to our relief spoke impeccable English. He was to be our liaison officer and translator with the local population. We were to be housed in the large house which had previously been the station HQ, whilst Mr Cluff and his servant decamped to another house on the estate. The tented accommodation and cookhouse had previously been erected and we waited the arrival of our recruits duly accompanied by a Senior Police Officer who would act as the Company Commander and 4 Junior Officers as Platoon Commanders.

All these people had been selected based on their previous experience so their re-introduction into military procedures and discipline was no problem. Our remit was to refresh them in the basics of drill, weapon training, field craft and an introduction to peace keeping duties. We quickly formed them into 4 platoons, introduced them to the instructors and off we set. The first exercise was a run and walk to see if we had anyone who was unfit. There were none but the instructors were a bit 'puffed' on their return!

Life soon settled down into the humdrum routine that anyone who has served in a training unit will recall but the real pleasure was the enthusiasm that the recruits brought to their training.

In the meantime, it was felt that we should make contact with the local population to assure them of our good intentions. So, together with Andrew, Mr Cluff and I

set off to visit our local neighbours. The tribal chiefs were known as FONS and the first one was called the FON of BAFUT; a very tall man with westernised ideas and a generator to provide electricity to his tribal compound.

It had been made known to us that a generous welcome gift would be expected, better known amongst the ex-pats as 'dash'. The Fon was very understanding about what was to happen but also hinted that a pair of breeding beagles would be very acceptable to augment his existing pack. We also learnt that a book had been written about him and his dogs by one Gerald Durrell called *The Bafut Beagles*.

Our next visit was very different and reminiscent of a scene from a Hollywood African movie. Complete with Fez and an English style raincoat he possessed 100 wives all walking around naked with no body hair at all, in the belief that this made them unattractive to men. On hearing our purpose he quickly demanded a pair of Purdy shotguns which even made Algy blanch. I think that request ended up and remained in the pending tray!

The visit however was quickly brought to a close by the appearance of the tribal witch doctor. All the locals hastily threw themselves on the floor including Andrew who muttered 'don't move just sit still' which we did whilst this apparition berated the Fon of Banso. It would appear he had not been informed of our visit and demanded to know where his dash was.

Our other visits passed without excitement and to extend entente cordiale we played several of the villagers at football, always watched by big crowds. Meanwhile, our military life was progressing and would soon be complete, so as we always do in the Brigade we held a drill competition, judged by Oliver Lindsay who travelled up from Bamenda and presented a Grenadier plaque to the winning platoon.

From there it seemed quite natural and a fitting climax to have a Passing Out Parade which was held at Bamenda and attended by the Prime Minister. All went very well and the instructors and I were very pleased with the results. The Prime Minister met us all after the parade and thanked us for our efforts on behalf of his country.

We finally had to say goodbye to our charges, wishing them well for the future, and trusted that their eventual merger with the French Cameroon would be seamless and trouble free.

On our part we returned to the Battalion having really enjoyed our brief stay at Jakiri and with the feeling that we had achieved something worthwhile.



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 Grenadier Guards Charity [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**

BRANCH NOTES

AYLESBURY & DISTRICT

(Formed 1929)

President: Mr L JEFFREY

Vice Presidents: Major THE RT HON 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

On 29th April 2018 our Branch decided to hold a social get together at the Bell Hotel, Winslow, Buckinghamshire. Greeted with champagne at the entrance, we first held a short meeting. Our President **Laurie Jeffery** gave a speech and thanked our members for attending. Our Chairman **Don Dover** stood and proposed the loyal toasts which were then followed by an impressive lunch.

Don Dover arranged a casual get-together for members at an Ox Roast, once again at the Bell Hotel, Winslow. We enjoyed entertainment all day, tombola and various stands. The Branch covered the cost of what turned out to be a very enjoyable occasion. Our secretary **George Baker** was presented with a model London Routemaster Bus from members of the Branch as he served with London Transport for five years. 50% of the money raised was donated to the Air Ambulance & Masonic Charities.

Numbers attending Remembrance Day in Aylesbury continue to fall but **George Baker** attended once again and laid a wreath on behalf of the Branch.

Finally we record a note of thanks to the staff at Regimental Headquarters for their support throughout the year.



BATH

(Formed 1952)

President: Major GVA BAKER

Vice Presidents: Lieutenant Colonel SIR ANDREW FORD, KCVO; 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 BILLET

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 have been busy this year once again with our change agenda playing a big part in how we as a Branch have functioned. With our Headquarters at the Globe Public House, which has turned out to be a great venue with plenty of parking, a wide range of food, service, catering and excellent meeting facilities, it has suited our needs and will continue to do so at the request of our members for the foreseeable future.



The Globe Public House.

Our meeting routine is bi-monthly and Branch meetings are more informal, with the meeting being held on the second Wednesday of that particular month, meetings start at 1930hrs, however, we like to meet in the bar at 1900. As always we offer a warm welcome to all, and should you wish to join us then please do so. Further Branch meetings planned for 2019 will take place in May, July, September and November.

Our Branch is growing slowly and continues to march on in true Grenadier style, we take positivity from those Branch members who have become more active in promoting the Branch and to this end we would like to thank **Andy Billett, Andy Davy, Glenn Shattock** and **Paul Cooper** for their continued support in their respective roles. With their individual enthusiasm and contributions we as a Branch can only go from strength to strength through 2019 when we hope to be more active in what we do and continue to find ways of increasing our membership.

Our 2018 Spring Lunch was held in May with once again a good turnout from our members, guests, family and friends who enjoyed a lovely lunch on a glorious day laid on for us at Cumberwell Park Golf Club. The raffle was well supported and many people went away with a prize with the feedback being nothing but positive.

Sadly I have to report the passing of our President **Major Hubert Baillie**, who we are sure many of you will know as being a first rate Officer and gentleman. Major Baillie was a main pillar of strength for the Regiment and for our Branch. A team from our Branch went to his memorial service in September and we were overwhelmed with the turnout from across the country for such a fine man. As one of our Branch members said 'a truly great turnout for a great officer who meant so much to everyone'. He will be missed by the Branch, however his legacy will continue and as he would say every time we met 'Once A Grenadier Always A Grenadier'. Our thoughts are with Mrs Sarah Baillie and family.

Sadly we also have to report the passing of **22627859 Lesilie Hardwick** from Bath, Les as we knew him was a staunch supportive member of our Branch who again will be sadly missed by us all in the Branch but always be remembered. Our thoughts are with his wife Mrs Dorothy Hardwick and family.

We are delighted that **Major Grant Baker** has been appointed as our new President. He brings a wealth of experience and enthusiasm to the Branch and we are all looking forward to his leadership and support.

Branch members attended Regimental Remembrance Sunday at Coombe Down and the Branch Banner was on parade and **Nigel Till** who carried it was praised for his turnout. It was a marvelous parade not only by the Branch members who attended, but also by the several hundred other people who turned out to pay their respects.

2018 saw some of our younger members attend company reunions around the country and report that they had all been excellent.

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

Illness has played a part in the Branch this year with



From Left To Right, Vince Dunne, Andy Davy, Nigel Till with the Branch Banner, Keith Channel, Glenn Shattock & Paul Cooper.

some of our Members, in particular **Malcolm Jackson** and **Don Cowan's** wife **Jan**; we wish them both speedy recoveries. **Paul Cooper** is the Branch Welfare Officer and is available should you need him.

The 2018 Branch Christmas lunch was held at Cumberwell Park Golf Club, Bath. Our guest speaker was **Lieutenant Colonel Simon Soskin** and 98 members attended. A delightful four course lunch of various choices along with wines was enjoyed in a lovely setting which was dressed in regimental colours.

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 end this report without thanking the President, Committee, members and honorary members for their continued support of 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; Captain J BUXTON; Lieutenant Colonel MH SOMERVELL, MBE; AF LOCK, Esq

Chairman: Mr B WOMACK

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

Tel: 07891238866

Email: bristolbranch@grengds.com

Treasurer: Mr J ROGERS

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, May, August, October and December) A complimentary buffet is provided and Wives & Partners are most welcome to attend. AGM held mid-April.

Website: www.bristolgrenadiers.org

2019 heralds a huge milestone for us marking one hundred years since the Branch was formed. Prior to this there were a large number of Grenadiers in Bristol that were managed by a former Sergeant of the Regiment, a **Mr W E Turner** and they formed part of the Household Brigade Association. In 1919 **Mr Turner** was present at the Annual General Meeting of the Association in London where the hope was expressed by **Captain the Hon E.M. Colston** that a branch be started in Bristol.

The inaugural meeting was held on 21st June 1919 at the Royal Oak Hotel, Prince Street, Bristol. At that meeting various officials were elected; **Mr W Sussex** as Chairman, **Mr A H Spreckley** as Secretary and **Mr G Millard** as Treasurer, fourteen others present were elected as Committee members.

The first business of the meeting was sending a telegram to **Captain H.R.H. The Prince of Wales** tendering their loyal and respectful greetings. The first Annual General Meeting of the Bristol Branch was held in 1920 at the Crown and Dove, Bridewell Street, Bristol. It was at this meeting that other Branch Officials were elected: **Lieutenant Colonel The Hon. E.M. Colston CMG, DSO, MVO**, was the first President and remained so until his death in 1944; in 1924 he became **Lord Roundway** after the death of his Father. The Branch was very fortunate to have as their first President a member of a family which had been connected to Bristol for the previous 300 years and whose ancestor was Mayor of the City in the reign of Queen Elizabeth I. The preceding information is taken from a publication by another former President of the Bristol Branch **Lieutenant**

Colonel the Lord Wigram MC.

To celebrate this milestone we shall be holding a spectacular centenary dinner later in the year and we also plan to hold a celebratory lunch either on or near to 21st June. All members of the Grenadier family are more than welcome to come along and celebrate our centenary year with us.

The first date on the 2018 calendar for the Bristol Branch was our AGM held in April at the Port of Bristol social club in Shirehampton. It was here that our long serving Branch Treasurer **Tony Lock** stepped down from the role. **Tony** had been Treasurer for nearly ten years and had also served the Branch in other roles over many years, notably as Branch Secretary for six years. All involved with the Bristol Branch extend our grateful thanks to **Tony** for his years of loyal service and wish him well in his retirement. He will remain a Vice President of the Bristol Branch, a position bestowed upon him by the Branch President **Major General Sir Evelyn Webb-Carter KCVO OBE DL** some years ago.

We are delighted that **John Rogers** stepped up and volunteered to become Treasurer of the Branch and since being elected he has done a magnificent job in keeping us on the financial straight and narrow.

Shortly after the AGM we returned to the Port of Bristol Social Club for the annual St George's Cup skittles tournament against the local branches of the Coldstream and Welsh Guards Associations. Unfortunately our run of poor form continued and we finished in a dismal third place with **Brian Womack** once again winning the Cambridge Memorial Shield for attaining the highest Branch score and **Les Grey** winning the wooden spoon for the lowest.

The Welsh Guards were victorious and for the first time in the history of the competition the St George's Cup headed west over the Severn Bridge. As winners the Welsh will be hosting the 2019 tournament in Wales where we will look to our **Captain Roy Godwin** to bring the Cup back to England in Grenadier hands.

Sadly, numbers did not allow us to run a coach to Regimental Remembrance Day in May but we will be asking for the support of Branch members to run one this year. All members of the Bristol Branch are encouraged to make the journey in 2019 as it is the one time of the year that the Association comes together to remember fallen Grenadiers.



Les Grey winning the wooden spoon at the St George's Cup skittles tournament.

With their being no Grenadier Day in 2018 it was a relatively quiet summer for the Branch although about a dozen of our number headed north to Gloucestershire in August to attend the Gloucestershire Branch Garden Party which is hosted each year by their Vice President **Lieutenant Colonel J Peel TD DL**, they reported back to Bristol that they had a thoroughly enjoyable afternoon and extend their thanks to **Colonel Peel** and **Colin Knight** for making them so welcome.

At the beginning of October we held our annual Dinner the venue for which was once again the Holiday Inn in Filton. Numbers attending the Dinner were considerably lower than in recent years but a very enjoyable evening was had by those who did attend. The standard of service provided by the hotel was exemplary and we were once again entertained throughout the evening by a wind Quartet led by **Alan Shellard** from the Regimental Band.

The Branch President **Major General Sir Evelyn Webb-Carter KCVO, OBE, DL** gave his customary address and thanked all those present for attending and supporting the Branch. **General Sir Evelyn** then updated those present on the recent activities of the 1st Battalion and Nijmegen Company. **Chris Savage** then gave us a very amusing and informative address regarding his position as Messenger Sergeant Major of The Yeomen Warders of Her Majesty's Bodyguard. After the formality of the toasts and speeches **Bev Spriggs**, daughter of the late **Lance Cambridge** was asked to present the Cambridge Memorial Shield to **Brian Womack** for his highest individual score in the St George's Cup competition earlier in the year,

Unfortunately the wooden spoon could not be presented as **Les Grey** was unable to attend the Dinner. The evening concluded with the Branch Secretary conducting the prize draw and despite the low numbers



Brian Womack is presented with the Cambridge Memorial Shield by Bev Spriggs.

the evening was deemed a huge success and we hope to improve attendance for our 2019 Centenary Dinner.

Later in October twelve of our number once again headed north to the Gloucestershire Branch for their annual Presidents lunch. As always we were made most welcome and had a thoroughly enjoyable afternoon in their company, the highlight of which was the address given by the Gloucestershire Branch Vice President **The Lord Vesty KCVO, DL** who enthralled those present recounting humorous events during his tenure as Her Majesty's Master of The Horse.

As 2018 drew to a close our Vice Chairman **Peter Finch** announced that he and his good lady Janet had decided to 'up sticks' and move to Worcestershire and that he would be stepping down from his position. **Peter** has done a sterling job as Vice Chairman of the Branch and we bid him and **Janet** a very fond farewell and wish them every happiness in their new home. **Brian Womack** gallantly stepped up and will be acting as Vice Chairman until the Branch AGM in April where he will make himself available for election by the Branch Committee.

It is with great sadness that in the past year we have reported the loss of **21000096 R Baldry** (formerly The Blues & Royals); **24125386 P Reece**; **23509202 T Dray** and **22602857 M Chapman**.



The Bristol Branch Annual Dinner 2018.

CAMBRIDGE

(Formed 1932)

President: Capt CNR BROWN.

Vice Presidents: Mr W GIBBS; Mr M DRAPER

Chairman: Mr T FOREMAN

Secretary: MR A FRETWELL, 50 Dunstan Street, Ely, Cambs, CB6 3AQ

Tel: (01353) 610960

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.

CHESTERFIELD

(Formed 1952)

President: VACANT

Vice Presidents: Mr M CARNALL; Mr D LEECH; 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.

2018 has been a quiet year for the Cambridge Branch. We have though enjoyed some Sunday lunchtime get-togethers at Bourne Golf Club, Toft situated just outside Cambridge.

We held our annual lunch at the Arundel Hotel in Cambridge itself where we were able to book a room for our sole use which was ideal for our purposes. We enjoyed a great speech from our President **Captain Nigel Brown** and a nervous one from our new Secretary **Andy Fretwell** who has replaced **Mick Draper**. Mick did the job for so long and so well and we record our very grateful thanks to him. A daunting role to take over but Andy has received a great deal of support from our President, the rest of the committee, **Mick Draper**, his ever-patient wife **Margaret** and the members themselves.

In an attempt to increase our membership steps have been taken to contact every Grenadier on the current membership list, sadly with disappointing results. We will endeavour to try to attract new members but for the moment concentrate our efforts on our current core of very loyal and supportive ones; they are a very good bunch.

All this said we are looking to 2019 with optimism and will continue to meet up for lunches. We would like to send all members of all Branches our best regards.



It is with regret that we have to report the death of **2626625 Charles Limb**. Charles, who was our oldest member and a past chairman of the Branch, had been ill for some years but he still maintained regular contact with us. His funeral was attended by members **David Leech** and **Michael Garrett**.

Sadly we also have to report the death of **Jean Metcalfe** the wife of our former chairman **John**. Both Jean and John have supported us over many years and she will be sorely missed in the future; our deepest sympathy to John and his family. We have been informed, by his wife that **Dennis Thompson** has been admitted to hospital and we wish him a speedy recovery. The wife of our Chairman, **Rachel Leech** has not been enjoying the best of health this year. We send our best wishes to Rachel for a swift return to better health.

Michael and **Maureen Garrett**, despite the inevitable advance of time continue to support us whenever they are able. Michael was recently promoted to the position of Branch Vice-President and in this capacity attended the annual parade organised by the Mayor of Chesterfield. **Michael Carnall**, though not present for the whole of the year continues to attend meetings whenever he is in the country.

We are now unable to participate in all Regimental functions as we once were. However, **Michael Garrett** and **Michael Carnall** were able to attend Regimental Remembrance Day and from their account the event was very well supported and it was good to see our new Colonel taking the salute.

It remains, at the time of writing to see if we are able to attend local remembrance parades. Those who made the final sacrifice will however, be remembered by us all in spirit if not in person.

We look forward to 2019 in the hope that we shall be able to continue as a viable Branch. We are still followed by a number of members who are unable, due to ill health to attend meetings but still keep in touch with us on a regular basis. In addition we also communicate with

widows of former members when possible.

It remains for us to thank **Major Green** and **Sgt Rob Broomes** for their much valued help and patience. Our thanks also to **David Leech**, **Michael Garrett**, **Michael Carnall** and **David Brignull** for their support and attendance.

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 quarterly on the third Wednesday of January, April, July and October at The Alexandra Hotel, 203, Siddals Road, Derby, DE1 2QE starting at 1900hrs

The Branch decided to reduce meetings to four times a year which are now held in January, April, July and October and have attended various parades in the latter part of 2018. On the 8th September the Branch Chairman and Banner Bearer **Geoff Gadsby**, Treasurer **Helen Sutton** and Secretary **Ian Sutton** went to the National Memorial Arboretum for the annual Northern Ireland Parade. The weather was not very kind but what's a little drizzle among friends. The next parade in August 2019 will be the 50th anniversary of deployment to Northern Ireland known as Operation Banner. There will be a parade at Wallace Park, Lisburn, Northern Ireland on 17th August 2019 that we hope to attend.



After the Northern Ireland Parade the Branch Secretary **Ian Sutton** and Branch Chairman and Banner Bearer **Geoff Gadsby**.

The village of Melbourne has a close connection with the Regiment. A past Derby Branch President until his passing in 2003 was **Captain W M Ogilvie**. Captain Ogilvie served with the Scots Guards and S.A.S. during World War 2. His memorial service was held at St Michael with St Mary's Church in Melbourne. The town was also the home of **Gdsm Danny Blinco** who lost his life in 1993 whilst serving in Northern Ireland. A bench dedicated to Danny's memory has been placed at the side of Melbourne Pool.

Melbourne village has been very active in this centenary year to remember all Grenadiers who lost their lives during World War I. In 2017 the Melbourne Knitters, knitted 89 poppies as a tribute to the 89 Grenadiers from the village that lost their lives. This year they knitted 4,680 poppies to commemorate each of the 4,680 Grenadiers who lost their lives during the war. The project was inspired by **Frank Green** a Grenadier who served in the Second World War. Residing at Pool Cottage Care Home in Melbourne, Frank suggested that it would be nice for the 100 year commemoration if the village could knit a poppy for all the Grenadiers who



4,680 Knitted Poppies.



Melbourne knitters; **Cathy Read**, **Melanie Solecki**, **Maggie Dobby**, **Wendy Nuttall**, **Teresa Ayre** and **Caroline Wilmoth** by **Sharon Brown** in front of visiting Grenadiers.

died during the First World War. This mammoth task was readily agreed to and completed for the Melbourne Festival held on Sunday 16th September 2018. Sadly, Frank passed away before he could witness the tribute.

Fittingly the Poppies were displayed next to Gdsm Blinco's bench alongside Melbourne Pool within sight of Pool Cottage. Several of the knitters, Association members and the Derby Banner attended a small parade on the day. This tribute by the Melbourne Knitters has received a big vote of thanks from our Branch.



The bench dedicated to the memory of Danny Blinco.



We will remember them.



EAST KENT

(Formed 1948)

President: Major D BRADLEY, BEM, DL

Vice Presidents: Lieutenant Colonel RM DORNEY, MBE, MStJ; Capt A CLUFF, OBE, DL; RC GOODSON, Esq

Chairman: Major D BRADLEY, BEM, DL

Secretary: Mr RC GOODSON, Esq

Tel: 01303 263958

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

Facebook: EKBGGA

Since our last report we have sadly bade farewell to 22712094 Donald (Don) Richard Harrington, 22545865 Martin Kilduff, 22157771 Ronald (Ron) Harris Goldstein, 14865901 Peter Palmer and 2627498 Harry Cyril West.

Our reporting year starts in November 2017 when, on the 4th eleven people from the Branch attended a Sevenoaks band concert that featured the Band of the Grenadier Guards and the Eynsford Concert Band, a European championship winner. 'A fantastic evening' was the report we received back.

On November 12th the Branch formed part of the military element of the Hythe Armistice Day parade at the Hythe War Memorial. Trevor Jones MBE carried the Branch banner.

We held our 2017 Christmas Function at the Hythe Sports and Social Club on Saturday 9th December and had a good attendance. A raffle helped increase holdings in the Branch account. Feedback was that an excellent night was had by all that attended.

Our Annual General Meeting date was changed from its customary March slot. Instead, we held it in April to coincide with the MT Reunion that was organised by Brian Buckland and which for 2018 was held in Hythe. This change of date allowed an opportunity for some of those attending the Reunion to also attend our meeting and Sunday luncheon if they wished to.

At the AGM, Trevor Jones MBE was appointed to the position of Hon. Secretary. However, as Trevor had injured his left leg late in 2017 he was unable to travel to meetings during a recovery period. Consequently, Bob Goodson, the outgoing Hon. Secretary stepped in as temporary Assistant Secretary to cover Trevor's recovery period. At the time of writing this report (October 2018) Trevor was still in recovery and Bob was still in the Assistant role.

July saw the return of Hythe Festival Week and the Branch was invited to participate in two parades; the

Hythe Festival Grand Parade and Hythe Armed Forces Day Parade. **Brian Buckland** carried the Branch Banner at both events. We had several members that were involved with other aspects of the parades or who are now unable to march, resulting in a small marching party. However, we were in very good spirits.



Banner and Standard Bearers.



Brain Buckland and Bob Goodson.

This year was the 70th anniversary of the formation of our Branch, so a very special event that was worth celebrating in style. Our Annual Dinner was held on Saturday 8th September 2018 and, once again, we held the dinner at the lovely Royal Temple Yacht Club, Ramsgate. We were looked after magnificently by the staff.

Pre-dinner entertainment was provided by a quartet from the Band of the Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment, a saxophonist (**Shaun James**) provided background music throughout dinner and **Miss Holiday Swing**, a 30s/40s singer, provided us with more excellent entertainment until the end of the evening. It was very pleasing that **Sgt Rob Broomes**, the Association SNCO was able to attend the celebrations, as were Medway Branch members **Mo Robinson BEM** and his wife, **Jen**, and **Des Flynn** and his wife, **Karen**. We hope you all had an excellent evening and enjoyed it as much as we did.

A Drumhead Service was held at the Spitfire Ground, Canterbury on Saturday 23rd September 2018 and Branch members were invited to attend. The morning weather was awful, with very heavy rain. This resulted in a soaking wet cricket ground and, for health and safety reasons, veterans were told they were consequently not able to march in the parade. **Chris McNeilly (COLDM GDS)** had volunteered to carry our Branch banner and paraded with standard bearers from the Royal British Legion and other associations, but had to do so to one side of the ground due to the waterlogged conditions.

We had Branch representation on the RHQ organised Battlefield Tour that was held in late September 2018. Our Branch attendees were **Bob** and **Sue Goodson** who reported that they had a terrific time. They reported that the guide was excellent and that a great deal of information was provided during the full programme of activities and excursions.



Medway and East Kent Branch diners.



Sgt Rob Broomes and fellow diners.

Throughout the reporting year, attendance at meetings has been constant, although we are having to regularly add more members to the permanent apologies list as travelling is becoming more difficult for some as they grow older, or stop driving. Sunday luncheons that occur after our Branch meetings at the Hythe Sports and Social Club, continue to draw a good number of diners and our thanks are extended to **Joe Moran** (COLDM GDS) for organising these events.

The Branch committee would like to conclude this report by thanking all our loyal members, their ladies and our many friends of the Branch who continue to support to us and our activities.

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: 07730075126

Email: essexbranch@grengeids.com

Treasurer: Mr M LAND

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

Our committee would like to report that the Essex Branch has had another excellent year and is in very good shape. We have added another function, three new members have joined and we finished the year on a high with the Association President, **Colonel Richard Aubrey-Fletcher** as the guest of honour at our Christmas lunch.

We would like to record a warm welcome to our new members; **23252883 Barrie Cardno**, 2nd Battalion 1957-72, **22955975 Derrick Waterson**, 1st and 3rd Battalion 1955-61 and **24048607 Malcom Peaty** 2nd

Battalion 1965-71. We started our year with our annual spring lunch, held at Prested Hall. In April, we held our Branch AGM at the Secret Garden, Chelmsford. Both were very well attended as usual.

On 22nd March, our Chairman **Chris Willis** and the Secretary were privileged to be invited to attend Windsor Castle to witness the handover from HRH The Duke of Edinburgh to HRH The Duke of York as Colonel of the Regiment. The parade was held in the Great Hall and was part of a very special day indeed.

We held our annual summer garden party in July. The weather was perfect, the venue was decked out in both regimental bunting and summer decorations. The venue put on a splendid spread of food which was greatly enjoyed by the many members and friends that turned up for this special social event.

In October we held an informal afternoon get-together in Southend. Many thanks to the Park Hotel for their hospitality as a small group enjoyed the late summer afternoon sun.

December saw the Branch's annual Christmas lunch, held at Prested Hall. We were honoured to receive as our guest of honour, the Association President **Colonel Richard Aubrey-Fletcher**. Messages in response to loyal greetings from HM The Queen and HRH The Duke of York were read by our President. After an excellent four course lunch, a full dining room heard Colonel Richard give a humorous and at times a serious account of the Regiment whilst they have been away on Operations this year. He also spoke passionately about the work of the Association and that of the Regimental Casualty Officer, **Mr Matt Elmer**. At the end of the lunch he stayed and talked to all. A very successful raffle was held with ten Christmas themed baskets up for grabs. A great end to our Year.

Sadly, this year we said farewell to three of our members who passed away. In February we bid farewell to **2620936 Ron Sanders**, 1940-46 Guards Armoured Division. In April, a service of thanksgiving was held for **Captain Barry Double** in Sudbury; a private family burial had taken place several weeks before. A packed church full of friends, family, Association members from both Suffolk and Essex and from RHQ, heard **Major Green** talk about the many years Barry spent with the Regiment and the further sterling work he carried out for the Association when he retired from the Regiment in 1985. He was truly a remarkable Grenadier. In October we said farewell to **22955972 Alan Orchard**, 1st Battalion 1955-58.

Our thanks go to Kim from the Witham Branch of the Royal British Legion and David from SSAFA Essex for their invaluable help this year on several welfare matters. It was much appreciated by all those concerned.

We would like to conclude this report by saying thank you to all members of the Branch for their support and to **Major Green**, **Sgt Broomes** and all the team at RHQ for their assistance and the sterling work they do for the Association.

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; Captain 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 reporting year has been, once more a busy and active one for our Branch.

Unfortunately since the last report we have lost **Norman Mitchell** who was our member In-Pensioner at The Royal Hospital, Chelsea, **George Rimell**, **Raymond Gibbons**, our only long time RAF Honorary Member **Stan Jones** and **Tom Budd** (COLDM GDS) who had been a Branch member for more than 50 years. So popular was the late **Norman Mitchell** that the Branch ran a coach for members to attend his funeral which was held in the Wren Chapel at the Royal Hospital. On Regimental Remembrance Day members from the Branch attended the interment of Norman's ashes in the Rose Garden at the Guards Chapel.

The Nominal Roll holds well at 244 with several new additions and we are indeed very fortunate to have an excellent assortment of Associate and Honorary members who along with our widows support the Branch well.

At our September 2017 meeting **Wayne Jacobi** gave a presentation on his current employment with the Warwickshire and West Mercia Constabulary in the Police and Professional Standards Department. At the previous meeting **Mark Evans** (WELSH GDS), now a serving member in the Gloucestershire Constabulary also gave a very interesting presentation on current policing in the county. At the May meeting a presentation was given by **Peter Kilbey** on his service in the Police

Firearms Department.

The Branch can pride itself for yet another year with regard to welfare. Despite being without an appointed Welfare Officer, members, when asked have rallied round and undertaken many visits. We have several members unfortunately residing in Care Homes and all those known to us have been visited.

We received an allocation of tickets for the 2017 Muster at the Service of Remembrance at Cheltenham Town Hall. Our Branch Banner was paraded by **Andy Dilks**.

Christmas Gifts were personally given to 20 of the more senior or infirm members to include some of those, who for whatever reason, have not enjoyed good times of late.

Thanks must go to our Social Secretary **Peter Jones** for being the Promoter of our Christmas Lottery. Every year fingers are crossed that sales might not fall and it is pleasing to report that together with the Fifty Club, which holds four draws each year, sales and proceeds have held well, in fact slightly increased. Peter is very determined in this field as Social Secretary and is good at putting pen to paper.

The attendance at the Branch Christmas Social, a little down on previous years, concluded the calendar for 2017. A hot two course Branch subsidised meal was served.

March 2018 saw our Annual General Meeting at which all officers retained their posts. Members were informed that their Branch was in good form in the areas of finance, activities and interest shown. In the same month a large party attended at a local Gurkha restaurant for a taste of Nepalese food. Thank you **Graham Barton** one of our Honorary Members for arranging this

May saw members meet at Hopewell Colliery in the Forest of Dean. The colliery is in fact a Drift Mine and after taking tea and coffee it was donning of hard hats for a very interesting and informative underground tour with the only lighting from the lights on our individual helmets. The tour was followed by an excellent lunch in their canteen where superb value for money fayre was served. **Derek Knott** is to be thanked for making these arrangements.

Next on the calendar was Regimental Remembrance Day and numbers were up from previous years. On both the outwards and return journeys we stopped, as is now our custom at the Grenadier Club, Windsor where on our return everyone was well looked after with a Fish & Chip Supper. Thanks to the Windsor team especially Secretary **Bob Gilbert** and his wife **Sue**, who together ensure that everyone is always made most welcome.

The Annual Branch Garden Party at the home of **Colonel John Peel** was held on what turned out to be an exceptionally hot sunny day. The highest turnout was achieved for many years and resulted in a lot of satisfied customers. A first-class barbecue was enjoyed with a special thank you reserved for **Ivor Jones** and **Derek Dean** who for the umpteenth year showed off their culinary skills over the hot coals. Thanks must also go to

all the helpers who assisted on the day, it really was very much appreciated.

In late September the Branch was fortunate to receive an invitation for a complimentary visit to Highgrove House to view the gardens. The full complement of places was taken and our thanks go to **John Aylmer** who is on the volunteer staff at Highgrove for making the arrangements. On conclusion lunch was taken at the nearby Cat & Custard Pub owned by a Branch member, **Major Richard Boggis-Rolfe** (COLDM GDS). Early in October and again thanks to **Derek Knott**, a party went for an organised walk through an area of the Forest of Dean, once again they were very fortunate with the weather.

Six days later Branch members attended Didbrook Village Church for a service to commemorate the death on 9th October 1918 of **William Edgar Holmes** VC. The Branch Banner was paraded by **Andrew Dilks** and the Regimental Adjutant **Major J P W Gatehouse** was in attendance to read the Citation. Three Musicians from the Regimental Band were also on parade to sound Last Post and Reveille and to play The Grenadiers March.



The plaque commemorating **William Holmes VC**.



The Regimental Adjutant arriving for the service.

Also with us was **Regimental Sergeant Major Mark Cox** then RSM ARRC Support Battalion who read a suitable poem during the church service. He was a little surprised to see our Banner Bearer **Andrew Dilks** as they had previously served together, we are sure that he was keeping a beady on him! Branch members present included our President **Colonel Lance Ranson**, Honorary Secretary **Colin Knight**, Chairman **David Errington**, Treasurer **Elaine Knight**, committee members **Nigel Simms** and **Ivor Jones**. It was pleasing



Regimental Musicians playing The Grenadiers March.

to see two of our Honorary Members on parade namely **Peter Kilbey** and **Graham Barton**.

Mid October saw the Branch Annual Formal Luncheon at the Hatherley Manor Hotel where 100 guests sat down to dine. **John Southern** had set out a lone table to remember fallen soldiers from World War One reading out a prepared script describing every item on the table that was placed in for respect for the fallen; he concluded with the exultation. Our secretary **Colin Knight** laid a cross adorned with poppies against the table. The ceremony concluded with **Terry Hale** saying grace.

We were very fortunate to have sat at the top table our President **Colonel Lance Ranson**, accompanied by Vice Presidents **Lord Vestey** (SCOTS GDS), **Lieutenant General Sir John Kiszely** (SCOTS GDS), **Major General Peter Williams** (COLDM GDS), **Colonel John Peel**, **Captain James Pugh**, **Charles Malet Esq** (COLDM GDS) and a further Vice President **Nigel Simms** sat with his guests.

Birthday Cards continue to be sent to every member for whom a date of birth is recorded. The scheme, now in its tenth year is well received by the membership and is now run by **Peter Jones** with his wife **Pamela**.

The entire committee is always ready to help when asked. It is the teamwork, enthusiasm and variety of ideas, together with an open mind that maintains our camaraderie. They are indeed the backbone of this successful Branch. **Malcolm Waters** the former Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer of the Gloucester Coldstream Branch has been elected onto the committee.

The Branch continues to embrace modern technology with 173 members who can now be communicated with by e-mail. Seldom does a week go by without members on-line receiving some form of Branch communication. Those without e-mail had five newsletters sent to them by snail mail during the past twelve months. Keeping in regular touch with the entire membership is, we believe one of the main ingredients of the continued success of the Branch.

The Branch also has a presence on Facebook which is

monitored by our Chairman **David Errington** who is ably assisted by **Mark Evans**. This must be one of the more positive ways forward. Any member wishing to gain access to the site please follow the usual procedures.

Colonel Lance Ranson as always, is very active and gives the Branch strong support throughout the year and we would like to thank him for his continued leadership and guidance as President.

Many members from the Branch are in receipt of the weekly newsletter from **Jim White** who, once more 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.

We conclude by thanking **Major Andy Green**, **Sgt Rob Broomes** and the small staff at Regimental Headquarters for their help throughout the year.

For up to date branch information including newsletters – Visit our website
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

Treasurer: Mrs LJ 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

Kingston & District Branch members had been expecting a quiet year and so it had proved to be. Branch meetings were attended by the usual stalwarts and that has been much appreciated. The Branch now only has a formal meeting every other month starting with the Annual General Meeting in February. During 'off' months members met informally for a social get together in the bar. In either case our meeting place remained unchanged at The Royal British Legion Club in East Molesey.

2018 started well with a lunch at The Inn on The Lake at Silvermere Golf Club in Cobham. 20 members, family members and friends attended and had a thoroughly good time. Lunch took the form of a carvery style main course with plenty of choice. That was preceded by a

buffet arrangement for starters and a similar buffet for sweet choices.

Major Derek Rossi and **John Knight** were honoured to receive invitations to attend the Appointment Parade of HRH The Duke of York as Colonel of the Regiment in St Georges Hall at Windsor on 22nd March. Both before and after the parade there was plenty of opportunity to catch up with old acquaintances.



Major Derek Rossi MBE and John Knight at Windsor.

In April members sadly bid their farewells to **Maureen Spencer** who lost her battle with poor health. **Liz Howell** joined family members in Weymouth for the service and to meet up afterwards.

On 9th May **Liz Howell** and **John Knight** joined members of other branches when they visited the Battalion at Aldershot. Both had a very enjoyable day viewing static displays, physical training in progress and a walk round and ride in the latest Foxhound Light Protected Patrol Vehicle. The party also enjoyed the hospitality of the Officers Mess for light refreshments and an opportunity to learn of all that was in store for the Battalion in the coming months. The visit concluded with lunch in the Sergeants' Mess.

Members still manage an attendance on Regimental Remembrance Day with a gallant few able to survive the march to Horse Guards. It may be purely a figment of our imaginations but reportedly Horse Guards Parade seems to move further away from Wellington Barracks each year.

Everyone at the Branch was disappointed at the loss of Grenadier Day in 2018. The day had in the past proved a focus of attention bolstering interest and social activity throughout the year for the purpose of gathering and preparing items for our stall. In 2018 that had been missed by all. **Liz Howell** is determined that in 2019 the stall would be a focus of our attention and work was already underway in preparation.

On 4th October **Mark Worsfold** attended the commemorative parade held to unveil the memorial

stone to Lord Gort VC. Afterwards those present were invited by the Lord Mayor of Westminster to her parlour in Westminster City Hall for light refreshments.

Members had decided that our usual Branch Christmas lunch would be deferred to the New Year to avoid conflict with other events over the festive period. At the time of writing Members look forward to that and all that the New Year of 2019 will offer.

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:

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: Mrs A MARSHALL

Meetings: Held on the third Wednesday in the months of February, April, June, August, October and December. Meeting at 1100hrs in the Restaurant at Pennells Garden Centre, Newark Road, South Hykeham, Lincoln, LN6 9NT

Unfortunately, changes are afoot within the Branch. The dwindling number of loyal members that we have has meant a quieter year than usual.

The committee have had several conversations amongst themselves and with various other Branch members, on how to make changes to future meetings. This was then discussed over several Branch meetings and proposals

were put forward to change to a daytime gathering and on a different day of the week. A vote was then taken and the majority of those present agreed the format. Most of those attending the old style meetings are retired and therefore able to make the new ones without a problem. Unfortunately, some are unable to make it but we hope to keep in touch with them at other events.

At present we are meeting every other month in the café at Pennells Garden Centre on the outskirts of Lincoln at 11am. Some members join us for just coffee and cake others stay and have lunch and do a bit of shopping. We hope this may encourage others to join as we now do not encroach on Friday evenings or long weekends away. Our Sunday lunches held in the intervening months are well supported. These are held in different locations throughout the County thereby trying to cover a larger area and encourage new members from that area to join us. Details for these venues can always be found on our website.

We had a good attendance at the Remembrance Day Service in Lincoln Cathedral. During the service our Association poppy wreath was laid by **Pat Houldridge** for which we thank him, not just for this year but for the many times he has done this in the past. Following the service, and with thanks to **Neil Crowther**, we were invited into a private members club in the vicinity of the Cathedral where we had a round of drinks before driving 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.

Several Branch members also attend the Grenadier Breakfast Club (East Midlands). Organised by **Andy Buchanan** this is held on the first Sunday of each month meeting at 9.30am at The Young Vanish Pub in Glapwell, near Chesterfield. Another chance to catch up with friends and comrades old and new, during which there is quite a lot of banter back and forth. In December this was changed to a very enjoyable Christmas Lunch.



East Midlands Breakfast Club Christmas Lunch.

At the AGM, our Chairman **Joe Marshall** gave notice that this was to be his last year in post. We are therefore seeking a new Chairman for 2019. **Mrs Anne**

Marshall was re-elected as Secretary and has also taken on the role of Treasurer as there were no volunteers for the position. **Charlie Short** was also re-elected as the Branch Welfare Officer.

As is usual, we lose members each year due to many and varied reasons. Sadly during the last year we have lost **24104706 I A Wotherspoon**, **24048626 K Gosling**, **23509531 A P Connell**, **23509388 D A Marshall**, **24443691 K Whitely** and **24141634 H Patrick**.

Please check our website 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.

LIVERPOOL

(Formed 1920)

President: THE EARL OF DERBY

Vice Presidents: Mr C YATES; Mr G HUGHES; Mr GH NORRIS

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

Our 97th Annual Dinner and Dance was held on Saturday 25th November at the Mercure Atlantic Tower Hotel, Chapel Street, Liverpool. The Branch President Lord Derby was unable to attend due to other commitments that same day, however we were delighted to welcome the President of the Association **Colonel Richard Aubrey-Fletcher**. Colonel Richard delivered an informative and interesting speech updating us on Battalion and Regimental news. Our members were all very humbled and honoured that he spent so much time after dinner chatting to everyone.

Peter Cook and his wife **Margaret** from the Oxford Branch came for two nights along with their Branch treasurer **Mrs Janet Shayler**, who attended with her husband **Roy**. The previous evening we booked a table in the restaurant at The Atlantic tower and had a very nice evening reminiscing about their time in Liverpool with **Frank & Barbara Pennington** and the fun and laughter they had shared over the years.

A total of 12 rooms were occupied over the two nights at the Mercure Hotel and 83 guests were in attendance.

Our committee as always, were grateful to them all for making it a most enjoyable and very successful occasion. The raffle made a record amount of £495.50.

In January our Secretary was very honoured to be invited along with our Treasurer **Linda Jones** to Knowsley Hall to meet our Branch President **Lord Derby** for a discussion about how we can maintain the Branch not only as it is today but how to take it forward beyond its 100 year anniversary. It was agreed that we need to approach the City of Liverpool's Veterans Charities and work alongside them. It was also agreed that our chosen charity this year should be The Colonel's Fund which supports Grenadiers and their families as a result of conflict since the end of the last war. Lord Derby very kindly agreed to attend and run the forthcoming AGM.



Lord Derby and Charles Yates at the AGM.

The AGM took place on Thursday 25 January 2018. We had 21 attendees with **Lord Derby** taking the Chair. **Barbara Pennington** stepped down as Treasurer and was replaced by **Linda Jones**, **John Gregory** was selected as Welfare Officer, **George Hughes** stepped down as Chairman and **Robert Thomson** was elected in his place, **Julie Champion** was re-elected as Secretary. After the meeting the Secretary brought in a Birthday cake and a bottle of Rum for **Les Edge** who celebrated his 96th Birthday with us all.

To celebrate St George's Day we held an Afternoon Tea at a small hotel on the Wirral with live music, lovely tea, cakes and of course the Prosecco was flowing. A pleasant afternoon was had by all members their families and friends who again very generously supported the raffle which raised money for Branch funds.

For Regimental Remembrance Day 34 members, friends and family set off for the Brentwood Hotel,

London. After a superb dinner in the hotel, we were invited on Saturday evening once again to the club premises at the Royal Hospital Chelsea where we were warmly welcomed by the secretary. The entertainment was Lorrie Brown who gave us a fabulous evening with her tribute to Vera Lynn. 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. After this we all met at Wellington Barracks for the Service and Parade. **Les Edge** once again did the Liverpool Branch proud, and kept up with the parade to the very end.

Towards the end of the day we also bumped into **Lord Derby**, who kindly took time out to speak to **Les** and his family. It was a beautiful sunny day with lots of fun and laughter; treasured memories for us all. We stopped off at Stafford upon Avon on the way home where again we all enjoyed an ice cream by the river soaking up the atmosphere, enjoying the sunshine and feeling blessed with our weekend away.

On 6th June **Charles Yates** and his wife **Joyce** celebrated their 70th Wedding Anniversary at West Derby Golf Club and invited a few close friends from the Branch. It was another beautiful sunny afternoon where Branch members **John Edwards**, **Dave Holland** and **George Norris** who hadn't seen each other for some time had a great afternoon reminiscing about the Branch as it was in the early days. **John** tells us in 1948 it had some 500 members.



Lord Derby and Brenda Shannon at Regimental Remembrance Day.



John Edwards and Charles Yates.



Lord Derby with Les Edge after returning from Horse Guards.



Charles Yates with George Norris.

This brings us to the saddest part of our year when on June 11th we sadly lost our beloved **Leslie Edge**. He passed away peacefully at home listening to his favourite CD of The Regimental Band playing his lifelong theme tune and with his loving family around him.

His funeral took place on Thursday 21st June in Liverpool, where his Guard of honour stood proud to say their goodbyes to a special man, friend and Guardsman.

Lady Celia Webb-Carter attended along with LSgt Sinclair from the Regimental Band who sounded and exceptional Last Post and Reveille. Les asked for donations not flowers, and of course his chosen charity was the Liverpool Branch. It was Les's wish that we keep the Branch strong and that is what we intend to do in his memory.

In September Robert Thomson, John Gregory and Nick Champion represented the Branch on The Association Battlefield Tour. They visited amongst other places, Vimy Ridge, Ypres and the Menin Gate where a wreath was laid. They also visited Tyne Cot and Les Boeufs Cemeteries. They were lucky to be able to hold three actual VCs awarded to Grenadiers during WW1 and through this the enormity of the sacrifice made by so many was brought home to them 100 years after the end of that great conflict.

In closing we would like to thank all our lovely members who have supported the Branch and our Secretary throughout the year, In particular Robert Thomson our Chairman, Linda Jones our treasurer and last but not least, Barbara Pennington for her continued support in keeping the Branch going. Special thanks also to everyone at RHQ for all their help and support throughout the year.

It is with regret that we have report the passing of Keith Bonehill. Keith was a Welsh Guardsman and a loyal member of the Liverpool Branch for many years with his friend Dave Holland and attended monthly meeting when he could. We welcome 23024935 Brain Russell as a new member.

2616402 Gdsm Leslie Edge

by his Granddaughter Gill Hughes

Our Grandfather Leslie Edge passed away peacefully after a short illness on the 10th June 2018. His Funeral was held at the Springwood Crematorium Liverpool on 21st June and was well attended by family members from all over the world and many from his beloved Grenadier Guards Association.



Born in Liverpool and the youngest of 5 siblings Leslie joined the Grenadier Guards in 1939 at the age of 17 and was sent to Caterham to begin his Basic Training. War broke out as he completed his training and he was posted to Windsor. In 1940 Leslie was sent to France and one role he enjoyed there was as a despatch rider. His pride and joy was a BSA motorbike and he never forgot WM 2041720 – its registration number.

At the age of 18 on the beaches of Dunkirk he first met Lord Neville Wigram. The young Officer and Guardsman Edge made their way off the beach and on to an Isle of Man ferry boat called the Ben-my-Chree and set sail for England. Leslie returned to France in 1944 and served through to the end of the War. Later in life and for the part he played in the liberation of France he was awarded that country's highest honour, the Legion d'honneur. Liverpool also honoured Leslie by awarding him the Citizen of Honour.

When the War came to an end Leslie met, fell in love with and married Molly. They had five children, ten grandchildren, 20 great grandchildren and four great, great grandchildren. In order to look after his growing family Leslie worked as a British Transport Policeman but this didn't suit him, so he altered his career path and started working for Dista a local pharmaceutical firm in Speke, Liverpool where he remained for 30 years. Leslie retired in 1984 and spent much of his time with his grandchildren and tending his other pride and joy – his garden.

Leslie also then took a more active role in the Liverpool Branch. He attended all their meetings and Regimental Remembrance Day parades in London where he would make a point of meeting up with Lord Wigram and his family who became great and lifelong friends.

The Liverpool Branch was very important to him and when his beloved Molly passed away in 1999 he found great support there. In later years it became harder for him to get about so my husband and I would accompany him to meetings and eventually we became members ourselves, Chris later becoming a Vice Chairman of the Branch. It was such a pleasure to do our bit for him and see how much it meant to him.

Black Sunday 2018 was to be his last trip to London where he was delighted to be introduced to The Duke of York at His first parade as Colonel. Shortly after this Leslie succumbed to cancer and was once again reunited with his beloved Molly. To us he was all and a true Grenadier and Gentleman.



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 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, OBE, DL; Capt RJB PINFOLD, Esq; Mr B SMITH; Mr G GIBBS; Mr A WALLIS, MBE

Chairman: Mr PA LANES

Secretary: LES 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

On the 15th December 2017 we held our Christmas Draw at the Union Jack Club where 80 members and their families enjoyed a three course meal together. After lunch our Branch President **Lieutenant Colonel Robert Cartwright** welcomed everybody and gave a short speech.

We were very lucky this year to have **Mr Sean Bolan** as our guest of speaker. He is known to many as an artist who has painted pictures for the Foot Guards including many Christmas cards. **Sean** gave a very interesting talk, telling us about his father who was a Drummer in the Regiment. Years later, **Sean** acquired a regimental drum and, to his amazement, he discovered his father's name and number inside – it was an extraordinary coincidence and his story would have made a good book. He brought the drum along with him for members to see along with him some of his paintings and prints. He described how he began his painting career; first of all it was trains and railways. He was then commissioned to paint a scene for a Christmas card, and it grew from there. He now paints Christmas cards for all five Regiments of Foot Guards. The Branch sends their thanks to **Sean** and his good lady for taking the time to come and tell us his own and his Dad's story. Our thanks also go to **Sean** for his ongoing support of the London Branch.

Our Christmas Draw tickets posted to members sold well. The separate draw held at the lunch was also a great success, as was the 50/50 draw where the money

raised gets split between the winner, **Mr Peter Smith** and the Branch.

Many of the draw prizes were donated by firms and others. This year **Mrs Chisholm-Brown** gave us a handmade model of a paddle steamer called the Grenadier – the steamer has a fascinating history if you wish to look it up. It was requisitioned by the Royal Navy in the First World War and renamed. After the war it went back to Scotland and its name was given back to it. Unfortunately, it was lost to a fire and its Captain perished with it. The model donated to the Branch was auctioned at the Draw and won by **Mr Peter Longdon**.

During April – September 2018 we have had our monthly evening Branch meetings at the London District Sergeants' Mess, Wellington Barracks, by kind permission of the Garrison Sergeant Major, **WO1 (RSM) Vern Stokes**. From October – March our lunch-time meetings have been at the Union Jack Club, Waterloo. Meeting numbers seem to stay the same and we are trying to increase attendance but, like every other branch, find it difficult.

This year we have lost our Welfare Officer, **Mr Richard Sutton-Joines** due to his work commitments, but we would like to thank Richard for all his hard work whilst he was in this role. A search now goes on for a new Welfare Officer – any takers?

On the social side, the Branch has had its ups and downs this year. In March, through the Speaker, the **Rt Honourable John Bercow MP** we were able to obtain six tickets to sit in the Strangers' Gallery and watch Prime Minister's question time – seeing it live is a very different experience to watching it on television at home! With the help of **Sgt Haughton** at RHQ, the Branch was able to allocate tickets to watch the Colonel's Review and the Trooping of the Colour itself, all members who attended had a fantastic time.

After the cancellation of the 2017 Garter Service, it was a joy for those members who had been disappointed to attend this year. To be able to watch the procession in brilliant sunshine is a rare privilege. This year the Secretary received a call from one member just after Garter Service overcome with joy saying that the colours were beautiful and she got to see The Queen close up – now that's what makes the job of Branch Secretary worthwhile.

The Secretary was also able to get tickets for Founders Day at the Royal Hospital Chelsea for members that had not seen the parade before. It was a privilege to see these very proud gentlemen stand tall in front of the Reviewing Officer, **HRH Prince Michael of Kent** and then watch them march off.

Arrangements were made for 20 of our members to go to 10 Downing Street and have their photographs taken outside the famous door. Everyone, including the Secretary and his wife, was looking forward to the day; posh frocks and shiny shoes prepared. A week before we were meant to go, No10's security department telephoned

to say that non-essential visits had been cancelled and a new date would have to be found after BREXIT had been completed; what a blow to everyone but hopefully we can return before too long.

Before the 1st Battalion deployed to Iraq, Afghanistan and South Sudan, the Commanding Officer, **Lieutenant Colonel Piers Ashfield DSO** arranged for the Association to have a day at their barracks in Aldershot. Members and their families had a fantastic day and also got to see the Guardsmen's new Individual room accommodation with bathroom en-suite! The visit ended with lunch in Sergeants' Mess hosted by the Drill Sergeant. The day reinforced the tangible link between the young Grenadiers and those that had gone before – Once a Grenadier!



Mike Bunch during the visit to the 1st Battalion.



Les Cox and Phil Lanes at Windsor.

A highlight for our Secretary was being invited to **Windsor Castle** together with the President and Chairman to watch the handover of **HRH Prince Philip** to his son **HRH Prince Andrew** as Colonel of the Regiment in the presence of **HM The Queen**. The

new Colonel inspected a detachment from the Regiment inside St George's Hall. When the ceremony was over, we drank champagne and The Queen and Prince Andrew freely walked around talking to everyone. **Les Cox** was lucky enough to be presented to The Queen at the reception afterwards – what a great memory to have.

It is our sad duty to report the death of the following members since our last report:

22955619 J Porter, 2616292 T Wigley, 22551508 RS Card, 23688725 G E Edwards, 19149340 D L Wallis, 23067722 L Withey and **Mr D Woodbridge** an Associate Member. On behalf of the committee and members we send our sympathy to their families and friends; **Lest we Forget**.

We finish by recording our sincere thanks to our members and committee for their hard work an ongoing support this year and the team at RHQ for all their help.

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 Trafford Social Club, Derbyshire Lane, Stretford, Manchester, M32 8BF

Facebook: Manchester Grenadier Guards Association

As a Branch we are very pleased to confirm that we are financially strong even though our membership is getting smaller, but we are still able to gather over 70 members and guests for our Dinners.

Early in 2018 our secretary received a phone call from a local care home asking him if he knew a former Grenadier named **Brian Taylor**. It turned out that Brian had been a member of the Branch for over 50 years, but he was moved to the Lost Souls list after our newsletters were returned marked 'no longer at this address' some three years ago. **Bob Fallon** and his wife **Pam** went to visit Brian and he was over the moon that they had taken the time to go and see him and keep him company for an hour or two. With a regimental number starting 222 Brian must be well into his eighties and can only get around with the aid of a wheelchair or a Zimmer frame, but he is still a Grenadier through and through. .

Branch functions over the last twelve months started with our Christmas dinner and dance on the 9th

December 2017 when 71 members and guests attended.

This was followed by a lunch at the Decker's restaurant, Sale Water Park, on the 20th February 2018. It had been previously decided that we would put all the raffle money from our monthly meetings in a fund and spend it by treating all the members who attend month in month out to a free lunch and drink. The day went very well with 16 members and their wives attending.

Our Secretary attended the Annual General Meeting at Wellington Barracks on Saturday 24th March which was very well organised as usual by the General Secretary and which he found very informative.

The Branch Annual dinner and dance took place on Saturday 21st April at the Britannia Country House Hotel, Didsbury, and our Guest of Honour was the Regimental Lieutenant Colonel Major General Roly Walker DSO.

the committee and recognises someone who is not a Grenadier but readily supports the Branch.

On Friday 27th April members attended the funeral of 14943943 Derek Harper MBE at Altrincham Crematorium.



Mr David Cohen BA (left) with the Inkerman Cup.



Manchester Branch committee with the Lieutenant Colonel.

Everyone who attended the dinner thoroughly enjoyed the Lieutenant Colonel's speech which was packed full of interesting information and entertaining stories. It was followed by the presentation of the Inkerman Cup to Mr. David Cohen BA. The recipient is selected by



John Barkley, Barry Taylor and Bob Fallon.



Our Coffin Drape in use.



Manny Healey, Clive Burrage and Joyce Burrage flanking the Regimental Musician.

The service was very well attended and a Musician from the Regimental Band sounded Last Post and Reveille. Derek was a very generous man who made many large donations to our Branch.

Our AGM was held on Wednesday 2nd May at Longsight Sports and Social Club with 18 members attending and we are pleased to confirm that all officers were re-elected for a further year.

Regimental Remembrance Day was attended by **Bob** and **Pam Fallon** once again and with no Grenadier Day this year Bob invited all members to his home for a Branch BBQ. The weather stayed fine and 16 people turned up for a most enjoyable day.

MARCH

(Formed 1968)

President: Major AJ GREEN

Vice Presidents: Capt (QM) TA ROLFE;

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: AGM held in March, at the Secretary's home address.



From Left to Right: Jeff Johnston, Lynda Tarkenter, Anne & Jim Parry, Veronica Johnston.



From Left to Right: Sheila & Dave Pugh, Hayden Hooper, Jean Burgess, Bill & Mrs Poppert.

At the Remembrance Day Parade in Manchester our Branch was well represented and we were joined by members of the Household Division Association. The contingent was led by the Scots Guards Association Pipes and Drums and for the first time we were given the privilege of leading the whole parade from the Cenotaph.

Finally it is our sad duty to report the passing of three members of the Branch; **14943943 D Harper MBE, 24220609 S J Langton** and **24253833 A Sands**. Lest we Forget.

We conclude by thanking **Major Andy Green, Sgt Rob Broomes** and the staff at RHQ for always being there whenever we need help.

Another year, another report to submit so, what has been happening? Our report starts at Remembrance Day 2017 and the involvement of individual members at varying locations. Present at Peterborough Cathedral in the morning was our Secretary **Chris Whitebrook** who was later in the afternoon at Whittlesey, joined by his wife **Morag**, and **Malcolm Clifford**. At Coates the Branch representative was **Colin Dale**; at Chatteris **Neville Patter** and at March laying the Branch wreath was **Des Pritchard**.

With continuing support from the Conservative Club in March the Branch continues with its annual functions, despite a reduction in attendance due to the advancing average age of the members. Even so a most pleasant time is spent in each other's company, enjoying fine food, wines, conversation and where called for banter and fun. At all of our functions there is a table quiz set and these are fiercely contested, with constant cries that they are getting harder by the year.

The first of the functions, the Christmas Lunch, was again the measure of the standard of what was to come throughout the year. The Steward and Staff at our host venue, together with the Catering Staff are now more aware of the standards that we like to enjoy, and they are meeting them with us. We have found that as they become more accustomed to us that standards are rising.

The Christmas Raffle, organised by our Treasurer **Morag Whitebrook**, assisted by Chairman **Edward Salmon** and his wife **Caroline**, rounded off a most enjoyable day. Gone are the days of the same item re-appearing at successive functions, now the raffle table is often full to overflowing with purchased and donated raffle prizes. So much so that often the choice is almost overwhelming.

Our Branch President **Major Andy Green** took the opportunity to get to know more of the Branch members, together with friends of the Branch. Such was the atmosphere that at the end of the afternoon those attending were almost reluctant to leave. If we had needed to approach the caterer to provide us with a tea meal I suspect that this could have been managed!

Then we were into a New Year. Preparation for further functions, the ordering of Gazettes, establishing requirements for Birthday Parade and Review tickets, the Annual General Meeting and keeping in touch with all our members; those who attend as well as those that won't, don't or cannot. A busy period leading to the Annual Lunch, which this year was delighted with the presence from the 1st Battalion of **Lieutenant Tristram Reames** together with his Platoon Sergeant, **Ben Hayden**. Ben has Grandparents living in March and particularly wanted to attend. They both mixed comfortably with all present, particularly enjoying the banter between the Grenadiers present and those from other Regiments and Services who on a regular basis, attend our functions.



From Left to Right: The Fleet Air Arm, Royal Anglians, Tristram Reames, Sgt Hayden and the RAF.

Lieutenant Reames gave a most comprehensive and informative report on Regimental activities and the deployments being undertaken later in the summer by the Battalion. Our best wishes were passed to him and **Sgt Hayden**.

The Annual Lunch is traditionally the best supported of our Branch functions as it is a weekend activity. This does mean that those few of our members who are in employment have the opportunity of joining in. Our other functions are held on Friday as lunchtime events, sometimes requiring a half day off!



Grenadiers at the Annual Lunch.
From Left to Right: Malcolm Clifford, John Cross, Lieutenant Reames, Sgt Hayden, Major Andy Green.
Seated; Des Pritchard, Neville Patter, Gerry Graham.



From Left to Right: Lieutenant Reames, Sgt Hayden, Chris Whitebrook, Edward Salmon and Major Andy Green.

Black Sunday, the Reviews for the Birthday Parade, Beating Retreat and the Birthday Parade itself attracted the usual interest and attendance from different members of the Branch. All reported their enjoyment at the opportunity to attend. Our thanks go to **Major Andy Green** and **Sgt Rob Broomes** for their support and hard work in making all of this possible. There was some dismay at the lack of Grenadier Day, but this was tempered by the understanding that it would have been too big a task to commit to in the light of the Battalion's deployment.

At the end of June **Colin Dale** and his wife **Dorothy** (pictured below), were honoured at a ceremony held in Whittlesey when **Dr Andrew Harter CBE** the High Sherriff of Cambridgeshire, presented Armed Forces Veterans Badges. The ceremony was attended by District and Town Mayors and other dignitaries.





Following months of anticipation **Chris and Morag Whitebrook** joined with others from Branches across the country to visit France and Belgium on the Association Battlefield Tour (BFT18). Although BFT was the acronym used, it did at times feel like a Battle Fitness Test. Physically and emotionally draining it was a week of intense poignancy and remembrance; but extremely worthwhile. A separate report appears elsewhere within this Gazette.

The last social event of the Branch year, the Sausage & Mash Lunch was as usual another happy event. A superb meal, successful raffle and on-going conversation with those attending reluctant to depart. This year it was held slightly later so as not to clash with holiday arrangements and to afford the opportunity for more to be able to attend.

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

Members of our Branch attended Remembrance Sunday 2017 at the following venues; **Bill Rawson** at Bakewell Memorial and **Derek Killingsley-Smith** with his wife **Kate** at St Mary's Church, Crich.

On the afternoon of Tuesday 19th December 2017 six members and friends visited Haddon Hall, near Bakewell. Our President **Bill Rawson** had kindly arranged this on our behalf. Our small, but enthusiastic group were welcomed by our host **Lady Edward Manners**. This made a lovely start to our afternoon.

We toured the house which was beautifully lit and decorated for the Christmas season, each room was themed and seasonal music both live and recorded pervaded each. **Bill** very kindly acted as a very knowledgeable and efficient guide and although there were a goodly number of steps to manoeuvre our gallant band made the whole tour, albeit most of us with sticks! Towards the end of our visit we enjoyed refreshments together in a specially constructed marquee where cakes, mulled wine and mince pies were available. At this point our Chairman **Derek Killingsley-Smith** took the opportunity to thank **Bill** for his efforts on our behalf. All agreed it had been a very pleasant way to celebrate the end of 2017.



Presentation by Brenda Wall to the Matlock Branch Chairman.

In 2017 we suffered the loss of some of our members and so at the first meeting of 2018 it was decided the Branch should purchase a new coffin drape. Mrs **Brenda Wall**, wife of the late **23403074 Brian Wall**, wished to purchase and donate the flag to the Branch which included a memoriam embroidered on the drape regarding **Brenda's** late husband. This was kindly accepted by **Derek Killingsley-Smith** and he thanked **Brenda** for her kind and generous gesture.

Our President **Bill Rawson** arranged for the Branch to hold two Bric-a-Brac stalls at Bakewell Market. Both were well supported by members anxious to off load dated items and unwanted gifts. The first held on Monday 4th June raised £203.50 and the second held on 22nd October raised **£230**.



Branch members assisting at the Bric-a-Brac Stall, Bakewell.

Matlock Branch has held two luncheons this year both at Bakewell Golf Club. The Spring Luncheon was held on the 4 June 2018 when there were 32 attendees. Friend of the Branch **Paul Thackstone** said Grace and after the lovely meal our Chairman **Derek Killingsley-Smith** spoke and updated those present on the Branch and allied matters and concluded with thanks to those present for their continued support. The guests enjoyed a convivial afternoon chatting to old friends. Our furthest attendees were **Bernard** and **Shelia Bonser** who had travelled from Essex to be with us and the Chairman thanked them for their presence. A donation of £250 has been sent to the Colonel's Fund as a result of donations and a raffle on the day.

On Wednesday **24th October** 2018 we held the Autumn Luncheon. 36 Grenadiers, guests, friends and supporters attended this now regular event and enjoyed a sumptuous carvery meal.

Our distinguished guest on this occasion was **Capt Ty-lee Bearder** who is always welcome at our functions. **Captain Bearder** spoke and gave us an insight to the current situation and whereabouts of the Regiment. Our Chairman presented **Captain Bearder** with a cheque

from our Branch for £250 for onward transmission to the Colonel's Fund and **Captain Bearder** graciously agreed to hand it to our General Secretary at Regimental Headquarters.

The luncheons bring us together in a beautiful setting and we are indebted to our President **Bill Rawson** and our Social Secretary **John Wright** and their respective wives **Tina** and **Margaret** for arranging both luncheons for us.

On 26 October 2018 our Branch held its AGM and we are pleased to report that the existing Committee were all re-elected to their current positions unopposed.

For Remembrance Day 2018 several Branch Officers attended many services in our area. On Sunday 11 November our Vice-Chairman **Fred Knight** accompanied by his wife **Ann** attended the Service of Remembrance at St Peter's Church, Parwich. Social and Welfare Secretary **John Wright** and his wife, **Margaret** were in Australia to celebrate John's 80th birthday and so they together with their family, visited the Caloundra RSL in Queensland as part of their Armistice Day.

Branch President **Bill Rawson** with his wife **Tina** attended Bakewell Church where **Bill** laid a wreath. They also attended a memorial event at the Derbyshire Stone Centre at Middleton-by-Wirksworth the day before. **Derek Killingsley-Smith** attended St Mary's Church, Crich and together with his wife **Kate** attended a special Remembrance event on Friday 9th November at the Proact Stadium in Chesterfield. The service was held in Chesterfield F.C. Memorial Garden where **Derek** was asked to read the Citation for ex- Chesterfield F.C. player **Arthur Revill** who saw service with the Grenadier Guards. Guardsman **Revill** was wounded in action at the Battle of Loos and died of his wounds on 29 September 1943. **Derek** and **Kate** are both Spireites supporters, **Derek** attended his first Spireites game in February 1943.



Memorial at Caloundra, Australia.



John and Margaret Wright attending the Armistice Service in Caloundra, Australia.

We close with a personal message from our Chairman. "I would like to thank each member of the Committee and their wives, for their valuable support to both myself and the Branch. I have greatly appreciated it. They, along with friends and supporters have steadfastly attended our functions and have given assistance and support to make the Branch viable enabling us to look to the future with optimism".

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; Mr PA FRANKS

Chairman: Mr M ROBINSON, BEM

Secretary: Mr D FLYNN, 12 Linwood Avenue, Rochester, Kent, ME2 3TR

Tel: (01634) 710546

Email: desflynn@btinternet.com

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

It has been another busy 12 months for the Branch starting in November 2017 with our local Remembrance Day Service held in Rochester Cathedral followed by a reception in the Rochester Corn Exchange. Some of the members took part in the parade through the high street and **Tony West BEM** took part in the wreath laying ceremony. This was followed in December by our Christmas Draw held at the St George Hotel, Chatham. Members were given the option of an evening or lunchtime event and chose to go with the lunchtime option which proved to be popular and was well attended. Our thanks to **Jen Robinson** for all of her hard work for a very attractive and popular raffle.

February 2018 saw the Branch Annual General Meeting and a couple of changes to the Branch Committee. Our Chairman of 22 years **Pat Franks** stood down and has become a Branch Vice President. The Vice Chairman **Colin Brown**, a long serving member of the Branch also stood down. We are very grateful to both **Pat** and **Colin** for all of their hard work and dedication over a number of years and are pleased to see that they have remained active members, attending monthly meetings and Branch events. **Morris (Mo) Robinson BEM** was elected as the new Branch Chairman, **Des Flynn** remains Secretary. **Tony West BEM** had previously stood down as our Treasurer and then found himself back in the role for

another year to give us time to identify a successor. **Ken Jeffries** kindly agreed to take on this role and was elected Treasurer. Our thanks to **Tony** for helping us out by hanging on for a bit longer. **Karen Flynn** remains our Welfare Officer and **Chris Warden** continues in his Entertainments role.

In April the Branch held its St George's Day lunchtime event at the St George Hotel, Chatham. This is proving to be a popular event and was once again well attended and enjoyed by all those present.

15 members attended Regimental Remembrance day in May and as always this was a great opportunity to catch up with others from around the Country. This year was marked by the attendance of the new Colonel who during his walkabout stopped and spoke to some of our Branch members.



Regimental Remembrance Day.

On to June and the first of two Petanque events. This one was held in Ditton, Maidstone. We were able to enjoy nice weather, nice company with plenty of friendly rivalry and banter and a very pleasant picnic lunch.



Armed Forces Day.

Next in the calendar was the Armed Forces Day event in Gillingham at the end of June. We turned up with a team of members and our Branch Stall. The event was very busy and well attended by the public. Our stall attractions assisted in boosting our Branch funds and is a great opportunity to advertise both the Branch and the Association. This year we saw more people than ever call in to have a chat with us.

On the 14th July some of us got together for a Saturday morning Brunch at the Dogs, a morning at Crayford Greyhound Stadium to enjoy four hours of greyhound racing whilst enjoying a late breakfast. Some left the event in credit after some shrewd betting.

September saw the second of our Petanque events, the Medway Branch and the Whitehouse Petanque Club, Maidstone, playing for the **John Chapman Memorial Cup**. A very enjoyable day with nice weather and nice company and a break for a picnic/BBQ lunch. The Branch team gave a good account of themselves with **John Garwood** finishing as the event runner-up. The event was then followed by dinner at a nearby pub restaurant in the Kent countryside.



John Garwood (left) Runner Up.

October and the Branch Annual Dinner at the Grange Moor Hotel in Maidstone. The event was well attended and we were joined by our Branch President **Lieutenant Colonel Paul Harris MBE** and his wife **Pauline** who had made the trip over from their home in Spain to be with us. Unfortunately the Regiment were unable to supply us with a guest speaker this year and the President agreed to take on this task and updated us on Regimental affairs. The event as usual included a very attractive raffle made possible by the efforts of **Jen Robinson** and **Karen Flynn**.



Branch Annual Dinner.

The Branch wishes one of our members, **Chris Warden**, good luck as he is about to embark on his latest venture, The Long Walk Home. **Chris** is one of the 100 people taking part in the Haig Housing's national event commemorating the centenary of the ending of the First World War. The event will consist of a pilgrimage by foot of 100 Veterans and Serving Personnel from across the United Kingdom who will walk the 100 miles from the Menin Gate in Ypres to the Cenotaph in Whitehall, timed to arrive for the National Service of Remembrance.

Sadly we have to report the recent loss of one of our longest serving members **22944041 Edward (Ted) Mew**. Ted was a very popular and well respected member of the Branch and will be sadly missed. His funeral took place at the Garden of England Crematorium on 24th October and was well attended by the Branch who provided a Guard of Honour.



Ted Mew's funeral was well attended.

We look forward to another busy year. Arrangements have been made to attend our local Remembrance Sunday Service and we will be enjoying our Christmas Draw event in December.

NORFOLK

(Formed 1938)

President: Capt PJS ALLEN.

Vice Presidents: Capt TRE COOK; Major JFQ FENWICK, QC; Capt DJT LENG; 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 CHRIS WARREN, 10 Highland, Poringland, Norwich, Norfolk, NR14 7QU

Tel: 01508 494379 / 07885088387

Email: christwrr@btinternet.com

Treasurer: Mr CHRIS WARREN

Meetings: Held in March and September at The White Horse Public House, The Street, Trowse, Norwich, NR14 8ST, at 1930hrs

The Norfolk Branch had a relatively quiet 2018. The Branch has 65 members to date with 48 being 'Veterans'. The Branch held two meetings and the annual

luncheon with the closely linked Dining Club providing a social element of evening and lunch time opportunities to meet, dine and chat.

At the AGM held in March 2018 the Honorary Secretary **Terry McClenahan** stood down after six years' service to the Branch; **Terry** will continue to be involved with the social side of the Branch. **Chris Warren** was elected as our new Secretary after a lengthy sabbatical. Thanks most of course go to **Terry** for all his hard work behind the scenes taking the Branch forward.

On Sunday 2nd September 2018 some 40 members of the branch and guests sat down to a splendid luncheon at Park Farm Hotel in Hethersett, which was arranged by **Terry McClenahan**. After the luncheon and loyal toasts our regimental guest **Major Hamish Hardy** 'sang for his supper' and gave a very informative update on all things Grenadier. It was pleasing to hear that the Grenadiers continue to recruit to capacity whilst the same may not be said for others. The raffle was well supported, with **Terry** and **Sandra McClenahan** together with **Jean** and **Chris Warren** selling tickets and running round with prizes. **Captain Allen** presented **Terry** with engraved brandy goblets for his service to the Branch. As empty goblets are not much use on their own **Terry** was also presented with something appropriate to fill them with. A big thank you from the Branch to all those who made the luncheon such a success, including **Ross Donaldson** who as usual provided the excellent menus and other table stationery.



Terry McClenahan receives his presentation from **Captain Allen**.

The September meeting was held in **Captain Allen's** garden room which has a splendid view over the North Norfolk coast. The thought of one of **Mrs Edwina Allen's** wonderful lasagnes drove the business to a swift conclusion. The lasagne was indeed wonderful and so was the 'pudding' that followed.

The Branch must offer thanks to **Ross Donaldson** who arranges all the Dining Club events. His energy and drive makes the club something special and enables members to spend a little time together keeping

Grenadier memories alive and well. **Ross** is also the Eastern Region representative so is well placed to keep the Branch in the loop.

Sadly we had to say farewell to some old soldiers, **22650990 Terry Giles** passed away in June 2018. He served in the 3rd Battalion from 1952 to 54 in Egypt. We also learned that **22545149 Eric Herbert** passed away in Snettisham, he was not a branch member but was nevertheless a Grenadier.

Our new secretary sends his thanks to **Sgt Rob Broomes** and **Major Andy Green** at Wellington Barracks. They have been most helpful getting him back on parade.

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 M ELLMER

Secretary: Mr A McDERMOTT, 27 Woodlands Avenue, Corby, Northants, NN17 1JH

Tel: 07770867104

Email: tmcdermott6506@gmail.com

Treasurer: Ms T CLARK

Meetings: Held on the first Thursday of each month (except January), at 2000hrs at the Conservative Club, Cottingham Road, Corby, NN17 1SZ

2018 proved to be another successful year with the Branch yet again growing in membership from all generations of Grenadiers.



Rest in Peace Mike Britton.

We sadly saw the passing of **Mike Britton** who was our Branch Secretary for 18 years. Never actually serving in the Regiment, Mike always maintained the standards of someone who you thought had; he will be sadly missed by all members of the Branch and all who knew him. His funeral was attended by a large number of people from the county and the Branch provided him with a Guard of Honour.

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 over days past and long missed friends, remembering both fun and sad days during their service. However, **Andy Green** did 'Fast Ball' **Tony McDermott** to help carry the Association Wreath to Horse Guards, which he felt very honoured to do.



Tony McDermott (left) on parade at Wellington Barracks.

In June we held our fourth Waterloo Ball and Annual Association Dinner. Over 90 members of the Branch and their families attended the new Northamptonshire Masonic Hall to celebrate victory at the Battle of Waterloo and the naming of the Regiment.

The evening commenced with the traditional speeches and toasts by our new President **Mr Charles Manners**, after which dinner was served accompanied by light music from members of the Household Division Band. A raffle held to raise funds for Holidays for Heroes raised over £600. Bookings for the 2019 ball are now being taken.

Following the formal part of the evening, entertainment was available which included more music by the band, dancing followed by carriages at midnight. With the last members leaving by 12:45am, the night was deemed a success and the rear guard retired for the night.

In late October 2018, members of the Branch visited the National Memorial Arboretum to lay a wreath at

the Household Division Memorial and to inspect the bench that the Northamptonshire Branch had previously sponsored.

Former Household Division personnel formed up with the Branch Banner and the bearer party were called to order and marched down and halted at the Memorial. A minutes silence was held, a wreath laid and the Exhortation was recited by **23970862 Dave Robinson**.

The Branch has now moved the location of its monthly meetings to the Conservative Club in Corby which is already starting to attract the attendance of former members. We are also starting to attract members of the Scots Guards, who are more than welcome to join us. There has been some changes to appointments within the Branch and **Tony McDermott** is now the Branch Secretary and **Matthew Ellmer** was voted in as Chairman taking over from **Geoff Stanger** who had to stand down due to ill health.

As mentioned earlier and pictured below, the Branch donated £600 to Holidays for Heroes which it collected during the Waterloo Ball, hopefully we will know someone who will benefit from this experience.



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 buffet. With over 40 prizes available most if not all, will come away with a prize or two. Thanks to **Jean and Sue Elvy** for the excellent catering.

Overall with eleven branch meetings and numerous social events held throughout the year, the Northamptonshire Branch is alive and well.

Branch meetings are held at 8 pm on the first Thursday of each month, excluding January at the Conservative Club, Cottingham Road, Corby, NN17 1SZ 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.

NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE

(Formed 1933)

President: SIR AEH HEBER-PERCY, KCVO, JP

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 soldiers on in good heart but at a very steady pace that befits the advancing years of those Association members who are still active, in the loosest possible of terms, in Branch activities. Monthly lunch meetings continue to be held in the north of Stoke-on-Trent at The Miller and Carter, Talke, which is convenient for members from Staffordshire and Cheshire. A lot of eating and talking takes place and some Branch business is conducted.

In November 2017 members of the Branch again attended, with pupils from the school, a wreath laying ceremony at the **LSgt John Rhodes VC, DCM and Bar Memorial**. This is located on the site of the school that **John Rhodes** attended at Packmoor, Stoke-on-Trent in the late 1890's. Needless to say the school has been rebuilt twice since the days of **John Rhodes**. The memorial was erected by the Branch some 20 years ago.

During November members joined their friends from the Shropshire Branch at The Lord Hill hotel Shrewsbury for their usual, excellent Christmas lunch.

The festive season was celebrated at the Branch's December meeting which was held, along with lunch in the splendid surroundings of The Potters Club in Stoke-on-Trent. The gathering was greatly enjoyed by all of the members who attended; there were 'no complaints'. During the same month Christmas gifts were delivered and gratefully received, this involved the usual long conversations and cups of tea; with the offer of something stronger at most calls. Sadly, the list of recipients gets shorter.

January 2018 arrived with the annual fiscal frivolities with the Branch's yearly accounts and a lot of snow. As a result of the inclement weather no meeting was held during the month. The Branch continued to meet on a monthly basis.

It was with great sadness that in April, the news was received that **21012237 G E (Ted) Spragg** had passed away. During his time in the Regiment Ted had looked after **Brigadier A G W Heber-Percy DSO**. Ted had,

for many years, served with the Fire Service and was proud to have been National Standard Bearer for the Royal British Legion. **The Brigadier** founded The North Staffordshire Branch in 1933 and was the father of the Branch's current President.

It was also in April that **24022237 Ray Jones** sadly died, **Ray** was known throughout the country and further afield, as one of the country's leading tattoo artists. He was based at his studio in Stone, Staffordshire.

Members and partners enjoyed a trip to London in June and attended The Birthday Parade.

In July the Branch's major event took place when a lunch party, for members and partners, took place again at The Potter's Club. Another excellent meal and get together much enjoyed by everyone who attended and again, 'no complaints'.

The Branch was, in the late summer very pleased to welcome back to the fold **22946055 ex-Sgt Charles Bailey**, the one that used to jump out of aeroplanes. His presence is much appreciated and he has greatly improved the Branch's lamp swinging ability. We were

also glad to hear from another one-time member of the branch, **2624924 Ray Fear**. Ray once held most offices, including that of Vice-President in the Branch before deciding in 1989, to seek the sun and move to Spain. **Ray** joined the Regiment in 1943 and served in No 2 Squadron of the 4th Battalion; he must be one of the few survivors of that unit and the Branch wishes him well. He has written his autobiography under the title 'Pawn



Ray Fear in 1946.

Shop Dick' which, no doubt, contains some interesting reading. The Branch has also heard from **23509587 Graham Bull** who now lives in Australia.

Welfare continues to be an important part of Branch activities with a number of welfare visits being made during the past year and a several minor problems being sorted. Usually though, a visit and chat does the trick.

The Branch wishes to extend its sincere thanks to the small and no doubt at times, overstretched team at Head Office and thanks them for their ongoing help and support, it is truly appreciated. It also extends best wishes to serving and past Grenadiers wherever they may be.

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

Branch membership has increased by three since our last report and we welcome as new members 24885715 Glenn Natriss, 23929506 Michael Charles Leeming and 22545607 Donald Sheldon.

The Regimental Remembrance Day Service and Parade in London was well attended by a coach load from Nottingham which included Grenadiers from the Chesterfield and Leicester Branches. Armed Forces Day was held in Mansfield where the Branch Gazebo was erected and stocked abundantly with the usual items both for the young and old. This year the responsibility of manning the stall fell to our Assistant Secretary **Jeff Smith**, his wife **Edna**, **Chris Dunne** and other volunteers. It is understood that it was a very successful day with plenty of public interest.



Our Gazebo and Staff at Armed Forces Day.

The year's activities, again organised by the Social Secretary **Graham Worrall** included a Games Night after the formal reading of the Minutes in June. Several lunch time meals at various locations in the North of the County including a visit to Thoresby Hall and Museum attracted a reasonable attendance by our regulars. The monthly meetings have continued to flourish with the usual

attendees giving their total support. To these gentlemen and ladies the Secretary gives his grateful thanks.

Graham continues to be busy on the social side and persists in his endeavours to introduce something new to the event calendar occasionally and is ably assisted by **Kevin Blake**, another of the younger members of the Branch. **Jeff Smith** likewise ensures the Minutes and suchlike are kept up to date. He also manages the funerals in the Mansfield & Dukeries area which is a great help. An example of his devotion to duty is the preparation, quality, formulation and printing of our bi-annual Newsletter which is circulated to all the Nottinghamshire Members.

Jeff has made known his wish to retire from office much to the Secretary's disappointment and protestations. They have made a great team and when he does retire he will be sadly missed.



The Branch Banner and Bearskin Cap at St Mary's Church, Bottesford.



Remembrance Day at Mansfield.

The December Social evening took place on Friday 14th December. It was open to all Grenadiers, members of the Household Division and their close relatives and friends. The buffet once again was provided by **Malcolm** and **Michelle Greenberry** and excellent it was too. The Event was held in the Concert Room at Branch Headquarters. As usual the bar was run by **Sharon, Cath** and members of the Club's staff. Some of the Grenadiers and their friends were dressed in festive fashion which made the place much more colourful.

Once again we send the condolences of all members to the relatives of the Grenadiers we have lost: **23879967 M Lloyd** and **22545839 B R Simmons**. Lest we Forget.

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.dew@btopenworld.com

Treasurer: Mrs J SHAYLER

Meetings: Contact the Branch Secretary for further details

Another year has fast flown by again and like last year it has been a static one as far as our membership is concerned. No new members have come forward to join us, however the willing few keep the Branch up and running and it is very heartening to see that all our functions are well supported particularly by other local Household Division Branch members and friends.

The first function that members attended in 2017 was the Household Division Carol service although unfortunately the bad weather limited numbers attending but those that did had their usual enjoyable time.

In April 2018 we held our AGM at The Plough Inn, Wolvercote. Attendees heard that the Branch was in good order and all officers were re-elected and our accountant **Mr Colin Hessey** assured us that our finances were in a very healthy state. Afterwards together with other Household Division members we all sat down to an excellent lunch organised by **Peter Brooks** on behalf of the Dining Club who also organised our Christmas lunch at the Four Pillars Hotel which was attended by around 50 people. The highlight was a £500 raffle with prizes

including £50 M&S vouchers; most people went home with something.

In May **Peter Brooks** was invited to join other Branches to visit the 1st Battalion at Lille Barracks for a display and tour of the weaponry and facilities used by the men and afterwards have lunch. It was a most enjoyable day. Also in May our Secretary with his wife **Kate**, attended their first non-military Garden Party at Buckingham Palace and both thoroughly enjoyed a splendid occasion.

As there was no Grenadier Day this year the Branch teamed up with other Branches and Household Division organisations and organised a Picnic and Fun Day at the Windsor Grenadier Club. Each Branch set up their own stall to raise a few bob and over 100 people turned up to enjoy themselves. **Peter and Margaret Cook** ran our tombola and turned in a small profit for the Branch. **John Southern** and his family from the Reading Branch ran an ice cream stall which provided, free of charge, as much ice cream anyone could eat which was welcomed by all as we were blessed with one of the warmest days of the year. **Roger and Pauline Coppock** organised a giant raffle and **Eric and Mavis Hallet** provided free tea and coffee. During the afternoon we were entertained by the Household Division Association Corps of Drums and mention must be made of their immaculate dress even on such a hot day.

Finally we must thank **Bob and Sue Gilbert** and their helpers from the Windsor Branch for allowing us to have the use of all the Club's facilities during the afternoon and to our own Branch members who stayed behind to clear up afterwards.

Again we are indebted to **Barrie and Pat Padwick** from the Henley Guards Club who organised the annual cheese and wine afternoon hosted by **Mr Herbert** at his house at Bradenham. We usually sit out in the garden to enjoy the afternoon but on a rare rainy day our host insisted that all 30 of his guests sit inside in his drawing room on a collection of chairs provided by themselves. Old and new mixed well, plenty of wine flowed and everyone had a good time. To conclude we presented our host with a two litre bottle of whiskey.

During the year **Barrie and Pat** organised two lunchtime skittle events at the Hungerford Royal British Legion Club where a good buffet was provided by our ladies. To date over £1500 has been raised in memory of **Bill May** for The Lung Foundation and as many will know **Bill** was a LSgt in The Queen's Company.

They also organised the annual Branch lunch at The Springs Golf Club, and an excellent Christmas get together held in the splendour of The Royal Box at Newbury race course, both of which were well supported.

The Branch must thank **Richard Adams** of the Royal Regiment of Fusiliers who again invited members to join with them in their annual trip to the Marne. At La Ferte a wreath was laid on behalf of the Association

in memory of all Grenadiers that lost their lives during the retreat from Mons and as usual paid their respects at all the other memorials visited. One generous donation arose from this year's trip; **James McDonnell** a regular traveler donated a cheque for £200 to **Peter Brooks** for the Colonel's Fund.

In September the Branch was invited by the Windsor Coldstream Branch to attend the Guard Mount at the Castle where we were privileged to watch from the roof of the Guardroom. Afterwards we had lunch in the Sergeants' Mess and finished the afternoon with a quiz. Our thanks go to **John Radley** for all his hard work organising the event.

At the end of September we all enjoyed our skittles evening at the Woodstock Masonic Hall where we took on and beat The Alfred Lodge. Numbers were slightly down due to holidays but over 40 people attended and an excellent buffet was served. The Branch share of the profit was £116.

On 28th October 2018 the Branch held its annual lunch at a new venue, the Holt Hotel near Steeple Aston, Oxford. 86 people sat down in the finest decor for probably the best lunch and service that we have enjoyed for a long time. In the absence of a Regimental speaker Colonel Hudson gave us a report on the state of the Regiment and our guest speaker Colonel Bridgeman of The Soldiers of Oxford Museum gave us a most informative talk on the connections between Oxfordshire and our own Regiment. Thanks to the diners who donated all the raffle prizes and to **Janet and Roy Shayler** for organising it and making nearly £300 for the Branch.



Our Annual Lunch top table. From Left to Right; Mrs Bridgeman, David Irvine, Mrs Gray, John Southern, Colonel Bridgeman, Colonel Hudson, Lord Raglan, Mrs Hudson, Major Sandy Gray and Diane Rapson.

Finally **David Wright, Peter Cook** and **Roy Shayler** manned a Grenadier themed Poppy Appeal table in our local Tesco store and raised the magnificent sum of £6,973.64 for the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal.



Roy Shayler with Paula, the Tesco Charity Champion and Peter Cook at the Poppy Appeal.

Due to the ill health of our Secretary, **Peter Cook** personally contacted and delivered our widows Christmas gifts and cards and we are most grateful to him for doing so.

Finally our thanks go to our President **Colonel E T Hudson**, our Vice Presidents and to **Mr Colin Hessey** our auditor for his outstanding support and all members wish his wife **Pauline** a quick return to good health. Last but not least to all members of other Household Division Associations who give us their support which makes us one happy family.



READING

(Formed 1913)

President: Lieutenant Colonel HS HANNING.

Vice Presidents: THE Hon Mrs JEREMY MONSON; JG SOUTHERN, Esq; Mr P FLOWERDEW

Chairman: Mr R KELLOW

Secretary: Mr J SOUTHERN, 14 Fairford Road, Tilehurst, Reading, Berkshire, RG31 6QB

Tel: 07802721511

Email: mastertailor@virginmedia.com

Treasurer: MR J VEARY

Meetings: No Monthly Meetings

Facebook: Guards-Association-Reading-and-District-Branch



Branch Members in the Gym.

We held our AGM in March which was attended by our President **Lieutenant Colonel Henry Hanning** and 19 members, families and friends at the Calcot Hotel, Reading with excellent service given once again. A Household Division Picnic Tea Party and an Annual Branch Lunch were two events planned for this year.



Members, friends and family attending the AGM.

Unfortunately, there was no Grenadier Day this year due to Battalion commitments in Iraq, South Sudan and Afghanistan. Instead **Lieutenant Colonel Piers Ashfield**, Commanding Officer of the 1st Battalion very kindly offered to host an Association visit to Lille Barracks in May. Our Branch was very pleased to accept the invitation and ten members had a very enjoyable and interesting day.



Lieutenant Colonel Henry Hanning and a member of the 1st Battalion.

Two members of the Branch were greatly honoured to be invited to the Appointment Parade of HRH Prince Andrew as Colonel of the Regiment at Windsor Castle on the 22nd March. It was an excellent ceremony and a day the two members fortunate enough to attend will never forget.



Theresa Day, Major PD Shannon, John Southern and Ray Huggins.

Black Sunday was held on the 20th May on a warm, sunny day with the Guards Chapel full with Regimental families and friends. Before the service a short service was held for the ashes of Chelsea Pensioner **Norman Mitchell** to be interred. This was attended by his family and friends.

A Household Division Picnic Tea Party was held on the 8th July at the Windsor Branch Club. It was a glorious summer afternoon and the free icecream was much appreciated. Members from the Coldstream Guards, Henley Guards and Grenadiers from the Oxford Branch attended and enjoyed browsing the stalls and meeting up with friends from these Branches. Hopefully these meetings will continue in the future.



The Senior Chaplain with the Regimental Support Team.



Margaret Rogers with a celebration cake.



Jim Veary.

Many members of the Association are now in their eighties; the Reading Branch is no exception. Our Committee of **Philip Flowerdew** one of our Vice Presidents and past Chairman, **Jim Veary** our Treasurer, **Robin Kellow** our Welfare Officer and **Theresa Day** our former Secretary will all have reached the age of 80 by the end of December 2018. **Lieutenant Colonel Henry** and **Mrs Elizabeth Hanning** gave an excellent Lunch Party on the 15th August to celebrate this momentous occasion for which we give them many thanks. The **Hon Mrs Patricia Monson**, **Mrs Sally Rose Gordon-Lennox** and **John and Christine Southern** joined us for a memorable afternoon.



A group of some of our 80 year olds looking much younger.



Hear no evil, speak no evil, see no evil.



The Reading Branch Stall at the Windsor Club.

We held a very successful Annual Branch Lunch on Sunday the 16th September at The Calcot Hotel. **Major Tom Hendriksen** brought us up to date with all the news of the Regiment. We welcomed **Lady Jennifer Hill-Wood** the widow of **Sir David Hill-Wood** a past President of the Reading Branch. **Theresa Day** our retiring secretary stood down after 14 years and was presented with a certificate signed by the Colonel, Prince Andrew, a beautiful crystal vase and a bouquet of flowers. We were delighted that three Chelsea Pensioners came to our Lunch again and all said they would like to come again.

We thank **Mark, John Southern's** son-in-law for being their chauffeur for the day. The Branch is very pleased that so many of our guests were from other Household Division Regiments and other Regiments, we could not hold this event without their support. The afternoon ended with a marvellous raffle and many of us went home with a prize. It was a most successful Branch Lunch.



Branch Secretary John Southern and family.



Major Tom Hendriksen and Chelsea Pensioners.

We keep in contact with our members and widows during the year and the majority are all coping extremely well. Our Welfare Officer is always available to give help where needed. Those who receive a Christmas Gift always thank the Association through the Branch.

Sadly, our Vice President **Major General Bernard Gordon-Lennox** passed away and members of the Branch attended his Memorial Service in the Guards Chapel in March. Tragically his wife **Sally-Rose Gordon-Lennox** passed away suddenly in September just three weeks after the lovely party at our Presidents house. Our Vice-Chairman **Ken Stokes** passed away suddenly in July and members attended his Funeral in Reading. Two of our widows **Irene Stamp** and **Annie Sarginson** also passed away; they and their husbands were staunch supporters of the Branch in their younger days. May they Rest in Peace.

Finally we send all good wishes to **Andy Green, Rob Broomes** and to all at RHQ for their commitment and hard work. We wish all Branches a successful 2019

SHROPSHIRE

(Formed 1927)

President: Major GV INGLIS-JONES

Vice Presidents: SIR AEH HEBER-PERCY, KVCO, JP; C BECK Esq; HW SPENCER, Esq; Capt G WHITAKER; 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 started the year by holding our Branch AGM at the Lord Hill Hotel in Shrewsbury, once again we were very low on numbers in attendance. We did however manage to keep the Branch functional with **Major Woodfield** agreeing to take over the Chairmanship from our retiring Chairman **Mr Bert Spencer** who had held the post for 30 years or more. **Bert** and his wife **Beryl** have supported the Branch through all the difficult times and it is only through ill health that **Bert** has had to step down.

It goes without saying that our President **Major Giles Inglis-Jones** and all our Branch members would like to thank **Bert** and **Beryl** for all they have done in supporting the Branch since being appointed in 1986 and we hope to see them both at our lunches in the near future; may they both enjoy good health.

We are fortunate to have **Mrs Adele Field** as a member of the Branch. **Adele** is the daughter of **George Pritchard** who was a staunch supporter along with his wife **Audrey**, sadly they both passed away in 2017. **Adele** agreed to take the post of Branch Treasurer which was previously held by **Major Woodfield**. We would like to say thank you to **Adele** for taking up this post which has enabled us to keep going. At the same time we would also like to thank **Adele's** husband **Mark** for volunteering his services as assistant Secretary, he will be an enormous help.

Sadly we have to report the death of **22545249 F Scriven**. **Fred** was a Sergeant and served with the Guards Independent Parachute Company in the 1950s and 60s and on return to civilian life was secretary and co-founder of the Telford Guards Club. **Chris Beck** represented the Branch at **Fred's** funeral and sent a wreath and our condolences to **Fred's** widow and family.

Finally we would like to thank everyone at RHQ for all the help given to the Shropshire Branch, it has been much appreciated; may you all enjoy good health in 2019.

SUFFOLK

(Formed 1926)

President: Colonel DHC GORDON-LENNOX

Vice Presidents: Major FAO CLARK; FA WALLACE, Esq; Mr AE JONES; Mr DC BEAUMONT

Chairman: PGD T del C NISBETT, Esq;

Secretary: Mr G REINCKE, BEM 54 Highfield Road, Sudbury, Suffolk, CO10 2QJ

Tel: (01787) 379158

Email: ggasuffolk@gmail.com

Treasurer: Mrs L MILLICHAP

Tel: 01284 753601

Email: lindamillichap09@gmail.com

Meetings: Contact the Branch Secretary for further details.

Unfortunately, we must record the following deaths since our last report.

Mrs F Yates died on 25th October 2017, the widow of Ken Yates who died in 1995.

Major D V Bendall CMG, MBE died on 27th December 2017. He joined the Regiment in September 1940 and then the 3rd Battalion. He became an Intelligence Officer at HQ 1st Army and then Senior GSO2 (Ops) at HQ 5 Corps where he helped to plan and oversee the final actions of the Italian campaign. Twice Mentioned in Despatches he left in July 1946. An excellent linguist, he joined the Foreign Office after the war and was a great supporter of the Branch.

Captain B D Double died on 2nd February, 2018. Barry joined the Regiment on 31st October 1960 and was Superintending Clerk at RHQ from 1977 to 1980. He then became Regimental Treasurer and General Secretary of the Association, a job he did for 22 years. After 42 years

continuous service with the Regiment he devoted much of his time to the Essex and Suffolk Branches.

22955206 W S Simmonds died in February 2018 He served in the Regimental Band and joined the Branch in 1954. **23509161 L C Stewart**, who served with the 2nd Battalion died on 22nd October 2018. **22955620 Les Taylor** died on 17th September 2018. A boy entrant he served with all three battalions, employed as a tailor.

Our annual Branch Christmas lunch was held on Sunday 10th December 2017 at Hintlesham Golf Club and we could not believe that the snow which fell that morning could cause such disruption. The Golf Club told us that all their other bookings for lunch had been cancelled, but fifteen of our hardy souls made it, including our President and Chairman. Something we think that 4 wheel drive vehicles played a part in! **Tony Daniel**, Chairman of the Yorkshire Branch put us all to shame by managing to get there too.

Everyone had a great time and were well looked after by the staff. Annoyingly at about 12.30 as the lunch was due to start, it stopped snowing and the thaw began!



Derek Beaumont with his certificate.



Members and guests at the Christmas lunch.

We enjoyed another BBQ and Garden Party, this time at the home of **Falconer and Laura Wallace**, Highlands Hall at Monks Eleigh and would like to thank them for allowing us to use their lovely garden for what was a wonderful afternoon. Shirts, shorts, hats and summer dresses were the order of the day as the sun shone on a very warm day. Relief was provided by a good breeze and the wonderful, very old horse chestnut tree. Before the group photograph, our President **Colonel D H C Gordon-Lennox** presented **Derek Beaumont** with a framed certificate thanking him for his service as Treasurer to the Branch for the past five years.

The barbeque as last year, provided an excellent selection of meats and salads followed by homemade cheesecakes and ice cream. The wine, kindly brought back from Italy by our Chairman **Patrick Nisbett**, flowed freely and probably too freely in some cases!



Our Garden Party group.

Our Autumn Meeting and Lunch was held on Sunday 2nd September 2018 at The Ipswich Hotel, Copdock which was a change of venue giving members in Ipswich and the East of the County a chance to attend the meeting and have their say about the future without having to travel to Bury St Edmunds. However only the usual 12 members attended the meeting but with their wives and partners, 22 of us sat down to an excellent carvery lunch.



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.

Sadly, we start by having to report the loss of members since the publication of the last Grenadier Gazette. They are **5834230 Len Bozeat MM** (aged 97) who passed away on 8th September 2018 in his care home. **Captain Charles Cox TD** (aged 70) who passed away on 18th August 2018 after a long battle with cancer. He was a very active and supportive Vice President of our Branch. **22545437 Mr William (Bill) Edwards** (Drummer Bill aged 80) passed away in the Queen Alexandra Hospital Portsmouth. **23509322 Mr Herbert Lillicrap** (aged 81) who passed away peacefully in his sleep on 14th April 2018. **2624826 Mr John Henry North** (aged 93) who passed away 21st June 2018. **2625232 John Francis Parker** (aged 92) who passed away on 16th August 2018. **22955106 Mr David Wedge** (aged 81) who passed away on 26th December 2017 and **23174474 Harold John WHITEAR** (aged 80) who passed away on 25 July 2018. Lest We Forget.

Our meetings are still held in the Sgts' Mess at Pirbright on the third Wednesday of every month; January to November at 1930hrs. Anyone wishing to come along would be made very welcome. All you need to do is drive your car up to the gate and tell the guys on duty that you are attending our meeting in the Sgts' Mess; they will issue you with a green vehicle pass that you need to put on your dashboard. Drive up to the Mess and park your car in the carpark to the right opposite the Mess and find your way to the bar. We still alternate our meeting with one month being a general meeting and the other being a social where we have bingo, a quiz and then

a raffle. Remainder of the night is just a chat to catch up. We always get more members attending the social nights than general meetings.

We hold a Branch lunch once a month January to November on the last Sunday of the month. This is held at the Lakeside International Hotel, Wharf Road, Frimley Green, GU16 6JR. Time 1230 for 1300hrs. Cost is £20 per head for three courses and coffee. Anyone wishing to join us will be made very welcome, but please ring our secretary **Mrs Babs Reid** first on 01252 316757 as we do need to let the hotel know our numbers in advance.



Some of our members having enjoyed lunch.

1st April 2018 (Easter Sunday), 25 Branch members met up at Warner's Hotel, Lakeside Village, Hayling Island to enjoy a three-course lunch and afternoon of entertainment put on by the Warner's team. Our lunch was followed by some horse racing, and yes, some of our members did have a win. Following the horse racing there was a live show from the Lakeside entertainment team. Lots of glitz and glamour, song and dance. And of course, we finished off with our normal raffle that always helps to raise funds for the Branch. A thoroughly enjoyable afternoon and all thanks to one of our Committee Members **Mr Malcolm Hammond** who arranged it all. Those members who went have asked if we could do it again, so watch this space for details of our next visit!

On Saturday 28th April 2018 we held our Annual Dinner at the Bush Hotel, Farnham, Surrey. Our guest speaker from the Regiment was **Lieutenant Fred Ide** and he had brought along his Platoon Sgt, **Sgt Hendy** as our invited guest from the Regiment. Our President **Colonel Euan Houstoun OBE** thanked everyone for coming especially members from the Lincoln Branch; Chairman and Secretary **Joe & Anne Marshall**, **Neal & Sheila Crowther**, **Steve & Maureen Vaughan** and **Martin Laird** from the London Branch. The secretary of the Scots Guards Association Surrey Branch **David O'Connell** and his wife **Mairi**, **Roy and Pam Bishop**

of the Scots Guards Association who had invited their friends **David and Debra Hamilton** and **Wayne and Julie Bloxom** all the way from Texas. It was a great evening and it was wonderful to have them all along to enjoy the evening with us.



From Left to Right: **Mrs Babs Reid** Branch Secretary, **Mr Andy Reid** Branch Chairman, **Sgt Hendy** and **Lieutenant Fred Ide** our guest speaker.



From Left to Right: **Mrs Mary Glead**, **Mr Windy Miller** and his wife **Wendy**.



From Left to Right: **Mr Tim (Piggy) Johnson** our Branch Treasurer and **Lieutenant Colonel Richard (Skid) Dorney MBE** our Branch Vice President sharing a joke.

By invitation of the Commanding Officer of the 1st Battalion, on Wednesday 9th May 2018, 45 Association members, including 10 from our Branch visited the Battalion in Lille Barracks, Aldershot. We were greeted by the Drill Sgt who took us up to the Officers' Mess where we were welcomed by the Senior Major at the door and ushered into the Mess for coffee, biscuits and a good chat with some of the Officers already there. The Senior Major then took us into a briefing room where he gave us a talk about the Battalion and what it was going to be doing over the next year. We then went outside where they had display stands laid out with some of the modern kit that is used today including weapons and the very latest Foxhound armoured vehicle. We had a visit to the Gym and then over to the accommodation blocks – very impressive with one room ensuite per man. Not 30 to a room like some of you might remember. It was then into the Sgts' Mess where we all had lunch hosted by the Drill Sgt. It was a great tour around the Barracks and we were able to have a chat and a laugh with some of the serving lads. Our thanks to the Commanding Officer and all those involved in making our day a special one.



Weapon Stand on our Lille Barracks visit.

Our June Branch trip to Frogmore House Windsor was a great success. Set amidst the extensive Home Park of Windsor Castle, Frogmore House is surrounded by fine and picturesque gardens. The house dates from the 1680s and was purchased for Queen Charlotte in 1792. Here the Queen was able to indulge her love of botany and laid out the garden with many rare and unusual plants. At one time the house was the home of Queen Victoria's mother, the Duchess of Kent. After her death, her son-in-law Prince Albert, commissioned the building of an elegant mausoleum to hold her remains. Queen Victoria was particularly fond of Frogmore's peaceful ambience and it became her favourite retreat. Victoria and Albert's love of Frogmore led them to break with tradition and build themselves a much larger and grander mausoleum for

themselves. Frogmore House featured on the news this year so most of you will know its where **HRH Prince Charles** hosted the party in the evening following the marriage of **HRH Prince Harry** to **Meghan Markle** (The Duke and Duchess of Sussex). On entry we got to drive up long walk which made a change for some of us. The sun shone all day for us and we managed to see all the gardens and some of the house. We ended our day by having a very nice meal in The Duke of Edinburgh, Winkfield on the way home.



Frogmore House Windsor.

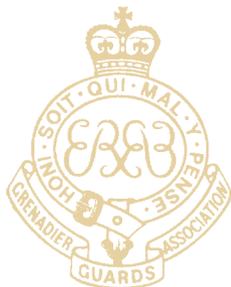
On Saturday August 18th our Branch put on a Tea Party in the Lord Pirbright Hall, Pirbright Green to celebrate the end of World War 1. Our Chairman **Andy Reid** talked to our members about the War and some of the events and facts. We remembered all those who paid the ultimate sacrifice with our Chairman reading the 'Ode of Remembrance' taken from Laurence Binyon's poem 'For the Fallen'. This was then followed by Last Post where members stood to observe a minute's silence that ended with Reveille. We then had some entertainment provided by **Micky Driver** and his team of professional entertainers. They gave us a mixture of songs sung at the time of the war and later, for all of which they had dressed up in uniform and clothes of the period. One of them, a comedian dressed as a Chelsea Pensioner had us all rolling around with laughter. During the interval we served sandwiches, sticky cakes and lots of tea and coffee. What a fantastic afternoon of entertainment it was with members taking part and singing along with the songs and waving their Union Jack flags. Sadly, it all came to an end too soon. We ended the afternoon with the normal raffle where there were lots of prizes to be won.



Tea Party in Lord Pirbright Hall.

Saturday September 8th was the day we held our Branch BBQ at our Chairman and Secretaries house (**Andy and Babs Reid**). The weather was kind to us and we all had a fantastic afternoon. We had two of our members up from Taunton, **Windy and Wendy Miller**. **Wendy** just happens to be a member of the Taunton Military Wives Choir and she had brought along they newly recorded CD to promote. After asking **Andy** if he had any kind of Wi-Fi speaker she borrowed his Juice Boom box and with a flick of her iPad she played one of their songs 'We Will Remember Them' and of course with a little persuasion from a few members she burst into song and sang along with Choir providing us with a little entertainment. She received roaring applause and our thanks. Sadly our President **Colonel Euan Houstoun OBE** and his wife **Joanna** were on holiday and could not make it to the BBQ but they did buy a couple of very nice house plants in glass containers to go into the raffle and few bottles of wine and mixed drinks in order for our members to have a drink on them. Both of which went down (excuse the pun) very well with our members.

As we write, we are looking forward to a Branch trip to the Isle of Wight staying at the Sands Hotel, Sandown. The Itinerary looks good and hopefully the entertainment in the evenings at the hotel will be good as well. So, fingers crossed that everyone has a good time.



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.

Sussex has more sunshine than any other County so apart from spending time putting on suntan lotion, the Branch has carried out a number of social events in addition to our normal monthly meetings. In all a total of four social events and eight monthly meetings have taken place.

The social occasions consisted of the Christmas Lunch held on the Sunday before Christmas Day at the Windsor Hotel, Worthing, Sussex. This was very well attended by approximately 40 people consisting of both members and guests, the food was excellent and the raffle was a great success with very good prizes. This is an occasion which is relatively informal so no speeches other than seasonal greetings. It does however give the ladies a chance to dress up, and the men to have a shave! All went well and the Hotel was congratulated for the food.

Our second event was our Annual Dinner. This as usual took place at the Windsor Hotel in April. It was a formal event and attended by approximately 50 people. We were fortunate in having as our Regimental Guest, **Colonel Aubrey Fletcher**, the President of the Association and we were joined by a full top table of former Officers headed by our President **Captain J S Greenwood**. We were all made aware of what the 1st Battalion was up to by **Colonel Richard's** excellent speech and were very surprised by the diverse tasks which they were to undertake during the coming year.

There was a presentation of flowers to **Mrs C Holland**, **Mrs B Room** and **Mrs T Norris** by **Captain J S Greenwood** for their work in preparing the refreshments for our meetings. Special presentations were made to the relatives of members who had died recently and who had been made Honorary Members of the Branch; **Mrs L Laws** widow of **L Laws**, **Mrs S Higgs** and **Mrs Gilbert** the daughters of **R Prior**, who received engraved Regimental Whiskey decanter sets. **Mrs A Peachy**, mother of **Ms J Peachy** our Honorary

Treasurer was presented with flowers. All had been regular attendees at our Branch meetings.

The evening was finished off by dancing to a DJ (not up to 'Strictly' standard but nobody collapsed). The event appeared to have been enjoyed by all, so the Secretary was able to breathe again! Once more the hotel was again congratulated for its work in making the evening a success.

Our third event consisted of a fish lunch held in June at the Fish Factory in Littlehampton, West Sussex. The meal consisted of six courses of different fish including prawns and scallops with the final one being Dover Sole followed by a dessert. Our members were taken by surprise at the variety offered and thoroughly enjoyed it. However there were a couple of comments in so much that they had expected fried fish and chips and mushy peas!

The meal was attended by 25 people who were all regular attendees, plus partners at our monthly meetings. The Secretary has been asked to arrange if possible, another visit to the Fish Factory should the Branch remain open. The Restaurant was congratulated for an excellent meal.

Our last event was the Summer Barbecue. This was held at the family home of our President **Captain J S Greenwood** at Balcombe, Sussex in August. It was attended by approximately 40 members and guests. It was a typical English summer day, cloudy with a chance of rain and sunshine – we had them all, although in very small quantities and did not use the marquee provided by our President. The Barbecue was supplied by the Proto Restaurant Group whose staff cooked and served the meal. Everyone enjoyed the food. We were joined by Captain JS Greenwood and his mother **Mrs P Greenwood** and a presentation was made to them of Champagne and flowers respectively for being our hosts for the day.

The regular meetings also took place on the second Thursday of the month at the British Legion Club Lancing, East Sussex.

Consideration is being given to our closure at our next AGM. This is due to the average age of our members and the fact that the Secretary/Treasurer wishes to call it a day and no volunteers have come forward to take on these roles.

The saddest part of any report is the casualty list and we regret that the following former Guardsmen have been added to our Roll of Honour; **2624530 Roy Edward William Pryor** died in February 2018 aged 91, he served with 2nd Battalion in Germany and France and the 3rd Battalion in Palestine. **23509157 Lewis Berwick Laws** died in October 2018 aged 81, he served with the 3rd Battalion in Cyprus, Libya and London. **2628187 Alfred John Brace** died in September 2018 aged 92, he served with the 1st Battalion from 1947 to 1953. **226614 Edward James Buchan** died in October 2017 aged 96, he served with the 3rd and 5th Battalions from 1941 to 1946. **14220365 Robert William Balcombe** died in

August 2018 aged 95, he served with the 4th Battalion between 1942 and 1947. All will be remembered by both family and comrades. The Branch was represented at 3 of the funerals and laid Regimental Wreaths. We were unable to attend the others due to distances involved.

TAMWORTH

(Formed 1965)

President: VACANT

Vice Presidents: Mr AW WALE

Chairman: Mr B WATTON, Esq

Secretary: Mr JIM GODSMARK, 20 Wykin Lane, Stoke Golding, Nuneaton, Warwickshire, CV13 6HN

Tel: 01455 212842

Email: godsmarkanne@gmail.com

Treasurer: Mr JIM GODSMARK,

Meetings: Held on the second Sunday of each month at Aldergate Club, Aldergate, Tamworth, Staffordshire, B79 7DL, at 1230hrs

It is sad to report the death of our Secretary **23688738 Peter Maguire**. Peter passed away on the 16th February 2018 after a series of illnesses and hospital admissions. Peter had been Secretary since 2010 and became the backbone of the Branch, caring and friendly to all and organising pleasurable events throughout the year. He will be sadly missed by us all; our sincere sympathies go out to **Gill and Daniel**.

On a lighter note, members attended our annual Christmas lunch in 2017 at the local Castle Hotel, the food and hospitality being enjoyed by all.

Black Sunday was attended by two of our members including our chairman **Barrie Watton** who has a respiratory condition and requires an oxygen generation unit to assist his breathing. In turn it also requires recharging on a regular basis. **Barrie** was able to attend due to the arrangements made by **Major Andy Green** and **Sgt Rob Broomes**. Our party was met outside the Guards Chapel by **Andy** from where we were conducted to seats adjacent to an electrical socket. Thank you gentlemen.

Members and their wives attended The Queen's Birthday Parade in June, a wonderful day of colour and pageantry, the envy of the world. This year our afternoon visits to well know Guards hostels was somewhat disrupted by demonstrations around Parliament and in Whitehall, although a demonstration by nude cyclists by Parliament Green required a second glance.

Our September meeting as usual included a visit to the National Memorial Arboretum (NMA) at Alrewas and was followed by a late lunch at the George and Dragon, Alrewas, serving both excellent food and cask beers. If

anyone is in the area or fancy a day out, a visit to the NMA is well worth while. The Arboretum extends over a large area, with many of the memorials being very poignant and extremely moving. Transport around the site can be hired; scooters and golf buggy type vehicles are available for the less able.

Members joined with the Tamworth RAFA and ATC squadron parade in St Editha Square, Tamworth to celebrate 100 years of the RAF. The parade, concluded with a service in St Editha parish church.

Our well travelled Banner has been requested on a number of occasions by non-Branch members for use as a coffin cover for former Grenadiers funerals. On one occasion this year it travelled to Northern Ireland.

As well as Peter, sadly we also lost **George Clevesby** who served with The Royal Engineers.

Your branch needs you and is now recruiting all members of the Household Division for smart days out. We conclude by thanking **Major Andy Green**, **Sgt Rob Broomes** and all other members of our RHQ staff for their help and guidance throughout this difficult year.

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 Midlands, 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.

Our Christmas Social & Buffet was held at the club on Monday 11th December 2017 with 40 persons attending. The Branch AGM was held in January 2018 with all officers re-elected.

On Tuesday 3rd April the local branch of the Parachute Regiment invited our members to their lunchtime social. A very pleasant time was had by all. On 17th April and on Monday 25th June members attended two lunchtime socials at The Down Inn, Shropshire and a local hostelry, The Hussey Arms. Both were really appreciated by members attending.

On Tuesday 6th November together with members of local branches of the Parachute Regiment we attended a lunchtime social at the British Legion Club with over 120 members and guests in attendance. All members appreciate these social get-togethers and are looking

forward to future occasions.

Remembrance Sunday 2018 was observed at the cenotaph in Walsall town centre, our wreath being laid by **Bill Bakewell**. A wreath was also laid at Willenhall by our representatives **Glyn Phillips**, **Peter Smith** and **Ray Smout**.

We are looking forward to our 2018 Christmas Social and Buffet Lunch which is being held at 12noon on Monday 17th December at the British Legion Club. Members of the local branch of the Parachute Regiment have been invited.

We are looking forward, with support to organising further events in the near future. Unfortunately with dwindling numbers we are finding difficulty in arranging our usual trips. The numbers on our sick parade are increasing and in fact at times exceed the number of members attending our monthly meetings. This is mainly due to Anno Domini catching up at last.

Sadly we report the deaths of the following Members; **23122852 John Scott** and **Associate Member 22216938 Jim O'Connor** Irish Guards, who together with his wife **Joyce** attended most of our meetings and were excellent supporters of the Branch.

All members of the Walsall Branch send greetings to all Grenadiers and their families everywhere. Special thanks to **Major Andy Green**, **Sgt Rob Broomes** and **Sgt R Houghton** for their help and advice over the last 12 months.

WESSEX

(Formed 1949)

President: Lieutenant Colonel AC McC MATHER, CVO, OBE

Vice Presidents: Capt 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 March to June, and also in September, at 1930hrs. Meetings are held at The Conservative Club, 22 Christchurch Road, Ringwood, BH24 1DN.

We went along to the Willets Arms in Wimborne for the first time in November 2017 where we had an enjoyable lunch and meeting. There were 16 of us and as

the change of venue went down well with everyone we plan to return there in the future.

The Christmas Social was a great success. Despite snow flurries during the day it did not deter members from making it to this very popular Branch event. **Alan Maslin** was as usual, the MC for the evening where we held a quiz and a couple of games of Bingo. This was followed by the Christmas Draw where members won £170 between them. Congratulations to the lucky ones. The food hamper, generously donated by **Ann Crew**, went to **Bill and Glenda Butt**. We also enjoyed a fine selection of food brought in by members.

For our first get-together of 2018, a small group of us enjoyed lunch at Haskins Garden Centre, Ferndown, in January. We always hold this event in the Cedar Room which is so cosy and it was so good to catch up with everyone's news after the holidays.

Our second lunchtime meeting in February was held at The Old Station Rooms in the New Forest. The weather had not improved much; if anything it became worse and turned out to be the beginning of one of the coldest snaps in years. However, this didn't affect us from enjoying a pleasant time together.

Our AGM had to be postponed in March due to the bad weather, so it was held in April. The Committee were re-elected to serve for a further term.

Several of us attended Regimental Remembrance Day in May and as always found the occasion very moving. We were pleased to see the new Colonel in attendance and to hear his comments about how proud he was to be taking over the role from HRH The Duke of Edinburgh.

We were very fortunate to have had wall-to-wall sunshine this summer so on the occasion of our Branch Garden Party it did not disappoint. We sat down to such a variety of food brought in by everyone and an excellent day was had by all. We were entertained with a dance routine choreographed by **Rebeckah & Ellie Maslin** which was a big treat. A superb day, wonderfully hosted by our President **Lieutenant Colonel Anthony Mather** and his wife **Gaye** to whom we say a big thank you.



Everyone enjoying the day at our Branch annual Garden Party in August.

On a lovely day in late August we went on a visit to Breamore House, an Elizabethan Manor House on the outskirts of the New Forest, and the home of the Hulse family. We sat down to a light lunch on arrival followed by a look around the Countryside Museum which provided us with a fascinating insight into the days when a village was self-sufficient. We were then treated to a guided tour of the house by the owner, **Michael Hulse** and his father, who gave us a very personal view of their home and it was most enjoyable. Just to add that it was originally opened in 1583 and underwent considerable restoration works after a major fire in 1856. It was also one of the locations used for the 2005 film *Pride and Prejudice*.



A lovely day out at Breamore House, on the outskirts of the New Forest.



Everyone enjoying our annual luncheon at The Marsham Court Hotel in October.

The Branch annual luncheon was held at The Marsham Court Hotel, Bournemouth in October and it was good to see so many members attending. As always, a big thank you goes to **Ann Crew** for organising the event again this year on our behalf. We were delighted to have as our guest speakers, **Major General Bryan Dutton CB, CBE**, late The Devonshire and Dorset Regiment, who gave

WIGAN, ST HELENS AND DISTRICT

(Formed 1974)

President: Mr B TAYLOR

Vice Presidents: Captain (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.

us a little insight of his time at Sandhurst. We were all fascinated to hear about his recollection of the handover of Hong Kong to the Chinese People's Liberation Army – a very busy time! The Regiment was represented by **Major Alex Bayliss**, SO2 Capability Directorate, Army HQ, Andover accompanied by his wife **Madeleine**, who gave us a full update on how busy the Battalion continue to be and our thoughts were very much with them.

We went along to the Museum of Army Flying in October which was well worth the visit. We had a short tour very kindly undertaken by **Lieutenant Colonel (Ret'd) Chris Hyslop RE** which was much appreciated considering they were preparing to shut down that weekend for major refurbishment and due to reopen in April 2019. The aerial museum pieces on display were very impressive and the day was enjoyed by all.



An interesting day out at The Museum of Army Flying.

We, as a small Branch, are so fortunate to have as our President **Lieutenant Colonel Anthony Mather**, supported by his wife **Gaye**, and a strong group of members who are able to attend our meetings on a regular basis. We are also very lucky to have an active Association team at Regimental Headquarters who are always there at any time with help and advice. A big thank you to each and everyone.

It is with great sadness that we have to report the passing of the following members; **23688481 Simon T E Clayton-Paine** on 3rd March 2018 and **2624187 Jim Hayes** on 15th June 2018.

Finally, it would always be nice to welcome new members to our group – so if you have time, come along and join us. Details of meeting dates and contacts to be found in the Header above.

Every year we ask are our readers really interested in our antics of the past 12 months. After all it's the same every year. But then wait a minute, what about February? What about our Annual Dinner? These were different and will be interesting to read about.

Of course some things were the same but we make no apologies for that. Remembrance Sunday is always a big occasion for us and in 2017 we decided as a Branch, that we would parade in Wigan. Our Branch Banner was on parade carried by **John Barkley** and **Barry Taylor** laid a wreath on behalf of all our members.

2017 ended with our Christmas lunch in December. Around 60 members, family and friends enjoyed a relaxed and festive lunch at the Village Club, Culcheth.

Our monthly meetings are never well attended these days but those of us who do attend are a dedicated bunch. All decisions on Branch activities are taken at our meetings with every decision decided by democratic vote. So it was for 2018.

It was agreed that our St. George's Lunch should, once again, be held at the Village Club and 65 of us, including family and friends, enjoyed a hearty lunch. Superb food, superb company, superb raffle, superb day. Obviously this was in April and this month brought about our AGM. The committee stood down and were all re-elected.

The month of May is usually busy but not in 2018. Our annual second hand stall at Culcheth Community Day had to be called off due to ill health among those who usually run it. Then our visit to Regimental Remembrance Day did not happen due to lack of numbers able to attend. We are looking ahead for a better May in 2019. The Branch was well represented on Armed Forces Day in June by parading with our Branch Banner in Wigan once again. A wreath was laid at the War Memorial followed by a service in the Parish Church.

July, August and September are quiet months due mainly to the holiday season. We did however have a special event in September – **John Barkley** married

Marilyn at a lovely ceremony and reception at a local golf club. Without Grenadier Day we were particularly quiet (we are looking forward to 2019). So far in 2018 we haven't held the annual Cadet Awards (The Walter Massey Awards for Excellence) due to the cadets having a busy schedule. However, it is hoped that these awards will have taken place by the end of the year.

As a Branch we continue to support local projects and events wherever possible and 2018 was no exception. 17 of us (Branch members and friends) attended a fund raising evening in aid of a local Veterans' charity, Shoulder to Soldier. This charity supports local Veterans who need assistance in everything from counselling to getting somewhere to live. **Graham Young** is very much involved with the charity and in particular, their garden allotment provided by local garden centre Bent's.

The Branch was also represented at the recent commemoration of a local recipient of the Victoria Cross awarded 100 years ago. We attended the unveiling of a paving stone in honour of **Private Norman Harvey VC** followed by a church service and the unveiling of a statue of **Norman** in a local park in Newton le Willows. **Norman** served in WW1 with 1st Bn The Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers and we were proud to honour him at this commemoration. It was a bitterly cold day and thanks go to **John Barkley** our Banner bearer, his Wife **Marilyn** and **Adel Taylor** for their support.

Our annual dinner was particularly well attended in October with 77 members, family and friends sitting down to a sumptuous four course meal at the Village Club with excellent entertainment from vocalist **Andrew Dunn**. We were very lucky and honoured to have our Association President **Colonel R EH Aubrey-Fletcher** as our guest speaker. As always, he was friendly, very informative and amusing in his review of Regimental affairs. Thanks go to **Adel Taylor** and **Susan Yates** for their hard work in selling raffle tickets and also to our Branch Chairman **David Welling** and **David Yates** for making the drawing of raffle tickets entertaining in itself – quite a team, those four. It was also our 40th anniversary and to mark the occasion everyone received an engraved tumbler to take home.



The President with David Welling and Barry Taylor at the Branch Annual Dinner.

Mentioned at the start of this report were certain differences during 2018. Well, February and October might be called 'the **Eric Radcliffe** months'. In January our Branch Treasurer **Eric** turned 93 years of age and we decided to give him a special birthday treat.

During WW2 **Eric** served with the 4th Battalion as part of the 6th Guards Tank Brigade landing in France and working his way into Belgium. He was awarded the Legion of Honour by the French Government in recognition of his part in the liberation of



Eric Radcliffe at the Tank Museum.

France. So, we decided that a visit to the Tank Museum at Bovington would be a fitting present for him. We contacted the Museum and explained our intentions and the staff were fantastic in setting up a VIP visit for **Eric**.

He was treated like a celebrity with a welcoming committee, a tour of the museum, tea and even a visit to the Vehicle Conservation Centre with a guided tour of tanks and armoured vehicles which were out of bounds to the general public. There were 'tanks galore' and **Eric** was delighted to come across a tank turret fitted with anti aircraft guns just like the tank he was in when first landing in France. Further on, we came across a Churchill tank with the name 'Guildford' painted on the side. **Eric** was quick to identify the flash on this tank as that of the 4th Battalion and when he got home he was able to track that very same tank to the Squadron and Troop in which it saw service. Needless to say he was 'well chuffed'.



Eric with Barry Taylor in the Vehicle Conservation Centre at the Tank Museum.

To round off his visit Eric was interviewed to recount his service in The Guards Tank Brigade and even had a DVD of his interview sent to him at home. Quite a visit – and so the Eric Radcliffe year continued.



Eric being presented with his President's Certificate by Colonel Richard Aubrey-Fletcher.

At our Branch annual dinner in October Eric was recognised as an outstanding member, as someone who was a founder member and who had been a committee member for the past 18; serving as Branch Treasurer for two terms. In recognition of his service and dedication he was awarded a President's Certificate and was lucky enough to have the President present the award personally. This moment made the annual dinner just that bit more special – a quiet year but still a busy year!



Members enjoying the Annual Dinner.

We give thanks to all our members, our Ladies and our friends for all their support and to our Branch committee and everyone at RHQ for all the help and advice which we receive on tap. You are all special.

On a sad note we have to report the passing of Margaret Price, widow of Alan a former Branch Chairman. Margaret passed away peacefully in hospital in Yorkshire where she moved after Alan's death to be near her daughter. Rest in Peace Margaret.

WINDSOR

(Formed 1926)

President: VACANT

Vice Presidents: Captain DW LING; Major General SIR MICHAEL HOBBS, KCVO, CBE; Major MB HOLLAND; 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

The Branch continues to be active with the hard working committee laying on various events supported by a small number of Branch Members and many club members. Monthly meetings are held on the first Wednesday of each month from April to September and the first Sunday of each month from October to March at the club.

A few Branch Members attended the Service of Remembrance in 2017 at Holy Trinity Garrison Church in Windsor. The President, Major Mike Holland and Alan Urvoy represented the Branch carrying the poppy wreath. We met back at the Club with members from other local Associations exchanging memories over a drink or two.

2017 Christmas festivities started on the first weekend in December with Sylvia Bullion organising a coach trip to Great Yarmouth where Branch and Club Members enjoyed a Turkey and Tinsel weekend.

We held our Christmas Draw on Saturday 16th December. Sue Gilbert, once again did a marvellous job collecting over 100 prizes from local businesses and other sources. We had a very good turnout on the night with Members and friends hoping to win one of the prizes on display. We took a break halfway through the draw and enjoyed a finger buffet prepared by the ladies. The draw would not be successful without the continuing support of our Members buying and selling tickets. So a big thanks to all of you.

The following Wednesday evening Karen Holmes, one of our Club members provided the last quiz of the year. It was well attended with about 60 members and friends being tested on their knowledge of a variety of questions about Christmas.

Tony Steel BEM and Club member Herbie Morgan opened the bar on New Years Eve. Terry and Ruth

Booth's daughter **Emma** and her husband **Chris** provided the music. They entertained the 70 members and guests gathered to celebrate and see in the New Year. A very good night was enjoyed by all who attended.

The next major event at the Club was on 17th February 2018 when we held a St Valentine's Day Cocktail Party. Secretary **Bob Gilbert** and **Tony Steel BEM** greeted Members with a drink on arrival and keeping them topped up for the next two hours; our guests helped themselves to the buffet we provided. We finished the evening dancing to Rob's Disco Sound.

The Branch President **Major Mike Holland** and Secretary **Bob Gilbert** had the pleasure of attending the parade at St George's Hall, Windsor Castle on 22nd March to mark the handover of the Colonelcy of the Regiment between HRH the Duke of Edinburgh and HRH the Duke of York in the presence of Her Majesty the Queen.

Our AGM was held on Wednesday 4th April. The Secretary **Bob Gilbert** gave an overview of the past years events. The Treasurer **Sue Gilbert** produced the Branch and Club audited accounts that were accepted. The President, **Major M.B. Holland** addressed the meeting and thanked the committee for their loyalty in running the Branch and Club and this was welcomed by the Members. A short interval was taken and Members enjoyed a finger buffet prepared by the ladies. When we resumed after the break and the following members were re-elected as Officers to manage the Branch and Club; Chairman **Mick Bullion BEM**, Vice Chairman **Terry Booth**, Secretary **Bob Gilbert**, Treasurer **Sue Gilbert**, Welfare Officer **Sylvia Bullion** and **Sue Gilbert** as Club Secretary. Other members to help manage the club are **Tony Steel BEM**, **David Boucher**, **Sheila Howell**, **Ruth Booth** and Club Members **Herbie Morgan**, **Peter Geary**, **Karen Holmes**, **Fred** and **Irene Deacon**.

On Saturday 14th April **Paul Oatway** celebrated his 60th Birthday at the Club. He was joined by his family who had travelled down from Manchester and many of his other mates from near and far. Two Saturdays later **Karen Holmes** arranged a beetle drive evening. It was a great evening of fun for the 20 or so who attended.

Lieutenant Colonel Piers Ashfield Commanding Officer 1st Battalion Grenadier Guards very kindly offered to host Members from the Branch to visit Lille Barracks on Wednesday 9th May. **Mick Bullion BEM**, **Bob Gilbert**, **Tony Steel BEM**, **Paul Oatway** and **Brian Cox** made their way to Aldershot and had a very enjoyable time being shown around the different activates on display and meeting members of the Battalion, before having lunch in the Sergeants' Mess.

In May on the day of the Royal Wedding a small number turned up at the Club for a Social Evening dancing to Rob's music.

Sunday 20th May was Regimental Remembrance Day

(Black Sunday). We once again welcomed **Colin Knight** and Members of the Gloucestershire Branch who called in for a refreshment break on their way to the Service. Members from our Branch were able to travel with them to the Parade in London. On their return journey home they called in again for a fish and chip tea before continuing on their way home.

Another Social Evening was held on Saturday 23rd June. **David Holmes** (Club Member) organised a game of croquet on the lawn. This is a game that not many of us had played before but it was great fun learning. **Robert and Mandy Saunders** helped out with the games of boules that were also being run. The following day a few of us returned to watch the England World Cup match on the television.

As there was no Grenadier Day this year a number of Members from local Associations got together and arranged a Household Division Picnic Party at the Club on the afternoon of Sunday 8th July. About hundred Members from the Reading, Oxford and Windsor Branches of the Grenadier Guards Association, The Reading, Oxford and Windsor Branches of the Coldstream Guards Association and the Henley Guards Association set up stalls in the garden and a grand raffle was displayed inside. We were blessed with a very hot sunny day (too hot for some) but had an enjoyable day meeting Members from other branches. The Household Division Corps of Drums Association entertained us playing a few times during the afternoon before ending the day with Beating Retreat and Last Post.



Mick and Sylvia Bullion running the Branch stall at the Household Division Picnic Party afternoon.

Bob Gilbert was invited by **Martin Bright**, project manager for Castleoak Construction Company which is building the Windsor New Retirement Village, to a meeting at the site. **Bob** attended the meeting on 26th July and received a cheque for £60 on behalf of the Colonels Fund. The money was raised by one of the work force, **Khalid Shibani**, who had arranged a collection of scrap metal, which was converted into cash.



Bob Gilbert receiving the cheque from Castleoak Construction Company. From Left to Right: Khalid Shibani, Bob Gilbert and Sam Grimbaldeston.

On 11th August **Karen and David Holmes** (club members) arranged a French theme night. The club was decorated out with banners of the French colours. **Bob Gilbert** greeted about 70 members with a glass of wine on arrival. **Karen** handed out quiz sheets to teams of four, to be filled out during the evening. Halfway through the evening members helped themselves to cheese, pâté, biscuits, French bread and other delights. Many dressed up in French outfits for the occasion and a prize was presented to **Terry Booth's** son-in-law **Chris** for best costume, as a French waiter.



French Themed Night. From Left to Right: David Holmes, Bob Gilbert, Tony Steel BEM and Karen Holmes.

On Wednesday 19th September a coach of 53 Members had a day trip to Hastings. We left Windsor with a dark sky and light rain but on arrival at Hastings we were blessed with good weather. A number of us had a trip on the small railway train along the beach to the fish market and fishing museum.

The last event of the reporting year was the Branch Annual Dinner and Dance held at the Royal Adelaide Hotel, Windsor on Saturday 20th October. 46 Members and Guests once again enjoyed a superb four course meal. We were privileged to have as guest of honour **Lieutenant Colonel James Greaves**, Grenadier Guards and his wife **Eila**. He updated members and guests on the activities of the Regiment. After the toasts Vice President **Roger Dobson** presented our President **Major Mike Holland** with a set of brandy goblets and thanked him for his time served as Branch President. **Mike** will remain a Vice President of the Branch and we hope to see him and **Sue** at some functions in the future. **Tony Steel BEM** had a table with friends from the past. **Rick and Linda Kitchen**, **Steve and Jenny Marshall**, **Paddy and Conni Tinnion**.



Branch Annual Dinner and Dance. From Left to Right: Tony Steel BEM, Paddy Tinnion, Bob Gilbert, Rick Kitchen and Steve Marshall.

It is with deep regret that we report the sad loss of the following members: **22213318 L Haines** and **22213207 N T Beech**. In the past **Nat** served the Branch as Welfare Officer and had been a great supporter of the Branch and Club but sadly, over time, he had not been able to attend as many functions due to failing health. Lest we Forget.

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. Throughout the year we have also held other functions on Saturday nights.

Our thanks go to the loyal Branch and Club members and ladies for their support over the last 12 months and help in keeping the Branch active.

WOLVERHAMPTON

(Formed 1919)

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



Combined Cadet Forces at Beating Retreat.

Jack and Jenny Snead attended Beating Retreat on 6th June 2018. It was a lovely summer evening and they were very proud to see the programme commenced with the Corps of Drums of the Staffordshire and West Midlands Army Cadet Force, the Corps of Drums of Gwent and Powys Army Cadets and Greater Manchester Army Cadet Force after many months of rehearsals with the Band of the Grenadier Guards. The Corps of Drums was lead by ACF Senior Drum Major **Jasmine Marriott**. All the Cadet Forces then joined The Massed Bands of The Guards Division.



Jack Snead and Bob Davison.

The City of Wolverhampton celebrated Armed Forces Day on 30th June 2018. Our Branch maintained a presence at the SSAFA stand for the meet and greet of veterans. **Jack Snead** carried our Banner in the parade and was joined by **Bob Davison**. **Ray Smout** and his wife from the Walsall Branch joined us too.



Jenny and Jack Snead at the SSAFA Stand.

Wolverhampton Branch has had a good year. A party from our Branch attended the 90th Anniversary Celebrations of the Shropshire Branch in November 2017. Our meetings are regularly attended by our supportive members and friends. Our regular Sunday lunches are very popular with our members too.

Our AGM was held on 7 March 2018, later than usual owing to local weather conditions, all officers were returned.

A party of us attended Regimental Remembrance Day on 20th May 2018. It was interesting to hear the new Colonel, **HRH Prince Andrew** give his inaugural address. West Midlands Army Cadets, badged Grenadier Guards were part of the Marching Band.

Our annual canal day trip took place on 23rd May 2018 and was enjoyed by a party of our members and friends. The weather was ideal and it was a pleasant trip.



From Left to Right: John Rogers, Jean Bennett, Evelyn Egginton, Dennis Johnson, Don Robinson, Mavis Bailey, Ken Egginton, Elaine Johnson and Christine Rogers.

2019 will be a celebratory year for the Wolverhampton Branch as we are celebrating our Centenary. An extract from a local Newspaper dated 1919 reads: 'The inaugural dinner of the Wolverhampton Branch of the First or Grenadier Guards' Association was held at Reynolds Restaurant on Friday night, 18 November 1919, and was attended by over 50 ex-Grenadiers of the town'.

Lastly we would like to thank all our Branch members and friends who have supported us during the year. Their support is very much appreciated. We would like to thank **Andy Green, Rob Broomes** and the team at RHQ for their continuing support and hard work during the year.

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 BI BAYLIS

Secretary: Mrs VM BAYLIS

Tel: (01905) 422569

Email: grenguardsworces@gmail.com

Treasurer: Mrs J EVANS

Meetings: Held on Tuesdays at Sixways Rugby Stadium, Warriors Way, Worcester, WR3 8ZE, at 1930hrs. The dates for 2019 are as follows: February 5th, April 2nd, (AGM May 12th), August 6th, November 5th. Contact the Branch Secretary for further details.

A very enjoyable Christmas lunch was held on 4th December 2017 at the Pear Tree in Smite and was attended by 110 people. The food was enjoyed by everyone and as usual, the atmosphere was thoroughly enjoyable; one of guests remarked that 'it felt just like a family get-together', so a success we would say! **Lieutenant Oliver Staunton**, who attended with his girlfriend **Katie**, was the speaker from RHQ and updated us on the Regiment. As last year **Ruth Hinsley** provided the excellent Christmas music throughout the lunch and this was enjoyed by all the guests. Well done and thank you Ruth.

The President presented two certificates, one to **Derek Turney** for his position as Vice President of the Branch and one to **Ken Allen** in recognition for outstanding service to the Branch. The President also presented **Bruce and Veronica Baylis** with a garden centre voucher and a plant for all their hard work. Of

course as it is becoming a bit of a tradition, our Poet Laureate **Bruce Baylis** entertained us all with the next installment of 'Guardsmen Smith and the Naafi Girl'.

The Skittles and Quiz evenings held in April and October were as always a resounding success. A good get-together with family and friends and thoroughly enjoyable. We have an excellent supper served by **Sarah**, the landlady at the Portobello and we make money for the Branch in the process, what more could we ask for! Thanks to **Patricia Smith** and her team for organising the event and to **Clinton** for very kindly volunteering as 'picker upper'.

The AGM was held on Sunday 13th May at the Pear Tree Inn, Smite, Worcester and the Committee for 2018 were elected as follows:

Chair Bruce Baylis, Vice Chair **Patricia Smith**, Treasurer **Joan Evans**, Assistant Treasurer **David Morgan**, Branch Secretary **Veronica Baylis**, Minutes Secretary **Sean Hinton**, Luncheon Master **Bruce Baylis**, Welfare **Bruce Baylis** and **Terry Hewlett**, Funeral Co-ordinator **Terry Hewlett**, Coach Master **Ken Allen**.

Committee Members: **David Spencer, Derek Turney, Ken Allen, Pat Allen, Ken Jones, David Westbury, David Wilkes, Steve Marriott and Patricia Smith**.

Social Committee: Chair **Patricia Smith, Ken Allen, Joan Evans, Kath Hinton and Geoff Allen**.

The meeting was followed by an excellent two course lunch in the Garden Room at the Pear Tree. Due to a serious knee injury caused by a fall the previous day, the Chairman **Terry Hewlett** was unable to attend the meeting. As he was standing down from the position, his wife **Margaret** accepted a presentation of a bronze statue of a Drummer and a card from the Branch on his behalf.



The President and Margaret Hewlett.

Some of our members went to Regimental Remembrance Day by Coach. Due to other commitments, the Chairman and Branch Secretary were unable to attend on this occasion. From the feedback we had it was a good day. Once again, we have to thank **Ken Allen** for organising the trip and of course also a 'Very Big Thank You' to the Branch members for their support



David Hargreaves.

Having cleared out lofts, garages etc and with kind donations **Bruce, Veronica and Patricia** organised a car boot sale on a very hot sunny Sunday 22nd July and raised £126 for the Branch. **Ken Allen** arranged for some of us to join a trip arranged by the Royal British Legion to Arlewas in August. **Veronica and Patricia** took the opportunity to visit the Guards Memorial.

On 3rd September a paving stone was unveiled at the Angel of Peace at St Mary's and All Saints Church, Kidderminster to commemorate **John Frances Young VC**, who was born in Kidderminster and moved with his family to Canada in 1912. He enlisted in October 1915 and joined the 87th Battalion of the Quebec Regiment (the Canadian Grenadier Guards). He was also a member of the Canadian Red Cross. In September 1918 he was awarded the VC 'for most conspicuous bravery and devotion to duty:

"He won his Victoria Cross on the 2nd September 1918 in the Dury-Arras sector. In the attack on the Drocourt-Queant line the 87th Battalion suffered heavy losses. Acting as a stretcher bearer attached to D Company, Private Young tended the wounded where they lay and undoubtedly saved many lives. He behaved with equal gallantry on the 3rd and 4th September. He received the decoration from King George V at Buckingham Palace on 12th April 1919".

He returned to Canada after the war and died on 7th November 1929 at the age of 37 from Tuberculosis, almost certainly as a result of damage to his lungs sustained in a gas attack.

The Chairman, Secretary and Vice-Chair along with **George Green** and **John Bevan** went along to the unveiling. It was also a really nice opportunity to meet up and make contact with serving members of the Canadian Grenadier Guards.

A Memorial Gate was officially opened as part of Memorial Walks in the village of Eardisland in remembrance of George Roberts who joined the Grenadier guards in 1914:



Service prior to the unveiling of the paving stone.



George Green with Canadian Grenadiers.

"He joined the Grenadier Guards in 1914 and completed training at the Guards Depot before joining the 4th Battalion deployment from England to the Western Front. George became ill at some stage in early June. He was sent to the Queen Alexandra's Military Hospital in Millbank, London. Records show he was suffering from tuberculosis but the cause of his death on 5th July 1915 was registered as paratyphoid".

<http://www.eardislandmemorialwalks.org.uk/index.php/our-fallen/gdsm-george-roberts>

As part of the commemorations marking the end of the First World War, **Patrick Holcroft** together with our Branch, Worcester County and City Councils managed to obtain the services of the Grenadier Guards Band and on Friday 14th September they performed at a fantastic concert at Worcester Cathedral. This was followed on Saturday 15th September by a Drumhead Service at Gheluveld Park. The weekend brought a perfect and fitting climax to the Worcestershire World War commemorations.



Cathedral Concert.



John Bartlett and Ken Allen stand for The British Grenadiers.



The Drumhead Service.

Ray Seale celebrated his 90th Birthday on the 5th February and the Branch Secretary arranged for a special birthday card to be made. From what we can gather from his family, he was extremely pleased with this. Sadly Ray passed away in November (see below).



Ray Seale's 90th birthday.

David and Diane Spencer celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary in May. Unfortunately we only found out the day before but we did manage to send them a card in the post although it will have arrived a day late.

We manage to keep in touch with some but not all of our Branch members. We would like to use this opportunity to send our very best wishes to all, especially to those who are not in the best of health. Please contact us if there is anything we could be of help with.

It is with great sadness that we have to report the following deaths: **John Bartlett's** wife **Betty** passed away following a long illness on 28th July. 22643441 **Reg Noke**, a staunch and very committed Branch member for many years having served as Coach Master diligently for a long period of time. Reg passed away suddenly in hospital on 27th September.



Reg Noke.

2628518 **Raymond Seale** passed away peacefully, surrounded by his family on 8th November. Ray served with the Regiment from 1945 to 1953. He was with the Branch for 65 years, during which time he had been Branch Secretary, Chairman and a Vice President. In 2001

he was commissioned Deputy Lieutenant for Worcestershire and in 2002 he was appointed as Ambassador for Worcestershire. **23509163 Anthony Willmore** passed away after a long illness on 18th November 2018.



Ray Seale.

The year on year support we get from our members, their spouses, family and friends is very much appreciated and we extend our sincere thanks to them all. Without their input we would not be able to continue as we are and it is of great importance for the future of the Branch. As usual our thanks go out to **Major Andy Green, Sergeants Rob Broomes and Rodders Haughton** as well as the rest of the team at RHQ for their help and support throughout the year.

Diary Dates: Branch Meetings: Tuesday at 1930hrs on 2nd April, 6th August and 5th November. AGM: Sunday 12th May – Reception 1100hrs. Meeting 1130hrs followed by lunch at 1300hrs.

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.

2018 has been a busy and exciting time for the Branch beginning with a visit to Guards Training Company ITC Catterick Garrison on Friday 16th February. A few stalwart members braved arctic conditions and attended the Pass Off Parade of 15 TGdsm of 22 Platoon, the pinnacle of their training to show they are ready to join the Field Army and before most of them head down to London as Guardsmen.



Members with Lieutenant Colonel Julian Salusbury WG, Major Andrew Green (General Secretary), Mr Matthew Ellmer (Regimental Casualty Officer) and Company Sergeant Major D Griffiths IG.

Our Annual General Meeting was held at The Hare & Hounds, Riccall on Saturday 7th April, where members and guests enjoyed a traditional pub lunch. **The Lord Hotham** welcomed the members, including new members **23390307 Gordon Corner and Penny**, and thanked the Branch Officers for ensuring that the Branch continues to run smoothly for the benefit of the members. Our President, Executive Officers, and Committee all agreed to continue in office for a further year. A Tommy figure of a World War One soldier to commemorate the centenary of the end of the 1914-1918 conflict, and those who lost their lives, was presented to **The Lord Hotham** for his Church.

Tony Daniel and **Mick Male** attended Regimental Remembrance Day, Wellington Barracks on 20th May. It was a good parade and afterwards The Colonel chatted with members and their families.

Branch members and their families were once again fortunate to attend The Queen's Birthday Parade, many thanks to **Sgt R Haughton** of RHQ for taking charge of us. It was an excellent day, and we were so proud to be on Horse Guards from where we stepped off for Buckingham Palace and then lunch.



Sgt Haughton calls the Yorkshire Branch to attention at The Queen's Birthday Parade.

Branch members supported the unveiling of a plaque on Saturday 9th June at St Helens Church, Sandal, Wakefield to celebrate the arrival of 3rd Battalion Grenadier Guards in Wakefield in June 1940 after their evacuation from Dunkirk.

Following the great success of the local celebrations of The Queen's 90th Birthday at Swinton Park Hotel in June 2016, at the request of the Branch members this has now become an annual event and we returned for our third year on 17th June 2018. Once again, we were treated like royalty and had a wonderful day (and the hotel look forward to our return next year).



Swinton Park Celebrations.

On 23rd August 2018, a War Memorial Peal was held at Ripon Cathedral and bell ringers from the Yorkshire Association of Change Ringers rang a full peal in memory of all the young men from Ripon who were killed in the Great War, remembering those injured, either physically or mentally. The peal was rung on 10 of the Cathedral's bells which were half muffled, this makes the bells sound more sombre and is traditionally used on Remembrance Day.

This date was chosen as it is the centenary of the death of 30110 Private William Thorpe (aged 35) who was

killed in France on 23rd August 1918, when serving with 3rd Battalion Grenadier Guards commanded at the time by Lieutenant Colonel A.F.A.N. Thorne DSO and 2 Bars. The date correlates to the attack on Moyenneville which had started on the morning of 21st August. By the 23rd August, all objectives had been taken and a counterattack by the Germans beaten off. On 24th August the Battalion moved back to Ransart.

William was a bell ringer at Ripon Cathedral Church and at St. John's Church, Sharow and worked as a store man at Williamson's varnish works before the war. He was the son of James and Henrietta Thorpe; husband to Margaret and they had a daughter, Flora Mabel.



Mick Male and Tony Daniel with British Legion representatives Ian Smith (Vice Chairman) and Gordon Graham (Parade Marshall).

October 2018 marked our 70th Anniversary and we held a celebratory luncheon at Carlton Towers, Goole which has a close link with Branch. It is the family home of the Fitzalan-Howard family and at the inaugural meeting of the Branch in November 1948, Captain The Honourable Miles Fitzalan-Howard MC was elected a Vice President, and he became President of the Branch in 1955. He was later to become the 17th Duke of Norfolk in 1975, and Lord Martin Fitzalan-Howard then became Branch President. The members celebrated with lunch in the Venetian Room and the guest speaker was Major Gordon Gask MBE who

gave a comprehensive update on Regimental affairs. He congratulated the members on such a milestone occasion and was amazed at the continued stalwart support of the Branch members. The occasion was marked with the presentation of personalised cushions with their rank, name and army number to those individual Grenadier Guards present by **The Lady Hotham** wife of our President. A special memories album had been collated including past and present photographs of uniformed Grenadiers, historical recollections of their military service and more recent memorable occasions celebrated by the Branch.



The Branch President and Lady Hotham.



Another grand day out at Carlton Towers.

This year, as Remembrance Sunday falls on the 100th anniversary of the end of the First World War, the service commemorated the contribution of British and Commonwealth military and civilian servicemen and women involved in the two World Wars and later conflicts. 21 members attended All Saints Church, Ripley. **Mick Male** acted as Standard Bearer, and **Tony Daniel** Chairman laid a wreath on behalf of the Yorkshire Branch. Members enjoyed lunch afterwards at The Station Hotel, Birstwith.

In support of the There But Not There Armistice project for the charity Remembered, the Branch installed a silhouette and five named blocks paying tribute to those who fell in the Great War who are commemorated at Ripley, namely: **Private J. Knowles** West Yorkshire Regt., **307552 Pte F. W. Foster** Yorkshire Regt., **12058 Trooper Hugh Leaf** Xth Hussars, **Trooper G. Winter** Household Cavalry, **4691 Private William Walker** Scots Guards at All Saints Church, Ripley.



Mick Male Grenadier Guards and Stuart Webb Scots Guards.

Sadly we must report that **2628634 Robert Britton (Bob)** passed away on Wednesday 28th March 2018 at the age of 89. He was a devoted husband to **Eva** who was a

resident in the Royal British Legion Lister House next door to their family home until she passed away in September 2018, dad of **Ralph, Fiona** and a caring Grandad with happy reflections of his time in the Grenadiers. **Bob's** funeral was held at Ripon Cathedral with a formal Civic presence recognising his contribution and service to Ripon as a Councillor, Mayor and Honorary Freeman.

On Sunday 11th November **Mrs Laura Garnett** the widow of the late **2621992 George Garnett** passed away.

Our Branch remains active, again largely due to the support of the core of loyal members, their friends and families. To round off the year the members are preparing for Christmas with a lunch in the Duchesses Dining Room at Carlton Towers on 1st December 2018.

Thanks go to our President, **The Lord Hotham**, for his continued support.

The Secretary wishes to extend his sincere thanks to **Major Andy Green, Sgt Rob Broomes** and their team at Regimental Headquarters for their ongoing help and support, it is very much appreciated.

NORTH AMERICA

(Formed 1972)

President: Lieutenant JA TRIGGS

Vice-President: Mr D MACKINTOSH

Chairman: Mr R BROWN, BEM

Secretary: Mr R BROWN, BEM Unit 4, 220 Walnut St., Lucan, Ontario, Canada, N0M 2J0

Email: raybrown35@hotmail.com

Treasurer: Mr R BROWN, BEM

This year has been very sad for our Branch, mainly due to the fact that we lost our long serving Secretary **Betty Pickering** in October 2018. Betty had been ill for some time, but we did manage to have a party for her and present her with a Certificate of thanks signed by the Colonel. A Celebration of Life was held for Betty in London, Ontario on the 9th December 2018.

Due to Betty's passing, things have been on hold at the Branch but we held a meeting at a Christmas Brunch on the 8th December 2018 where our future was discussed. We are looking much more at Social Media to help us get our message across and hopefully we will be able to give you better news in the 2020 Gazette.

In closing we would like to thank **Major Andy Green** and **Sgt Rob Broomes** for all their help during this trying time, and send our best wishes to all Branches and Members wherever you may be.

TURKS AND CAICOS

President: Brigadier DH FUMBLE-POTTINGSHEAD-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.

Because of infrastructure damage from the recent hurricanes, news of the regime change at RHQ has only just reached us. With the pleasures of home baking given to so many for so long, the Upper House (The Waiting Book) here looks forward to a long overdue visit to this far flung branch for a chance to inspect the new Regimental gatekeeper.

We also continue to extend our invitation to the Commanding Officer who so thoughtfully looked after us in his previous staff job. The winter warfare woollen gloves, Size 8 DMS boots [left only] and long johns in the Disaster Relief aid parcels are now collectors' items.

Despite the calming effect of evenly spaced buttons, we live daily with the omnipresent threat of TACIXIT (pronounced Tax it in deference to the nearby Virgin Islands). Until hell freezes over we will continue our ablutions all along our borders, both hard and soft, whilst not even paying lip-service to back stops. Here they are only used on cricket fields of the green not sandy variety.

On the plus side, branch membership continues to flourish under the direction of former Pioneer Sgt Philip McCracken [recently the Grand Turk Assistant Commissioner for DIY until standing down on account of unspecified irregularities] and we have a long waiting list of Associate members, mainly widows living in nearby Miami.

Late news: Major Ivor Fuller-Plumage won the Christmas sweepstake but was later arrested for fraud, incidentally a first for these islands. We have started a crowd funding appeal to raise bail.



ASSOCIATION DIARY OF EVENTS 2019

FEB	19	The Colonel's Birthday	29	Wolverhampton Branch Centenary Lunch, Linden House, Tettenhall Road, Wolverhampton, WV6 0DD		
MAR	23	Grenadier Guards Association, Annual General Meeting (AGM), Wellington Barracks	OCT	6	Wessex Branch 70th Anniversary Lunch, Dudsbury Golf Club Hotel, Christchurch Road	
	24	March Branch Annual Lunch, The Conservative Club, Creek Road, March, PE15 8RD		12	Wigan, St. Helens & District Branch Annual Dinner, The Village Club, Culcheth, Warrington, Cheshire, WA3 4LY	
APR	5	Worcester and Hereford Branch Skittles, Quiz & Buffet Night, The Portobello Inn, Bransford Road, St Johns, Worcester, WR2 4EZ		13	Gloucester Branch Annual Lunch, Hatherley Manor Hotel, Down Hatherley Lane, Gloucester, GL2 9QA	
	6	Sussex Branch Annual Dinner, The Windsor Hotel, Worthing, BN11 2LX		16	Matlock Branch Annual Lunch, Bakewell Golf Club, Station Road, Bakewell, Derbyshire, DE45 1GB	
	12	Norfolk Dining Club, Spring Lunch		20	Norfolk Branch Annual Lunch, Park Farm Hotel & Restaurant, Hetherset, Norwich, Norfolk, NR9 3DL	
	13	Yorkshire Branch AGM, The Station Hotel, Birstwith, Harrogate, HG3 3AG		20	Yorkshire Branch Annual Lunch, Carlton Towers, Carlton, Goole, Yorkshire, DN14 9LZ	
	24	Grenadier Guards Association, Branch Presidents' Day, Lille Barracks		26	Windsor Branch Annual Dinner, Royal Adelaide Hotel, 46 King's Road, Windsor, Berkshire, SL4 2AG	
	28	Wigan, St. Helens & District Branch St. George's Day Lunch, The Village Club, Culcheth, Warrington, Cheshire, WA3 4LY		26	Medway Branch Annual Dinner, Grange Moor Hotel, St. Michael's Road, Maidstone, ME16 8DS	
MAY	12	Worcester & Hereford Branch AGM, The Pear Tree Inn, Smithe Lane, Worcestershire, WR3 8SY		NOV	5	Norfolk Dining Club, Pub Lunch
	14	Norfolk Dining Club, Pub Lunch			8	Field of Remembrance, Westminster
	19	Regimental Remembrance Day, Wellington Barracks			9	Festival of Remembrance, Royal Albert Hall
	20	First Guards' Club Dinner			10	Cenotaph Parade, Westminster
	25	Major General's Review, Horse Guards' Parade			10	Yorkshire Branch Remembrance Service and Lunch, The Station Hotel, Birstwith, Harrogate, HG3 3AG
JUN	1	The Colonel's Review, Horse Guards' Parade			16	Bristol Branch Centenary Dinner, Holiday Inn, Filton, Bristol, BS16 1QX
	5	Beating Retreat 1, Horse Guards' Parade			16	Liverpool Branch Annual Dinner, Mercure Liverpool Atlantic Tower Hotel, Chapel Street, Liverpool L3 9RE
	6	Beating Retreat 2, Horse Guards' Parade			30	Surrey & East Hampshire Branch Christmas Lunch, Silvermere Golf Club, Redhill Road, Cobham, Surrey, KT11 1EF
	8	The Queen's Birthday Parade, Horse Guards' Parade – 1st Battalion Grenadier Guards to "Troop the Colour"		DEC	6	Norfolk Dining Club, Christmas and Ladies Evening
	15	Northamptonshire Branch Annual Dinner, Conservative Club, Cottingham Road, Corby, Northamptonshire, NN17 1SZ			8	Medway Branch Christmas Draw Lunch, St. George Hotel, Chatham, ME4 6BB
	16	Yorkshire Branch Celebratory Lunch for HM The Queen's Birthday Parade, Swinton Park Hotel, Swinton, Ripon, HG4 4JH			8	Wigan, St. Helens & District Branch Christmas Lunch, The Village Club, Culcheth, Warrington, Cheshire, WA3 4LY
	21	Norfolk Dining Club, Summer Dinner			14	London Branch Annual Lunch, Union Jack Club, Sandell Street, London, SE1 8UJ
JUL	14	Grenadier Day, Lille Barracks, Aldershot, GU11 2NQ				
	18	First Guards Club P&P Cricket Match & Cocktail Party, Burton Court, London				
SEP	15	Reading Branch Annual Lunch, Calcot Hotel, Bath Road, Reading RG31 7QN				

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 assnco@grengds.com



Gdsm prepare for a section attack range in Taji Military Complex.