

The Grenadier Gazette

THE REGIMENTAL JOURNAL OF
THE GRENADEER GUARDS



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THE Grenadier Gazette 2014



THE REGIMENTAL JOURNAL OF THE GRENADIER GUARDS

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Foreword

by the Regimental Lieutenant Colonel

After Her Majesty The Queen's Diamond Jubilee celebrations, the London Olympic Games, and the First Battalion's hard but successful tour of Afghanistan in 2012, many of us sensed that 2013 might be something of an anti-climax. How wrong, from a Regimental perspective, we proved to be.

Early in the year the true nature of the Battalion's final tour in Helmand became very apparent when the list of operational honours and awards was published. You will be aware that this included a posthumous Victoria Cross for LCpl Ashworth in recognition of his extraordinary bravery – the first awarded to a Grenadier since 1944 when Major Bill Sidney's courage in the face of the enemy was similarly recognised at Anzio. This is the source of enormous pride to us all, as indeed were the other honours awarded to members of the Regiment for this tour, including an OBE, a DSO and two MCs. The Queen held what must have felt like a 'Grenadier investiture' on 21st May, after which the recipients and their families – including those of LCpl Ashworth – gathered for what felt like a very happy lunch in Cadogan Gardens.

It was with this tour as background that the First Battalion has assumed State Ceremonial and Public Duties in London, which it will fulfil from Lille Barracks

in Aldershot for the next couple of years. It has been fully committed, along with Nijmegen Company, to the full range of ceremonial events, including the State Opening of Parliament, the Queen's Birthday Parade and the Funeral of Baroness Thatcher. The latter was conducted in the face of some public disgruntlement, but fortunately the 'opposed ceremonial' for which all were prepared never materialised. As the First Battalion's section of the magazine makes very clear, however, the year has not only been about Public Duties, but has included some fantastic training opportunities in, amongst other locations, the Falkland Islands and Brunei, which has done much to remind all ranks of what is expected of them as we prepare for the 'contingency operations' of the future.

The centrepiece of the Regiment's year was a combination of three events which together made up 'Her Majesty's Grenadier Day', held in the gardens of Buckingham Palace on 26th June in glorious sunshine in front of over 4,000 of the Regimental family. Her Majesty inspected The Queen's Company, presented new colours to Nijmegen Company, and spoke to many members of the Regimental Association who had gathered to celebrate the Association's centenary, and all in under three hours. It was a wonderful day, marred only by the absence of the Colonel due to ill health, for which Major Stephen Dehnel and his small supporting cast from Regimental Headquarters deserve our whole-hearted thanks for a job well done.

Before the dust had settled from Grenadier Day, planning switched to the year's second great Regimental



Lunch at Cadogan Gardens following a very Grenadier Investiture at Buckingham Palace.



Grenadiers inspecting Grenadiers in London District.

venture: a bicycle ride from Wellington Barracks to the Battlefield of Waterloo, involving about 150 of the wider Regimental family and designed to raise money for the Colonel's Fund. This was a complex event, with many moving parts, and a tall order for the small team involved in organising it. It proved to be a spectacular success, raising about £350,000 and drawing together Grenadiers of all ages, shapes and sizes in a manner that I have not experienced during my service. The atmosphere throughout was very special, as old and young of all ranks, retired and serving, together with family members and friends, covered over 250km (we were mostly on the continent) in under 3 days with one clear aim in mind: care for our wounded and bereaved families who have given so much on behalf of all of us. Lieutenant Colonel Patrick Holcroft and I cannot thank enough those of you who participated in this event or worked so hard to make it happen, or who gave so generously towards its vital cause.

Finally, I would not want to miss the opportunity of recording our thanks to

Colonel Euan Houstoun who has done such a magnificent job as the President of the Association for so many years. We wish his successor well in assuming this important role. And of course I would like to conclude by thanking the Editor of the Gazette and all its contributors for their continued outstanding work.



The Lieutenant Colonel and Regimental Adjutant get on parade for Her Majesty's Grenadier Day.

Regimental Headquarters

In the Army, every year is a busy year! The same can be said for Regimental Headquarters and 2013 was a relentlessly busy year and it came during a period of flux in the manning of RHQ: RQMS Steve Williams had replaced RQMS Johnny Walker who left for civilian life. Tony Johnson, our Admin Clerk left on promotion and his post was not filled until the Autumn, and LSgt Damian Bakewell was 'in' and 'out' whilst on resettlement prior to leaving the Army. However, we had been joined by Charlie Birch Reynardson and Major Stephen Dehnel who formed the Project Team for Wellington2Waterloo, and Stephen also organized Her Majesty's Grenadier Day.

The first few months started the build-up in planning for Her Majesty's Grenadier Day (HMGD) in June and the Wellington2Waterloo (W2W) Bike Ride in September. HMGD was to celebrate the centenary of the Grenadier Guards Association whilst at the same time The Queen was to inspect The Queen's Company and present new Colours to Nijmegen Company. W2W was a Bike Ride, in aid of The Colonel's Fund, from Wellington Barracks to Waterloo (the battlefield not the station!). These were both major projects requiring the most detailed and intricate planning and whilst the Project Officers bore the brunt of the work, all members of RHQ were heavily involved whilst also attending to the more routine work in a climate of reduced support.

In the midst of all this frenetic activity, the Regimental Adjutant's annual 'trade test' (Regimental Remembrance Day, the Spring Trustees' Meeting, Spring Regimental Council Meeting and 1st Guards Club Dinner) came and went successfully and without incident thanks to the hard work and support of all members of RHQ.



For some it was all too much! Major Andy Green works on the Association Branch accounts.



Major Andy Green, Colonel Euan Houstoun and Major Grant Baker on Regimental Remembrance Sunday.

After the thrills and spills of the Queen's Birthday Parade, Her Majesty's Grenadier Day was upon us – and what a day it was! On a lovely June afternoon guests assembled to watch The Queen's Company and Nijmegen Company, led by the Regimental Band, march onto parade. The old Colours having been marched off, Her Majesty came out of Buckingham Palace to be greeted by a Royal Salute. She then inspected the two companies and presented the new Colours to Nijmegen Company, and after meeting former Captains of The Queen's Company and sitting for photographs with Her Company, She then met members of the Association whilst making Her way to the Royal Tea Tent. Before retiring to Buckingham Palace she joined Nijmegen Company for a photograph. Major Stephen Dehnel and his hard-working team produced a really splendid afternoon in which all parts of the Regiment came together for a most enjoyable reunion. It was only marred by the absence of The Colonel who was in hospital.

For some members of RHQ, there was a brief Summer lull, but not for the W2W Project Team who 'moved into overdrive' with detailed planning and recces going on apace. Nothing was straight-forward or easy, and trying to organise such an event whilst many people were on holiday or in 'summer mode' was a major challenge. The events of W2W will be extensively covered elsewhere in this Journal but in brief, on 24th September, 161 cyclists from all parts of the Regiment, its wider 'Family', and a plethora of supporters assembled in Wellington Barracks for a Regimental Breakfast. Thereafter, led by the Regimental Band they marched with their bikes to the Guards Memorial; after a short wreath-laying ceremony, everyone formed up for the start and after a few encouraging words from the Prime Minister, off they went, heading for Folkstone. By Thursday evening everyone had arrived at Waterloo, in time for a most enjoyable party and a more sedentary trip home on Eurostar. Some stayed behind for a bit for a Battlefield Tour of Waterloo, and



The Regimental Adjutant rides in to the Barracks at Ypres.

some for a bit longer for a visit to Bruges where everyone was entertained by the Guild of St Sebastian. From an RHQ perspective, the Lieutenant Colonel, the President of the Association, a number of Regimental Trustees and the Regimental Adjutant were 'on their bikes', whilst the Project Team was working flat out, and RQMS Steve Williams and Gdsm Rob Armour were out at all hours either putting up or taking down the signs that marked the route. Major Andy Green was busy controlling the Association Battlefield Tour that was running alongside the Bike Ride.

Many have said that W2W was the most inclusive and enjoyable Regimental event that they had ever taken part in. That, and the fact that in excess of £340k was raised for the Colonel's Fund made it an outstanding success and we are all enormously grateful for the hard work of all those who 'made it happen' and dealt with the



'Happy at work' Sgt Toby Bonsell, Regimental Affairs NCO.



LSgt Andy Harper, Regimental Property and Stores NCO.



The RHQ Dog Section – Miss Inca Baker and Mr Highbury Williams.



The Lieutenant Colonel chats to the Master of the Ironmongers' Company (Richard Pattesson-Knight).

minor dramas along the way, and in particular, of course, to the Project Officers Stephen Dehnel and Charlie Birch Reynardson.

Since W2W, Richard Herbert has joined us as the Admin Clerk, Sgt Toby Bonsell has taken over as Regimental Affairs NCO from LSgt Damian Bakewell and LSgt Andy Harper has replaced LCpl Lee McGovern as the Regimental Stores and Property NCO.

The Autumn ritual of a Trustees' Meeting and Regimental Council Meeting on 13th November was preceded on the 12th by a Beating Retreat by the Regimental Band and Dinner at the Ironmongers' Hall to mark the recent affiliation between the Regiment and the Ironmongers Company. It was a hugely enjoyable evening, attended by a mixture of Ironmongers and Grenadiers from all parts of the Regiment, and it augurs well for a very happy, interesting and mutually beneficial affiliation. RHQ closed for Christmas leave in mid December – well-earned after an eventful but hugely successful year.

The end of 2013 coincided with Colonel Euan Houstoun handing over the reins of President of the Association to Colonel Richard Aubrey-Fletcher. Colonel Euan, wonderfully supported by Joanna, brought energy, enthusiasm, ebullience and joie de vivre to the job and lavished much effort and care in trying to prepare the Association to thrive for its next hundred years. We should all be enormously grateful to Colonel Euan for everything that he has done for the Association over the past 10 years.



The Grenadier Dinner at the Ironmongers' Hall – 12th November 2013.

SERGEANTS' (PAST AND PRESENT) CLUB

President 2013 – Mr P Jupp MBE
Vice – President 2013 – WO1 (RSM) Westlake D
Hon Secretary – WO2 (RQMS) Williams S
Vice Hon Secretary – Sgt Bonsell A

Current Membership
Past 515, Serving 215, Honorary 20 – Total 750

by The Sergeant Major WO1 Westlake

They say that time flies when you're having fun and it certainly has since our last report. The Battalion remains at the forefront of the State Ceremonial and Public Duties after an outstanding Major General's inspection and a flawless re-subordination to LONDIST. We had an extremely busy summer for all involved with the Presentation of New Colours to Nijmegen Company, The Queen's Company review, Her Majesty's Grenadier Day and a large number of troops in support of the Queen's Birthday Parade.

After an extended summer leave the Sergeants' Mess have returned with fresh eyes and with some key appointment changes are looking forward to a very fulfilling Forecast of Events.

The Sergeants' Mess continues to support the Commanding Officer with the transition to contingency and conventional soldiering, whilst keeping in mind the valuable lessons learnt from an extended period on operations and maintaining the highest standards during State Ceremonial and Public Duties. Our return to contingency means re-teaching the 'basics' with a number of newly qualified and promoted Gold Sergeants and Lance Sergeants being the subject matter experts and taking the lead on training. It's an exciting prospect with plenty of opportunity to practice due the current deployment to the Falkland Islands for The Queen's Company group (FIRIC), and an OTX to Brunei for

Number Two Company and elements of the Inkerman Company in the New Year.

Mess life continues to thrive and as always we have had and continue to have a busy social calendar. The Mess bid farewell to the Commanding Officer, Lieutenant Colonel JMH Bowder OBE in early July in spectacular fashion with some fine words from the Sergeant Major WO1 (RSM) Glenn Haughton (formerly Snazle), the Summer Ball was substituted by a less formal Mess Fest (some say Glastonbury on a smaller scale but better), which was a resounding success and has certainly set the tone for future summer functions. On our return from summer leave we bid a fond farewell to the Sergeant Major, who has moved on to take up the appointment of the Academy Sergeant Major at the Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst. Again a fantastic send off with some rather sore heads the following morning.

For the first time The Sergeants' Mess Past and Present Club dinner was held in the Sergeants' Mess, Lille Barracks with the former Commanding Officer Lieutenant Colonel JMH Bowder OBE as the guest speaker. Although it was a bold move to bring the event out of London it was an excellent one. With 184 in attendance, there was no change to the format; the Dinner being held in the marquee and followed by a live band in the Mess. It was a great opportunity for all past members to re-acquaint themselves with the mess atmosphere (which some certainly did) and realise that other than the faces and for a few their waistlines it doesn't change. It was without doubt a resounding success and we look forward to hosting the event in 2014.

As ever the future remains challenging, busy and unpredictable; however the opportunity to be 'Twice the Man' is ever so.

The Mess seniors are:

WO1 (RSM) D Westlake	WO2 (DSgt) M Cox
WO2 RQMS (M) M Boak	CSM G Davis, S Brooks
WO2 RQMS (T) T Bearder	CSM J Summerscales
WO2 (Master Cook) M Luff	CSM B De-Vall
WO2 (RAOWO) J Hodgeson	CSM S Roughley
WO2 (DSgt) M Howlin	WO2 (UWWO) P Childs



The 1st Battalion
 has a new website, go to
www.thegrenadierguards.com
 for all the latest news
 on Battalion life



THE REGIMENTAL BAND

The Band of the Grenadier Guards in 2013

by Musicians Barrigan, Rushforth and Clavering

2013 was another busy year for The Band of the Grenadier Guards, not only have we been fulfilling our normal Public Duties in and around London, we have also been travelling around England for concerts and parades, Wales for a week's Adventure Training and we went to Europe for two brilliant foreign tours beginning with a week in Switzerland.



Band members taking the plunge.

On Monday 2nd September 2013 the band left Wellington Barracks and headed to Heathrow Airport to board a plane to Geneva, Switzerland. Upon arriving in Geneva it was a short bus ride to the old Roman town of Avenches, to prepare for the Avenches Tattoo. As soon as we arrived there it became apparent how hot and sweaty the week was going to be as temperatures hit 25°C. As we had arrived a day before rehearsals began, the band PTI, LSgt Jason Burton, thought the outdoor swimming pool was suffering from a chronic lack of people doing their Army Swimming Test, so promptly rectified this. The test was necessary as part of our preparation for Adventure Training later in the month.

The following few days were filled with some very uncomfortably sweaty rehearsals during the hottest times of the day. One of the highlights of our short display was Sgt Ray Plant's solo cornet introduction to *Bolero*. The rehearsals were all worth it as everything came together perfectly.



On parade with Drum Major Steve Staite.

On the Thursday morning before more rehearsals, the Tattoo organisers put on a trip to the local chocolate factory. Upon arrival our senses were assaulted with the strong smell of chocolate, whilst there we took a full tour of the factory showing us how they produced such fantastic chocolate. The tour finished with an all you can eat tasting room in which the band very reluctantly indulged. The Friday involved a full performance of the show and a parade through the town where we were greeted by cheering crowds. This was some compensation for playing in the blistering heat. On the Saturday morning some members went down to the local lake which is a truly beautiful location. The lake has pontoons out in the middle so you are able to swim out, lay down, relax and watch the world go by. Some members of the band took the alternative option of seeing how many different ways you could jump off the pontoon into the lake. After a relaxing morning the band performed a small concert at the hotel for the locals to enjoy whilst having their lunch. It was then time to rush off back to the Tattoo venue for the final two shows. Unfortunately the last show of the Tattoo had to be called off when a storm complete with torrential rain made an appearance in the first half and proceeded to stay there for the entire night. It was still going strong the next day as we boarded our plane to travel back to London to resume our daily duties and prepare for the next tour only a few weeks later.



Welcoming the cyclist to Maidstone, Checkpoint No 1.



Beating Retreat in Ypres town square.

On Tuesday 24th September the band got back on the bus to travel to Belgium in support of the Colonel's Fund Grenadier Guards charity cycle ride *Wellington2Waterloo*. The band supported the riders throughout their 236 mile journey providing musical entertainment as they passed each check point and raising the profile of the event. The first leg of the journey finished in Maidstone where the riders were met by cheering crowds before completing the short journey to Folkestone Barracks where everyone spent the first night of the trip. In the morning everyone went to Dover to fetch a ferry over to Calais, on the crossing the saxophone quartet, woodwind quartet and the brass quintet played in different locations on the ferry to entertain the passengers and further raise money for the Colonel's Fund. Upon our arrival in Calais the band travelled to Ypres where the band performed a Beating Retreat in the town square before marching to the Menin gate to take part in the daily Last Post ceremony where Musn Andersson played the Last Post to great effect.



Taking part in the Last Post Ceremony at the Menin Gate, Ypres.

On the final day of the ride the band travelled to Oudenaarde to please the crowds who were out to wish the cyclists well on their way at the final stop before the finish. We had to rush back onto the bus and get away quickly to ensure we got to the finish line in Waterloo before the cyclists arrived. Everyone seemed very happy to have finally got to the finish line and it was an honour to play there as so much money was being raised for such a great cause. As the cyclists left to go to their hotel the band got back on the bus as our work wasn't done for the day yet, we still had to perform a small Beating Retreat at the cyclists' hotel before getting back on the bus for a two hour journey back to the Belgian Barracks we were staying in.



A future member of the Regimental Band at the finish line, Waterloo.

The following day we had a day off which was a great opportunity to travel into Bruges and spend some time relaxing and enjoying one or two of Belgium's famous beers. The last night of the bands time in Belgium was spent performing at the Guild of St Sebastian in Bruges. It was on this very spot that, whilst in exile from Cromwell and the Commonwealth, King Charles II formed his Royal Regiment of Guards. This regiment was to become known as the First or Grenadier Regiment of Foot Guards. Immediately after the Beating Retreat the band got back on the bus for the final time to travel overnight back to London arriving in the early hours of Saturday morning.

With just over 24 hours back in London we set out on Monday 30th September for some Adventurous Training. Everyone was tired, already having worked hard in Belgium.



However after a long coach journey to Castle Martin in Wales, and a good dinner we settled into the important stuff; playing pool, watching football on the telly, and doing the pub quiz at the NAAFI. It was going to be a good week.

For the next three days we split into our three groups and each disappeared with our group leaders.

Our team had landed mountain biking first. There was some trepidation over this, especially when it turned out that not all the bikes had wonderful gear systems. Thankfully our instructors were great, encouraging us to try new things, or take our time over them when we were less confident. Everyone had fun, nobody was hurt and we didn't even get rained on! We caught up with the rest of the band at an unhurried dinner before retiring to nearby Pembroke and its three pubs.

Wednesday saw our group walking a trail fairly near to the camp, with a bit of map-reading and navigation sprinkled in. The tea shop we stopped at was a great hit, with immense scones and huge pots of tea going down well despite the decor inspiring the feeling of invading someone's living room. We picked up the path outside towards a lake called the Fish Pond. Its narrow bridges were unnerving for some, but the wildlife and beauty of the place soon made up for it. Our instructor 'Smudge' told us about a small village which had been near the water, and how a local lord had ordered the whole village moved two miles away so as not to spoil his view. Pondering this, we moved on along a coastal path. The cliffs, rock faces and beautiful beaches soon gave us more to think about – Pembrokeshire boasts one of the best beaches in Britain, Barafundle Bay. Of course it was windy up on those cliffs, so the sensible among us stood back and passed sweets around while the thrill-seekers, balanced on the edge and took photographs. On our way back the heavens opened, and we were soaked. Perhaps the paddling pool in each boot made up for not splashing about in the sea?

After another evening playing pool in the pubs of Pembroke, our group was finally getting wet intentionally –



LSgt Burton, Sgt Aitree, CSgt Maddocks, LSgt Langford, Musns Rushforth, Barrigan, Ellard, WO1 Taylor-Smith, LCpl Hull, Musn Cowley and LCpl Smith all enjoying hiking around the Welsh Countryside.

it was kayaking day! We split in half, with some of the group going sea kayaking while others paddled about in smaller, more responsive boats, swapping at lunchtime. Having enjoyed the challenge of keeping the small boat moving in a straight line, I found the sea kayaks less exciting. The presence of seals, poking their heads out of the water just out of our reach spurred some to test their speed, and we enjoyed exploring some coastline together. Obviously nobody tipped each other into the sea at any point, nor were we ambushed by the folk in the smaller boats upon our return. That would be silly!

On our final night in Pembrokeshire we treated ourselves to a visit to Tenby. There were different pubs, live music, and food for those who wanted it; for some of the band this was their last outing. For others, not so much.



**21 went out...
5 came back!**



On Friday, 21st members of the band went Coasteering. This is a relatively unknown activity, essentially exploring coastlines by clambering, swimming, and jumping about them. It was advertised to us as jumping off cliffs, so we weren't entirely surprised to have to wear helmets and flotation jackets as well as wetsuits. The instructors explained that every coasteering session is different; it depends on tides, weather, and the group you're leading. We swam in freezing cold water and scrambled over slippery rocks, trying not to cut our fingers on the barnacles. In the end there was only one really high jump for us, which was a relief to those of us with the fear of heights. I climbed up last, knowing that if I went up, there was no way I was climbing down. It was jump or nothing. With some help from our instructor, I went for it . . . and I can't be the only person who spent the rest of the day dropping into phone conversations, "I jumped off a cliff today". No regrets, adventure training was fantastic.



Infantry Training Centre Catterick

by Major Edward Paintin

Life in Catterick is not by any stretch of the imagination, dull or uneventful. It is forever influenced by external factors some of which bring forth yet more work whilst others bring about periods of prolonged navel gazing, inward reflection and outward concern. The past year has been no exception. What started out as an extremely busy and optimistic training year, with all 10 platoon training teams busy infusing future generations of Guardsmen with the knowledge, the skills and the esprit de corps, has petered out to a damp squib with only three training teams actively engaged in the task of training and seven platoons without recruits to train. This is not by any stretch of the imagination, the best of situations to find 14th Company in and is the result of a culmination of several factors which, have brought about what one would deem to be the perfect storm and one which places deep concern in the hearts of the Company's permanent staff.

Recruiting is not going according to plan and a significant downturn in recruits joining has led to this distinct period of training famine. The withdrawal of British Forces from Afghanistan, the introduction of online only recruiting and the associated problems surrounding the outsourcing of recruiting to a civilian

recruiting organization has meant that fewer recruits are arriving with each intake. Those that have arrived are however the ones who have succeeded in overcoming the hurdle that is the recruiting pipeline and they are proving more often than not to be the brighter, more enthusiastic and more resilient type of individual, capable of operating a computer system and navigating the labyrinthine recruitment webpage.

The revamped Combat Infantry Course, which had been reviewed, amended and adjusted at the end of 2012 has proved to be a success. Over the past year, small tweaks and niggles have been ironed out and this combined with the rigid application of the Values Based Leadership model has led to a marked decrease in the wastage rate by some 20%, and a giant leap in the number of Guardsmen passing out of Catterick ready for further development with the front line Battalions and Public Duties Companies. Where once we were castigated as the worst performing Company amongst the Training Companies in Catterick, we have now overtaken the Line and are leading the way, much to their dismay.

As ever the oddity that is a training establishment provides just the right petri-dish like environment for the germination of good ideas. These good ideas however are only surpassed by a distinctly high number of bad ideas, preconceptions and innate prejudices, often sporned by the deluded and misguided. Those within the establishment who are not of the Blue Red Blue breed and whom harbor a distinct distaste for drill have mounted a concerted campaign over the past year, to

prove that drill is one of the root causes of lower limb injury and wastage through medical discharge, amongst recruits. Unfortunately for these heathens, the gathering and interpretation of data has become a near obsession for Company Headquarters and statistics have proved to be their downfall. Drill is and always will remain one of the strengths of our bespoke training course, and one which will remain closely guarded. It distinguishes us from the mediocre and every Pass Out Parade conducted with all the panache and style one expects of the Household Division, is looked upon with deep envy and jealous admiration by the Line Regiments.

The era of Grenadier dominance at ITC Catterick drew to a close with the departure of WO2 (CSM) Downes who



16 Platoon after their Final Attack at Otterburn Training Area.



A section moving forward during the Platoon Live Firing Range at Otterburn.

departed the merry ranks of the Company to return to the 1st Battalion from where he will soon retire after 24 years. This has left the Company Commander surrounded by a sudden influx of Coldstreamers who have come to dominate Company Headquarters. All, apart from the Company Commander and Company 2ic are now Coldstream. This in itself has generated considerable banter and an even stricter adherence to Regimental Custom, much to everyone's amusement. The timing of weekly Memoranda for instance (referred to as Orders by the Coldstream contingent) is regularly published as occurring at 1650hrs and is always delayed to a more acceptable time of 1656hrs.

With beautiful Yorkshire countryside on our doorstep, the young Grenadier Officers have actively engaged in all that it has to offer. Through choice, all Grenadier Officers have chosen to reside in cottages in the villages surrounding Catterick, with fellow officers of the Household Division. This choice has the added benefits of inclusion in the local community including their cricket teams and regular seats and pints in their local pubs. Lt James Garton, an avid outdoor sportsman and fine shot, is a regular at the Catterick shoot alongside the new Adjutant of the 2nd Infantry Training Battalion, Capt Adam Wellesley-Wood, whose return to Catterick, following a brief spell as the Mortar Officer, heralds a step change in the Battalion hierarchy with a Welsh Guards Commanding Officer, Lieutenant Colonel Ben Ramsay also due to arrive shortly.

The downturn in recruit numbers has not been without some benefits with LSgts Laird and Bonsell being able to attend and pass the Platoon Sergeants Battle Course prior to their return to the 1st Battalion

and all Grenadiers within the Company managing to attend some form of career course, adventurous training or sporting activity in the last few months. Even Sgt Cathcart, a self proclaimed Drill biff, was able to complete the All Arms Drill Course and All Arms Advanced Drill Course alongside Sgt Lloyd.

In and amongst all this, the Grenadiers within the Company have also found avenues of escape and light relief. In September 2013 the Company Commander accompanied by Capt Pountain and a contingent from the Company's Permanent Staff participated in the Great North Run. An enjoyable uphill half marathon was had by all, and some respectable times were posted, especially Capt Ben Pountain who finished in 1 hour 30 minutes. Opportunities to explore foreign lands have also been exploited with Capt

Chris Stevenson managing to secure a place training the Kenyan Police Force as part of a Defence Diplomacy Team for a period of three months in Kenya. LSgt Richards has also recently deployed as part of a training team to BATUK to assist with the running of the live firing package for personnel deploying to Afghanistan whilst others are headed for Botswana and the Oman to assist with training. Capt Ben Pountain was selected to represent the Infantry Training Centre on Exercise Frosted Blade and spent the greater part of 7 weeks deployed to the harsh environment that is Val d'Isere, skiing. Even the Company Commander managed to escape to Val d'Isere in January with the Scots Guards for some Adventure training.

The year has also seen a huge turnover of Grenadier permanent staff with Sgts Orrell and Sgt Castle-Nuovo arriving along with LSgts Finlan, Richards, Pearce, Dicastilione, Tracey, Friess and Thomas. The Company bade a fond farewell to WO2 (CSM) Downes, Sgts Cathcart and Lloyd, LSgts Jones, Bonsell, Hall, Swift and LCpl Stray all of whom depart either back to the Battalion, Nijmegen Company or for pastures new. Their replacements have now settled in well and are already producing some excellent results.

It is hoped that this current downturn in recruit numbers is a temporary state of affairs and that towards the latter half of this year, the situation improves and we are back up to running a healthy 10 training teams and fully loaded platoons. Time will certainly tell. We are confident however that the Guardsmen passing out today are as smart, as confident, as fit and as proud as they have ever been and ready and fully prepared for what lies ahead with the Battalion.

1st BATTALION

Battalion News A Look Forward to 2014

by Major Richard Green, Senior Major

The start of 2014 sees The Queen's Company and Support Company having just returned from an outstanding tour as the Falkland Islands Roulement Infantry Company (FIRIC) and the Battalion having conducted Christmas Duties. As half the Battalion have recently returned from overseas training, the new year see the other half deploy, with No 2 Company and The Inkerman Company flying out to Brunei for five weeks of jungle training on Ex ULU RAJAH. This will be followed by a period of Adventurous Training and recruiting activity, where over 200 men from the Battalion will travel down to the French Alps to conduct a week's skiing and alpine survival, while others focus on a drive into our recruiting heartlands to continue to push up our numbers. In March the Headquarters will deploy out to Saudi Arabia to work with the Royal Saudi Defence Force as part of the Army's wider Defence Engagement work.

The summer sees our focus fully swing to all matters State Ceremonial, with a number of State Visits, the State Opening of Parliament and culminating with providing three Guards on The Queen's Birthday Parade, with The Escort being provided by Nijmegen Company. This should be a wonderful Grenadier occasion and one that we are all greatly looking forward to.

During the second half of 2014 the Battalion will start to focus on our Battle Group deployment to Kenya in

November on Exercise ASKARI STORM. This will see the Battalion conducting a Battle Camp starting down at Lydd Ranges before moving up to Otterburn. Whilst en route to Northumbria we will briefly pause at Lille Barracks for Grenadier Day and look forward to seeing you all there.

2014 also sees the Army moving towards our future structure, known as Army 2020. What this means for Grenadiers is that the Battalion will reduce in strength from 546 to 501, which does not include all of our attachments. In terms of structural changes, the rifle companies will lose their third platoon, which is replaced by a Machine Gun platoon of 18, with the third rifle platoon being found from the Army Reserve when we deploy on Operations. Other changes include the re-formation of the Anti-Tank Platoon in Support Company and our Corps of Drums are currently re-rolling to become our Assault Pioneer Platoon. The Quartermaster's Department will see a striking change with the majority of the Sergeants' Mess Members being replaced by soldiers from the Royal Logistic Corps. We are beginning to start our journey into the new world of Army 2020, and 2014 will be key in getting the foundations right to enable future success.

Beyond 2014 the Battalion's forecast of events continues to look varied and exciting. We are due a further two FIRIC deployments in 2015/16, the possibility of another Queen's Birthday Parade in 2016 and are still waiting on a decision as to whether we will conduct a unit move in the summer of 2015 to Keogh Barracks, near Aldershot.

The future is certainly bright for the Battalion and we are striving to meet the challenges ahead, in the manner that you would expect of us.



THE QUEEN'S COMPANY

by The Captain – Major Andy Seddon

The Company returned to work in January after an extended Christmas leave, hard earned from the Company's final Helmand deployment during the summer of 2012. LSgt Kotze, LCpl Lee and Gdsm McMillan spent their leave competing in Exercise FROSTED BLADE, in Val d'Isere. They excelled and were eventually selected to race for the Infantry in the novice category. The remainder of the Company joined them for a week, giving plenty of novice Guardsmen the opportunity to challenge themselves and learn a new skill. February and March saw some members of the Company return to Salisbury Plain for six weeks, to assist in the force preparation of Units deploying on Op HERRICK 18. Whilst provision of support to a succeeding Brigade's 'Mission Specific

Training' is recognised by all as vital, it can be an arduous and emotive process for those wishing to put experiences behind them and look to the future.

Spring Drills followed soon after Easter. Given the Afghan deployment of the previous spring, this was an experience many in the Company had not previously enjoyed. Thankfully the Major General's inspection was negotiated without hitch and to the standard expected. Sadly it will be some time before we might benefit from the sympathetic eye of a previous Captain at a Major General's inspection, as one or two others enjoyed proposing. As ever the spring and summer months involved a relentless pace of Ceremonial Duties. However each Platoon did find time for Adventure Training and

fundraising for the Colonel's Fund. Lt Conway took One Platoon to Capel Curig and threw them up the Welsh Mountains in preparation for an attempt at the Three Peaks Challenge (Snowden, Scarefell Pike and Ben Nevis in 24hrs). This they successfully achieved with minutes to spare but later stern words from the Motor Transport Officer concerning reports of excessive speed on the highways in between. Three Platoon, under Lt Sanford, had a more horizontal week in Cornwall, spending their days surfing and their evenings around fires on the beach. Their money raising feat was somewhat more ordinary: walking the length of the Basingstoke Canal in a day. Lt Dobson's Two Platoon was split down amongst the other platoons for Adventurous Training but raised their funds by cycling the South Downs Way over two days. The Company also sent a team consisting of Lt Dobson, Sgt Donovan and LSgt Bronsdon to an Alpine Military Skills competition in Austria, hosted by the Waffenkreis Infanterie. All three team members received the much vaunted Edelweiß-Badge of the Austrian Gebirgsjäger (mountain infantry), which they persist in requesting to wear with every order of dress. Several members of the Company were also selected to represent the Battalion on its football tour to Monaco, where an impressive on and off the pitch performance has been reported.

A key highlight of the summer was, of course, Her Majesty's Grenadier day at Buckingham Palace on 26th June, which included a Queen's Company Review. This was a unique occasion, and the first time that the Company had been reviewed at Buckingham Palace since 1963. Those serving, also their friends and family, greatly enjoyed the rare experience of a Buckingham Palace Garden Party and in many cases the opportunity to meet the Company Commander. Shortly before summer leave nine members of the Company boxed in the Battalion competition. Overall the Company finished second, an impressive result considering how little training they were able to achieve beforehand. Of particular note were LCpls Pugh and Ngwenya, (the latter having been scouted for Army boxing) who both won their final contests.

Upon return from summer leave, the Company began its pre deployment training before taking on the Falklands Roulement Infantry Company task between Oct – Dec. The Company spent a useful week at Senneybridge conducting Live Fire Tactical Training up to Section Level. This and the Falklands deployment has

provided useful instigation for reinvigorating our Light Role Infantry skills and shaking off redundant habits gained after years spent training for Afghanistan, which has importance for future contingent operations. This has seen us focus on reducing the weight we carry in the field, rapid manoeuvre, dusting off our entrenching tools and reconsidering use of ground. Our preparation was excellently supported by some conceptual training at Aldershot. During this we were lucky enough to host Colonel Ewan Euston and Colonel Chris Keeble who, through an innovative teaching process, engaged our thoughts on the effect of battle shock, and the battle of wills as the ultimate determiner of a successful military outcome.

With this in mind the Queen's Company deployed to the South Atlantic in October. A well as providing a platoon QRF for the UK airbase, we have been conducting reassurance and deterrence patrols to some of the most remote parts of the islands. The deployment has also provided the chance to practice our conventional infanteering skills in some of the most demanding training areas in the world. The climax of this training will be exercise Cape Bayonet, which will include a sea move to West Falkland on the patrol vessel HMS Clyde, and the use of Typhoon, a 105 mm Bty and HMS Richmond for our own fire support.

Finally the Company has seen a number of old faces leave and some new arrive. Lieutenants Budge and Wills, made way for Lieutenants Sanford and Conway, and Capt Holcroft is replaced by Capt Taylor. In the run up to summer leave Major Piers Ashfield moved on Major Andrew Seddon stepped into his place. At the end of the year Lt Dobson will make way for 2Lt Hargreaves. The Sergeants' Mess has also seen some movement with Colour Sergeant Burns making way for Colour Sergeant Docherty who comes fresh from Sandhurst.



The Grenadier Guards Afghanistan Commemorative Kneeler Appeal

To Grenadiers everywhere...

We are asking you all to help us raise funds for fifteen new kneelers for the Guards Chapel to commemorate the Grenadiers who died in the three tours of Afghanistan.

These will be embroidered with the Regimental crest and each one will bear a name. A fitting tribute which will last for many years.

Please send whatever you can, however small, to support this effort.

Please make cheques payable to: "The Treasurer, Household Division Funds: Guards Chapel Trust" and send to: The Appeal Co-ordinator, Stubb House, Hickling, Norwich, Norfolk. NR12 0BW
For online payment options or more information please contact:
Ross Donaldson t: 01692 598336 e: ross@ross-donaldson.com





NO 2 COMPANY

by Major James Greaves

Fighting through the heavy January snow to occupy a platoon harbour in Longmoor was, for No 2 Company, a stark contrast to patrolling in the Upper Gereshk Valley. However, since returning from Afghanistan and some well deserved leave, the focus in January 2013 was 'Back to Basics.' Accordingly, a week on exercise in Longmoor was spent concentrating on fire positions, section attacks, model building and digging in. It was this type of conventional soldiering that characterised the first quarter of 2013 for the Company. A rigorous PT programme was followed and lessons centred on map reading, section battle drills and living in the field. A week providing Regular Army Assistance Table (RAAT) tasks for PCD in Brecon was a further valuable training opportunity. The sections of 4 Platoon were tested in Cileni Village, conducting Fighting In Built Up Areas (FIBUA) alongside the young officers from Platoon Commander's Division (PCD). Meanwhile, the remainder of the Company dressed up in dodgy looking plain clothes and enjoyed the opportunity to test the public order skills of young officers straight out of the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst. Throughout the week anticipation for the 'Fan Dance', which was to be held at the end of the week, steadily rose. Rumours about the height of the mountain and distance to be marched gradually grew more absurd. However, the day itself was a tremendous success. 6 Platoon headed off first, with 5 and 4 in hot pursuit. It was a clear day and the different platoon lines could be seen clambering up various hillsides. All the Guardsmen involved dug deep, with all three platoons finishing in impressive times. The competition was tight, but 6 Platoon under Lt Jamie Garton were the eventual winners of the challenging and rewarding race.



Men of No 2 Company take on the the 'Fan Dance' in fierce February conditions.



Training lanes monitored by platoon and company headquarters.

This period of training was building up to, and culminated with, EX BORDER STORM. This was a two week live fire exercise in Otterburn, run jointly with a French Marine Infantry Company, recently returned from a tour in Mali. Following a few days in snowy woodblocks conducting blank training, involving a long Company advance to contact down a classic river valley, the Company moved into Otterburn camp to begin the live fire phase. Progressing from individual and pairs, the three platoons each had a comprehensive series of day and night platoon attacks on ranges with demanding terrain which were a good opportunity for everyone to test their basic infantry skills. Adapting to the ever evolving principles of Army 2020, the Company was made up of two rifle platoons with the addition of the Fire Support Group platoon. Clearly the traditional 'assault, suppress, reserve' maxim had to be adapted. Opinions were as ever divided about the optimum way of maintaining mobility, whilst also effectively utilising the fire power available, but it was a valuable opportunity to trial a new system. The live fire package concluded with a Company phase which allowed all the core skills to be put to use. It was a rewarding way of finishing what had been a valuable training opportunity.

The completion of EX BORDER STORM heralded another significant switch of focus for Number Two Company. On return from Easter Leave, spring drills were conducted. It was, accordingly, State Ceremonial and Public Duties (SCPD) that came to characterise the second and third quarters of 2013. Soon after the Major General's inspection, the Company provided street liners in Windsor for the State Visit of The President of the United Arab Emirates, His Highness Sheikh Khalifa bin

Zayed Al Nahyan. Still adapting to the new challenges of performing SCPD in London whilst based in Aldershot, it was a surprise for the Company to receive a short notice tasking to perform a Guard of Honour and permanent guard at the Palace of Holyroodhouse for the Lord Selkirk, the Lord High Commissioner to the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland. Thus the Company again deployed north, but for very different reasons. It was certainly a new experience for all involved and a good opportunity to explore Edinburgh.



Lieutenant Colonel James Bowder OBE awards Gdsm Garratt as the best overall boxer at the Battalion boxing competition.

Public Duties continued to dominate life throughout the summer and autumn and No 2 Company was fully involved in street lining for the Queen's Birthday Parade. Despite these commitments, excellence was also achieved on the sporting front. In June the Battalion held an inter-company cross country race as part of LCpl Ashworth VC Memorial Day. The Company won the overall trophy, with Gdsm Thompson performing particularly strongly. Additionally, the Company won the inter-company Boxing competition in emphatic style. Coached by the indomitable Sgt Gunning, the 14 man team were the largest, fittest and best drilled outfit. The results proved this, with the finals night dominated by No 2 Company fighters and with Gdsm Garratt picking up the prize for best overall boxer. There has also been time for some adventure training. In July, 4 platoon organised a water



4 Platoon led by Lt Alex Shirreff take on the rapids at the National Water sports centre, Nottingham.



Raising money for Wellington to Waterloo at Tesco.

sports day at the National Water sports Centre in Nottingham. Raft building, assault courses and white water rafting on the impressive man made rapids provided much entertainment, even if Gdsm Hendry and Jenyo almost disappeared down the River Trent.

In September, the Company geared up for the Wellington to Waterloo bike ride. With a large team organised, fundraising became the main effort. Central to this was a 24 hour bike ride held outside Tesco in Aldershot. Each member of the Company did at least two, two hour stints on the five spinning bikes set up. It was a successful event, with over £3,000 raised from the 24 hour period and it was fascinating to see who frequents supermarkets during the darkest hours of the night. The ride itself was a tremendous occasion for all Grenadiers and No 2 Company riders performed admirably, with Gdsm Millerchip managing to ride far farther than anyone else owing to a few navigational issues.



Hankley Common shrubbery a.k.a. Tertiary Jungle for EX ULU RAJAH in Brunei.



LCpl Kirk (No 2 Company) counts his men out on patrol.

From late autumn on the Company has again changed tack as the focus has been directed towards preparations for the deployment to Brunei on EX ULU RAJAH in the New Year. This welcome return to green soldiering and focus on the basics of jungle warfare has characterised the final quarter of 2013. In October a week was spent on Hankley Common practicing basic contact drills, navigation and patrolling. Three members of 2 Royal Gurkha Rifles came to teach lessons on subjects from putting up a hammock to jungle survival. Throughout November the football pitch has been used for quick battle lessons led by the recently qualified Jungle Warfare instructors and fire team rehearsals. In December, the Company grouping for Brunei had a week on Salisbury Plain performing live fire contact drills. The improvement throughout the week was impressive. On the final day fire teams were demonstrating a good grip of the basics, handling a rigorous range which tested the junior commanders. The jungle will be a new environment for the vast majority of the Company and will be an exciting opportunity to develop personal soldiering skills in what will be challenging conditions.

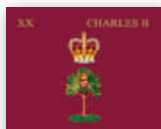
It has been a year of variety for No 2 Company; the first and final quarters devoted to conventional and jungle soldiering, the middle two focussing on Public Duties. Throughout however, the Company has adapted and displayed the professional flexibility expected of a rifle company of the Grenadiers. Indeed, this dual role and ability to adapt will be illustrated palpably over the coming weeks. The Company will mount Queen's Guard over Christmas, before turning around and within a matter of days heading off to Brunei to test itself in the jungle.



Contact drills in preparation for deployments.



A guardsman finds a vantage point for his fire position.



THE INKERMAN COMPANY

by Lt Charlie Williams

2013 has seen a return from Afghanistan, focused training to conventional soldiering and State Ceremonial and Public duties (SCPD). The Inkerman Company started the year with a collective training exercise in the snow on the Aldershot training area to blow the cobwebs out after post-tour leave. In February Lt Simpson and CQMS Hughes took a number of the company on a trip to HMS Illustrious where they were brilliantly hosted by all the crew. Their voyage took them from Faslane in Scotland to Portsmouth, a particular highlight of the trip was being allowed to fire the chain gun at sea-based targets buoys.

Spring Drills arrived in March and so, without prompt or hesitation, Company Sergeant Major Roughley ensured that the company were fully prepared for, what was to be, an extremely busy summer of SCPD this included countless Queen's Guards, a Garter Service and support to the Welsh Guards on the Queen's Birthday Parade. Prior to summer leave starting the company embarked on a week-long Survival, Evasion, Resistance and Escape (SERE) package at Henfold Lakes where survival techniques, such as how to catch skin and prepare a rabbit for eating were taught. This was a great opportunity for the new members of the company to bond with their fellow Ribs men before a well earned summer leave.

On return from leave in September, and after one final Queen's Guard, Major Rupert King-Evans left the boys of the Company to attend Staff College. Major James Shaw took the reins as Company Commander having returned to the battalion from Staff College. At the same time Capt James Stafford-Allen made his move to the Training Wing and Lieutenant Toby Simpson stepped up as Second-in-Command leaving Lieutenants Henry Waterfield and Charlie Williams as the platoon commanders to continue with SCPD, including the state visit of the President of Korea.

However, the company is not fully focused on SCPD, this period has also seen a great deal of 'back-to-basics' training including an excellent week of Live Fire Tactical Training in Warcop alongside the Mortar Platoon. This

exercise saw the company building up from individual, pairs, fire-team and section attacks. The week culminated with a challenging platoon attack and a company social in the afternoon, it was here that company headquarters were, perhaps predictably, shown up slightly on the football pitch. The progressive training continued with another training exercise in early November providing a great opportunity for the Guardsmen to continue practicing their low level skills and drills in preparation for EX ULU RAJAH in Brunei.

Back in Barracks the company continues to drive on, with many new faces arriving from Nijmegen Company. Inkerman Day was suitably enjoyed by the whole company, culminating in a regimental supper, superbly organised by the CQMS.

Members of the company have been busy outside of battalion as well with Lt Simpson spending three months at the Officer Training Academy in Qatar teaching the Qatari junior officers the tricks of the trade from Brecon's Platoon Commander's Course, Lt Waterfield and Sgt Marsden both deployed to Malawi as part of a Short Term Training Team (STTT) in July and Sergeants Hepburn and Thomas went to Brunei, where they were both successful in completing the Jungle Warfare Instructors Course (JWIC) in October and November. Next Year will continue to be very busy for the company with the exciting four week exercise in Brunei and company ski trip in March.

2014 will see the 160th anniversary of the Battle of Inkerman and in good fashion, the company plans to celebrate throughout the year culminating in a battlefield tour to the Crimea. The Inkerman Company has enjoyed an incredibly diverse and jam-packed year, it has transitioned well with the Battalion's re- subordination to London District, whilst practicing enough suitable 'green' training. It also maintains its distinct identity, upholding the customs of the 3rd Battalion. The company has continued to show and build on the determination, professionalism and humour in camp, that was shown so well on recent operational tours.



The 1st Battalion
has a new website, go to
www.thegrenadierguards.com
for all the latest news
on Battalion life





Nijmegen on the Slopes

by *Lt D R Welham*

Early in the morning on 30th November, myself, one Lance Sergeant and four Guardsmen set off from Wellington Barracks to take part in Exercise Frosted Blade. The exercise consists of five weeks alpine ski race training, culminating in the infantry championships for the sixth week. The exercise aims to take complete novices to race standard, competing in four race disciplines; slalom, giant slalom, super giant slalom and downhill racing. The biggest challenge is that after those five weeks training soldiers would have to face the downhill event and reach speeds of over 60mph. That is a daunting task for most people let alone some individuals who have never even put their feet in a pair of ski boots.

The exercise as always was held in Val D'Isère, France. It is now in its 12th year at the resort and with operational commitments now on the decline and more units available to enter, this year's competition was the biggest yet with upwards of 180 participants. Our team consisted of myself, Guardsmen Grey, Pottow, Turner and Wallace all from Nijmegen Company and LSgt Pearce from the Infantry Training Centre Catterick, who was helpful enough to step up due to the majority of the Regiment's Non-Commissioned Officers away in either the Falklands or Brunei.



Top Row from Left to Right: Lt Welham, Gdsm Wallace, Gdsm Grey, LSgt Pearce. Kneeling from Left to Right: Gdsm Pottow, Gdsm Turner.



Gdsm Wallace.

After a surprisingly smooth journey we arrived in Val D'Isère to be met with a mountain of administration before we could finally begin skiing. Apart from myself having skied a few times before, the team had a combined total of three weeks skiing. This meant it would be a big ask for us to get to the level required to compete with teams bringing soldiers out participating in their eighth Frosted Blade. Nonetheless, we went to task. The first two weeks were instructor led piste skiing, with an incredibly steep learning curve for those that were complete novices. The demanding training was coupled with the allure of Val D'Isère nightlife, which the Guardsmen took full advantage of, becoming regular patrons of Dick's Tea Bar.

Once everyone had mastered the parallel turn the instructors set about teaching us the art of giant slalom. This was the first time that the more experienced groups had seen the beginner groups and despite burning the candle at both ends it was impressive to see soldiers who had been skiing for two weeks putting some who had skied for over two months to shame. Gdsm Pottow's ability was of particular note, who having never skied before demonstrated a natural aptitude consequently rose through the ability groups.

In the initial brief Lieutenant Colonel Vic Matthews, the Exercise Director, outlined that he expected a 10% casualty rate amongst participants. This year the figure was closer to 15%, however, the Grenadiers were lucky enough to avoid this statistic with only minor scrapes, bumps, bruises and being the worst of our injuries. I, myself, the victim of a nasty run in with a ski on the super G training run had to have several stitches. The training did, however, start to take its toll and the Guardsmen were more than happy to have a well-earned three days off over Christmas to go home and see their families.

Upon their return it was all systems go, with less than a week of training left before the championships began.

When the first race finally came around our team was as ready as it ever would be. It was surprising, and much appreciated, to see the Guardsmen voluntarily getting a good night's sleep the night before the first race.

When selecting the team we chose half the team for safety and to guarantee times, and half the team for guts and aggression. Unfortunately in the Giant Slalom and Super Giant Slalom this tactic did not pay off with too many pushing themselves too hard, and consequently we were disqualified from these events with too many crashes. In the Downhill and Slalom events it was a different matter entirely. As a team, we had three finish in the top 30 for the downhill and due to cumulative seeding came from second last to a top ten finish in the Slalom.

When the championships concluded we were congratulated by the French Instructors for our performance as such an inexperienced team competing



Gdsm Turner.



Gdsm Pottow.

against Frosted Blade 'veterans'. We were more than happy to win 'the gutsiest downhill' award, as well as another prize for one of the Guardsmen, for his outstanding 'social' skills!

Although we were unable to get a podium finish, the ability of some of the Guardsmen will stand them in good stead if they are able to return and represent the Grenadiers again next year. Upon the end of the championships we returned back to Wellington Barracks to two weeks leave, in the hope of resting weary legs and getting back into the swing of normal military life.

This exercise is an incredible opportunity for all those whom are selected to attend. The priority is to push soldiers out of their comfort zones, build their confidence, and provide them with an opportunity that not many are able to take advantage of. We were all truly grateful for the experience and are already plotting how to get onto next year's Exercise.

Nijmegen Trip to the Irish Peace Park

by Lt Hamish Hardy

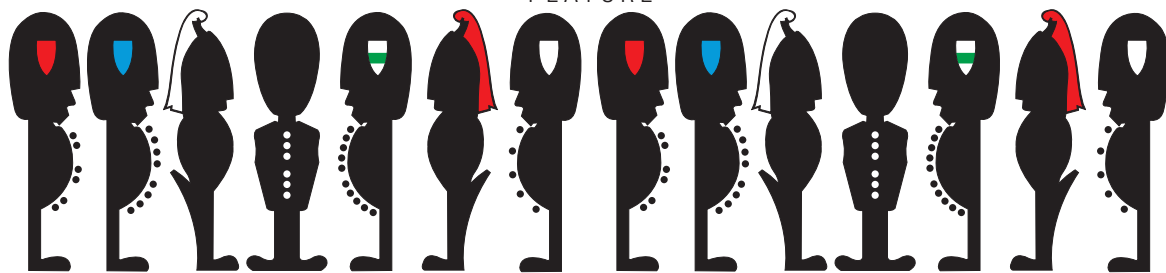
Due to the imminent celebrations for the centenary of the First World War, the Prime Minister and the Irish Taoiseach met in Ypres to celebrate their two nations's mutual war dead. A group of six from Nijmegen Company and a musician from the band of the Irish Guards, were sent to provide a colour party to match our Irish counterparts.

This was to be the first time that the leaders of these two countries had ever taken part in such an event and so it was a huge privilege to be involved. The two colour parties, along with the various pipers, buglers and drummers assembled in the Irish Peace park for the first of the wreath laying ceremonies. This huge memorial, surmounted by a traditional Irish round tower, is roughly on the sight of the Battle of Messines Ridge, and is in memory of all Irish soldiers who made the ultimate

sacrifice during the conflict. The Taoiseach read from *Soliloquy*, by the County Meath poet Francis Ledwidge, who was killed in the Battle of Passchendaele.

From here other wreath laying ceremonies took place throughout the course of the morning. The Redmonds grave memorial, devoted to Major William Redmond, an Irish MP, who did a huge amount of work to convince Irishmen to enlist with the British in order to fight during the war was killed in action in 1917. The penultimate memorial was that dedicated to the 16th (Dublin) and 36th (Ulster) divisions, who were badly mauled at Messines.

The final visit, and certainly most poignant for the Grenadiers, was the wreath laying at the Menin gate. Here the Belgian Prime Minister also arrived for the ceremony. The sense of occasion combined with the sobering list of British soldiers (including two and a half columns for the Grenadiers alone) will remain a memory for all involved for a long time. The last post marked the end of the tour, but both the Guardsman and I were hugely honoured to be involved in such a monumental occasion.



Horse Guards News

Grenadier strong for a couple of years with General Sir George as the Major General – both the Brigade Major (Simon Soskin) and Staff Captain (Paddy Russell) and Charlie Warner continuing his marathon sorting out the Queen's Birthday Parade Tickets in the Household Division Office, Vince Gaunt as SO2 G4, Douglas Harrison keeping an eye on London's security, and Gdsm Flint supporting the Garrison Sergeant Major. Unbiased through and through it has been fun to have so many close friends at Horse Guards. The balance has shifted since the summer with the usual rush of postings. General George has handed over to Major General Edward Smyth-Osbourne after an extraordinarily active tour of duty which has included a Royal Wedding and Diamond Jubilee on the ceremonial side and commanding the military support to the Olympic Games and steering the Household Division through the shoals of Army 2020 review. Paddy Russell has departed for the private sector and Vince to instruct on the Late Entry officers course at Sandhurst but the rest of us soldier on.

The Household Division faces its perennial dual role – central for military ceremonial in London while still providing cutting edge units for the Army's operational order of battle. The Army 2020 review and restructuring process has again subjected each element of the Army to the closest of scrutiny and again, for now at least, the contribution of all elements of the Division have – avoided cuts. The Household Cavalry remains broadly the same – two joined regiments providing an Armoured Recce unit in Windsor and the Mounted Regiment at Knightsbridge. There has been some debate over the future of that barracks – in the headquarters and in the press – as the cost of updating it is compared with the potential income to the MOD of selling it but the Secretary of State has confirmed that it will not be sold unless an equivalent or better site can be found and so the Regiment are expecting to stay there for now. The 5 Foot Guards battalions also remain – albeit with slight reductions in size (7%) for the light role battalions and a change in role from Armoured Infantry (equipped with Warrior) to Heavy Mechanised

(equipped with Mastiff) for the Scots Guards. Most Infantry battalions will remain permanently in role from now on but the Foot Guards battalions will continue to rotate between role and barracks. There is always potential for further change but current plan is for two battalions in the light role to be allocated to State Ceremonial and Public Duties – based in Cavalry Barracks, Hounslow and Victoria Barracks, Windsor. One battalion in the Heavy Mechanised role will be based in Mons Barracks, Aldershot and allocated to the new Reactive Force – those mobile brigades held at readiness for manoeuvre operations wherever they are needed. Two battalions, one Light Mechanised (equipped with Foxhound) based in Elizabeth Barracks Pirbright and one Light Role (probably) based in Lille Barracks, Aldershot. The battalions will rotate roles every three or six years depending on which stage in the cycle they are at. Crucially we retain the three Public Duties Incremental Companies which remain in Wellington Barracks. These are always under threat of reduction as they seem, to many, to be at odds with the Regimental/Battalion structure but, it is understood that while, the Nation continues to expect State Ceremonial and Public Duties to be maintained to the traditional high standards then the Army must maintain sufficient troops to perform them. We are delighted that this continues to be recognised and allows such a robust Division with such varied roles to continue – although no doubt the debate will continue.

Meanwhile all elements of the Household Division are in fine fettle and remain very busy. The Household Cavalry Regiment has just returned from its umpteenth (and probably last) tour in Afghanistan – this time with the HQ and D Sqn supported by No 4 Company, 1st Battalion Irish Guards. The Grenadiers thrive in London, the Falklands and Brunei as you will read elsewhere in this issue. The Coldstream Guards have just deployed onto their final tour in Afghanistan, this time to security duties in Kabul, which makes a welcome change from Helmand. They leave a single company which will support everyone else's training as the year progresses.

Septem Juncta in Uno



Wellington 2 Waterloo

by *David Sewell*

When I first came up with the idea of Wellington to Waterloo, I had visions of myself, The Regimental Adjutant and perhaps an orderly from RHQ taking a leisurely cycle ride to Waterloo and perhaps raising £2k for The Colonel's Fund. Little did I realise as soon as it received the Regimental seal of approval it would become bigger than Ben Hur. Working as I do beneath RHQ it was fascinating to watch the RHQ library, normally a place of peace and tranquillity, assume the proportions of an Ops Room during a multiple contact. You could have been forgiven for thinking the Anschluss was being planned there rather than a bicycle ride.

We knew we were in for something out of the ordinary when, at the initial briefing, Maj Dehnel invited us to adopt a fluid attitude as a flexible one was too rigid. It was wonderful to be at an O Group once again and amongst so many friends, but what made this even more memorable, was watching the reaction of the civilian element. Gob-smacked was the word that immediately came to mind. Gob-smacked they might have been, but how they rose to the occasion. With only the most tenuous of links to the Regiment in many cases, they joined

this great adventure whole-heartedly. It was wonderful to watch the Regimental family working at its very best. It was this Regimental Spirit that saw us all cross the finishing line in Waterloo despite many bumps collisions, scrapes and the need for numerous bum transplants.

Many of us will have learnt much about ourselves on the journey. We will all have memories, some good some bad and some just down right painful. For those

who have never tried it, long distance cycling is like a bad tempered Drill Sergeant without the redeeming features. You can't get away from it, but with familiarity and practice it becomes bearable verging on the enjoyable.

There is no doubt in my mind that we, the cyclists, had the easy bit. My undying thanks go to Charlie Birch-Reynardson and Major Dehnel and Lieutenant Colonel Phasey, who sorted out all the logistics for us. Whilst my night in the black hole of the Menin Gate Hotel is an experience I would rather not repeat, I can not fault anything else on the trip it was flawless apart from Belgian breakfasts, which are best described as frugal and frivolous.

Sadly, in the excitement of meeting so many old friends again, there were many riders that I never had the opportunity to thank for taking part in this ridiculous pipe

dream of mine. I hope through the pages of the Grenadier Gazette I can now rectify that and begin to gather support for Wellington to Witwatersrand in a few years time.



Colonel Houstoun and the author arrive in Waterloo. The author tries to explain the absence of Mrs West to Colonel West.



Cycling at my age – ridiculous!

by Colonel E H Houstoun OBE, while still President of the Association.

What follows was written to my donors, the morning after our arrival in Waterloo while the memories were still comparatively fresh and the pain still persistent!



Hard training with the Reading Branch!

At the time of writing you have all most generously contributed to a quite splendid total of £3,125.71 (nothing, in comparison with some but I was really chuffed!) from 37 donations and more is coming in. Perhaps, I wasn't brash enough to put my target at above £2,500 – but it should have been higher! I am absolutely never going to cycle 82 miles a day for three consecutive days, ever again which you will be relieved to hear (no more nagging E-Mails!). Briefly, the Prime Minister dropped the flag and was practically flattened by the first row of 6 riders of which I was one and two hours of amusing chaos ensued as we cycled in great blobs (there were 160 of us) through the south east suburbs of

London, prolonging the morning rush hour substantially. I must say that the sort of corporate momentum created by a great cross section of Grenadiers coming together was quite wonderful. Lord Derby, otherwise known as 'Teddy' and Lord Valentine Cecil otherwise known as 'Val' on the one hand; and Guardsmen 'Dusty' Miller and 'Chalky' White on the other with cries of encouragement between each, just like a battlefield.

The band which had seen us off from Horse Guards, met us again in Maidstone on market day. Four of my Association Branches also rallied there and our reception after 40 miles was magnificent. I was given a huge cheer (Anno Domini helps), born of astonishment as they never expected to see me again after London! The market day shoppers were very generous.

I fell off once in the village of Smarden, Gdsm Tippett of Support Company pulled me through the brambles and back to the upright. 40 miles later, I walked up the hill into St Martin's Camp next to Folkestone, The Corps of Drums beat the Retreat and an amazing Barbecue concluded the day – knackered! The day's real hero was Dave Boucher of the Windsor Branch, on a 1950s Army Issue, straight back and sides cycle with only three gears and by Maidstone it was down to two – he completed two days later, epic!

Day 2: Straight on to the P & O ferry, £3.00 per head for the trip over so long as the band played, which they did with a quintet on all 3 decks. Second day agony set in fairly quickly, lower back otherwise known as 'bum'. But legs OK from Calais to 'Wipers' as Ypres became known and the remarkable Menin Gate. In fact this day was only 70 miles and this was not a race. The Angel's of Mercy at a resupply point all friends of Joanna, rescued me from the last 10 miles but I made myself useful by contributing to the purchase and then lifting of 600 banana's for the morrow. Even the supermarket we used looked a little surprised particularly as they had to be ripe – our French improved. That evening was most moving, with the band beating the retreat in the City Centre and then marching to the Menin Gate. Our wreath was laid by Mrs Kerry Ashworth (a most determined cyclist), mother of our VC hero from our last tour in Helmand Province, followed by a superb reception in our honour in the magnificent Cloth Hall. I was elected 'dorm monitor' for 10 cyclists including Adam Holloway, a platoon Commander of mine



Dave Boucher – Windsor Branch – Hero Day 1 (and 2 and 3!).

back in '89 and now an MP, and if I achieved nothing else it was to get them to snore in unison rather than harmony! The day's hero was Mark Worsfold of the Kingston Branch, combating, vertiginous hills in the early morning, Parkinsons and he was such indomitable good company. His report and photograph to follow.

Day 3: I could not believe it but I got my second wind. Lycra shorts with a splendid mini mattress built in, to support the lower back etc; wonderful track ways for cyclists and comparatively flat until the last 15 miles. 40 miles into it Oudenaard, another market day and the band playing, so enjoyed by the locals who were almost as generous as Maidstone. A really nasty short hill out of the town saw the girls team pass me (on their very fast bikes – says he!) I was walking. It took me another 30 miles to catch them up. Crucifying short hills into Waterloo, but an elegant arrival down a cobbled street with an old friend David Sewell, turning left to face the band playing 'The British Grenadiers' and



Where have you been – to my absentee 'Angel of Mercy'!

Joanna! Wonderful and the whole town seemed to have turned out. A huge reception that evening attended by the British Ambo, Defence Attaché and the various organisations that champion the preservation of the Field of the Battle of Waterloo. The band beat the Retreat. Every cyclist a hero.

Joanna and I then took the Battlefield Tour group and the band off to the quite beautiful city of Bruges, where Charles II spent much of his exile and where in 1656, the Royal Regiment of Guards as we were then known, was formed. The Saint Sebastian Guild of Archers were our hosts and provided succour to Charles II, and their hospitality 357 years later and generosity to the Colonel's Fund, knew no bounds. The band performed the most dazzling Beat – the best on the tour, the Archers cannons fired and I must now stop because this is too long and we were

NOT on our bicycles.

Final thought – who could have contemplated nearly £350,000? – Everyone a hero.



A tired but very spirited group with 94 miles to go. The morning of the final day prior to departure from Ypres.

WELLINGTON TO WATERLOO 2013 IN PICTURES



Anti-clockwise from the top: Left to Right, Hamish Gray-Cheape, Patrick Holcroft and Anthony Roupell meet their Waterloo; Matt Ellmer the Regimental Casualty Officer collecting at Oudenaarde; Doctor Jane confirming that there is life in the old dog (Roy Ibson); and Capt Ian Farrell on the treatment table for some much needed maintenance.



Vivienne Francis

is a portrait painter in the classical tradition. Working from life and photos, she takes pride in her attention to composition and costume detail, and in her ability to capture a true likeness of the subject.

As a gesture of goodwill toward the Grenadiers, 10% of all proceeds will be donated to the Colonel's Fund.

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State Ceremonial Duty at the Palace of Holyroodhouse

by Lt Alex Shirreff

With the Battalion having re-subordinated to London District and anticipating a summer performing State Ceremonial and Public Duties in London, No 2 Company, commanded by Major James Greaves, was surprised to find itself in Edinburgh for two weeks in May. The purpose of this task was to provide a Guard of Honour followed by a permanent guard at the Palace of Holyroodhouse for The Lord High Commissioner to the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland. Needless to say, our understanding of this slightly peculiar aspect of Scottish tradition was limited so it is perhaps worth providing some context.

The Lord High Commissioner acts as the personal representative of the monarch at the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland. Tasked with keeping an eye on proceedings, they report directly to the Sovereign on the outcome of the Assembly. A Lord High Commissioner has been appointed at the General Assembly since 1690, continuing to the present day despite the 1707 Act of Union. It is an honorary appointment given usually to an influential Scot. In 2002 however, HM The Queen attended in person. Because of their unique relationship to the monarch for the duration of the General Assembly, The Lord High Commissioner is treated as if a Regent; they have precedence immediately after the Queen and Duke of Edinburgh, but before the rest of the Royal Family. Accordingly, they are addressed as 'Your Grace',



Stag on! No 2 Company at the Palace of Holyroodhouse.

take residence in The Palace of Holyroodhouse House for the period of the General Assembly and are entitled to a Royal salute. The Lord High Commissioner for 2013 was the former MP Lord Selkirk of Douglas.

Once tasked, with only a couple of weeks notice, Household Division Standing Orders were frantically researched to try to find answers to the pressing questions; which Colour did he deserve and should we take the Royal Standard? Had a Grenadier battalion ever performed this peculiar ceremonial duty or indeed had a non-Scottish regiment ever done it? The duty certainly seemed to be traditionally linked to a Scottish regiment, but, alas, with manpower stretched it duly fell upon the broad shoulders of the men of Number Two Company. The idea of Grenadier bearskins on the forecourt of The Palace of Holyroodhouse, with 'The March of the British Grenadiers'

being played was, even to the most impartial of observers, an unusual prospect. Nevertheless, it emerged that our presence was more appropriate than at first thought. The Lord High Commissioner of 2013, Lord Selkirk, was the nephew of a Grenadier who was killed at the Battle of the River Escaut in the same action that LCpl Nichols had won his VC. Accordingly, he was delighted that his Guard was found by Grenadiers and couldn't have been more appreciative.

The Company were based in the impressively foreboding surroundings of Redford Barracks. The first couple of days were spent rehearsing for the Guard of Honour which marked the opening of the General Assembly. This gave us all a



Lord Selkirk inspects the front rank with Major James Greaves at the Palace of Holyroodhouse.

unique insight into the workings of The Palace of Holyroodhouse as we were introduced to all the various personalities involved including The Purse Bearer, the Ladies in waiting, the Mace bearer and the ADC's from all three services. The planning that went in to the execution of this two week period was extraordinary. Strict traditions and official customs were inherited, as if plucked from antiquity, for two weeks and then forgotten for another year. For example, The Lord High Commissioner during the General Assembly had no number plate on his car, a privilege afforded only to a monarch. However, as he made his final address to formally close the Assembly, a number plate was hurriedly screwed on to his car as a token of his return to normality.

It took a bit of time to get used to marching behind the pipes and drums of the Royal Regiment of Scotland, but on the day the Guard of Honour was a great success. All present remarked that it had been the best in recent memory. Lord Selkirk threw his train of ADC's into a flat spin when he insisted on taking the opportunity to address the Guard, telling us how very proud he was to see us given his distinguished Grenadier ancestry.



Sgt Gunning leads men of Number Two Company up to Arthur's Seat, Edinburgh.

With the Guard of Honour performed, the main body returned to Aldershot leaving two duty teams to cover the guard duties for the rest of the Assembly. The days on Guard consisted of manning four sentry posts at the Palace and turning out the Guard whenever Lord Selkirk departed to the Assembly. Each day a large group of guests would arrive to be entertained for dinner and these included all sorts of Scottish personalities from every walk of life, including Sir Chris Hoy. The days off gave us all the chance to explore Edinburgh; we climbed Arthur's Seat in the thick clag and were given a fascinating and very detailed historical tour of Holyroodhouse. We were particularly grateful to Earl and Lady Rosebery, grandparents of Lt Jamie Garton, for inviting us up to Dalmeny Estate. A beautiful area on



Lt Garton, CQMS Owen and CSM Brooks taking some time out from Public Duties in Edinburgh.

the banks of the Firth of Forth, we had a BBQ on the beach, played golf, shot clay pigeons and a very small number braved the icy waters for a swim.

Throughout our time in Edinburgh Lord Selkirk went to great lengths to take an interest in his guard. On our final day he invited us all into the Palace to share a glass of beer with him and he enjoyed meeting as many of the Guardsmen as possible. A few weeks after our return to Aldershot we heard that Her Majesty had passed on her personal gratitude to the Company, having heard what a fine job it had done. It was certainly a novel experience for Grenadiers, but gave us all an interesting insight into a peculiar and little known feature of Scottish life.



Your bird (clay) Pay Sergeant! Shooting on the Dalmeny Estate in Edinburgh.

Infantry Cricket Club Tour to India and Nepal 2013

by *Lt Frederick Moynan*

This year the Infantry Cricket Club headed off to India with nearly all regiments from across the Infantry being represented while also comprising a balanced mix of Officers, NCOs and Other Ranks. It was great to have with us both Fusilier Charles (1 RRF) and Rifleman De Freitas (4 RIFLES) who had returned from Helmand only two weeks previously. The Household division was represented by Capt Alex Budge (Grenadier Guards, Harrogate AFC), Lt Frederick Moynan (Grenadier Guards, Nijmegen Company) and Lt Hugo Codrington (Coldstream Guards, 1 Company).

Before departing for India it was deemed prudent that some pre tour training was in order in order dust off the cobwebs and so the Club descended on the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst where we begun our training under the gaze of Combined Service representative Capt Storm Green (Coldstream Guards). After two days training, a delightful lunch reception at the Qaboos Pavilion and a few words of advice from Colonel Peter Sharland (Secretary of Army Cricket, former Nepalese DA) and the then Academy Sergeant Major Stokes (Coldstream Guards) the team deployed to Heathrow for the long journey to Mumbai via Sri Lanka. It would seem the Household Division is everywhere; while settling in at Terminal 4 Heathrow some fellow travellers from Wales (whose sibling was a Welsh Guardsman) insisted on buying the entire team a parting good luck shot of Sambuca which which made the long journey to Mumbai via Colombo somewhat more bearable.

The first evening in Mumbai allowed the squad to do some good old fashioned Army bonding and after a short tuk-tuk race to the train station in Juhu we travelled, for the outrageous fare of 10 pence, to Colaba in second class. Abhijit Joshi (Abhi), our affable tour guide, suggested a couple of beers in Leopold's, a bar made famous by the book *Shantaram* and also attacked in 2008 with grenades and small arms due to its popularity with Western tourists. With the bullet holes still visible and the Taj Mahal Hotel

only a few hundred metres away we were given an insight into the terror Mumbai suffered in 2008 at the hands of Islamist terrorists. After a few more beers and a few dance moves the team returned to Juhu refreshed, amused and ready to take on the Indians the next day in the first match.

Unfortunately, due to unseasonal heavy rain, the first 20/20 fixture had to be postponed by 3 days. This gave the team a chance to visit the NGO The Akanksha Foundation in central Mumbai. The Foundation bridges the gap between the extremes of wealth and poverty in Mumbai and allows talented but underprivileged children (mostly by virtue of the caste they are born into) to get the education required to break the mould. Many of the teachers were products of Akanksha themselves and they allowed us to sit in on a painting lesson and engage with some very impressive children, one of whom spoke five languages at the age of eight. We then assembled a giant puzzle with the children which Capt Budge struggled with immensely.

More late monsoonal rains delayed the start of our fixture on Sunday to 1200hrs yet the team had some luck with Capt Thomson (2RIFLES/ITC) winning the toss to put the home side in on a damp, but rapidly drying wicket at Goregaon. Lt Codrington got the tourists off to a dream start, taking a wicket with his first ball and left the hosts reeling at 2-2 after the first over. The home

side were eventually restricted to 129 all out in the shortened 30 over format. Codrington ended up with 4-22, matched by our Caribbean pair of Rifleman De Freitas and Fusilier Charles (1RRF) who both picked up two wickets each. Sgt Van Niekerk (4 SCOTS) and Capt Budge picked up one apiece.

It proved a competitive target but the Infantry CC struggled on the slow wicket and against the deft spinners. Despite

stubborn batting from Rfn Hislop (3RIFLES), Van Niekerk and Cpl Hornbuckle (2PWRR) we struggled to play the spin heavy line up. After some poor running between the wickets and failing to find the gaps we were bowled out for 108, disappointed not to convert the bowlers' hard work into victory and given us the perfect start. In the evening most of the squad made their way to the local beach along roads packed with locals celebrating the end of Deshware. Large statues of goddesses were being transported to be sunk out past the breakers by throngs of dancing locals



Looking smart for the evening's events.



Capt Alexander Budge and Lt Frederick Moynan represent the Infantry cricket team on tour.

fuelled seemingly by nothing but drums and music. It was a very impressive sight.

Prior to the night match on Tuesday evening the team descended on various tailoring, bat making and other cricket gear enterprises taking advantage of the their cheap goods. That evening's cricket was a memorable occasion; the evening atmosphere was muggy and electric with a real buzz around the ground and we were keen to get out and play having missed this fixture early in the week. The second game was a T20 under lights; a first for most of the side in both format and setting. Due to the heavy rain prior to the match the wicket was not up to the standard of English wickets but nevertheless it was a miracle that we were able to play, in no small part due to the hard work of the many groundstaff. With a white ball, black sight screens and a sizeable crowd of curious Indians we played our first of two games under lights. Having restricted the tourists to 148-6 we were confident of a positive result (Capt Codling the pick of the bowlers with 2-20). Unfamiliar with the 20/20 format Infantry CC started much too slowly at a run rate of under 4/over and so were soon under a fair amount of pressure. There really is no time to hang around in this form of the game and it soon became apparent that we needed to dedicate more time to the shorter, faster

format. A quickfire 25 from Lt Moynan pushed up the run rate towards the end but it proved too little, too late and Infantry CC slumped to 112 all out with no significant partnerships to speak of. There were more valuable lessons learned for next season. There were too many run-outs, not enough boundaries and a lack of experience in T20 whilst it was clear the opposition was well versed in the short game.

The morning came around quickly after getting back to the hotel after midnight. We were back on the road early only a few hours later; the trip to the airport blissfully free of the demonic Bombay traffic. The amount of security checks and bureaucracy between us and getting on the plane used all the three hours wait. The flight was packed but we adopted the classic Infanteer pose with an entire block of three rows heads back, eyes closed and out for the count. We were awoken for a quick feed and the approach into Kathmandu with the pilot teasing the entire cabin commenting on his clear views of Everest.

On arrival at British Gurkha (Nepal) we were accommodated and briefed – we fear that they expected the worst from a group of Infanteers. Capt Hilliard spoke to some local contacts and came up with a loose scheme of manoeuvre that led us quickly to Tom and Jerry's Bar in Thamel. The legendary Kathmandu night life and

haunts such as Sam's Bar and the Fire Club did not disappoint and the night was a good one.

The next morning after a quick recce of the ground, it was evident there was a little work required on the pitch and rain the previous evening meant the outfield was still a little damp. Nonetheless, it was still a fantastic venue – rustic, picturesque and supposedly with snow capped mountains in the background (which the clouds were covering). The main cricket ground in Kathmandu was being used by the national team to prepare for their upcoming qualifying bid for the T20 World Cup. The assessment was we could not play that afternoon so we scheduled both games for the next day back to back. Nonetheless, a training session was scheduled on the drier parts of the outfield. The altitude at 1300m was noticeable as we worked through our drills and bowled an over or two. In the afternoon we made our way into central Kathmandu to do some sightseeing around Durbar Square including the palace of the Kumari (Virgin Princess) and an old Royal Palace come Museum. As we descended once more on Thamel the heavens opened in a monumental downpour and so our moral and hopes of playing the next day dwindled. Around early evening the APF (a paramilitary mix of the police and army established for counter narcotics, riot and border control) called off the morning fixture. However we were hopeful that we would still play the Army in the afternoon.

The next morning dawned slightly overcast but dry and warm. It was game on for the afternoon fixture. We arrived to a transformed ground, the outfield cut, a brilliant rock hard pitch, tents including a decorated and well prepped VIP tent for dignitaries and flags flying. We started our warm up making it apparent the previous day's session had paid off. Meanwhile off the ground the VIPs started to arrive. From the British Gurkhas Nepal the Chief of Staff, Assistant Military Attache – Major Hitman Gurung MVO, Gurkha Major and Regimental Sergeant Major all arrived to support from the tent. They were soon joined by the Defence Attache, Colonel Harris and the Director of Nepalese Army Sport Lt Colonel Kharka. BFBS Nepal also had a representative at the ground who ran live feeds and arranged further interviews and coverage with the Annapurna and Himalayan Times. Just before the game began the guest of honour Major General Rana, Director General Military Training (and RMAS graduate from the 1970s) who also delayed his flights to the US to attend, arrived and was introduced to both teams.

The second T20 match was covered by a BFBS team and Capt Hilliard had the distinct privilege of being interviewed live on a national Nepalese Radio Station. The stage was set and it was clear to all that the Nepalese Army team were going to be formidable opponents. Indeed, it would transpire that they were in all but name a professional side (including up to 7 internationally capped players) and the British tourists ended up outgunned and outclassed by a rather exceptional team. Lt Moynan and Private Adcock got the team off to a quick start, going at 7/over for the first five overs before their wickets led to an all too English batting collapse replete with run-outs aplenty. It was another disappointing score of 102 which betrayed the talent in the side: despite a decent bowling attack, the Nepalese were made to look very good by a weak performance.

No excuses can be made for the home side's batting performance which was nothing less than sublime. 3 international players populated the top 4 batsmen and they were a pleasure to watch: the Household Division attack of Lt Budge (1GG) and Lt Codrington (1CG) are a fearsome couple of bowlers and they were taken apart. The quality of the batsmen was apparent when Budge,



A winning partnership, Capt Budge and Lt Moynan look worse for wear after a session on the square!

who bowls at around 70mph, bowled an away cutter on a good length that would have hit the top of off-stump only to watch the 5ft batsmen clip the delivery into the crowd at square-leg. Codrington was also hit for a huge six and it was apparent that the home side was in a different league to the part-time cricketers and full-time Infanteers. After 14 overs the Nepali with an international century against New Zealand hit the winning four to beat Infantry CC by 8 wickets. Sometimes one is simply outplayed but it was a pleasure to see such high quality cricket and nobody felt any shame in losing to such an impressive outfit.

After the match there was a presentation of a photo to the Nepalese Army team and we received a trophy from Major General Rana. A disappointed squad ran through the lessons learnt and enjoyed the last of the picturesque setting before heading back to BG(N) HQ to prepare for the evening reception where we would host the Nepalese team and Major General Rana.

The appetite for more cricket and a willingness of Abhi and Capt Hilliard to pull out all the stops and accept only yes for an answer meant that we secured The Police Gymkhana for a floodlit T20 on our penultimate night in India. The ground is like a scene out of *Slumdog Millionaire*; the rich and the poor juxtaposed with a train line on one boundary and the beach on the other. A few hundred people turned up to watch 16 white men clad in their new One Day Pyjamas and 6 Indians form two sides for what would prove to be the best game of the tour. Capt Thomson took charge of the Officers and Non Commissioned Officers bolstered by Abhi to form the Bombay Billionaires whilst Rifleman Hislop captained the fired up ranks with a few talented ringers.

Capt Budge was meant to open the bowling with his nonchalant run up and whippy pace but was otherwise engaged, having a second fitting for his electric blue linen suit at a nearby tailor. Only a Guards Officer? Sgt Charles and Hislop faced off in the first over with Hislop cleanly striking some cracking boundaries. Capt Codling also opened and was unable to stem the run rate that established the Tom and Jerry All Stars early on. A few wickets fell before a rather plump Indian fellow came on and dispatched a few balls over passing trains in a display of impressive hitting: he was never looking for quick singles. He was retired at 50 and the ranks posted the eminently defensible total of 182. Thus those with stars and chevrons had the daunting task of batting at a rate of 9 runs per over for 20 overs.

Lt Moynan set about the task with his new bat made in the backstreets of Mumbai by a 65 year old man who used to make bats for The Little Master, Sachin Tendulkar. Striking cleanly and flashing hard he reached 50 in 24 balls and was retired after hitting Rifleman De Freitas for a memorable 6 that cleared the pavilion. With the required run rate falling the Bombay Billionaires looked good for victory but some good

bowling and tactics by Hislop slowed the pace. With 35 needed in the final three overs, Abhi tiring in the humidity and Fusilier Charles bowling fast bouncers, the All Stars looked set for a win.

And then came Lt Codrington's swan song. Codrington had to return early to have dinner with Her Majesty to celebrate 60 years of Trooping the Colour with the previous 60 Ensigns and was going straight from the ground to the airport. A doubter on the boundary was heard to say "yes, I've seen him hit boundaries before but normally he chokes". Batting at 10 nobody could have foreseen the coming fireworks. A swing and a miss was followed by a couple of singles before 'The Godfather' really settled in and set about the bowlers like a spider monkey. The penultimate over went for 24 with two gigantic sixes hit over the mid-wicket boundary where many fielders had been placed. With 6 needed off the final over Abhi was under so much pressure that after one swipe his bat disappeared to square leg. Fusilier Charles bowled very well but after an oversight by the captain a no ball was called due to fielding restrictions and Lt Codrington, rather than being caught and sent back to the pavilion, went on to hit two off the final delivery and secure victory. Cricket really was the winner that night and for the first time on tour many players hit their potential.

After the match we were able to present our guide Abhi with his tour photo in front of his wife, daughter and parents. His impact on the success of the Mumbai leg could not be underestimated. His constant support was unexpected but amazing. He again delivered a fantastic meal just after midnight when we finally made it back to the hotel. It was going to be another quick turn around for the 40 Over match the next day and the weather looked oppressive.

The tired team woke early after very little sleep to a step change in the weather: 95% humidity and 38 °C was redolent of the green fields of Helmand. Capt Hilliard delivered a rousing Any Given Sunday speech to a team who were suffering from the Indian diet, weather and fatigue. Nevertheless, the Infanteers set about the task like only infanteers can. Private Batangala's half century was surely the innings of the tour for sheer grit and was supported by a few 20s by Capt Thomson and Lt Moynan which pushed the score up to 177 off 40, a score that was considered by the opposition to be around 'par'. Some inspired bowling by Capt Hilliard, Cpl Hornbuckle and Sgt Charles and a stunning caught and bowled by Fusilier De Freitas almost found us that much deserved victory. Alas it was not to be and the home side narrowly beat the exhausted Infanteers by a measly 2 wickets. It was a disappointing end to the tour but heads were held high and the team looked ready to return to England's milder climes.

For the three Guards Officers it was a wonderful experience and they have already been asked to organise the Infantry CC Pre-Season tour in 2015 to South Africa or the West Indies. Life could be worse.

Back to the Future: A Section Commander's Experience of Guards Training Company

by *LSgt Finlan*

Here's your lesson plan, you're teaching LMG 4 in half an hour'. That was certainly not the expected introduction on my first day at the Infantry Training Centre Catterick! But looking back at it now, after six months as a Section Commander at the ITC, it is a memory that I will look back on and appreciate.

I arrived at the behemoth that is the ITC on the 7th of January 2013 after a sharp turnaround after Herrick 16 and a two week course at the ARTD Staff Leadership School (ASLS). After my initial interview with my new Platoon Sergeant (Coldstream Guards I might add), I set about getting used to my new/old environment again with the help of the arrivals proforma.

It was at this point that I realised that it is wise to complete one's clearance proforma prior to leaving one's own battalion!

On looking at ITC Catterick for the first time as a LSgt, I could see a lot of positive changes from when I had attended ITC as a recruit in 2005. For those once based in Barry Block, you will be surprised to hear that it is now newly refurbished with lines boasting recreation rooms, drying/utility facilities and also a fully operating heating system. But it was the recruits that predominantly stood out when I ventured around the ITC in my first week. I was struck by the daunting task of turning recruits from Day One/Week One into future guardsmen and one day, hopefully, Lance Corporals and beyond.

I continue to be amazed by the diversity of Foot Guards recruits: the variety of backgrounds, cultures and experiences is extraordinary. The most metropolitan recruits that I have encountered are undoubtedly the French recruits living in Blackburn but wanting to join the Scots Guards; and, the mountain of a man from Dominica who used to be in the Dominican Defence Force while simultaneously being an international cricket player who is hoping to join the Grenadier Guards! The great spectrum of backgrounds creates its own challenges and pressures for a Section Commander. The major obstacles during recruits' initial weeks range from homesickness (and the inevitable tears), an inability to operate an ironing board and finally the seemingly impossible skill of tying one's own laces.

Once the recruits settle in, they start to form character and get into the rhythm of training. They suddenly seem capable of absorbing the lessons and advancing through training at a fairly rapid pace. During the course, recruits definitely push the

boundaries of everything and anything possible but each do it in their own unique and very particular fashion. My two favourite characterisations of recruits are the 'questioner' and the 'time filler.' The 'time filler' is invariably the recruit who enjoys, at any given moment, attempting to take my lesson drastically off course with either: "Sarnt you know in Afghanistan right . . . ?" or, "Sarnt you know when we get to Battalion can we . . . ?" The 'questioner' is a recruit that will ask questions at any moment – be it related to the subject or not. My personal favourite is indisputably: "Sarnt, can you fire under water?" My response could only be: "I certainly can, but I somewhat doubt if you are capable of such a feat!" (Or words to that effect!!) At the end of 28 weeks of training, the Pass Off Parade is a truly proud day for all involved. The vast difference between a recruit arriving on Day One/Week One with the latest must-have fashionable haircut and that proud, tunic-clad guardsman standing on the drill square remains as profound as ever. This enormous sense of pride in the recruits' achievements – and my role within that – can only be seconded, in my eyes, by serving with one's own Battalion on operations.

Undoubtedly the best piece of advice that I have received at the ITC came from the Regimental Sergeant Major 2nd Infantry Training Battalion. RSM Ewan (Parachute Regiment) posed the question: "were you a better recruit than those who you passed out?" As anyone could guess, the response was a resounding "Yes Sir!" RSM Ewan then replied "ok, so in training did you cover C-IED? UGL? LMG? GPMG? Modern and conventional tactics?" Such a stark point had a humbling and dramatic effect upon us all. This understanding gives Section Commanders an appreciation for what the recruits are going through and forces us all to realise that the recruits, and training itself, are constantly improving.

Conducting ARTD Staff Leadership School (ASLS) prior to arriving at ITC was undoubtedly of great benefit. Just as pivotal in assuring my level of performance were my fellow Lance Sergeants and my new training team. On first arrival, the scale of the challenge is very daunting. However, on looking around and recognising familiar faces from previous courses and fellow Grenadiers, one is slowly eased into the different environment. Once I settled into the training team, we quickly started sharing ideas about improving recruits' training but also the best purveyors of beers, wines and spirits in the nearby towns! It is certainly not all work and no play at the ITC! All in all, I have definitely enjoyed my first six months here. So much so that I would certainly recommend it as an excellent, rewarding and highly enjoyable posting. Additionally, there is the certain knowledge that one is training future Grenadier guardsmen.

Qatar Short Term Training Team

by Lt Toby Simpson

In March 2013 I deployed to Qatar as part of a three man short term training team (STTT). We flew to the capital city, Doha, for a three month period during which we were to run a platoon commanders battle course for the Qatari junior officers.



ENDEX.

We spent the first two weeks, aside from getting to grips with the 40 degree heat and chaotic road system, putting together a training program and planning the demanding exercises that would follow. The training team was made up of myself, Capt Thomas Macdermot (IG) and Sgt Martin Ledingham (YORKS), overseen by Major Guy Gatenby (MERCIAN) who as a loan service officer to the Qatari army had spent several years living out there and learning Arabic.



Machine Gunner Mohammed Essia.

The course that assembled was made up of mainly Qatari Army Special Forces young officers, all of whom had recently commissioned from the British led officer academy. This made the language barrier minimal and allowed us to introduce them to familiar tactics alongside the seven question's combat estimate. The first week consisted of a PFA to measure their level of fitness and a series of lessons on fieldcraft to assess what level they were operating at. It was also a chance to get to know the students and their English ability; this would be the biggest challenge while attempting to put the combat estimate across in a format that they could understand.

As with the British run PCD we introduced an almost solid teaching phase taking the students through question's

1-7 and at the same time conducting Tactical Exercises Without Troops (TEWTs) to allow them the practice they needed. The Officer Commanding, competitive by nature, introduced the students to an array of different types of PT, from circuits to loaded marches they were put through their paces in the searing heat of the morning. Whilst some of the students grasped the lessons quickly others really struggled and we soon had a significant split in levels of understanding. This forced us to rethink the training program and adapt to accommodate those who were realistically never going to be able to keep up with the pace of the class.

While this was a slow phase of the 10 week course it soon transitioned in to the exercise phase, copying the British course we started at section level and worked up to platoon operations. All the students thoroughly enjoyed this part of the training putting everything they had learnt to the test in advance to contacts, deliberate attacks and ambushes. On the latter exercises all the stops were pulled out and a Sea King helicopter was used to deploy the students on to the training area. Though worryingly it didn't look like it had been serviced any time recently and I was nominated to accompany the platoon on the flight in, as you can imagine not the most relaxing of journeys.

Though the students were reluctant to work past lunchtime due to the heat, we managed to make significant progress on teaching and practicing platoon level tactics. There were constant assessments from TEWTs and NAVEXs to written tests and presentations, half the battle was trying to improve the students' level of English to one which would allow them to work with British and American forces throughout their careers. This was put to the test during a series of oral presentations on a leadership case study.

While the course was demanding for the Qataris during the week, they found the time to generously host us on the weekends taking us dune bashing, wakeboarding and showing us around the sights of Qatar.

The course culminated in a two miler with one of the students managing to come in under the 18 minute mark and an assessed PFA during which all the students had significantly improved on their personal times. The highlight was everyone passing PRACTAC briefing the DS entirely in English.



Sea King HLS.



Assault course.

The Row2Recovery Project

by *LCpl Scott Blaney*

The first thing I learnt about the Talisker Whisky Atlantic Challenge was when my old rehab physio called me. Capt Mark Jenkins RAMC was my first physio at Headley court. I was admitted to Headley in 2007 after an incident in Afghanistan when I lost my right leg. Capt Jenkins told me that the Row2Recovery team was putting a crew together to row the Atlantic and to raise money for Help for Heroes. He asked if I was interested so I asked my fiancée Amy what she thought. She said it would be a great achievement and that I should do it! I had permission from the long haired general so I there was no turning back.

The Atlantic Row goes from the Canary Islands to Antigua, a distance of about 3,000 miles. It's even longer than marching from central London to Waterloo! This was also a race that less than 700 people have ever completed. It would mean rowing 2 hours on, 2 hours off all day and all night until we reached our destination. We would be on-board Endeavour a 29ft rowing boat with 2 cabins and 2 rowing positions. I was interested in the challenge itself, but probably the most important thing for me was to do something for the guys who never made it back from Afghanistan. I wanted to do this for the guys who are worse off than me or more injured than me.

I was selected as one of a crew of 4. That team included LCpl Cayle Royce, Light Dragoons, who was also wounded in Afghanistan and had lost both of his legs above the knee back in 2012. Our skipper was Capt James Kayll also of the Light Dragoons. The final man was Capt Mark Jenkins. We first met at Henley Regatta where our team manager Rory Mackenzie had put together a day for us. As

soon as we met I knew that we would be a well-oiled machine. We had a lot of banter and there was lots of rivalry between our regiments. Obviously we all knew that the Grenadiers were the superior regiment.

The crossing

We left the Canary Islands on 5th December 2013 and were looking like spending anything between 40 and 90 days at sea. What I had been told by previous rowers was that it would be good weather and sunny conditions for most of

the way across. But soon after we got underway we were confronted by some of the worst weather the race had seen for years. We had good weather for the first 5 days of the race but quite quickly that all changed. The winds picked up and the waves grew bigger and bigger. There was surf, rain, thunder and lightning. The boat was being hammered from side to side and it was like a roller coaster. I have never seen waves that big in my life, it felt like we were going to be swallowed up by the sea. Back in the days I was on operations I used to wear body armour to protect me. Now I had a lifejacket. In those early days we were fighting to survive and we didn't really have much chance to think about racing.

About 5 days in the headwinds got so strong that we couldn't row forward anymore and we were being pushed back towards the start. We had to put out a thing called a para-anchor to hold our position until the weather improved. The para-anchor is like a massive jellyfish shaped parachute that held us against the wind. We spent 4 days on it before the winds died down and we could start rowing again. The waves were big but we were being pushed in the right direction and things started to look a bit better. By about two and a half weeks in the weather turned again and we had some massive storms. The race safety supervisors had warned us on the satellite phone that it was coming. One night I had just come off my 2 hour rowing shift in big heavy weather with lightning all around us. The lightning was so powerful it seemed to rebound off the water and the sea looked like it was glowing. The swells were huge and the tops of the waves were breaking. We were already 3 or 4 days into this scary weather when we faced one of our toughest nights.

I had just got into the cabin and I was cleaning myself down. My hatch was half open when I heard Cayle shout 'hatch' and I quickly closed it. The next thing I felt was the most violent impact since I was blown up. A huge wave smashed into us and I felt the bow dig in and the whole boat went crashing over. We had capsized. It was hard to say how big it was because it was at night. I was in the cabin so the only thing I saw was all the kit rolling around my cabin and crashing into me. The boat self-rights so it turned back up again very quickly. Once we were up I stuck my head out of the cabin and helped to drag Cayle back into the water. We both tried to get the kit back that had gone into the water. We noticed that we had broken an oar in the capsize. We had also lost spare seats, food and lots of kit but both the guys on shift were still attached by their lifejackets and were ok.

Admin on board was most important. You had look after yourself, your kit and your health very carefully. Every 2 hours I would come off shift and do the same routine. I would clean myself with baby wipes, make sure all the kit was packed away, stowed and strapped on. If you weren't working on something on deck you would get your head down and get some sleep. The stag system was 2 on and 2 off most of the time. I was used to 'staggering-



LCpl Blaney prepares for his cooking shift.

on' thanks to my training as a guardsman but this routine was way different. Outside Buckingham palace there are 1,000s of people looking at you, at sea all you have to look at is the bloke in front of you and the waves.

I had cracked my elbow early in the race when I got knocked off my seat by a wave. I used to think about the pain in my arm and then remember the pain that my friends went through. I decided to shut up and row. When I lost my leg back in 2007 my mates and my platoon were so supportive of me and I took a lot of inspiration from that. I thought a lot about my platoon and my ex Sergeant Major Daz Chant who saved my life. If it wasn't for him I wouldn't have been here and I never would be able to complete this challenge. Having James Kayll as our skipper was a huge asset, he had done a lot of sailing and knew his stuff. I think that James made us feel very safe in difficult conditions. Every day on this crossing was an achievement as you knew you were getting closer to the goal. I always looked forward to the sunrise because it meant that you could see the waves coming. Sunsets and sunrises were highlights but the nights could be really tough.

Arrival in Antigua

We finally crossed the finish line at 6.12pm on Tuesday 21st Jan and I have never felt so good in my life. It was a thousand feelings bottled into one. A very surreal experience. Hearing people shouting and screaming,



Foul weather gear. Worn on all but one day of the entire crossing.

seeing flares and cannons going off it was amazing. There was music playing and crowds cheering. It was the first time we had seen anyone else for about 2 months. I hugged one of the Atlantic Polo team who had just come in that morning, I didn't get a chance to kiss my fiancée Amy for a couple of minutes as she got pushed to one side by the crowd. I felt very proud and very happy to be a Grenadier Guard and to raise awareness and money for injured servicemen and women throughout the Armed forces. I would like to thank both my family and the Regiment for supporting me throughout not only the row but through all of my whole Army career.

The Fagan Awards

by Lt Alex Shirreff

The Fagan Award is presented annually by Dame Mary and Capt Christopher Fagan in memory of their son, the late Christopher Fagan. Serving with the Regiment in Northern Ireland as a young Platoon Commander, he was tragically killed in a road accident. A keen sportsman, the award recognises outstanding individual sporting achievement and is bestowed upon the most outstanding sportsman of both 1st Battalion and Nijmegen Company, Grenadier Guards.

LSgt McLoughlan of No 2 Company was one of two extremely deserving recipients of the Fagan Award. He was recognised for his outstanding skiing performance whilst on Ex FROSTED BLADE. LSgt McLoughlan finished 1st in the overall Novice Competition, thriving particularly during the Downhill. Despite being a Novice skier, he demonstrated significant skiing potential and the Battalion has undoubtedly unearthed a great talent. He displayed at all times skill, courage and determination and consequently was competing with far more experienced skiers. Indeed, it is unique for a novice skier to have such an impact on Ex FROSTED

BLADE. He has the potential to achieve further considerable feats within Army skiing and his receipt of the Fagan Award provides a great opportunity.

Set to return on Ex FROSTED BLADE this coming winter, LSgt McLoughlan is looking to continue his rapid progress with skiing and compete in the senior competition. This will bring new challenges, but he will use the prize money offered by the Fagan Award to nurture his already considerable talent by buying his own skis and organising his own training trip. Delighted by the opportunities available to him thanks to the Fagan Award, LSgt McLoughlan explained; "it is a great privilege to win this prestigious award and I feel particularly humbled given the close relationship of the Fagan family to the Battalion. I feel it is an acknowledgement of the effort I have put in to skiing and look forward to continuing this year."

Gdsm Jones, now of The Queen's Company, was the recipient of Nijmegen Company's Fagan Award for his exceptional performance in the London District Inter-Company Boxing Competition in 2012 and for his promise as a boxer. Despite being beaten the previous year, Gdsm Jones was recognised as having considerable talent and pushed himself to return fitter and stronger, and even qualified as a level 1 boxing instructor so as to further understand his chosen sport and to train his

peers. Having thoroughly prepared himself, Gdsm Jones won easily his first, second and third round fights of the competition, without even losing a round, which set him in good stead for the finals night. In a display of skill that earned him the personal recognition of the assorted former World Champions on the evening of the Competition Finals, Gdsm Jones won all his rounds and was unanimously named the Best Boxer of the event. It was no surprise that he was scouted for the Infantry and Army teams and will soon begin training for them as well. Gdsm Jones demonstrated humility, courage and skill throughout the year's training and in the competition itself, all the character traits the army looks for in a good boxer and soldier. With only six more fights

until he can become a semi-professional boxer, Gdsm Jones is well on the way to achieving his final goal of becoming a fully fledged professional.

As the Battalion provides all training facilities for the boxing team, Gdsm Jones intends to spend the £500 prize on new boxing gloves, his level 2 coaching course and membership to 'Olly's gym' (where Ricky Hatton learnt) in his home town. Any remaining money he will spend on tickets to watch his favourite boxer, David Haye.

Gdsm Jones was extremely grateful for the recognition of his success and was surprised to have been even considered for the award, let alone to win it! He is very thankful to the Fagan family and will try to prove he was the right choice by continuing his run of success.

The Battalion's Football Trip to Monaco

by Capt James Stafford-Allen

The Battalion football team was invited to play at an exclusive international inter Army 7-a-side tournament in the glamorous principality of Monaco. The team also experienced Monaco to the full, during a four day stay, playing in a 11-a-side game against our friendly rivals, and co-hosts, the French Gendarmerie.

We were greeted by our hosts at Nice airport before being escorted to accommodation at Beausoleil. The following day's tournament was situated not far from the accommodation and had stunning views over the dazzling Monacan harbour. The standard of football was high. French and Spanish teams replicated the skill and control of their national sides. An all-star team graced the pitch and included a sprinkle of ex Chelsea and Monaco professionals.

Being the sole English team (suitably named the Garde Royale d'Angleterre) it took us several matches to adapt to the typical 'continental' refereeing. Three red cards in as many games forced us to rethink our tactics as The Captain, Major Ashfield, used his exemplary French to seek clarification with the officials following a few tough tackles from the team.

We kicked off the tournament against the non-compromising Legion Etrangere (Foreign Legion) who proved a tough opposition and resulted in a goalless draw. Passing improved in the second match where we went on to beat our other hosts, Prince Albert's Monacan Carabiniers by one goal to nil. We continued to progress through the group stage, culminating in a comfortable 4-0 victory with goals from Lt Jones, LCpl Pitt and a brace from Gdsm Ogden. Meanwhile, Capt Coates continued to be the mastermind behind the team's effective 2-2-2 tactic!

A tough quarterfinal against the eventual winners – a Spanish team – brought our tournament to a halt. We

had performed solidly overall, considering the lack of preparation time. Sgt Gunning and LSgt Pitters held together the defensive part of the team and put in some consistently strong performances.

Prize giving followed with the tournament winners being awarded a colossal trophy by Prince Albert. Gdsm Froggatt won the Most Valuable Player prize following some consistently brilliant performances in goal. This was an impressive prize considering the breadth of talent within the tournament.

Ten hours of football in the searing Monacan heat did not reduce energy levels. Arguably the best part of the day was yet to come. We were invited to the glamorous Hermitage Hotel in the city centre with a select group of teams from earlier. Here we were treated to a champagne reception which continued throughout the night.

The following day was an excellent opportunity for the team to see Monaco. We headed to the old town and saw Place Saint Nicolas, Placette Bosio, the Chapel of Mercy, Palais de Justice and remains of the ancient city. Prince Albert I's Oceanographic Museum was particularly impressive and the Guard mount at the Palace enjoyable. The latter was scrutinised by the Non Commissioned Officers!

This day proved a suitable rest day before taking on the Garde republicaine in a full 11-a-side match. Unfortunately the champagne had taken its toll on the team and despite some exquisite touches from Capt Stafford Allen, we lost. This did not mar the occasion. The match was played in memory of LCpl Ashworth with a minute silence observed before kick off. It was a touching occasion as the Garde republicaine knew LCpl Ashworth very well; He had scored the winning goal in the previous encounter.

By the end of the tour, it was hard to leave Monaco which seemed to live in a dream world especially with the Grand Prix taking place the following week. Much was gained from the visit: a strengthening of diplomatic ties with our European neighbours, competitive Battalion sport and arguably most importantly, pure fun.

The Changing of the Presidential Guard

Richard Aubrey-Fletcher followed in the footsteps of his grandfather, uncle and father when he was commissioned into the Regiment in 1973. A short period with the 2nd Battalion was followed by extensive service with the 1st Battalion variously as, Platoon Commander in the Queen's Company at Pirbright, Close Observation Platoon Commander in South Armagh, Adjutant in Berlin, Captain of the Queen's Company in Hounslow and Senior Major in Wellington Barracks after the First Gulf War. He returned to the 2nd Battalion in 1986 after Staff College, commanding No 2 Company in Ballykelly, and then finally in 1992 as Commanding Officer in Caterham for the Battalion's final two years before being placed in Suspended Animation. Post Command he joined the Directing Staff at the Army Staff College and then spent a fascinating three years in the Defence Intelligence Staff reporting on the international terrorist threat to British military interests worldwide. Promotion to Colonel in 1999 was followed by two years in Harare as Director of Studies of the Zimbabwean Staff College; his responsibilities included instructing the Defence Forces of Botswana, Namibia,



Zambia and South Africa in Peace Support Operations. When the political circumstances in Zimbabwe meant that the British military presence had to end he returned to the UK as Colonel Individual Training Policy at Upavon with responsibility for pan Army individual training. The rather grand title of Inspector Physical and Adventurous Training resulted in him spending long periods down wet, dark caves and hanging upside down from canoes in freezing Welsh rivers. Moving on again he became Chief of Staff, Director General Development and Doctrine coordinating the work of staff developing future British Army warfighting concepts and doctrine. He ended his Regular service as Commander Tidworth and Bulford Garrison, the largest garrison in the UK and at the time undergoing long overdue transformation under the most expensive Private Finance Initiative ever entered into by the MOD. Following retirement in 2009 he remained in MOD employ as the Joint Regional Liaison Officer responsible for the coordination of military support to the Security and Emergency Services in South West England and the Channel Islands. He left this

appointment in January 2014 and is delighted to return to heart of the Regiment as President of the Association. Married to Caroline he lives in Wiltshire, where he can normally be found with shotgun, rod or rifle close to hand.

The Regimental Recruiting Effort

by Capt Andy Butcher

2013 proved to be a challenging year for pan Army recruiting. There was the introduction of a new on-line recruiting process and a new partnership formed with the recruitment giant CAPITA and the MOD, in an attempt to cut millions off the budget.

The latest reports of this new relationship have been widely reported in the media including the short fallings of the on-line process and how an original time line to be fully operational by September 2013 has been moved to 2015.

As the Regimental Recruiting Officer, I feel that the biggest hole left by the RPP (Recruiting Partnering Project) has been the reduction of dedicated recruiters in previous Grenadier strong-holds. Also, the loss of



The Regimental Support team offer some shooting advice to potential Grenadiers.

recruiters in Manchester, Nottingham, Northampton, Bristol, Oxford, Coventry and Stoke has put real pressure on Regimental recruiting, not necessarily because there is a shortfall of those wishing to join the Regiment, but that we no longer have any visibility for potential applicants.

However, the news is not all negative. In fact, a more strategic approach to targeting the applicant, a better relationship with gate keepers and increased use of social media is proving very successful by raising awareness of the Regiment to potential applicants.

The new Battalion web site has been launched (www.thegrenadierguards.com) and has been a great success. Twitter (@joininggrenadiers) enables us to target organisations and locations where the Regimental support team are operating and also Facebook which offers interactive communication with those wishing to join the Regiment. An additional resource for Regimental recruiting is you the reader. It is you who know the people within your community and social circles who maybe would benefit from a career as a Grenadier. Also, you know the areas which would benefit from a visit from the recruiting officer or the Regimental support team and,

ultimately, you may also have family and friends who may be suitable. Your assistance would be greatly appreciated.

Another key area in recruiting has been the relationship which we have formed with the ABF The Soldiers Charity. In partnership with the ABF we have been able to include the Regimental recruiting team at high profile events including international cricket matches, premierships Rugby and football matches together with the odd appearance on TV. Last year we were able to raise just over £23,000 for the charity which saw the Battalion come runners' up in the prestigious Carrington Drum competition. Also, at the time of writing, so far this year we have equalled that amount with two months remaining.

This year will undoubtedly have the same challenges as last but, with a comprehensive approach to recruiting, we should be able to meet the demands of manning the Battalion. The traditional spike of those terminating their service on completion of an operational tour, for the time being, is over. Also, the reduction of manpower with the implementation of Army 2020 will see the Battalion fall in its strength of numbers but, with luck and no more redundancies, will see us through this turbulent time.

Albert Medals Awarded to Grenadiers in The Great War

by Major P A J Wright OBE
formerly Grenadier Guards

The Albert Medal, named in memory of the Prince Consort, was instituted by Queen Victoria in 1866. It was intended to recognize gallantry in saving life at sea. In 1877, the scope was broadened to the "many heroic acts performed on land and sea by those who endanger

their lives in saving or endeavouring to save the life of others". It became regarded as the premier award for "bravery not in the face of the enemy". During the Great War, 154 were awarded, of which nearly half involved mishaps with explosives. The award was twice given to Grenadiers who showed great courage and presence



LCpl William Meredith AM.



Silver War Badge.

of mind while supervising grenade practise.

In France on 19th September 1915, LCpl Percy Warwick, 1st Battalion Grenadier Guards, attached to 3rd Guards Brigade Grenade Company, was instructing a class in throwing live grenades from a saphead into a small trench 25 yards away. One of the men when his turn came was nervous, and after igniting his grenade, dropped it behind him. Warwick immediately picked it up from between the

legs of several men and threw it out of the trench where it exploded. He was presented with the Albert Medal by

King George V at Buckingham Palace on 21st March 1916. Warwick, was discharged from the Army on demobilization on 31st March 1920. He died in 1959 at the age of 74 and his medals were sold.

On 5th November 1916, LCpl William Meredith, 4th Battalion Grenadier Guards, while serving with 3rd Guards Brigade Grenade Company, was instructing a class in firing live rifle grenades. Private Dobby, Grenadier Guards, fired a grenade, but the charge was insufficient to project the grenade, which fell back into the barrel of the rifle with the fuse ignited. Dobby

held onto the rifle instead of throwing it down.

Meredith threw himself in front of him and attempted to remove



Rifle Grenade.

the grenade, but it exploded blowing off three fingers of his right hand and wounding him in nine other places. He received the full force of the explosion; Dobby was only slightly hurt but died of tuberculosis in January 1919.

On 5th May 1917, Meredith was medically discharged from the Army with a certificate of honourable discharge, which below the Royal coat of arms, depicts two soldiers of the Empire saluting Britannia. He also received the Silver War Badge, which the King had authorised to be issued to all servicemen who had been discharged since 4th August 1914, because of wounds or illness. The silver lapel badge was intended to be worn in civilian clothes as it had been the practise of some women to present white feathers to apparently able-bodied young men not wearing uniform.



Certificate of Honourable Discharge.

On 23rd November 1918, 12 days after the Armistice, the King inspected Silver War Badge holders in Hyde Park. He wrote in his diary: *"There were between 30,000 and 35,000 present: they were most enthusiastic and in riding down the lines they broke through and came round me to shake hands. I was nearly pulled off my horse."* Meredith was present and received a copy of the King's



King George V 23rd November 1918.

speech, which began: *"I am glad to have met you today and to have looked into the faces of those who for the defence of Home and Empire were ready to give up their all, and have sacrificed limbs, sight, hearing and health. Your*

wounds, the most honourable distinction a man can bear, inspire reverence in your fellow countrymen."

On 23rd July 1918, 14 months after his discharge from the Army, Meredith had written to Regimental Headquarters to enquire if details were held of three acts he had received recommendations for bravery. This provoked a flurry of correspondence, until Lieutenant The Earl of Dalkeith, Commander of the Grenade Company at the time, confirmed he could corroborate the facts of the third recommendation and the Commanding Officer 4th Battalion recommended the award of the Albert Medal. The Army Council submitted the recommendation to the Home Office, whose note on their minute of approval read: *"On the facts stated, the case seems good enough – but it is a little curious that the military authorities took so little notice of it at the time and that Meredith had to stir the matter up to get the case considered."*

Finally, Meredith was informed on 7th February 1919 that the King had approved the award of the Albert Medal, which he received at Buckingham Palace a fortnight later. In 1971, the Albert Medal was discontinued and the surviving holders were invited to exchange them for the George Cross. Of the 65 individuals eligible to exchange, 49 did so. Meredith declined on the grounds that he had received his Albert Medal from the hands of the King and that was the one he would keep. His medals, including the Imperial Service Medal awarded on his retirement from the Civil Service, were presented to the Regiment by his widow in 1995.



Albert Medal.



The medals of Lance Corporal Meredith AM.

Killed in Action – The Aftermath

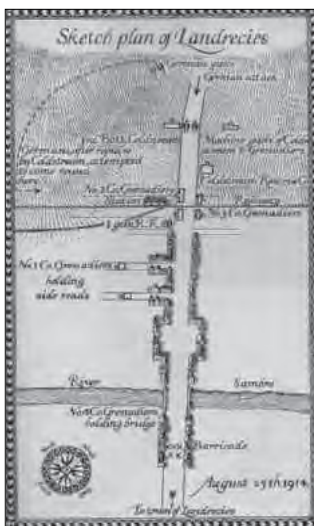
*by Major P A J Wright OBE
Formerly Grenadier Guards*

When Germany invaded Belgium on 4th August 1914, 2nd Battalion Grenadier Guards was at Wellington Barracks. It was well trained and its equipment was ready when mobilisation orders were received. On 12th August, the battalion, commanded by Lieutenant Colonel N A L Corry, with 29 officers and 1,000 men crossed over to France. It disembarked at Le Havre and marched to an overnight camp five miles away. The following day it entrained to begin the journey to the outskirts of Mons to meet the German threat.



Lieutenant Colonel Corry leading 2nd Battalion Grenadier Guards out of Le Havre.

After the first major clash between the British Expeditionary Force and the Imperial German Army on 23rd August, the battalion as part of 4th Guards Brigade began the 200 mile retreat south west towards Paris. The first chance the Grenadiers had to stand and fight was in the small town of Landrecies in support of 3rd Battalion Coldstream Guards on the night of 25th August. The men had been marching all day and had hoped to rest, but for most of the night fierce fighting took place on the outskirts of the town to block a strong enemy force and slow down the pursuit. During the



Sketch plan of Landrecies.

engagement German troops managed to get round near the railway station and fire on No 2 Company commanded by Major Lord B C Gordon-Lennox. He wrote in his diary: "Bullets began to whisk past us and it was just about at this time that poor young Vereker was shot dead through the head". Aged 21, 2Lt R H M Vereker was the first of 203 Grenadier officers to be killed in the war.



Vereker.

He was the son of Mr and Mrs George Vereker of Sharpitor near Salcombe, South Devon. He was born in Dublin in 1892 and after Osborne was educated privately before going to Sandhurst and joining the Regiment in September 1913. His parents were informed of his death in two telegrams from the War Office pre-printed "Deeply regret to inform you". The first read: 2Lt R H M Vereker Grenadier Guards is reported by Capt Dwyer RAMC to have been killed at Landrecies 25–26 Aug and buried there." The second read: "your son Lt R H M Vereker was killed in action night August 25th Lord Kitchener expresses his sympathy." On 27th August, the King's Private Secretary, Lord Stamfordham, acknowledged a letter from the War Office about Vereker's death and confirmed that a telegram of sympathy from the King had been sent to his father.

The Padre, The Reverend B G O'Rourke, wrote to his father on 30th August: "Your brave son met his death on 25th August. While trying to draw Cpl Bacchus of his regiment, who was wounded, out of range of the German line. The Corporal is now convalescent. Your son was buried in the next grave to some officers and eight men of the Coldstream Guards. We erected a rough cross giving their names. The following day the wife of the Garde Cimetière brought me a cross of a more substantial kind, and I left instructions for their names to be painted on it. It was her own thought and her own tribute." Cpl Bacchus survived and retired from the Army as a Company Sergeant Major in 1933.



Officers of 2nd Battalion Grenadier Guards at Meteren December 1914. Seated 3rd and 4th from left: Major G D Jeffereys, Lieutenant Colonel W R A Smith.

From 22nd November until 22nd December, 2nd Battalion remained in billets at Meteren. Its casualties since August by now amounted to 959, including 17 officers killed, practically the whole strength of the battalion. The remaining 12 officers caught up with outstanding administration. This included holding Committees of Adjustment in accordance with the Regimental Debts Act 1893 to report on the assets and liabilities of the dead. On 17th December, Major G D Jefferys as President, with Capt R H V Cavendish and Lt C R Gerard as Members, found Vereker had no liabilities and that his only assets were the contents of his field kit, which had been sent to the Base for transmission to England immediately after his death. The Commanding Officer, Lieutenant Colonel W R A Smith, forwarded the proceedings, together with those of 16 other officers, to the Brigade Major the following day. Vereker had purchased his field kit from the Wilkinson Sword Company for £5.15. It consisted of a Compactum bed, hair pillow, bath/wash bucket, chair, ground sheet and kit bag. His father, as his son's executor, requested reimbursement for the field kit from the War Office and the money due to the estate was paid in April.

Vereker's older brother, Lt G G M Vereker joined 2nd Battalion in 1916 from the Special Reserve. He became Transport Officer for the remainder of the war and was

awarded an MC. In Vereker's memory his parents lent their house near Salcombe for use as a Red Cross convalescent home. In 1919 they received the plaque and scroll which was sent to all next of kin of those killed with a message from the King which read "I join with my grateful people in sending you this memorial of a brave life given for others in the Great War." Vereker is commemorated on the Salcombe War Memorial and in All Saints Church Malborough in Devon, where his father and older brother are buried. The inscription chosen by his father on his grave in the Communal Cemetery Landrecies reads "I shall be with you when the light shines and in the darkness I shall not forget".



Landrecies Communal Cemetery.

A War Grave in South Africa

On 23rd March 1900, during the Boer War, Lieutenant The Hon. Edward Lygon, Adjutant 3rd Battalion Grenadier Guards, was killed in action. The following day he was buried in the presence of the whole battalion on the east bank of the Modder River. The grave was on a knoll a short distance from the wrecked bridge spanning the river, which stood out against a background of shrubs and trees.

His sister, Lady Susan Gordon Gilmour, visited the grave in 1929 and gave instructions for its renewal. The firm carrying out the work recommended that the remains should be removed to the military cemetery at Tempe on the outskirts of Bloemfontein. Lady Gilmour favoured the idea and, having consulted her brother, Lord Beauchamp, instructions were given for the removal to take place.

The coffin had been severely eroded and in it were found eight sovereigns and two half sovereigns. The coins and

several buttons, a star and other personal articles were forwarded to Lord Beauchamp. A new coffin was made and the remains interred in the British officer's cemetery at Tempe. The stone bearing the inscription, "Erected by his brother officers." was also removed and placed over the new grave.

The grave was recently visited on behalf of the Regiment by Helen Douglas and Jack Corona. They placed a small wooden cross and took the accompanying photograph. The cemetery is now called the Rooidam Military Cemetery and is very well maintained.



BOOK REVIEW

We Were Brothers in Arms

*Review by Major P A J Wright OBE
formerly Grenadier Guards*

Montgomery visited 4th Battalion Grenadier Guards ten days after accepting the biggest surrender in history. He called everyone around him and said: "I've got news for you. The war is over. No one is interested any more except historians." Nearly 70 years later military historian, Frank Clark, 2nd (Armoured) Battalion veteran and son of a Grenadier, revives our interest with his very personal memoir, **We Were Brothers in Arms** (Matador £16.99, all proceeds to the Colonel's Fund). His book is probably one of the last eye witness accounts of the eleven months of post Normandy battles as the Guards Armoured Division struggled to advance from the Seine to the Rhine and beyond.

The author was a member of 2nd Battalion Reconnaissance Troop which played a vital role in the 700 mile armoured advance across Europe, probing, patrolling and gathering intelligence. The troop of 44 men had a very high casualty rate. Their catchphrase was "Out in front and God help us." He describes the part he played as "The thread of my personal experience" from which he hangs 'pearls' consisting of a huge range of first person accounts and extracts from official histories of the campaign for North West Europe. The reminiscences of Operation Goodwood, the largest tank battle after the Normandy landings, on to the close quarter battles of the Bocage, combine to give a real sense of the dangers and claustrophobia involved in fighting from inside a tank with vivid descriptions of escapes from burning tanks that had been hit:

"There was a terrific explosion above my head. I attempted to lift my hatchway cover but the gun cowlings was preventing me opening it. My escape then was the hatch situated on the floor of the tank beside my feet, which required unlocking two clasps on the back of the seat, pulling the seat round to release two clips on the base plate of the tank to allow the plates to fall to the ground, and then crawling through the aperture. The only remaining exit was via the turret. I had to climb on to the turret floor through a very small opening between the ammunition rack and the turret floor supports. It is

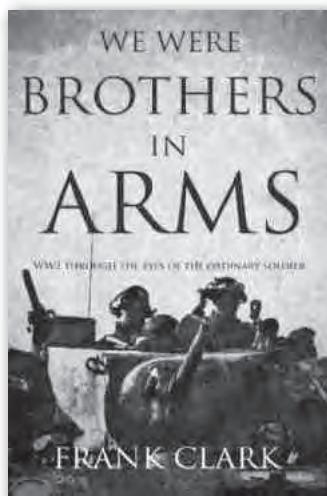
surprising what you are capable of in a life or death situation. Flames were coming from both petrol tanks."

In August 1944 the Guards Armoured Division broke out in what became a race to liberate Brussels after the longest advance achieved in a single day by any division during the war. The exhilaration of covering hundreds of miles, with only the enthusiasm of the local population impeding progress, is brought to life in letters home and the personal accounts of members of the troop who were in the vanguard of the advance. They were the most exciting ten days of my life." wrote the Troop Commander. After less than 24 hours in Brussels, they advanced again to become involved in the costly fighting across canals and dykes leading to the capture of Nijmegen Bridge. The author deals even-handedly and comprehensively with the controversy surrounding the tragic disaster at Arnhem. He dismisses his own courageous reconnaissance at Nijmegen, swimming across the fast flowing River Waal and returning to report his findings, as "a risky if stupid enterprise".

The bloody battle for Hell's Highway and the great German offensive in the Ardennes known as the Battle of the Bulge are followed with the crossing of the Rhine on 24th March 1945. The last days of fighting were perilous as the Germans were desperate to prevent the Allies from capturing the Rhineland. The liberation of a concentration camp, tanks knocked out by mines, the author wounded and his friend and patrol commander, Sergeant 'Timber' Wood, awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal in addition to the two Military Medals and two Mention in Despatches already awarded to members of the troop. The blood stained 'thread' reaches its end when Montgomery took the German surrender on 3rd May 1945.

The completed 'string of pearls', with its excellent photographs and maps, does lack the twin clasp of a bibliography and index to assist further research by the reader. The author, as a former commissioned officer in the Intelligence

Corps, may have sound reasons for their exclusion. This quibble should in no way detract from an accessible and authentic anthology of events that changed the course of the war and gave us the freedom we all enjoy today. Frank Clark has written a remarkable and compelling book which reveals the first hand experiences of the fighting soldier. It will be keenly read by former and serving members of the Regiment, and anyone with an interest in the history of World War II and the Grenadier Guards.





WHERE ARE THEY THIS YEAR?

*by Major Dominic Alkin
Grenadier Guards*

This year the Army bids farewell to **Major Alex Cartwright** who has handed the SO2 Foot Guards baton on to another Grenadier. This year, officer manning for the LONDONS Regiment has been added to the portfolio, increasing the coherence between Regulars and Reserves. I write this from the Army Personnel Centre in Glasgow – an excellent location from which to track the careers of our brother Grenadiers posted around the globe.

NATO is enjoying the presence of several Grenadiers, **Major General George Norton KCVO CBE** has traded Cadogan Gardens for Milan the duties of Deputy Commander NATO Rapid Deployable Corps. Meanwhile, in Mons, **Colonel David Russell-Parsons OBE** undertakes the duties of Senior Joint Operations Officer Supreme Allied Headquarters Europe whilst **Capt Richard Da-Gama** is in Aldershot, preparing to deploy to the NATO Joint HQ in Izmir, Turkey.

Grenadier Lieutenant Colonels are also exporting their talents with **Lieutenant Colonel Martin David MC** as the British liaison officer to the French Staff in Paris whilst **Lieutenant Colonel Andrew James MBE** will be moving to Vienna to become a Defence Attaché once his language training is complete. Further afield, **Lieutenant Colonel Guy Dennison-Smith** is the Deputy Military and Police Advisor to the UN in New York until June when he heads to Kuwait as a member of the Directing Staff at the Kuwaiti Staff College.

At home, **Brigadier Roly Walker DSO** has now taken command of 12 Mechanised Brigade. **Brigadier David Maddan** is Commandant of the School of Infantry from where he keeps a weather eye on the throughput of recruits and the efforts of **Major Ed Paintin** who is commanding the Guards Training Company. Also at Catterick is **Adam Wellesley-Wood** who is the Adjutant watching over the likes of **Capt Christopher Stevenson** who commands a Platoon of recruits. Other Grenadiers involved in training are **Capt Alex Bayliss** an Instructor at the Support Weapons School and **Capt Alex Budge**, a platoon commander at Harrogate. The Grenadier influence is ever present at Sandhurst with **Major Vince Gaunt OBE** instructing the Late Entry Officers and **Capt Glen Haughton** as the Academy Sergeant Major.

Lieutenant Colonel Simon Soskin is currently the

Brigade Major at HQ London District whilst **Capt James Taylor** is Adjutant of London Central Garrison. Nijmegen Company continues to deliver the highest standards of public duties under the command of **Major Neil Strachan** with **Capt Nico Wills** as his Second in Command. Regimental officer recruiting is in the safe hands of **Capt Mike Dobson** who is Temporary Equerry to **HRH the Duke of Edinburgh** whilst, not far away, can be found **Capt Jonathan Lindley** working in CGS's staff.

Grenadiers continue to support equipment procurement and currently **Lieutenant Colonel Jerry Levine MBE** works on the Army's Interoperability & Architecture requirements at the Information Capability Directorate, whilst **Major Simon Gordon-Lennox** is a Land Requirements Manager at Defence Equipment and Support in Bristol. At Shrivenham, **Lieutenant Colonel Richard Maundrell MVO** is a member of the DS at ACSC whilst **Majors Gordon Gask** and **Rupert King-Evans** will complete ICSC before Gordon heads to the ARRC in Insworth and Rupert throws himself behind the Army's recruiting drive.

Involved in the dying days of Op HERRICK is **Lieutenant Colonel Vern Overton** who is the Quartermaster of Bastion Support Group and **Capt Will Harries** who is exploiting intelligence in TGHQ. **Capt Florian Kuku** supports the operation from HQ Theatre Troops and **Major Ben Jesty**, at the Land Warfare Centre, ensures that the Army learns the lessons from past operations.

The First Battalion has now bid farewell to **Lieutenant Colonel James Bowder OBE QCVS** who is currently MA to CLF, having handed over command to **Lieutenant Colonel The Hon Chips Broughton MBE** who has the support of **Major Richard Green** as his Senior Major and **Capt Paddy Rice** as his Adjutant.

Major Piers Ashfield DSO follows his previous commanding officer to become MA to COS CLF having handed The Captaincy of The Queen's Company to **Major James Seddon**. No 2 Company is back in Grenadier hands as **Major Chris Sargent MBE WG** has handed over to **Major James Greaves** who is supported by **Capt Will Harris** as his 2IC. James is currently preparing to hand over to **Jim Green** before heading to PJHQ in May to join their planning team. The Mighty Ribs have gone from strength to strength and are now under command of **Major James Shaw** who will helm the good ship Inkerman until 2015. Support Company benefits from **Capt James Brown** who commands the Recce Platoon, **Capt Hugo Cartwright** who commands the Mortar Platoon and **Capt John Hathaway-White**, commander of the Fire Support Platoon.

Lieutenant Colonel Vern Overton



Vern Overton was recruited into the Regiment as a boy soldier in Lincoln and underwent basic training at the Guards Depot from June 1976, under the guidance of Sgt Fred (Percy) Cook. He was subsequently posted to the First Battalion, where he

was promptly despatched to 'Taggy Two' under the legendary CSM Derek Rossi. He has since served in all Companies of the 1st Battalion, but spent most time in No 2 and The Queen's Company. He has served in the Sudan, West Berlin, Northern Ireland, Kenya, Cyprus, Germany, Canada, USA, Norway, Bosnia, Malaysia, Iraq, Afghanistan and Belize. There have been numerous career highlights, but the ones he remembers most fondly are serving as a LCpl under the command of Major Charlie Woodrow for the tour of Crossmaglen in 1978; becoming the Battalion's Sniper Instructor, serving as a Colour Sergeant Instructor at Sandhurst and then as CQMS of The Queen's Company during what is now known as the First Gulf War. Being CSM of The Queen's Company for the Queen's Birthday Parade in 1992 was a special moment, as was moving to the Close Observation Platoon as Second Controller of a very

select platoon specially chosen for the South Armagh tour. Becoming the Sergeant Major of the First Battalion in Ballykinler in 1997 was the pinnacle of his career.

Commissioned in 1999, he initially served as the Unit Welfare Officer. Subsequent tours at Regimental Duty included assignments as Training Officer in Norway, Company Commander of HQ Company in Windsor, then Technical Quartermaster and finally Quartermaster. The latter was a particularly hectic period and included an Arms Plot move and operational tours in both Iraq and Afghanistan. In 2007 he moved to Belize and served as the Second in Command of BATSUB. This included a multitude of roles, but his favourite by far was Officer Commanding the British Forces Adventurous Training Centre on St Georges Caye. More recently, he was selected to serve at Sandhurst as an instructor with the Late Entry Officers Course, before moving to the Army Foundation College at Harrogate where he had the privilege of commanding a Company of 280 Junior Soldiers. He is currently the Staff Quartermaster of Camp Bastion serving a 12 month tour of duty.

In his younger days he represented the 1st Battalion at cross country running and in several athletics meetings, as a middle distance runner. He was once a keen participant in all sports, but now concentrates on trying to prevent his legs from creaking and totally seizing up. This includes attempts at distance running and road cycling, although the latter has seen him take some spectacular tumbles off his bike. He is married to Lorna and has 2 grown up sons, Robert and Peter. He is due to leave the army next year (2015) and looks forward to riding his bike in some of the friendlier, more hospitable parts of the world.

Major Richard Green The Senior Major



Major Green took up his current post as the Senior Major of the 1st Battalion Grenadier Guards, in April 2013. Prior to this he has conducted two tours of duty in the Ministry of Defence, more recently as Military Assistant to the Assistant Chief of

Defence Staff (Logistic Operations). He was The Captain of The Queen's Company in 2010–2011 and he commanded No 2 Company on Operation HERRICK XI in 2009 and on the Queen's Birthday Parade in 2010, as Number Two Guard.

Major Green joined the Army in 1996 and was

originally commissioned into The Devonshire and Dorset Regiment. On completion of his second tour in Northern Ireland, with the Battalion, he move to Headquarters Third (United Kingdom) Division as the SO3 Ops/O&D in time for the deployment to Iraq in 2003. It was during this time that he transferred in to the Grenadier Guards.

Educated at Marlborough College and Exeter University and, since commissioning has attend the Army Junior Division and Intermediate Division of Staff College.

A keen sportsman in his earlier military career, having represented the Infantry at rugby, hockey and cricket and his Battalion at Biathlon. Maj Green has represented the Combined Services at Gaelic Football, where he played against the Irish Defence Forces in Dublin.

Married to Sarah, who works in HR within the financial sector. They have two children, Sophia (aged 7) and Edward (aged 2) and a house on the Wiltshire/Dorset border.

Editor's note: Many congratulations for being selected on the Pink List to be promoted next year.

Major James 'Stumpy' Keeley MBE



Originally from Manchester, Major 'Stumpy' Keeley joined the Guards Depot in November 1984 and was posted to the 2nd Battalion in Chelsea Barracks for a short 'stint' prior to embarking on the first of many tours of Northern Ireland. The

time spent on these tours eventually amounting to five and a half years of his service. It was on one of his later tours of Northern Ireland whilst serving as a Controller in the Battalion's Close Observation Platoon that he was awarded the Queens Commendation for Valuable Service.

The majority of his initial service was with No 1 Company of the 2nd Battalion from which he rose through the ranks from Gdsm to CQMS before moving to Nijmegen Company on its formation. In 1998 he became a Colour Sergeant Instructor at the Royal Military Academy

Sandhurst, and following this was to return to Nijmegen Company as the CQMS for a year prior to moving back to the 1st Battalion to become the Company Sergeant Major of the Inkerman Company in Windsor. In 2003 the now Drill Sergeant Keeley found himself detached from the Battalion in a Public Duties role to become the Training Warrant Officer of 1 Close Support Medical Regiment in Iraq (OP TELIC 1). In 2004 he became the Regimental Quartermaster Sergeant at Regimental Headquarters and then Regimental Sergeant Major of the 1st Battalion in Iraq (OP TELIC 8) in the summer of 2006 and for the Battalion's Afghanistan deployment (OP HERRICK 6) throughout the summer of 2007. WO1 (RSM) Keeley was commissioned into the Regiment in May 2008 and was initially appointed as the Second in Command of Support Company prior to taking over as the Battalion Welfare Officer in January 2009; he was awarded the MBE following this appointment. His next appointment was as Transport Officer for a year prior to taking over as the Technical Quartermaster for the Battalions 2012 Afghanistan tour (OP HERRICK 16) where he was employed as the Battle Group Logistics Officer. He was appointed Quartermaster in November 2013. Major Keeley is married to Samantha and they have a daughter, Alana who is ten years old. In his younger days he was a keen Boxer and still is a keen spectator of the sport and is currently the Battalions Boxing Officer.

WO1 (SBSM) Andrew Wood



WO1 Andrew Wood currently holds the best two posts in Army music, Band Sergeant Major of the Grenadier Guards Band and Senior Band Sergeant Major of the Household Division. 30 years ago in September 1984 at the Guards Depot Pirbright.

As a 16 year old he joined 24 other Musicians on a 15 month training period under the guidance of instructors taken from the Household Division Bands assisted by other legends such as Drill Instructor CQMS Kemp, Grenadier Guards and the memorable Drum Major Dixie Dean.

Upon reaching the dizzy heights of 'trained soldier' he was posted to the Royal Military School of Music at Kneller Hall for a year of intensive musical training as both a trombone player and cellist. In January 1986 he was posted to the Royal Artillery Alanbrooke Band in Dortmund, West Germany.

Under the plan, Options for Change, the Alanbrooke Band was disbanded in November 1993 and he returned to the UK as a LCpl to join the newly formed Army Air

Corps Band based at Middle Wallop. During his 10 years there he continued to tour the UK and Europe, also adding a tour of North America to the list of countries visited. Highlight engagements included marching Veteran members of the Parachute Regiment and Army Flying Corps across Pegasus Bridge in France and supporting D-Day anniversary celebrations on the beaches in Normandy.

In June 2004, he was posted to the prestigious Band of the Grenadier Guards on promotion to Colour Sergeant where he has since experienced a wider range of engagements in the State Ceremonial Arena. Tours have included trips to Australia, Switzerland and more recently to Canada in support of the BATUS. During this time he has continued to expand his musical training achieving a Master of Arts Degree in music performance from the University of Salford.

In 2008 he was promoted to the rank of WO2 and with it the much coveted position of Band Sergeant Major. In 2012 he was promoted again to WO1 and Senior Band Sergeant Major of the Household Division. Despite the high profile position of Senior Band Sergeant Major, it is his position in the Regimental Band that he cherishes the most, working with a highly talented and exceptional group of people that make up the Band of the Grenadier Guards.

Andrew currently lives in Andover, and has been happily married for 20 years to Vanessa. If he had any spare time, he would probably spend it fishing!

WO2 Ty-lee Bearder



WO2 Ty-lee Bearder joined the Army in June 1993 and was posted to the The Inkerman Company 2nd Battalion Grenadier Guard in Caterham January 1994, after his first Deployment to America on Exercise Trumpet Dance and his first Queens

Birthday Parade in Number 2 Guard, he moved to Wellington Barracks on the amalgamation of the 1st and 2nd Battalion.

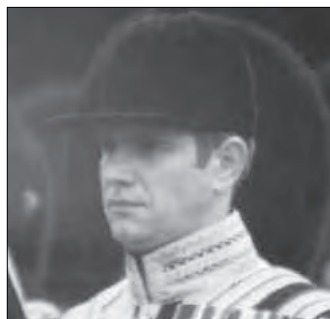
In 1995 he joined up with the Grenadier Platoon attached to the Irish Guard for his first Tour of Northern Ireland in East Tyrone, on returning in December he rejoined The Inkerman Company for the Battalion's two year tour to Ballykinler in Northern Ireland. In 1998 he returned to Pirbright and joined the Mortar Platoon and deployed back to East Tyrone in 1999 as the Intelligence Officer for Cookstown. In 2001 he Joined No 2 Company as a Section Commander and deployed to Belfast for his final tour of Northern Ireland and he was posted to Catterick as a Section Commander. Rejoining No 2 Company in 2004 he deployed to Bosnia and was

promoted to Platoon Sergeant. He deployed to Iraq in 2006 (OP TELIC 8) and Afghanistan OP HERRICK 6) in 2007. In 2007 Bearder became a Colour Sergeant Instructor at the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst and in 2009 rejoined The Inkerman Company as the CQMS for the Battalion's second tour to Afghanistan (OP HERRICK 11). In 2010 he became the Company Sergeant Major of Nijmegen Company and was now getting ready for his second Queens Birthday Parade, during his time with Nijmegen Company he had the honour of being involved in numerous ceremonial events including the Royal Wedding, Diamond Jubilee and Olympics. In 2013 he was posted back to the Battalion as Drill Sergeant, and in the June 2013 was appointed the position of Regimental Quartermaster Sergeant Tech. In December 2013 he was selected to be promoted to Warrant Officer Class 1 and will be taking over as the Sergeant Major of the Battalion post Queens Birthday Parade 2014.

Throughout his service WO2 Bearder has served in The United States, Kenya, Canada, France and Germany and has been on Operational tours to Northern Ireland, Iraq and Afghanistan.

WO2 Bearder is married to Paula and they live in a Small mining village in Derbyshire, They have a Son Daniel who is 15 and two daughters Morgan-lee 12 and Imogen 11. He has a keen interest in most sports especially football and boxing.

WO2 Matthew Betts



WO2 Matthew Betts joined the Army in November 1994 and on completion of his basic training at the Infantry Training Centre in Catterick he remained where he was to take part in the Drums course in which he excelled. Having excelled in the

course he was then posted to the Battalion's Corps of Drums in 1995.

In 1996 WO2 Betts, with The Corps of drums was attached to the Queens Company for it's two year operational tour of Ballykinler, Northern Ireland. In 2001 he was attached to the No 2 Company as a Section Commander and subsequently deployed to Belfast for his second and final tour of Northern Ireland. With a change of scenery he deployed to Bosnia in 2004 where he was to

find himself with the Queens Company once again. As a result of a successful tour he was promoted to Sergeant shortly after his return. He was posted to Nijmegen Company and took part in the Queen's Birthday Parade in 2006. In 2007 the Battalion was preparing for it's first tour of Afghanistan (OP HERRICK 6) and for the task in hand he was attached to the reformed No 3 Company. In 2010 he became the Company Quartermaster Sergeant of Head Quarter Company and only a short time later in 2011 he took the appointment of Senior Drum Major of the Household Division. Since taking on the vital role he has had the honour of being involved in numerous ceremonial duties including the Diamond Jubilee, Olympic Games and also leading the massed bands of the Household Division for two Queen's Birthday Parades. Throughout his service WO2 Betts has served in The United States, Kenya, Canada, France, Germany, Switzerland, Malawi and Malaysia and has completed Operational tours of Northern Ireland, Bosnia and Afghanistan.

Amongst various other interests WO2 Betts particularly enjoys reading historical novels and organising social events.

The FIRST or GRENADIER REGIMENT of FOOT GUARDS

at December 2013

Tangier 1680; Namur 1695; Gibraltar 1704-5; Blenheim; Ramillies; Oudenarde; Malplaquet; Dettingen; Lincelles; Egmont-op-Zee; Corunna; Barrosa; Nive; Peninsula; Waterloo; Alma; Inkerman; Sevastopol; Tel-el-Kebir; Egypt 1882; Suakin 1885; Khartoum; Modder River; South Africa 1889-1902; Marne 1914; Aisne 1914; Ypres 1914, 1917; Loos; Somme 1916, 1918; Cambrai 1917, 1918; Arras 1918; Hazebrouck; Hindenburg Line; France and Flanders 1914-1918; Dunkirk 1940; Mareth; Medjez Plain; Salerno; Monte Camino; Anzio; Mont Pincon; Gothic Line; Nijmegen; Rhine; Gulf 1991.

Colonel in Chief

HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN

Colonel

FIELD MARSHAL HRH THE PRINCE PHILIP DUKE OF EDINBURGH
KG KT OM GBE QSO AC

Regimental Lieutenant Colonel

Major General GPR Norton KCVO, CBE

Regimental Adjutant

Assistant Equerry

Director of Music

Regimental Quartermaster Sergeant

Regimental Treasurer and General Secretary Grenadier Guards Association

Honorary Regimental Archivists

Major GVA Baker

Capt MWS Dobson

Major K Davis

WO2 (RQMS) S Williams

Major AJ Green

Lt Col CJE Seymour LVO

Major PAJ Wright OBE

15th Company REGIMENTAL HEADQUARTERS

REGIMENTAL

HEADQUARTERS

WO2 (RQMS) S Williams
Sgt A Bonsell
LSgt R Broomes
Gdsm R Armour

REGIMENTAL STORES

LSgt A Harper

REGIMENTAL BAND

Maj (DOM) K Davies
WO1 (BM) T Taylor-Smith
WO1 (SBSM) A Wood
CSgt D Buckles
CSgt R Maddocks
CSgt J Pickin
Sgt M Altree
Sgt N Penny
Sgt R Plant
Sgt J Smout
LSgt N Bowen
LSgt J Burton
LSgt L Henaghan
LSgt A Houldsworth
LSgt A Johncock
LSgt J Thomson

LCpl S Hall
LCpl B Hull
LCpl J Langford
LCpl M Leach
LCpl J Lockwood
LCpl P Matthews
LCpl A Nixon
LCpl D Nixon
LCpl S Petchy
LCpl A Shellard
LCpl C Smith
Musn M Andersson
Musn L Barrigan
Musn B Beavis
Musn V Carter
Musn A Challinor
Musn H Clavering
Musn P Cowley
Musn R Ellard
Musn T Greenhalf
Musn K Lee
Musn L Narkhom
Musn J McElroy
Musn N Rushforth
Musn I Shepherd
Musn M Thomas
Musn D Venter

14th Company INFANTRY TRAINING CENTRE CATTERICK

Maj E Paintin
Capt W Harris
Capt A Wellesley-Wood
Lt A Shirreff
Sgt S Castel-Nuovo
Sgt B Orrell
LSgt J Dicastilione

LSgt L Foulton
LSgt J Foxcroft
LSgt C Friess
LSgt J Pearce
LSgt A Thomas
LCpl S Taylor
LCpl M Thomas

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1st Battalion

Battalion HQ

Lt Col CL Broughton
 Maj RJH Green
 Capt TR Hendriksen
 Capt S Munro
 Capt PJ Rice
 Capt CJD Stevenson
 WO1 D Westlake
 WO2 M Cox
 WO2 M Howlin
 LCpl J Booty
 LSgt D Sullivan
 Gdsm J Adom
 Gdsm SM Bayameyame
 Gdsm S Husband
 Gdsm N Mercer

The Queens Company

Maj JA Seddon
 Capt JR Taylor
 Lt BG Conway
 Lt CHP Sandford
 2Lt THR Hargreaves
 WO2 GE Davis
 CSgt C Dougherty
 Sgt J Donovan
 Sgt M Parker
 LSgt S Beekman
 LSgt M Cahill
 LSgt L Davis
 LSgt A Hendy
 LSgt D Jones
 LSgt C Kotze
 LSgt B Middleton
 LCpl N Atanga
 LCpl T Battison
 LCpl M Ceesay Jnr
 LCpl D Clarke
 LCpl S Emmett
 LCpl G Francis
 LCpl S Galvin
 LCpl M Jallow
 LCpl O Lee
 LCpl D Meyers
 LCpl N Ngwenya
 Gdsm J Austin
 Gdsm J Alexander
 Gdsm J Andrews
 Gdsm S Bah
 Gdsm J Boardman
 Gdsm J Castle
 Gdsm G Churchill
 Gdsm F Coughlan
 Gdsm R Crowley
 Gdsm B Davis
 Gdsm C Drew
 Gdsm N Eamer
 Gdsm F Fowler
 Gdsm R Froggatt
 Gdsm D Granger
 Gdsm A Gallagher
 Gdsm O Hicks
 Gdsm T Hunt
 Gdsm C James
 Gdsm DB Jones
 Gdsm C Keay
 Gdsm H Kendall
 Gdsm M Knott
 Gdsm J Lewis
 Gdsm J Lloyd
 Gdsm A Mabert
 Gdsm A Matthews
 Gdsm A May

Gdsm C McKerrill
 Gdsm L Mitchell
 Gdsm G Reece-Evans
 Gdsm B Sonko
 Gdsm D Spittle
 Gdsm E Taylor
 Gdsm S Taylor
 Gdsm LA Thornicroft
 Gdsm N Tuft
 Gdsm A Turay
 Gdsm K Wakeling
 Gdsm A Wates
 Gdsm A Wingate
 Gdsm A Whitehouse
 Gdsm T Yearley

No 2 Company

Major JCM Greaves
 Capt JAL Garton
 Lt DR Welham
 2Lt CLJ Wright
 WO2 JP Summerscales
 CSgt L Owen
 Sgt B Gunning
 Sgt A Harris
 Sgt GA Hudson
 LSgt B Hayden
 LSgt G Harper
 LSgt J MacDonagh
 LSgt L McLoughlan
 LCpl S Deakins
 LCpl S Freeman
 LCpl V Goodman
 LCpl B Jones
 LCpl P Kirk
 LCpl LL McDonald
 LCpl B Moffat
 LCpl P Ndungu
 LCpl O Rosser
 LCpl P Scanlon
 LCpl H Samuel
 Gdsm EK Appiah
 Gdsm M Aldridge
 Gdsm D Batten
 Gdsm J Bestwick
 Gdsm R Bibbings
 Gdsm N Brookes
 Gdsm B Bull
 Gdsm S Conteh
 Gdsm J Cook
 Gdsm A Deen-Kamara
 Gdsm D Frank
 Gdsm N Fletcher
 Gdsm B Fulton
 Gdsm S Garratt
 Gdsm AR Golding
 Gdsm J Haley
 Gdsm S Harper
 Gdsm D Harding
 Gdsm A Harris
 Gdsm L Hendry
 Gdsm M Igbaifua
 Gdsm O Jenyo
 Gdsm SJ Keegan
 Gdsm P Koritala
 Gdsm R King
 LCpl B Kimadey
 Gdsm R Langdell
 Gdsm S Marsland
 Gdsm A McDermottroe
 Gdsm J McGrath
 Gdsm JA Millerchip
 Gdsm D Moya

Gdsm D Mitchell
 Gdsm RJ Nightingale
 Gdsm KB Nimako
 Gdsm J Neller
 Gdsm B O'Hanlon
 Gdsm LJ Pass
 Gdsm D Payne
 Gdsm K Peters
 Gdsm AR Robinson
 Gdsm P Salt
 Gdsm AO Sanda
 Gdsm J Seal
 Gdsm B Shingler
 Gdsm D Spencer
 Gdsm L Stokes
 Gdsm N Thompson
 Gdsm H Turner
 Gdsm K Walkden
 Gdsm N Walker
 Gdsm A Wiggins
 Gdsm S Wilson
 Gdsm A Wright
 Gdsm C Wylie

The Inkerman Company

Major JENB Shaw
 Lt TJC Simpson
 Lt HR Waterfield
 2Lt CAG Williams
 CSgt M Hughes
 Sgt SDW Hepburn
 Sgt D Marsden
 Sgt A Pitters
 Sgt HD Thomas
 LSgt M Davison
 LSgt D Harrison
 LSgt MJ Hall
 LSgt A Jones
 LSgt P Laird
 Cpl B Limbu
 LCpl S Blakeley
 LCpl L Darboe
 LCpl K Davis
 LCpl R Elliott
 LCpl C James
 LCpl CM McClendon
 LCpl AJM McCormack
 LCpl MJ Ogden
 LCpl G Quigley
 LCpl WJ Slater
 LCpl DE Smith
 LCpl BS Sonko
 LCpl C Wasswa
 Gdsm JT Addison
 Gdsm RD Bannister
 Gdsm S Baxter
 Gdsm NC Caiger
 Gdsm JR Cornish
 Gdsm JDA Dexter
 Gdsm JA Enderby
 Gdsm O Few
 Gdsm N Fray
 Gdsm S Ginty
 Gdsm DJ Glover
 Gdsm PJ Gray
 Gdsm LT Hampson-Keeling
 Gdsm N Handford
 Gdsm J Heale
 Gdsm J Hewson
 Gdsm RGA Hollis
 Gdsm S Holmes
 Gdsm J Hubbard
 Gdsm WEJ Hurst
 Gdsm BI Iwuoha
 Gdsm B Jobe
 Gdsm LR Kellie
 Gdsm F Mabasa
 Gdsm S Martinez

Gdsm J Mack
 Gdsm J Mcewan
 Gdsm S Murray
 Gdsm TM Ndegwa
 Gdsm MA Nelson
 Gdsm J Newton
 Gdsm A Ngum
 Gdsm LAG Nicholson
 Gdsm JO Odei-Ansong
 Gdsm E Owusu-appiah
 Gdsm J Phillips
 Gdsm R Punter
 Gdsm J Robinson
 Gdsm J Selome
 Gdsm T Shead
 Gdsm MC Stacey
 Gdsm AH Stoney
 Gdsm AP Swinford
 Gdsm L Tatam
 Gdsm R Thompson
 Gdsm AKT Walker
 Gdsm DL Walton
 Gdsm LB Whybrow
 Gdsm J Williams

Support Company

Maj WHL Harries
 Capt JD Brown
 Capt JJ Hathaway-White
 Capt HC Cartwright
 WO2 BP De-Vall
 Dmaj DP Thomas
 Sgt R Bainbridge
 Sgt SJ Cathcart
 Sgt KJ Dunk
 Sgt T Loder
 Sgt M Lloyd
 Sgt SJ Perry
 Sgt NAJ Smith
 Sgt AM Stott
 Sgt ML Williams
 LSgt MJ Bailey
 LSgt JMA Browning
 LSgt M Bunyan
 LSgt A Bush
 LSgt SD Dent
 LSgt JE Garcia
 LSgt SP Harvey
 LSgt JM Healey
 LSgt WJ Holdcroft
 LSgt M Jallow
 LSgt CM Price
 LSgt JR Rainima
 LSgt HC Sutton
 LSgt LA Swan
 LSgt G Thomas
 LSgt SJ Thorne
 LSgt JB Tuicicia
 LSgt N Wintle
 LCpl RFJ Blakeney
 LCpl SJ Bentley
 LCpl LJ Bowers
 LCpl RJ Davies
 LSgt P Ellis
 LCpl BJ Furneaux
 LCpl DM Hankey
 LCpl J Moore
 LCpl BTF Painter
 LCpl RD Pamflett
 LCpl J Plant
 LCpl A Pugh
 LCpl M Shaw
 LCpl NM Truman
 LCpl S Wells
 LCpl GA Wint
 LCpl AF Young
 Dmr K Barker
 Gdsm E Barry

Dmr DA Barton
Gdsm NJ Batchelor
Gdsm TWE Batty
Gdsm BJ Berry
Dmr Z Biddulph
Dmr AC Bone
Dmr R Booth
Gdsm PM Brady
Dmr J Brown
Gdsm WC Butler
Gdsm JD Carty
Gdsm J Charman
Dmr J Childs
Gdsm C Clarkstone
Gdsm RJ Collins
Gdsm A Cooper
Gdsm BTF Cordwell
Gdsm RM Cornell
Gdsm JA Cox
Gdsm PL Darboe
Dmr C Doak
Dmr D Durie
Dmr J Edwards
Gdsm O Fofana
Gdsm RJ Fowler
Gdsm SC Fredrickson
Gdsm MW Grove
Dmr MD Hadfield
Gdsm LG Harrison
Gdsm TE Harry
Gdsm GW Hatt
Gdsm RT Hayes
Gdsm G Haynes
Gdsm AEA Hinton
Gdsm NJ Hirst
Gdsm JW Horvath
Gdsm SJ Hubball
Gdsm E Jones
Gdsm JSJ Lambert
Gdsm JE Loftus
Gdsm JA Logan
Gdsm JJ Lunn
Gdsm TR Lyons
Gdsm JR Marsay
Dmr R Martindale
Gdsm ET Matai
Gdsm MT Meakin
Gdsm F Nelson
Gdsm JSJ Poole
Dmr JN Ramsbottom
Gdsm MT Rance
Gdsm TJ Rees
Gdsm MAA Robinson
Gdsm S Rose
Gdsm MG Rosser
Gdsm A Samateh
Gdsm SW Sambells
Dmr L Seer-Boylan
Dmr DW Silverman
Gdsm NG Simmons
Dmr PG Skellern
Dmr G Smith
Gdsm DJ Smith
Gdsm AA Talbot
Dmr K Taslimi
Gdsm JJ Tuckwood
Gdsm S Turner
Dmr JML Walker
Gdsm TJ Wallace
Gdsm MS Whaites

HQ Company

Maj N England
WO2 D Moore
CSgt J Thompson
LSgt R Haughton
Cpl P Edusei

LCpl TM Hayward
Pte SG Leckie

The Chant Platoon

LCpl S Franklin
Gdsm E Barry
Gdsm C Brand
Gdsm W Butler
Gdsm S Edis
Gdsm O Fofana
Gdsm T Herbert
Gdsm N Mercer

Quartermasters Platoon

Maj JA Keeley
Capt A Butcher
WO2 T Bearder
WO2 J Frith
CSgt JL Burns
Sgt SD Fry
Sgt M Parker
LSgt GM Casburn
LSgt DB Fry
LSgt LP Heatley
LSgt L Humphries
LSgt D Kidd
LSgt T Timmins
LCpl K El Asli
LCpl JA Goucher
Gdsm S Bates
Gdsm L Fowkes
Gdsm D Marshall
Gdsm G Sylva

Signals Platoon

Sgt P Easters
Sgt SC Harrell
Sgt PA Struczynski
LSgt P Monstad
LSgt S Richardson
LSgt A Saxton
LSgt D Struczynski
Gdsm UJ Atuanya
Gdsm C Adam
Gdsm EM Banda
Gdsm L Bates
Gdsm TW Dwyer
Gdsm AMM Edwards
Gdsm J Furniss
Gdsm D Harvey
Gdsm MSG Hawes
Gdsm G Jones
Gdsm DJ Parkes
Gdsm A Robinson
Gdsm HJ Van Niekerk

MT Platoon

Capt IM Farrell
CSgt M James
LSgt A Martin
LSgt G Neal
LSgt KJ Oldfield
LSgt D Rideout
LSgt PA Trussler
LCpl M Bent
LCpl E Munezero
Gdsm M Bah
Gdsm DL Bentley
Gdsm D Bowyer
Gdsm L Ceesay
Gdsm D Gomez
Gdsm J O'Keefe
Gdsm C Pendergast
Gdsm L Saho
Gdsm DA Sherwin
Gdsm H Sylva

Training Wing/Gymnasium

Capt JE Stafford Allen
WO2 SJ Rougley
CSgt V McLean
CSgt M Robinson
CSgt R Wiseman
Sgt C Fiddy
Sgt T Loder
Sgt D Walton
LSgt J Parker
LSgt K Partridge
LSgt JD Perreria
LCpl C Lopez-Moreno

Medical Centre

LSgt JB Morgan
LCpl G Boshier
LCpl RJ Cheetham
LCpl D Hetherington
LCpl MA Piantkiwskyi

Regimental Police

Sgt MN Oldham
LSgt K Newton
LCpl L Dawson

Welfare Office

WO2 P Childs
LSgt K Plant

Nijmegen Company

Maj NA Strachan
Capt NPH Wills
Capt BMG Pountain
Lt HRW Hardy
Lt F Moynan
WO2 HL Lawn
CSgt J Bennett
Sgt DP Bonsell
Sgt JA Lockley
Sgt G Mann
LSgt AP Beeby
LSgt J Bronsdon
LSgt DL Farrell
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LSgt MA Macmillian
LSgt B Marchant
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LCpl MW Beasley
LCpl G Davis
LCpl M Faux
LCpl M Goom
LCpl S Howcroft
LCpl L McGovern
LCpl CJ Mitchell
LCpl M Morris
LCpl S Pitt
LCpl K Rowlatt
Gdsm KL Angel
Gdsm AJ Blatchly
Gdsm A Boylan
Gdsm J Brady
Gdsm JG Brookes
Gdsm J Brunt
Gdsm J Brunt
Gdsm J Buswell
Gdsm S Carter
Gdsm J Clark
Gdsm JB Claypole
Gdsm G Cook
Gdsm G Cordell
Gdsm BJ Cornish
Gdsm L Crooks
Gdsm ED Davies
Gdsm BJ Davis
Gdsm T Deans
Gdsm C Dovey

Gdsm PB Effah
Gdsm JF Fairley
Gdsm GJ Fielding
Gdsm MC Frame
Gdsm B Fulton
Gdsm RJ Grey
Gdsm RR Griffiths
Gdsm HJ Grossman
Gdsm NWP Hands
Gdsm DJ Hartop
Gdsm MW Hinnigan
Gdsm JI Hobbins
Gdsm BT Hodson
Gdsm WE Howitt
Gdsm J Hunter
Gdsm L Jallow
Gdsm IG Jones
Gdsm AJ Lloyd
Gdsm T Lowry
Gdsm N Lynch
Gdsm A May
Gdsm JJ Mitchell
Gdsm KJR Mitchell
Gdsm CD Moss
Gdsm BL O'Hara
Gdsm C Oyengo
Gdsm PJ Pearson
Gdsm DJ Perry
Gdsm TFA Pinsent
Gdsm C Poole
Gdsm AG Pottow
Gdsm KL Purdy
Gdsm T Radford
Gdsm ML Ramsdale
Gdsm L Riggler
Gdsm AA Rollo
Gdsm JA Seal
Gdsm R Shaw
Gdsm MK Sivyier-Yorke
Gdsm KD Smart
Gdsm CG Smith
Gdsm L Thomas
Gdsm KA Tracey
Gdsm H Turner
Gdsm DAD Wallace
Gdsm AP Ward
Gdsm AP Whitehouse
Gdsm ST Wilkes
Gdsm T Williamson

Officers

SENIOR OFFICERS

Major General Sir George Norton KCVO, CBE	DComd, NATO Rapid Deployable Corps, Italy
Brigadier DJH Maddan	Comd ITC – HQ School of Infantry
Brigadier CRV Walker DSO	Brigade Commander, 12 Brigade
Colonel DJC Russell-Parsons OBE	Senior Joint Operations Officer, SHAPE, Mons

REGIMENTAL OFFICERS

Lieutenant Colonels

The Hon CL	Broughton MBE	Commanding Officer 1st Battalion
JMH	Bowder OBE	MA to Commander Land Forces
JLJ	Levine MBE .....	.SO1 Comd SP
RT	Maundrell MVO .....	.DS ACSC
AFR	James MBE .....	.DA Vienna DES
SG	Soskin .....	.Bde Major HQ London District
GR	Denison-Smith .....	.Deputy Military and Police Advisor, UK to UN
MP	David MC .....	.British Defence Staff, British Embassy, Paris

Majors

MA	Griffiths .....	.MSSG GG Planning Team 3
EJ	Paintin .....	.OC Guards Training Company, Catterick
DJ	Alkin .....	.SO2 Ft Gds, APC Glasgow
PL	Ashfield DSO .....	.MA COS LF
JCM	Greaves .....	.OC No 2 Company
RJH	Green .....	.Senior Major
JA	Seddon .....	.The Captain
SC	Gordon Lennox .....	.SO2 LRM EG
JR	Green .....	.SO2 G7 PLANS 3DIV
RE	King-Evans .....	.ICSC
JENB	Shaw .....	.OC The Inkerman Company

Captains

*DENOTES ACTING MAJOR

AJ	Tiernan .....	.Detached
BJR	Jesty .....	.SO2 LXC
FAO	Kuku .....	.SO3 Manpower CTS
WHL	Harries .....	.OC Sp Coy
JM	Lindley .....	.SO3 XO ACGS
*NA	Strachan .....	.OC Nijmegen Company
PJ	Rice .....	.Adjutant 1st Battalion
MOC	Dobbin MC .....	.Detached
AWE	Bayliss .....	.Instr Sp Wpns School
RC	Da Gama .....	.NATO Joint HQ Turkey
JE	Stafford Allen .....	.Training Officer
TR	Hendriksen .....	.Ops Officer
JD	Brown .....	.Recce PI Comd
OJC	Holcroft .....	.Detached
AA	Wellesley-Wood .....	.Adjutant, 2ITB, Catterick
JR	Taylor .....	.The Second Captain
CJD	Stevenson .....	.Int Officer
N	Wills .....	.2 I/C Nijmegen Company
BG	Pountain .....	.Nijmegen Company Training Officer
AHMC	Budge .....	.PI Comd, Harrogate
HC	Cartwright .....	.MOR PI Comd
A	Stonor .....	.SO3 J7 Op BACKWELL
WLR	Harris .....	.ITC (C)
JJ	Hathaway-White .....	.FSG PI Comd
MWS	Dobson .....	.Assist Equerry
JAL	Garton .....	.2 I/C No2 Company
FCB	Moynan .....	.PI Comd Nijmegen Company

Lieutenants

HRW	Hardy .....	.PI Comd Nijmegen Company
RH	Budge .....	.PI Comd No 2 Company
CHP	Sanford .....	.PI Comd, The Queens Company
TJC	Simpson .....	.PI Comd, The Inkerman Company
AJP	Shirreff .....	.ITC (C)
HR	Waterfield .....	.PI Comd, The Inkerman Company
BG	Conway .....	.PI Comd, The Queens Company
DR	Welham .....	.PI Comd, No 2 Company
CAG	Williams .....	.PI Comd, The Inkerman Company

Second Lieutenants

CLI	Wright .....	.PI Comd, No 2 Company
THR	Hargreaves .....	.PI Comd, The Queens Company
TR	Parkes .....	.PCD
BRN	Tracey .....	.PCD
KMD	Varmuza .....	.PCD
OM	WacePCD

Late Entry Commissions

Lieutenant Colonels

R	Dorney MBESO1 ARC
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Majors

*DENOTES ACTING LIEUTENANT COLONEL

*VJ	OvertonQM, Joint Operating Base, Bastion
BF	Broad .....	.Rehab
M	Gaunt OBE .....	.OC LEOC, RMAS
G	Gask .....	.ICSC

1st Battalion

NA	England MBE .....	.OC HQ Company
JA	Keeley MBE .....	.QM, 1st Battalion

Captains

A	Butcher .....	.QM (T)
IM	Farrell .....	.MTO
S	Munro .....	.RSMO

Retired Officers still in Military Employment or Occupation

Lieutenant Colonels

CJE	Seymour LVORegt Archivist
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Majors

GVA	BakerRegt Adjutant
DNW	SewellHQ Foot Guards
PAJ	Wright OBERegt Archivist
AJ	Green .....	.Regt Treasurer

Grenadiers at Extra-Regimental Employment

WO1	G	Haughton	.....RMAS AcSM
WO2	M	Betts	.....Londist Snr Drum Major
CSgt	D	Benison	.....OPTAG
CSgt	D	Lawrenson	.....DSI Chicksands
CSgt	D	Bailey	.....AADW
CSgt	J	Stenton	.....RMAS Instructor
CSgt	R	Dacey	.....RMAS Instructor
CSgt	D	Roper	.....RMAS Instructor
CSgt	R	Shepard	.....IBS Instructor
CSgt	P	Rackley	.....OPTAG
CSgt	D	Oliver	.....RMAS Instructor
Sgt	D	Claxton	.....HDPRCC CQMS
Sgt	E	Barnett	.....DSI Chicksands
Sgt	P	Money	.....IBS Assault Pioneer
Sgt	B	Cobb	.....ECM Instructor Tidworth
Sgt	C	Nicholson	.....PL Sgt ATR Pirbright
Sgt	J	Statters	.....D and M School
Sgt	D	Travis	.....16 CDT TRN Team
Sgt	D	Jones	.....Worthy Down
Sgt	S	Castel-Nuovo	.....ITC Catterick PI Sgt
Sgt	B	Orrell	.....ITC PI Sgt
Sgt	O	Brien	.....HDPRCC
LSgt	S	Hayes	.....AFCO Stoke on Trent
LSgt	C	Friess	.....ITC Instructor
LSgt	J	Foxcroft	.....ITC PTI
LSgt	N	Rowe	.....AT Instructor Capel Curig
LSgt	L	Fulton	.....ITC Medic
LSgt	M	Mooney	.....ATR (P) Instructor
LSgt	L	Deen	.....Army Winter sports team
LSgt	J	Shields	.....Guards Para PI
LSgt	P	Duffett	.....IBS Signalls Wing
LSgt	M	Decon	.....ATR Pirbright
LSgt	P	Newton	.....Horse Guards Forge
LSgt	P	Fear	.....17 CDT TRG Team
LSgt	D	Smith	.....AFCO Oxford
LSgt	P	Lyons	.....AFCO Barnstable
LSgt	J	Hunter	.....Orderly Duke of Edinburgh
LSgt	S	Hayes	.....AFCO Bristol
LSgt	M	Martin	.....PTI Pirbright
LSgt	D	Marsden	.....AFC Harrogate Instructor
LSgt	P	Newton	.....HCAV Stables
LSgt	J	Pearce	.....ITC Instructor
LSgt	D	Norris	.....Pathfinder Platoon
LSgt	A	Thomas	.....ITC Instructor
LSgt	J	Dicastilione	.....ITC Instructor
LSgt	D	Lyons	.....ITC Instructor
LCpl	S	Blaney	.....Army School of music Netherall
LCpl	M	Thomas	.....ITC Demo
LCpl	A	Shepard	.....IBS PTI
LCpl	S	Rigby	.....ART 9 Preston
LCpl	S	Taylor	.....ITC SP Battalion
LCpl	S	Lawa	.....RMAS RP Staff
LCpl	S	Scott	.....RMAS Signals
LCpl	M	Deacon	.....ART Pirbright
Gdsm	K	Harrison	.....ART 23 Chepstow

Warrant Officers

Warrant Officers Class 1

G	Haughton	.....RMAS AcSM
D	Westlake	.....1st Battalion

Regimental Quartermaster Sergeants WO2

S	Williams	.....RQMS Regimental Headquarters
M	Boak	.....LSL Kabul
J	Frith	.....RQMS(M)
T	Bearder	.....RQMS(T)

Drill Sergeants (WO2)

M	Howlin	.....1st Battalion
M	Cox	.....1st Battalion

Company Sergeant Majors (WO2)

G	Davis	.....The Queens Company
S	Brooks	.....No2 Company
JP	Summerscales	.....Support Company
B	Devall	.....Headquarter Company
S	Roughley	.....The Inkerman Company
H	Lawn	.....Nijmegen Compny

Warrant Officers Class 2

P	Childs	.....Welfare Warrant Officer
L	Cope	.....Office Manager ACIO Carlisle
M	Davies	.....MOD-AMD TRIM training cell

Marriages

Capt Patrick Rice to Felicity Cranfield
 Capt Stafford Allen to Lucy Freer
 Capt Wellesley-Wood to Amy Carson
 LSgt Laird to Miss Samantha Prince
 LCpl Sonko to Mrs Mariam Sonko
 Gdsm Ndegwa to Miss Carol Murimi
 Gdsm Odei Ansong to Elizabeth Odei Ansong
 Gdsm Owusu Appiah to Miss Hectoria Adu Gyampi

Births

To LSgt Harrison and Mrs Harrison a daughter Evelyn Harrison
 To LCpl McClendon and Jemma Turvey a Son Leo McClendon
 To Gdsm Few and Laura Mickley a daughter Erin
 To Gdsm Fray and Yasmin Bruce a daughter Amy Fray
 To Gdsm Hollis and Jane Hollis a daughter Isabelle
 To Gdsm Mabasa and Ivy Mabasa a daughter Armani
 To Gdsm Rosser and Kimberley Berry, a daughter, Willow Macie



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Mr	J Farmer, Bristol	Mr	D Hague, Nottingham	Mr	W Jacobi, Middlesex	Mr	PS Manning, USA
Mr	D Felton, Manchester	Major	Sr Halford, Basingstoke	Mr	ME James, Surrey	Mr	HJL Mansell, Kent
Mr	G Fenner, Essex	Mr	I Hall, Surrey	Mr	CM Jeanes, Avon	Mr	Wr Marsden,
Mr	A Ferney Hough MBE,	Mr	MS Hall, Wiltshire	Mr	LL Jeffery,		Stoke-on-Trent
	Kent	Mr	WRJ Hall, Avon		Buckinghamshire	Mr	AJ Marshall MVO,
Mr	V Finan, Cheshire	Mr	GE Hallam, Nottingham	Capt	HC Jenkins, Dorset		Middlesex
Mr	JK Finch, Cypress	Mr	P Hallam, Nottingham	Mr	D Jelves, West Yorkshire	Mr	D Marshall, Scotland
Mr	G Fishwick, Eastbourne	Mr	LA Hamill, Hampshire	Mr	VG Jewell LVO, Angus	Mr	JD Marshall, Lincolnshire
Mr	MS Fitch, Bath	Mr	Hart, Dorset	Mr	AJ Johnson, Berkshire	Mr	PD Marshall, Oxon
Mr	D Fitzgerald, Nottingham	Mr	MR Harding, Hampshire	Mr	RS Johnson, Germany	Mr	TDJ Marshall, Dumfries

THE REGIMENT

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Mr DJR Masterman, Kent	Lt Col RAJ Phasey BEM, West Midlands	Mr A Sherman, Horley	Mr GR Wallace, Cambridge
Mr WJ May, Berkshire	Mr J Pimlott, Canada	Mr P Sharman, Surrey	Mr T Walmsley, Ontario
Mr M Mayho, Stalybridge	Mr C Plant, Berkshire	Mr K Sharples, Lancashire	Mr JG Walmsley, Middlesex
Mr A McDermott, Northants	Mr HN Plater, Walsall	Capt BE Sheen, Isle of Wight	Mr AVE Warner, Lancashire
Mr DM McMahon RVM, Wokingham	WO1 Pollitt, Wiltshire	Mr P Shelbourn, Mid Glamorgan	Mr G Warner BEM, London
Mr R Mearing, Exeter	Mr J Poole, Lancashire	Mr J Sheldon, Derby	Capt RJ Warwick, Berkshire
Mr EH Miller, Liverpool	Mr G Price, Manchester	Mr AN Sherratt, Surrey	Mr GJ Waters, Suffolk
Mr NJC Miller, Surrey	Mr A Prentice, Hertfordshire	Mr RG Sheppard, Suffolk	Mr NM Watts, Cambridgeshire
Mr RJ Miles, Manchester	Mr PD Price, Surrey	Mr C Short, Lincoln	Lt Col SA Watts OBE, Berkshire
Mr S Miles, Birmingham	Mr DC Pritty, Lancashire	Mr JN Simpson, Middlesex	Lt Col DJ Webster, Surrey
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Mr WH Moores, Coventry	Mr A Richardson, Cheshire	Mr DR Sparkes, Dorset	Mr DJ White, Hampshire
Mr CD Morgan, Cheshire	Capt PF Richardson, Surrey	Mr AO Spencer, Scotland	Mr J White, Lancs
Mr P Morgan, Essex	Mr DJ Riddler, Peterborough	Mr LW Spencer, Surrey	Mr L White, Surrey
Mr J Murrey, Leicester	Mr GNH Rimell, Gloucester	Mr R Springall, Australia	Lt Col GR Whitehead RVM, Surrey
Mr J Morris, Somerset	Mr DF Roalfe, Slough	Mr JW Stanyard, Surrey	Mr PB Whorton, Windsor
Mr W Mottershead, Macclesfield	Mr KT Roberts, Surrey	Mr L Starks, Hertfordshire	Mr I Whyte, Northants
Mr JF Munday, Lincoln	Mr MS Robins, Stoke-on- Trent	Mr A Steed, Nottingham	Mr DE Wilkinson BEM, Swansea
Mr M Munro, Surrey	Mr BN Robinson, Staffs	Mr H Stern, Essex	Mr MM Wilkinson, East Sussex
Mr PJ Munro, Lancashire	Mr DJ Robinson, Suffolk	Mr J Stevens, East Sussex	Mr CJ Wills, West Midlands
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Mr C Newens, Kent	Capt Rolfe, Hampshire	Mr S Swanwick, Nottingham	Mr WE Wilson, Essex
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Mr JA Noakes, Bedford	Mr JA Rowe, Hertfordshire	Mr Tate-Williams, Milton Keynes	Major RG Woodfield MBE, Warwickshire
Mr B Norris, London	Mr MR Rowe, Shropshire	Mr BAM Taylor, West Yorkshire	Mr MG Woodgate, Hertfordshire
Mr B Oakley-Watson, Berks	Mr P Salt, London	Mr J Taylor, Hants	Mr J Woodhouse, Northumberland
Mr DH O'Coffey, Berkshire	Major Sandison MBE QGM, Gwent	Mr RJ Taylor, Hants	MR Worsfold BEM, Surrey
Mr J O'Connor, Middlesex	Mr R Sergeant BEM, Stafford	Mr AJ Thomas, Ammanford	Mr Wotherspoon, Lincoln
Mr MP O'Hara, Lancashire	Mr RF Saunders, Milton Keynes	Capt BE Thompson BEM, Lancashire	Mr A Wright, Gwynedd
Mr W Orton, Surrey	Mr CC Savage, Bristol	Capt RHL Thompson, Berkshire	Mr K Wright, Staffordshire
Major Overton, Windsor	Mr L Scholes, Bolton	Mr RJ Thompson, Essex	Mr RA Wyatt, Wiltshire
Mr JE Page, Hertfordshire	Mr W Scully, Devon	Mr KL Thompson, Wiltshire	Mr VJ Young, Berkshire
Mr RC Page BEM, Lincoln	Mr M Scott, Gwynedd	Mr Tomlinson, East Yorkshire	
Mr D Paine, Kent	Mr REG Seale DL, Worcester	Mr C Till, Somerset	
Mr CM Parker, Wiltshire	Mr Rs Senior, Hampshire	Capt CJO Tilly, Essex	
Major RJ Parker, Hampshire	Mr T Sentence, Kenya	Lt Col S Tuck BEM, Norfolk	
Mr JB Parrot, Devon		Mr N Turner, Spain	
Mr N Parr, Milton Keynes		Mr J Upton, Surrey	
Mr RJ Patrick, Leighton Buzzard		Mr JMN Upton, London	
Mr L Paynes, Surrey		Mr A Urvoy, Berkshire	
Mr W Paynes, Hampshire		Mr S Vaughn, Kent	
Mr AD Peachey BEM, West Sussex		Capt D Vernon, East sussex	
Mr MM Pearce, Essex		Mr P Wakelin, Cheshire	
Mr M Peaty, West Sussex		Mr J Walker, North Lincolnshire	

OBITUARY

We will remember them

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

22545080	EM Addison	Gloucestershire	2627441	PWF Horsfield	Kingston
2627671	GW Allman	Manchester 2009	22447776	DE Howe	Gloucestershire
Capt	AD Angus, MC		2615491	WJA Howland	Surrey & East Hampshire
23865181	I Atherton	Liverpool	22756975	CJ Huggett	West Kent 2012
2620698	E Atkinson	London	2626583	S Johnson	Nottingham
2629067	JAT Atkinson	Suffolk	23969982	E Kemp	Lincoln
24021091	SG Blackmore		The Rt Hon	Lord Kingsdown, KG, PC	
2615788	AS Bowley	Nottinghamshire	2626288	E Laker	East Kent
2629227	G Boyers	Nottinghamshire	23179115	GE Lancaster	Suffolk
2627529	VH Bradley	Nottinghamshire	2618494	H Lippett, MM	Worcester & Hereford
2628965	B Brenchley		2624035	M Livesey	Manchester 2009
2627209	DJ Brigland	East Kent	23509560	WJ May	Reading
2623132	WJT Brown	East Kent	23188023	DPJ Molloy	Manchester 2010
23407706	B Butcher	Kingston	23509526	D Morley	West Kent 2012
2626694	RAC Carter		2629232	MW Mould	London
4855841	CP Chambers	Leicestershire	357572	NHH Newsum, Esq	Norfolk
2625066	OR Chilcott	Wessex	22213612	BJ Norris	London
23155144	R Clelland		23688402	P O'Donoghue	Australia
23509408	JC Conway	Lincoln	2627593	JN Onslow	Liverpool
23509259	D Cornhill	Medway	2625983	G Parr	Nottingham
23252111	GB Cosnett	Worcester	24164994	K Parry	Manchester
22545820	J Craig	Manchester 2011	22955476	B Payne	Manchester 2010
2626690	CJ Currier		22955094	AD Peachey, BEM	Sussex
2628337	NB Davey	Manchester 2010	4917264	WJ Pritchard	Walsall
23688803	EG Deadman		22632702	R Procter	North America
22947001	RW Done	Chesterfield	23622729	GA Reynolds	Manchester 2009
22213209	RF Dorley	Bristol	2615420	G Riley	London
Capt	GF Douglas	2012	12221	J Riley	
22925604	W Duncan	Nottingham 2011	23848229	MS Robins	North Staffordshire
2628403	R Dutch	North America	23132197	J Robinson	Manchester
2617478	WM Eastwood	Manchester 2012	24021149	MJ Skinner	Medway
23668828	AJ Edge		2616920	T Smith	
2625653	RC Edrupt	Suffolk	24096252	J Squibb	Aylesbury
2615639	OB Eke		2627616	JPJ Stainer	Gloucestershire
23879907	JB Evans	North America	22434890	W Starling	
22213616	KF Everett		24000306	KL Steward	
Major	the Lord Forbes, KBE, DL, JP		2623588	AEL Swift	Nottinghamshire
23252473	M Foster	Nottinghamshire	2628998	PH Thomas	Sussex
23443730	G Gilchrist	Northumbria	24513006	KW Titley	Walsall
2613493	R Grant	Surrey & East Hampshire	22545882	G Trimble	Australia
23252362	G Greenough	Oxfordshire	2625998	TC Tudor	
22545377	C Guy		23290887	R Underhill	Manchester 2006
2625054	WH Hardy	Nottinghamshire	22545896	C Vincent	Norfolk
2623101	J Harrison	Manchester 2009	24048737	K Watson	Manchester
2623756	FW Hartley	Suffolk	2623583	C Wellings, MM	West Kent
23252933	MA Henshaw	Nottingham	2628229	G Wheelton	Manchester 2008
2617860	WE Hewitt	Liverpool	23391183	T Wheelhouse	Aylesbury
2629250	J Hicken	Tamworth	23688568	T Wiltshire	Reading
23097897	R Hollocks	Gloucestershire	24221239	PM Woulds	Nottinghamshire



Colonel Nigel Bromage OBE

Nigel Bromage, who has died aged 86, was born at Ootacamund, India, on 14th April 1927. He was among the notable British military officers, who were fascinated with the Arab societies

among which they lived and who chose to make adventurous careers during an era marked by political turbulence and oil-based opulence as Arab states emerged out of the shade of imperial tutelage.

He was educated at Ampleforth and commissioned into the Grenadier Guards in 1945. He was posted to 3rd Battalion in Palestine and a year later was training the Palestine Police at Ramle, for which he was appointed MBE. In 1947, he was seconded to the Arab Legion and, as the commander of a Jordanian Armoured unit, took part in a variety of skirmishes with Israeli forces during the campaign which accompanied the birth of the state of Israel.

On one occasion one of his armoured cars was hit by an armour piercing shell and the vehicle set on fire. Unwilling to see it fall into the hands of Jewish fighters, he had it taken in tow while he tried to steer it, the driver being dead in his seat. He wrote afterwards: 'I had an interesting 20 minutes sitting on the mudguard while the Israelis shot at us with everything they had.' In 1948 he was wounded by a grenade at the battle of Latroun and subsequently awarded the Jordanian Gallantry Medal by King Hussein. His ability to improvise and seize the initiative in a number of operations won him the respect of his many Arab friends.

He attended Staff College at Camberley in 1954, after which he married and returned to 3rd Battalion, Grenadier Guards. His first appointment took him and his wife Pamela to Cyprus during the EOKA emergency where they rented a converted carob store in Kyrenia Harbour. There followed a spell in London on public duties with the Queen's Company and training on Salisbury Plain. At this time, King Faisal and leading figures in Iraq were assassinated as a result of a military coup. King Hussein considered asking for the return of Sir John Glubb, but Glubb demurred, saying he was too old. 'Bromage' he noted, 'is the man you want.' Nigel agreed to go on condition he could take his wife, soldier servant, spaniel and shot guns.

In 1963, after three years as Assistant Military Attaché in Jordan, Nigel was sent to Saudi Arabia to set up the British Military Mission to the Saudi Arabian National Guard (SANG). The British Team was instrumental in turning a force of tribal irregulars into a functioning army. Using his links in the former Arab Legion, he recruited a number of Jordanian officers who became the bedrock of SANG. He was advanced to OBE for his work with SANG. His knowledge of the Arabic language was extensive, especially the various Bedouin dialects. He was often able

to confound his Saudi hosts with this knowledge, much to their amusement. Nigel stayed in the Arab Peninsular for most of the rest of his service, first as an adviser to the Kuwait Liaison Team and finally as Military Adviser to the United Arab Emirates. He retired from the Army in 1978.

After his military service, Nigel was retained by Prince Abdullah as a loyal friend of the Kingdom. His official position was adviser to the SANG office in London, but his role extended well beyond this and he became a trusted confidant of Prince Abdullah's family. Senior British politicians, diplomats, soldiers and businessmen sought his advice over many years. In October 2007, King Abdullah paid a State Visit to London. When they were shaking hands with the Queen and Prince Philip at the State Banquet at Buckingham Palace, the King boomed out 'Bromage' in recognition of their long-standing friendship. In a typically understated way, he played an integral role in Saudi-British relations and, in 2010, he received the Rawabi Holding Award for life-time services from the Saudi British Society. His personal memoir 'A Soldier in Arabia', published in 2012 was dedicated "For my beloved wife".

He married Pamela Kaye in 1956, who survives him with their son, Charles and daughter, Nichola.



Capt Andrew Angus MC

Capt Andrew Angus MC, who has died aged 92, was born at Birkenhead on 4th October 1921. He was educated at the Dragon School and Shrewsbury. At the outbreak of war, after Sandhurst he joined the Grenadier Guards and was posted to the Training Battalion at Windsor. The Battalion was responsible for the immediate protection of the Royal family if there were to be an airborne assault on England. In 1943 he accompanied 3rd Battalion by ship to Algiers and fought in the North Africa Campaign before embarking for Naples and taking part in the long slog northwards up the spine of Italy.

In the attack on Perugia on 18th June 1944, as Signals Officer, he was leading a party of signallers up Monte Corno in order to establish communications with the forward companies. Although they were following in the tracks of a Sherman tank, the jeep leading the group set off two S mines, and the intelligence officer and a wireless operator were badly wounded. While Angus was looking after the wounded men, two dispatch riders rode up the track and set off three more mines. One of the dispatch riders was killed instantly, the other rider and the driver of the jeep were severely wounded and Angus was wounded in three places. Despite his wounds, he managed to lift the more severely wounded man into the jeep and drive it himself to the Regimental Aid Post. He then insisted on going back with stretcher bearers to bring out the

other wounded man, maintaining he was the only one who knew where the mines were. It was only when the rescue was complete that, weakened by loss of blood, he allowed his own wound to be dressed. He was awarded an Immediate MC.

After he was evacuated to hospital in Rome, his parents received a telegram that he had been placed on the 'danger list'. Regrettably the two soldiers he had rescued died of their wounds. Angus, however recovered and commanded a detachment which guarded the King during his visit to Field Marshal Alexander at his advance HQ on Lake Bolsena. He rejoined his battalion in Florence and, in April 1945, took part in the forced crossing of the River Po. During a spell of leave, he and another officer drove to Lake Como. In Milan they came across the bodies of Mussolini and his mistress Clara Pettaci, hanging down from the roof of a petrol station. Angus was twice mentioned in despatches before the Battalion finished the war in Austria.

In 1946 he was demobilised and joined Jardine Matheson head office in Hong Kong. In 1963 he returned to England and subsequently opened a Liverpool office for the Ionian Bank. He was Vice President of the Liverpool Branch of the Grenadier Guards Association. In 1952 he married Cecily Ayris. She predeceased him, and he is survived by their two sons and three daughters.



Gdsm James (Jim) Howland

Gdsm James (Jim) Howland, who featured in the article "A Tragedy in Tunisia" in last year's *Grenadier Gazette*, has died aged 97. He was born in Lightwater, Surrey on 19th November 1915.

Having left school aged 14, he worked with his father in the family haulage business before joining the Grenadier Guards in 1937. The following year he took part in the King's Birthday Parade with 1st Battalion and was appointed orderly to Capt A G W Heber Percy. Jim's weekend duties included visits to Shropshire to assist with the construction and landscaping of the beautiful gardens at Hodnet Hall. He planted a tree with Tom Brayne, one of the gardeners, which led to a meeting with Tom's sister, Vera. They were married in Hodnet Parish Church on 6th July 1940.

Jim accompanied Heber Percy during the war, who by now was Commanding 3rd Battalion. Among his responsibilities was to purchase the Commanding Officer's standard wedding present of a pair of blankets to anyone in the Battalion who got married. After training in Scotland, he took part in the fierce fighting at Djebel Mansour in Tunisia and Monte Cassino in Italy. In 1944, when Heber Percy was promoted to command 12th Infantry Brigade during the civil war in Greece, Jim went with him. He had encouraged his two brothers to join the Regiment. His

brother Ronald was killed with 6th Battalion in Tunisia and his other brother Percy fought through France and Belgium with 1st (Motor) Battalion in the Guards Armoured Division.

At the end of the war, Jim left the Army and returned to help run the family business. Heber Percy wrote: "His loss to me after over seven years faithful service is very great." In the early 1970s, he worked as a storeman at HM Prison Bisley until his retirement in 1980. Jim maintained an immaculate house and garden and enjoyed driving. Heber Percy had trained him to adjust his speed so their arrival at any destination was always precisely on time. He was a member of the Surrey Branch of the Association and regularly attended Grenadier Day. He was married to Vera for 65 very happy years. She predeceased him in 2005. He is survived by their son Allan and daughter Anne and five grandchildren. Their other daughter Cynthia predeceased him in 2012.

This spring, a tree in Jim's memory is being planted in the gardens at Hodnet by Brigadier Heber Percy's son, Sir Algernon Heber Percy, Lord Lieutenant of Shropshire.



The Lord Forbes KBE JP DL

Lord Forbes, Premier Lord of Scotland, who has died aged 91, was born on 19th February 1918, the eldest son of the 21st Lord Forbes and the former Lady Mabel Anson, daughter of the 3rd Earl of

Litchfield. After Harrow and Sandhurst, he followed his father into the Grenadier Guards. Although commissioned in peacetime, he was soon on active service with 3rd Battalion in 1st Guards Brigade as part of the British Expeditionary Force in France. In May 1940 the Germans launched their *blitzkrieg* on Holland and Belgium.

On 21st May, the battalion was dug in along the bank of the River Escaut when the Germans launched a violent mortar and machine gun barrage. They succeeded in crossing the river between the Grenadiers and 2nd Battalion Coldstream Guards. Many became casualties, including Forbes, whose left leg was shattered by a mortar shell. The Battalion counter attacked and the Germans withdrew back across the river. It was the first serious battle Grenadiers had been engaged in since 1918 and LCpl Harry Nicholls won the first Victoria Cross to be awarded to a soldier during the Second World War. The cost was nearly 200 casualties and on 1st June, the remains of 3rd Battalion were evacuated from Dunkirk.

Forbes recovered sufficiently and was appointed Adjutant of 6th Battalion which was formed in October 1941. In June 1942, the Battalion embarked at Liverpool for the long journey round the Cape. "Very few of us have been sick," wrote Captain the Master of Forbes, "but a good many are thoroughly sick of the sea." The Battalion eventually arrived with 201st Guards Brigade in Syria. It was not until

OBITUARY

February 1943 that their travels brought them to the Mareth Line, where the Germans hoped to check the relentless advance of the 8th Army along the coast of North Africa.

On 16th and 17th March, the Battalion fought at Mareth one of the most severe and costly battles which Grenadiers were engaged in during the war. That the Battalion gained and held its objectives for so long, under such intense conditions, was extraordinary. The cost was 279 casualties with 77 killed (including 14 officers). The loss of so many friends from, what Forbes described as, "a most happy family" remained with him throughout his life. Every year, with other survivors at Regimental Remembrance Sunday, he laid a wreath on the Mareth Cross (which enshrines the memory of those that fell) until he was physically unable to do so.

He attended Staff College and from 1947 to 1948 was Military Assistant to the High Commissioner in Palestine during the violent twilight of the British Mandate. He retired from the Army as a Major and in 1953 succeeded his father to the title. Five years later he was appointed Minister of State for Scotland in Harold Macmillan's Government. His natural friendliness and passion for his part of Aberdeenshire made him popular and he was appointed Deputy Lieutenant in 1958 and KBE in 1960. In 1942, he married Rosemary Hamilton-Russell, eldest daughter of the 9th Viscount Boyle. They had two sons and a daughter. His youngest son, Jonathan served as a Captain in the Regiment.



Right Honourable the Lord Kingsdown KG

The Right Honourable the Lord Kingsdown KG, formerly Robin Leigh-Pemberton, who has died aged 86 was born on 5th January 1927.

His father, RD Leigh-Pemberton served in the Grenadier Guards during World War I, and was awarded an MC as a pilot with the Royal Flying Corps. Robin was educated at Eton and Sandhurst, where he won the Sword of Honour. He was commissioned into the Grenadier Guards and for three years after 1945 he served with 3rd Battalion on internal security operations in Palestine. He was reported on as 'the best officer student' on an Ack Pack flame thrower course, which he operated with confidence. He placed great value on his military service and recalled: "I was lucky enough to be in a very good battalion of the Grenadiers – it taught me a lot about leadership".

He left the Army in 1948 to read classics as a scholar at Trinity College, Oxford. In 1954 he was called to the Bar and practised as a barrister until 1960. For family reasons he then managed the 2,500 acre Leigh-Pemberton estate near Sittingbourne, before embarking on a highly successful business career. He served his County both as a JP and as

Leader of Kent County Council until he was appointed Lord Lieutenant of Kent in 1982. The following year he became Governor of the Bank of England, a post he held for a decade marked by banking collapses, deregulation in financial services and disagreements over monetary policy. Despite the turbulence of his Governorship, he was admired as a man of stature and competence. He was appointed a Privy Councillor in 1987. As Lord Lieutenant, he flew the Union Flag over his house, Torry Hill, which overlooked his own cricket pitch and miniature railway.

He was Honorary Colonel of a number of Territorial units and President of the then Territorial and Auxiliary and Volunteer Reserve Association for the South East. He was ennobled in 1993 and appointed a Knight of the Garter in 1994. Greatly respected by his peers, he was appointed Chairman of the Association of Lord Lieutenants from 1998 to 2001. As Lord Lieutenant he presided over numerous Royal visits and was at the Queen's side for the openings of the QEII Bridge and the Channel Tunnel. Previously he had been Vice President of the East Kent Branch of the Grenadier Guards Association, and continued to support Regimental occasions throughout his life, where his friendly manner and good humour endeared him to everyone involved.

He married in 1953, Rosemary, daughter of Lieutenant Colonel DWAD Forbes MC and stepdaughter of Lord Exeter. She survives him with their four sons. Another son predeceased him.



Christopher Shaw ESQ

Christopher Shaw, who has died aged 76, was educated at Summer Fields and Eton where he was a scholar and became head boy. He joined the Brigade Squad in 1956 and was commissioned from Eaton

Hall as a National Service Officer in the Grenadier Guards in February 1957. He was posted to 3rd Battalion in Cyprus during the EOKA emergency and was made Intelligence Officer. He left the Army in 1958 and became an extremely enterprising and usually successful financier and banker in the acquisition and mergers field on both sides of the Atlantic. To satisfy his relentless social energy, he entertained lavishly at his house Hinton Ampner, rented from the National Trust in Hampshire. When guests arrived, their cars would be taken to the stables and washed polished and filled with petrol. When this became known one guest famously ran out of petrol in the drive on the way in. One of his friends said he was "generous of spirit, animated by friendship and one who valued quality in everything". He became a member of the 1st Guards Club and frequently supported Regimental events. He married and divorced three times and is survived by a son and daughter from his first marriage and by a daughter by his second wife.

GRENADIER GUARDS ASSOCIATION

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

OBJECTS OF THE ASSOCIATION

- | | |
|--|---|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To maintain connection between past and present members of the Grenadier Guards, and thereby promote their mutual interests and the welfare of the Regiment generally. 2. To grant financial assistance to needy members or their widows, or on behalf of their children, provided their adverse circumstances are of an unavoidable | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> nature and that the funds of the Association permit. 3. To circulate information concerning the Regiment and the advantages of service therein, and to encourage desirable candidates to join. 4. To arrange meetings in London or such other place as may help to promote the objects herein before. |
|--|---|

TERMS OF MEMBERSHIP

The following are the current rules concerning membership:

1 SERVING MEMBERS

All Serving Officers. Serving Warrant Officers, Non-Commissioned Officers and Guardsmen who have completed recruit training.

2 MEMBERS

- a All Officers who have formerly served in the Regiment
- b Officers and Soldiers of other Corps or Regiments who have formerly served in the Grenadier Guards and the Regimental Band.
- c Discharged Soldiers, provided they have completed their recruit training in the Regiment and have been awarded a character assessment of not less than 'SATISFACTORY'.

3 ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

Members of Associations of other Regiments of the Household Division.

4 HONORARY MEMBERS

Ladies and Gentlemen who have not served in the Grenadier Guards, but who have given outstanding service to the Regiment (ie. Medical Officers, Chaplains etc.) and others as described in the By-Laws for Branches, Section II, paragraph 2.

5 SERVING MEMBERS ON LEAVING THE REGIMENT

Serving Members who have completed their Colour Service will be eligible for continued membership as follows:

- a A Serving Member who has subscribed to the Days Pay Scheme for a minimum period of two years shall be given Life Membership.
- b A Serving Member who has not subscribed as in sub-paragraph 5(a) above shall be invited to take up membership in accordance with the rules in force at the time.
- c A Serving Member must have been awarded a character assessment of not less than 'SATISFACTORY' to be eligible for membership under subparas (a) and (b) above.

ASSOCIATION SUBSCRIPTION RATES

ANNUAL MEMBERS

From 1 January to 31 December 50p

LIFE MEMBERS

- | | |
|------------------------------|-------|
| A. Up to the age of 55 years | £5.00 |
| B 55 years of age or over | £3.00 |

All subscriptions should be paid to the local Branch Secretary or Treasurer, and the monies will be retained in Branch funds.

6 ADMINISTRATION (AS FROM 1978)

1 Deeds of Covenant etc

All donations to the Central Fund of the Association, by way of Gift Aid and legacies will continue to be transacted through the Association office.

2 Members' subscriptions, applications for membership etc.

Members' subscriptions, and donations to Branch funds should be sent direct to the Branch Secretary concerned. Branch Secretaries will also deal with all applications for membership, and will keep a record of the subscriptions paid by the individual members concerned. Subscription monies etc., will be retained in Branch funds.

GENERAL NOTE

The effect on individual members is that no longer will it be necessary to correspond with the General Secretary – all membership payments, queries or problems should be taken up direct with the Branch Secretary.

THE GRENADIER GUARDS RECRUITING TEAM

Army Careers Offices

Sgt Langdown	ACO Birmingham
LSgt Smith	ACO Oxford
LSgt Hayes	ACO Stoke
LSgt Lyons	ACO Taunton
LSgt Findler	ACO Wolverhampton

Army Recruiting Team

LCpl Deacon	ART Woolwich
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LCpl Rigby	ART Preston
Gdsm Hill	ART Preston
Gdsm Hands	ART West Midlands
Dmr King	ART West Midlands

Regimental Support Team

Capt Butcher	Regimental Recruiting Officer
Gdsm Avery	RST Member
Gdsm Viggers	RST Member

BRANCHES OF THE ASSOCIATION

The following shows the location of all Branches of the Association. The address and telephone numbers of each Branch Hon. can be obtained from Association HQ on 020 7414 3285 or email assnnco@grengds.com or on the Regimental Website www.grengds.com

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

Overseas: North America.

BRANCHES OF THE HOUSEHOLD DIVISION ASSOCIATION

The following shows the location of all Branches of the Household Division Association. Further details can be obtained from Association HQ on 020 7414 3285 or email assnnco@grengds.com

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

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GRENADIER GUARDS ASSOCIATION

PRICE LIST AS AT JANUARY 2014

APRON	£6.95	CAR STICKER (Assoc)	£1.25	PLC SA80 Patrol Painted		STATUETTE	
BAG		CLOCK (Digital)	£4.75		£175.00	Gdsm SA80 Bronze	£132.00
Shopping	£6.95	CRAVAT (Polyester)	£21.85	UGL Painted	£175.00	Gdsm SLR Bronze	£132.00
BAND POSTERS	65p	CUFF LINKS		MOUNTED BEARSKIN	£32.00	Drummer Painted	£175.00
	55p	Barrel	£4.00	MOUNTED BERET	£32.00	Gdsm SA80 Painted	£175.00
BELT – TROUSER	£15.35	Cypher	£18.75	NECK TUBE	£11.75	Gdsm SLR Painted	£175.00
BLAZER BADGES		Grenade	£12.85	NOTE PADS	£3.95	Sgt 1925 Bronze	£132.00
Association	£7.95	Oval Chain	£50.00	OFFICERS BADGE		Sgt 1925 Painted	£175.00
Regimental	£9.55	Oval Chain BRB	£50.00	Brass Crown	£3.85	Sgt Light Coy, Bronze	£132.00
BOOKS		Spring Bar Cypher	£60.00	Brass Star	£3.85	Sgt Light Coy, Painted	£175.00
An Active Service	£20.00	Torpedo Cypher	£60.00	Cloth Crown	£2.95	Sgt 1908, Silver Plate	£499.00
British Grenadiers	£10.00	CUP (Royal Cypher)	£5.10	Cloth Star	£2.95	Crimea Silver Plate	£529.00
Guards VC's	£13.00	CUSHION COVER	£37.00	OVEN GLOVES	£8.95	TANKARD	
Once a Grenadier	£5.00	DECANTER		PEN (Standard Biro)	£3.25	Barrel	£65.00
Shoe Shine Buff	£3.50	Wine 4 glasses	£175.25	PENDANT		Beer Glass (Cypher)	£38.95
Twice The Man	£16.75	Whisky & glass	£118.25	Cypher, fine chain	£139.00	Pint Glass Straight (Cypher)	£33.00
We Were Brothers in Arms	£16.99	Whisky	£89.95	Grenade, fine chain	£92.50	Pewter	£24.35
BOOKMARK (Red or Black)		Crystal ships, silver collar	£345.00	PICQUET CANE	£116.50	Crystal & Silver	£165.00
	£1.00	Crystal Brandy, silver collar	£315.00	WO	£116.50	TEA TOWEL	
BOW TIE	£7.65	Silver & glass Claret Jug	£399.00	PLAQUE		Old images	£4.95
BRACES				Regimental	£40.00	Modern images	£4.95
Combination	£40.00	DOG COLLAR	£11.40	Assoc Glass	£34.95	TIE	
Clip end	£20.00	DOG LEAD	£16.20	POCKET WATCH		B/R/B Polyester	£7.60
Leather end	£20.00	DOG LEAD (Handmade)	£17.95	Grenade	£98.50	B/R/B Silk	£17.25
BRANDY GOBLETs		EAR RINGS (Pearl)	£139.00	Association	£98.50	Flat Silk	£6.43
Pair	£59.75	GAZETTE	£5.50	POLO SHIRT (Loom)	£15.25	Plumed Polyester	£6.60
BROOCH		GOLF UMBRELLA	£15.25	PRINT		Plumed Silk	£15.00
Cypher	£185.00	HANDKERCHIEF (Silk)	£9.00	LSgt Rhodes	£5.00	Polyester Clip on	£6.00
Grenade	£148.50	KEY RING (Rubber)	£2.50	The Drummer Boy	£2.50	TIE PIN	
BUTTONS		LAPEL BADGE		The Roll Call	£48.75	Pearl	£74.95
22 Ligne Brass	£1.65	Association	£2.75	1980, frock coat, Gdsm	50p	Stick pin	£1.42
22 Ligne SB	£1.65	Association – Gilt	£6.15	Grenadiers c.1880	£6.30	Sterling Silver 2 Co	£47.00
26 Ligne SB	£1.80	Grenade	£1.80	Liberation Somme Valley	£47.35	TIE SLIDE	
26 Ligne Brass	£2.45	Regimental	£2.85	Uniforms 1968-88 Print 1	£3.00	Grenade	£12.35
30 Ligne SB	£1.65	MEDAL HOLDER	£5.00	Uniforms 1968-88 Print 2	£3.00	Enamel Cypher Badge	£5.80
36 Ligne SB	£1.75	MODEL		Uniforms 1968-88 Print 3	£3.00	TUMBLER	
36 Ligne Brass	£2.30	Crouching SA80 Painted		Uniforms 1968-88 Print 4	£3.00	Cypher Badge	£29.99
40 Ligne SB	£1.30	Patrol SA80 Bronze	£132.00	Uniforms 1968-88 Print 5	£3.00	Cypher Plastic	£12.85
40 Ligne Brass	£2.50	Patrol SA80 Painted	£175.00	Orlando Norie Grenadier		VASE	
CDs		Stand To SLR Painted	£175.00	Prints	£98.00	Sterling Silver and glass	£199.00
Remembrance	£12.20	Warrior Bronze	£132.00	PYJAMAS (With Collar)	£25.00	WATCH STRAP	£8.25
Grenadiers! 325	£12.20	Kneeling-SA80 Painted	£175.00	REGTL GREETING CARDS	95p	WATER GLASS	£29.99
Henley Bandstand	£12.20	Assualt – PLCE – Painted	£175.00	Pack of 10	£8.75	WATER GLASS	£110.00
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Music Grenadier Guards	£12.20	Javelin Man Painted	£175.00	3cm wide	£2.75	Crystal, 2 Glasses, Cypher	£52.50
To Your Guards	£12.20	LSW Painted	£175.00	SCARF (Fleece)	£14.90	WEE DRAM GLASSES	
CAP BADGES		Mini Gunner Painted	£175.00	SOCKS H.D (B/R/B)	£7.65		£29.99
Black	£4.10	NI SLR Painted	£175.00	SPECTACLE CASE (leather)		WHISKY GLASSES (Pair)	£59.75
Gold Sgt	£7.20	Patrol – PLCE –		STABLE BELT	£25.00	WRIST BANDS	
Black Gold Sgt	£7.20	SA80 Painted	£175.00			Handmade	£5.00
Grenade	£4.10					WRIST BANDS	£2.00
Officers	£13.10						
WO	£17.40						
CAR BADGE (Assoc)	£13.50						

All engraving on glassware is free. Please give at least three weeks notice when ordering statuettes. All jewellery sent by next day delivery. These prices are subject to change if manufacturer's prices are altered. All goods are subject to postal and packing charge, please ring if you are unsure on cost. Please send all purchase requests to Association HQ in writing. Payment must accompany order. Cheques/PO should be made payable to 'Grenadier Guards Association'

All goods can be ordered online at the Regimental Shop. Website: www.grengds.com Email: assnncogrengds.com

News from the Dining Club

Norfolk Branch Dining Club

The Dining Club ended 2012 in usual good style with a very well attended Ladies Night. Once again **John Crowley** had persuaded two, very brave, young ladies to dress themselves up in two old Grenadier tunics from his collection, complete with old style 'pill-box' caps, to sing us a couple of songs.

In April we welcomed **Major Stephen Dehnel** as our guest. He gave us a rousing address on the Wellington to Waterloo Bike Ride, then in the final planning stage. Our own **Roy 'The Rider' Ibson** was already well into training. We are pleased to report that the comparatively small number of Dining Club members collected £650 towards his sponsorship, to which was added £200 from Club Funds. Great admiration for Roy, probably the oldest rider in the event at seventy 'something', who completed the ride looking as though he has just been down to the shops, as one observer put it!



Roy 'The Rider' Ibson proudly wearing his BRB helmet with Dining Club badge!

For our June Dinner we were very pleased to have **Matt Ellmer** the Regimental Casualty Officer and our own Norfolk Grenadier, **James Stafford Allen**, 2IC of The Inkerman Company as our guests. **Matt** gave us a



Three fine Dresden china figurines donated to the Dining Club by **John Crowley**.

brief explanation of his current responsibilities, working with RHQ and The Colonel's Fund helping, and keeping in contact with, the bereaved families and the men wounded in the three tours of Afghanistan. **James** then gave us a very interesting presentation of what it was like to be there! Some graphic photographs and a video of being 'up close and personal' to things exploding with muck and bullets going everywhere; a very sobering evening. It was really good to have **Matt Ellmer** make the trip from Northamptonshire and we hope that with his enthusiasm he can persuade some other Northamptonshire Grenadiers to dine with us soon?

We have moved our twice-yearly Lunches to Thetford as it seemed more interesting to more people to hold them there, especially as it enables some of our more senior Grenadiers who, for various reasons, are not so keen to turn out for an evening to attend Dinners. At our last gathering 20 of us sat down for a very lively couple of hours.

We must give a big vote of thanks to **John Crowley** who has donated to the Club three very fine Dresden china figurines of Grenadiers in various orders of dress.

John's wife **Pat** had collected these for him over the many years of their marriage but John felt the time had come to expose them to a wider audience on a more regular basis; a very generous and much appreciated gesture.

In closing, we reiterate our standing invitation to all Grenadiers, of whatever age or rank, if you can be in Norfolk for one of our Lunches in Thetford or one of our Dining evenings, please come and join us. They are very informal and relaxing.

The Dining Evening dates for 2014 are: **April 18th, June 20th, August 15th, October 10th, and December 5th.**

Alternatively the provisional dates for lunches at Thetford will be **May 6th** and **November 4th**. Just give the Club organiser, **Ross Donaldson**, a call on 01692 598336 or e-mail ross@ross-donaldson.com for all details. We really hope to hear from you.

REGIMENTAL REMEMBRANCE DAY 2013



Anti-clockwise from the top: Colonel Andrew Duncan commanding the 3rd, 5th and 6th Battalions; The Colonel with the President of the Association, Colonel Euan Houston after the service; Major Grant Baker, the Regimental Adjutant with Colonel Peter Hewlett-Smith the Honorary Regimental Chaplain, laying the wreath at the Mareth Cross; the Last Post is sounded at the Guards Memorial.



BATTLEFIELD TOUR 2013

COCKPIT GRENADIER IN PICTURES



Her Majesty's Grenadier Day – A Branch Secretary's Perspective

by Derek Beaumont, Suffolk Branch

After months of planning the 26th June was upon us. Reveille varied dependent upon personal plans and mode of transport; independent travellers were travelling from all points of the County of Suffolk. From my perspective it was the travel by coach and the enjoyment of being with other Branch members and their families which had put us all in good mind for the day.

With the prospect of no photographs of the event (photography was forbidden in the Palace grounds), I handed my camera to our intrepid driver, who performed a very good 'David Bailey' job for us.

Soldiers' families, Association members, and guests were assembled in the grounds and full of anticipation. Markers had formed the line of the parade area and those spectators who had managed to find seats had set them up accordingly. In the distance we could hear the beat of the Regimental Band and precisely to time the Band and both Companies entered the parade area marching to 'Soldiers of the Queen'. By now the spectators had formed

about ten deep and the Suffolk contingent was to the rear of the parade area. The parade was formed up in open order in two ranks, commands for dressing were booming out, "come forward No. 3 carry it on, 15, 16 and 17".

Not having the best vantage point for the parade, my thoughts began to wander a little to the morning of 14th April 1953 when The Queen's Company was on parade at Windsor Castle to receive their new Company Colour. Was that CSM 'Freddie' Clutton, M.M., R.V.M. (later M.B.E), and CQMS 'Chick' Hayes barking out those orders? The 'old grey matter' plays some funny tricks 60 years on!

Back to earth again, the Old Colours of Nijmegen Company were marched off. Her Majesty The Queen was then received on parade with a Royal Salute and, accompanied by the Captain, inspected the front rank of The Queen's Company.

Once again I found my thoughts wandering back those 60 years. The Regimental Band played 'Pomp and Circumstance No. 4'; 'Land of Hope and Glory' and the Minuet 'Samson' during the inspection. I stand to be corrected, but I don't think that the march 'Queen's Company' had been written then!

Due to the vast numbers of standing spectators and the actual parade itself it was not possible for our contingent to see the consecration of the new Nijmegen Company Colours by the Chaplain General, or the presentation by Her Majesty the Queen, but



Top: The Regimental Band leading the parade from Wellington Barracks. Bottom Left: The Queen's Company Colour, the Royal Standard of The Regiment. Bottom Right: Nijmegen Company parading its Old Colours for the last time.





Windsor Castle 1953.

the mood at that moment by all was one of great pride, that we once served this great Regiment. What a credit the troops were on that memorable day, immaculately turned out and highly disciplined. There is a saying that, "When the Bobbies on the beat look so young, you

must be getting old!" Well for those young soldiers on parade, wearing their campaign medals, I can only say that you made an old Grenadier feel very proud.

As a footnote for all those Queen's Company Guardsmen, the Colour was presented by Her Majesty the Queen in the presence of the Colonel of the Regiment, General the Lord Jefferies, K.C.B., K.C.V.O., C.M.G., D.L., it was received by the Ensign 2nd Lieutenant the Viscount Boyne and Sergeant Major L. E. Burrell was

present to make sure, as all good Sergeant Majors do, that we performed our duties to the best of our ability. By the way, I don't profess to be a mind of Regimental History; I confess I kept my orders for the day/program of events for that parade, as I will for this memorable occasion!

At the conclusion of the Parade it was time for the Regimental Photographs and for Her Majesty to meet with the soldiers of The Queen's Company and Nijmegen Company together with their families. It was also an appropriate time to meet up with long lost friends whom we had served with those 60 years ago.



The New Colour is received by 2Lt the Viscount Boyne.

Adventures With A Dirty Grenade – Part II

by 24417868 'Fingers' Worsfold

Once more into the breach... Since my last 'adventure' of climbing Mount Kilimanjaro in 2011 I singularly failed in my attempt on Mont Blanc in 2012. I will put this down to idleness on my part and do the extra picquets as a consequence. So 2013 has been a busy year. Not only did I complete the Wellington 2 Waterloo cycle ride (which will be covered elsewhere in the Gazette in much more detail) but also, in January, kayaked the 100 mile Wilderness Waterway through the Everglades. I am not sure how much I managed to raise for The Colonel's Fund but suffice to say every little helps. As

with Mount Kilimanjaro there is no 'mountain' rescue team in the Everglades. Once in the 'uhlu' you are on your own and everything must be carried in with you. 4000 square miles, 20 or so designated 'camping areas',

and being a swamp there are no roads or tracks to make a tactical withdrawal. You either complete the 100 miles or turn back! We did it in 8 days.

Problem No 1. A Kayak does not have room to carry enough food and water to make the whole trip. To do that you need a Canoe but that takes twice as long (2-3 weeks). So we were dependant on a mid-trip resupply by boat. Personal belongings have to be kept to a minimum too.

Basically apart from underwear it is necessary (and easier) to wear the same clothes everyday; there is only space enough to fit all your kit into a gallon sized bag.

Problem No 2. It helps if your resupply boat actually brings the food and water rather than having a day out/fishing trip 'jolly'.

Problem No 3. The 20 or so camping areas can only be pre-booked 24 hours in advance. Land solid enough to camp on is rare and any haul-out worth

using generally has a large reptile with teeth on it first.

Problem No 4. The Everglades is a vast mangrove swamp; every view looks the same. It is, of course, flat so there are no vantage points. Navigation is a nightmare.



The Wilderness Waterway – Day 8.

Every creek, bayou and river looks identical and is generally invisible until you're 20ft away. The sandbanks and mangroves can shift almost overnight so most of the maps are already out of date by the time they're printed. There are very few maritime navigation markers and no lights. Campsites need to be reached and established well before sun down. Navigation is hard during the day but would be impossible at night. Thankfully we hired a good company, The Naples Kayak Company, who supplied all the equipment, kayaks, support and most importantly... the Guide; Brandon 'Mango' Gunderson! Not only did he keep us alive during our trip but did the cooking and washing up too. A very experienced kayaker and watersportsman, only on day 3 did we work out he'd never

actually *done* the Wilderness Waterway before. It seems very few do!

Problem No 5. Bears, Cougars, Raccoons, Ticks, Crocodiles, Alligators, Mosquitoes, Horse-flies, 'no-see-ums', Black Widow spiders, Cotton-mouths, Water Moccasons, Burmese Pythons, Rattlesnakes, drowning, starvation, thirst, scorpions (in the firewood), deranged in-bred backwoodsmen called Zeke and Festus.

Problem No 6. I still ended up with a dirty grenade for the finishing photo, despite trying to keep it clean. Being ill shaven will have to be excused as our limited water was for drinking only.

But we had fun!

The Grenadier Guards Afghanistan Commemorative Kneeler Appeal

by Ross Donaldson

As many readers know, the Guards' Chapel, spiritual home of the Household Division, is currently working to replace its old and worn kneelers. Several Branches and individual Grenadiers have already sponsored replacements but many more are still needed. All seven Regiments are being encouraged to participate in the project, with mixed response and by March 2013, the Coldstream had provided the most, with us Grenadiers second. Not a position to be proud of!

It seemed an excellent opportunity to help the project, and to provide a lasting tribute to the 15 Grenadiers who did not make it home from our three tours of Afghanistan, by calling on Grenadiers, wherever they were in the world, serving or retired, old or young, to contribute towards 15 new ones. There were several criteria to be met and the most important was that we had to provide 15. We could not, nor would we have wanted to, commemorate some of the fallen and not others.

We needed to raise £2,175, not by any sponsorship activity but with just a straightforward collection. In these very hard times and with all the many fundraising activities going on, we feared it would be a challenge, but one that could hopefully be achieved. There was no 'Plan B'!

A half page advertisement was prepared and **Major Andy Green** kindly agreed to give it space in the 2013 Gazette, which was then being prepared for printing. The

idea was put to the Association Branch Secretaries at the AGM on Saturday 23rd March and on Sunday 24th the Appeal was launched on **Jim White's** Grenadiers Reunited Newsletter. This was shortly followed with an e-mail circulated to all members of the First Guards Club by the Regimental Adjutant.

To say that the response was amazing is an understatement. It was quite staggering. By the Thursday we had nearly enough for ten kneelers and the cheques and promises were coming in steadily. Over the next three weeks the money came flowing in, and although we tried to close the Appeal, having well exceeded the target, donations kept coming in until we now have enough for nearly 48 kneelers! So far we have received 84 individual payments, ranging from one cheque for £1,000 from a charitable organisation run by a Grenadier from the '80s to a cheque for £10 from a Grenadier widow and her son. They came from the U.S.A., Afghanistan, and all parts of the U.K., the old and the not so old, juniors, seniors (and some very seniors) and several Association Branches. It has really shown the true spirit of what is, unquestionably, the best Regiment in the British Army.

We were able to have the first 15 kneelers produced and in place in the Chapel in time for the Her Majesty's Grenadier Day and several relatives of the men commemorated, visited the Chapel to see them. We had a slight disagreement with the Chapel Trustees who set down the very

strict criteria for how the kneelers can be named, which is obviously necessary. The Kneelers Replacement Project has a set style for the names on the kneelers in order that they all look the same and in keeping with the principle of 'all of one company', which influences memorial items in the Chapel. We can therefore show a



One of the kneelers with the Regimental Crest awaiting naming.

title (if appropriate, but not a rank) full initials (but not a first name) and a surname (but no decorations). We asked that this last point be relaxed in the case of **James Ashworth V.C.** Initially the Trustees were unwilling to change their position but after further pressure from several quarters, particularly the Northamptonshire Branch, they have agreed that Victoria Cross and George Cross, our Country's highest awards for bravery, can be shown after names in future.

We now have the task of naming the remaining kneelers and Regimental Headquarters have suggested that we widen the field to include the men who died on Active Service since the end of the Second World War, who are seldom added to any village or town memorial. We hope this will be acceptable to everyone who has donated? We should have sufficient funds to



Four of the kneelers named and ready to place in the Chapel.

commemorate those killed in Northern Ireland, the Cameroons, Egypt, Malaya and Palestine.

For the moment I have to stress how grateful I am to everyone who gave so generously. I have been so swamped by the volume of correspondence that it has just not been possible to thank everyone personally and I hope they can understand this. I must however give special acknowledgement to **Jim White's** weekly Grenadiers Reunited e-mail which launched the Appeal to his vast readership on one Sunday morning. Also my gratitude to **Major Grant Baker**, the Regimental Adjutant, **Major**

Andy Green and also to **Matt Elmer**, the Regimental Casualty Officer for their support and help.

I trust that by the time the 2015 Gazette goes to print we will be able to report the final list of names commemorated.

Appeal Co-ordinator: Ross Donaldson, Stubb House, HICKLING, Norwich, Norfolk. NR12 0BW
Tel: 01692 598336 Mobile: 07733 397955 e-mail: ross@ross-donaldson.com

Ceremony at Pont-a-Marcq 2013

by Mr Peter Green

On September 3rd 1944 a force of Grenadiers comprising The King's Company and No 2 Squadron of the 2nd Battalion undertook the liberation of the small town of Pont-A-Marcq near Lille in Northern France. They faced heavy fire from the enemy and in the course of the battle, 22 Grenadiers were killed alongside a number of French Maquis before they achieved their objective.

My Dad, 2622452 **Gdsm Albert Green** was involved in the battle as a mortar man in The King's Company commanded by **Major Nigel Baker M.C.** For the past 25 years surviving members of the original battle have returned to Pont-A-Marcq to commemorate the loss of their colleagues. These visits were originally organised by **Jim Hague** but today Dad is the only one of the original group still able to attend.

On Saturday 24th August 2013 a wreath laying ceremony was conducted in Lille Cemetery where most of the Grenadiers are interred. Three serving Grenadiers



Albert Green with Gdsm Lee and Taylor at Lille cemetery.

led by **Lt Hamish Hardy** represented the Regiment.

On Sunday 25th August the three Grenadiers attended the Commemorative Church Service and later wreaths were laid at significant points around the town. After the wreath laying the Mayor of Pont-A-Marcq, **Daniel Cambier** hosted a reception in the Town Hall. During the reception Dad was presented with two

medals in recognition of his original service in 1944 and for his regular attendance at the annual commemorative services over the past 25 years.

President **Michel Crohe** of the local branch of the French Anciens Combattants presented Dad with the Medal D'Or of The Association France Brittanique Des Anciens Combattants. This was followed by a Senior Police Officer presenting him with the Echelon Or of the Croix D'Honneur Du Policier Europeen. During his short acceptance speech, Dad said that he felt most honoured to receive such prestigious medals but made it clear to his French friends that they were accepted by him on behalf of Grenadiers both past and present.

Health permitting, Dad is hoping once again, to visit Pont-A-Marcq in 2014 on the occasion of the 70th Anniversary of the action which liberated the Town.



Albert Green is presented with his Echelon Or of the Croix D'Honneur Du Policier Europeen by Captain Philippe Lamblotte.

Cycling With A Dirty Grenade – Part III

by 24417868 *'Fingers' Worsfold*

In September I attended my local Branch monthly meeting. There was much talk of the forthcoming Wellington 2 Waterloo Cycle ride and our Chairman, **Major Derek Rossi** mentioned that **Colonel Houstoun** was giving it a go even if the former thought the latter was far to 'old and bold' to be gallivanting across Flanders fields on a velocipede. The Branch also discussed sponsoring a local cyclist if we could find one. That got me thinking. Maybe I should give it a go. Maybe represent the Kingston Branch? If **Colonel Houstoun** could do it then so could I!

So what ensues I will blame squarely on my old Company Commander and Sergeant Major; decent and honourable chaps both of them, but when, when, when will I learn ... never volunteer for anything! But I'm a sucker for military music, have always wanted to see the Menin Gate and Last Post ceremony, and all through my life, since young, I have been an ardent student and amateur historian of the Napoleonic period and the Battle of Waterloo. Now I had a chance to do the whole lot in one foul swoop. So here is my perspective of the Wellington 2 Waterloo Charity Cycle ride.

Following the meeting I contacted my Branch Secretary saying that if the Branch would sponsor me as a whole, equivalent to individual members donations, I would give it a go. That would go some way towards the £1,700 I needed to raise in order to participate. I had 2 weeks to raise the sponsorship and moreover, prepare my fitness.

So ... 284 miles, 3 countries, 200 cyclists, 70 support staff, 30 support vehicles, 2 out-riders, 2 Doctors, 4 Physiotherapists, 4 Mechanics, 1 Regimental Band, 1 Corps of Drums, 1 re-enactment Society, 1 P&O Ferry, 1

Eurostar, 1 Battalion, 1 Incremental company, 1 RHQ, 1 Prime Minister, 1 Lord Lieutenant, 1 Lieutenant General, 1 Major General, 3 Brigadiers, Several Lords (a cycling), 4 Civic receptions, 1 British Ambassador, 2 British barracks, 1 Belgian barracks, Several Youth Hostels, 3 Hotels, Several pots of Sudocream and One 'Brompton' bicycle later...

D-1: Wellington Barracks. 2200hrs. No bike, no kit, and when I mentioned to a couple in the Officers' Mess Reception that I hoped to use one of the sponsored Landrover bikes, they laughed at me. 'Didn't I know they were mountain bikes complete with knobbly tyres and hydraulic front suspension?'. This didn't auger well.

D Day: 'Be at the Barracks for 0600hrs to collect bike'. I set my alarm for 0500hrs...promptly slept through it and woke at 0550hrs! Rushed to the West Picquet Gate by taxi to eagerly collect my 'steed'. They couldn't find the key to unlock the gate until 0645hrs. Bearing in mind that breakfast was finishing at 0715hrs I rushed around trying to find the right person to give me access to the bikes. I found him but he didn't have the key to the lock up! 0655hrs, found key, found a bike... or thrown the first one to hand! 0700hrs find mechanic to fit my pedals and other bits and pieces. He'd gone to breakfast. 0705hrs found mechanic, have bike, have pedals but have the wrong spanners. The 'other' mechanic had gone to breakfast. 0715hrs found correct spanners and left mechanic to it while I tried to get some scoff. 0730hrs FORM UP ON SQUARE! Managed to grab a sort of breakfast but had no chance to fill waterbottles (my holders hadn't been fitted ...yet) and along with a disparate band went off in search of a loo. Made my way back to the Square. Found my bike but had no chance to check it, it seemed OK. My saddlebag wouldn't fit so I had to leave it on a support wagon, I haven't seen it since. Then we were off; band and all, London in the rush hour was a buzz.

Made it to the 1st checkpoint but reached Maidstone just as the Band finished playing. Caught up with

Colonel Houstoun in the fields of Kent. Actually I came around a corner just in time to watch him disappear over his handlebars into a ditch. He lived! On a bright note though I found at St Martin's Plain camp I was double-booked into a 2 man room. Rather than argue it out with a Brigadier and a Colonel (who both vastly outranked me) for the room I went off and sought another. In the end I had a 5 man/en suite room all to myself – result!

D+1: So far so good. Made it to Dover and pushed out a few zzzzz's on the crossing. It was quite a slog to Ypres and I was determined to make it for the Last Post ceremony. Various bits of my bike kept falling off as in our haste it had not been checked and lots of the nuts and bolts had not been tightened up. Hence I lost mud-guards, a bit off the handlebars, and the gear-shifts kept swivelling around. I had no tools to fix these problems but in the end grabbed a mechanic at the 2nd rest-stop and asked him to nail everything on. He also put an extra 80% air in the tyres ... no wonder my (mountain) bike had all the agility and turn of speed of a dead hippo in drag. Made it to Ypres just as the Band finished playing (and never got to see the Menin Gate either). The accommodation was 'interesting' but Ypres was poignant for me. My Grandfather fought there in WW1.

D+2: Long slog and slowly uphill. Made it to Oudenaarde ... just as the Band stopped playing; and then onward to Waterloo. The only time I nearly got lost was on the outskirts of Waterloo. I could see the battlefield (Lion Mound) in the distance and thought I'd gone the wrong way. I didn't worry as I would get to see this historic site on the following day as I was hopefully booked on the Battlefield tour. I reached the finish line ... just as the Band had packed up and gone home (hotels). Never mind I made it, I wasn't the last, and I went for a celebratory beer, whilst the mechanics desperately tried to 'derig' my bike (it seems they had the wrong spanners)! Anyway I would have a chance to see the Band in all their glory that evening at a civic

reception in Nivelles. It took ages to get to our hotel and by the time we were suited and booted and back to the 'correct' hotel, the Band had ... just finished playing! Still at least we were at the right hotel. The 'French Imperial Guard' Band had initially turned up at the wrong one!. Then I found out that I was NOT booked on the Battlefield tour after all, but was to catch one of the first

Eurostars out of Brussels in the morning. We would have to be up at 0400hrs so by his time I was just too tired to argue.

D+3: Finally, in a scene reminiscent of the First World War, we had managed to battle our way through the rush hour traffic at o-dark-o'clock to be hurriedly deposited at the Gare Centrale; only problem being the Eurostar went from Gare Midi. So two coachloads of 'Grenadiers' ended up swarming around the nearest taxi-rank 'commandeering' every available taxi and heading off to the right station. For me I am thankful to **Nick Sandford** for remaining calm and purchasing sufficient rail-tickets to cart the rest of us down one stop to the Eurostar Terminus.

All in all it was a fantastic experience and one that made me expressly proud of the Regiment and all those who serve or have served in it. For me it has been an honour. I hardly saw the Band, I never witnessed the Last Post

ceremony at the Menin Gate. Regrettably I never got to see 'my' Battlefield of Waterloo But I did get to cycle through the fields of Flanders and in my own way paid my own homage to the row upon row of souls who lie there still. I had a chance to serve in a small way those who are suffering now through active service in recent years.

I found the cycle hard. I have Parkinson's. Some on this cycle ride called me a hero for attempting it. I am not and never have been! I am honoured enough that I may call myself a Grenadier. The real heroes are those that still lie in those foreign fields ... and the sight of hundreds of middle-aged lycra clad ex-Grenadiers, spending 3 days, complaining about their sore bottoms will quite possibly have scarred me for life!



Mark Worsfold at Waterloo.

Monte Camino – 70 Years On

by *Mike Sterling*

Late on the afternoon of 5th November 1943 the 201st Guards Brigade consisting of the 6th Battalion Grenadier Guards, 3rd Battalion Coldstream Guards and 2nd Battalion Scots Guards arrived at their consolidating area on Frascara Ridge or as the Guardsmen christened it 'Chestnut Wood' because of the forest of sweet chestnut trees. The weather was worsening with dark rain clouds on the horizon, but as the Grenadiers settled down and looked across the valley to their north they saw a large dark mass which later, they were to be informed, was called Monte Camino. At its highest point it was 3,000ft above sea level.

The 201st Guards Brigade had been in the line since their landing at Salerno on 9th September without a break except for one short spell spent at Caserta Palace to train for the crossing of the Volturno River. They were tired, wet and dirty; some had the beginnings of trench foot from 'living' in wet slit trenches and out in the open.

By 6th November the weather had broken and heavy rain had turned the dirt roads into muddy quagmires, there was also a strong bitter east wind blowing which lowered the temperature to near freezing. Late in the afternoon the Grenadiers were ordered to get ready for battle, letters were written, weapons cleaned and equipment checked. At 1700hrs the CQMS' brought up a hot meal, for some the last hot meal that they would eat for the next six days and sadly for others their last hot meal on this Earth. At 1800hrs they were ordered to move off and in single file they marched down the now muddy roads to their start line some five miles away, the battle for Monte Camino was about to commence and they would be the principal players.

70 years later on the morning of Saturday 2nd November 2013 a small group of travellers met at Gatwick Airport, namely the author (Honorary member London Branch) **Chris Bennett** (Honorary member London Branch) **Adam Willey** and **John Henshaw** from Nottingham and the

Booker family from New Zealand; Mr **George Booker** now aged 93 and a former 6th Battalion man had fought in both battles on Monte Camino, his son **Chris**, daughter-in-law **Diane** and his two burly grandsons **Luke** and **Gareth**. The group flew to



George Booker saluting at the Cairn.

Rome, picked up their transport and then drove the 100 miles south to their destination, the small town of Rocca d'Evandro. The town was liberated from Nazi oppression by the 6th Battalion Grenadier Guards during the final stages of the Battle of Monte Camino.

The following morning a heavy mist hung over the valleys and hills around Monte Camino, however the temperature was a nice 24°C, so it was shirt sleeve order for the day. Arrangements had been made to meet a contingent from Rocca d'Evandro at the small hamlet of Formella and then

climb up to the Memorial Cairn to hold a short service of remembrance for those who had lost their lives. Meeting us at Formella was the Deputy Mayor and his party. The climb up to the Cairn is via a very rocky path, not too difficult for most of us, but at 93 we were worried about **George Booker**. However

our fears were unfounded as he insisted on climbing up the track with the assistance of his two burly Grandsons so that he could pay his respects to his fallen comrades.

It was a simple ceremony, a short speech read by me followed by the Deputy Mayor, the Last Post played by a local man on his trumpet then the laying of wreaths. After the ceremony we all stood in silence for a while paying our own respects to those that died 70 years previously amongst the rocks where we were standing.



George Booker on the Mule Track.



The Memorial Cairn.

The Deputy Mayor then invited us to another ceremony at their War Memorial on the outskirts of Rocca d'Evandro where the Mayor and others would be in attendance. I represented the Regiment when invited to lay a cross on the Memorial and speeches were made.

The 4th November was a beautiful sunny day and we made our way down to the centre of Rocca d'Evandro to attend the ceremony of Remembrance at their War memorial. November 4th is the Italian national day of Remembrance and most of the town were present. The Mayor gave praise to the 6th Battalion Grenadier Guards, who liberated their town, in a speech aimed mainly at the young school children present telling them that they should never forget the sacrifice of the brave Grenadiers so that they (the children) could live in peace. At the end of the ceremony an amazing spectacle occurred, without any prompting all the school children lined up in single file to give **George Booker** who was in his wheel chair, a warm hug and a kiss; it was a very emotional scene for all who were there.



Mike Sterling addressing the people of Rocca d'Evandro.

The Mayor then invited our small party to lunch at the Country House, local wine was served in abundance to accompany an eight course lunch which lasted three and a half hours. I presented the Mayor with a statuette of a Grenadier on behalf of the Regiment.

On Tuesday 5th November it was decided to visit as many places as possible on the mountain where the Grenadiers had fought and to Minturno and Cassino cemeteries to pay our respects to those who are at rest there. Wednesday 6th saw six intrepid members decide to climb Bare Arse Ridge, exactly 70 years after the 6th Battalion attacked the mountain, the only difference being our group climbed it in broad daylight with a brilliant sun shining, the Grenadiers climbed it in pitch dark with rain and sleet soaking them through and with the added bonus of the enemy firing mortars and heavy guns at them. It took our group about three hours to climb Bare Arse Ridge where they were met by the rest of our party on Point 727, (No 4 Company positions in 1943).



George Booker with the children.

The rest of our time spent in and around Monte Camino went without a hitch and soon it was time to pack our bags and head for Rome where we said our goodbyes to the Booker family who were flying directly back to New Zealand. The rest of us flew to Gatwick in a rather silent mood, thinking about the battle and trying to visualise what it must have been like for those that fought on Monte Camino 70 years previously. For some of our party it closed the chapters of their quest, for others it had awakened their desire to return one day in the future, I hope they do because the sacrifice of the 6th Battalion Grenadier Guards and the others of the 201st Guards Brigade should not be forgotten. **'WE WILL REMEMBER THEM'.**



Our group at Point 727.

Flanders Fields Memorial Garden 1914–2014

by Mr Gary Gibbs of the Guards Museum

On an early spring day in 2008 **Andrew Wallis**, the Curator of The Guards Museum, **Mr Nic Vandermarliere**, the Flanders representative to the Court of St James's and a mutual friend **Piet Blanckaert** were standing on Guards Square looking at the pond and commenting what a mess it was, with the water completely covered in algae and not looked after at all. They all came to the conclusion that something had to be done. The idea of a memorial garden was suggested, bearing in mind that the centenary of the start of The Great War was only six years away. In view of the strong bond between The Guards and Flanders, **Mr Vandermarliere** said he would put a proposal to his government to create a memorial garden as a way of thanking all those Guardsmen who had died for his country in World War One... thankfully, approval was given.

Then the hard work started. **Mr Piet Blanckaert**, an internationally-acclaimed Flemish garden designer was asked if he would be interested in designing such a garden and he jumped at the idea. A design was drawn up which had to be submitted to Defence Estates who own the land, Royal Parks, as they have a huge say in what happens on the fringes of their parks, English Heritage, because of the listing of the Chapel and Wellington Barracks and Westminster City County for planning permission.

After numerous meetings all the relevant permissions were granted with much enthusiasm from all those involved. The Museum is very fortunate in having **The Honourable David McAlpine** as a member of its Society of Friends. He was approached with a view to seeing if his company would be willing to take on the management of such a project and we are delighted to say they were; for without their help and expertise this project would not have gone ahead. Work started in March 2013, this date was chosen to allow the finished garden time to settle down before the official opening in November 2014. Royal Parks insisted that hoarding had to be put up so that none of the works would be seen from St James's Park.



The pond before work began.

The first job was to drain the pond. The water could not just be pumped down the road drains. A specialist company was called in and a discharge licence obtained; they drained the pond, caught what fish were still alive for transportation to another area and then cleared out several thousand gallons of sludge from the bottom. Once this was complete the next stage was breaking up some of the concrete. Holes had to be punched into the bottom for drainage, it was not until this work started that it was realised how much concrete was used to create the pond; it was three to four feet thick and reinforced with steel bars. Heavy drilling equipment could not be brought in for fear of collapsing the drains on Guards Square so the 'breaking-out' work had to be completed with a relatively small digger which added greatly to delay and cost. The edges of the pond had also to be reduced in height so as not to be seen once the project was finished.

Once this was complete the foundations for the front wall and inner circle were laid. Building blocks were used to give the inner circle some height. Next aggregate and soil was used to improve drainage and to fill up the area to a certain height. Along the front edge, Portland stone was used to create the wall, which has the badges of the seven regiments of today's Household Division cut in relief.

It was first suggested to put the badges of all the Guards regiments that fought in The Great War, namely, 1st and 2nd Life Guards, Royal Horse Guards, 1st Royal Dragoons and Machine Gun Guards but because of the limited space available on the front wall their inclusion would have reduced the badge sizes to such an extent they would be too small to really see so the badges of today's regiments were chosen.

Portland stone was also used for the inner circle. The joints in the stonework are marked by bronze crosses copied from The Guards' Chapel which carry the names of the 70 battlefields in Flanders where Guardsmen fought and died. Carved around the outside edge of the central circular bed are the words of John McCrae's poem *In Flanders Fields*. At the same time the statue of Field Marshal Alexander was re-installed. This had been taken away for safe-keeping whilst work was going on.

After the stonework had been completed, three mature trees and a flowering bush, indigenous to the battlefields of Flanders, were brought in and placed in the garden. Turf around the inner ring was then laid. In the inner ring itself, soil has been gently 'domed' to reflect the rolling Flemish landscape. This has been formed with soil brought back from all the battlefields and war grave cemeteries in Flanders where Guardsmen lost their lives. Turf from Flanders is used as a covering, which when it grows will produce poppies. Both lighting and an irrigation system will be put in later this year.

A Flemish Bluestone bench has also been introduced on the right hand side of the garden. There will be an interpretation plinth describing the story behind the garden. This is being paid for by The Guild of Saint Sebastian in Bruges inside whose headquarters the First

Guards were formed in 1656 to protect the exiled King Charles II.

This is the first time the Commonwealth War Graves Commission has ever allowed soil to be taken from their cemeteries. The Flemish government organised well over 1,000 school children from both British and Belgian schools to collect the soil during the summer. The soil was gathered in specially made hessian sacks, made to the same specifications and by the same company that made the sandbags used in World War One. These sacks have stencilled on them a poppy and the name of the battlefield cemetery. The 70 sacks were collected up and placed in the Cloth Hall in Ypres.

On Monday 11th November 2013, in the presence of **HRH Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh** and **HRH Prince Laurent of Belgium** a ceremony – The Gathering of the Soil – was held at the Menin Gate. The bags were brought from the Cloth Hall and given to soldiers of the Belgian Army who were accompanied by two children who then gave the bags to members of The King's Troop RHA to be placed on one of their gun carriages. Whilst all this was happening the Band of the Coldstream Guards was playing appropriate music. Once all 70 bags were on the gun carriage and a black shroud placed over them, it was driven off. Also at the ceremony were two members from each of the seven regiments of the Household Division, senior officers from the Division and the Belgian Army as well as politicians. The Last Post was played by the buglers of The Last Post Association. The soil bags were taken to the coast and placed on the Belgian frigate *Louise-Marie*, which then went on a NATO exercise.

On Friday 29th November 2013 the frigate came up the River Thames, passing under Tower Bridge which was fully opened in salute and berthed alongside HMS Belfast. On Saturday 30th November, Belgian naval ratings moved the 70 soil bags to the corner of Morgan's Lane and English Ground. When the first bag was moved it was saluted by a side-party from the Belgian Navy and Boson's whistles sounded. Last to be placed on the gun carriage was a small wooden casket, which contained samples of the soil from all 70 cemeteries. This representative soil was the soil to be placed into the inner circle during the ceremony, before the rest was placed in the circle at a later date.

The soil bags were then moved on to a King's Troop RHA gun carriage. From there it proceeded through the streets of London to its final resting place in Wellington Barracks. The gun carriage had a mounted escort comprising eight troopers from the Household Cavalry, the Brigade Major, Officer Commanding King's Troop RHA, a Trumpeter and a Troop Sergeant Major, all accompanied by 10 mounted officers of the Metropolitan Police.

The procession moved from Morgan's Lane over Tower Bridge, round the Tower of London, via St. Paul's Cathedral, up Fleet Street to the Strand and Whitehall, through Horse Guards Parade, along the Mall and into Wellington



The new Garden.

Barracks. The procession arrived at Horse Guards where it was saluted by the Old and New Guards. When it passed Buckingham Palace the Old Guard in the Forecourt presented arms. On the arrival at Wellington Barracks the New Guard also presented arms and the band played 'Scipio'. The Household Cavalry escort wheeled away on the Main Square as the gun carriage carried on to Guards Square arriving outside The Guards' Chapel.

Patrick Casey, the youngest members of the Society of Friends of the Guards Museum, moved forward to the rear of the gun carriage where he was handed the wooden casket of soil. He then carried it to the Senior Chaplain, placing the casket on the altar that had been set up. **Andrew Wallis**, the Curator then welcomed all and explained the background to the project. **Nic Vandermarliere** then called out the names of the 70 battlefields as the bags were unloaded onto Chapel steps. The Senior Chaplain then offered prayers and blessed the soil both in the casket and on the gun carriage after which the Royal Choral Society sang an anthem.

Mr Kris Peeters, Minister-President of Flanders then addressed those assembled and the Chief of Staff, London District responded. The Senior Chaplain then asked **Patrick Casey** to empty the casket into the centre of the inner circle memorial bed. The ceremony was finished off by another anthem from the Royal Choral Society and afterwards guests were invited to a reception in the Guards Museum.

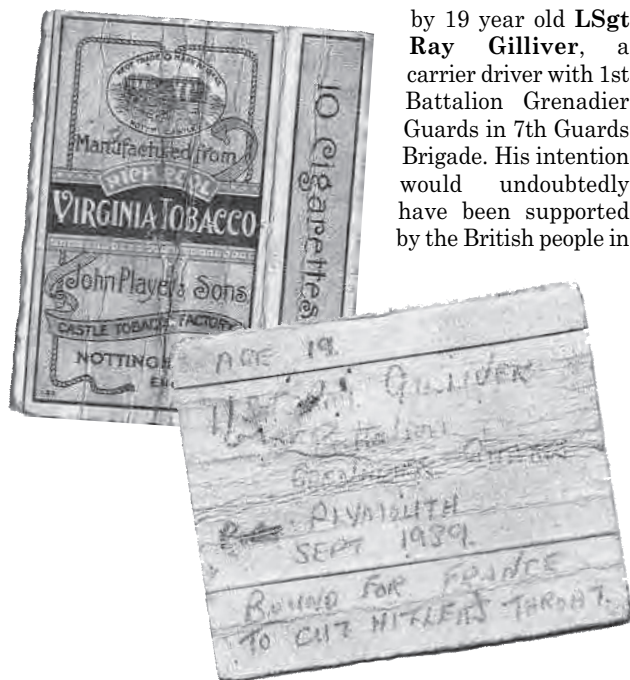
This project has cost some £700,000 with no burden on the Household Division. Whilst a large amount has so far been raised we still have some £250,000 to find. One of the ways we are achieving this is to seek sponsors for each of the 70 battlefields at a cost of £2,000 each. In recognition of such support the sponsor will receive the actual sandbag that held the sacred soil, beautifully mounted and framed with a brass plaque with the donors name placed in the frame. If you know of anyone interested please contact the museum on 020 7414 3428. There are also a variety of other ways to support the project financially – please go to the project website www.flandersfieldsappeal.com to find out more.

A Fag Packet in the Archives

by **Major P A J Wright OBE**
formerly Grenadier Guards

In September 1939, a note written on the back of a Player's cigarette packet read: "Bound for France to cut Hitler's throat." It was sealed in a bottle and thrown into the English Channel from a troopship transporting the British Expeditionary Force (BEF) to France.

It had been written by 19 year old **LSgt Ray Gilliver**, a carrier driver with 1st Battalion Grenadier Guards in 7th Guards Brigade. His intention would undoubtedly have been supported by the British people in



their determination to thwart Hitler's evil ambitions. However, in May 1940 the Germans launched their *blitzkrieg* on Holland and Belgium. The campaign lasted three weeks and ended with the merciful deliverance of most of the BEF, including Gilliver, from Dunkirk. During the withdrawal, he had to abandon his carrier after it ran out of petrol but removed the machine gun and carried it with him on foot. Men on either side of him were killed

when a Messerschmitt machine-gunned the beaches and he had to swim out to one of the ships to escape.

In 1952, the bottle, with the note intact, was found on a Torquay beach. It was returned, via Regimental Headquarters, to Gilliver, who was by then serving with the Burnley Borough Police. He became a Police Sergeant and was Secretary of the Burnley, Blackburn and District Sub-Branch of the Manchester Branch of the Association for several years. He died aged seventy five in 1996. His son, Stephen, recently discovered the note and relevant documents amongst his father's papers. Copies have been included with his Record of Service in the Regimental Archives.



Ray Gilliver.

1940 and All That

by **2620362 In-Pensioner Norman Mitchell,**
Royal Hospital Chelsea

Our 2-volume history – 'The Grenadier Guards 1939–45' – at pages 527/528 makes reference to the Holding Battalion and briefly mentions the Whitehall Defences. The following is a short, personal, reminiscence of the regime at the time.

The large and ever-increasing number of recruits joining the Regiment – both by volunteers and through conscription – naturally produced an accommodation difficulty. In 1940 initial recruit training of Coldstream,

Irish and Welsh Guards was carried out at Caterham and for Grenadier and Scots Guards it took place at Chelsea Barracks. Grenadier recruits underwent eight weeks Depot training, followed by six weeks Field Training at Windsor and then joined the Holding Battalion at Wellington Barracks to await posting to a Battalion.

After Dunkirk, without a Battalion overseas, and even after all three Battalions had been brought back to strength, Wellington Barracks was becoming overcrowded and various 'outstations' were opened in the Home Counties area. Detachments of approximately Company strength were billeted in (empty) requisitioned houses in such places as Chislehurst, Kenley and Windsor where further training was carried out and guards provided for certain vulnerable points. It should be

remembered that the threat of this country being invaded was very real and there was much talk of 'Fifth Column activity' so that having well trained, disciplined, troops in 'sensitive' areas was of considerable advantage.

We normally moved to these outstations by train and to us it was always amusing to be marched in battle order to Charing Cross and to hear cries of 'good luck boys' from civilians on the way who, quite justifiably, thought we were off to war. The Holding Battalion continued to increase in numbers until 1941 when the 4th, 5th and 6th Battalions were formed and, despite rationing restrictions, we were well fed thanks to that great Quartermaster, **Capt (Tubby) Aston**.

Life was never dull in Barracks – in addition to the normal Regimental routine of Public Duties (in battle order), drill parades and specialist training, there was the manning of the Whitehall Defences. These consisted mainly of a series of concrete pillboxes around the Whitehall area, manned by a LSgt or LCpl with either three or six Gdsm depending on the size of the pillbox. It was a 24-hour rota and we were fed by rations brought round to each post by a MT vehicle. Apart from our own rifles, each post was armed with a Bren gun and box of magazines, but orders for the posts were rather sketchy and in retrospect it is hard to see what our Military function could have been other than as a 'morale boost' for the general public to see alert and confident young Guardsmen in evidence on the streets.

Conditions in the pillboxes were rather primitive – blankets for use by off-duty men at night were seldom changed, an oil lamp at night unless an air raid was on, – and damp. Indeed it is unlikely that the Bren guns would have fired as, due to the damp conditions the magazine springs were usually rusted and the rounds could be shaken out!

The pillbox furthest from the Barracks was in the public gardens near Hungerford Bridge and as a personal reminiscence, I was on sentry as dawn broke, following an air raid, and on looking up, there was a landmine dangling from the bridge by its parachute cords, swaying gently in the breeze; the words of Cpl Jones come to mind – 'Don't panic'. *

The largest of the pillboxes was in Parliament Square and was painted to resemble a Smith's Bookstall – but without the books. Other points were the sand-bagged entrance to the War Office, the roof of Drummond's Bank in Trafalgar Square (during air raids as a fire-watch) and

the so-called 'Rance House' at the top of Birdcage Walk, which was, of course, the building where, deep underground, were the Cabinet War rooms. Looking back it is not clear what our function was, on sentry duty 30 feet down, other than to pay compliments to the various very senior officers and war leaders – with an occasional glimpse of the Prime Minister himself. However, it was the 'plum' as, owing to the extraordinary conditions, the rota over a 24 hour guard was 2 hours on and 10 OFF!

Another of the vulnerable points was the East Greenwich gasworks, south of the Thames near to the Blackwall Tunnel. A detachment of Company strength would be stationed there for a 7 or 14 day period and



The Great George Street face of The New Public Offices, the basement of which accommodates the Cabinet War Rooms.

there were specific orders for patrolling sentries – "To watch out for seaplanes landing on the water and U-boats coming up the river" – even then, neither eventuality seemed likely! Air raids were frequent and one night during a heavy raid, showers of incendiaries were dropped on the gasworks and the detachment was deployed in an effort to extinguish the jets of flame spouting from the two huge gasholders. The only material provided was a quantity of wet rags and clay held in containers at the foot of the holders and the drill was to carry a bundle of rags or a 'dollop' of wet clay up a ladder and cover the flaming holes in the domed top. But, the dome consists of metal plates, and on moving away, they 'dipped', the rags and clay fell through and up came the flames again. Consequently by first light the gasholders were empty.

While at the gasworks, we were accommodated in the meeting hall and theatre which had been used by the

pre-war employees at the works, and this building also suffered fire-bomb damage. We were instructed to report to the CQMS any items of kit which had been destroyed and apart from odd items, it transpired that, to a man, everyone had lost two pairs of socks – imagine the incendiaries jumping from kitbag to kitbag!

I have written this intentionally as a light-hearted account, but in no way is it intended to diminish the element of danger of those days, but as so often, on looking back, it is the humorous angle which surfaces.

Finally, it is worth remembering that apart from the splendid WOs and NCOs, mainly from pre-war days, we were a huge group of erstwhile civilians who, in the main, would have been unlikely to have joined the Armed Forces had there not been a war, and our transformation into Guardsmen fit and equipped to fight the actions to come was carried out very well in most difficult circumstances.

* Some research by the editor has uncovered the following citation:

Lieutenant Ernest Oliver Gidden

Sub-Lieutenant Gidden's George Medal was awarded for disposing of a mine that had landed between two houses in Harlesden, London, during the period July to September 1940. The award was published on page 259 of the London Gazette dated 14 January 1941.

On 17 April 1941 an unexploded mine dropped on Hungerford Bridge, London. Some trains and many sleepers were on fire and the Charing Cross Hotel was burning in the background. The underground trains had to be stopped and many buildings evacuated, including the War Office. **Lieutenant Gidden** (RNVR) arrived at the bridge shortly after dawn and found the mine lying across a live electric wire, with the bomb fuse primer release mechanism face downwards. The bomb had first to be turned over before the fuse could be tackled. At last **Lieutenant Gidden** managed to turn the bomb over, and tried to insert a gag to stop the timer mechanism. The gag would not fit properly due to the state of the mine's outer casing, and Lieutenant Gidden had to work at it with a hammer and chisel. This operation was eventually completed after 6 hours.

Their Names Are Carved With Sadness

by Major Frank Clark

Frozen in stone, a flaming grenade; a brave attempt by a local stone mason who had probably never seen an original regimental cap badge. It surmounts a stone pillar, standing weather beaten and isolated on the North Yorkshire Moors. It is a strange Grenadier war memorial; it displays only two names, and was commissioned by the **Hon Margaret Chaloner** daughter of **Richard Chaloner**, first Baron of Guisborough, whose Estate included most moorland farms around the village of Commondale. **Lady Margaret** recalled seeing two young shepherds tending sheep on the moor and was saddened by the tragic loss of both young men in the service of their Country. 'Duty 1914' the year they enlisted into the Grenadier Guards together, is the simple inscription on the pillar.

The two boys were **Alfred Cockerill**, a 26 year old agricultural labourer from Commondale and **Robert Henry Leggott**, only 17, the youngest of six siblings living at Thunder Bush Farm

Commondale, where his father was the tenant farmer.

War can arouse human emotions of courage and bravery and the two boys were no exception. Euphoria spread and young men raced to join the army before the war was over and it was too late.

The two Commondale boys, rushed to join the army but why the Grenadiers? It was a well-known fact that a recruiting Sergeant received a bonus for enlisting a guardsman and I can't find any family connection in this case, maybe it was the recruiting sergeant's own regiment as was the case with my father, serving in the Regiment at the same time.

Alf had spent much of his time on the moors tending sheep. Young **Robbie** was also a shepherd and according to his birth certificate, he was born late in 1896, so was only 17 and two months old when they visited the recruiting office. Like so many lads of his generation, **Robbie** lied about his age. He added two years, giving his age on enlistment as 19 years and two months

The young men completed their medicals and enlisted in early September 1914; they then travelled to the Guards Depot Caterham together. Their regimental numbers are only two digits apart. They trained together, and then joined the Reserve Battalion. Both



men were transferred to the newly formed 4th Battalion and on the 20th July 1915 they were at Bovington Camp in Dorset. On 15th August 1915 the 4th Battalion travelled by train to Southampton crossing over to Havre in the Empress Queen. Here they entrained to St Omer and marched to Blendecques where the battalion settled in to battlefield training. On the 5th September 1915, **Robert Leggott**, on paper aged 20 but in fact only 18, was appointed Lance Corporal. The Battalion was slowly acclimatised for action. They took part in the Battle of Loos in September 1915 and by July 1916 the 4th were holding trenches near Ypres. Both sides of their position were attacked resulting in close quarter fighting, shelling and sniper activity. In one of these actions **Alfred Cockerill** was wounded in the head and sent home. Back in the UK, his papers declared gunshot wound to head; he was unfit for further service

(This period is of particular interest to me. My regular soldier Grenadier father was also serving with the 4th Battalion. In March 1915 while serving with the 1st Battalion he had been wounded by sniper fire. He returned to active service with the formation of the 4th Battalion. Within two months (October 1915) he was wounded for the second time, this time by shrapnel in both legs and returned to UK. He returned to the 4th Battalion after a period of treatment and convalescence of a year, in time for the Somme battle)

It is now 1916; the Battle of the Somme raged. Young **LCpl Robbie Leggott** with his 4th Battalion is in reserve and not yet fully involved. On the 24th September 1916, the Guards Division took a leading part in the battle with the most ferocious fighting of the whole battle taking place. When the 4th Grenadiers moved up on the night of 24th, they were not combat fresh troops as one might expect. For the five nights previously, they had been constantly employed in digging, bringing up supplies and had suffered casualties from shelling. They had been obliged to get sleep when they could during the day. The ground was a swamp, pocked with shell holes full of green stinking water and dead rats, horses and human body parts.

On the 25th, a major assault was launched. This time the 1st and 3rd Guards Brigades in the lead and the 4th

Battalion as part of 3rd Brigade on the extreme left. From 10 to 12 noon on the 25th the artillery bombardment continued with Stokes mortars in the support trenches, directed at the German lines. As zero hour approached the 4th Battalion men fixed bayonets and stood motionless, waiting for the whistle signal to go over the

top and advance. The officers in each company had carefully briefed their platoons. **LCpl Robbie Leggott** knew, as a section commander, exactly what was expected of him; as did all non commissioned officers.

The following account taken from the War Diaries gives a feel for the battle.

'At 12.35 the line advanced, preceded by a creeping barrage, which moved 150 yards ahead at the rate of 50 yards per minute. In perfect order, with not a man out of his place, the line swept on until it came to the two intermediate lines, which the officers had been warned to expect somewhere in front of the first objective. These had only recently been discovered, and no one quite knew how strongly they were held. Although the leading companies closed up as near as they could to the creeping barrage, they were met by terrific machine-gun and rifle fire from the intermediate lines, and terrible gaps were made in the ranks. But the companies pressed on, and made short work of the Germans in these lines. Over 150 Germans were killed there with the bayonet. Reforming again, the Grenadiers

rushed the first objective, which, to their surprise, offered comparatively little resistance. Our guns, however, had dealt effectively with the first objective, and forced the occupants into dug-outs, whereas the intermediate lines had only been passed over by the creeping barrage. An hour later, at 1.35p.m., the attack on the second objective started, and the 4th Battalion Grenadiers moved forward, preceded as before by a creeping barrage. Although there was some stiff fighting at the end, the second objective was secured up to time. The brigade on the left had been held up, and the usual difficulty arose of one brigade pressing on while another was kept back. The right of the 4th reached the second objective, but on the left, which was in the air, they were unable to advance while they had the Germans on the left in the same



Robert Henry Leggott.

trench. In fact, the situation on the left had resolved itself into a bombing fight, and while the right got forward the left had always to form a defensive flank.'

The advance used a sunken road to push on into the shattered village of Lesboeufs. The 1st Battalion moved through and captured the final objective. The Germans were seen withdrawing over open country, their line penetrated at last. It was one of the most successful attacks of the war, but once again circumstances beyond their control limited the use made of it and the offensive ground to a halt.

The cost to the 4th Battalion was 452 casualties, one of these being **Robbie Leggett**, killed somewhere out in the mud and wire on the 25th. He was only 19 years old. The 4th Battalion had been reduced to about half strength. **Robert Henry Leggett's** body was never found; he has no known grave but his name appears on the Thiepval Memorial, Pier and Face 8D along with a host of other lost Guardsmen.

(The Thiepval Memorial to the Missing of the Somme is a major war memorial to 72,090 British and South African men who died in the World War I Battle of the Somme and who have no known grave. It is located near the French village of Thiepval, Picardie).

And what of poor **Alf Cockerill** who had joined the Regiment a healthy young man? His head wound had seriously damaged him and he now had epilepsy. He would never return to the moors. He joined the many head injury and shellshock cases placed in mental hospitals. I traced the disabled **Alf** to Buckinghamshire where he died in a mental home, and I applied for his death certificate. It revealed he had been examined at the National Hospital for the Paralysed and Epileptic in London and sent to the Chalfont Colony opened 1894 by The National Society for the Employment of Epileptics, Chalfont St Peter, Buckinghamshire where he spent four years, dying in the Epilepsia Colony on 11th August 1920 of Epilepsy and Meningitis.

He died of war wounds as the lone stone on the moors states. Walkers still rediscover the pillar with its flaming grenade and wonder. The names are not formal, just

Robbie and **Alf**. Their memorial looks out across the moors where in WW2 Grenadiers of the Guards Armoured Division and 6th Guards Tank Brigade trained. The 4th Battalion were stationed near Wensleydale, where they spent six months training. In June the Guards Armoured Division moved to Yorkshire, too. The 1st Battalion took up residence round Ampleforth and I served with the 2nd Battalion when it moved into Duncombe Park, near Helmsley (circa 1943). The Grenadier had returned to the Yorkshire Moors.

Alf Cockerill's death in 1920 was not recorded by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC) as a war death. I have been successful in correcting this and his name is now entered in the register of honour. The CWGC wanted to know the location of **Alf's** grave. I conducted extensive searches in Buckinghamshire and at Comondale in Yorkshire where **Mary**, **Alf's** mother was still living in 1920. He is not buried in Buckinghamshire or at Comondale. A clue came from one Comondale old timer, but it was only hearsay; it is all I have left. He believed **Alfred** was cremated and his ashes strewn on the moorland near the Grenadier Cross. Both boys' names also appear on the official war memorial in Comondale village. Both boys' burial locations are lost but their names are not forgotten. The latest news from the CWGC is they will add **Alf's** name to the Brookwood (UK 1914–1918) Memorial, in Surrey and they will also add his name to the casualty database.

My task is done. Honour these two young men who were among so many Grenadiers lost in that terrible war, many without known graves. I hope they will never be forgotten. We will remember them.

If ye forget – If ye forget, Then your children must remember, And their brow be ever wet, With the tears of their remembrance, With the tears and bloody sweat, If ye forget.

G.A. Studdert Kennedy
(1883–1929)

Eleventh August 1920	Alfred Cockerill	male	31 years	Comondale Brookmont York	1 Epilepsy
Epileptic Colony Chalfont St Peter Rd				Sand Mary 34 Wensleydale Army Reserve	2 Meningitis
					Certified by C Brooks M.R.C.S

Death Certificate.

BRANCH NOTES

AYLESBURY & DISTRICT

(Formed 1929)

President: Awaiting Appointment.

Vice Presidents: Major THE RT HON LORD CARRINGTON, KG, CH, GCMG, MC; DH MILLER, Esq; Major GAG SELBY-LOWNDES; Colonel REH AUBREY-FLETCHER; Capt SIR BEVILLE STANIER, Bt (Welsh Guards); M FINDLAY, Esq (Household Cavalry); Capt THE RT HON I DUNCAN-SMITH, MP (Scots Guards); Major HW FREEMAN-ATTWOOD.

Chairman: D. DOVER, Esq.

Treasurer: D. HIBBLE, Esq.

Secretary: RG BAKER, 48 Somerville Way, Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire, HP19 7QT. Tel: (01296) 426506.

Email: rgbakker@aol.com

A very quiet start to 2013 saw only ex-Grenadiers Arming the secretary for the whereabouts of friends they had lost contact with and as always **George Baker** was happy to oblige. Letters were then circulated to members for 'Her Majesty's Grenadier Day' at Buckingham Palace on 26th June 2013 which was to comprise the Presentation of New Colours by Her Majesty the Queen to Nijmegen Company, The Queen's Company Inspection and the celebration of the centenary of the Grenadier Guards Association. It turned out to be a great and successful day for everyone. Our Chairman **Don Dover** and Secretary counted 12 of our members in attendance but never managed to get much further than the area of the main tea tents as they were both too engrossed in the proceedings and meeting friends not seen for 40 years or more. It is a shame that some do not turn out on a more regular basis and support us, particularly at Grenadier Day.

Peter Brooks of the Oxford Branch invited our Branch to attend their Centenary Family Fun Day at the Oxford University Press cricket ground on 8th September 2013. Again we were unable to organise a lunch this year. Since our president **Sir Philip Duncombe** passed away we believed that the likely attendance would be too small as we seem to have lost most of our staunch supporters. **Don Dover** and our Treasurer **David Hibble** represented us at the Remembrance Day service in Aylesbury but our Secretary this year missed out for the first time as he was unable to put foot to the ground.

There has been a development of houses built just outside Aylesbury town over the past few years with a host of new road names popping up. One particular name

stood out – 'Grenadier Path' which was a real pleasure to see and we have been wondering: are there any Grenadiers living there?

Sadly we have to report the passing of two members of the Branch **23391183 Terence (Terry) Wheelhouse** who passed away while on holiday with his family in Spain. His funeral took place on 14th October 2013 at St Lawrence Church, Winslow, Buckinghamshire and three members of the branch attended with a wreath. **24096252 John Squibb** sadly passed away at home in Dublin, Ireland on Sunday 10th November 2013 and was cremated on Tuesday 12th November. John was the only person outside the UK to be a member of the Branch and kept in touch with Grenadiers and friends via Skype. They will both be sadly missed.

BATH

(Formed 1952)

President: Major HA BAILLIE.

Vice Presidents: Lieutenant Colonel THE LORD WIGRAM, MC, DL, JP; Lieutenant Colonel Sir ANDREW FORD, KCVO.

Chairman: Mr L HARDWICK.

Secretary: Major (Retd.) R KIRKWOOD, 27 Jasmine Way, Trowbridge, Wiltshire, BA14 7SW. Tel: (01225) 769859.

Email: wkirkwood@gmail.com

Treasurer: Mr M. JACKSON.

Meetings: The second Tuesday of every month at Coombe Down Rugby Club, Bath.

The Branch Spring lunch was held on 9 June 2013 at Cumberwell Park Golf Club, Bradford on Avon. A lovely meal was enjoyed by everyone and was followed by a raffle that raised £245 for the Branch; a big thank you to **Malcolm Jackson** our Treasurer for organising this event.

We are delighted to formally welcome three new members to the Branch; **Andy Davey**, **Keith Channel** and **Nigel Till**, and hope they are joined by many more in the future. All Grenadiers will be made most welcome.

Branch members and their guests attended the Association Centenary Garden Party which was preceded by Her Majesty's inspection of The Queen's Company and Presentation



Dennis and Ken at Cumberwell; two fine Grenadiers.



Branch Photograph 2013.

Standing from Left to Right: Dave Pearce, Mrs Smith, Ken Greenman, Glenn Shattock, Dennis White, Ray Hawkins, Lester Cruse, Brian Moore, Don Cowan, Aubrey Dudley, Duncan Blake.
Seated from Left to Right: Brian Mitchell, Ernie Smith, Ron Kirkwood, (Secretary), Les Hardwick (Chairman), Malcolm Jackson (Treasurer), John Leach, Roger Bell.
Absent: Mrs Janet Cowan, Andy Davey, Keith Channell, Nigel Till, Keith Channell.

of New Colours to Nijmegen Company which took place on Wednesday 26 June 2013 in the gardens at Buckingham Palace. The weather stayed dry and sunny and plenty of tea and cake was had by all.

We would like to inform all members about our Branch internet page, as it is a good way to find out what is happening and a way to ask questions or make comments. The link to this page is: <http://www.grenadierguardsbath.co.uk/> May we also remind everyone that we have a Facebook page: Bath Branch Grenadier Guards Association. Why not have a look and make some comments, enter some photos or even advertise something?



Brian Mitchell, a stalwart member of both the Bath Branch and the Trowbridge British Legion at the 2013 poppy stall in Trowbridge.

Finally we hope that we have helped you keep in touch with what is going on within the Branch and wider Grenadier Family. Of course you could do this in person by coming along to the monthly meetings which are held on the second Tuesday of every month at Coombe Down Rugby Club, Coombe Down, Bath. Please always remember *'Once a Grenadier, Always a Grenadier'*.

BRISTOL

(Formed 1914)

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

Vice Presidents: Lieutenant Colonel THE LORD WIGRAM, MC, DL, JP; Colonel ET BOLITHO, OBE. Lord Lieutenant of Cornwall: Lieutenant Colonel PE HILLS, FLCM, psm; Lieutenant Colonel LCA RANSON, TD; DT GRIFFITHS, Esq; J FROST, Esq; Lieutenant Colonel R M DORNEY, MBE; C SAVAGE, Esq; K JONES, Esq.

Chairman: Mr C SAVAGE.

Vice Chairman: Mr P FINCH.

Secretary: Mr M ALLEN, 51 Vowles Close, Wraxall, Bristol. BS48 1PP. Tel: 07891 238866.

Email: bristolbranch@grengds.com

Website: www.bristolgrenadiers.org

Twitter: @GrenGdsBristol

Treasurer: Mr AF LOCK.

Welfare: Mr R BLEADEN.

Meetings: Committee meetings will be held at 1530hrs on the last Sunday of each month (Excluding January) in The Officers Mess, The Royal Artillery Grounds, Whiteladies Road, Clifton, Bristol, BS8 2LG.

2013 began in glorious fashion for the Bristol Branch when on a splendid Spring afternoon in April, the Branch skittle team under the captaincy of **Mike O'Gorman** inflicted a crushing defeat upon the Bristol Branch of the Coldstream Guards Association in the Annual St George's Cup skittles match at the Port of Bristol social club in Shirehampton. Having lost the cup to the Coldstreamers in 2012 the Grenadier team was under immense pressure as defeat was most certainly not an option. The Grenadiers won every set of the match bar one and **Brian Womack** top scored for the Branch with a magnificent score of 35. The Coldstreamers were nothing but magnanimous in defeat and warmly applauded a fine Grenadier victory, and of course we wish the Coldstreamers the very best of luck in 2014. The Buffet that was laid on was first rate and with the extremely



Branch Skittles team captain Mike O'Gorman (right) accepts the St George's Cup from the Coldstream team captain.

reasonable bar prices at the PBA club a very enjoyable afternoon was had by all attending. Well done to **Mike** and the team and we look forward to the 2014 competition when we again hope to see the Coldstreamers sent home with their tails between their legs.

The first excursion 'up the M4' to London for the Branch came on 19th May when a nearly full coach departed Bristol for Regimental Remembrance Day. We are delighted to report that numbers attending this event are up considerably on recent years and we are hoping that this trend continues. As in recent years, we arrived in London quite early in the day to allow Branch members ample time to seek out suitable lunch venues before the formalities of the afternoon began. Most Branch members repaired to the local Wetherspoons establishment on Whitehall and reported back on the very reasonable prices at this establishment. You may recall in last year's Branch report that **Chris Quinlan** had represented the Bristol Branch as Colour Point for the 2011 parade, this meant that **Chris** was to fulfil the duties of Wreath Bearer on this year's parade and what a splendid job he did. **Chris** looked every inch the ex-LSgt on Horse Guards Parade, a huge well done to **Chris** who represented the Branch with immense style and panache. After the service in the Guards Chapel most Branch members repaired to the Garrison Sergeants' Mess to avail themselves of the very comfortable hospitality that is found within, along with extremely generous bar prices. On the return to Bristol we were once again made extremely welcome for a Fish and Chip supper by the Windsor Branch at their clubhouse just off the M4 in Windsor. This arrangement has become very popular with the Branch members and will continue in 2014; many thanks to **Bob Gilbert** and the Windsor Branch committee and Branch members for extending such a warm welcome to us.

The highlight of the year for most Branch members was Her Majesty's Grenadier Day at Buckingham Palace on 26th June. Two full coaches departed Bristol on a glorious Wednesday morning. It was widely acknowledged that running two coaches to an event was unprecedented in recent Branch history and the Branch Treasurer, **Tony Lock** was heard to mutter that there was "nothing like a garden party to get them out the woodwork". After a brief diversion to collect Branch members from Swindon, both coaches met up at Reading Services and travelled the remainder of the journey in convoy into London. Upon arrival in London Branch members dispersed to find lunch venues before the Palace gates opened to allow us admission. It is rumoured that the Wetherspoons establishment on Whitehall once again benefited enormously from this arrangement.

All attending thoroughly enjoyed the formal proceedings of the afternoon and agreed to a man that the inspection of The Queen's Company and the Presentation of New Colours to Nijmegen Company were

both spectacles to behold and many commented on how fortunate they were to be able to witness such a magnificent parade in such a setting as the grounds of Buckingham Palace. After the formalities of the parade, Branch members were able to mingle informally and enjoy Her Majesty's hospitality at the Garden Party to commemorate the Association Centenary. The one disappointment of the afternoon was that the Colonel, **His Royal Highness The Duke of Edinburgh** was unable to attend. Despite this disappointment all attending had a fantastic day and one or two Branch members had the distinct honour of being presented to **Her Majesty**. After a very long and tiring day our coaches headed home along the M4, both full of slumbering Branch members.

The next event on the 2013 Branch calendar arrived on a splendid Sunday afternoon in August when the Branch Chairman, **Chris Savage** and his good lady **Hilary** threw open the doors of their home in Frenchay and invited some forty Branch members to join them for an afternoon Garden Party. As one would expect from the ex-Regimental Sergeant Major the hospitality afforded was second to none, the first rate rations and liquid refreshment were most certainly in abundance and all attending had a most memorable afternoon. The Branch would like to extend its thanks to **Hilary** and **Chris** for their tremendous hospitality and also inform them that we look forward to seeing this event repeated on next year's calendar!

2013 was proving to be a very busy year for the Branch and on a glorious Sunday in early October some 24 Branch members departed Bristol on a joint trip with the Bristol Branch of the Coldstream Guards Association to the Imperial War Museum in London. The Branch secretary had made arrangements for breakfast to be taken at the Beefeater Restaurant just off the M4 at Swindon. This arrangement proved to be very popular as Branch members could avail themselves of the extensive breakfast menu which included fresh fruit, cereals, juices, toast, croissants, a full cooked selection and unlimited tea and coffee for a very reasonable £8.25 per person. It has since been decided that this arrangement will be included in future excursions to London. Those attending this trip had several hours at leisure to explore the Imperial War Museum which proved to be a fascinating destination; afterwards we retired to the Union Jack Club in Waterloo for a couple of hours relaxation before the journey home to Bristol. Some Branch members had not visited the Union Jack Club before and were very impressed with the facilities on offer; most took full advantage of the very reasonably priced bar and bar meal prices. Upon leaving the club several Branch members stated that they were extremely impressed with the facilities therein and said that they intended to join the club as soon as possible. The Union Jack Club is a members only club which is available to all ex-servicemen, the annual subscription

is very reasonable and the facilities on offer are first class. The club boasts an excellent restaurant, the bedrooms are of an exceptionally high standard and the welcome extended to members is unparalleled.

The Branch Annual Dinner was held in mid-October at the now customary venue of the Royal Artillery Grounds in Clifton with a near record turnout for the Dinner and nearly one hundred Branch members sat down to an excellent meal. We were delighted to welcome as our guest **Colonel E H Houstoun OBE**, President of the Grenadier Guards Association. Branch members travelled from far and wide for the Dinner, some made the long journey from

Cornwall, some travelled from Birmingham, a contingent came from Swindon and **Sgt James Thompson** and his good lady, **Emma**, made the arduous trip up the M4 from Aldershot. However the long distance traveller award must surely go to **Mary Roach** who travelled from her home in Alicante, Spain to attend the Dinner, a fantastic effort by anyone's standard. After dinner the Branch President, **Major General Sir Evelyn Webb-Carter KCVO, OBE**, thanked all those who had travelled long distances to attend and said how delighted he was that **Colonel Houstoun** was able to attend, **General Sir Evelyn** explained that after ten years of being the President of the Association **Colonel Houstoun** was standing down at the end of 2013. The Bristol Branch wishes **Colonel Houstoun** a very relaxing retirement and extend our grateful thanks for his unswerving commitment to the Association over the past ten years. After the formalities of the speeches the Branch secretary conducted the prize draw, the Branch President pulled the first ticket out of the hat and to the dismay of all the Secretary revealed that it belonged to one of the attending Coldstreamers! The Branch Chairman was heard to say that after losing the St Georges Cup in such spectacular fashion earlier in the year it was only fair that they won something. The dinner was a huge success and our thanks go to **WO2 Alan Chick** and his team for their hard work in ensuring that the evening ran so smoothly.

Whilst 2013 was a hugely successful year for the Bristol Branch we have extremely high expectations of 2014, the Centenary year for the Branch. Plans are well under way for a spectacular Centenary Dinner in the Autumn and we would be delighted to see new faces from within the Branch joining in with the celebrations. During 2013 our Branch

Vice Chairman of many years, **Paul Lawday** stood down. Due to his heavy workload and other commitments **Paul** had found it increasingly difficult to attend Branch events and meetings and decided that stepping down from his post was the best course of action for the Branch. We all extend our thanks to **Paul** for the years of commitment that he

has given the Branch. In his place we welcome **Paul's** successor **Peter Finch**, **Peter** has already cut his teeth as Vice Chairman by chairing several Branch Committee meetings and we are delighted to report that he is shaping up rather well. In closing this year's Branch report it is our sad duty to report the passing of Bristol Branch member **2624427 EH (Ted)**

George. The Bristol Branch extends its grateful thanks to all at Regimental Headquarters whose tremendous hard work keep the Association on an even keel.



Bristol Branch Annual Dinner 2013, from Left to Right: the Branch Chairman, the Branch Secretary, Colonel P Hills, Lord Wigram, the Branch President, Colonel EH Houstoun OBE, Keith Jones and John Frost.

BURTON-UPON-TRENT

(Formed 1934)

President: Awaiting Appointment.

Chairman: Awaiting Appointment.

Secretary: Mr T GILMAN, 31 Dovecliff Crescent, Streton, Burton-on-trent, DE13 0JH.

Meetings: Awaiting Arrangements.

CAMBRIDGE

(Formed 1932)

President: Capt CNR BROWN.

Vice Presidents: Mrs M BEVAN; Mr W GIBBS; Mr W CLARKE; Mr M DRAPER.

Chairman: D CLARK, Esq.

Secretary: Mrs P MASON, 20 Provence Road, Huntingdon. PE29 6UW. Tel: 01480 413175.

Email: patm.mason@tiscali.co.uk

Meetings: Second Monday, Bi-monthly lunches: February, April, August, December. Second Sunday: June, October. In local Hostelrys 1230hrs for 1300hrs.

We have had our regular bi-monthly lunches, usually on a Monday but two on a Sunday for those who



Our gentlemen attending Her Majesty's Grenadier Day.



The Cambridge Branch together for Her Majesty's Grenadier Day.

have to work! This year we decided that these would all be at the Meridian Golf Club at Toft. It is fairly central for members, easy to get to by car; good parking, good food and pleasant staff who look after us well. These lunches are well attended and we are very pleased to see the good friends who support us; our thanks go to **Mick and Margaret Draper** who arrange them. This year we also held our AGM there, with lunch following. We still have our lunchtime Committee meetings as and when needed.

Several branch members attended Regimental Remembrance Sunday, such a poignant service, with both the Chapel Choir and as always, the Regimental Band; what lovely music and beautiful singing. After the service, **Mick and Margaret Draper** were introduced to the Colonel. We would like to add that the new kneelers presented to the Chapel are beautifully made and an ideal memorial.

The highlight of this year of course was Her Majesty's Grenadier Day. What a wonderful, memorable day and how proud we were to be able to attend and be part of it. We had more than 50 members who attended by coach or car and all thoroughly enjoyed it. **Bill Gibbs and Mick Draper**, representing the branch, were presented to the Queen in the line-up. An opportunity also for meeting up with old friends – not enough time to see them all but that is to be expected and it is the same at Grenadier Day

every year. We were so lucky with the weather too. Our thanks go to all the staff at RHQ who worked so hard with the organisation, what a mammoth task.

Our Annual lunch was well attended, we were due to have **Capt James Brown**, son of our President as our Regimental Guest but he was called away on Regimental duties. We were, however, very lucky to have **Capt Michael Dobbin**, MC stand in for him. A very pleasant young man who chatted to all our members and gave an excellent speech. We were also very pleased to have **Capt and Mrs Barry Double** as guests who met up with quite a few old friends. We were also delighted to have our Honorary Life Vice President, **Mrs Mary Bevan** who is a great supporter of the branch, together with our other two Vice Presidents, **Bill Gibbs and Bill Clark**, both of whom had to miss the lunch last year due to ill health, together with **Peter Sanderson** our Treasurer. We are delighted to report that **24707912 Jon Pink** has recently returned to our Branch.

One of our members, **Raymond Goddard**, who spent more than 20 years playing



A young Ray Goddard.

trumpet and cornet in the Grenadier Guards Band, passed away in October 2011. His widow, **Barbara**, decided when she moved house this year, to donate his collection of instruments – a trumpet, two cornets and a post horn – to the 2484 (Bassingbourn) Air Cadets Squadron. She and her son **Mark**, a former air cadet himself, had seen the cadets playing at the Remembrance Service in Royston. They decided that giving **Ray's** instruments to the squadron would let his love of music live on. **Flying Officer Charles Rogers**, from the 2484 cadets, said: "We rely on donations of this nature to keep our instrument stocks up. **Mr Goddard's** story also helps the cadets be aware of the military history of the area, which is an important part of what we do.

Finally our secretary would like to express her sincere thanks to **Major Andy Green**, **LSgt Rob Broomes** and all the Staff at RHQ for their help and support.

CHESTERFIELD

(Formed 1952)

President: Awaiting appointment.

Vice Presidents: M CARNALL; D LEECH; C LIMB.

Chairman: D LEECH.

Hon Secretary: D BRIGNULL, 85 Deerlands Road, Wingerworth, Chesterfield, Derbys. S42 6UZ. Tel: (01246) 206054.

Email: d.brignull@yahoo.co.uk

Treasurer: D BRIGNULL.

Meetings: Second Monday of each month at the Welbeck Inn, Soresby Street, Chesterfield.

The highlight of the year was, undoubtedly, the Garden Party at Buckingham Palace. Members of the Branch, friends and guests enjoyed The Queen's Company inspection, the Presentation of New Colours by Her Majesty the Queen to Nijmegen Company and the Party which followed, despite their disappointment at the enforced absence of **HRH The Colonel**. We were well represented and it was particularly pleasing to see **2629256 Fred** and **Di Neal**, with their two daughters and **Penny Osborn**, widow of **Ian**.

The Branch was also well represented on Black Sunday. Once again, despite continued ill health, **Fred Neal** attended accompanied by his wife **Di** and family members. **24281477 Peter Brown** assisted **Fred**, who was in a wheelchair, on the parade. Regrettably we still have some members on the sick list; **22648847 Dennis Thompson**, **Fred Neal**, **Albert Perrins** Coldstream Guards and former chairmen **22894448 John Metcalfe** and **2626625 Charles Limb**, our oldest member. We still keep in touch with these members and have not given up hope of meeting up with them again at a Branch meeting or Association event. Two wreathes were laid on Remembrance Sunday, one in Chesterfield by **Peter**

Brown and in Clowne by **23135571 Michael Garrett**.

Mick and **Maureen Garrett**, many years ago, adopted the role of Branch fundraisers. As Grenadier Day was combined with the Garden Party, the one occasion when the branch stall could be manned was at Alfreton. We extend our grateful thanks to **Mick** and **Maureen** for their efforts on that day and the considerable sum raised.

Sadly we have to report the death of **Richard Done**. **Richard** had been unwell for some time following a stroke a few years previously. He tried very hard to regain his former good health but, despite his efforts and the help received from his wife **Pam** and members of his family, **Richard** suffered one set back after another. It was his ambition to return for a Branch meeting but, unfortunately, this was not to be. After service with the Regiment, **Richard** served with the Metropolitan Police Force. On retirement **Richard** and **Pam** returned to live in Shirebrook. Our thoughts, at this sad time, go to **Pam** and the family. His passing is a great loss to the Branch in particular and the Association in general. We are pleased to report that **23444637 David Leech**, our chairman, was on behalf of the Branch, able to present a donation of £300 to the Ashgate Hospice, Chesterfield.

In conclusion our thanks to **David Leech**, **23862880 Michael Carnall** and the members who regularly attend our monthly meetings, together with **Major Green** and **Rob Broomes** at RHQ, for their support.

DERBY

(Formed 1914)

President: AATTENBOROUGH.

Chairman: T SAVAGE.

Hon Secretary: I SUTTON, 9 Orchard Close, Boulton Moor, Derby, DE24 5AE. Tel: (01332) 755156.

Email: ian.sutton80@ntlworld.com

Treasurer: J BUTLER.

Meetings: Every third Wednesday of each month, starting 2000hrs at, The Station Inn Midland Road, Derby, DE1 2SN (Opposite the Royal Mail sorting office).

For the last six years we have held our monthly meetings at the Station Inn on Midland Road, Derby. Our thanks go to **Dave** and **Lynne** for their hospitality. They have now retired and unfortunately the pub has closed. Future meetings will be held at the Evington Club, 244 Village Street, Derby, DE23 8DD.

After the Association's Centenary last year it will be our Branch's turn in 2014. We plan to hold an Open Day at Loco Hall on Saturday 19th July 2014 with the Band of the Grenadier Guards booked for the event. We are presently fund raising and made over £300 at a Coffee Morning held in the Mayor's Parlour in September. We

would like to thank the two Guardsmen from Nijmegen Company who helped on the day.

As this is our Centenary year, here is a brief history of the Derby Branch. Just days after the commencement of World War One the Branch was formed, on the 31st July 1914. The first dinner was held in 1923 at the old Assembly Rooms in the Market Place. Apart from the war period 1939–1945, dinners have been held throughout succeeding years.

It is interesting to note the Presidential history of the Derby Branch. From 1922 to 1930 our first President was **Colonel R W Chandos-Pole**; from 1930 to 1947 **Major Bishop**. Then from 1947 to 1994 the son of the first President **Major J W Chandos-Pole** followed by **Capt W M Ogilvie** (Scots Guards and SAS) until 2003. Our Current President is **Arthur Attenborough**, who was also the Chairman for 34 years. **Arthur** served twice in the Regiment from 1933 to 1937, then after recall from 1939 to 1945. This makes **Arthur** only the fifth President in the Branch's 100 year history. **Arthur** still regularly attends meetings and celebrated his 98th birthday on 4th December 2013.

There have been only five Branch Secretaries before our present secretary took on the role 12 years ago. **Mr Tomlinson** 1914 to 1925, **Mr A E Croft** 1925 to 1950, **Mr A Cleavelly** 1950 to 1981, **Mr G Stubbs** 1981 to 1988 and **Mr E Edwards** 1988 to 2002.

The present Chairman **Trevor Savage** has been in post for nearly two decades. It is the dedication of **Trevor** and all the past and present Branch Officers that has kept the Branch as strong as we entered our 100th year.

In 2004 to highlight the Branch's identity in its 90th year we raised funds to purchase our own Association Banner. The Banner was then dedicated at Derby Cathedral in February 2005. It has since been present for funerals of local Grenadiers, both serving and retired. Initially carried by **Terry Sellers**, this role has recently been taken over by **Geoff Gadsby**. Each year they have also paraded at the Derby Remembrance Service and other military events.

On a final sad note we remember **22545199 Bryan Crofts** who died on 18th March 2013 and his widow who died at Christmas; also **2629116 Norman (Dusty) Rhodes** who died on 22nd October 2014. Lest we forget.



EAST KENT

(Formed 1948)

President and Chairman: Major D BRADLEY, BEM, DL.

Vice Chairman: T JONES, MBE, Esq.

Vice Presidents: Lieutenant Colonel R M DORNEY, MBE; JG CLUFF, DL, Esq.

Secretary, Treasurer and Webmaster: RC GOODSON, Esq.
Tel: (01303) 263958.

Email: eastkentbranch@grengds.com

Branch Visiting Friend: WCF MARSHALL, Esq.

Branch website: www.ekb.org.uk

Meetings: Held at the Royal British Legion Club, St. Leonards Road, Hythe, Kent, CT21 6EN. Please see the Branch website or contact the Honorary Secretary for details.

A bitterly cold and very snowy start to 2013 meant only five members that live within a couple of miles of our meeting venue were able to get to our January Branch meeting. The rest were prevented from attending as roads were closed or impassable due to the amount of snow that had fallen.

In March, and just 6 days before our March meeting, another bitterly cold spell arrived with yet more snow across many eastern and southern parts of the UK. The Branch committee was left wondering whether the snowy conditions would also threaten our AGM and March meeting. Now that we only hold Branch meetings in the odd months of the year (January, March, May, July, September and November), the possibility of a further meeting having minimal attendance would have been very problematic to the organisation of events planned for the first part of the year. However, the conditions improved a little and we had a healthy attendance with 17 members present (including two new Associate members who were welcomed to their first meeting) and 12 recorded apologies. Thankfully, we managed to cover a great deal of points in respect of the Saturday 27 April 2013 parade in Hythe High Street, the band concert on the night of 27 April 2013, held at the Leas Cliff Hall in Folkestone, and for Her Majesty's Grenadier Day on Wednesday 26 June 2013.

Both the High Street parade (by the Band of the Grenadiers) and the band concert that evening were a huge success. **Algy Cluff DL** (Deputy Lieutenant of Kent) and the Right Worshipful Mayor of Hythe took the salute at the High Street parade which attracted a huge amount of people to Hythe that day. For the evening band concert, again given by the Band of the Grenadier Guards, we had a good audience. **Lord De L'Isle** (the Lord Lieutenant of Kent), **Algy Cluff DL** (Deputy Lieutenant of Kent), the Right Worshipful Town Mayor of Hythe (**Councillor David Owen**), the Worshipful Town Mayor of Folkestone (**Councillor Rodica Wheeler**), a representative from Shepway District Council (**Councillor Brian Copping**) and their wives, partners or consorts attended as VIPs.



Major Denis Bradley BEM, DL, the Mayor, Capt Mike Smith and the Regimental Band in Hythe.

A 'bucket collection' at the High Street parade raised £619.13 for ABF The Soldiers' Charity and another 'bucket collection' after the band concert raised a further £316.45 which was subsequently donated in sponsorship of our 'local boy', **Charlie Dehnel**, who was riding in the Wellington2Waterloo Bike Ride in late September and raising much needed funds for the Colonel's Fund Grenadier Guards. Profit from the concert was in support of our Branch and will help secure our financial future.

On 26 June 2013 Branch members and their guests attended Her Majesty's Grenadier Day at Buckingham Palace which also celebrated the centenary of the Grenadier Guards Association. As expected, we received enquiries from all quarters on how tickets could be obtained. Thankfully, all needs were met. We are very grateful to the Regimental Adjutant (**Major Grant Baker**), **Major Stephen Dehnel MBE** and all others involved in the organisation and operation of Her Majesty's Grenadier Day as they did a truly marvellous job. This event was well attended by the Branch although regrettably our Branch Secretary, **Bob Goodson**, at the last moment was unable to join the proceedings due to unforeseen circumstances. Members were extremely grateful to **Bob** for his usual meticulous attention to detail in making all the arrangements for the day which went off without a hitch.

Branch members from the Hythe and Folkestone area were taken to Canterbury by minibus to join the coach transporting our north-east Kent contingent. We arrived at Buckingham Palace in good time, so were able to convene in the gardens as soon as the gates opened to enjoy an hour chatting amongst ourselves and meeting up with old comrades and friends from other branches of our Association. It was interesting to 'people watch' and see the crowds swell to over 4,000 and enjoy the range of splendid ladies' outfits and impressive hats.

The Queen, resplendent in aquamarine, was received on parade with a Royal Salute. Sadly, the Colonel, **Prince Philip**, was not well enough to attend the occasion. After the Queen had inspected The Queen's Company and Nijmegen Company she presented New Colours to Nijmegen Company; this was an honour for those involved as they were the first colours Nijmegen Company had received since 2001. In her address the Queen said it was a pleasure to see so many present and that she trusted that the Regimental Association, "the embodiment of the Regimental Family", would thrive equally well in the next century. **The Queen** also sent wishes for good fortune to all Grenadiers on behalf of herself and **Prince Philip**.

After the pomp and ceremony of the inspection and presentation it was time for the attending throng to enjoy afternoon tea consisting of a selection of sandwiches, dainty cakes and fruit scones with blackcurrant jam and clotted cream accompanied by tea, iced coffee or Sandringham Apple Juice. Also served was Marshfield Farm vanilla ice cream – very welcome in the warm afternoon sunshine. We enjoyed the music of the Band of the Grenadier Guards and the Regimental Band of the Scots Guards who played throughout the afternoon.

Following Her Majesty's Grenadier Day, the majority of Branch members and guests from the Branch rounded off the day by attending the Branch Annual Dinner which this year we were fortunate to be able to hold in the Gascoigne Suite of the Union Jack Club. This dinner marked the 65th anniversary of the East Kent Branch. The Union Jack Club is a wonderful venue and the service and organisation were impeccable; but with a Grenadier as the Deputy Chief Executive, nothing less than being perfect would have been accepted, or expected, anyway.

We were delighted to be joined by 13 members of the Wigan, St Helen's and District Branch of the Grenadier Guards Association. A pleasant meal was enjoyed by all and toasts were proposed by **Major Dennis Bradley BEM DL**, Branch President, to Her Majesty the Queen, to His Royal Highness Prince Philip and to the Regiment. Following an address by **Major Bradley** thanks were given on behalf of the guests by **Victor Barley OStJ**, an Honorary Member of the East Kent Branch. **Barry Taylor**, President of the Wigan, St Helen's and District Branch thanked the East Kent Branch for giving their members the opportunity of attending the dinner and for the welcome that they received; all agreed that they felt at ease with new found friends. We then made our journey home after a truly splendid and memorable day.

In late September, the epic Wellington2Waterloo sponsored bike ride passed through Kent and our President and his wife (**Mave**) were able to represent the Branch in Maidstone where the Band of the Grenadier Guards entertained those assembled in Jubilee Square and the riders stopped for a well deserved break, having



W2W briefing at Dover Docks.

ridden south from Wellington Barracks earlier that day. Later that same day, the riders passed through Ashford and Hythe en route to their overnight stop at St. Martins Plain Camp in Shorncliffe and East Kent Branch members were able to cheer the riders on as they rode past. A few Branch members were also able to meet up with the riders and the event organisers at St. Martins Plain Camp that evening.

The next day, the riders continued on their journey to Dover and some Branch members were able to travel with them on The Pride of Kent and meet up with them en route at a number of locations as they made their way to Waterloo. The East Kent Branch would like to congratulate all those that took part, helped organise, helped out, or who sponsored riders. A superb effort by all.

At the time of writing we are looking forward to our Christmas Party in mid-December 2013, will be the final Branch event for the year. It will be held at the Hythe Royal British Legion Club. Our entertainment for the evening will be the very harmonious and melodic 'Swingtime Sweethearts' who are a Wartime Swing Duo.

Bill and Beverley Marshall continue to be great assets to the Branch and will be organising another great raffle and **Vicky Johnson** will be catering to her usual high standard. Great fun awaits all those that attend.



The Swingtime Sweethearts.

Our Vice Chairman (**Trevor Jones MBE**) is in the process of organising a trip to Nijmegen for 19–22 September 2014 and many members have

indicated interest in attending. This event coincides with the 70th Anniversary of WWII and we are all looking forward to that event. There may be spare capacity, so if any reader is also interested in coming on the trip then please make contact with the Honorary Secretary as soon as possible and we will gladly send you more information.

We are pleased to report that our membership numbers have increased again this year and we have especially had great interest in Associate membership from many ex-serving soldiers who are not Grenadiers. It is a pleasure to have them with us and to be able to show them 'How it should be done'.

ESSEX

(Formed 1946)

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

Vice Presidents: Capt BD DOUBLE; MW GILES, Esq; GL LYSTER, Esq, DL; G COURTAULD, Esq, DL; Major TH BREITMEYER, DL; Capt CIT WHITE-THOMSON.

Chairman: MW GILES, Esq.

Secretary: Mrs J KIMBERLEY, Alderbrook, Worlds End Lane, Peering, Colchester. CO5 9NJ. Tel: (01376) 571650.

Email: j-kimb@tiscali.co.uk

Treasurer: Mrs L LAND.

Meetings: Royal Air Force Association, Hall Street, Chelmsford, CM2 0HG.

We are pleased to report that the Essex Branch is holding its own and going as strongly as possible. There is a great deal of support for the Branch from our current membership especially with all the various events going on, but it is difficult to recruit any new members very easily but we will keep trying. Over the last year our membership has fallen to 120.

We have had various lunches, for different occasions at a very special hotel in Essex. These have been delightful and much enjoyed by everyone. About 40 people attended each lunch and hopefully we will have more as we look forward to our 2013 Christmas lunch in December. Our visit to Her Majesty's Grenadier Day attracted 49 guests all of whom thought it a fantastic and thoroughly enjoyable event.

In addition to the various lunches we hold we held our usual Braxted Park Lunch. Our Regimental Guest was **Lt Alex Shirreff** who gave an excellent speech that everyone found most interesting; we hope he will be able to join us again soon. We also held our usual Garden Party at the home of **Mr and Mrs George Courtauld** and we were so lucky because the weather was superb which allowed us to enjoy wandering around the various gardens without too much worry. Our Annual General Meeting was held in April and we have no changes to our

Branch Officers or committee members to report.

Our programme for 2014 is currently being planned with one or two new events being looked at as well as the tried and tested. We do hope to be able to visit the House of Lords in the Summer having visited the House of Commons in 2013. In conclusion the Branch secretary would like to thank all her members for their continuing help, support and encouragement.

GLOUCESTERSHIRE

(Formed 1949)

President: Colonel LCA RANSON, TD.

Vice Presidents: Lieutenant Colonel THE LORD WIGRAM, MC, DL; Capt JGL PUGH; Capt MJ MACKINLAY MACLEOD; RDN FISHER, Esq; WJ EYKYN, Esq; Major THE HON ANDREW WIGRAM, MVO; Lieutenant Colonel JG PEEL, TD, DL; Capt JA FERGUSSON-CUNINGHAME, MC; Major S MARCHAM, MBE; NJ SIMMS, Esq; PG GWILLIAM, Esq; Lieutenant Colonel CJE SEYMOUR, LVO; DAE GEORGE, Esq; Capt E C GORDON LENNOX; Colonel GW TUFNELL, CVO, DL; Lt GL BANKS; Sir HENRY WG ELWES, KCVO.

Chairman: PT JONES.

Secretary: C KNIGHT, Ridgeway, Bream Road, St. Briavels, Lydney, Glos, GL15 6TL. Home Tel: (01594) 530154.

Email: grenadiersglos@tiscali.co.uk

Website: www.gloUCEstershiregrenadiers.co.uk

This will be the Branch secretary's 27th annual report and will reflect upon what has been, once more, a busy and active year. As a matter of interest he had never missed the Secretaries Annual General Meeting in London until this year. Setting out at 0530 hours he was forced to turn back due to road closures resulting from a heavy snow fall during the previous night. However it is mid-October 2013 as this report is being written and the sun is shining brightly from a blue sky. As instructed by RHQ, the report for this year commences from October 2012.

Unfortunately since our last report we have suffered the loss of some of our members. This time round we have said goodbye to **Les Harrison, Peter Lee, Reginald Hollocks, John Holmes, Brian Click** and **Peter Walby**, all lost to the higher parade ground together with an Honorary and Associate member. The Nominal Roll holds well, we have managed to gain a few additions; the advent of communications via the internet is credited for this. We are very fortunate to have an excellent assortment of Associate and Honorary members who support the branch well. On the subject of meetings, we commence at 1930hrs normally concluding about 2145hrs or even later. Complimentary hot pies served during the interval prove popular. To make meetings more interesting we introduce a guest speaker from time

to time. When our speaker is invited to speak, after business for the meeting has been concluded, ladies are invited to join us for the presentation. Interest from the ladies has notably increased. The formula appears to be working well as attendance at meetings, far from decreasing, is actually increasing.

Our branch can pride itself, for yet another year, with regard to welfare. Our Welfare Officer, **David Leighton**, is now in his fifth year in office. **David** does an excellent job making many visits, telephone calls and undertaking various tasks for those with a problem. **Jeanette**, his good lady, supports him well with his duties. Christmas cheques were personally given to twenty of our more senior members to include some of those, who for whatever reason have not enjoyed good times of late.

Remembrance Sunday saw all the allocation of tickets we received taken for the Muster and Service of Remembrance at Cheltenham Town Hall. Early December 2012, for the seventh consecutive year, saw a 'Full House' attend at Dumbleton Hall for a Christmas Lunch; **Derek Knott** takes it upon himself to organise this. We sit down to a first class traditional Christmas Dinner in lovely surroundings with a great atmosphere. On these occasions we are joined by children and grandchildren, to make it a real Grenadier Family occasion. The Winchcombe Silver Band make an appearance entertaining us with carols and seasonal music. A big thank you to **Derek** for arranging this seasonal occasion for the members and beat this one: before Christmas Day 2012 the Christmas Lunch for 2013 was sold out. Yes, sold out a year in advance. This seasonal gathering certainly has great appeal.

Thanks must go once more to our Social Secretary **Alan Holford** for being the Promoter of our Christmas lottery. **Alice** his good lady ably assists **Alan** who we know would be lost without her help. No one escapes **Alan** in his enthusiasm to promote the draw and to sell their tickets. Fingers are crossed every year that sales might fall, however it is pleasing to report that the draw still makes good funds for the branch, as does our separate 100 Club which holds four draws each year. Good old **Alan** is the administrator for this scheme as well.

The Branch Christmas Social, which concluded our calendar for 2012, was well attended. We are very fortunate to have the Victory Club in Cheltenham to hold our meetings, together with our Christmas Social, as the facilities on offer are first class. The Christmas Social is held during the daytime which appears to be favourable with the membership. A hot two course lunch is served together with a host of interests to keep the audience on their toes. The same format is to be repeated again this year. Last year we held it on a Saturday instead of the traditional Sunday. With numbers down slightly we have, for this year, moved it back to a Sunday.

Moving forward to 2013 and March was the month of our well attended Annual General Meeting. **John Head**

(RAPC) sadly stepped down as Vice Chairman together with **John Carter** from the committee. Thanks to them both for the long stint they both completed. Apart from that all officers remained in their respective posts.

Members attended Regimental Remembrance Day on Sunday 19th May. Both on the outwards and return journey we stopped at the Guards Club, Windsor, where we were well looked after with a Fish & Chip Supper. Thanks to the Windsor Branch secretary **Bob Gilbert** and his team for ensuring that we are always made most welcome. Two coaches took members to London for Her Majesty's Grenadier Day at Buckingham Palace and a two night stay at the Union Jack Club. A few members made their own respective arrangements and the overall view of the members was that it was indeed a memorable occasion with the only less than positive comment being the lack of chairs available in the Palace grounds.

Yet again we achieved a good gathering for a lunch at a Gurkha Restaurant run by one of our Honorary Members **Keshar Shercham**. Something different always has an appeal; thanks to **David Leighton** for the idea and taking on the responsibility once again. To celebrate the 100th Anniversary of the Association we arranged a Band Concert at Lydney Town Hall. Prior to the concert Branch members and their guests were entertained to an excellent subsidised meal with a few drinks thrown in. Later we were entertained by the Regimental Band to a fine concert under the Director of Music **Capt Mike Smith**, an entertainer in his own right with his various quips and anecdotes. For the concert, tickets were sold to members of the public; and this proved so popular that an announcement had to be made on local radio appealing to the public to make no further enquiries as all tickets had been taken.

Colonel John Peel once more invited members to his home for the now well established Garden Party, now in its twenty-seventh year. The weather could have been kinder however we managed to get through the day with just a couple of very slight showers. We must thank **Ivor Jones** and **Derek Dean** for slaving over the barbecue, cooking over one hundred steaks, one hundred and fifty sausages and one hundred burgers. As you will observe guests could not complain of not being well nourished considering that this was accompanied by hot potatoes

and salad. To finish, a selection of desserts were served. **Sgt Michael Beasley**, only a few days into being a civilian, volunteered to help his wife **Yvonne** with the catering. We thought that you would have learnt with all your service in the regiment **Michael**; never to

volunteer! We had a very unusual invite in August when a party of 20 was invited to Hereford with the Special Air Service for the day. A very pleasant and interesting experience and after the tour we were all treated to a lunch and a pint in their Mess. Thank you **David Hickman** the Mr Fix It.

Our Annual Formal Lunch was held at the Hatherley Manor Hotel, near Gloucester with an excellent attendance. We were privileged to have as our guests the **Mayor of Gloucester** and **Captain Hugo Cartwright** from the Regiment, both of

whom gave excellent addresses. To conclude 2013 we still have the Dumbleton Luncheon and the Christmas Social to look forward to.

We continue to send Birthday cards to every member for whom we have a date of birth, which is the majority. The scheme is now six years old and well received by the membership. It is now run by our Chairman **Peter Jones** and his wife **Pamela**. Prior to this **John & Gill Carter**, whose brainchild it was, administered the scheme. The entire committee is always ready to help when asked. It is the teamwork, enthusiasm and variety of ideas that maintains our camaraderie and they are the backbone of this most successful branch. **Norman Mitchell** a great character and member, now resident in the Royal Hospital, Chelsea, keeps regularly in touch and is always full of the joys of spring.

This branch has embraced modern technology and at the time of writing we now have 147 members who we can communicate with by e-mail, just over two thirds of the membership. 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, we believe, is one of the main ingredients of our success. **Colonel Lance Ranson**, our President, is always very active and gives the Branch tremendous support throughout the year; all of our members would like to thank him for his leadership and guidance as our President.



The group from the Gloucestershire Branch at the Guards Club Windsor on their return from Regimental Remembrance Day.

From Left to Right – Colonel Lance Ranson (President), David Leighton (Welfare Officer), Colin Knight (Secretary), Alan Holford (Social Secretary), Ivor Jones (Committee), Peter T Jones (Chairman), Nigel Simms (Vice President), Pat Bell, George Rimell and John Head (Honorary Member RAPC).

Many members from the branch are now in receipt of the newsletter from **Jim White**, who, once more, is to be commended for his enthusiasm and very personal effort in undertaking this task on a weekly basis. Our secretary can assure members that this branch is looking forward to the challenges ahead, and is certain that there will be many during 2014 and as he puts his pen back in the inkwell he is already making initial enquiries for a branch trip to Waterloo in 2015. Twenty five years ago the Branch attended the 175th anniversary re-enactment with many still cherishing memories of it. If the 200th celebration matches up to the last one we attended, then we are in for a fine occasion.

We would like to end this report by thanking **Major Andy Green** and the small staff at Regimental Headquarters who are very dedicated to keeping the spirit of the Association very much alive. **Rob Broomes**, our Association Clerk, appears to have settled into his role well, **Jay Ellingham** was a hard act to follow.

Having just caught site of the excellent 2013 Regimental Christmas Card with a painting by **Sean Bolan** who is a very talented artist to say the least, we feel very fortunate indeed to have **Sean's** services and the artwork he produces for the Association from time to time. As a matter of interest, his father **Ted** was a lifelong member of this Branch.

KINGSTON & DISTRICT

(Formed 1935)

President: Major DR ROSSI, MBE.

Vice Presidents: Brigadier GK BIBBY, CBE; LW SPENCER.

Chairman: Vacant.

Hon Secretary: JLH KNIGHT, 228 West Barnes Lane, New Malden, Surrey. KT3 6LT. Tel: Home (0208) 3361884.

Email: john-lh-knight@lineone.net

Hon Treasurer: Mrs E JONES.

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

Our reporting year commenced with the 2012 Christmas lunch at The Bannister Mess, Staff Leadership School, Alexander Barracks Pirbright on 2nd December. Our Guests on the day were **Colonel E H Houstoun OBE** and his wife **Joanna**. We also welcomed **WO1 Barry Daniels** who had recently taken the post of Regimental Sergeant Major of the Army Staff Leadership School. He was accompanied by his young son **Kieran**, a last minute recruit to fill a vacant place. Also at table was **Robbie Maskell** grandson of the President of the Molesey Royal British Legion Club.

Following lunch **Colonel Houstoun** was able to tell us what the year had involved for both the Regiment and

the Regimental Association and what the future held in store. He commenced his address by informing both **Kieran** and **Robbie** that contrary to what they believed, rather than an invitation to lunch the occasion had been in fact a recruiting campaign!

On the 3rd December the format of our December meeting was changed to accommodate the customary Bring and Buy Sale. Members and friends donated items which were, again by custom, auctioned by our President **Major Derek Rossi MBE** and our Chairman **Peter Horsfield**. It was an occasion for some fun and one of the few occasions in the year where we could actually contribute to our Treasurer being able to record a profit. **Liz Howell** came up trumps providing us with a welcome repast of sandwiches and nibbles to enhance the evening.

Despite an ageing and increasingly infirm population we continue our representation at Black Sunday. Several of our members answer the call and continue to fall in with their Battalions and those marching. In late May we learned of the Death of one of our longer serving members, **Reg Dowding**. **Reg** had served in the 6th Battalion and had been taken prisoner in Italy in 1943. In January 1945 he was one of the unfortunates who were forced by the Germans into the 'Long March to Freedom'. He had a cameo part in the recent television production remembering those horrors. Ill health had prevented **Reg** from attending meetings over recent years but he stayed in touch through his personal friends **Peter Horsfield** and **Lyn Jones**.

On 26th June we enjoyed a memorable day at Buckingham Palace for Her Majesty's Grenadier Day. What a splendid occasion and a first ever in the diaries of many who went along. The branch was well represented by members, associate members, honorary members and their families. From quiet observation we deduce that there may have been an illicit photograph or two taken on mobiles but we all hopefully await a view of the official photographer's efforts when they appear on the website.

Although the years continue to condemn the rest of us, **Mark Worsfold** can always be relied upon to carry our colours when it comes to physical activity. He didn't disappoint when in September he set out with the rest of the cyclists on the Wellington to Waterloo bike ride. He completed the course and by all accounts had a thoroughly enjoyable time.

In September, to cover for transport difficulties and other absences **Stan Hollaway** was unanimously elected to the newly created post of Deputy Chairman.



LEICESTERSHIRE & RUTLAND

(Formed 1927)

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

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: JR MORREY, Esq.

Secretary: R FLETCHER, 32 Main Street, Thorpe Satchville, Melton Mowbray. LE14 2DQ. Tel: (01664) 840653.

Email: gillm.c@btinternet.com

Treasurer: R FLETCHER, Esq.

Meetings: Second Sunday of each month (Lunch available if ordered through the secretary) at Westcote House, 55 Westcotes Drive, Leicester, LE3 0QU at 1230hrs.

The time has come for the report on the activities of the Branch during the latter part of 2012 and into the Association's Centenary Year 2013. The Festival of Remembrance Evening 2012 was held at the De Montfort Hall, Leicester on Saturday 3rd November. Entertainment was provided by the Band of the Royal Marines. Although a solemn occasion the audience was treated to a very pleasant and happy evening. The following Sunday being Remembrance Day, members attended their own churches and parades throughout the County, paying their respects.

Our Christmas Raffle draw took place on Wednesday, 12th December, 2012 at 7.30pm at the West Leicester Conservative Club. Our President, **Mr Murray-Philipson** was on hand to draw the winning tickets, ably supported by the Chairman, **Mr John Cowley**. Together they helped to make the evening a success. Following the draw members and guests enjoyed a fine buffet provided by our resident caterer, **Sue**. On Sunday 16th December we held our annual Christmas Lunch, the last social event for 2012. 38 members and partners attended. The chairman welcomed everyone and thanked them for their support throughout the year and hoped it would continue into the future. We were then treated to a delicious three course meal plus wine served again by our caterer **Sue**. To show our appreciation for the service given through the year, the staff were each given a gift for Christmas; so ended 2012 with us all looking forward to our Centenary Year 2013.

On Sunday 24th March 2013 the Branch held its AGM. All officers who served the Branch in 2012/13 were again elected to serve during the coming year. Although the weather was atrocious, the turn-out was good. The chairman thanked everyone for their support and hoped it would continue into 2013/14. The secretary, **Mr Ron Fletcher** was invited to attend the Oxford Branch AGM on Wednesday 10th April 2013 as an observer by **Mr**

Peter Brooks. Afterwards lunch was served.

A contingent from the Branch travelled to Wellington Barracks for Regimental Remembrance Day on Sunday 19th May 2013. The service in the chapel was excellent especially with the inclusion of the choir. Afterwards those who could joined the young Grenadiers for the march to Horse Guards for the wreath laying ceremony. The weather together with the Regimental Band and Corps of Drums made it a very enjoyable day. The Branch was informed of the Normandy Veterans Church Service at Packington village on Saturday 25th May 2013 and those who attended were made very welcome.



Branch members and partners at Regimental Remembrance Day.

A letter was received from the Lord Lieutenant's office, County Hall, Leicester with an invitation for two members of the Branch to attend the memorial service at Westminster Abbey for the Queen's Coronation. After consultation it was agreed that the chairman and secretary would attend on behalf of the Association. They reported that it was a wonderful and prestigious event and were privileged to attend. A letter of thanks was duly sent to the Lord Lieutenant's Office. The local Coldstream Branch invited our members to their Garden Party on Sunday 23rd June 2013 which took place at the Old Hall, Medbourne, Leicestershire home of **Mrs Wheeler Bennett**. About fifteen members and partners attended and thoroughly enjoyed the occasion, as well as the banter.



Ron Fletcher and John Cowley being interviewed by a German camera crew at Westminster Abbey on the occasion of The Queen's Coronation anniversary service.

Wednesday 26th June 2013 finally arrived for the occasion of Her Majesty's Grenadier Day at Buckingham Palace. A photographer from our local press was on hand to recall our departure from Leicester. On arrival, our entrance to the gardens was especially grand, passing through the Palace and Bow Room, onto the West Terrace. The parade of serving Grenadiers was excellent together with the bands. The weather was kind and everyone from the Branch came away delighted with this once in a lifetime experience. Thank you to all who helped to arrange it.



Branch members and partners preparing to leave for HMGD at Buckingham Palace.

Friday 5th July 2013 saw four members of the Branch attend the dedication Memorial Service at the National Memorial Arboretum (NMA) together with members of Nottingham, Worcester and Hereford Branches to honour the Grenadiers who fell during 2012 and 2013 in Afghanistan. Thanks go to **Dennis Ward** for organising the event. The RAF Regiment lined the pathway to the Memorial and were extremely smart and well turned out.



Grenadiers from Nottingham, Worcester and Leicestershire attending the memorial service at the NMA.

On Sunday 18th August 2013 our Annual Garden Party took place at our usual venue. The weather was very kind to us and those attending were again treated to many attractions to keep them happily occupied throughout the afternoon. Thanks go to the Coldstream Guards for their presence. The Raffle was popular once again with numerous prizes. Thanks go to our President **Robin Murray-Philipson** for drawing the winning tickets. Afterwards our ex-secretary and now vice-president **Mr John Morrey** presented a bouquet to the President's wife, **Mrs Nina Murray-Philipson**. Everyone enjoyed a lovely buffet provided by our friend **Guy** to round off a wonderful day.



Some elderly Grenadiers at our Garden Party.



Mr John Morrey, Vice-President, presenting a bouquet to Mrs Nina Murray-Philipson.

An invitation was received by the Branch from the Whitwick Branch of the British Legion to join them for the Royal Anglian Regiment's Day being held at the National War Museum at Duxford, Cambridgeshire on Sunday 1st September 2013. Those members who attended were able to enjoy the event and also visit the many exhibits at the extensive museum; a great day out.

Our thanks go to **Andy Green** and **Rob Broomes** for their valuable assistance throughout the year, it is much appreciated. However, we end our report on a sad note. In 2013 we lost our eldest member **4855841 Peter Chambers** aged 98. **Peter** joined the Regiment in 1933



The late Peter Chambers.

and served in Egypt, France, Windsor and Wellington Barracks. Whilst at Wellington Barracks the chapel was bombed and he, together with others helped to rescue the injured. He will be greatly missed by us all. God be with you, Peter; lest we forget.

LINCOLN

(Formed 1923)

President: Major D BRADLEY, BEM.

Vice Presidents: Mr A HILL, Capt I FARRELL.

Chairman: JD MARSHALL.

Hon Secretary: Mrs AM MARSHALL, 84 De Wint Avenue, Lincoln LN6 7DZ. Tel: (01522) 871184.

Email: lincolnbranch@grengds.com

Treasurer: N CROWTHER.

Meetings: Third Friday of each month at MS Therapy Centre, Outer Circle Drive, Lincoln, LN2 4JH at 1930hrs.

It's that time of year again; the annual report for the Gazette. Each year we say let's make notes throughout the year to help, and as usual we probably write one or two at the beginning then it slips away and once again we have to rely on our memory, so if we have forgotten to mention anything or anyone of note, our apologies.

The branch monthly meetings are held on the third Friday of each month at the MS Therapy Centre, Outer Circle Drive, Lincoln. We are very well supported by our usual loyal members, but would love to see a few new faces. The meetings consist of a very short formal meeting which is followed by a social event. The Branch Annual General Meeting is held in March each year, and once again there were no changes to the general committee. During this meeting **Capt Ian Farrell** was appointed a Vice President of the Branch and we look forward to working with him in the future.

A fine crisp, but cold November 2012 morning and more than 20 Branch members attended the Remembrance Day Service in Lincoln Cathedral followed by Sunday lunch. As always our thanks go to **Roger Gardiner** for parading the Branch banner and **Pat Houldridge** for laying our poppy wreath during the service. For Regimental Remembrance Day the majority of members attending travelled together by minibus and stayed over on the Sunday evening meeting with friends from other branches.

Once a month from April to October we hold a Sunday lunch which have become very popular. We travel to various venues around the county, thereby trying to cover as much of this very large area as possible. These are a casual get together – no ties, no blazers, so please if you're in the area of one of these lunches please pop in and say hello, either just for a drink or stay for the meal as well. We welcome extended family, parents, children, grandchildren at all our events, particularly these lunches. In fact the Chairman and Treasurer's grandchildren (**Sarah, Becky & Eleanor**) are becoming strong supporters of the Sunday lunches and are often disappointed when they cannot make it. It is good to see the younger generation forming friendships with the veterans and their wives. One of our lunch venues this year was Bateman's Brewery near Skegness; this is one of the oldest family run breweries in the country. We had an excellent lunch followed by a tour of the brewery. Our thanks go to **Richard and Pam Singleton** for organising this.



Joe Marshall, Neil Crowther and Richard Singleton at Batemans Brewery.



Batemans Brewery Sunday lunch: Trevor and Janet Holmes, Charlie and Mary Short and Rod and Maureen Barham.

Her Majesty's Grenadier Day was a wonderful day out with something for everyone whether you preferred Her Majesty's Inspection of The Queen's Company, the Presentation of New Colours to Nijmegen Company, or

the Association Centenary Garden Party. The weather was just perfect and there were so many people present it was difficult to get around and see everyone we would have liked to catch up with. The day seemed to pass really quickly, but no one seemed to be in any hurry to leave. Many Branch members attended and the majority of our regulars decided to make a mini-break of the event and travelled together by coach, we spent two nights in a hotel in north London. Some members travelled by car still spending the two evenings with us, others travelled down just for the day and met us at the hotel and joined us on the coach to and from the Palace, whilst many others made their own travel arrangements. Our thanks go to all the team at RHQ for a well organised event.

As well as being the Association Centenary, 2013 marked the 90th Anniversary of our Branch. Therefore the Branch Annual Dinner and Dance became the Anniversary Dinner and Dance and was held at the Bentley Hotel, Lincoln on 6th September. All guests were presented with a keepsake gift; the gentlemen received a double pen set with one pen engraved for the Association Centenary and the other for the Lincoln Branch 90th Anniversary. The ladies were presented with a votive candle holder, and all were decorated with the 100/90 logo devised by our Branch committee. The dinner was overseen by our President, **Major Dennis Bradley BEM DL** with both our Vice Presidents, **Andy Hill** and **Capt Ian Farrell** in attendance. The Mayor of Lincoln, **Councillor Pat Vaughan** and the City Sheriff **Mrs Pat Carter** were also guests of the branch keeping our links with the City Council, two past Mayors were also present. **Capt Ben Pountain** was the regimental guest speaker and **Capt Ian Farrell** gave us a briefing on the



Captains Ian Farrell and Ben Pountain.

preparations for the Wellington to Waterloo bike ride. The branch and its members are pleased to have sponsored **Ian** and the other riders from Lincolnshire. We invited these riders to attend our dinner, all of whom accepted. The local Army Cadet Force (badged Grenadiers) supported us again and we continue to keep in touch with them and give help and support where we can. We were also joined by our regular guests; **Bill and Ann Crook** from Suffolk and **Andy and Babs Reid** from Surrey & East Hampshire and, in addition, this year we were pleased to welcome **Jack & Jenny Snead** from the Wolverhampton branch.

Sadly since the last report we have lost **23969982 Kemp E, 23509408 Conway J** and **23688382 Dunne, J.**

Please check our website www.grenguards.lincoln.org.uk for up to date information on forthcoming events. Finally the committee would like to thank everyone for their support during the past year.



Chairman and Secretary Joe and Anne Marshall with their daughter and granddaughters.

LIVERPOOL

(Formed 1920)

President: THE EARL OF DERBY.

Vice Presidents: WF PENNINGTON; C YATES; G HUGHES; GH NORRIS.

Chairman: I GRIFFITHS.

Secretary: WF PENNINGTON, 11 Stretton Avenue, Wallasey, Cheshire. CH44 5UZ. Tel: (0151) 200 2261.

Email: frankpennington@ntlworld.com

Meetings: Last Thursday of each month (except August & December) 2000hrs at the Premier Inn, Vernon Street, Liverpool, L2 2AY

We begin with our 2012 Annual Dinner and Dance which was held on Saturday 17th November at the

Thistle Hotel, Chapel Street, Liverpool. The Branch President **Lord Derby** was in attendance and our regimental representative was the General Secretary of the Association and Regimental Treasurer, **Major Andy Green**. **Paul Jupp MBE** and his wife **Dawn** travelled in from Morden in Surrey, keeping up their long tradition of attending our branch dinners; they spent two nights in Liverpool taking in the shopping and sightseeing. The Oxfordshire Branch secretary **Peter Cook** and his wife **Margaret** came for two nights and also in attendance was their Branch Treasurer **Mrs Janet Shayler** and her husband **Roy**, both also staying over for two nights. The North Staffs Branch was represented by **Mr & Mrs Albert Gregory**. **Timber Woods** and his wife **Beryl** also came in from Grimsby for two nights and finally from the Royal Hospital Chelsea, **Sgt Cass Butler** (Welsh Guards) and his lady friend **Shirley**. **LSgt John Shields** just back from another tour of Afghanistan with No 3 Company was present with his girlfriend **Bev**, as well as his brother (just released from the regiment), his girlfriend and also both of **John's** parents.

On the preceding Friday evening a three course Christmas dinner was booked at the 'Liverpool Pub' in James Street and 11 of us sat down for dinner; a very large portioned meal amongst friends in our own private room. A total of 27 rooms were occupied over the two nights at the Thistle, a nice hotel, in a prime position for all the local amenities. Thank you to everyone who has supported this branch throughout the year and especially at this function and to those that took the time and effort to travel into the city to support this Branch.

The Brown Envelope raffle prize was a Christmas Hamper donated by **Frank & Barbara Pennington** which this year was won by **Mrs Dawn Jupp**, this raffle made a total on £137.00. The normal raffle had in excess of 25 prizes on offer, ranging from bottles of spirits, wines and chocolates to lots of other 'goodies'; the total monies taken on this raffle was £353.00; a grand total of £490.00 with the proceeds going into Branch funds. A big thank you to **Mrs Margaret Burns** and **Mrs Linda Baker** our ticket sellers, and to all the ladies involved in the folding and preparation of the tickets for the draw and also to **Mrs Dawn Jupp** for her help with the running of the two raffles.

2013 commenced with our AGM on Thursday 31st January with lots to talk about and organise for the

coming year, in particular Her Majesty's Grenadier Day, the Wellington to Waterloo cycle ride and Battlefield tour. A total of 23 members were present. The Branch secretary attended the Association AGM at Wellington Barracks on Saturday 23rd March. The severe weather that weekend made timely travel doubtful but Virgin trains kept running albeit at reduced speed between Liverpool and Stafford but thankfully arriving at Euston only eight minutes late. At the Branch meeting later in the month, the Secretary read out the list of honours received by the 1st Battalion on their last tour of Afghanistan and also read out the citation for the V.C. awarded to **LCpl James Ashworth**. He also informed the meeting that members of the battalion were awarded one OBE, one DSO, two MC's, six MID's and one Queen's Commendation for Bravery.

A very good weekend was had by everyone attending Regimental Remembrance Day with the weather turning out the complete opposite to that which had been reported. On Sunday it was warm and sunny, on Monday the weather for our trip to Stratford on Avon en-route to Liverpool was the same as Sunday... beautiful. Saturday evening spent at the Royal Hospital Chelsea was excellent, good entertainment, cheap bar prices and very friendly In-Pensioners to chat with. The raffle prizes in total for the trip numbered at least 20; we drew for 12 prizes en-route to London and took 6 prizes to Chelsea for their raffle. On return to Liverpool we had another 6 prizes to draw for. Both raffles on the coach made a total of £194.00 and we took a total of £50.00 out for the staff at the hotel. In conclusion a total of £148.00 went into branch funds. Many 'thank you' cards were received from members for this trip.

On Tuesday 25th June our coach left Merseyside for Her Majesty's Grenadier Day taking place on the 26th. We travelled with a total of 39 members and guests

instead of the original 45. Unfortunately **Mr & Mrs J Clark** were absent due to **Myra** being hospitalised the day before our departure. **Terry McMahon's** group of four decided at a late stage to travel by car to London rather than the coach. Raffles were held en-route to London and on our return.

The raffle prizes were all donated on the day of departure by the members travelling and a total of 25 prizes were drawn for ranging from £10 notes, bottles of spirits, wines, chocolates, jewellery, hand-made greetings cards and toiletries. As a result a grand total of £179.28



Members of the branch and their ladies before setting off for Buckingham Palace.

was put into branch funds. To all those who made the trip, a big thank you for supplying the prizes, for buying tickets to try and win them back and mainly for supporting our Branch and keeping funds topped up. We had a 2 hour stopover at Stratford upon Avon en-route to Merseyside and we arrived in Liverpool by 7.10pm.

It is with deep regret that we report the very sad loss of the following members this year:

2627591 Moore T, 2627593 Onslow J N, 2617860 Hewitt W and 23865181 Atherton I, but on a happier note we welcome **23393039 W Smith** as a new member.

LONDON

(Formed 1920)

President: Colonel ATW DUNCAN, LVO, OBE.

Vice Presidents: Capt SIR JOHN LAMBERT, KCVO, CMG; Brigadier MS BAYLEY, MBE; Capt I REID, MA; Capt THE HON JONATHAN FORBES; Lieutenant Colonel PR HOLCROFT, OBE, LVO; Major TH HOLBECH, MBE; Capt DD HORN; Lieutenant Colonel RG CARTWRIGHT, LVO; Capt RAC DUNCAN; Capt CAG KEELING; Capt TBCH WOODS; Capt J LENAGHAN; HJL MANSELL, Esq; GV FRANKLIN, Esq; Capt JWH BUXTON; Capt A CLUFF, DL; Major THE LORD GLENTORAN, CBE, DL; Capt RJB PINFOLD; Major PAJ WRIGHT, OBE.

Chairman: HNL Mansell, Esq.

Secretary: Frank Hooley, 13, Drakefield Road, London, SW17 8RT. Tel: (077952) 48370 or (0208) 6729769.

Email: hooley@aol.com

Meetings: Third Wednesday of every month at the London District Sergeants' Mess, Wellington Barracks, SW1E 6HQ from 1900hrs, unless advised otherwise.

The London Branch has now completed its 93rd year since its formation in 1920. The Branch gatherings and functions continue to be supported at a reasonable level by a very loyal group of members but given our total membership remains over three hundred strong the challenge ahead is to improve support across all the membership and also reach out to younger Grenadiers to join the Branch.

The Branch continued to hold its monthly gatherings on the third Wednesday of each month at the London District Sergeants' Mess in Wellington Barracks. However, in an effort to reach out to the full membership the Branch is holding some monthly gatherings at lunchtime. For the first time we have held a daytime gathering at the Union Jack Club, this was well supported and will be part of the calendar of events during the coming year.

The highlight of 2013 was undoubtedly the unique day at Buckingham Palace when The Queen's Company was inspected and Nijmegen Company was presented by Her Majesty The Queen with New Colours, after which a

garden party took place. This was very well attended by London Branch members and enjoyed by all. This memorable and historical day was also **Bill Smith's** last day as Secretary of the Branch. **Bill** had indicated at last year's AGM his intention to 'step down' and this was a fitting last day. **Bill** has served with distinction as the Branch Secretary for over ten years. We wish him and his wife **Marion** well in all their future endeavours. **Frank Hooley** the current treasurer of the Branch agreed to take on the additional duties of Branch Secretary until the AGM in April.

We were again well represented on Regimental Remembrance Day. Although some members are now unable to participate in the march many still attended to support those that undertook the march to Horse Guards for the wreath laying ceremony and the return to Barracks. Again this year the Branch was represented at National Remembrance Day events including the opening of the Garden of Remembrance at Westminster Abbey and at the Cenotaph parade and march in remembrance of those who have made the ultimate sacrifice.

The Wellington to Waterloo cycle ride took place from Tuesday 24th to Friday 27th September. Congratulations go to Branch member **Roy Ibson** for successfully completing this demanding challenge to raise money for a very worthy cause. The London Branch would also like to congratulate all the riders, support staff and administrators for raising a very significant amount of money for such a worthy cause.

Andy Johnson, despite having a very demanding 'day job' continues as the Branch Social Secretary and has made sure we have a varied and interesting calendar of events open to our membership; our visits to the Tower of London for the Ceremony of the Keys remain popular. In December another very successful Branch Christmas draw was held at the Union Jack Club, thanks to tremendous work by **Andy** his wife **Iiona** and colleagues from the Branch.

It is with sadness that we have to report the death of one of the London Branch's long serving and dedicated Vice Presidents, **Major the Lord Forbes KBE, DL, JP**. Sadly the following other members of the Association also passed away; **2628220 F B Nicholson, 22545100 A C M Jones, 2615420 Riley G and 2629232 Mould M**.

The Branch Secretary would like to conclude this report by offering his grateful thanks to the President, **Colonel ATW Duncan LVO OBE**, his fellow Executive Officers and the loyal members of the Branch.



MANCHESTER

(Formed 1913)

President: Awaiting Appointment.

Vice Presidents: F GREEN; I WILLIAMS.

Chairman: I WILLIAMS.

Secretary: R A FALLON, 58 Newhouse Road, Heywood, Lancashire, OL10 2NU. Tel: (01706) 360818.

Email: robert.fallon@talktalk.net

Treasurer: AE JENNINGS.

Meetings: First Tuesday of each month, (except August)
Meetings held at Ardwick Barracks, Arddwick Green, Manchester, M12 6HD.

Our Branch has enjoyed a very successful 12 months since our last report. Our Christmas dinner and dance was held on Saturday 8th December 2012 with 109 members and their guests sitting down to a four course meal followed by a disco until the early hours of Sunday morning. The Branch annual dinner and dance on Saturday 20th April 2013 was held in celebration of 100 years since the formation of the Grenadier Guards Association and to mark this momentous occasion we had the 1st Battalion Corps of Drums 'Beating Retreat' on one of the hotel car parks at the side of the hotel.



The Corps of Drums in Action.



Mrs P Fallon, Mrs E Jennings, Drum Major Thomas and Mr T Jennings.



The Lord Mayor of Manchester Councillor Elaine Boyes, our Chairman Mr Ivor Williams and Mrs Norma Williams.

After the parade the Drummers joined the 172 guests for a Bucks Fizz reception and to pose for photographs with our very excited members. At 7pm a Drummer sounded dinner call and everyone took their places at the tables to await the 'March In' of the top table guests. Our guests of honour were **Colonel Richard Winstanley OBE** the deputy Regimental Lieutenant Colonel, the **Lord Mayor of Manchester Councillor Elaine Boyes** and her sister-in-law **Lady Mayoress Linda Geoghegan**, and we also had the pleasure of the company of **Major (Retd) Andy Green**, the General Secretary of the Association.

A four course meal and a few glasses of wine were followed by the loyal toasts and a very informative speech by our guest of honour before moving into the fun part of the evening. The young Drummers from the Corps of Drums then gave our Branch members a demonstration of 'Gangnam style' dancing whilst dressed in No 2 Dress, not the best clothing to be dancing in but the party went on into the early hours of the morning.

Our trip down to London for Her Majesty's Grenadier Day was very well attended by the Branch with two full coaches and some 40 or more members making their own way down; 140 members and guests in



Colonel Winstanley and Major Green folding raffle tickets.



Our Drummers strutting their stuff.

total. The trip was over three days to make it more comfortable for our older members, and it gave us plenty of time to relax.



Ladies of the Branch.



Gentlemen of the Branch.

Getting into Buckingham Palace was tiresome, to say the least, with long queues winding backwards and forwards through hundreds of sight-seeing tourists all asking "What's going on?" Fortunately the weather was perfect and once we were through the gates everything went like clockwork, just as we would expect for our Colonel in Chief. The trip was extremely enjoyable and mainly thanks to the hard work put in by **Tony** and **Eunice Jennings**, well done both of you.

In closing we, as a branch, would like to thank **Colonel E H Houstoun OBE** for being a stalwart at the helm of the Association for the past 10 years, and we hope he will consider being one of our guests in the future.

MARCH

(Formed 1968)

President: Capt CNR BROWN.

Vice Presidents: Capt (QM) TA ROLFE; Mrs M BEVAN; W GIBBS; Mrs P MASON.

Chairman: E SALMON.

Secretary: C M WHITEBROOK, 21 Davie Lane, Whittlesey, Cambs. PE7 1YZ. Tel: (01733) 350059.

Email: whitebrook9834@hotmail.co.uk

Branch HQ: The Conservative Club, March.

Meetings: Second Wednesday March, (AGM).

Where the time goes to nobody seems to be sure, and it hardly seems like a year has passed since the last notes were written and passed through to Association Headquarters in preparation for publishing. As a Branch we were anticipating an exciting year and that proved to be the case, all of the usual events but what a super, spectacular event in place of Grenadier Day.

Our erstwhile Treasurer **Ben Haylett**, arranged through the local Royal British Legion for the provision of the Branch wreath for the Remembrance Day Parade, which was again carried and laid by **Des Pritchard**. For those who wonder why it is the same faces all the time... they are the willing volunteers. It may be that our service was littered with warnings against volunteering for anything but in Branch terms it really is the volunteer who is worth the proverbial ten pressed men!

The first of the 2012 social functions, the Christmas Lunch, was again extremely well attended, and the Secretary, **Chris Whitebrook**, in consultation with the Caterer and the management team at the local Conservative Club laid on a first class meal and afternoon. The quiz set to be completed during the meal by **Morag Whitebrook** attracted the usual rivalry with table prizes supplied by **Bill Gibbs**. This was followed by a magnificent Raffle which was run with the assistance of **Eddie Salmon** and his partner **Caroline Sutcliffe**.

Attendance at the AGM at Wellington Barracks afforded the opportunity of saying farewell to that great friend of our Branch, and all of the other Branches within the Association, **Jay Ellingham**. It was also the time to learn that our Association President **Colonel E H Houstoun OBE** was going to be handing over the reins. He really will be sorely missed, his attendance at Branch functions throughout his tenure as President has always been welcomed, his interest in the Branch and its members, his fun and willingness to join in marking him out to be that special person.

The assembled members and friends attending the Annual Lunch were encouraged by the presence as our guest of the Regimental Adjutant, **Major Grant Baker**. Having willingly stepped aside as representative of the Regiment in attending this function the previous year he was keen to be there this year. His report on the Regiment preceded the list of honours awarded during the recent Op Herrick tour of duty. During his reading of the report of the late **LCpl Ashworth's** award of the Victoria Cross unfortunately one of the guests at the meal was taken ill. The Paramedics were tasked to attend and some hours later the patient was released from Hospital. At the advanced age in question a faint is not to be taken lightly and all appropriate checks were carried out. Subsequent correspondence advised that apart from the mishap a thoroughly enjoyable time had been had.

Regimental Remembrance Day, the rehearsals for the Birthday Parade and the Birthday Parade itself were

supported in the usual manner by the Branch, regrettably some changes had to be made at the last minute due to tickets having to be replaced at short notice. The proper tickets for the Colonel's review arriving at 1000hrs on the morning of the Parade itself.

Lists to **Rob Broomes** our Association NCO and to **Major Andy Green**, the General Secretary, together with numerous messages passed by e-mail from home and from holiday led to the magnificently well organised Her Majesty's Grenadier Day celebration at Buckingham Palace. For a small Branch such as ours it was encouraging to have so many wanting to attend, and all of those who wanted to get there managed to with one exception. Unfortunately the Secretary's wife, **Morag Whitebrook**, suffered a stroke some five days previously and was in no fit state to attend. It transpired that she suffered another stroke on the day itself. Fortunately she is now well on the way to a full recovery.

A marvellous day witnessing the Inspection of The Queen's Company and the Presentation of New Colours to Nijmegen Company was made all the more complete by Branch members being amongst those afforded the honour of being presented to Her Majesty by the Branch Secretary **Chris Whitebrook**. Many faces appeared from the past, sometimes needing a reminder of what name went with them and sometimes not; a painful reminder that the years definitely roll on regardless. It was also a joy to meet with our own Branch members in this unique back garden; **Malcolm and Pam Clifford**, **Gerry Graham**, **Bill Gibbs**, **Neville and Anne Patter**, **Eddie Salmon** with **Caroline Sutcliffe** and her mother **Brenda Howard**, and our newest Branch members **Bill and Sally Johnson**.

The last social event of the Branch year, the Sausage & Mash Lunch was, once again, well attended. Following the meal and the subsequent raffle nobody seemed to be in a hurry to go home, and the conversations were ongoing for quite some time.

MATLOCK

(Formed 1955)

President: D RAWSON, Esq, BEM.

Chairman: A BIRNIE, Esq.

Treasurer: A BIRNIE, Esq.

Secretary: F A KNIGHT, 9 Croft Avenue, Parwich, Nr Ashbourne, Derby, DE6 1QG. Tel: (01335) 390109.

Assistant Secretary: Mr J WRIGHT, 37 Davian Way, Walton, Chesterfield, Derbyshire, S40 3JE. Tel: 01246-239445.

Email: wrightjohn4@sky.com

Meetings: 1230hrs for 1300hrs on the last Friday of each month (With the following exceptions): NO MEETINGS – August and December. VENUE – The Boat House Hotel, 110, Dale Road, Matlock, Derbyshire, DE4 3PP.

Our reporting year started on Sunday 11th November 2012 with our new Chairman **Mr Andrew Birnie** accompanied by our Secretary **Mr Fred Knight** leading the Remembrance Day Parade in the Derbyshire Village of Parwich. Our ex-Chairman **Mr Bill Pickford** kept up our Branch tradition by attending Edensor Parish Church on the Duke of Devonshire's Chatsworth Estate. At both venues an Association Wreath was laid on behalf of the fallen. Assistant Secretary **John Wright** and his wife **Margaret** paid their respects by attending a Highland Memorial Service at Stirling Castle, while on holiday in Scotland.

At our Branch meeting on the 30th November our Chairman's wife **Mrs Rosemary Birnie** took on the full time mantle of Matlock Branch Treasurer. On behalf of the Branch – thank you **Rosemary**. On the 26th April our Branch incorporated its monthly meeting at 'The Boathouse Hotel' Matlock with a carvery meal. A combined total of 18 Members, wives and partners attended. This proved to be a most enjoyable occasion.

The Highlight of 2013 at branch level was jointly organised by our President **Mr David Rawson** and Assistant Secretary **Mr John Wright**. On the 26th June a combination of 35 members, Associate members and friends attended the Buckingham Palace joint Celebrations of Her Majesty's Grenadier Day and the Centenary of The Grenadier Guards Association. This was a perfect day in every way and coincided with our former Treasurer **Mrs Vera Pickford's** Birthday. We would all like to take this opportunity of thanking our General Secretary **Major A J Green**, **LSgt R Broomes** and the entire RHQ staff for all their hard work in making this mammoth undertaking such a successful and memorable occasion.



The Branch in London for Her Majesty's Grenadier Day.

Immediately following this high point of our year it is with great sadness that we now have to report that on Sunday 7th October 2013 Mr **Frederick Reginald Parker** (hereafter lovingly remembered as **Fred** – R.E.M.E. Service Number 160941) aged 96 (born 20th May 1917) passed away peacefully at his home in Youlgreave, Derbyshire. Fred was called into Military Service from 1939 until 1945. Apart from his basic training **Fred** spent

his entire service attached to the Grenadier Guards. His active Wartime service included 'Operation Torch' in Tunisia, North Africa and Monte-Casino in Italy. Fred was our most senior Associate member who until quite recently regularly attended Branch meetings, Remembrance Services, and social functions.



The late Fred Parker.

Fred's funeral took place at All Saints Parish Church, Youlgreave on Thursday 31st October 2013. The Branch paid **Fred** Full Honours which included a Guard of Honour formed by our President **David Rawson**, secretary **Fred Knight**, assistant secretary **John Wright**, past Chairman **Bill Pickford**, **John Darwent** and **Derek Killingsley-Smith**. During the service the Regimental Collect was read by our President **Mr David Rawson** followed by a Lesson read by **Mr Derek Killingsley-Smith**. Fred's son Andrew informs us that it was his Dad's wish that half the collection on the day of his Father's funeral be donated to The Colonel's Fund Grenadier Guards, typical Fred – a lovely man who will be greatly missed.

Our Branch AGM took place on Friday 25th October 2013 when we are pleased to report that our Committee and Branch officials were all re-elected unopposed. At the time of writing we are looking forward to The Branch Autumn Luncheon – jointly organised by our President **Mr David Rawson** and assistant secretary **Mr John Wright** aided by their wives **Tina** and **Margaret** respectively which is taking place at The Bakewell Golf Club on Wednesday 6th November, 2013. Thanks again to our General Secretary who has arranged for the attendance of **WO2 (RQMS) Tylee (Tye) Bearder** to be our Guest Speaker. A very popular choice and we hope he will again be accompanied by his charming wife **Paula**.

We conclude by saying a big thank you to our Secretary **Mr Fred Knight** and his wife **Ann** for their contribution in keeping our Branch so vibrant. We also pass on our sincere best wishes to all our members who for reasons of ill-health no longer find it possible to attend our monthly meetings. We miss them and their much valued input.

MEDWAY

(Formed 1976)

President: Lieutenant Colonel P HARRIS, MBE.

Vice Presidents: Lieutenant Colonel S TUCK, BEM; Capt CD LEIGH-PEMBERTON; Capt AJH HOLLOWAY, MP; Mr AJ West, BEM; Capt RC WORTHINGTON.

Chairman: PA FRANKS.

Hon Secretary: Mr S Vaughan, Franwynne, Scarborough Drive, Minster, Isle of Sheppy, Kent, ME12 2LX. Tel: 01795 876935.

Email: maureenk9mov@aol.com

Website: www.medwaygrenadiers.co.uk

Meetings: First Wednesday of each month at 2000hrs at the Warren Wood Social Club, 99B Warren Wood Road, Rochester, Kent. ME1 2XA.

The Branch had a very successful 2012 Annual Dinner in October with 70 attending the Grange Moor Hotel in Maidstone. After an excellent meal, our guest speaker **Colonel E H Houstoun OBE** kept us informed and entertained in his usual manner. After the meal and speeches, Micky Blue Eyes had us dancing until midnight. That was followed in December with our Christmas Draw at The United Services Club in Rainham when 80 Branch members and friends got into the Christmas spirit. Our musical entertainment was **Mike Harris** who made the evening go with a swing and the club laid on an excellent buffet. The previous year's Draw had to be cancelled at the last minute because of snow, so we were all pleased that this one went ahead without delay.

Friday 26th April 2013 saw a coach load of us visit The Tower of London. We were guided by our friendly Yeoman Warder **Kev Kitcher** (who should be on the stage), and then watched The Ceremony of the Keys. That was followed by supper and drinks in the Warders' Mess. In May we went greyhound racing at the Sittingbourne dog track and the majority came home with more money than they went with.



The Medway Branch Buckingham Palace Garden Party Group.

Then it came to June and the Buckingham Palace Garden Party when 44 of us went by coach and others of the Branch made their own way by train and car. It was a very special day which is unlikely to be repeated in our lifetime, so it is definitely one to be remembered. Branch members said how pleased they were to meet friends they had not seen in the past 30 or 40 years and it definitely brought some people out of the woodwork!

In August we played our annual game of Petanque followed by Sunday lunch at the Whitehouse pub near Maidstone and once again we all ended up with sunburnt knees; the weather could not have been better.

Ten Branch members and their wives were in Maidstone when the Regimental Band played to the crowd while the Wellington to Waterloo cyclists passed through the town. There was a drinks and first-aid station which the cyclist's made use of and the Branch members did well with collection buckets encouraging the crowd to part with their money. Some of the Branch also joined the coach for the very successful Battlefield tour which accompanied the cyclists to Waterloo.



Chris Warden, Mo Vaughan and Barbara Garwood in Maidstone for the W2W Cycle Ride.

Our congratulations and thanks go to those at RHQ, especially **Majors Andy Green and Steve Dehnel** for the organising the Buckingham Palace Garden Party and the W2W Cycle Ride and Battlefield Tour events this year. Trying to get everything for both these events to dovetail together was a major achievement. We would also like to thank **LSgt Rob Broomes** for his continued assistance and support.

Branch member **Des Flynn**, who is a serving police officer, has just returned from a six month tour mentoring the police in Afghanistan. He left us in March and has just returned safely in October, much to his wife **Karen's** relief and we are pleased to see him back.

We continue to meet on the third Sunday of each month for our Sunday Lunch Club and anyone who would like to join us would be made very welcome. The pub is chosen at the Branch meeting at the beginning of that month and we have found some excellent venues. Yet to come this year (2013) is our Annual Dinner and Christmas Draw which will see us nicely into 2014.

NORFOLK

(Formed 1938)

President and Chairman: Capt PJS ALLEN.

Vice Presidents: Capt TRE COOK; Major JFQ FENWICK, QC; Capt DJT LANG; Capt H STRATTON; JM BATTEN, Esq; CH MITCHELL, Esq; Mr BA BARBER; Lieutenant Colonel HML SMITH; Mr R.F. BARWICK.

Vice Chairman: Mr J FEAKINS.

Treasurer: Mr CR WARREN, 10 Highland, Poringland, Norwich, NR14 7QU. Tel: (01508) 494379 or Mob 07885 088387.

Email: christwrr@btinternet.com

Secretary: Mr TA McCLENAHAN, 7 Crowes Loke, Little Plumstead, Norwich, Norfolk, NR13 5JB.

Email: terry.mcclenahan@btinternet.com

Meetings: Late March and Late September each year at Dereham Town Football Club, NR20 3PX. Notice will be sent to all of the dates.

A quiet but a good year for the branch which started off in March 2013 with the AGM held at Dereham Town Football Club on a rainy, cold, Norfolk evening. Attendance was good which is always encouraging as our members are well spread around the county. The committee remained the same with the addition of **Linda Bowden** who was appointed assistant secretary.

May saw the annual Regimental Remembrance Day celebrated in fine style once again. We mustered up a small Mini Coach and attended with 12 members. All had a great day and the weather was kind, even in Norfolk. The parade this year we felt was better than previous ones as the families were allowed to follow and felt part of the ceremony instead of part of the crowd. Thanks to **John Feakins** for the arrangements yet again. We hope to link up with another branch next year as numbers are getting low and the cost higher.

June Glorious June brought out our members in style all looking forward to the Garden Party at Buckingham Palace. We had a great attendance, a full 56 seater coach and 22 who made their own way to London. It was to be a special day for two of our members, **David Beckett** and **Brian Barber** who were presented to Her Majesty. **David** was part of the Guard at the Coronation so it was a trip down memory lane for him. It was a great day and we as a Branch thought the organisation was excellent, all involved in making it happen should be congratulated.

There was nothing arranged for the summer so the next event was our half yearly meeting at the football club attended again by the faithful. September saw the late Summer Annual Luncheon held at Park Farm Hotel and Country Club in Hethersett, Norwich, where 47 guests were treated to an excellent lunch and after dinner speech given by our guest **Lt Hamish Hardy** who gave us an insight into the 1st Battalion's activities. Our president **Capt Allen** presented **Chris Warren**

with a figurine of a Guardsman of the Northern Ireland period for his service as the secretary of the Branch.



Capt Allen, right, presenting Chris Warren with his figurine.

As tradition demands a raffle took place with the usual gusto and enthusiasm from **Janet** and **John Feakins** aided by **Gillian** and **Rob Cooper**. The day was very successful thanks to the organisation of **John** and **Janet Feakins**. This year's Summer lunch is planned for 11th May 2014, at the Park Farm Hotel and Country Club. The Dining Club is still a great part of the programme of annual events and takes place every second month at The Stower Grange Hotel, Drayton, Nr Norwich, if you are up this way give us a call; you will be made very welcome.

With sadness we report the passing of two comrades **22545896 Cliff Vincent** and **357572 Neil Newsum**. Both good branch members over the years and although they have gone they will always be remembered.

NORTH LANCASHIRE

(Formed 1953)

President: Major M OWEN.

Vice Presidents: R PAKER, Esq; J WHITE, Esq.

Secretary: Mrs R EMMONDS Westview 57 Aspen Drive, Brunshaw Park, Burnley, BB10 3FB. Tel: 01282 451208 or Mob: 07738562357.

Email: rosemary.emmonds@nhs.net

Meetings: First Thursday in month (except January and August) at the Hapton Inn, Accrington Road, Hapton, Lancs BB11 5QL at 1930 hrs.

We would like to open this report with an apology for not submitting last year's Branch Report. Unfortunately circumstances out of our control prevented the submission. Therefore, we would like to present to you an account of the last two years.

The Officers and Members of Lancashire Royal British Legion County invited the Branch to attend an annual parade and service of remembrance which was held at Calderstones Hospital in Whalley on 5th November 2012. A few members were able to attend and Chairman **Richard Packer** carried the Branch Banner with the accompaniment of the Balderstone Band. **Richard Packer** also represented the North Lancashire Branch carrying the Banner on Remembrance Day in Burnley. **Margaret Packer** assisted **Lady Emmonds** laying the wreath on the cenotaph. The weather was reasonable with the sun shining at times.



Major Michael Owen.

The Branch Christmas dinner was held at the Walton Arms in Hapton with a grand choice of Christmas menus. **Major Michael Owen** soon joined us after his long trip from his London headquarters. In March the Branch held it's AGM with everyone retaining their posts: **Major Michael Owen** as the Branch President; **Richard Packer** as Chairman and **Lady R Emmonds** as Branch Secretary.



Mr and Mrs Reid at the 2012 Branch Annual dinner.

The Branch Annual Dinner was held in March at the Sparth Manor Hotel in Clayton-le-Moors. A large reception from many organisations and members gathered for the celebration of the Branch's 60th year and the Queens Diamond Jubilee year. Guests included **Barry Taylor** the new President of the Wigan & St Helens Branch, **Wilf Robinson** from the Welsh Guards in Blackpool, **Ricky Reed BEM** from the British Legion and **Ivor Singleton** from the Coldstream Guards. The meal was especially superb this year with magnificent company. The evening music was performed by

professional singer **Wayne Farrow**, an evening enjoyed by all those in attendance. The Coldstream Guards also celebrated their annual dinner in March at the Sparth House Hotel in Clayton-Le-Moors near Blackburn.

Chairman **Richard Packer** held a fundraising race event – The Golf Ball Fell Race, Hameldon Hill 5 mile, 1140' on multi-terrain ground. The race was held from The Hapton Inn, Burnley on the first Friday evening of July which proved to be quite challenging with the cold, rain and torrential weather and many people getting lost! The proceeds were divided between the Grenadier Guards and Pendle Hospice. The Sea Cadets held their Trafalgar Annual Dinner at Somme Barracks in Blackburn on Saturday 19th October 2012. Every year it is a pleasure to hear about the progress of young Sea Cadets.

Branch members attended the Guards Memorial Day at the National Memorial Arboretum in Alrewas on 9th September 2012. The day and a full coach of members was arranged by the Wigan & St Helen's Branch. The weather was absolutely gloriously sunny and well attended with possibly over 1,000 people. The Association Corps of Drums played before, during and after the parade. Our Branch Banner was amongst thirteen Branch Banners on parade. The day was made very special and memorable when a Spitfire flew over at the end of the parade.



Our annual bowling event group.



Mr James Scott on his accordion.

The Branch annual Green Bowling Competition took place towards the end of September. A brilliant turn out supported by members, British Legion Rishton Branch, families, and friends. The day was rather cold and damp. The gathering regrouped for hot potato pie, peas and gravy with nostalgic music performed by **James Scott** with his accordion.

The **Chairman Richard Packer** carried the Branch Banner on Remembrance Sunday despite not being well. His daughter **Margaret Packer** laid the wreath on behalf of the Branch.

The Branch AGM was uneventful and was held at The Hapton Inn, Burnley. This was an opportunity for members to air their views and maybe take on a role as an official for the branch. There were no changes to the official positions within the branch.

Her Majesty's Grenadier Day on 26 June 2013 saw many of the Branch members attending the Grenadier Guards Association Centenary Garden Party in the Gardens of Buckingham Palace. The event incorporated Her Majesty's Inspection of The Queen's Company and the Presentation of the New Colours to Nijmegen Company. It was a fantastic event which afforded members the opportunity of seeing past colleagues and friends not seen for many years.



Our Annual Dinner 2013.

The North Lancashire Branch Annual Dinner was held on Saturday, 7th September 2013 at The Sparth Manor House Hotel in Clayton Le Moors. Many representatives from various Associations were in attendance. This evening was made special because the Branch Chairman, **Richard Packer** was celebrating his 80th Birthday from midnight shared by everyone at the Branch Annual Dinner. The evening's entertainment was provided by the Branch Secretary's Goddaughter **Emily Jessie** who sang pop and opera with a finale of Oh'mio Babbino Caro, the Puccini Aria from the opera Gianni Schicchi 1918.



Emily Jessie.

Richard William Packer was born on 8 Sept 1933 in a house only 200 yards from the Clifton suspension bridge in Bristol. His childhood was

disrupted by the war with Bristol heavily targeted by the Germans due to its aircraft industry. **Richard** remembers German aircraft flying so low to the ground as they shot indiscriminately at civilians of all ages that he could see the faces of the aircrew as they leaned out of the aircraft. **Richard** and his brothers were evacuated to Somerset; though with the benefit of hindsight it was unnecessary as by then all the bombing had actually finished. Evacuation



Mr R Packer, Chairman.

was not a happy experience for **Richard**. He and his friend, both aged 7, tried to run away to their homes by following the railway line. Unfortunately they headed in the wrong direction and were picked up by the police after a full day of walking towards London. Despite applying to the RAF **Richard** was called up for national service in 1951. Reporting to Caterham Barracks he was told he was going to become Grenadier Guardsman. After training he

joined the 3rd Battalion at Windsor and spent the next two years doing public duties at occasions such as Queen Mary's funeral, Queen Elizabeth the Second's Coronation, Trooping the Colour and sentry duty at various palaces in the days when sentries stood outside the gates and were targeted by tourists.

Richard has been a member of the Grenadier Guards Association for about 50 years. Over this time he has held the position of Treasurer, Secretary, Vice President and Chairman. Waiting for a younger volunteer to come forward, **Richard** continues to carry the Banner at funerals of fallen Grenadiers and at remembrance days.

A great night was enjoyed by all who attended the Wigan & St Helens Annual Dinner and dance on Saturday 12th October 2013 held at The Rose Centre, Lowton. Thank you to the President **Barry Taylor** and the Secretary **Graham Young** for a wonderful evening.



Wigan Annual Dinner.

It is with great sadness that we report the loss of a Grenadier **Harold George Henderson** who was born in London in 1917. He became known as **Bob**. He left for Caterham in October 1939 to join the Grenadier Guards. **Bob** served in Africa, India, Burma, East Africa, Tripoli, Ghana and UK. During this time he was promoted to

Regimental Sergeant Major with a period as a cadet instructor. In 1966 he left the army. He stayed in contact with his old army colleagues and in 1993 he became President of the North Lancashire Branch of the Grenadier Guards Association.

It was brought to our attention at short notice that a former policeman **Mr Jack Marsh** had passed away and his funeral was to be held on Tuesday 15 October 2013. It is understood that this gentleman was a Grenadier. Unfortunately his family is not aware of his history and therefore, no regimental number has been obtained. A former working colleague of his from the police force said that **Jack Marsh** was one of the Bearer Party at **King George VI's** funeral. If you know of this gentleman please inform RHQ or the North Lancashire Branch.

Our Branch is saddened by the recent loss of **Mr Wilfred Robinson**, a former Welsh Guardsman who served between 1948 and 1950. He was the life and soul of any party with his charm, humour and charisma. He was a talented singer and entertainer; leaving his admirers and followers with fond memories.

Finally, we would like to record our thanks, to **Ricky Reed BEM** of the British Legion in Clayton-le-Moors and **Lesley Bullen** of the British Legion in Rishton for their support throughout the past two years and particularly to the Branch members whose regular attendance and support is invaluable.

NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE

(Formed 1933)

President: Sir ALGERNON HEBER-PERCY, KVCO, JP, LL.

Vice President: Rev TM CARTER DL, JP; Major R G WOODFIELD, MBE.

Chairman: K WRIGHT.

Hon Secretary: D G ROBINS, Nabb Cottage, Nabb Lane, Alton, Staffordshire, ST10 4AY. Tel: (01538) 702 974 or Mob: 07968 037082.

Email: david.robins@hotmail.co.uk

Meetings: Please contact the Branch Secretary for Details.

In early November 2012 members of the Branch attended, with pupils from the local school, a wreath laying ceremony at the LSgt John Rhodes VC Memorial. This was accompanied by the release of several squadrons of red balloons, much to the delight of the children.

The festive season was celebrated at the Branch's December meeting thanks to the hospitality of **George Higginson** who had organised an excellent supper. During the same month Christmas gifts were delivered and gratefully received, this usually involved a long conversation and a cup of tea, sometimes with the offer

of something stronger, at most calls.

2013 arrived, a big anniversary for the Association and the Branch's 80th birthday.

Like most other areas we suffered some very severe winter weather during the early months of the year. This reduced, even further, attendance at meetings and the Branch secretary almost lost his name for not digging his car out of two metres of snow, in a blizzard, and missing the Association AGM.

Better weather arrived with the Spring and Branch members trooped off to foreign territory, Shropshire, where the Branch AGM was held at the President's local; the Bear at Hodnet. An excellent meeting ensued followed by an even more excellent dinner hosted by the President – it was considered to have been an excellent way to conduct an AGM.

Members visited London for Regimental Remembrance Day, a fulfilling and meaningful service and parade. Even more members and their partners made the trip to London to attend that very special event at Buckingham Palace. Everyone who attended thought it was the most wonderful of days and thanks and congratulations are due to everyone who was involved in the organisation and execution.

In August officers of the Branch were entertained to luncheon at the home of the Shropshire Branch's President where excellent food and hospitality were much enjoyed. Dining in the garden was good, the weather fantastic, it could have been somewhere in the south of France.

September was a very sad month for the Branch; it saw the death of **Mel Robins** who had been Branch Secretary for 25 years and who had been very active in the wider Association. An obituary to Mel appears below. Sincere thanks are due to the many members, from numerous Branches and **Gdsm Rob Armour**, who turned out to see Mel off in proper style.

The Branch continues to meet, on the second Monday of each month with the exception of January, more snow anticipated. **Keith Wright**, Chairman and **George Hughes** were welcomed back after long periods of ill health and recuperation. Morale is high, numbers remain low but they are bolstered by ex-Guardsmen of the tartan persuasion and we live in the hope of persuading some of the many blue/red/blue tie wearers in the area to join us.

The Branch wishes to extend its sincere thanks to the small and no doubt at times, overstretched team at Regimental Headquarters and thanks them for their ongoing help and support, it is much appreciated. It also extends best wishes to serving and past Grenadiers wherever they may be.



OBITUARY

MELVYN (MEL) ROBINS

Mel Robins, a Staffordshire man, was born in 1944; he lost his long, long campaign against Alzheimer's disease on the 30th September 2013. He attended the local primary and grammar schools and at the age of 16 joined the Infantry Junior Leaders Battalion at Oswestry with the intention of eventually,



becoming a Grenadier. So determined was he to join and worried about his poor eye-sight that he purchased and wore contact lenses at his medical and conveniently forgot to tell anyone; he passed A1. A fellow recruit who joined on the same day and became a life-long friend, **Alan Higgins**, carried the North Staffordshire Branch Banner at his funeral.

Promotion through the junior NCO ranks followed quickly and as his time at Oswestry drew to a close he was offered the appointment of Junior Regimental Sergeant Major. He declined the offer, which would have meant spending another term at Park Hall Camp preferring, instead, to remain with his friends and join the 1st Battalion.

They arrived at the Battalion just in time to be sent, as an advance fatigue party, to the 'new' Chelsea Barracks. During his early days there he was volunteered to look after **Capt Andrew Duncan**. Mel always said this was because his bed space was next to the door when the Captain looked into the barrack room. After only a few months duty his obvious abilities were spotted; he was promoted and moved to the Orderly Room.

Mel spent the rest of his service in various orderly rooms, serving with the 1st and 2nd Battalions, at the Guards Depot and at RHQ. It was whilst serving with the 2nd Battalion in Germany at the age of only 21, that he was promoted Gold Sergeant. At the Depot along with his good friend, **John Southern**, they organised a tombola stall at The Boyton Cup Shoot – the forerunner of Grenadier Day. Whilst at RHQ he had the honour of being a member of the Purple Staff at Sir Winston Churchill's funeral; after six years' service he left the Regiment. There is little doubt that if he had stayed he would have achieved greater things.

Mel married **Susan** whom he had met on the school bus many years earlier and they subsequently had three daughters. On leaving the Regiment Mel joined a ceramic tableware manufacturer in an administrative roll but soon moved into sales and spent the rest of his career travelling around the world, selling millions of pounds worth of UK produced products. During his second career he worked for two companies, needless to say they both appointed him director. A busy and energetic man, who was always immaculately turned

out, he was a credit to the industry and to his country.

He served as secretary of The North Staffordshire Branch of The Association for 25 years, was a member of The Executive Committee and a Life Vice President of The Association. He was a member of The HAC and was made a Freeman of the City of London. **Mel** was active in Masonry, RBL branch secretary, keen amateur thespian, secretary of the local OAP group, lay-reader and school governor.

Sadly at the early age of 55, he was diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease, which forced him into a premature retirement. He spent his last seven years in residential and nursing homes where he was looked after, in an exemplary manner, by Methodist Care Homes. Our sincere condolences go to **Susan**, her daughters and their families, **Mel** will be sorely missed by all of those who knew him.

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

(Formed 1929)

President: Lieutenant Colonel EHLAUBREY-FLETCHER, DL.

Vice Presidents: Major THE HON THE LORD BRASSEY of APETHORPE, OBE, DL; THE HON TI BRASSEY; Major JCF MAGNAY; Lieutenant Colonel JS SCOTT-CLARKE; Major JM HIRST; Capt R WILMOTT, DL; C MANNERS, Esq.; Colonel REH AUBREY-FLETCHER; P GOUDIME, JP; Colonel DJC RUSSELL-PARSONS, OBE; A CRAWLEY; AE PACKE.

Honorary Vice Presidents: LADY J TOWNSEND – The Lord-Lieutenant of Northamptonshire.

Chairman: G STANGER.

Deputy Chair Person: J BINNS.

Treasurer: R LINES, 26 Eden Close, Lake View, Northampton, NN3 6NS. Tel: 01604 642638.

Secretary: MA BRITTON, 2 Lowlands Close, Rectory Farm, Northampton, NN3 5EP. Telephone: 01604 416101.

Email: nhantsgrenadier@aol.com

Meetings: First Thursday of every month (excluding January) starting at 2000 hrs at the Royal Naval and Royal Marines Club, Lorne Road, off Barrack Road, Northampton, NN1 3RN.

The Branch is now 83 years old and under the guidance of the President **Lieutenant Colonel E H L Aubrey-Fletcher**, continues to grow in strength. Following the sad loss of our former Chairman **Tom Frost**, our new Chairman **Geoff Stanger** (3rd Battalion) has settled in to the role with ease and is driving our strategy forward.

One element we are keen to address is that of the 'lost' Grenadiers. We invite all former members of the Regiment living in or near Northamptonshire to contact our branch either by email (nhantsgrenadier@aol.com) or by telephone (01604 416101) so that you can be added to our mailing list and kept abreast of current events. Our monthly meetings attract healthy numbers (20 plus)

and cover service periods from the 1940s through to 2008, so we have a great mix of ages representing Grenadiers who have served over the last 70 years.

This year, our social activities included representation at Remembrance Day, narrow boat trips on the river Nene, Black Sunday, the Buckingham Palace Garden Party, a trip to the National Memorial Arboretum, our annual dinner, curry nights and our Christmas Draw to name but a few. For 2014, we have a number of pre-booked events including a spectacular Waterloo Ball, designed to commemorate the start of the 200th year anniversary of our Regiment gaining the title of 'Grenadier' honouring our part in the defeat of the 'Grenadiers of the Imperial Guard' at Waterloo in 1815. This event is to be held on 21st June 2014 and is expected to sell out the capacity of 320 very quickly. Entertainment will include veteran members of the Household Division Bands playing during the meal, with a band playing music from all decades to complete the less formal part of the evening. Those wishing to book tickets should email or telephone the Branch Secretary using the contact details at the top of this report.

In summary the Northamptonshire Branch is going from strength to strength, with a busy meetings and social schedule already being planned for 2014 and beyond. We welcome Grenadiers of all ages to contact us where you will find a warm greeting, maybe, a few familiar faces, and the chance to get involved in as much, or as little, as you wish. 'Honi soit qui mal y pense'.

NORTHUMBRIA

(Formed 1926)

President: Colonel JM CRASTER, MA.

Vice Presidents: THE DUKE OF ABERCORN, KG; Major JHN PORTER; Sir HEW HAMILTON DALRYMPLE, Bt, GCVO; Capt SIR CHARLES FERGUSON, Bt; Major JD MAGILL CRICHTON MAITLAND.

Chairman: Mr A DANIEL.

Hon Secretary: Mr JOHN KEEGAN, 12 Oaklea Close, Norton, Stockton-On-Tees, TS20 1HN. Tel: 01642 556534.

Email: johnkeegan1@virginmedia.com

Hon Treasurer: Capt DE GARDNER.

The Branch, combined with our local Household Division Association has had a very busy year. We held our AGM at the Parkwood Hotel on Sunday 12th May 2013 when the Branch officials and committee were returned unopposed. **RSM Neil McClelland** and **CSM Paul Bailey** 1st Battalion Scots Guards along with the RSM's father **Willie McClelland** attended along with 37 other members and guests who sat down for a splendid lunch afterwards.

In March 2013 we held our usual committee meeting to agree the functions for the forthcoming year and subsequently organised the following on behalf of our members:

Friday 26th April 2013 – Royal Naval Club, Stockton-On-Tees, St George's Day Celebration Buffet & artiste **Billy Wilson**.

Wednesday 26th June 2013 – Her Majesty's Grenadier Day; 20 members attended Buckingham Palace and had a wonderful day out. Well done to all at RHQ for the excellent arrangements & organisation.



Mrs Ros Keegan, Miss Kathleen Keegan & Chelsea Pensioner Bob Hoggarth, a former Blue, at the Royal Hospital Chelsea after HM Grenadier Day.

Thursday 11th July 2013 – Beating Retreat; a wonderful spectacle on a glorious evening in a beautiful setting at Richmond Castle, **RSM Neil McClelland** invited the Branch back to the Sgts' Mess at Bournon Barracks, Catterick for a curry supper.



The Branch Annual Dinner; from Left to Right Capt D E Gardner (treasurer), Mr Mick Male, Mr Tony Daniels (chairman), Colonel & Mrs Craster (Branch president), Major Ed Paintin, Mr Harry Mudd, Mr John Sowerby and Mr John Keegan (secretary).

Saturday 13th July 2013 – Our Annual Dinner at Hartlepool Historic Quay in the Sir William Gray Suite, entertainment by Howie B, to celebrate the Grenadier Guards Association 100th Anniversary. **Major Ed Paintin** ITC Company Commander attended along with 63 members and guests, our 2nd dinner at this venue; we will certainly return again.

Sunday 21st July 2013 – We had our day out at Redcar Racecourse, a family fun day in support of Help the Heroes. Not too well attended but a really enjoyable day.

Friday 8th November 2013 – Remembrance Weekend; once again a party from the Branch travelled down to London, staying at the Kensington Close Hotel & Spa. We called in to meet up with old friends on Saturday 9th from the Household Division at the Royal Hospital, Chelsea. The Branch would like to thank **Sgt Major Pearce Lally** IG for the hospitality shown to us on this occasion. On Sunday morning we attended Whitehall for the Cenotaph Service.

Sunday 8th December 2013 – We sat down to a lovely Christmas Lunch at the Marton Hotel and Country Club and as this report is written we are very much looking forward to our Annual Burns Supper to be held at the same venue on Saturday 25th January 2014.

We would like to take this opportunity to offer the Branch's best wishes to everyone for 2014 and in conclusion thank **Major Andy Green, LSgt Rob Broomes** and all the staff at Regimental Headquarters for their continual support.

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

(Formed 1914)

President: Awaiting Appointment.

Vice Presidents: Mr G SEVERN; Sir ANDREW BUCHANAN, Bt.; Mr RL SHARPE; Mr GE HALLAM.

Chairman: Mr S.H. DAVIS.

Secretary: Mr GE HALLAM, 14 The Lawns, Whatton in the Vale, Nottinghamshire, NG13 9EZ.

Email: nottinghambranch@grengds.com

Facebook Group: Grenadier Guards Association (Notts) Branch.

Treasurer: Mrs. M. J. Greenberry.

Meetings: Second Friday each month except December, at The Victory Club, Church Drive, Daybrook, Nottingham, NG5 6JG.

The following new members have joined the Branch since our last report; **2321894 Forman G C H**, **24498165 Nash P**, **24574900 Turner N**, **24644845 Marris L**, **25041234 LSgt Bakewell D**; a hearty welcome to you all.

The Branch has gone from strength to strength this year and what a busy time we have had. To recognise the esteem of the membership for the former Treasurer **Mr**

Ray Topley (2006–2013), the Chairman **Mr S H Davis** presented him with set of four cut glass whiskey glasses engraved with the Royal Cypher; a well-deserved gift.



Gdsm R Cornell, Dmr Barton, Mr A M Dutton and Mr G Sneath.

On the 27th March a few stalwart members and friends braved extreme arctic conditions to attend St Leonards Church, Wollaton, Nottingham for the Dedication of the Branch Banner. The ceremony was conducted by Cannon the **Rev. J Lepine** with aplomb and dignity. Several Civic dignitaries were present with senior members of the Royal British Legion. Immaculately resplendent in tunic order was **Dmr Barton**, who sounded the Last Post and Reveille, and **Gdsm R Cornell**, a local lad from Cotgrave. Our sincere thanks for organising this event are due to **Mr G Sneath** and his several assistants.



Cannon the Rev. J Lepine, Mr G Sneath and Gdsm R Cornell.

On the 30th March an English Oak Tree was planted in the Arboretum Park, Nottingham to mark the Centenary of the Regimental Association. The weather,

again, was bitterly cold with snow flurries; nevertheless it was well attended and transpired to be a very moving event. The Lord Mayor, **Councillor L Unzur** and the Sheriff of Nottingham, **Councillor M Bryan** together with other Civic Leaders from the County Council attended. Two serving Guardsmen, **J Castle** (Watnall) and **F Nelson** (Long Eaton) attended in tunic order and both were, like their predecessors a week previously, in pristine order. The ceremony was followed by a buffet at the Belgrave Suite, Nottingham. All four Grenadiers were a credit to their Regiment and us all. The Tree is currently flourishing but began to lose its leaves with the arrival of Autumn; thanks to our Chairman **Mr S H Davis** for masterminding this occasion.



Mr P Martin, Gdsm R Cornell, Mr G Sneath, Dmr Barton and Mr R L Sharpe.

Regimental Remembrance Day saw one coach load of members and friends attend this annual parade. On Her Majesty's Grenadier Day, 26th June, two full coaches and several cars filled to capacity travelled to Buckingham Palace to see **H.M. The Queen** inspect Her Company and present new colours to Nijmegen Company. It was an awe inspiring day with excellent weather. Both events were considered to be a great success.

The National Armed Forces Day on 29th June was also a function of note. The weather was ideal and the public support was exceptional. Nine members paraded (which was disappointing) plus a Grenadier from Oxford. It seems that 'old age' is taking its toll what with disabilities of one sort or another! **LSgt Bakewell** (in uniform) was placed in charge of his own contingent of 'other' none Household Division personnel and thoroughly enjoyed himself. Following the Parade everyone went to the Victoria Embankment for the remainder of the day's displays and activities. The Branch stall suitable adorned by the artistry of **Jeff**

Smith was piled high with items for sale with many free 'sweet treats' for the children. As a result of the hard work put in by the usual group of members and their ladies even more money was raised for the branch and charity. Many thanks to all those who gave prizes, made donations and assisted in any way whatsoever in making this day such a winner for the Branch and Association.

The stall attracted many visitors, including the Lord Lieutenant of the County, **Sir John Pearce Bt** and other civic dignitaries. What also stands out this year is the industry of **Mr Patrick Martin**, particularly in the field of fund raising. He has organised successful events in local supermarkets in the City and County Area. His able assistants being **Clive Cookson, Ray Sharpe, Jeff Smith, Richard Grocott** and **Dave Harrison BEM** together with some of their ladies and other hard working members of the Branch who also deserve great credit. We thank them all.



Members and Civic dignitaries with Gdsm Castle and Nelson at the Arboretum.

There was no Regimental Dinner this year, however, 2014 will mark the Centenary of the Nottinghamshire Branch and a Dinner/Dance will be held on Saturday 26th April 2014 at the Nottinghamshire County Hall, Loughborough Road, Trent Bridge, Notts. Unfortunately Regimental musicians are unavailable but live music in keeping with the event will ensure a memorable evening. If you wish to attend please contact **Mr G E Hallam** at the address shown above.

The following joined the Branch 'Roll of Honour' and condolences go their relatives: **26166692 Devereux R, 627953 Clay I, 6023694 Blount D, 22925604 Duncan W, 2615788 Bowley A S, 2625983 Parr G, 23252933 Henshaw M A, 2626583 Johnson S, 24221239 Woulds M P, 24021091 Blackamore S G, 2386504 Lind M, 2629227 Boyers G L, 23252473 Foster M, 2625054 Hardy W H and 2623588 Swift A E L.**

OXFORDSHIRE

(Formed 1936)

President: Colonel ET HUDSON, CBE.

Vice Presidents: THE HON MRS RS TYSER; Major AH GRAY; Sir JOHN GRAHAM, Bt, GCM; THE HON GEOFFREY SOMERSET; THE VISCOUNT ESHER; Capt JRH WILLS; 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; Lieutenant Colonel RT MAUNDRELL, MVO; Major RM POTTER (Scots Guards).

Chairman: D WRIGHT.

Hon Secretary: PL COOK, 37 Glebelands, Headington, Oxford, OX3 7EN. Tel: (01865) 451 714.

Email: pelecoglebe@yahoo.co.uk

Treasurer: Mrs J SHAYLER.

The Association Annual General Meeting took place in March 2013 and we are happy to say that our secretary **Mr Peter Cook** was able to represent the Branch this year due to him being resident in the country and not on one of his world-wide adventures on a cruise ship!

As usual about 20 Branch members and friends attended The Christmas Carol service at The Guards Chapel and this lovely service is an ideal start to the Christmas festivities. Members of the Branch also gave support to neighbouring Household Division Associations for their usual annual lunches; skittles get-togethers, brewery tours and wine and cheese tasting parties. On the regimental front members attended the Regimental Remembrance Day service after which **Peter Brooks** was presented to **His Royal Highness The Duke of Edinburgh**. We then marched to pay our respects to the fallen at the Guards Memorial at Horse Guards.

The highlight of the social year was our attendance at The Association Garden Party, Her Majesty's Inspection of The Queen's Company and the Presentation of New Colours to Nijmegen Company. The standard of turnout and drill by the young men on parade was something that made us old hands proud to be associated with the Regiment. Over an excellent tea we also met old friends with whom we had served in the past, unfortunately though they decrease in number each time we meet.

At the end of August and at the invitation of The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers Association (RRFA) five members of our branch and their guests joined with them to attend The Mondement pilgrimage during which we were based in Epernay, the champagne region of France. Our first act of remembrance took place at La Ferte where the town welcomes us to lay wreathes at the magnificent war memorial commemorating over 3,700 men of The British Expeditionary Force (BEF) who fell during the retreat from Mons in 1914 and have no known graves. Sadly like all other regiments who took part in this terrible conflict

a great many Grenadier names appear on the memorial and like other associations represented **Peter Brooks** laid a wreath in their honour on behalf of our association. Afterwards we were well entertained in the town hall. La Ferte has a strong bond with the BEF who drove the Germans from the town and across the river Marne; this was the turning point of the war.

On Sunday 1st September we were involved with the French ceremonies at the gigantic Mondement war memorial at which the French commemorate the great victory of the Marne, the saving of France and the part played by our former comrades of The BEF. A delicious banquet style lunch followed which took up most of the afternoon and we thank **Richard Adams** of The RRFA for inviting us to take part in these events.

On a more local note at Branch level the 100th anniversary of the Association was celebrated by joining with the Coldstream Guards Association in organizing a fun day on 8th September at the Jordan Hill sports ground Oxford. Events included Aunt Sally, Skittles, Archery, Pistol Shooting, Crockery Breaking, Horseshoes, Wellie-throwing, Coconut Shy, Bouncy Castle, Slide and a pianist. A prize was awarded for the best man and lady in each event. Members excelled themselves in the cake making competition; the cakes were later auctioned raising £60.00. A grand raffle was also held, the majority of prizes being donated by local traders and this raised the magnificent total of £360.00 which helped to defray our expenses. Whilst the weather just about stayed fine and around 135 people attended it was rather disappointing that few actual members from both associations turned up to enjoy all the hard work put in by both committees.

Roy Ibson a spritely 77 year old ex-Grenadier who always gives 100% support to all our Branch functions not only excelled himself by taking up the challenge to cycle from Wellington Barracks to Waterloo but also raised the excellent sum of £3000.00 and we are informed that on completing the last 84 mile section he looked as if he had just come out of the pub after a Sunday lunchtime pint; on behalf of our Branch - well done **Roy**.

During the cycle ride **Peter Brooks** made himself useful by accompanying **LSgt Rob Broomes** in a Transit Van selling items from the Regimental shop to raise more money. Their first stop was Maidstone where £500.00 worth of goods were sold and the Medway members collected £1200.00 in donations during a concert given by the Regimental Band. The cyclists in the meantime had arrived at Folkestone after completing an 84 mile first leg. On day two after a 4am start they crossed the channel by ferry and 70 miles later arrived at Ypres and set up shop and did a brisk trade. The Band played at The Menin Gate ceremony where The Last Post has been played since 1928.

Day three and another early start; their first stop was at Oudenaarde town hall where the Regimental Band played again, and then on to Waterloo, a total distance of 84 miles; here the Band played at a Place Albert to welcome home the riders. The shop was set up one further time during their continental visit during which 500 euros worth of goods were sold. After an excellent reception at the town hall they retired for a well-earned rest. On Friday they completed the 12 hour journey back to Wellington Barracks and once again congratulations to **Roy, Rob and Peter** on all your efforts.

Peter Brooks our social secretary organized an excellent Christmas dinner at The Jolly Boatman and



The memorial at La Ferte, standing from Left to Right: Stan Holloway (Kingston Branch), Roy Ibson, David Wright, Peter Brooks, Roger Coppock (Coldstream Guards) and Peter Cook.



Members of our Branch Party at the memorial at Sezanne. Mr Remi Foch the Great Grandson of Marshal Ferdinand Foch, commander of the Allied forces during the latter stages of WW1 is second from the left.

further lunches during the year at The Highwayman and Four Pillars Hotel, all of which are well attended. Our AGM preceded the lunch at The Highwayman and it was sad to hear that our chairman **Don Thompson** had decided to step down from the post. **Don**, a quiet unassuming man and always properly dressed whatever the occasion held the meetings together in his own professional manner and we will miss him dearly. However, he will still serve on our committee so he will not be lost completely. **David Wright** was elected to take his place and we wish him well.

Our annual lunch again took place at The Banbury Cricket Club on Sunday 27th October and 80 members and guests sat down to our usual and now to be expected excellent four-course meal with wine provided by **Mrs Higgs** and her staff, **Mr Allan Knowles** (son of the late **Harry Knowles** an ex Drill Sergeant of the regiment) gave us an insight and somewhat amusing chat on what life was like in married quarters when his dad was serving. Afterwards he proposed the toast to the Regiment and Association. **Capt Nico Wills** briefed us on the year's regimental activities and future plans; he then presented meritorious service certificates to **Mr Don Thompson** for completing 12 years as Branch chairman, and **Mrs Janet Shayler** for completing 20 years as Branch treasurer.

Sadly during the year we lost **23252362 Mr Greenough**, **22144716 Mr Bartlett** and associate member **Mr Radford** late of The Life Guards, both the chairman and secretary represented the Branch at their funerals.

In conclusion we would like to thank our president **Colonel E T Hudson CBE**, all our present committee and our accountant **Mr Colin Hessey** for all the hard work put in over the last year in order to keep this Branch active. All non-active members reading this, please do come along and take part in Branch functions and events, we would dearly love to keep our Grenadier family alive.

READING

(Formed 1913)

President: Lieutenant Colonel H S HANNING.

Vice Presidents: Major General B C GORDON LENNOX, CB, MBE; Major G V A BAKER; The Hon Mrs Jeremy MONSON; J G SOUTHERN, Esq.; D McMAHON, Esq, RVM; G. SLADE, Esq.

Chairman: Mr P FLOWERDEW.

Secretary: T DAY, 1 Harness Close, Reading, Berks, RG2 8PF.
Tel: 0118 9868328.

Email: t.day661@btinternet.com

Treasurer: Mr J Veary.

members attended. Our President and Chairman agreed to continue for a further year. In last year's report the secretary gave notice of standing down at the end of 2013 and asked if anyone would take over from her in 2014. As no-one came forward we had a discussion and a solution was forthcoming. The secretary would carry on dealing with the administration and **John Southern** agreed to become the Branch events co-ordinator. This way the Branch is in a position to carry on for the foreseeable future. Our Treasurer and Welfare Officer and other committee members agreed to carry on for a further year.



Left to Right: Bob Wood, Pamela Flowerdew, Philip Flowerdew, John Southern, Christine Southern, Theresa Day, Lieutenant Colonel Henry Hanning, Jim Veary, Margaret Roberts and Ken Stokes.

The Branch had two major events this year, one of course was Her Majesty's Grenadier Day at Buckingham Palace celebrating 100 years of our Association. Watching The Queen's Company, Nijmegen Company and listening to the Regimental Band was marvellous and everyone who attended will never forget that day. **Philip Flowerdew** our Chairman and our Secretary **Theresa Day** were honoured to meet the Queen – it was mentioned that our own Branch Event was to be held in September and that Reading was the first Branch to be formed and **Her Majesty** was most interested.



From Wellington Barracks to Buckingham Palace.

Our Annual General Meeting was held at the Calcot Hotel in Reading on the 24th March and 13



Bradfield College Committee meeting, Left to Right: Phillip Flowerdew, Christine Southern, John Southern, Lieutenant Colonel Henry Hanning, Mrs Elizabeth Hanning, Pamela Flowerdew, Robin Kellow and Jim Veary.

The Branch celebrated its 100 years with its own Event at Bradfield College on the 1st September. Immense thanks must go to all the Presidents, Chairmen, Secretaries, Treasurers, Welfare Officers and Committee Members who have kept our Branch active for all these years. The Association has been the way forward for all Grenadiers who have left the Regiment to keep in touch after both World Wars when modern technology was far into the future.



Branch Centenary Annual Lunch at Bradfield College.

Every year the Not Forgotten Association sends an invitation for one of our Branch to attend their Buckingham Palace Garden Party and **Bob Wood** attended with a family member – two Buckingham Palace Garden Parties within a week cannot be bad!

Congratulations to all who took part in the W2W Bike Ride and all the money raised for the Colonel's Fund will be most welcome to help all families.

Sadly three of our Branch members have died in the past year. **Neville Townsend** died suddenly in October 2012. He was a

great archivist of Regimental photographs and **Elisabeth** his wife has kindly donated them to the Branch. The photographs and Regimental history are wonderful and will be a great asset for those studying our Regiment in years to come. **Bill May** a vice President of the Branch died in August 2013 quite suddenly. **Bill** was the Branch Treasurer when the present secretary first became involved with the Branch over thirty years ago and consequently was our Chairman for many years. We thank him for all the years he gave to the Branch, he will always be remembered. **Terry Wiltshire** well known to many of you died in August 2013. May they Rest in Peace.

With many thanks to **Andy Green** and **Rob Broomes** for all the help they have given over this year, especially all the work for Her Majesty's Grenadier Day at the Palace which was wonderful.



Tessa Baker one of our own W2W riders who arrived at Bradfield for lunch on her bike.



Peter Brooks (Oxford), Eric Hallett CG, John Southern and Ken Tudgey at Covent Garden raising money for the Poppy Appeal on 7th November 2013.

SHROPSHIRE

(Formed 1927)

President: MAJOR G V INGLIS-JONES.

Vice Presidents: Sir ALGERNON HEBER-PERCY, KVCQ, JP, LL; Major RG WOODFIELD, MBE; Capt D VERNON; C BECK, Esq; Lieutenant Colonel F S ACTON; Mr G PRITCHARD, Esq; H W SPENCER, Esq; Capt G WHITAKER; W.S.I KENYON-SLANEY, OBE, KstJ, DL, Esq.

Chairman: HW SPENCER, Esq.

Secretary: C BECK, 133 VICTORIA ROAD, BRIDGNORTH, SHROPSHIRE, WV16 4LL. Tel: 01746 761501.

Email: chris40beck@googlemail.com

Treasurer: F DAWE.

We begin our report by saying what a wonderful day we all had at Her Majesty's Grenadier Day watching The Queen's Company Inspection and the presentation of New Colours to Nijmegen Company. We all thought everything went so well and even the weather was perfect. We must thank all those at RHQ for their organisation and for making it such a special day.

At the time of writing we are very much looking forward to our December Lunch at the Lord Hill in Shrewsbury which we hope will be as well supported as was the previous one in 2012. Unfortunately our President **Major Giles Inglis-Jones** is out of action at the moment and unable to attend but we all wish him well and look forward to seeing him and his wife Arabella at our AGM in this coming April. In the meantime we have a very able deputy in **Capt Giles Whitaker** and thank him very much for stepping in.

At our last committee meeting we thought that we would hold a reunion luncheon in 2014 with the exact audience to be confirmed. We aim to look at dates and venues at our AGM. We also welcomed **David Robins** and **Keith Wright**; secretary and chairman of the North Staffordshire Branch to the meeting to discuss a joint garden party, by kind permission of our President **Sir Algernon Heber-Percy KCVO** at Hodnet Hall in the Summer of 2014.

Branch membership stands at about 75 Grenadiers and some 30 widows and associate members. We have welcomed three new members to the Branch recently; **24368621 Michael Tipton**, **24721935 Julian Hinckley** and **CSgt Paul Churm** and we look forward to seeing them as soon as their commitments allow. In conclusion we would like to wish all Grenadiers and members of the Association good health and happiness for 2014 and please come and see us in Shropshire where you will be assured of a warm and friendly welcome.



SPALDING

(Formed 1954)

President: Major SJE TURNER (Scots Guards).

Chairman: D HIGGS, ESQ.

Hon Secretary: MR STEVENSON, 30 Crown Drive, Spalding, PE11 2HU. Tel: (01775) 725 535.

Email: josiemalcolm50@talktalk.net

Meetings: Last Thursday of each month at Royal British Legion Club.

John Keats said Autumn was "a season of mists and mellow fruitfulness" but what he did not know is that it also the season of the Gazette article. A time when our secretary's brain is definitely misty and full of hopes for fruitfulness! His report is made easier by the fact that the Spalding Branch is in good heart at the moment and the membership full of optimism for the future.

The number of members attending meetings has actually increased this year, not because we have attracted new members but because members who have supported us faithfully but have not attended meetings have come along to join us. The evenings are most enjoyable, members are now showing hidden talents by volunteering as speakers; **Graham Gilmore** had spoken on The Battle of Alma, The Zulu Wars and his role in the film The Four Feathers. **Pearl Levesley**, an official guide at Peterborough Cathedral has spoken about its history, a subject obviously close to her heart. We are looking forward to more in the same vein in the year ahead.

Times of course are changing and we must adapt. We had no chance of running a bus to Buckingham Palace so on that day in June a group of very smart men and beautifully attired ladies could be seen getting on the train at Peterborough. We were most grateful to **Harold Harris** for sorting out the tickets and finding bargain prices. What a memorable day it was; there can be nothing better than the Grenadier Family en masse!

Members also attended a presentation evening at the local Army Cadet Force HQ. Such smart young people whose hard work and endeavour needs to be recognised more widely. **Cadet Victoria Paul** received the statuette for the most improved cadet and **Cadet Nick Utley** was awarded the shield for Smart Turnout.

This year has brought great sadness to the Branch. **Jo Stocker**, the wife of our chairman sadly became ill and died in July. **Jo** had always loyally supported her husband **Roy** in his work for the Branch and led our willing band of ladies who provide the refreshments at meetings. We are all going to miss her very much. **Roy** devoted his time to **Jo** and therefore decided he could no longer fulfil his role as Chairman and it was with regret that we accepted his resignation. Our new Chairman is **David Higgs**, who is also the Mayor of his home town, Bourne. He is having a very busy year aided by his wife **Angela**. We all wish



Our new Branch President David Higgs and his wife Angela.

him well in his new role as Chairman.

Finally we must thank all members for their friendliness and help during the last year; they make the work so much easier. The Spalding Branch must be among the most loyal and friendliest and it is a pleasure to be associated with such sterling members.

SUFFOLK

(Formed 1926)

President: Colonel DHC GORDON LENNOX.

Vice Presidents: Major CXS FENWICK, LVO; Major FAO CLARK; FA WALLACE, ESQ, MR CR DEARING.

Chairman: PGD T DEL NISBETT, Esq.

Secretary: DC BEAUMONT, 6 Wareham Avenue, Ipswich, IP3 8QD. Tel: 01473 729524.

Email: ggasuffolk@gmail.com

Treasurer: DC BEAUMONT, 6 Wareham Avenue, Ipswich, IP3 8QD. Tel: 01473 729524.

Email: ggasuffolk@gmail.com

The Branch AGM was held in April 2013, at the Cedars Hotel, Stowmarket. In the absence of the Chairman (on business), the Chair was taken by the Branch President **Colonel D H C Gordon Lennox**. The Chairman and Secretary were re-elected unopposed, but there being no nomination for Treasurer, the Secretary agreed to fulfil this duty until a Treasurer could be appointed.

Once again a contingent from the Branch attended Regimental Remembrance Day. Two stalwart brothers **Brian and Bernard Taylor** were presented to the Colonel.

The highlight of the year was undoubtedly Her Majesty's Grenadier Day. It is pleasing to report that not only was it a spectacle to make all Association members

feel very proud, but it also formed a catalyst to bond the Branch Members together. It is anticipated that all Branches attending will be finding clichés suitable to describe the day. From the Suffolk Branch perspective, we were all proud to be in the company of all those disciplined and brave soldiers who had carried out their duties in the true fashion expected of Grenadiers.

To the social scene; following a suggestion at the 2012 AGM a Spring Lunch was held at Hintlesham Golf Club and a Summer Lunch at Bury St. Edmunds Golf Club. There was a change of emphasis from an annual dinner to an annual lunch this year. The Branch revisited the Hintlesham Golf Club where there was a good turnout. **Capt Chris Stevenson** was in attendance to update members and guests on the duties performed by the Battalion in the past year; sincere thanks were expressed to Chris.

It is pleasing to end this report on a positive note; two longstanding Branch members will be rewarded for their services to the Branch, **Albert Jones**, past secretary and **Peter Wood** past treasurer had been in post for 10 years. Albert will be awarded the Colonel's Certificate and Peter the President's Certificate.

SURREY & EAST HAMPSHIRE

(Formed 1925)

note: as Caterham Branch then in 1931 it changed names to Surrey Branch, then again in 1986 to Surrey & East Hampshire Branch.

President: Lieutenant Colonel Sir JOHN SMILEY, Bt.

Vice Presidents: Colonel E. H. HOUSTOUN, OBE; Lieutenant Colonel R M DORNEY, MBE; Lieutenant Colonel HMP De L'ISLE; Lieutenant Colonel T.J. TEDDER; Lieutenant Colonel D.J. WEBSTER; Lieutenant Colonel G.R. WHITEHEAD, RVM; Capt C.H. COX; Capt C. FAGAN; Capt R. HUTTON; Mrs P. DOWLAND; Mr P. HODGKINSON, BEM; Mr S. KEYWORTH, MBE.

Chairman: Mr A REID.

Secretary: Mrs B REID, 71 Wyke Avenue, Ash, Aldershot, Hants, GU12 6EA. Tel: 01252 316757.

Email: babsrgga@gmail.com

Welfare Officer: Mrs Babs REID.

Treasurer: Mr T TAYLOR.

Meetings: Third Wednesday of each month apart from December at 1930hrs at the WO's & Sgts Mess, Army Training Regiment, Pirbright, Surrey, GU24 0QQ.

Sadly we start by having to report the loss of five of our members since the last Grenadier Gazette was published, they are: **Mrs Dolly Hammond, Mrs Margaret Longhurst, Mrs Lilly Turmaine, 2613493 Mr Ron Grant and 2615491 Mr W J A (Jim) Howland.** 'Lest we Forget'.

On a much happier note we are very pleased to report

that we have had the pleasure to welcome eight new members to our branch and they are: **24400467 Mr Timothy (Piggy) Johnson**, **24652100 Mr Russell Downing**, **24185805 Kenneth Ward**, **24751796 Mr Anthony (Johnno) Johnston**, **Captain Christopher Fagan**, **23509230 Mr David Spokes**, **22955340 Mr Colin Henry (Noddy) Francis**, and **24239435 Mr Christopher Jennings** (who re-joined our branch after moving back to our area from Cornwall).

Our branch continues to be very active and well supported by our members and families. Our Sunday lunches held once a month also continue to be well attended and they are normally held at the Lakeside International Hotel in Frimley, Surrey on the last Sunday of each month.

On Saturday 9th February 2013 following an arrangement between **Mr Alan Hughes** (who was our Entertainments Officer) and the Windsor branch, a games night was organised (something that used to happen on a regular basis years ago). We had a very pleasant evening in the Grenadier Club with the Windsor branch who made us very welcome. One of our teams came joint second in the quiz and they donated their prize winnings to our Branch funds. Following the games we all had a very enjoyable fish & chip supper. Our thanks go to those members who supported us and also to **Alan** for organising this event. We have since had another visit and look forward to further visits in the future.



Our President Lieutenant Colonel Sir John Smiley Bt (middle) presents Mr Alan Hughes (right) to our Guest of Honour the Lord-Lieutenant of Hampshire, Dame Mary Fagan DCVO JP (left).

some of the Regimental silver from Regimental Headquarters in order to have at least one piece of silver on each table. **Peter** arranged the 30 Company colour plaques (that had been made some years ago for the branch by a previous branch secretary, **Mr Sid Dowland BEM**) which



On Display – the 30 Company Colours.

Our Annual Dinner was held on Saturday 20th April 2013 and due to the fact that it was the Association Centenary year our branch held a special Centenary Dinner at the Macdonald Frimley Hall Hotel, Frimley, Camberley. The dinner was organised by **Mr Alan Hughes** and **Mr Peter Hodgkinson BEM**. The tables looked good as **Alan** was able to obtain

looked good under the special lighting provided by a local lighting company.

95 people attended including our Guest of Honour, The Lord-Lieutenant of Hampshire, **Dame Mary Fagan DCVO JP** and her husband **Capt Christopher Fagan**, our guest speaker the Commanding Officer of the 1st Battalion Grenadier Guards, **Lieutenant Colonel J M H Bowder OBE**, the Association President, **Lieutenant Colonel E H Houstoun OBE** and members from the Lincoln and Medway Branches.



The Guards Division Corps of Drums Association display on the hotel lawn.

The evening started with welcoming drinks, followed by a display on the lawn of the hotel by the Guards Division Corps of Drums Association. Everyone then went into the hotel to take up their seats in the dining room. Having welcomed in the top table we then had dinner accompanied by music played by several members of the Regimental Band.



The band plays as we dine.

At the end of dinner **Lieutenant Colonel Sir John Smiley Bt** (our President) welcomed everyone and thanked them for coming. After reading the Loyal messages he introduced our Guest of Honour **Dame Mary** who sincerely thanked us for asking both her and her husband to the dinner. Our next speaker was the Association President **Colonel E H Houstoun OBE**, who asked us all to support the 'Wellington (London) to Waterloo (Belgium)' bike ride on 24th to 27th September

2013, which the branch and individual members have actively undertaken. The last of our speakers was the Commanding Officer (our guest speaker) who gave us a fascinating and first-hand account of Battalion life in Afghanistan. His deeply moving description of the winning of the Victoria Cross by **LCpl James Ashworth VC** completely held the room and his words remain, we are certain, with everyone to this day.

We had the normal raffle which raised the fantastic amount of £1,080.00 for branch funds.



The raffle has started.

Regimental Remembrance Day was held on Sunday 19th May 2013. The weather was beautiful in London, dry, sunny and warm the whole day. We arrived at Wellington Barracks quite early giving us lots of time to catch up with friends before the rush. This year there was a tea tent that sold light refreshments and hot drinks. The Garrison Sgts' Mess was open for those members wishing for something a little stronger. There was a service in the morning in the Guards' Chapel for the families of the five Grenadier serving soldiers killed on the last tour to Afghanistan during which there was a dedication of an engraved window showing the Regimental Cypher and their names under it; **LCpl James Ashworth VC**, **Gdsm Michael Roland**, **Gdsm Jamie Shadrake**, **Gdsm Karl Whittle** and **LCpl Duane Groom**.

The main remembrance service took place at 3pm and with the Guards Division Corps of Drums Association playing outside people filtered into the Guards' Chapel to take their seats. The service itself was one of the best we have ever been to. As is normal our band played but we had the addition this year of the Choir; both of which were outstanding. All the hymns were some of our all-time favourites; it was so nice to hear such volume as everyone sang and almost raised the roof from the Chapel.

Following the service and while everyone was forming up outside on the square in Battalions, our Colonel **Prince Philip** went down into the Guards Museum to meet some of the Association members who had formed up ready to be presented to him, including **Peter & Francis Isgar** from our branch.

There was a good turnout of Association members and Serving soldiers who formed up ready to march from Wellington Barracks down Birdcage Walk and onto Horse Guards Parade to lay the Wreath on the Guards

Memorial. All marched off to music from the Regimental Band and the Guards Division Corps of Drums Association. The march went without any mishaps and when they all returned to Wellington Barracks; **Colonel E H Houstoun OBE** (Grenadier Guards Association President) addressed everyone for the last time during his tenure. Before he dismissed the parade he asked the serving members of the Regiment to stand fast and all other members to give three cheers for the Regiment and on every cheer there was an enormous roar from not only everyone on parade but from all the families and even the members of the public who were watching the Parade through the railings. The hairs on the back of our necks stood up with pride as we stood watching our men from the crowd. It must have been a very proud day for **Colonel Houstoun** as well as being a sad one, this being his last Remembrance Parade as Association President.

Wednesday 26th June found us at Buckingham Palace for Her Majesty's Grenadier Day 53 of our members were coached up to London for a wonderful day on the lawns of Buckingham Palace. For **Babs Reid** it was one of the highlights of her year as she was presented to **Her Majesty**, 'what an honour'.



The Branch Group at Her Majesty's Grenadier Day.

The **Bob Bennett** Memorial Charity Fishing Match was held on Sunday 7th July 2013. Each year since the death of **Bob** in 2007 (a former Branch Chairman who died before Chairing his first meeting), the Branch has held a fishing competition in his memory on the first Sunday in July. This is amongst groups of people who **Bob** had a close connection with; the Grenadier Guards Association Surrey & East Hampshire Branch, the Surrey Police, the Environment Agency and the Aldershot Garrison Angling Club. All of which have to form teams of five people.

For the 6th year we held the match at Henley Lake, Pirbright. All fishermen assembled at 0800hrs for team briefing and Pool participation under direction of the Aldershot Garrison Angling Club. After paying their entrance fee of £10.00 per person and drawing their peg numbers, the match commenced at 1000 hrs. The day's weather was very hot and sunny. The match continued until 1500hrs and after the final whistle was blown weighing in and recording under Environment Agency guidance took place. Everyone then moved to the Lion Brewery, Ash where

the prize giving, raffle and pools payouts took place followed by a hot buffet meal for Anglers and their guests.

The winning team was Aldershot Garrison Angling Club who hosted the match venue. 2nd was the Environment Agency, 3rd was the Grenadier Guards and 4th was Surrey Police. Money raised was £285 from team entries and the raffle plus a further £65 donated by the family of **Bob Bennett** in order to round it up to a total of £350. The proceeds of the day went to the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds which was **Bob's** favourite Charity.

On Thursday 11th July 2013 we met up in the car park after making our own way to the French Brothers, Runnymede Boathouse in Old Windsor, where our branch boat trip was to start. Before we even boarded our boat we found out from some of our members that there are three memorials overlooking the Thames at Runnymede. The first and oldest is towards the top of the hill. The Air Force Memorial which commemorates by name over 20,000 airmen who were lost in the Second World War during operations from bases in the United Kingdom and North and Western Europe, and who have no known graves. They served in Bomber, Fighter, Coastal, Transport, Flying Training and Maintenance Commands, and came from all parts of the Commonwealth. Some were from countries in continental Europe which had been overrun but whose airmen continued to fight in the ranks of the Royal Air Force. The memorial was designed by Sir Edward Maufe with sculpture by Vernon Hill. The engraved glass and painted ceilings were designed by John Hutton and the poem engraved on the gallery window was written by Paul H Scott. The Memorial was unveiled by The Queen on 17th October 1953.

The second is The Magna Carta Memorial and was built by the American Bar Association from donations from over 9,000 American lawyers. This memorial is in the shape of a domed classical temple containing a pillar which carries the inscription; "To commemorate Magna Carta, symbol of Freedom under Law". Sir Edward Maufe also designed this memorial. It was unveiled on 18th July 1957, a mere 742 years after the event it commemorates. There are visitor information plaques displaying the coats of arms of the 25 Barons and Bishop Langton accompanied by a brief description of Magna Carta for the benefit of visitors.

The third memorial stands on one acre of ground that is now the property of the United States of America. This memorial was designed by G.A. Jellicoe and unveiled by the Queen on 14th May 1965. It is dedicated to the memory of John F Kennedy who was assassinated on 22nd November 1963. The inscription reads "This acre of ground was given to the United States of America by the people of Britain in memory of John F Kennedy, born 19th May 1917: President of the United States 1961–63: died by an assassin's hand 22nd November 1963. "Let every Nation know, whether it wishes us well or ill, that we shall pay any price, bear any burden, meet any hardship, support any friend or oppose any foe, in order

to assure the survival and success of liberty": from the inaugural address of President Kennedy, January 1961.

At 1100hrs we boarded our boat The New Queen of the Thames, one of the largest boats on the Upper Thames at 25.9 meters in length, a beam width of 5.34 meters and a capacity of 150 passengers. The lower saloon deck had a very large forward facing saloon area which was furnished with 11 large tables arranged in a horse shoe configuration and comfortable upholstered seating. It had double glazed windows all round which afforded excellent panoramic views. The upper deck comprised a spacious covered sightseeing platform which had upholstered banqueting chairs arranged in rows ready for sightseeing trips. The rear deck had a separate well stocked bar area towards the rear of the vessel serving draught as well as spirits, soft drinks, premium bottle beers, house wines, tea and coffee. The boat also had a unique solid roof mounted on a hydraulic system which allowed it to be lowered in two positions in order to allow the boat to go under the bridges.

After a short safety announcement over the speaker system, our **Captain Michael** and two crew members cast off and we are on our way up the Thames to Windsor. After we all settled down with our drinks from the bar (hot and cold) we started to enjoy the surroundings at a much slower pace where we are able to take it all in, passing some beautiful houses along the way that are far out of our price range, so I don't think we'll even bother contacting the estate agents "unless we get a winning ticket on the lottery this week".

About 10 minutes later **Michael** our Captain announces that we are approaching our first bridge, the Ham Island access bridge. He requests all the passengers on the upper deck to remain seated and to lean away from the side poles as the roof is going to be lowered to enable the boat to clear the bridge. There are a few worried faces as the whole roof begins to move forward on its hydraulic system while at the same time it begins to lower, stopping when only inches from our heads. With relief we pass safely under the bridge and the Captain announces that he is raising the roof again and when it's locked into position passengers will be allowed, once again, to wander around the boat.

We pass the Bells of Ouzeley, Old Windsor, which used to be a public house and is now a restaurant. Travelling on we see the large construction of Old Windsor weir on our right. Further on we enter our first lock; the Old Windsor lock, where we ascend about 5 to 6 feet in order to continue our journey. There is a constant pre-recorded commentary about our surroundings. We pass the Great Park to our left and Datchet on our right, then Home Park with splendid views of the Castle. We ascend the impressive Romney Lock with a glimpse of Eton College and arrive in Windsor below the Castle just upstream of the Sir Christopher Wren House Hotel, but not before our Captain announces once again that all passengers on the top deck should now go to the lower deck, as the roof

is to be lowered once again, much lower this time in order to clear another bridge. We disembark from our boat that's now going to collect more passengers and continue up the river to Bray, returning at 1600hrs to pick us up again for our return journey to Runnymede.

This allows us 3½ hours to explore Windsor and as we split up and go our separate ways the first port of call for us is Brown's on the other side of the road where the ladies pay a visit to the little room while the guys order some coffees. Once we finish our coffees we split up again and it's off to explore Windsor!

All too soon our 3½ hrs have come to an end and once again we all meet up at the river's edge, ready to board our boat for the return trip. The crew were a great laugh and we had some great banter and fun with them. We arrived back at Runnymede on time at 1730hrs.

Our Branch BBQ was held on Sunday 2nd September 2013. After a wet start to the day the sun came out just in time to dry the patio ready for our BBQ at the Chairman and Secretary's house. The day was a great success and enjoyed by everyone who attended. It was an afternoon of fun and laughter, with great helpings of food and a lot of people coming back for a second helping, only just leaving enough room for a pudding. We managed to send everyone away bursting at the seams and not wanting anything else to eat for the rest of the day.

A trip to the Tower of London was made on Saturday 12th October 2013. 52 of our members took advantage of this organised trip and were coached up to the Tower of London for a tour under the guidance of fellow Grenadier and now Yeoman Warder **Kevin Kitcher**. **Ke**v provided us with a wealth of history on the Tower in the most humorous way as we toured around and we ended the tour in the Yeoman Warder Club for our fish and chip supper and a drink. Following supper we all headed back outside to form up at Traitors Gate to watch the Ceremony of the Keys. It's then back to the Yeoman Warder Club for a couple more drinks and a chance to thank **Ke**v for all his efforts on our behalf. Another successful trip enjoyed by everyone who went, even though it was gone 0200hrs before we arrived home and even later when those members who lived in Portsmouth got home.

At the time of writing and looking forward to 2014 we have been busy planning ahead and already have 29 events on our calendar, so our branch continues to be very active. It is hoped that we can continue to share some of these events with other branches as we have done in the past.

Ladies and Gentlemen, that's about it but before we finish our Secretary **Babs Reid** and her husband **Andy** (our branch Chairman) would just like to say a big thank you to our President, the Committee and Members of our branch for their support. Also to everyone at Regimental Headquarters for their continued help without which they might not have been able to do their jobs. 'Thank you everyone'.

SUSSEX

(Formed 1947)

President: Capt JS GREENWOOD.

Vice Presidents: Lieutenant Colonel TEM DONE; Capt JR GREENWOOD, MBE, DL; Capt S WITHERIDGE; AD MAYHEW, Esq. DG MONEY, Esq, MBE.

Hon Vice Presidents: Colonel JC RICHARDSON, MA (RAMC).

Chairman: MW BRACKSTON.

Secretary: JP NORRIS, Esq, The New House, 1a Sea Lane Close, East Preston, West Sussex BN16 1NQ. Tel: 01903 786247.

Email: j.p.norris@hotmail.com

Meetings: Formal meetings on the second Thursday in the month at lunchtime (1115hrs–1430hrs) Meetings are held at the Royal British Legion, Lancing, BN15 9AX. Contact the Branch Secretary for further details.

Following our report for last year's Gazette some of the Branch members and their wives gathered together for our December (Christmas) meeting and had the usual buffet of good food supplied by a number of our wives. This was followed by quizzes arranged by **Roy Prior** who also provided the prizes of chocolate bars etc. He ran out of these because a certain amount of cheating was involved where answers had been passed around amongst those taking part! A raffle followed where the proceeds went to the Branch funds. A good time seemed to have been had by all and we dispersed for our own Christmas period festivities.

Quite early in the New Year **Derek Money** went into Hospital for a routine hip replacement operation and decided, with his family, that he really should give up the duties of Secretary and Treasurer of the Branch. He has been given the opportunity by the new Branch Secretary, **John Norris**, to address the Branch following his handover to **John** and to **Barney Cresswell** who has taken on the responsibility of Branch treasurer. **Derek** writes:

"I became your Branch Secretary on the 14th February 1974 just three weeks after I had left the Regiment. Little did I know that I would be in office for 39 years and four months. I had been trying to hand over the responsibility of the branch for some 18 months but during the last eight months or so when I have had a series of health problems this made it more important that I would have to give it up and so it came about that I handed over to **John** and **Barney** in June."

"I would like to say that I, with the willing assistance of **Eileen**, my wife, have enjoyed those years immensely and also that during those years we made many friends, quite a few who have sadly passed away but the memory of those and others of you will stay with us for a long time."

"The saying is that new brooms sweep clean and I know that **John** has his own ideas about where the Sussex Branch is going and **Eileen** and I will be looking forward to taking part, whenever we can, in what he has in mind.

Those of you who attend the branch meetings will see us when we sit back and let the new team get on with it. Our very best wishes to you and your families for the future”

We are delighted to report that **Derek** has made a full recovery but to replace someone like him and take on his work load proved to be an impossible task and strong consideration was given to closing the branch. This was discussed and it was decided that **Barney Cresswell** and **John Norris** would take over the duties that **Derek** had carried out so successfully over the years. It soon became very clear just how much time **Derek** had devoted to the Branch and to the Association as a whole. He will continue to serve on the Executive Committee and the Finance Sub-Committee of the Association and he has also been made a Vice President of our Branch. The Branch owe a huge debt of gratitude to **Derek** and **Eileen** and we take this opportunity to make it clear just how much we have appreciated their work and dedication over such a long time on our behalf.

The 2013 Branch dinner was cancelled due to circumstances beyond our control but the good news is that we will be having one this year at our normal venue, The Windsor Hotel, Worthing on 25th April. The Branch continues to meet on the second Thursday of each month and will do so over the Winter months which is a departure from previous years. The attendance is approximately 25 members and wives. The majority are retired and ages range from 70–88. We do have at least one younger member who is a watch commander with Sussex Fire Service.

We will continue to press on and hope for new members and would welcome any suggestions as to how to find them. Although our meetings have a relatively small attendance the actual membership including Officers is approximately 80.

To try to get as many together at our Christmas Meeting we are trying to co-ordinate as many people as possible to give lifts to those who are unable to make the journey under their own steam. We will see how this works; we can only try.

The Branch was represented at the National Remembrance Day Parade 2012 in London by four members, **Dudley Room**, **Tom Holland**, **John Norris** and **David Sneller**. It was the first time John had actually taken part in the parade although he had on a number of occasions been part of the Police contingent

whose duties included street lining, traffic and crowd control. It was a wonderful experience and for those who have never taken part our message is “you do not know what you are missing”!

We have a rather sad piece of news to report, **Capt Richard Greenwood MBE DL** our President since 2002 has announced his intention to retire due to ill health but **Capt Simon Greenwood**, his son, is succeeding him. The Branch wishes **Richard** a speedy recovery and gives thanks to him for his wonderful service to the Branch.

Our branch meetings are held at The Royal British Legion Club, Culver Road, Lancing, West Sussex on the second Thursday in each month, except April, from 11 am until 2pm. If you are visiting Brighton or Worthing at about this time you and your ladies will be made most welcome. If you want to confirm your visit then please get in touch with **John Norris** (Tel No 01903 786247).

Finally we are proud to announce that to support the Wellington to Waterloo cycle

ride in aid of the Colonel's Fund we have donated five hundred pounds. In closing we send greetings and best wishes to all Grenadiers and their families wherever they might be.

TAMWORTH

(Formed 1965)

President: Awaiting Appointment.

Vice Presidents: A W Wale.

Chairman: B WATTON, Esq.

Secretary: PETER MAGUIRE. Tel: 0121 373 2356.

Email: tamworthbranch@grengds.com

Meetings: 2nd Sunday of the Month at Royal British Legion, 11 Aldergate, Tamworth, Staffordshire, B79 7DL at 1230hrs.

Our branch AGM was held in March 2013, at the Royal British Legion Tamworth; all existing committee members were re-elected.

Once again for Regimental Remembrance Day the branch were unable to arrange travel for members to London, due to rail and bus travel being disrupted on Sundays resulting in a too late arrival time. Those



Derek and Eileen Money celebrating their Diamond Wedding anniversary on 5th September 2013.

members who did attend made their own way to the capital. **Can any other branch of the association help?** If you are travelling by coach, and are travelling south on either the M42/A5, passing Tamworth services on your way, please remember that we could possibly fill any spare seats you may have, so please let us know in future years.

Members and families once again attended The Queen's Birthday Parade, the lucky ones seated while all others standing on the inner line of sentries; many thanks to RHQ for the ticketing. It's an excellent day out, being there on Horse Guards makes you feel so proud; and then it's off for lunch and a tour of the local hostelrys meeting friends old and new.

Her Majesty's Grenadier Day was a magnificent and most wonderful day, what a splendid occasion. All members and wives attending agreed the whole event was brilliant from start to finish. Thank you to Her Majesty and the Regiment for a day that will stay in our memories for ever.

It is with sadness that we have to report the passing of **Jim Hickin** after a long illness. **Jim** was a past chairman of the branch and our sympathies go to **Molly** and her family. On a happier note, our chairman **Barrie Watton** and his wife **Gillian** celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary with a holiday in Cuba earlier this year.

Becoming involved; any former or current members of the Regiment are most welcome to attend meetings or to contact **Peter Maguire**, our secretary, for more details on 0121 373 2356.

WALSALL

(Formed 1974)

President: Major J. COLEMAN.

Vice Presidents: G PHILLIPS; Mr C. JONES; Mr R JOLLY, BEM.

Chairman: B DOYLE.

Treasurer: F BALL.

Secretary: FRED BALL, 106 Hough Road, Walsall, WS2 9BE.
Tel: (01922) 631853.

Email: fredball102@btinternet.com

Meetings: Second Wednesday of each month at Short Heath Royal British Legion Club, Church Road, Willenhall, WV12 5PT.

The Branch AGM was held in January 2013 with all officers being re-elected. March 2013 saw 40 members travel by coach to Eastbourne for a 5 day break with full board and a free bar (yes, free bar. What was the hotel thinking?). Everyone appeared to enjoy their time away and if they didn't they couldn't remember anyway!

40 Branch members attended Regimental Remembrance Sunday to pay respects to our fallen members. Two full coaches travelled to London for the Garden Party. It was nice to see the ladies dressed to perfection and the men too

of course. Everyone who attended commented on what a wonderful time they had.

The Branch made a £220 donation to **Brian Gillon**, a member of the Wolverhampton Branch who rode in the cycle ride from Wellington to Waterloo. Well done to all of the cyclists and support crew who took part.

Our Centenary Annual Dinner took place on 6th September 2013 with no less than 5 RSM's or ex RSM's on the top table, **Major A Green, Major J Coleman, RSM's G Houghton, D Westlake and S Bate**. Also in attendance were 4 serving Grenadiers and 110 members and family guests. Everyone received a personalised commemorative menu as a reminder of a great night. The Branch would like to take the opportunity to wish **RSM Houghton** all the best in his new role as Academy Sergeant Major and **RSM Westlake** on taking over the Battalion.

Remembrance Sunday was observed at the cenotaph in Walsall Town Centre with a good turnout of members. The Branch are now looking forward to their planned holiday next March when once again 40 members will be travelling to Tenby (free bar of course). All members of the Walsall Branch send greeting to all Grenadiers and their families everywhere and a thank you to **LSgt Rob Broomes** and the RHQ staff.

It is sad to report the deaths of the following members in 2013, all of whom will be sadly missed: **22545101 Joe Morgan, 4917264 Jack Pritchard, 2628971 Ivor Gibson** and our ladies: **Joyce Ball, Kath Collins and Eileen Bryan**. We also sadly said goodbye to Associate member **Alan Simkins** (ex RAF) who kindly left a donation to the Branch as an expression of thanks to the Branch who made him feel so welcome.

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, DL; Lieutenant Colonel A HEROYS; CJ HOPE, Esq; MAJOR RW HUMPHREYS; MFMO JODRELL, Esq; Lady CLARE LINDSAY; Major TTR LORT-PHILLIPS; THE LORD MONTAGU OF BEAULIEU; Capt (QM) BE SHEEN; The Rt Hon. HGW SWIRE, MP.

Chairman: MR B FLEMING. Tel: (01425) 615673.

Secretary: MRS J MASLIN, 16 Nightingale Drive, Broadway, Weymouth, Dorset, DT3 5SU. Tel: (01305) 814555.

Email: janmaslin@gmail.com

Hon Treasurer: MRS A CREW.

Welfare Co-ordinators: MR B and MRS O SWYER.

Meetings: Third Monday of the months, February, July, and September at 1930 for 2000hrs. The Conservative Club, 22 Christchurch Road, Ringwood, BH24 1DN.

(No meeting in August/October). The meetings in January and November to be held at a venue to be determined during the year.

In keeping with our new lunchtime format our November 2012 meeting was a successful 'pot luck lunch' and held at our normal venue, The Conservative Club, Ringwood. There was an excellent turn-out and a good time was had by all. Also in November a small group went along to see a further show at the Pavilion, Bournemouth – 'There'll always be a Christmas'. This was a 'singalong' show which featured popular festive songs and audience participation. Our Christmas Social, held again at the Conservative Club, took place at the beginning of December. There were 32 of us who went along, bringing lots of lovely food, which made for a special evening. We had a quiz, a game of pass the parcel (remember that!), a draw where members won between them £220.00, followed by the raffle – certainly got everyone in a festive mood!

We were scheduled to go to The Man in the Wall, Wimborne, for lunch for our January, 2013 meeting but unfortunately we had to cancel as the weather was the winner on that occasion. The Branch AGM was held in February and the Committee were re-elected for a further term. At the 2012 AGM we appointed a Deputy Chairman and **Ian Stannard** took on this role. This year, however, it was not deemed necessary and the position was not considered for re-election. **Barrie Fleming**, Chairman, thanked **Ian** for all his continued support and enthusiasm for the Branch.

Our Branch was honoured to be on Colour Point duty at Regimental Remembrance Day in May and **Mike Sperrin**, performed his duties with flair and pride at this very moving ceremony. He was accompanied by his wife, **Ann** and son **Mark**, who thoroughly enjoyed the occasion.



A proud Mike Sperrin at Regimental Remembrance Day.

The June day that everyone had been waiting for, Her Majesty's Grenadier Day, finally arrived and thank goodness the weather behaved itself. Members and their ladies assembled at Ringwood to board the coach, which was expertly driven by Branch member, **Gary Crew**, and we headed towards the capital. Ladies looked grand in an array of colourful hats and dresses, and gentlemen very smart in suits or blazers with Regimental ties.

We had quite a comfortable journey to London until we

hit Trafalgar Square, then the expected chaos ensued. We eventually reached The Mall, where once parked, several members went into St. James's Park for their picnic lunch, while others chose to pay a visit to the Guards' Chapel. We all made our way to Buckingham Palace meeting up with other Branch Members who had arrived under their own steam. It was pleasant being greeted by the Band playing James Bond themes once we entered the gardens of the Palace, with The Queen's and Nijmegen Companies marching – what a splendid way to start. We all enjoyed watching Her Majesty inspect The Queen's Company and present new colours to Nijmegen Company.

The Day was also a perfect way to celebrate the Association's Centenary and Her Majesty spoke to members from most Branches as she walked to and from her tea tent escorted by **Colonel Houstoun**. It was good to meet up with **WO2 Steve Ross MC**; one of the Branch's serving soldiers in the Palace grounds. The day was all over too soon as we headed back down The Mall to our coach and the return journey. Everyone agreed it had been a memorable experience.



The three 'W-Essex' Girls en-route to Her Majesty's Grenadier Day.

In August our Branch Garden Party was held at the home of **Lieutenant Colonel Alexander Heroys** and his wife, **Sue**, at Enford. This is an occasion that everyone looks forward to as part of our summer get-togethers. As the weather was a bit hit-and-miss we all enjoyed our luncheon in a marquee – which was a good decision as we did have a few showers. Nevertheless, this did not spoil the occasion as we were sat by spectacular scenery – watching the River Avon slowly drifting by at the bottom of our hosts' garden! The food was special, as always, and prepared by members for the day. A very, very warm thank you goes to our hosts for opening up their lovely home to us and making this a special day.



Everyone enjoying the lovely day of our Branch Garden Party at Enford.



Chairman Barrie Fleming and Olivia Swyer – The ‘Swinging 60s (age or decade – you guess!).

We had a further get-together in September when a small group of us finally made lunch at The Man in the Wall, Wimborne. The landlord very kindly reserved a room for us which was most welcome as the place was full. We would consider going back there in the future possibly for one of our lunchtime meetings.

Our Annual Branch Luncheon took place in early October and held, again, at The Days Hotel, Bournemouth. There was a good turn out and we were all treated to an excellent meal. Our thanks go to **Ann Crew** for organising the menu and managing to keep the cost down for yet another year which was much appreciated by us all. We were pleased to welcome, as our guests, **Major General Michael Swindells CB**, former Colonel 9th/12th Royal Lancers (Prince of Wales's) who spoke about the Battle Honours that both regiments shared and **Major David Groom**, Headquarter Company Commander, 1st Battalion Grenadier Guards, who brought us up to date with Army matters in general and Regimental matters in particular. We also had a raffle which was expertly run, as always, by **Bill and Glenda Butt**. Our thanks go to them for the enthusiasm and effort they put into this on behalf of the Branch not only at this event but throughout the year. The raffle raised £150.00 which went towards Branch funds.



Major General Swindells, Branch President Lieutenant Colonel Mather, WO2 S Ross, and Major D Groom at our October luncheon in Bournemouth.

It is with great sadness that we have to report the following passed away, **2624275 Gordon Berryman** –

Dec 2012 and **Julia Caldwell** – Jan 2013 (**wife of Derrick Caldwell**).

The Branch continues to have a core membership at our monthly meetings, which makes for a nice social gathering along with being updated on Association matters. Our thanks go to **Lieutenant Colonel Anthony Mather**, our President, and his wife, **Gaye**, for their continued support at these meetings and throughout the year. Thanks also to our very active Committee, **Barrie Fleming**, Chairman; **Janice Maslin**, Secretary; **Ann Crew**, Treasurer; **Barry and Olivia Swyer**, Welfare; **Bill and Glenda Butt**, Christmas Draw/Raffles for all that they do for the Branch. The support that we receive from **Major Andy Green** and **LSgt Rob Broomes** at RHQ is much appreciated by all concerned.

May we, as a Branch, wish **Colonel E H Houstoun OBE**, all the very best for the future having retired from his very busy role as President of The Grenadier Guards Association.

Any current or former members of the Regiment who wish to be involved with the Branch please contact the Secretary. New members are always welcome.

WEST KENT (TUNBRIDGE WELLS)

(Formed 1951)

President: Major THE VISCOUNT DE L'ISLE MBE, DL.

Vice Presidents: K RICHARDSON, Esq.

Chairman: To be Appointed.

Hon Secretary: M RJ LINK, Redlands, High Street, Cranbrook, TN17 3LG.

Email: linkmrj@yahoo.co.uk

Treasurer: M LINK.

Email: linkmrj@yahoo.co.uk

Meetings: Wednesday lunch time at The Constitutional Club, Sandrock Road, Tunbridge Wells, Kent, TN2 3PX.

2013 started with us having had our annual dinner at which active members and widows were able to attend. We remembered the deaths of **22756975 C L Huggett** and **23509526 D Morley**.

In March our Secretary **2628274 W J Fuller** retired because of ill health and is now receiving care. In July on the 14th our Chairman and Vice president **2623583 C Wellings (MM)** died.

The remaining active members, as they have either given up driving or can no longer drive safely at night, continue to meet when possible for a Wednesday Lunch (12 to 12.30) at the Constitutional Club.

Any Grenadier or Associate member wishing to make contact please do not hesitate to get in touch.

WIGAN, ST HELENS AND DISTRICT

(Formed 1974)

President: Mr B TAYLOR.

Vice Presidents: Capt (QM) TA ROLFE.

Chairman: Mr D WELLING.

Secretary: G YOUNG, 18 Hesketh Meadow Lane, Nr Warrington, Cheshire, WA3 2AJ. Tel: (01942) 605401.

Email: gyoung24433@blueyounder.co.uk

Meeting: Last Tuesday of each month 1945hrs at Whelley Ex-Servicemen's Club, 180 Vauxhall Road, Wigan, WN1 3LU.

Welcome to the jottings of the Wigan & St Helens Branch. The reporting year got off to a good start with a visit by 47 members, their families and friends to the village club in Culcheth for what has now become our annual Christmas lunch on Sunday 9th December 2012. All guests were treated to a complimentary drink to kick start the festivities. Warren the proprietor organised two games of heads and tails with champagne as prizes (thanks Warren). All guests enjoyed a 3 course lunch with lots of laughter and fun.

Our next gathering was again at the Village Club at Culcheth to celebrate St Georges Day. This is another lunch which has become an annual and much looked forward to event this year attended by 49 members their families and friends. The lunch fell on Sunday 21st April 2013 so we were also able to celebrate Her Majesty The Queen's birthday at the same time and we received a gracious reply in response to birthday greetings we sent to Her.

We were presented with quite a problem for our next excursion would we attend Regimental Remembrance Day in May or Her Majesty's Grenadier Day (HMGD) in June. After discussions at Branch meetings it was decided to attend HMGD as this was a unique opportunity. We all congregated at Leigh Cricket Club on the morning of 25th June and boarded our coach departing at 9.30 am. The time passed with lots of chatting, laughter and the guess the mileage competition and raffles. We all arrived safe and well at the Holiday Inn Kensington which was an excellent base for any of us who wanted to do a little sightseeing to stretch our legs after the journey. Everyone met up in the evening to sit down to an enjoyable evening meal and again much laughter and fun. Some of our party went out to meet friends during the evening and others remained in the hotel and attempted to buy as many shares in the company as possible over the bar. Two of our party

had an experience with a chip butty from a Greek take away – "has anyone ever had a chip butty made with a Naan bread taste sensation" – as our very own **Peter Kay** would say.

There was an air of excitement next morning over breakfast and what a sight when everyone emerged later from their rooms dressed in their finery. Many heads were turned as we walked through the hotel foyer. Gents in blazers walking six inches taller than the evening before; chests out and proud and boots bulled to perfection. Our Ladies looked beautiful in their dresses and an array of hats and fascinators.

We were blessed with good weather all afternoon and we all enjoyed The Queen's Company Inspection and presentation of New Colours. Several of our Branch members had the privilege of being introduced to Her Majesty the Queen; a memory they will cherish. Members had the chance to catch up with old friends and compare waist measurements and receding hairlines. Our secretary's wife was particularly impressed with the toilet facilities having never been in a toilet tent with proper plumbed in porcelain toilets and wash hand basins with antique dressing tables to sit at and check her appearance.

That evening 13 members attended the East Kent Branch Annual Dinner at the Union Jack Club and our thanks to them for a wonderful evening. On our return journey the following day we called in for a little sightseeing in Stratford upon Avon or alternatively sat outside a pub *watching* people sightseeing in Stratford upon Avon.

There was a short lull in events and excursions then to give people chance to rest and recuperate before our Annual Dinner & Dance at the Rose Centre in Lowton on 12th October 2013. We were joined on the evening by 57 members, their families and friends for an enjoyable evening of good food, good fun and good company. We would like to thank **Lt Henry Waterfield** who was our regimental guest speaker for his informative and amusing regimental briefing (We don't

know if the bar had ever run out of Johnnie Walker's Black label before, but they did that night!)

This almost concludes our jottings for this year and we look forward to 2014 which is the 40th anniversary of our branch and we are proud to be going from strength to strength. We would like to thank all our members, their wives, families and friends for their continued support which makes all our events and excursions possible and so enjoyable. Dates for your 2014 diaries: St Georges Day Lunch Sunday 20th April 2014: Village Club Culcheth, Annual Dinner Saturday 11th October 2014: Village Club Culcheth and our Christmas Lunch Sunday 7th December: Village Club Culcheth.



The Wigan & St Helen's Branch party bound for Buckingham Palace.

WINDSOR

(Formed 1926)

President: Major BT EASTWOOD, LVO, MBE.

Vice Presidents: Major MB HOLLAND; Major E HEMPSALL; Lieutenant Colonel SIR JOHN SMILEY, Bt; Capt DW LING; R MURCOTT, Esq; Major General SIR MICHAEL HOBBS, KCVO, CBE; Mr JA STEEL, BEM; RA DOBSON, Esq; Mrs SR HOWELL.

Chairman: JA STEEL, BEM.

Secretary: RC GILBERT, 84 Kennel Lane, Warfield, Bracknell, Berks. RG42 2EX. Tel: (01344) 485 307.

Email: windsorbranch@grengds.com

Treasurer: Mrs S R Howell.

Email: sheila439@btinternet.com

Meetings: First Wednesday of each month, at the Grenadier Club, Maidenhead Road, Windsor, SL4 5EY at 2000hrs.

The 12 months since our last report has been a very busy time for the Branch. **Major Mike Holland, Peter Penny** and **Alan Urvoy** were the Branch wreath party at the Service of Remembrance at the Holy Trinity Garrison Church in Windsor on Sunday 11th November 2012. After the service members met at the Club with members from other local Associations based in Windsor.

Then in December we started off the Christmas festivities with the Branch Christmas Draw on Saturday 8th. **Sue Gilbert**, the club secretary, wrote to many local businesses asking for a donation to the draw, and was very successful with over 100 prizes received. The evening was well attended by members hoping to win one of the very good prizes on display. Half way through the draw we adjourned to enjoy a finger buffet prepared by members of the committee. We would like to thank all those who continue to support the draw by buying and selling tickets and donating prizes and especially to **Sue** for all the long hours and hard work she undertakes to make the evening a success. The Christmas festivities continued the following weekend when 60 members and friends returned on the Saturday evening to enjoy a traditional Christmas meal which was followed by a disco. The year's activities finished, at the club, with members gathering to celebrate and seeing in the New Year.

The secretary **Bob Gilbert** and **Alan Hughes** from the Surrey and East Hampshire Branch arranged a Quiz and Social Night on Saturday 9th February 2013. We were delighted to welcome 12 members from the Surrey and East Hampshire Branch. The evening started with members and friends having a catch up, before teams of four people answered the quiz, of 50 questions, read out by **Peter Geary** one of our loyal club members. When the quiz was over we enjoyed a fish and chip supper, before a couple of games of Bingo. The evening was very well attended by over 60 members and friends. Our thanks go to the Surrey and East Hampshire branch

members for making the short journey to our club.

On the 10th March the most elderly branch member **Albert Sleep** celebrated his 100th Birthday. Albert was unable to attend the club so **Major Mike Holland, Peter Penny** and **Ray Murcott** called at Albert's home over the weekend to help him celebrate this great occasion.

Our AGM was held on Wednesday 3rd April. The Secretary, **Bob Gilbert**, gave an over-view of the year's past events. The Treasurer, **Sheila Howell**, produced the Branch and Club audited reports that were accepted. Our President, **Major B.T. Eastwood LVO MBE** was unable to attend so Vice President, **Major Mike Holland**, conducted the evening. On behalf of the President, **Mike** thanked the Chairman, **Mr Tony Steel BEM**, and the Committee, for the hard work over the last year in keeping the Branch and Club functioning. The following were re-elected to manage the Branch and Club. The Chairman-**Tony Steel BEM**, Secretary-**Bob Gilbert**, Treasurer-**Sheila Howell**, Welfare Officer-**Peter Penny** and Club Secretary – **Sue Gilbert**.

Later in the month, on Saturday 20th April, the club held its 2nd St George's Day Dinner. Those who attended enjoyed a traditional English meal of soup, roast beef with seasonal vegetables and roast potatoes, apple pie and custard. Everyone who attended agreed the meal was excellent and it had been very good evening.

On Saturday 18th May, the evening before Black Sunday, the club was open for anyone in the area to call in. The following lunch time **Colin Knight** and the Gloucestershire Branch called in for a refreshment break, on their way to London for the Regimental Remembrance Sunday Service and Parade. After the parade the Bristol Branch and the Gloucestershire Branch called in for a fish and chip tea before continuing on their way home.

On Saturday 1st June we had a coach of 46 members and friends going to the Derby at Epsom. **Her Majesty the Queen** arrived with lots of members of the Royal family and they were given a rousing welcome by the huge crowd that was in attendance. The weather was not too bad, the rain stayed away, but there was a very cold wind. We had winners and losers but all in all a great day out was enjoyed by all.

In June came the big day of Her Majesty's Grenadier Day at Buckingham Palace. The total number who attended from the branch was 103. Some made their own way the remaining 96 travelled up on the two coaches provided by the branch, free of charge. We left the club at 1230hrs although it is only a short journey to London it still took us one and half hours before we finally parked on the Mall. We then joined the queue with other members of the association waiting our turn to be admitted into the Palace. Once inside the gardens everyone found a place to view the parade and to see her Majesty arrive through the doors, onto the terrace steps, to take the Royal Salute. After the parade the Branch secretary **Bob Gilbert** and his wife **Sue** had the pleasure of being presented to **The Queen**. All enjoyed

the sandwiches and cake with hot tea or cold drinks and some managed to have a carton of ice cream. We left London at about 1845hrs with all 96 on board the coaches for the journey back to Windsor.



Branch Members waiting to enter the Palace. From Left to Right: Sue Gilbert, Joe Rigg, Jayne Rigg, Jackie Oliver, Wayne Oliver, Gordon Robertson and Joyce Robertson.

The next big event of the year was the Branch Annual Dinner and Dance, on Saturday 13th July held at the club. 60 members and guests once again enjoyed a superb four course meal, provided by the outside caterers, 'Linda's

Kitchen'. The Branch President and his wife **Sheila** were unable to attend so **Major Mike Holland** stood in for him. We were privileged, to have as our guest of honour, **Lieutenant Colonel (Retd) C. E. Kitchen MBE** and his wife **Linda**, who updated members and guests on the Regiment. We were very pleased to be able to welcome them to our Annual Dinner as a number of those who attended, had at sometime,



Chairman Tony Steel BEM and Secretary Bob Gilbert checking the seating plan for the Branch Annual Dinner and Dance.

served in the Regiment with our guest. After the meal and speeches we continued the rest of the evening with dancing to the disco.

The following few months were quiet until the 19th October when we, again, had the pleasure of another social evening with members from the Surrey and East Hampshire Branch. The evening followed the same format as the one in February and those who attended said they had enjoyed themselves and were looking forward to the next one. We thank their chairman and



From Left to Right: Our Guest of Honour Lieutenant Colonel Rick Kitchen MBE and his wife Linda, with Vice President Major Mike Holland.

Branch secretary **Andy** and **Babs Reid** for arranging for members of their Branch to attend.

The club still continues to hold regular Friday Night Bingo sessions and Quiz Nights with a fish and chip supper the last Wednesday of the month. We also hold occasional Car Boot Sales to help with the running costs of the club premises. The Club is currently open on Friday nights 1930hrs to 2300hrs and Sunday Lunch times 1200hrs to 1500hrs. If any members of the Association, and their families, are in the area, you are more than welcome to visit the club.

It is with deep regret that I report the sad loss of some members during the last year: **2619076 Mr L L Johnson**, **2625997 Mr J P Cooke**, **2622048 Mr G Randell** and **2624977 Mr R F Hibbitt**.

Finally the Branch secretary would very much like to record his thanks to all Branch and Club members and ladies for their support over the last 12 months, especially to the committee members **Tony Steel BEM** (Chairman), **Major Mike Holland** (Vice President), **Sheila Howell** (Branch and Club Treasurer), **Peter Penny** (Welfare), **Sue Gilbert** (Club Secretary), **Dave Boucher** (Head Gardner) and to non-Grenadiers **Fred** and **Irene Deacon**.

WOLVERHAMPTON

(Formed 1917)

President: Mr L. THOMAS.

Vice Presidents: WSI KENYON-SLANEY, Esq, OBE, KstJ, DL; S. BENNETT, Esq.; F WHITE, Esq.

Chairman: Mr M. ROWE.

Secretary: J SNEAD, 92 Van Diemens Road, Wombourne, Wolverhampton WV5 0DE. Tel: (01902) 896547.

Email: wolverhamptonbranch@grengds.com

Meetings: Last Wednesday of each month, at RAFA Club, Goldthorn Road, Penn, Wolverhampton, WV2 4PN. (Except March, June, September and December when we hold a Sunday lunch. Please contact the Secretary for further details).

The Branch AGM was held in February 2013 with all officers being re-elected although **Mr Jack Snead** took over as Welfare Officer, owing to the death of **Alan Wilson** who will be very sadly missed.

Our Dinner and Dance was held at the beginning of December 2012. It was an enjoyable event and our guest of honour was **Major Andy Green** who gave an entertaining speech.



Major Andy Green deep in conversation (probably about football) with Mervyn Rowe.

Our members continue to enjoy our regular Sunday lunches held at The Bell, Trysull. A group of us went by coach to attend Black Sunday to meet up with old comrades and a coach party was taken to see a Review for Trooping the Colour which was enjoyed by everyone.

Through donations, the Branch was able to put in place a tree and plaque at Alrewas Memorial Arboretum in June this year. The tree was dedicated to **Major EBM Vaughan ERD**, and our members past and present. The dedication was carried out by the **Reverend Jean Spragg**. Many of our members attended together with members of the Vaughan family and relatives of members who had recently passed away. It was a beautiful June day.



Our President, Mr Len Thomas and his daughter Mrs Pauline Corbett on their way to Buckingham Palace.

We would like to thank those who attended from other Branches.

How kind the weather was to us all on 26 June, and in such superb surroundings in the gardens of Buckingham Palace. Her Majesty's Grenadier Day was certainly a day to remember. It was sad that the Colonel was unable to attend through illness.

This year, one of our members, **Stan Bennett** and his wife **Jean**, celebrated their Diamond

Wedding Anniversary, and they were congratulated by members, friends and family at a party. Our Treasurer, **Brian Gillon**, took part in the W2W bike ride. We would like to congratulate him on his achievement.



Jean and Stan Bennett.

Jack and Jenny Snead attended the Lincoln Branch Dinner and Dance in September, and would like to congratulate their committee for an excellently organised event. We would like to thank **Rob Broomes** and **Andy Green** at RHQ for all their hard work during a very busy year. Finally, our Chairman, **Mr Mervyn Rowe**, would like to congratulate the following members of our Branch, **Mr Brian Gillon**, **Mr Jack Snead**, and **Mrs Jenny Snead**, for their excellent work in running the Branch whilst he was recovering from a serious illness over the last year.

OBITUARY 23509464 ALAN WILSON 23 September 1940– 14th December 2012

Alan was born in Wolverhampton and served from 1957–1967 in the 1st Battalion. **Alan** joined our Branch in 2009, and soon became an active member serving as Welfare Officer to the Branch.

His funeral was attended by many friends, relatives and members of the Branch, and his coffin was carried in by six members of our Branch to 'The Grenadiers Return'. We send our condolences to his wife **Maureen** and daughter **Claire**.

When **Alan** first joined our Branch he read in the Gazette that **Roy Oakes** was Chairman of the now disbanded Birmingham Branch. **Roy** was one of **Alan's** best friends when they served together in the Signal Platoon. They established contact and renewed their friendship.



Alan Wilson.

WORCESTER & HEREFORD

(Formed 1923)

President: Capt HL GRAY-CHEAPE, JP, DL.

Vice Presidents: Lieutenant Colonel PR HOLCROFT, OBE, LVO; Major DJC CAVENPORT, CBE, DL; Lieutenant Colonel K EDLIN, MBE; Lieutenant Colonel LCA RANSON, TD; Major RG WOODFIELD, MBE; Colonel SIR THOMAS DUNNE, KCVO; Lieutenant Colonel TW JALLAND; D SPENCER, Esq; GJ ROSE, Esq; JA BARTLET, Esq; Capt D MORGAN; T W HEWLETT, Esq.

Chairman: REG SEALE, DL.

Secretary: REG SEALE, DL.

Treasurer: DC SPENCER.

On the 24th of February 2013 we held our 91st Annual General Meeting at the Worcester Warriors Rugby Club; what a wonderful setting in which to hold this meeting and every other Committee meeting during 2013. It was well attended by 50 members, and afterwards we enjoyed a feast arranged by Vice Chairman **Derek Turney** – many will remember him in the Orderly Room in the 1st Battalion in Tripoli. All officers were re-elected.

The Branch has a membership of almost 300, many of whom are serving soldiers and others are getting towards their 'sell by date'. The Committee meet on the first Tuesday of every other month commencing in January, a scheme set up by **Terry Hewlett** during his time as Secretary.

On 'Black Sunday' a full coach of members and their families attended; the parade was of the usual high standard supported by good weather. June and the Royal Garden Party – members had voted to start an hour later and split the party with a coach from the Wolverhampton Branch. We set off making our customary comfort stop; on this occasion at 'The Three Tuns', Windsor. The car park was at the railway station – the uphill trek to the pub was a shock to the system! Our members arrived in London close to the Palace and later than intended but enjoyed the refreshments which were of the usual high standard. Her Majesty, on this rare occasion without the support of The Colonel, had to slightly reduce the time she was able to spend meeting Grenadiers in favour of the Prime Minister.

During the year **Ken Allen** had collected some £400 from his raffle of Teddy Bears, the proceeds of which he donated to the Colonel's Fund sent off under cover of the President's signature. Well done Ken! Branch members **Lieutenant Colonel Holcroft**; Lord Lieutenant of our County and **Capt Gray-Cheape**; Branch President, successfully took part in the Wellington to Waterloo bike ride, raising many thousands of pounds. **Dale Carter** found time and energy to visit the Regiment at Waterloo, which probably exhausted him as he has now stood down as Secretary.

A report appeared on 14th August in a local paper stating that a Darts Match was to be held in aid of the

Association. Sadly, through lack of communication this turned out to be for 'Help the Heroes'. On 8th December the Branch Annual/Christmas Lunch was held at The Chateau Impney when **Capt Andy Butcher** with his wife **Wendy** were guests of honour. Capt Butcher gave a fascinating talk on his experiences in the Regiment.

YORKSHIRE

(Formed 1948)

President: THE LORD HOTHAM, DL.

Vice Presidents: LR LINFORD, Esq; THE MARQUESS OF ZETLAND, DL; D BURNETT, Esq; Brigadier D J H MADDAN; W WALL, Esq.

Chairman: A DANIEL, Esq.

Treasurer: A. DANIEL, Esq.

Secretary: M SPENCER, 52 The Grange, Woodham Village, Newton Aycliffe, Co. Durham. DL5 4SZ. Tel: 01325 321218.

Email: michael-spencer2@sky.com

The Branch has enjoyed another good year with meetings being well attended by the resolute members but we have had no change to our overall numbers. On 24th November 2012, **Les Linford** celebrated his 90th birthday with his family and friends at The Fox & Grapes Inn, Potterton. **Les** still continues to support the Branch however poor health has prevented him attending the most recent functions. 23rd March 2013 saw our secretary attend the AGM at Wellington Barracks and having the chance to say farewell to **LSgt Jay** and **Mrs Bonnie Ellingham**.

The Branch AGM was held on 13th April in The Masonic Hall Pontefract; all Officers were elected for a further term. The finances were declared to be in good order and **Tony Daniels** ensured us that our welfare matters continue to be dutifully taken care of. The buffet lunch was as popular as ever and over which we had the chance to chat with friends.

Her Majesty's Grenadier Day took place on 26th June in the Gardens of Buckingham Palace and incorporated Her Majesty's Inspection of The Queen's Company, Presentation of New Colours to Nijmegen Company and the Grenadier Guards Association Centenary Garden Party; a party of 31 represented our Branch.

We held our Branch Annual Luncheon at the Majestic Hotel, Harrogate on 5th October enjoying an excellent attendance of members and guests. Our speaker was **Capt Alexander Budge** from the Army Foundation College in Harrogate and he updated us on Regimental affairs. **John Fear** organised a family Indoor bowls day at Selby on 25th September with lunch. All present enjoyed this annual event. Our thanks to **John** for his sterling work organising the Bonus Ball draw which continues to support our much needed funds. On 10th November, Branch members attended the annual Remembrance Day Parade at Ripley Castle and service in All Saints Church,

Ripley, followed by Sunday lunch at The Boars Head.

In closing this year's report it is our sad duty to report the passing of **Kenneth Priestley (22955540)**, **Reg Goody (2616362)**, **David Bradwell (24122396)** and **Denise** the wife of **Jim Hunt**, our prayers and thoughts remain with their families.

We would like to take this opportunity to offer our grateful thanks to the President of the Branch the **Lord Hotham**, fellow Executive Officers and the loyal Members and wives of the Branch who show their continued support by attendance at our functions. We would once again like to thank all the staff at Regimental Headquarters, who are so very dedicated to their positions and give their support to our members at all times.

NORTH AMERICA

(Formed 1972)

President: Awaiting Appointment.

Chairman: R BROWN, BEM.

Vice Chairman: D MILLS.

Secretary: Mrs E PICKERING, 45466 Thomson Line, Belmont, Ontario. N0L 1B0. CANADA.

Email: lon.rpickering@imag.net

Hon Treasurer: R. BROWN, BEM.

Sgt In Waiting: D MILLS.

This time of the year seems to come round very quickly, so once again it is time for a report on our activities. The highlight of the year had to be the events at Buckingham Palace on the 26th June. It was an excellent day and the eight members of this Branch who had made the trip 'across the pond' had the honour of being presented to Her Majesty and speaking briefly with her. The weather co-operated and it was a most enjoyable afternoon. It was disappointing that HRH The Colonel was not able to be present.

At the Annual General Meeting held in early September there were some changes to the Executive as shown in the 'header' and we can now confirm that **Lt Jeremy Triggs**, who lives in Comox, British Columbia, has been appointed as the new President, having been a Vice-Chairman for a number of years.

Unfortunately we have lost four members, namely: **P397628 Guy F Lorrman**, **22632702 Robert (Bob) Procter**, **2628403 Ronald Dutch** and in September, **23869907 John B Evans**. Due to illness a couple of members, including the President, **Major John Whyte**, have resigned from the Branch and unfortunately there are no new members to replace them, we realise all Branches are experiencing similar problems.

In closing we wish to acknowledge the assistance received from RHQ on a few issues over the past year and convey our best wishes to all Branches and members wherever they may be.

TURKS AND CAICOS

President: Brigadier DH FUMBLE-POTTINGSHED-FUMBLE OBE MC.

Chairman: HARRY STEADFAST MM.

Secretary: ALISTAIR CAMERONIAN, 9 Bamboo Terrace, Caicos Island, C15 9XZ.

Email: Turks&urks@assnhq.com.cai.

Meetings: At each Full Moon or whenever hungry.

Taking the Biscuit in Reading

We are delighted to remind you, dear reader, of our special connection with the very first branch of the Association to be formed, in the same year of 1913 as the Association itself. This is Reading, Berks, which we first took to be pronounced Reeding, Burks but now know to be Redding, Barks. It is a complicated and not particularly beautiful place.

How can this have come about, you ask? Well, it may be recalled that the 2nd Battalion had a strange stay in Bermuda in 1890/91. They were in disgrace as the result of bad behaviour in London and were banished to the balmy island to mend their ways. The punishment seems to have been endured with great pleasure as there was plenty of sea and sun, and nothing to do.

Here we now descend into legend rather than fact, but the story goes that a party from our little islands, several hundred miles away, got heavily lost and fetched up in Bermuda, where they were taken in hand by the Grenadiers and eventually sent on their way fortified by copious quantities of Huntley and Palmer's biscuits, Reading's most famous product. This encouraged a close affection for the town and accordingly we had our own celebration of the branch centenary which, we admit, amounted to a lot more than biscuits.

Having said which, and reverting now to fact rather than to legend, these wonderful biscuits sustained countless expeditions to remote parts of the world and were the first to reach the South Pole. And if you go to the Reading Museum you will find in the Huntley and Palmers Collection a sword and scabbard found on the battlefield of Omdurman in 1898 (in which the 1st Battalion took part), the scabbard being bound with pieces of biscuit tin with the maker's name clearly visible. If that doesn't get you really excited, whatever will?



YOUR LETTERS...

"Wartime Memories of Castle Company, Windsor"

29 June 2013

Dear Andy,

Firstly may I thank you and everyone involved for all your efforts in making the 26th June a most enjoyable and memorable day particularly in view of the unfortunate absence of our Colonel, Prince Philip.

I have been intending to write to you about my service which may be useful to fill a gap in the Gazette so here goes.

Reading Major Wright's article 'A Wartime Princess', page 81 in the 2013 Gazette brought back memories of that era. Mention was made of a company from the Training Battalion providing protection for the Royal Family. I had the privilege of being a member of No 1 (Castle Company) from February 1943 to October 1943. It was made up in the main by older members or like me those medically downgraded from A1.

We were an independent company and occupied the Castle mews; the horses having been evacuated for safety. We had our own small NAAFI and it was two Guardsmen to a horse stall. Daytime guards were normal without any double sentry duty but at 6pm it all changed. We were given a password for the night, posted in pairs around the castle apart from No 1 post. That post was outside in the public domain by the entrance near the Guardroom and he kept his boots on. The rest of us wore gym shoes and in very wet weather, wellington boots. In each pair around the castle one would have his rifle and the other a .45 Thompson sub machine gun (usually me) and we both had hand grenades in our pouches, so it is fair to say we were well prepared for any trouble.

We were kept busy in other ways to avoid the boredom of just guard duty and I can recall being at Home Farm during the harvest season putting the wheat in stooks (sic) so it would dry out – not do it all harvesters in those days. We were also required to go on the Training Battalion run on Saturday mornings – Castle to Copper Horse and back. It was no fun running nearly three miles each way in a dead straight line.

As a fixed position company we were delegated to carry out one of Queen Victoria's punishments. Apparently after seeing a scruffy looking Grenadier she decreed that for one hundred years there should be a parade 30 minutes after reveille, fully dressed, bed made up etc. to show a piece of equipment, I certainly remember boots and rifle being involved. We did however have two nice privileges; one we could go into the Castle via the Waterloo Chamber on a Saturday evening and watch films with the King,

Queen and two Princesses. The other was that we could go to the private chapel on a Sunday morning with the Royal Family. Whilst I managed to go to the pictures, to my regret I never went to the Chapel. My parents and future wife lived in East London so you can guess where I went at every opportunity.

I then transferred to the Westminster Holding (later Garrison) Battalion and managed three 48hr Royal Guards before being sent back to Caterham Depot as an officer's Servant to look after young 'Chickos'. This was a nickname for young officers and was derived from Lt Col 'Chick' Cornish who commanded the Training Battalion in Victoria Barracks, Windsor.

On the 4th April 1944 Princess Elizabeth came to Caterham to inspect the 14th Company commanded by Captain F J C Bowes-Lyon. Afterwards lunch was taken in the Officers' Mess and I had the privilege of helping out in the dining room (a menu card is still in my possession). I eventually became an unpaid LCpl in the Officers' Mess and when the Coldstream Sergeant I/C was demobbed I took over the duties of running the Officers' Mess still as an unpaid LCpl for the last few months of service. They did eventually find a Grenadier Sergeant who arrived just a few days before I was demobbed at Christmas 1946.

I now look back at the age of nearly 91 years with immense pride and realise just how fortunate and privileged I was to have served in such a fine Regiment and to have the additional pleasure of being a member of our Association since 11th June 1942 and meeting HM The Queen on 26th July 2000 and 26 June 2013.

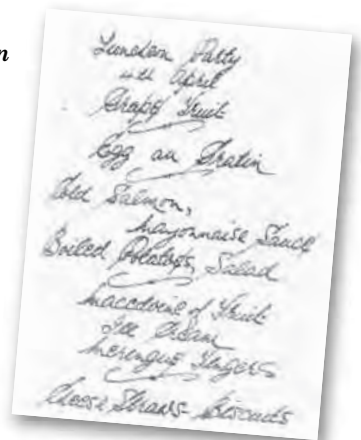
With every good wish for the future,

Yours,
2623167 R C Keeble
Essex Branch

On 29 August 2013 Ron wrote further:

Dear Andy,

Just for the record I enclose a copy of the menu card showing just how well our wartime Princess was looked after on 4th April 1944. The following may be of interest of what used to go on and whether things have changed



but did not fit into my letter.

Being employed in the Officers' Mess we used to get a monthly gratuity. I cannot remember how much but I do recall that the LCpl cook got slightly more than the NCO IC; it maybe that the Officers wanted to keep the cook happy as a skilled man so the food was prepared well. It was also the custom to include the camp butcher in the monthly payments – no doubt to make sure we got a good ration of meat. All payments were recorded and signed for.

A couple of other things come to mind – when I first went back to the Depot which was a huge camp built around the barracks – we had to attend Church once a month which was fine, one month however, I slipped up for when the last Sunday came I had the opportunity to go home so on the quiet I went to see the Sergeant in Waiting who happened to be my old Squad Instructor and as a thank you it cost me either two shillings (10p)

or half a crown (12½p) to get a tick against my name. The other was that a haircut by the camp barber cost 2d – almost 1p.

Finally in regard to me being an unpaid LCpl, financially it would not have made any difference if I had been paid for the LNER railway was still paying my salary less any Army pay. I would have liked my Sergeant stripes which were only promised if I stayed on but having my job to go back to and most important having got married in September 1944 it was goodbye to active service.

To wind up my rambling please find enclosed a cheque for £50 payable to the Colonel's Fund which can be used to sponsor someone of your choice taking part in the W2W.

Kind Regards,
Ron Keeble

The following letter was received in 2011 and has since gone unpublished, we take the chance to do so in this edition and apologise to Peter Parker for the omission.

My Friend 22545372 Graham (Charlie) Cole

29 July 2011

Dear Sir,

I would very much appreciate it if it is possible to print the enclosed article and photo in the next edition of the Gazette, as a tribute to my late friend and fellow Grenadier:

On 30th July 1952 I was rushed into the receiving room at Caterham where I met another bewildered recruit who it transpired was Charlie Cole. He was 18 years old whilst I was 21. We were both volunteers and as was the custom we were kept there doing fatigues (still in civvies) until a draft of National Servicemen arrived; in our case for a week.

We then became Taffy Pope's squad and started our first three months training. After passing out we were then transported to Pirbright then Pickering for the next three months. Charlie proved to be a character from the beginning. He was a good mimic and a natural comic even eventually winning over the training staff with his

humorous antics (no mean feat). He and most of the squad then joined the 2nd Battalion at Chelsea whilst I and one other joined the 1st Battalion at Wellington Barracks.

After the Coronation the 2nd went to Egypt whilst we went to Berlin. We met up again for 'demob' at Pirbright and spent our last ten days of service (again on fatigues) together. He left for Suffolk and I back to Hampshire. Many years went by with me moving around the world and ending up in Norfolk. I tried

to find him and my son, who spent 18½ years in the Regimental Band located him and we resumed our friendship around 10 years ago; we attended many Regimental functions together. A couple of years ago he developed prostate cancer and on 27 July 2011 he died. I shall miss him.

I enclose a photo taken five or six years ago when five members of our old Pirbright

platoon met up. I am in the centre; Charlie is on the extreme right. On the far left is Roy Stubbs who was also in our original squad and who died last year.

Yours sincerely
22545370 Peter L. Parker



Letters to the editorial team for inclusion in the Gazette should be sent to: Major (Retd) A J Green, Regimental Headquarters Grenadier Guards, Wellington Barracks, Birdcage Walk, LONDON, SW1E 6HQ.

ASSOCIATION DIARY OF EVENTS 2014

APR	5	Yorkshire Branch AGM, The Masonic Hall, Pontefract 11.30am	15	Birthday of Prince Henry of Wales	
	12	Manchester Branch Annual Dinner, The Britannia Country House Hotel, Didsbury, Manchester, M20 2WG	19–21	East Kent Branch, Nijmegen Trip	
	21	Birthday of Her Majesty The Queen	21	Reading Branch Annual Lunch, Calcot Hotel, Bath Road, Reading RG31 7QN	
	25	Sussex Branch Annual Dinner, Windsor Hotel, Windsor Road, Worthing, West Sussex	OCT	4	Yorkshire Branch Annual Lunch, Majestic Hotel, Harrogate
	26	Nottingham Branch Annual Dinner, The County Hall, West Bridgford, Nottinghamshire		11	Medway Branch Annual Dinner, Grange Moor Hotel, Maidstone
	26	Surrey Branch Annual Dinner, Best Western Frensham Pond Hotel, Churt, Farnham, Surrey, GU10 2QB		12	Cambridge Branch Annual Lunch, Meridan Golf Club, Toft
		12		Gloucestershire Branch Formal Luncheon, Hatherley Manor, Gloucester	
MAY	6	Worcester & Hereford Branch Meeting at Sixways 7.30pm	15	Association Finance and Executive Committee Meeting	
	11	Norfolk Branch Annual Lunch	26	Oxfordshire Branch Annual Lunch, Banbury Cricket Club, White Post Road, Bodicote, Banbury, Oxfordshire	
	18	Regimental Remembrance Day	NOV	TBC	Sergeants' Mess, Past & Present Club Dinner, Lille Barracks, Aldershot, GU11 2NQ
	19	First Guards Club Dinner		6	Field of Remembrance (Westminster)
	31	The Major General's Review		8	Festival of Remembrance
	JUN	7		The Colonel's Review	9	Cenotaph Ceremony Parade
10		Birthday of The Duke of Edinburgh		9	Opening of the Flanders Fields Memorial Garden, Guards Chapel.
11–12		Beating Retreat – Horse Guards	9	Yorkshire Branch, Ripley Civic Service of Remembrance, All Saints Church, Ripley, followed by lunch at The Boars Head, Ripley	
14		The Queen's Birthday Parade, this year the Colour will be Trooped by Nijmegen Company, Grenadier Guards	14	Birthday of The Prince of Wales	
21		Birthday of The Duke of Cambridge			
21	Northampton Branch Waterloo Ball & Launch of Waterloo Dining Club, Freemason's Hall, Sheaf Close, Lodge Farm, Northampton, NN5 7UL				
28	Armed Forces Day 2014				
JUL	20	Grenadier Day, Lille Barracks, Aldershot			
AUG	2	East Kent Branch Annual Dinner, Royal Temple Yacht Club, Westcliff Terrace Mansions, Pegwell Road, Ramsgate, CT11 9HY	MAR	10	Birthday of Prince Edward The Earl of Wessex
	15	Birthday of The Princess Royal		11	Association Finance & Executive Committee Meetings
SEPT	4	Yorkshire Branch, Family Bowls Day, Selby		21	Grenadier Guards Association, Annual General Meeting
	5	Walsall Branch Annual Dinner, The Fairlawns Hotel, Little Aston Road, Aldridge, WS9 0NU			
	12	Lincoln Branch Annual Dinner and Dance			
	12	Wigan Branch, Evening Concert by The Band of the Grenadier Guards			

2015

MAR 10 Birthday of Prince Edward The Earl of Wessex

11 Association Finance & Executive Committee Meetings

21 Grenadier Guards Association, Annual General Meeting

This list covers events which have been notified to the General Secretary prior to publication.

If you wish to add an event please email LSgt Broomes at assnnco@grengds.com

