

The Grenadier Gazette

THE REGIMENTAL JOURNAL OF
THE GRENADEIR GUARDS



2015



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THE Grenadier Gazette 2015



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OP PRISMED – MILITARY SUPPORT TO THE NHS

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365 DAYS TO TURN OUT THE LIGHTS

by Lieutenant Colonel
Vern Overton

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THE FAGAN AWARDS 2014

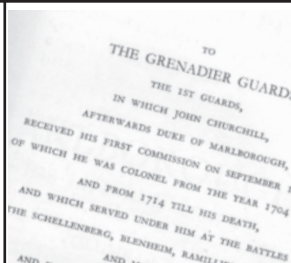
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COARSE SHIRTS

by Major Paul Cordle

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Foreword

*by the Regimental Lieutenant Colonel
Major General George Norton KCVO CBE*

Looking back over 2014 it is difficult not to be conscious of history. 100 years ago had seen the outbreak of the First World War, and the deployment of the 2nd Battalion to France and Flanders as part of the British Expeditionary Force. The Battalion fought through the Retreat from Mons, the battles of the Marne and Aisne, and onto 1st Ypres where it was joined by the 1st Battalion. Exactly 30 years later, the 1st, 2nd and 4th Battalions found themselves embroiled in the Normandy Campaign as the Allies advanced towards Germany, while the 3rd, 5th and 6th Battalions fought their way relentlessly up through Italy. So it was very fitting to witness Nijmegen Company, which takes its name from the 2nd Battalion's valiant forcing of the Waal crossing in 1944, trooping its Colour on Horse Guards this year, ably supported by the 1st Battalion.

2014 has been a great year for the 1st Battalion in general which, in addition to its ceremonial role, has been immersed in a series of demanding and rewarding training exercises, whilst still finding time to engage in a variety of other activities – with my personal favourite being its winning of the Army's Major Unit Cricket Cup. Nijmegen Company, meanwhile, laid up its old Colours in the chapel at Radley, which gave immense pleasure to the school, the

Regiment, and particularly to the significant number of officers who have 'done time' in both institutions.

Looking forward, 2015 promises to be marked by an equal number of important anniversaries. Whilst the First World War battles of Neuve Chapelle, Festubert and Loos will be remembered by the Regiment, and Victory in Europe Day by the nation as a whole, it is perhaps the 200th anniversary of the Battle of Waterloo which will catch the eye of the most Grenadiers. This great event, which of course provided the Regiment with its name, will be marked in a number of ways, including a Ball in Brussels; the re-opening of a restored Hougoumont Farm; a service of remembrance in St Paul's Cathedral; and Beating Retreat on Horse Guards, which will have a distinctly Waterloo flavour. But there are two further anniversaries that I would like to draw to your attention: first, the Duke of Edinburgh's 40th year as our Colonel – he succeeded Major General Sir Allan Adair in 1975 – and second, the 100th birthday of Lieutenant Colonel Lord Wigram who, in addition to serving in the Regiment for 23 years and winning a Military Cross, has the rare distinction of having both a father-in-law and a son-in-law who were not only Grenadiers, but also commanded the Brigade of Guards/Household Division. So there will be much for us all to celebrate.

In conclusion, I commend this excellent edition of the Grenadier Gazette to you, and warmly thank both the Editor and the Association Editor and all those who have supported them in its production.



Editorial Notes

Once again it has been a pleasure receiving input and contributions from widely across the Regiment, both serving and retired, and this edition comes with sincere thanks for those who have made our 2015 journal such an interesting mix of current and historical articles. There are several new contributors this year, and several promises of additional writing next year, all of which suggests the Gazette is in good health. The editing team are very conscious that the New Year period every year is quite exacting on those preparing all sorts of other challenges and yet the journal deadlines seem to have been easy – thank you to everybody, from General Sir Evelyn Webb Carter to the Lieutenant Colonel exercising his Regimental pen again from Italy, Paul Cordle, Philip

Wright (again and again), Lieutenant Colonel Simon Soskin as the Brigade Major, Lieutenant Colonel Vern Overton (with his extensive overview of the last days of Army involvement in Afghanistan), Major Dominic Alkin doing his Glasgow duties as well as a PJHQ job, and the wealth of serving officers, seniors, guardsmen and musicians giving up their time to give the journal some colour this year. The list of those contributing individual reflections and insights on life within the Battalion and elsewhere is growing.

Those who have taken such time with the obituaries this year are thanked for everything they have done, as well for a little understanding in how all of them have been slightly reduced as a result of formatting and space. Your work is enormously appreciated.

2016 promises more if we can keep spreading the word and inviting anybody with a story to tell to share it with us.

THE HOUSEHOLD DIVISION

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The Mounted Band of The Household Cavalry
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The Royal Choral Society

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British military music and ceremonial
pageantry in an unforgettable evening.

Regimental Headquarters

2014 has obviously been less busy than the previous year, but I doubt that it has really seemed less busy to the inmates of Regimental Headquarters! RQMS Mark Cox replaced RQMS Steve Williams in October, with RQMS Williams moving on to be the RQMS of the London Central Garrison. Sgt Toby Bonsell was 'in' and 'out' whilst on resettlement prior to leaving the Army in February 2015. LSgt 'Mac' Macmillan has joined Regimental Headquarters as well as LCpl Hollis and Gdsm James Pallister has replaced Gdsm Rob Armour, who has retired from the Army.

Regimental Headquarters'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. This year, the First Guards Club Dinner was held at the Ironmongers' Hall and was considered to be a great success.

The Queen's Birthday Parade was a very 'Grenadier' affair, with Nijmegen Company finding the Escort and the 1st Battalion finding Nos 2, 3 and 4 Guards. It was a lovely occasion and The Colonel-in-Chief pronounced that it was 'a very good Parade'. The preparations for the



Colonel's Review – The Mounted Grenadier Officers
From Left to Right: Major Grant Baker (Regimental Adjutant), Lieutenant Colonel Simon Soskin (Brigade Major), Major General Sir George Norton (The Lieutenant Colonel), Lieutenant Colonel Chips Broughton (Field Officer in Brigade Waiting), Major Richard Green (Major of the Parade), Capt Paddy Rice (Adjutant in Brigade Waiting).

Parade were a little unusual too, in that the Colonel was unable to take the salute at The Colonel's Review due to being in France for the State Visit; as a result, the Lieutenant Colonel deputized for him and took the salute in the Colonel's stead. After that rehearsal, all Grenadier



The lunch for former Grenadier Field Officers in Brigade Waiting and their supporters!

From Left to Right: Richard Norton, Caroline Norton, Major Grant Baker, Miss Lucinda Hanbury, Caroline Aubrey-Fletcher, Mary Lesinski, Zanna Coltman, Jacqueline Duncan, Mem Broughton, Caroline Cartwright, Capt Mike Dobson, Lieutenant Colonel Patrick Holcroft, Colonel Andrew Duncan, Major General George Norton, Colonel Greville Tufnell, Colonel Richard Aubrey-Fletcher, Lieutenant Colonel Gerald Lesinski, Lieutenant Colonel Robert Cartwright, Brigadier Roly Walker, Kate Walker, Lexi Norton, Sue Tufnell.

Mounted Officers on parade were photographed in the Quadrangle at Buckingham Palace. Also, on the day of the Colonel's Review, Regimental Headquarters held a lunch for all surviving Grenadiers who had held the appointment of Field Officer in Brigade Waiting for The Queen's Birthday Parade; the Officers' Mess in Wellington Barracks gave us an all too enormous lunch, but it was a tremendous occasion.

On 2nd July, the Regimental Adjutant sallied forth with 10 members of the Ironmongers' Company to visit the 1st Battalion who were live firing at Lydd Ranges. They were met by the Senior Major and Training Officer who gave an interesting brief of what the Battalion was up to – at that stage preparing to go to Kenya, but the exercise was subsequently cancelled. Thereafter, the party went onto the ranges and had an enjoyable few hours firing various weapons and talking to members of the Battalion. It was a most enjoyable day, marred only by a tedious and long journey back to London!

Grenadier Day took place on Sunday 20th July on a lovely day, but in competition with the Farnborough Air Show, so that occasionally proceedings were drowned out by roaring jet engines; on the other hand, we had the delight of seeing the Vulcan gracefully circling Farnborough. As usual, an enormous amount of preparatory work was undertaken by Major Andy Green with his RHQ Team and that of the 1st Battalion in order to produce a notably excellent day. The 1st Battalion had taken a great deal of trouble to set up stands and static displays demonstrating 'kit' and what they do with it; needless to say, these were very well received. For the first time, and successfully, this Grenadier Day was open to the general public as an exercise in recruiting and community engagement in



Visit of the Ironmongers to the 1st Battalion at Lydd Ranges. The Master, Richard Patteson-Knight 'has a go'!

Aldershot. As always, we are very grateful to Andy Green and everyone else who helped for all their hard work and dedication in producing a splendid and enjoyable day.

On Sunday 21st September, Nijmegen Company's old Colours were laid up at Radley College. Readers may ask themselves: 'Why Radley College?' The answer is that there are a significant number of Old Radleians who are serving or have recently served in the Regiment. On the evening before, the Regimental Band gave a most enjoyable Band Concert which was attended by Radley boys and parents and assorted members of the Regimental Family. The following morning, led by the Regimental Band, Nijmegen Company marched through Radley College, halting at the Mansion where the old Colours were marched off parade for the last time; there then followed a most moving service in the College, during

which the Chaplain gave an excellent sermon. After the service, the College very kindly gave a reception for everyone who attended. It was a lovely day and much enjoyed by all those who attended.

The Regimental year drew to a close with the Autumn Trustees' and Council Meetings, just to keep us all on our toes. As usual the Colonel chaired the Council Meeting at Buckingham Palace; He was on fine form and as perceptive as ever as Major Andy Green and Matt Ellmer (the Regimental Casualty Officer) described their roles, in addition to reports by the Lieutenant Colonel and the Commanding Officer.

And on 12th December came a much deserved Christmas Leave.



Laying up of Nijmegen Company's Old Colours at Radley College. The Company Commander, Major Neil Strachan, hands over the Colours into the safe-keeping of Radley College.

SERGEANTS' (PAST AND PRESENT) CLUB

by The Sergeant Major (WO1) Westlake

The annual Sergeants' Past and Present Club dinner was held on Saturday 18 October 2014 at the Sergeants' Mess in Lille Barracks for the second year. The date had to be changed to October due to the Battalion being deployed in Kenya on exercise in November. The dinner will revert to the closest Saturday to the anniversary of the Battle of Inkerman in 2015. The dinner was attended by 196 serving and past members; it was great to see so many wives and partners at the dinner continuing to support us.

Mr Pete Jupp MBE was the President of the Club and the Guest of honour was Lieutenant Colonel Steven Tuck BEM, both attending with their wives, Mrs Dawn Jupp and Mrs Jenny Tuck. Lieutenant Colonel Tuck talked about the changes to the Army (technology and pace of life) that he had witnessed but was impressed that the guardsman and his standards had not.

The Regimental Adjutant was unable to attend the dinner this year and so The Sergeant Major briefed the club on what the Regiment had been up to since the club last met and on what the Regiment had planned for the coming months, with more of an emphasis on the Sergeants' Mess, and some individual achievements within it.

Members of the Regimental Band played some fantastic music throughout. The Club then retired to the bar in the Sergeant's Mess where there was a fantastic band that played us into the small hours of the next morning. The whole evening was nothing short of an outstanding success.

The annual General Meeting was held in the Lord Room of the Sergeants' Mess prior to the dinner and on completion of the formalities the President handed over to



From Left to Right: Major Richard Sergeant, Lesley and Malc Mayoh.

Capt Darren Westlake who is the president for the forthcoming year.

Names of the Committee:

- 1 Capt Westlake D – President
- 2 Capt (Retd) Lenaghan J – Vice President
- 3 WO2 (RQMS) Cox M – Hon Secretary
- 4 WO1 (SBSM) Wood – Regimental Band Member
- 5 WO2 (DSgt) Davis G – 1st Battalion Member
- 6 WO2 (CSM) Brookes S – Nijmegen Company Member
- 7 WO2 (CSM) Roughley S – ERE Member
- 8 Sgt Bonsell A – Vice Hon Secretary
- 9 Mr M Mayoh – Non Serving Member
- 10 Mr P Hales – Non Serving Member
- 11 Mr P Roberts – Non Serving Member
- 12 Mr S Dodd – Non Serving Member

The President would like to thank WO2 (RQMS) Williams, WO2 (DSgt) Cox and Sgt Bonsell for their tireless efforts and in making the evening one to remember.

The 2015 AGM and dinner will be held in the Sergeants' Mess Lille Barracks in Aldershot on Saturday 31 October 2015.

Current Membership

Past 515, Serving 215, Honorary 20 – Total 750



From Left to Right: Averil and Mathew Elmer, Bernadette and Major Michael Owen, Lesley and Malc Mayoh, Ruth and Major (Rtd) Beresford.

THE REGIMENTAL BAND

Sergeant Penny Highlights The Main Events From Last Year

2014 has been another busy and challenging year for the Band of the Grenadier Guards. With a vast amount of public duties, State Occasions, Queens Birthday Parade, Household Division Beating Retreat, Founders Day at Royal Hospital Chelsea, Grenadier Day and numerous concerts, there has been little time to unwind!

The Band 'got on the heel' for a week of Spring Drills, after which the spit and polish, whitening and uniform pressing commenced for the Regimental Adjutant's and Major General's Inspections concluding that the Band were deemed Fit for Parade...

Highlights this year aside from the 'stature' of those events listed above have included a parade and service in Heywood, Greater Manchester to mark the unveiling of a street name to commemorate the life of Private Anthony Palmer (Grenadier Guards) who served in the Crimean War and received the VC for his acts of bravery. It was a pleasure to be supported by the Corps of Drums on this occasion.

The Band has had a few opportunities over the year to take the stage performing some very successful World War 1 commemorative concerts. Venues included Liverpool, Manchester and Oxford.

September saw us travel to Radley College in Oxford to perform a Colonel's Fund Charity concert followed by the laying up of Nijmegen Company's old Colours providing musical support for the parade, church service and reception.

September also included a Grand Band reunion at the Cavalry and Guards Club expertly organised by Sgt Mike Altree, which was attended by over 100 past and present members. This was a fantastic opportunity for the 'old and bold' to see that the present band is maintaining the highest of standards both musically and on parade. Also the newer members got to hear about how life was like in the band in the 'good old days' (Pull up a sandbag)!!

October brought an opportunity to travel overseas where the Band performed a stirring Beating Retreat at the Oodenaarde Tattoo, Belgium. This was exceptionally well received by numerous VIPs and what seemed to be the whole town.

More recently the band travelled to Agena Marina, Croatia, to take part in a week long adventure training sailing exercise. This was a first team building activity for the band and spirits were high. It is certainly safe to say that all members certainly appreciated the warm sunshine and high seas.

2014 sadly saw the departure from the band of two very long serving and loyal Grenadiers: CSgt Jason Pickin served just over 20 years and CSgt David Buckles over 25 years. Both have moved posts on promotion and are now serving in other CAMUS bands. We wish them both well.

The latter part of the year was just as demanding with us providing musical support for Christmas public duties and after a well deserved spell of leave in January we are now all prepared for an equally busy 2015.



Adventure Training

by *Musician Rebecca Ellard*

Each year the band goes away for a week to do adventure training. This can vary between a wide range of activities and places such as skiing in Andorra, canoeing in Canada, and mountain biking in Wales. Last October saw us going for a week's sailing in the Adriatic Sea off the coast of Croatia. Members of the band set off on the flight that took them into Split airport; from there they travelled on to the marina to get settled into the boats for the week. We were sailing in top of the range 7-11 man boats, well equipped with modern gadgets to keep everyone occupied.

This part of Croatia is a beautiful part of the world, and the band were sailing along stunning coastline and calm

seas. Some days were free sailing days for exploring remote coves and islands, snorkelling over shipwrecks, and making the most of the warm sea temperatures with lots of swimming. All boats would meet together in the evening at various harbours for a night of socialising and swapping stories of the day's adventures. There were many interesting places to stop off in the day, such as Hvar for a bit of exploring.

The trip was a week for learning new skills and team work. Many people had never been sailing before, whilst some others had been on courses throughout the year to become qualified as skippers. Being a skipper is a huge responsibility and the newly qualified were able to put their new skills to the test. Everyone there got to learn the basics of knot tying, managing the sails, and navigation skills. The week was a huge success and as always the band took a lot away from adventure training.





14TH COMPANY Infantry Training Regiment, Catterick

by Major Edward Paintin

2014 has been yet another busy year for Guards Training Company and the training teams have worked with unwavering dedication in order to produce quality guardsmen. However, it would seem that 2015 will prove to be even busier with an ever increasing number of recruits entering the Infantry Training Centre (ITC). The training teams will be tried and tested but undoubtedly will be up to the task.

For those who have never been to the Infantry Training Centre or have blocked out their various experiences, let me take this moment to recap on how it works. The Guards Training Company, under 2nd Infantry Training Battalion (2ITB), resides in Helles Barracks alongside the Paratroopers, Gurkhas, P Company and Anzio Company (Line Infantry company delivering Phase 2 for those who have passed out of the Army Foundation College (Harrogate) (AFC(H)). Across the road is Vimy Barracks which houses 1st Infantry Training Battalion (1ITB) (Line Infantry Divisions), Support Battalion, the Army School of Ceremonial, the All Arms Drill Wing and the School of Infantry (SCHINF) Headquarters.

So, what is it that the recruits undergo in their time spent here? The Combat Infantryman's Course (CIC) is a finely tuned and rigorous training programme which is designed and organised by Support Battalion and delivered by 1ITB and 2ITB. What makes the Guards CIC unique is that it is two weeks longer (28 weeks as opposed to 26 weeks) than the Line Infantry course and this is to ensure that the Trainee Guardsmen (TGdsm) receive lessons on the General Purpose Machine Gun and additional drill in order to meet the high standards expected by the subsequent battalions and Public Duties Incremental Companies. During their 28 weeks at ITC, the TGdsm spend a total of four weeks deployed on exercise and Live Fire Tactical Training, one week on adventurous training, three weeks on static ranges and a very healthy amount of time spent on the Drill Square. It is important to note that Guards Company is the only company at ITC that still conduct a full defensive exercise in which the TGdsm dig trenches to Stage 3. They conduct 51 physical training sessions in which they cover a minimum of 126 miles worth of loaded marches (minus whatever else the PTI deems 'necessary' in order to reach the desired physical standard...). This is also minus the distances covered back and forth between skill at arms lessons, the armoury and the gymnasium which are situated over the road in Vimy Barracks approximately one mile away.

None of the above can be done without the permanent staff here at Guards Company and the Grenadiers represent some of the strongest members not only within the company but also within the Battalion. LSgts Richards (16 Platoon) and Finlan (19 Platoon) both received the award for

producing the 'Best Section' in their platoons. The award is given to the section that has scored highest throughout their training in the Major General's Competition. LSgt Finlan also enjoyed a deployment to Botswana to assist in running a Junior Non Commissioned Officer Cadre with a Short Term Training Team (STTT). LSgt Langridge also deployed overseas to attend the Jungle Warfare Instructors Course (JWIC) where he passed with flying colours (it is said that he enjoyed it so much that he sleeps with his certificate under his pillow alongside his kukri). With careers in mind, it cannot be forgotten that LSgts Friess and Richards have also undertaken the Platoon Sergeant's Battle Course which they passed comfortably.

However, it is not all work and no play in Catterick; fittingly, the Company entered a team to participate in the Nijmegen Marches in the summer. The applicants endured an intensive 'selection' process in Garelochhead and subsequently a team was formed including two Grenadiers: Major Ed Paintin and Lt Alex Shirreff. They experienced a very enjoyable but arduous few days that provoked thoughts about what happened nearly 70 years ago. The locals gave them a delightful reception, a great event enjoyed by all. There was no rest for the wicked and having proved to all that they were fit, Major Paintin and Lt Shirreff took to the streets of Newcastle in September to take part in the Great North Run with the Company Commander narrowly being defeated by the young subaltern. Having not tested himself enough, Lt Shirreff has also been representing ITC on Ex Nordic Frosted Blade and Ex Pipedown in the French Alps.

Amongst all of this work and activity, there has been a lot of movement of Grenadiers this year and lots still to come. The Company Commander, Major Ed Paintin is due to leave in January and having completed his required vaccinations, will take post in APC Glasgow. He will be sorely missed by the company and we wish him and his family well in their future. Capt Wellesley-Wood is due to take over as Company Commander in late February and having already completed four years in Catterick, the transition should be seamless. Other movements include Capt Harris and Lt Shirreff replacing Cpts Stevenson and Garton as Platoon Commanders. Sgts Orrell and Castel-Nuovo are preparing to return to Battalion with Sgt Dunk confirmed as replacing one of them. LSgts Finlan, Richards and Langridge are all due to return to the Battalion as well having offered their valuable service here and those moving in include LSgts Elliot and Kotze.

With future Battalion movements including deployments to the Falkland Islands and Cyprus, the TGdsm have exciting prospects to look forward to and the training teams will continue to work hard to ensure that they are up to the physical and mental standards required to set them up for success.

Battalion News A Look Forward to 2015

by Capt Christopher Stevenson

Commanding Officer:

Lieutenant Colonel The Hon CL Broughton MBE

Adjutant:

Capt H C Cartwright

Regimental Sergeant Major:

WO1 T Bearder

Station: Lille Barracks, Aldershot

This past year has been as diverse as it has been interesting with Grenadiers travelling from the First World War battlefields of northern France and the deserts of Saudi Arabia to the Carinthian Mountains in southern Austria and jungles of Brunei. Owing to various complications, the decision to postpone the Battalion's overseas exercise to Kenya from November 2014 until June 2015 was made in August. This gave the companies a period in November and December to plan and run some of their own training, a much valued commodity prior to all three companies departing for foreign lands in early 2015.

Having had a sustained period of company level overseas training exercises at the end of 2013 and the start of 2014 the Battalion firmly switched its focus from green to red soldiering. The main effort for May and June was preparation to support the Nijmegen Company in Trooping their Colour as part of Her Majesty's Birthday Parade. Sizing off and numbering for companies started mid April with a week of Spring Drills in camp. It was not long until the short commute from Aldershot to Pirbright became a daily occurrence. With the Sergeant Major's eagle eye for detail, ably assisted by his Drill Sergeants and the relevant Company Sergeant Majors, the rehearsals quickly achieved their aim of reaching the required

standard. Indeed there was a fear that the parade had peaked too early; needless to say that was not the case and on the day all rose to the occasion.

With the Troop finished, the Battalion underwent a rapid change and rebalance from tunic and bearskin to webbing and helmet. Over a three week period, the Battalion conducted a preparatory range package at Lydd followed by a two week exercise in Otterburn. The first week focussed on live fire ranges from individual and pairs to section and platoon and culminated in a challenging live fire company attack. This was the first true opportunity the Battalion had working within the new order of battle for Army 2020 of two rifle platoons and a machine gun platoon in each company. Whilst the subtleties of this change in camp are negligible, a rework and rethink of tactics was required in the field.



Members of The Queen's Company receive tuition prior to surfing.

The second week of Otterburn was spent conducting dry field training and was interspersed by Exercise *Grenadier Reach*, a 49km inter-platoon patrols competition. The focus of this experience was an arduous patrol across the challenging Otterburn terrain, testing the platoons' abilities in conducting fundamental low-level infantry skills, in line with the Commanding Officer's direction of 'Doing the basics well'. The results achieved by all confirmed that the guardsmen and Junior Non-Commissioned Officers within the current Battalion are a fit, motivated and capable cohort.

Grenadier Day 2014 was a great success with over 1000 people in Lille Barracks. Traditionally as an event for friends and family, it was decided to open the day up to the wider public. The morning saw the annual Past vs Present Officers' Mess cricket match as well as the Darren Chant Football Memorial Trophy taking place. All of the companies provided stands of interest, ranging from the latest night viewing equipment to current support weapons and vehicles. Highlights in the arena included the inter-company tug of war competition, won this year by



The Queen's Company provide a Guard of Honour for the Singapore State Visit.

the Queen's Company as well as displays from the Royal Signals White Helmets Motorcycle Display Team.

Post a well deserved summer leave in August, the Battalion returned with some renewed vigour, looking forward to the opportunity to refine their field soldiering skills and try out some new adventure training activities. In late August, two teams of Grenadiers led by Capt Hugo Cartwright and Lt Tom Hargreaves departed for the Carinthian Mountain range in southern Austria to participate in the Annual Austro-German military skills competition. The event, hosted at the Army barracks at Glainach, tested a range of core activities from navigation, target indication, and mass-casualty drills to escape and evasion, close-target reconnaissance, and close-quarter marksmanship. December saw the Queen's Company in Denmark participating in a joint exercise with the Danish and American military. It proved an effective and challenging exercise not just with climatic conditions but also a language and tactical doctrine barrier adding realistic complexities for commanders and subordinates alike.

Sugar Ray Leonard once said *'Boxing is the ultimate challenge'*. If this is the case then during three days in November, over 50 members of the Grenadier Guards, each representing their companies, stepped up to the ultimate challenge to test themselves and each other in the boxing ring. After two tough days of intense preliminary and semi-final rounds, 18 boxers were left to fight on finals night. In front of a supportive and passionate crowd, the boxers fought one and another to determine not only the winner of each weight category but also of the Inter-Company Boxing Trophy. A technically strong Nijmegen Company team prevailed overall; however particular mention must go to Pte Harle (AGC SPS) and LCpl Etherington (RAMC) of Headquarter Company who both fought extremely well against Army Ladies Boxers. Pte Harle was also awarded the Best Boxer and Gdsm Purdy (Nijm Coy) Most Gallant Boxer. It was an excellent night of high quality and brave boxing enjoyed by all. Special mention must go to LCpl Nygwenya who recently was crowned as the English Grade B Novice Champion for Super Heavy Weight



Capt Cartwright, LSgt Dent LCpl Furneaux at the summit of Kosiak in Austria.

and LSgt Shepherd who reached the semi-finals for English Grade B Novice Welter Weight.

The Battalion can report many successes on the sports pitches, winning the Army Major Units Cricket Cup Final for the first time as well as being crowned the London District Champions for squash, swimming, athletics and cross-country; success does indeed breed success. The men and women of the 1st Battalion have also had many opportunities to conduct adventurous training with trips to Cyprus, Cornwall, Wales and France to name but a few. The role of an infanteer remains as diverse as ever.

We are now into 2015 and have an exciting and varied programme in front of us. The Inkerman Company and elements of Support Company are currently deployed in the Falkland Islands whilst The Queen's Company and No 2 Company deploy to Cyprus imminently on Exercise LION SUN. All of this is in preparation for the Battalion's exercise in Kenya in July this year. The vigour and enthusiasm that the Guardsmen continue to display in all they do is a testament to the quality of individuals serving in the Battalion while also a credit to the Non-Commissioned Officers and Officers.



THE QUEEN'S COMPANY

The Queen's Company Update

The Company returned from the Falkland Islands just prior to Christmas after a six week deployment culminating in Exercise Cape Bayonet. The exercise was skilfully coordinated by previous members of the Company, Capt Dobbin MC and Capt Brown, which involved two vast live company attacks on East and West Falkland and all the challenges associated with tactical movement between the islands in horrendous weather. Members of the Company were able to enjoy their turkey and Christmas festivities

knowing they had thoroughly deserved it.

Since the Falklands the Company has spent the majority of its time fulfilling State Ceremonial Public Duties. The Company Colour has been on parade on no less than three occasions including the Guard of Honour at Windsor for the President of Ireland, the State Opening of Parliament and more recently for the President of Singapore. The Singapore State Visit occurred just as the remnants of Hurricane Gonzalo hit London. This provided a considerable challenge for the Ensign, 2Lt Parkes, who later drew comment from The Company Commando for

his heroic effort; though it was suggested that an officer with a lower centre of gravity might be a more prudent choice in future conditions.

Throughout our Public Duty commitments the Company has worked hard to advance the training standards achieved in the Falklands. As ever this has proven a challenge given the abundance of public duties in our calendar. However, much was achieved during the Battalion's three week 'Battle Camp' directly after the Birthday Parade. A week of marksmanship was enjoyed in Mediterranean conditions down at Lydd and Hythe, followed by two weeks in Otterburn. At Lydd the Company hosted members of the Worshipful Company of Ironmongers, the Regiment's recently affiliated Livery Company, on a Close Quarter Battle Range. After Company live firing in Otterburn, the platoons competed in a 47km patrol competition run by the Battalion Training Wing. Numbers 1 and 3 Platoon completed the march in by far the quickest times but were unable to grasp the top two places because of their scoring at the five stands. Inevitably there was some disappointment, however this was quickly forgotten on the coaches south with most falling asleep before we crossed the cattle grids.

The Battalion returned to work at the end of August fresh from three weeks summer leave to learn that the planned Kenya exercise in October had been cancelled. Gratefully London District moved quickly to reschedule the Battalion's exercise for six weeks directly after next year's Birthday Parade. The Company has also gained a two week exercise in Denmark, as well as a four week exercise in Cyprus with No 2 Company in February. Our Danish exercise was a rare and welcomed opportunity to exercise within the Royal Guard Hussar Regiment, alongside two armoured companies and a US airborne company deploying from Italy. Against a backdrop of increasing NATO cooperation in the Baltic and the planned inclusion of a Danish battle group within a deployed UK brigade from 2018, Army HQ are taking a particular interest in our ability to interoperate. In September, Lieutenant Hargreaves led a small team to the Austria to compete in

the Austrian Gebirgsjager Alpine Military Skills Competition. The team performed strongly and gained the covered 'Edelweiss Mountain Troop' award.

Exercise Viking Sun in Denmark was a highlight of the year from a training perspective. The exercise was a test of interoperability between the British, Danish and American armies and comprised of a high intensity phase and a counter-insurgency phase. It was a novel experience for those who have not been overseas before and gave the guardsmen an opportunity to conduct the age old practise of kit-swapping with our allies. In some challenging conditions the men performed admirably and compliments were aplenty about their robustness and skill.



The guardsmen showing the Americans how to do camouflage and concealment.

Adventurous training opportunities this year have been diverse and frequent. In February the majority of the Company enjoyed six days skiing in Val d'Isère. In May, Capt Sanford led a small group on exercise Caribbean Wings sailing from Florida to New York. Before our training for Denmark commenced, a 40 man group deployed to Newquay to take on a week of pounding autumnal surf. Thankfully we were blessed with mild weather and the October sea was, as usual, warm. Many other activities enjoyed, such as golf, go karting and sea fishing.



The Pay Sergeant stocking up on pastries (Danish ones).



A thoroughly enjoyable day at The Royal Hospital and Imperial War Museum.

The sporting calendar has been equally busy this year. The Company makes up the majority of the Battalion football team, including LCpl Matthews and Gdsm Whitehouse who play for the Infantry Football Team. Gdsm Froggatt has continued to play Army level rugby league this year and LCpl Ngwenya has just become the national U20 Super Heavy Weight Boxing Champion. Capt Moynan, an Infantry batsman, and 2Lt Parkes have both played key roles in the Battalion's cricket team, which impressively won the Army Major Unit Cup in September.

This year we have said goodbye to Capt James Taylor who has moved on to the Adjutant's post in London Central Garrison. Capt Fred Moynan, who commanded 1 Platoon on HERRICK 16, has replaced him. Company Sergeant Major Davies has moved on to be Drill Sergeant, to be replaced by WO2 Dougherty our last CQMS. Capt Mike Dobson and Lt Ben Conway have moved on to Assistant Equerry to The Colonel and Platoon Command at Nijmegen Company respectively. 1 Platoon is now



The victorious tug-of-war team on Grenadier Day.

commanded by 2Lt Tom Parkes and 2 Platoon commanded by Lt Tom Hargreaves, both of whom came directly from Platoon Commanders' Division in Brecon.



NO 2 COMPANY

The plethora of enterprises conducted by No 2 Company throughout 2014 was fantastic. Jungle camp attacks, alpine skiing, Her Majesty's Birthday Parade, dynamic live fire training, Guards of Honour, patrol competitions, Mediterranean trekking, paragliding, sailing and soldiering in Scandinavia were highlights in this most fulfilling year.

In January 2014, No 2 Company deployed on EX ULU RAJAH, a new infantry exercise conducting jungle training in Brunei. The Company approached the exercise with huge enthusiasm, particularly as they were being supported by jungle warfare experts from 1RGR and 22



SAS whose outstanding support was invaluable. Operating in the most challenging of environments certainly captured everyone's imagination and focused minds.

A particular highlight of the exercise was the live fire training. Under the attentive eyes of W02 (CSM) Brooks and Sergeant's Gunning, Hudson, Pitters, Hepburn and Thomas, fire teams were bounding slickly through the jungle, up to their knees in mud, in limited visibility, communicating confidently and with first rate weapon handling. This was in stark contrast to the Queen's Guard which the Company mounted on Christmas Eve 2013 only two weeks earlier and over 7,000 miles away. To go from patrolling in front of a Royal Palace to executing robust contact drills in challenging and varied terrain might represent the very essence of duel role soldiering... we think.

The culmination of the exercise was a week long FTX working in partnership with the Royal Brunei Land Forces, where there was a significant language barrier. Nonetheless, the enthusiasm was palpable as we flew via Bell 212 helicopters deep into the Labi Jungle. The guardsmens' improved fitness and field craft were striking as we advanced westwards towards the enemy, moving as independent platoons. The exercise's climax was a fitting end to an excellent deployment; the dawn attack, fighting up hill, manoeuvring through trench complexes, against an enemy in bunker positions and soft atap structures, was fantastic.

Before leaving southeast Asia, the Company visited Labuan Island's WWII cemetery in Malaysia. This



progression, the highlight of which was a polished live fire attack. Of particular note were the guardsmen who acted as fire team commanders; they fulfilled the role with professionalism and robustness. Small wonder that in the Autumn, Gdsm Thompson, Frank, Hubball and Peters subsequently promoted to LCpl. Moving on from the live firing, the Company consolidated its conventional soldiering. Patrol actions, advance to contacts, ambushes and familiarisation with night vision equipment formed a stimulating training package. The climax of the Otterburn deployment was the Commanding Officer's platoon patrol competition, EX GRENADE REACH. This represented a genuine challenge for the guardsmen. Mental resilience and

certainly put our experiences over the previous five weeks into perspective before we boarded the long flight home.

No 2 Company's next deployment was of a different nature entirely; Val Thorens, France. At 3,200m above sea level it is the highest ski resort in Europe and provides access to the world's largest ski area.

The guardsmen's desire to learn in Brunei was replicated in the Alps. With WO2 (CSM) Brooks to the fore as chief instructor, guardsmen were seen racing down Pointe du Bouchet and Cime de Caron within a week. Indeed, the training package, planned and delivered by Grenadier instructors, catered for the range of abilities amongst our 40 skiers. With Pay Sgt Owen delivering refreshments throughout the week, a packed resort and a range of social establishments, morale was particularly high. The Company returned to Aldershot in good spirits.

With the deployments of early 2014 behind it, the Company began the summer ceremonial season with vigour. Notions of 'changing the guard' were entirely appropriate: CSM Summerscales replaced CSM Brooks; Major Green took over command of the Company from Major Greaves, whose last act was to captain Number Three Guard for the Queen's Birthday Parade; Capt Hathaway-White was the subaltern, Lt Wright the ensign, the seniors; CSM Summerscales, CQMS Owen and Sgts Fry and Harris. Following the post-Troop celebrations, the Company returned home for some well earned weeks' leave.

Thereafter, the Company's attention switched rapidly once more. Within a month, we swapped the gravel of Horse Guards' for the shingle of Lydd Ranges. The Battalion range week in Lydd set the conditions for the subsequent Battalion deployment to Otterburn. The progression from static ranges to fire team attacks at Lydd was the perfect shake out.

Otterburn saw the Company conduct a live fire

teamwork eventually prevailed over tough terrain and fatigue. The patrols circumnavigated the training area completing military tasks as part of their patrol: a river crossing, patrol harbour, military knowledge, actions on casualty and anti-ambush drills tested individuals and teams to their limits.

November 2014 presented a variety of adventure training opportunities: Lt Tracey led a 30 man walking expedition in Carpiagne, Southern France; walking was complimented by swimming in the Mediterranean, sampling French cuisine and sipping European beer. Furthermore, the Commanding Officer's visit facilitated a fiercely contested pool duel with newly promoted LSgt Moffatt!

Major Green led a sailing expedition in the Channel, Capt Garton organised paragliding in Crickhowell and Lt Wright deployed with LCpl's Kirk and Freeman to Val D'Isere on EX FROSTED BLADE, the Infantry Ski Championships.

In December, 4 Platoon deployed with the Queen's Company Group to Denmark on EX VIKING SUN. Training with the Danish and American Armies, in the depths of a Scandinavian winter, presented a totally different set of challenges to those seen in Brunei 11 months previously. The integration of the light role infantry Company with the Danes' armoured unit added a further dimension to the exercise.

State Ceremonial duties remain the staple diet of company life whilst part of London District. Yet 2014 brought us experiences in Brunei, Malaysia, Denmark, the Alps, the Mediterranean, the English Channel, South Wales, Lydd and Otterburn. In true Grenadier fashion the company met the highest of standards, whether on parade, live firing or adventurous training. The men have thrived on the variety of tasks and opportunities that the year brought us and all ranks can take great pride in what the company has squeezed into just one year.



THE INKERMAN COMPANY

2014 has been a varied and successful year for the Company. The highlights were deploying to Brunei for jungle training and skiing in Val Thorens; and notable success was 12 Platoon winning the Battalion patrol competition on EX GRENADIER REACH. And, at the time of writing, the company is busy preparing to deploy to the Falkland Islands as the Roulement Infantry Company from Jan – Mar 15.

January and February saw all members of the Inkerman Company deploy to Brunei on Ex ULU RAJAH as part of the No 2 Company group. Without question this was one of the best exercises in recent years and was thoroughly enjoyed by all. 10 Platoon, under Lt Williams and Sgt Pitters, formed the third Rifle Platoon in No 2 Company with Company HQ manning the PRT. The 'Ribs' attached to No 2 Company proved themselves through the deployment with Deputy Commander London District stating that 10 Platoon's live firing attacks were some of the best he had ever seen. Gdsm Hollis, as ever one of the colourful characters, was widely viewed as the best guardsman on the range packet; as decided by Deputy Commander London District and an SAS SSgt! For everyone the rain proved to be one of the toughest aspects of jungle soldiering and no more so than a three day downpour endured by 10 Platoon. This tested all to the limit and not least when the ponchos gave up and wet/dry routine became very wet/wet routine!

Shortly after returning from Brunei, the Company was fortunate enough to travel to Val Thorens in France for a week of skiing. The weather was glorious and not a single cloud was seen during the week. For many this was their first attempt at skiing and the image of Gdsm Heale screaming out of control down every slope will remain etched on our memories...

March provided an opportunity for the Company to link with the past and see the reason we are known as 'The Ribs' with a visit to see HMS Victory and then HMS Illustrious. HMS Victory was an eye opener for all particularly when seeing the conditions our predecessors would have lived in, in the ribs of a ship. HMS Illustrious was in total contrast to this and the size of the ship was awesome. The Royal Navy were immaculate hosts and the maritime link with the Inkerman Company remains strong. With the decommissioning of HMS Illustrious this link and affiliation has now switched to HMS Queen Elizabeth.

After three months' away from Public Duties it was time to get back on the line with a busy period of Guards and preparation for the Queen's Birthday Parade. The Company found Number 4 Guard and was skilfully drilled by WO2 (CSM) Betts who was well placed for this task

having been the Senior Drum Major of the Household Division Band. The day itself quickly passed in a blur of colour and the Company was proud to have played our role on a highly successful Grenadier Troop.

July brought us Ex GRENADIER REACH which was a Battalion ex involving live firing at Lydd and Hythe, Company dry training and the Battalion patrol competition in Otterburn. This was our first proper shakeout since Brunei and would be a testing three week period. For all, the focus was on the patrol competition which was a 48km route around Otterburn completing command tasks en route. The Inkerman Company stepped off first and some 24–30 hours later three very weary platoons arrived at the finish point. For the Company the competition was a tremendous success. 12 Platoon under Lt Simpson and LSgt Laird won the competition with 11 Platoon placed fourth and 10 Platoon achieving the highest overall points score.

Post summer leave saw the Company back on the line again for a busy period of duties followed by a switch of focus to OP FIRIC preparation with the Company warned off for a Jan–Mar 15 Falklands deployment. To prepare for Op FIRIC, the Company was fortunate enough to get two further exercises. The first was to Sennybridge and included the 'Fan Dance' and the second was to Salisbury Plain in November as support troops to the Company Commanders training course: Ex Lions Strike. For Ex Lions Strike we formed the light role Company as part of the Royal Welsh armoured Battle Group. With three Company attacks a day plus the opportunity to work with armour it was a fantastic run-out for the Company. The exercise also coincided with Inkerman Day which we marked with a tot of rum outside our Company harbour at 0630hrs on a frosty winter's morning! It was a fitting way to remember the actions of the 3rd Battalion 160 years before.

The Company has seen many changes of personnel through the year: Capt Simpson left the Army to return to his family farm; Lt Williams moved to Nijmegen Company as Company 2IC having been a stalwart member of the Company; and Lt Waterfield switched to platoon commander duties in Nijmegen Company; WO2 (CSM) Roughley moved to the Training Wing to take over Muskets; we know he keeps his eye on the Coy and is totally unbiased towards 'The Ribs'! CSgt (CQMS) Hughes left us for the Training Wing via CSM Support Company having had a busy period as Pay Sgt. Finally Sgt 'The Sheriff' Pitters moved to be Regimental Police Sgt.

In their places, we welcome Lt Varmuza and 2Lts Naughton and Phillips fresh from the Platoon Commanders' Division. WO2 (CSM) Betts arrived from the Massed Bands and CSgt (CQMS) Wiseman from the Training Wing.



NIJMEGEN COMPANY Wellington Barracks, London

Company Commander
Major NA Strachan
Company Second in Command
Capt CAG Williams
Company Sergeant Major
WO2 S Brooks
Company Quartermaster Sergeant
CSgt G Roper

With trooping the New Colour of the Second Battalion at Her Majesty's Birthday Parade and this year being the 70th anniversary of the battle of Nijmegen it has been a momentous year for Nijmegen Company. However, once again, the Company have taken the hectic schedule in their stride in a true showing some Grenadier character.

With the Company rarely resting, the guardsmen of Nijmegen had an action-packed 2014. With a new Company Commander and Company Sergeant Major at the helm, we have prospered both on parade and in the field. The ceremonial year kicked off with the Company deploying a marching detachment to Estonia to take part in the Estonian Independence Day Parades, swiftly followed by the State Opening of Parliament, providing 2, 3 and 4 half companies to line the Mall. Moving on from there, the Pirbright parade square loomed large. For the second time Nijmegen were to provide the Escort for The Queen's Birthday Parade. Despite a grimace on the face of Captain Wills, the parade passed off almost without fault.

Barely taking time to breathe the Company deployed on their annual exercise, first in Pirbright and then onto Brecon where, somehow, the almost traditional cloud and rain had been replaced by blue skies and blazing sunshine. After an arduous two weeks in the field the Company took a well-deserved summer break in order to recover before the next round.

Thereafter we had several important events in the Nijmegen calendar. The 70th anniversary of the battle of Nijmegen saw Lt Henry Waterfield laying a wreath at the moving annual memorial parade. This was closely followed by the laying up of Old Colours at Radley College; with three Old Raldeians on Parade and several more in the congregation it was a fantastic day for the Company.

A large guard of honour for the President of Singapore, a marching party for the annual Festival of Remembrance at the Royal Albert Hall and a team on Ex Frosted Blade, all put Nijmegen Company on the home straight up to Christmas leave; the only hurdle remaining was the Battalion's intercompany boxing tournament which we had been invited to participate in. Under the tutelage of LCpl Pitt, the company PTI, Nijmegen Company romped home to a solid victory providing seven of the ten male boxers in the finals night.

With only a small Guard of Honour remaining for the Korean Chief of the General Staff the Company have their sights set firmly on Christmas leave and the PDIC ski trip at the end of January.

Nijmegen 70th Anniversary

by Lt Henry Waterfield

With commemorations and re-enactments happening all over Holland, the two day affair in Nijmegen was still one of the main events of the Dutch calendar. The focus of the anniversary was the American crossing of the river Waal in boats provided by the British. On 20th September the service to remember those who fought and died to liberate the city was held at Oosterhoutsedijk, the memorial to mark the landing of the American force crossing the river. The sizeable contribution of the Grenadier Guards was not forgotten with members of Nijmegen Company and The Corps of Drums in attendance at the service. The bridge that the Grenadiers' had seized from the Germans 70 years previously provided a fitting backdrop for the service. Speeches were made by the Mayor of Nijmegen, the US ambassador to the Netherlands and an American veteran of the river



Lt Waterfield presents an image of the Grenadiers at Nijmegen to the mayor.

crossing. After the speeches wreaths were laid at the memorial by representatives from all parties involved at the Battle of Nijmegen. Sgt Sutton and LCpl Rigby of the Corps of Drums excelled themselves by playing an eight minute rendition of The Grenadier March as the wreaths

were laid. It was a moving service and once again it is fantastic to see that despite the time that has passed the people of Nijmegen are still appreciative of the part that the Grenadier Guards have played in the history of their town. After the service we were joined by members of the East Kent Branch of the Association as we were introduced to the Mayor. The association members were then kind enough to host those serving for supper at their hotel in the evening. On the Sunday locals were joined in Nijmegen by swarms of re-enactors who were representing all the Allies present at Market Garden. Nijmegen Company were invited for lunch with the Mayor before having the chance to view what life would have been like in 1944.



Left to right: Sgt Sutton, Gdsm Pottow, Lt Waterfield and LCpl Rigby at the monument on the Waal river.

Exercise Askari Storm

by Lt Oliver Wace

The opportunity to take a composite platoon of all the incremental companies to Kenya arose very soon after our summer leave. As a junior platoon commander, it was a daunting prospect to take what was essentially a mismatch of very junior guardsmen, junior Non-Commissioned Officers and three Afghanistan veterans. Therefore our hosts the First Battalion Welsh Guards vastly outmatched us in terms of wealth of experience; this became abundantly clear when no Platoon Sergeant was allocated and thus the new Platoon Commander got a taste of the G4 chain.

The start of the exercise was fairly gentle; acclimatization was key and so whilst in BATUK's base in Nanyuki, we did a few runs and got ourselves both mentally and physically prepared for what was going to be a demanding exercise that would test the entirety of the platoon to their limits.

The benefit of being attached to the Welsh Guards was that we were essentially not the ones being tested; of course we would try our upmost at all times but essentially the now 9 Platoon was there just to make up numbers and help out, or so we thought. The commencement of the exercise was a 10-day introduction to exercising in Kenya and live ranges that would allow these junior guardsmen to experience live firing in all its forms. Starting with the basics we covered everything from individual close quarter combat all the way up to a two day advance to contact. To say that this was taxing on such a young and inexperienced platoon was an understatement; they however surprised all including the Welsh Guards Company Commander with textbook assaults. This was achieved largely due to the unrelenting work of all the Non-Commissioned Officers involved. Cpl Howcroft and LSgt Beeby worked non stop to ensure that we were not shown up in front of our hosts and their efforts paid off in spades as we were commended on having the best live platoon attack and all sections were in the top four section attacks across the company.

The first stage of the blank part of the exercise was three

48 hour exercises where BATUK could test and help improve us in defensive and enabling operations which involved a convoy moving 25km to a village to show a powerful presence and live firing. This was the first time that we would get a taste of the enemy, and as expected the Irish Guards were not an easy opponent. Testing our abilities with 'shoot and scoots' at all our vulnerable points and causing a lot of casualties early, they popped up at very close range out of the bush. Slowly but surely we grinded along the road always having a platoon on the ground to ensure that we cleared the route in front. However we were way behind time and had to make it up in some way so the call was made for everyone to mount up and inevitably within 400m, we were ambushed. Luckily quick thinking (and an even quicker foot on the accelerator) allowed the front four vehicles to break free and debus so that we could counter the ambush. However in the confusion, gaps were left in the line that allowed the enemy to sneak through and in an instant, I had four casualties including myself.

The next stage of the exercise was defensive; this is where the simulation kit became annoyingly effective for the enemy. 9 Platoon was put as the reserve Platoon that to me sounded like a respite as we conducted some enabling ops with the local village. However all that changed with the first assault and the entire front left platoon was completely destroyed leaving 9 Platoon to pick up the pieces and retake all the lost trenches. After a sobering after action review, I soon realized that this was not going to be the walk in the park that I had imagined; every time we were attacked the casualties got worse and even included a platoon sergeant uttering the words over the radio 'my entire platoon is dead, I'm going rogue'. The final assault left me with around ten guardsmen and one Non-Commissioned Officer to hold our side of the riverbank so that we did not get completely over run. Luckily it was a bottleneck for the enemy and so with as much fire power as I could muster we held our command post with a guardsman getting 19 confirmed kills with his light machine gun.

From there we moved onto the 48 hour live firing advance to contact that was done on a blisteringly hot 46 degree day.

It was a very stop start affair due to the level of heat injuries that the entire Company was receiving; some were more serious than others but all having to be air lifted back to BATUK in Nanyuki. However, it was a good opportunity for all to see what effect artillery can really have as live light gun rounds whistled over our heads to reshape the landscape 400m to our front.

After the last of the 48 hour exercises, we returned back to Nanyuki to have a well earned two days on mattresses with decent hot food and teeth chattering cold showers. However before we could relax, we were on the final week of exercise and we were all looking forward to showing off what we had learnt over the past two weeks or so. The Battalion-level exercise took off to a very quick start with a 15km night insertion to our first objective up and down 600m mountains. With the morning breaking and the fog covering our approach, we made good time along the ridges and managed to get into position for H-Hour. Most were quite tired before we even started the assault but as soon as the first rounds were fired, fatigue made way for adrenaline and forced everyone on. However the initial assault was bogged down by accurate mortar and machine gun fire and before we knew it once again, 9 Platoon was called forward to inject pace back into the battle with Guardsmen Hughes, Poole and Lynch bouncing between trenches and crawling round bushes almost single handedly taking on 3 separate trenches.

A well earned 24 hours' rest was given as we allowed the rest of the Battalion to catch up and take over the fight; from there we moved to where the Prince of Wales' Company had held a position and dug in for three days with 9 Platoon once again becoming the reserve platoon on the front left right flank of the Battalion. We were on top of quite a large hill with an amazingly complex wadi system that ran the length of the valley to our left and therefore it was down to 9 Platoon to provide a standing patrol at all times leaving the other platoons to just sit and wallow in their trenches for the best part of 48 hours as they were horrendously undermanned. This however put a strain on everyone involved due to the operational high tempo that meant that 9 Platoon only had a fire team guarding the trenches whilst the rest were either on patrol or on some other mission or task.

The insertion for the final Deliberate Operation was by far the most interesting that we had done to date, not only because of there being so many working parts but because of the wildlife we encountered on the way. We had seen a lot of different animals including black scorpions and camel spiders. However on that insertion there were two big surprises coming our way: the first involved lions roaring very close to where the company was in an all round defensive position that was quickly followed by the painful whinnies off a zebra that had been brought down and feasted upon. I do not know why the lions then became so interested in us but I was made aware by a member of the directing staff that we were suddenly becoming very surrounded by the same pride of lions. The decision was made pretty abruptly to move off only to be met by our

second surprise of the evening. A herd of elephants (possibly 30-40 strong) had wandered through our route in and had thus been separated from each other by a long line of guardsmen, as they got more and more exasperated to get to each other mock charges came our way through the green glow of night vision goggles which I am sure made even the most toothless Welshman feel he might have bitten off more than he could chew.

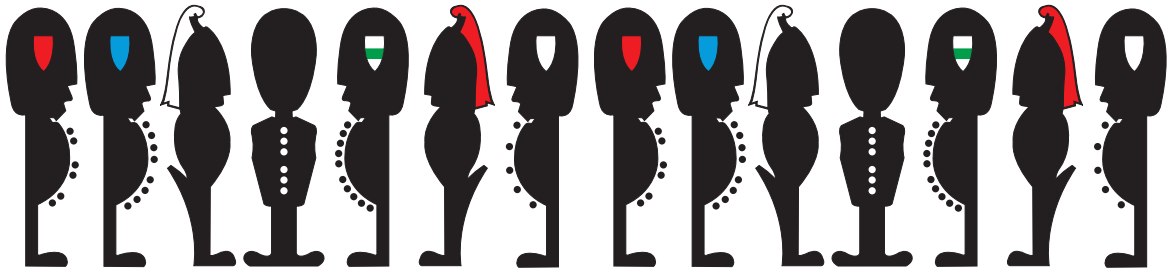
In the end, everyone made it to the FUP un-eaten and un-trampled; the men were tired and hungry but the end was in sight and they knew it. So with a final effort to show that we were up there with the best, we trudged up and down hills watching other platoons and other companies take their designated objectives until it was finally our turn.

It was however a bit of a surprise that our turn came in the form of reinforcing The Prince of Wales Company as they had suffered catastrophic casualties at the hands of the Irish Guards.

So we moved off to face our foe to be met with consistent and accurate machine gun fire that inflicted terrible casualties on all that attempted to get anywhere near them. Therefore what remained of the Company did one final attack and rushed the enemy trenches leaving only the Company Commander and few Guardsmen left to consolidate on the position and give the all clear. Following a further position and Battalion photo Exercise Askari Storm was over, there were grins and back slapping all round.

Getting back to camp was a relief and the compulsory purchase of Kenyan carvings could begin; we spent three days on adventure training that saw a Guardsman Smart who was afraid of heights and couldn't swim conquer both fears in one go as he jumped from an 18m rock into a river and Guardsman Hughes paddle naked because he did not want to dirty his boxers like everyone else. However much we groaned and were worked hard, I was immensely proud of my mismatched Platoon and especially a few characters in the Nijmegen section; Guardsman Purdy for forever having a smile on his face and completing the third book he's ever read even if it was the story behind Assassins Creed; Guardsmen Pinsent who thrived when given responsibility on his appointment of Section 2I/C; Guardsman Hughes who lumbered along with his light machine gun making more extraordinary noises than you would here on safari; even Guardsman Lynch kept going even though he was incapable of smiling. A massive well done and thank you for Cpl Howcroft who brought them all on with patience and rarely showed the strain on himself or his section. However LSgt Beeby was the stand out of the Platoon as he stepped up to Platoon Sergeant and grasped the role with both hands.

All in all I believe that the Grenadiers held their own even if there were a few hiccups in the leadership of 9 Platoon along the way and overall every man grafted hard, some to the point of over heating and others until they were sleeping on their feet. I'm banking that not one of them can say that they wished they had given more.



Horse Guards News

All of the Household Division Regiments have continued to maintain packed programmes full of the familiar cycle of State Ceremonial events balanced (more or less) with their demanding operational or training commitments. This year the challenge has been to keep up with everything while the numbers within each unit reduce in line with Army reductions and the number of First World War centenary commemoration events has increased.

The Household Cavalry continue to fulfil their dual role – in BATUS for most of those based at Windsor and at Horse Guards for those a Knightsbridge – but both came together for a wonderful Presentation of Standards Parade in the Spring. The 1st Bn Coldstream Guards has returned from a successful and final Afghanistan tour and the 1st Battalion Irish Guards has returned from supporting the UN on the Green Line in Cyprus, the first British infantry battalion to do so for some years. Both regiments enjoyed their differing challenges and now both become attached to HQ 11 Infantry Brigade until their return to London District in early 2016. 1st Battalion Scots Guards have stayed in Catterick (with a summer in BATUS) and are now re-rolled from Armoured Infantry (Warrior) to Heavy Mechanised Infantry (Mastiff) as part of the Army 2020 adjustments. Sad to see the Warrior vehicles depart from the Division after over 25 years but all are looking forward to the Battalion returning to the 'Divisional fold' when it moves to Aldershot in Spring 2015.

1st Battalion's Grenadier and Welsh Guards have carried the Colours for the year in London with the solid support of the three independent Duties Companies. A varied time as always with the Invictus Games, a ceremony at the Somme Memorial at Thiepval and the Flanders Memorial Garden Opening to add to the State Calendar.

The new ceremonial season is already gearing up with State Visit of the President of Mexico and the Service of Commemoration for Op HERRICK coming up fast in March before we turn our minds to the 100th Birthday of the Welsh Guards (and no doubt an immaculate Queen's Birthday Parade to celebrate), the centenary commemorations of Gallipoli and then an exciting array of events to mark the 200th Anniversary of the Battle of Waterloo – who only knows when and how we will fit a

State Opening of Parliament into all of that!

The main events of the year are listed below and we remind everyone that most are fantastic to watch even if you are no longer serving and viewing from beneath a bearskin cap or helmet. The Household Division Beating Retreat (10 & 11 Jun) – this year celebrating the 200th Anniversary of Waterloo – and the Major General's and Colonel's Review of the Queen's Birthday Parade (30 May & 6 Jun) are the well known highlights but don't forget 'Scarlet & Gold' – the Household Division Band's Winter Concerts at the Cadogan Hall (2 & 3 Dec) – which have gone from strength to strength. More information on these and all other Household Division events can be found at www.householddivision.org

Household Division Main Events – 2015

- 3rd March** State Visit by the President of Mexico
- 13th March** Op HERRICK Service of Thanksgiving
- 25th April** Gallipoli Centenary Commemorations and ANZAC Day
- 30th April** Presentation of New Colours to 1st Bn Welsh Guards
- 7th May** General Election – with State Opening of Parliament to follow
- 10th May** VE Day Commemoration
- 30th May** Major General's Review of the Queen's Birthday Parade
- 6th June** Colonel's Review of the Queen's Birthday Parade
- 10th/11th June** 'Waterloo Remembered!' Household Division Beating Retreat
- 13th June** The Queen's Birthday Parade
- 15th June** The Garter Service & Magna Carta Commemoration
- 16th/17th/18th June** Waterloo 200th Commemorations – Waterloo & London
- 8th Nov** The National Act of Remembrance at the Cenotaph
- 2nd/3rd Dec** 'Scarlet & Gold' – Winter Concerts, Cadogan Hall

Septem Juncta in Uno

Exercise Frosted Blade 2014

by 2Lt Christopher Wright

In December 2014, 12 Grenadiers deployed on EXERCISE FROSTED BLADE, the Infantry Alpine Ski Championships in the French Alps. Regimental representation comprised two six man teams, from the 1st Battalion and Nijmegen Company respectively.

The team captains, Lt Wright and Lt Conway, took individuals with no more than seven days' prior experience. This gave a unique opportunity to develop from novices into genuine race skiers in only six weeks. Furthermore, this sets conditions for subsequent championships; the Regiment has a growing pool of excellent skiers. These individuals will also enable future adventure training deployments.

The teams were formed from across the entire regiment. The Battalion had representation from The Queen's Company (Gdsm Thomas), Number 2 Company (Lt Wright, LCpl Kirk and LCpl Freeman), Support Company (LSgt Harvey) and The Inkerman Company (Gdsm Mitchell). This complemented Nijmegen Company, comprising Lt Conway, Sgt Bonsell, Gdsm James, Gdsm Constantine, Gdsm Shahry and Gdsm Brookes.

The contrast between competitive racing and recreational alpine skiing was soon apparent. Indeed, travelling at speeds of 70 miles per hour requires teamwork, dedication, impressive reaction to stress, physical courage and mental fortitude. Our guardsmen moved from the nursery slopes of Val D'Isere to a world championship downhill race course, an exceptional achievement in so little time.

The initial training phase was an instruction package that emphasised technical development. Evolution 2, based in Tignes, provided an army of excellent instructors to assist us in our progression. We covered a breadth of



disciplines and skills: Slalom, giant slalom, Super - G and downhill training all captured our imagination.

The subsequent practice races were intensive. Typically, these involved relentlessly skiing slalom courses with expert advice from our instructors throughout. Crucially, it enabled us to model our ski suit for the first time. In Household Division style, the guardsmen looked immaculate. What they lacked in technical flair was made up for by the panache of our regimental lycra...

In race week itself, two individuals performed particularly well. LCpl Kirk came sixth out of 150 skiers in the 'B' Category event; (for skiers of less than a week's experience). He subsequently represented the Regiment at the Divisional championships. For this achievement, LCpl Kirk was nominated for the prestigious Fagan Award. Gdsm Mitchell was also successful, coming 3rd in the Juniors' Competition.

EX FROSTED BLADE remains unique for those fortunate enough to experience it. Christmas Day involved a Foot Guards' meal in an atmospheric alpine restaurant. The

New Year's Eve count down saw a Scots Guards' piper enchant a crowded town square with his bag pipes. In short, spending the festive period in one of the world's pre-eminent ski resorts was fantastic.

Our time in Val D'Isere occurred between duties on the Buckingham Palace forecourt, sailing in the English Channel, paragliding in Wales, and deployments to the Falklands and Cyprus. In time honoured fashion, the Regiment enabled its guardsmen to conduct alpine race skiing around public duties, adventure training and stimulating overseas deployments: 'twice the man'.



Exercise Cockney Splash, 27–31 Oct 2014

by Capt C H P Sanford

Exercise Cockney Splash was a five day surf camp for The Queen's Company, augmented by Headquarter Company, in Newquay, Cornwall.

In the days leading up to the expedition we could hardly believe our luck with the weather forecast. Warm weather, clear skies, light offshore breezes and shoulder high waves were all predicted for the duration of the late October trip. As we crossed Bodmin Moor on the coach, driving through rain and fog it seemed that the forecast was wrong and we were in for some dodgy weather for beach activities, but as we arrived in Newquay and were met by our host at *Ocean Lodge* the skies cleared, and stayed clear. After briefly moving in to our basic but comfortable accommodation we made the short walk to the *Newquay Activity Centre* for our first surf lesson. We were assured by our bearded and sunburnt instructors that conditions were perfect and so we donned wetsuits and went straight to the beach with surfboards under our arms, only slightly nervous of what the sea temperature would be a week before November! We were not let down and the sea was still warm(ish) and the waves were the perfect size for learning. After two hours of splashing around and trying to stand on surfboards we returned to the Lodge with much 'well that's a lot harder than it looks' being heard. The next day, we began the routine of a surf lesson after breakfast, then back for a good lunch at the lodge and then beach sports or golf for those that wished on the Newquay Links course in the afternoon. By the end of the last lesson the instructors all agreed that the groups had been very enthusiastic and good natured and that some individuals showed good promise (and that others didn't, you know who you are). Each evening The Queen's Company ventured out into Newquay town centre to see what was on



The Queen's Company Surfing in Cornwall.

offer, but sadly the town was largely shut up for winter with few bars open late. This however was not really a problem as our host at *Ocean Lodge* was happy to keep his bar open late, which may have had something to do with the fact that it was run by a retired Grenadier Non-Commissioned Officer who could be trusted to keep us in check.

When the swell petered out on Thursday, we changed activity from surfing to coasteering. Coasteering is the sport of donning wetsuit, buoyancy-aid, trainers and helmet and then leaping from high rocks and cliffs into the sea. Once in the sea you climb out, traverse the cliffs to the next spot, and then leap in again. Now it turns out this is easier said than done and more than a few, of all ranks, found it difficult to throw themselves off the 30 foot + ledges. Most did find their courage, probably due to guardsmen chanting and threw themselves, graceless, into the churning sea. That afternoon, a group of 20 volunteers went off sea fishing in two small boats in order to catch supper. One boat caught rather a lot of fish of all shapes and sizes; the other caught none, but both returned agreeing that it was well worth dealing with the cold sea air for the experience.

All in all it was a great week for The Queen's Company to get away together after a busy period on Public Duties and enjoy adventure training and each other's company.

Singapore State Visit

by 2Lt Tracey

The morning of 21 October saw the State Visit of The President of the Republic of Singapore and Mrs. Tony Tan Keng Yam. The President was honoured with a large scale parade consisting of two large Guards of Honour, 12 half companies worth of street liners, a procession from the Household Cavalry and a 21-gun salute from the Royal Horse Artillery.

Amid an already busy period of public duties, and with the Welsh Guards away on exercise in Kenya, the Grenadiers took on the lion's share of responsibility providing both Guards of Honour and the first three half companies of street liners. The Queen's Company provided

one Guard of Honour with help from No 2 Company. The second was provided by Nijmegen Company with members of The Inkerman Company filling in where required. Everybody remaining, regardless of rank, was required for street lining. Should anyone ever feel the need to dare question the commitment of the Grenadier Guards to Public Duties and their ability to get the job done, they need look no further than manning of No 1 Half Company commanded by Capt Sandford. The Company consisted of no less than four Colour Sergeants, seven Gold Sergeants two Lance Sergeants and seven guardsmen. In all, the Half Company consisting of 20 individuals collectively boasted over 100 years of service and proudly wore more than 70 medals between them. One can only hope that Her Majesty will not come to expect such unprecedented levels of seniority and experience from future No 1 Half Companies.



The Captain with the President of Singapore and the Colonel.

On the Friday before the State Visit, alarms were set for 0100hrs in order to board the coaches into London for the traditional early morning rehearsal. All were in attendance, less the street liners being provided by the Welsh Guards who at this point were still in Kenya. At 0400hrs the Half Companies were stepped off by Capt Taylor. Once The Commanding Officer was satisfied with position of the street liners, Major Seddon marched the Guard of Honour, made up of The Queens and No 2 Company into position at Horse Guards. Meanwhile, Major Strachan marched the Nijmegen Company Guard of Honour to the Buckingham Palace forecourt. The rehearsal was a success and approval was given by a small crowd of bleary-eyed individuals riding Boris bikes home from a night on the town. Despite only being a few of them, the presence of the crowd undoubtedly provided the added incentive to halt that bit sharper and to strike the weapon that bit harder.

On the morning of the State Visit, London was experiencing what was left of Hurricane Gonzola. At the time of stepping off, although the rain had finally let up, the same could not be

said of the wind. Severe gusts swirling around the Wellington Barracks parade square prompted some last minute tightening of curb chains. The challenge of ensuring that a bearskin remains in the correct position in windy conditions is minimal when compared to the challenge felt by 2Lt Parkes, The Queen's Company Ensign entrusted to carry The Queen's Company Colour, The Royal Standard of the Regiment. Despite the Colour threatening to behave like a sail in the wind, 2Lt Parkes rose to the occasion and ensured all appropriate standards of drill was maintained. His effort was backed up by the Guard of Honour behind him who performed a royal salute with the sort of strike that is heard only when saluting the Company Commander herself.

The State Visit of President of the Republic of Singapore and Mrs. Tony Tan Keng Yam was undoubtedly a success and a showcase of what the Household Division is able to deliver. The highest standards of drill and the smartest standards of turnout were produced by all those involved.



The Queen's Company Guard of Honour for the Singapore State Visit.



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.

www.francisfineportraits.com

Op PRISMED – Military Support to the NHS during the London Ambulance Service Strike

Few current members of the 1st Battalion Grenadier Guards will have served during the Firemen Strikes, Op FRESCO, in 2003. It was, therefore, something of a novelty for the majority of those who deployed to Wellington Barracks on Saturday 11th October 2014 to prepare for a potential strike by members of London Ambulance Service (LAS). The strike by ambulance drivers was part of wider industrial action by NHS workers across the country, largely focussed in London and the North-West of England. Operation PRISMED is the name given to the military cover provided to the NHS, a relatively straightforward operation with a slightly more opaque pronunciation. Operations in London were to be commanded by the Joint Military Command (London) (JMC(L)), with Army Staff provided by HQ London District and commanded by the Major General.

The LAS appeared to have timed the strike action for a period of minimal activity by selecting a Monday morning. This meant a weekend spent in Wellington Barracks. The novelty of driving ambulances was not only tempered by this fact, but also the significance of providing contingent support in potentially life-saving situations. A total of 121 drivers and navigators were force generated and received by JMC(L). A further 50 drivers and navigators were also generated by JMC(L) to provide a national strategic reserve. Liaison took place between JMC(L) and the LAS through a Liaison Officer placed at the LAS HQ in Waterloo Road.

For the initial Op PRISMED brief on 11th October, the Wellington Barracks lecture theatre was largely occupied

by soldiers from 1st Battalion Grenadier Guards; with pockets from the 1st Battalions Coldstream Guards, Irish Guards and Welsh Guards. The Royal Logistics Corps had provided a group and there was a smattering of light blue and Green Berets. As the scope of the task and the likelihood of its implementation became apparent, those in the theatre sat up and began preparing for their role on Monday 13th October.

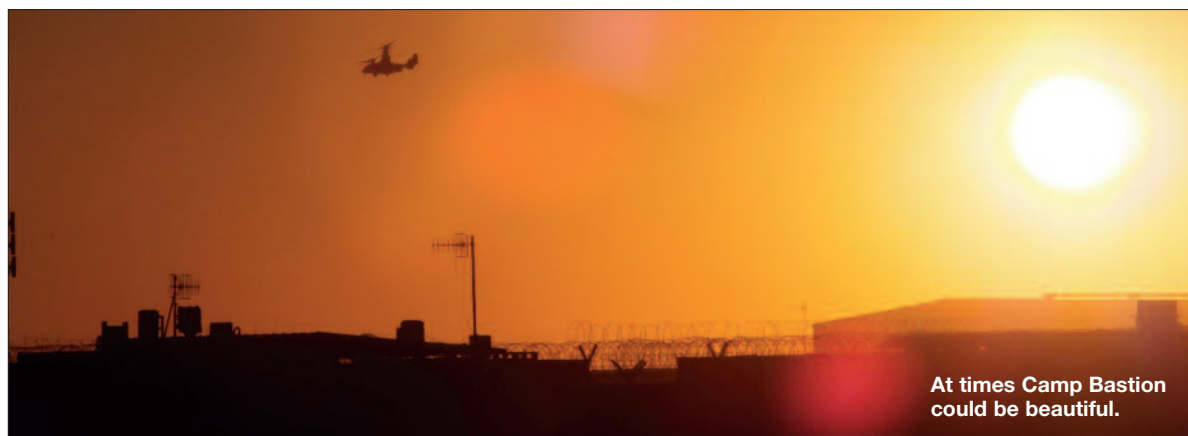
Preparations involved a detailed brief which included a thorough understanding of what military personnel were there to do and not do. Drivers and navigators were to operate the ambulance but not under 'blue light conditions'; nor were they to give clinical support beyond manual assistance to the paramedics. The training then moved onto driving and familiarisation with the ambulances. Despite no requirement to blue-light, Wellington Barracks was soon echoing with pips from sirens; possibly an ice-breaker from members of the LAS who were not striking and had volunteered to assist throughout Op PRISMED. A number of NHS clinicians had also volunteered to assist the military during the strike. They arrived from numerous departments and, in a testament to the attention the soldiers had been paying, the military stand-ins were soon showing the clinicians around the ambulances. After some communications training everyone was ready to bed-down in the Wellington Barrack's gym and get some sleep.

The strike window on Monday 13th October was expected to last between 7am – 11am. By first light on Monday, 60 ambulances, each containing military drivers and navigators, were lined up on the square at Wellington Barracks ready to begin responding to emergency calls. The guardsmen had swapped red tunics for high-visibility jackets, and their ammunition boots were replaced by (rather less smart) steel toe-capped boots. Another 107 ambulances would be provided from across London by private companies and non-striking LAS. Together, this provided around 75% of LAS's usual operating capacity. It was not long before the ambulances began responding to emergency calls and rolling out of the front gate. Once deployed, they would not be seen again until the end of the strike, as the LAS emergency call handlers began dispatching them to more incidents.

There were 800 emergency calls during the four hour strike window. Of these, ambulances responded to 389, of which 161 were crewed by the military. Despite road traffic accidents being identified as the main hazard during Op PRISMED, happily only one minor accident took place during the day. Disputes between the NHS and the government are ongoing and it currently looks as though military crewed ambulances on the streets of London may not be such a rare sight in the future.



High visibility Blue-Red-Blue. Members of the Household Division crew an ambulance in Westminster-PRISMED Article.



At times Camp Bastion could be beautiful.

365 Days to Turn Out The Lights!

by Lieutenant Colonel Vern Overton

In August 2013, I left home from the Army Foundation College at Harrogate bound for Afghanistan. I had been selected for promotion and a year-long tour of duty in Afghanistan as the Operation HERRICK Force Quartermaster (QM). It appeared that they wanted an experienced, second tour QM and that seemingly tilted the balance in my favour. My desk officer at the Army Personnel Centre later described the job as the Army merely wanting a QM to 'turn out the lights'. After nearly 40 years' service (man and boy) I knew that there would be more to the job than first met the eye. I am glad that I trusted my instincts as there certainly was a lot more to it than 'flicking' a few light-switches.

After an uneventful journey I arrived at Camp Bastion Airfield. It was not some wind-swept sandy runway which I left seven years previously, but what looked like a busy international airport. Although Bastion was lit up, I couldn't make out any tracks or tented camps that I recognised. There seemed to be some proper metalled roads and permanent buildings which were certainly not there when I last left the place. Following breakfast I stepped inside a bus for the short journey to start RSOI (Reception Staging and Onward Integration). Most Grenadiers would recognise this as 'in theatre' training, or a couple of days of 'do's and don'ts' followed by check firing of weapons. Now broad daylight, I was taken aback by the sheer size and scale of Bastion. I had heard that it was exactly the same size as Reading, but unless you see a camp of that size, you can't really visualise it. If I was to describe Camp Bastion, you would simply imagine the town of Reading with Gatwick Airport stuck onto the side of it and you wouldn't be too far wrong. The perimeter fence line alone was 24 miles all the way round, so any daft ideas I had about running round the

perimeter each morning were out of the question. RSOI proved to be an excellent time just to catch up on sleep, sort my kit out and have the confidence to know that both my rifle and pistol were in good working order.

The handover itself was no different than being a QM anywhere or indeed being a 'Pay Bloke' of a Company. No short cuts, just lots of checking and counting and familiarising myself with procedures. I felt lucky that I was being helped and mentored by the outgoing QM. He was like any Quartermaster in the Army: highly experienced with a canny knack of knowing just about everyone on a personal level. Or I should say that he knew just about everyone that could be of help to him, which I quickly caught onto myself as something that I should try and emulate. Once he had left, I was on my own and I remember attending several meetings during the first few weeks in Bastion. I sincerely hoped that I wouldn't be asked any searching questions as in truth, I didn't have a clue about most things. They did ask of course because I was now the QM and people always expect the QM to have an answer or at least an opinion. So, I was in at the deep-end as they say and anything I didn't know (which was most things) I made sure that I found the right answer and then presented it to them later. Even finding my way around in my vehicle was



Operations continued by air.



The constant withdrawal of kit and equipment.

a challenge and at times I felt like a school-kid being allowed out alone for the first time. Thankfully within the blink of an eye the first month had passed me by and I occasionally managed to add value to some meetings and was even able to answer some questions at the first time of asking.

In truth until Christmas 2013 the job was busy, but in no way was it manic. Most readers will have been on operational tours and worked until 11 o'clock every night. The tour for me was busy and I had a lot to be getting on with, but I never worked that late and never felt under any real pressure. I felt that I could do more and that maybe my Department could do more also. I didn't share that with my boss (initially an RAF Group Captain) and what a wise move that turned out to be, as on my return from my first R&R things changed quite dramatically. While I had been away the entire staff of the Force HQ changed over and some like me were due to remain until the closure of Bastion. I think the Commander had noted that we would not be ready to leave at the time announced by the Prime Minister on the 31st December 2014 so put his entire staff to work at making sure we would be ready. Just as this was announced Bastion was visited by a team of General Staff Officers from the UK and they delivered what turned out to be crucial guidance. We were to forget Christmas 2014 and were to be out of Bastion by no later than 31 October. Suddenly the busy year we had ahead of us was to become only 10 hectic months.

Amongst a plethora of kit and equipment in Camp Bastion there was also thousands of shipping containers holding just about every piece of military equipment you could imagine and even one or two things you couldn't. It was accurately assessed that only by vastly increasing the number that was to be flown out each day, would it be possible to get rid of them all on time. The term for this back-loading was 're-deployment' and this became the buzz-word of the month. There were also thousands of tons of other equipment that we were to get rid of, but this was not destined for the UK. This was known as disposals and Defence Accommodation Stores (DAS) including tables, chairs, wardrobes and lockers etc fell into the disposal bracket and were to be sold off to booster the MOD coffers back

home. I organised a mass disposal initiative right across Bastion and took everyone's DAS away from them and this was snapped up by a range of local Afghan traders known as 'jinglies'. This term was due to the colourful decoration and vibrant paint jobs which were completed on each Afghan truck – hence the name 'jingly truck' which you might have heard of previously. The DAS was to be turned into building materials as wood is a very rare commodity in the desert and can fetch a high price. By now I was probably seen by as a 'grim reaper' type of character, but we had to minimise everything we held dear if we wanted to leave by the end of October. As well as the issue and receipting of equipment, my staff were now involved with disposals and re-deployment and put simply: if the kit wasn't needed, we got rid of it back

to the UK or had it sold off locally. In fact, even if the kit might be needed at some stage in the future, we got rid of it anyway, such was the pressure on everyone to reduce in size. Life wasn't just busy anymore, but manic. In the usual style the QM's Department took to this style of working totally in their stride and surprised me just how resilient they were. They were just like the staff that had worked for me in Iraq and Afghanistan some years earlier. Not that they were the same – this time I had 2 Royal Air Force, 5 x Royal Navy and about 26 Army personnel and some of my staff were female. The Tri-Service mix was even more complex as we had representation from St Vincent, Nepal, Jamaica, Nigeria, Ghana and Fiji as well as from all four corners of the UK. In short, my staff were a total mixed bag, but was great fun to command and totally committed to what we were doing.

My staff and I had 25 major units to look after and a further 70 units (known as dependencies) who were partially supported by us. The major units got their real life support from us and this included everything from weapons, miscellaneous stores, ammunition, rations, equipment items, accommodation stores, and clothing. That in itself was a massive undertaking, but there were the other 70 dependencies to consider and these often became more time consuming to look after than the major units, as they were often quite 'needy' in what they asked for. So, you can imagine that we would have a range of store-men and Unit



The removal of swathes of tented camps.



The author – 'posing'.

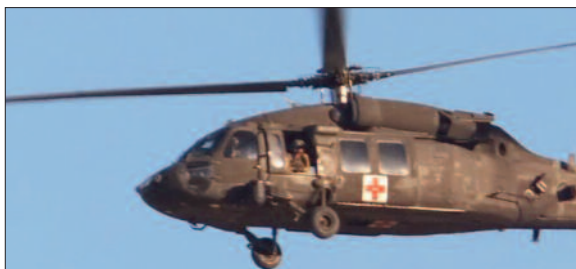
Quartermasters Staff visiting every day to pick up kit and one such man that I recognised was LSgt Norman, a Grenadier. 'Norm' as he was affectionately known, used to work in the Sergeants Mess as a batman and was a loyal and very trusted man. He was the first Grenadier that I had set eyes on since I arrived and it felt good that I was not alone. Just when I thought that there were not enough hours in a day, I was given the task of liaising with units whose camp was to be struck and the land 'remediated'. That prompted a look into the dictionary and an explanation from the Commander, Royal Engineers to know exactly what 'remediation' meant and I found that it meant putting land back to the exact state that it had been previously. Can you imagine it? Demolishing Reading and Gatwick Airport and putting the building land back to bare desert sands. 'Oh, and we want you to be all finished in 10 months so we can go home'. This was to be known as the Bastion Realignment Project Team and when I first heard of the task I think the broad smile on my face gave me away quite badly. My boss was serious, but I was quite relieved to know that I was to be part of a specialist demolition-team and wasn't working alone. In truth I really enjoyed it; at least I enjoyed helping with the planning of it all. It was like a giant chess game and we had to plan when a unit would move out of their accommodation and where exactly they might move to, to enable demolitions to proceed. Sometimes the place they might move to was a warehouse or large shed, or could be under a poncho secured by 4 bungees, which many of the RAF had never ever seen before let alone slept under. I quickly found out that it wasn't merely liaising with units and organising where they should move to, but 'ordering' units to move out of their camp and telling them exactly where to move to and when. It was an unpopular job and probably why a 'crusty' old Lieutenant Colonel like me had been given the job in the first place. One of the many tasks I had to fulfil was the formal handover of Camp Tombstone from the British Army to US Civilian contractors. That is the camp the Grenadiers took over from the Afghan National Army (ANA) in 2007 and built up from nothing during Colonel Hatherley's time in command. I remember it was called Camp Shoraback back then, but I think over the last few years it had reverted to its original name of Camp Tombstone. I reminisced when I saw the oak counter in the QM's Department which was built by Sgt Joey Truscott (Pioneer Sgt) and it was still standing firm when I visited. There was also a plunge pool that Sgt Paddy Dawes dug and was still in existence as well, although it had

fallen into disrepair by subsequent units and wasn't working anymore. It made me think, when the Grenadiers build a camp, they do it to last. Everyone in the Operational Planning Team was in agreement, that the UK should have retained Camp Tombstone as it was by far the best camp in Bastion. As well as prompting memories of many fallen Grenadiers, it also reminded me of some happier times in Shoraback as well.

We were slowly but surely withdrawing into the centre of Camp Bastion to occupy the same footprint that we did back in 2007. To do this we reconciled the numbers living in each camp and bunched everyone up. We also reduced the number of forces overall by returning some troops back to the UK early and then collapsed tented camps one by one. If ever my time as QM of the First Battalion had helped me, it was during this time. In truth I could have really done with Sgt Paddy Dawes out in Bastion to help me as he was the master of planning living accommodation and had done so previously in both Bosnia and Malaysia. In fact serving in Iraq and Afghanistan several years previously had proven to be good apprenticeship for this job. After witnessing the generator farm go up in smoke in Shaiba Log Base in Iraq, I knew the importance of generator power and how we needed to protect it. I didn't make many new friends over this period, as some units and their commanders, seemed keen on retaining every home comfort imaginable and only appeared interested in the next month or so before they flew home. I had to look at the bigger-picture and if that meant a unit moving to a different camp or living in a stores depot before they flew home, then so be it. So, as well as turning 'Reading and Gatwick' into a village surrounded by sand, there was the issue of moving thousands (no, millions) of tons of vehicles, ammunition and military equipment out of theatre before the end of October 2014. You can only have one main effort, but these things were all important and needed to be done quickly and urgently as everything else. So 'concurrent' activity came to the fore and thousands of tons of ammunition were disposed of by demolitions. On the hour, every hour, there was a massive explosion and the earth simply shuddered beneath our feet. Near to the end of Bastion we received notification that one or two valuable buildings and several major tented



Chinook Helicopter removing the final operating base.



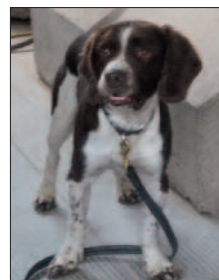
Medical aid was provided to the very end.

camp were not to be 'struck' but handed to the ANA. The word for giving was 'gifting' and just by gifting some of these facilities it saved weeks of valuable time spent on remediation. That is aside from the enormous costs of demolition and packing and preparing items such as air conditioning units, for redeployment back to the UK.

If things were not busy enough for everyone else, then the movement of vehicles and main equipments (VaME) filled that gap nicely. The procedure for the redeployment of VaME was carried out under what was known as the POGO process and it took around 6 weeks to get vehicles through the system. POGO was the abbreviation of Proof of Good Order and was the minimum standard of maintenance before they could be flown back to the UK. This system had been learnt from bitter experience following our departure from Iraq in 1991 and 2003. On both these occasions vehicles and main equipments were returned home in such bad order following fighting, that some had been scrapped as soon as they had arrived home. POGO was designed to ensure that clean, automotively sound, well maintained vehicles and equipments, were fit for immediate re-issue on arrival back in the UK. POGO came with a vehicle passport and this showed documentary evidence in the form of photographs and certificates that each stage of the POGO process had been completed to the required standard. The passports became prized possessions of drivers and commanders, for they knew that they personally could not fly home without their vehicle attaining POGO. To give you an idea of how big a task this was, the wash-down (known as the bio-wash) was booked up constantly for weeks. If you missed your slot at the bio-wash, you might be waiting for 6 weeks to get another one. So, even bookings for the wash-down became highly prized possessions.

The final part of planning was for the last couple of months before we departed. It brought together three different work-strands, which included equipment redeployment, disposals and infrastructure. My team had been heavily involved with both of these, but more than anything else; we needed to stop relying upon hundreds of Locally Engaged Civilians and carry out manual work ourselves. This would mean manufacturing and starting to use deep-drop latrines and washing our clothes and bodies using just a metal wash bowl, as well as doing all the cleaning and swabbing tasks ourselves. For those of you like me who are old-school, this was normal form and precisely what we did in Iraq in 1991 without even thinking twice. I

couldn't see what all the fuss was about and then at the last minute the laundry, cookhouse food and contract cleaning of toilets and showers were to be kept up and running to almost the last day of Bastion. For me it was a sign that the Army had actually gone soft when administering itself, but the official line given was that we needed to minimise the chances of spreading infectious disease – but I remained un-convinced by that somewhat lax approach. It was at this point that my own tour came to an end and after 365 days it was just the right time for me personally. All the hard work had been completed and there was nothing really left for a QM to do. I did not want to become personally involved with the politics of who should stay until the very end and how we would ceremonially handover to the Afghans as that was not a job for the Force Quartermaster. Part of me thought about volunteering to stay on for the last 2 months, but I had a word with myself and told myself to wise up. 12 months and being the longest serving resident of Camp Bastion was enough for anyone and I went about packing my kit and vacating my bed-space with a spring in my step. My thoughts as I sat in the Passenger Handling Facility at Camp Bastion airfield were of the many Grenadiers who had come to Afghanistan and not returned home. Being at home while the Battalion had last served in Afghanistan, I am acutely aware of the many lives that have been broken apart back home and will never be the same again due to events in Afghanistan. But for now my parting thoughts are of a job brilliantly done by the thousands of soldiers, sailors and airmen who have ever served in Afghanistan and I am proud to say that the Grenadiers have more than played their part.



Man's best friend stayed until almost the end.



Black Sunday wreath laying by WO1 (Comd Sgt Maj) Lilley SG, Colonel Steven Whiting RACD and the author, Lieutenant Colonel Vern Overton.



THINKING OF LEAVING A LEGACY TO THE REGIMENT?

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

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

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

There are three types of legacy you can leave.

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

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

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

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

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

Tax benefits

If you leave a legacy to the Regiment, its value will be deducted from your estate before inheritance tax (IHT) is worked out. In some cases leaving a legacy may help bring the total value of your estate below the taxable threshold (£325,000 for 2013-14). Gifts to the Regiment made up to seven years before your death may also qualify for exemption.

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

Beneficiary details

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

**Regimental Headquarters Grenadier Guards, Wellington Barracks,
Birdcage Walk, London SW1E 6HQ**

Grenadier Guards win the Army Major Units Cup 2014

The Grenadiers have struggled to field a strong cricket side for many years owing to a decade of operations and overseas Exercises but 2014 saw an opportunity to kick start the club and try our luck against more 'seasoned' sides with a crop of young and talented players.

A marked improvement in the number of serving soldiers and officers playing for the Guards Cricket Club has allowed the Battalion to get some much needed time in the middle and certainly contributed to the Battalion's successful season. Cpts Chris Stevenson, Fred Moynan, Mike Dobson, Alex Budge, LSgt Bent and a smattering of subalterns and guardsmen were frequently released during the week to play in the most successful Guards Cricket Club season for many years. It really is a privilege to play in the shadow of the Royal Hospital. On a side note, it is unforgivable that the Household Division sometimes struggles to find 11 players to play at Burton Court, one of the finest grounds in the country, but that is a battle for another day ...

Regular Wednesday nets and friendly games set the Grenadiers up well as we entered the Major Units Cup for the first time in living memory. A bye allowed us through to play 3 RSME where Capt Alex Budge stole the show with a magnificent century that confounded his critics. He followed it up with a few wickets and the Grenadiers romped home, winning by almost 200 runs. The Semi Final was against 2nd Battalion Royal Gurkha Rifles, a slightly closer game but a comfortable victory of 80



Capt Moynan with the Cricket Trophy.



Grenadier Guards Victorious Team Major Unit Cricket 2014.

runs led by Capt Chris Stevenson with a half-century. Onto the final ...

The Grenadiers won the toss on a beautiful September day and elected to bat. A shaky start saw two wickets fall in quick succession, but Major Rich Green and Capt Fred Moynan steadied the ship and both scored half centuries. A slight batting collapse towards the end, saw the Battalion team finish on 185-8, perhaps a slightly under-par score, but we would have to see what 22 Engineer Regiment would bring to the party. Some ferocious bowling from LSgt Matthew Bent and Capt Alex Budge, meant the Engineers were restricted to 54-5, then 77-7, at which point their tail wagged and the Grenadiers looked in serious trouble. The Senior Major again came to the rescue, breaking the key partnership and almost sealing victory. The last couple of wickets fell fairly easily and the 1st Battalion Grenadier Guards were crowned the Major Units Cricket Champions, winning by 29 runs.

Since 1968 the Army Major Unit Cup has been played annually and it had been won once by a Foot Guards Regiment, the Welsh Guards in 1991. The Grenadiers added their name in September 2014 in front of the whole Battalion who drank a beer with their burgers on the boundary (thanks to the Quartermaster). It was a marvellous finish to a tournament that was played in the right spirit from beginning to end. The Battalion will be in Kenya in 2015 but we will be sure to practise out there in anticipation of 2016.

Exercise Grenadier Reach – 12 Platoon The Inkerman Company

by Capt Toby Simpson

The Inkerman Company deployed to Otterburn in early July with the remainder of the Battalion. Following a successful week at Lydd and Hythe ranges conducting a variety of shoots we were in a strong position to put in a good showing on the Section, Platoon and ultimately Company live attack ranges. 12 Platoon had also recently

taken up a new role under Army 2020 as the Company Fire Support Group (FSG) and so a lot of time was being spent ironing out new tactics. The guardsmen worked hard on the Company range carrying eye watering amounts of ammunition and weaponry up and down the Northumbrian hills.

Following the live attacks we moved on to a blank phase of training where much of the live activity was repeated only this time with blank rounds, by this stage however most of the guardsmen had their eyes on something entirely more challenging: Exercise Grenadier Reach was just around the corner. Many rumours had been

circulating for weeks, how long it would be? What challenges we would face? How deep will the river crossing be? Will we even make it around alive? All would be revealed shortly.

12 Platoon disembarked at the drop off point at 0900hrs on the morning of Monday 15th July, only a few hundred meters from the first stand. Life jackets were handed out and weak swimmers were marked with mine tape. We were briefed that a river obstacle had to be crossed before we could progress, following the drills we had been taught by the Jungle Warfare Instructors and that we had learnt in Brunei LSgt Laird began to man the release point. No amount of last minute waterproofing could stop the feeling of cold water pouring in to every nook and cranny as you tried to remain as tactical as possible. Luckily no one faltered and before we knew it we were on our way again trying to make as much ground as possible before light faded.

Some 15km later and having dried out we began to occupy a hasty harbour to await further orders, by this stage we all still felt fresh but knew that in a few hours the day would start to take its toll. Having received radio orders to progress to the next stand we made our way on to the high ground and followed it to the north of the training area. Unfortunately at this stage the heavens decided to open and within minutes we were soaked to the bone, worryingly more so than after the river crossing. It also was staring to get dark and moral visibly took a tumble. It only lifted slightly at the sight of the third stand during which we were tested on military knowledge and our observation skills.

As we stepped off in to the early hours all that kept us going was the thought that every step took us closer to the finish. The third leg was by far the longest and proved to be the biggest challenge, fatigue had set in and our feet had been soaked for over 12 hours. As we pushed through the dark however we emerged at the RV for the fourth stand and could almost smell the finish. We were directed in to a farm where



12 Platoon Inkerman Company EX GRENADIER REACH Winners.

several casualties needed to be dealt with: LSgt laird led the charge dealing with the casualties as though he had not just marched 50km. Gdsm Punter and Phillips also put in a sterling performance at this stage, motivating the platoon to keep cracking on and digging in until the bitter end.

We were given some intelligence that a weapons hide lay near by and were directed to investigate. A 4km patrol later and we were approaching the final stand, as with everything in the Army nothing is that simple and we were contacted sustaining a casualty almost instantly. Again the guardsmen showed their true colours and acted as if nothing out of the ordinary had happened to them over the previous 24 hours dragging the casualty in to cover and ultimately up the final hill to the exchange point where endex was called and we could finally relax. Gratefully greeted with a hot breakfast after 27 hours on patrol the only other thing on our minds was sleep.

HMS Queen Elizabeth – A new affiliation

*by Major J E N B Shaw,
The Inkerman Company Commander*

The Grenadiers have maintained a long and proud affiliation with the Royal Navy. This affiliation stems back to the Dutch Wars in the early 1700s when guardsmen from the First Regiment of Foot Guards served as infantrymen aboard Royal Navy ships. Back then, and in no real change to the Royal Marines of today, the guardsmen lived in the bottom or ribs of the ship ready to repel an attack if called up onto the deck. It is because of this time in the ribs of a ship that the 3rd Battalion became known as 'The Ribs' and the Inkerman Company now proudly carries that

title forward. And while many Regiments have affiliations, the Grenadier Guards has always ensured our affiliation remains active and beneficial for all.

Until the sad decommissioning of HMS Illustrious in Autumn 2013, the Inkerman Company and wider Battalion had enjoyed a long affiliation with one of the Navy's aircraft carriers. This had been expressed through many enjoyable visits aboard 'Lusty' including a number of long sea transits. One of the more memorable occasions was in 2005 when members of the Inkerman Company under Lt Patrick Hennessy found themselves onboard Illustrious for a Royal visit in the Mediterranean. Fortunately they had brought their tunics and positioned themselves so the first thing Her Majesty would see when arriving on deck was a detachment of Grenadiers looking resplendent in full ceremonial attire. The plan worked well and Her Majesty headed straight for the Grenadiers demanding to know, 'What are you doing here?'

With the demise of HMS Illustrious, the logical successor to continue the affiliation was through HMS Queen Elizabeth as there were many useful links in place. The first and most obvious is Her Majesty The Queen being our Colonel in Chief, but there are also more subtle links. HMS Queen Elizabeth will be based in Hampshire in her home port of Portsmouth and the 1st Battalion is based and will remain based in Hampshire for the foreseeable future. The Hampshire link was firmly cemented by the former Lord Lieutenant for Hampshire, and great supporter of the Battalion, Dame Mary Fagan who had already established close links with HMS Queen Elizabeth.

In July, the Captain of HMS Queen Elizabeth, Capt Simon Pettitt, invited the Commanding Officer to the Commissioning ceremony of HMS Queen Elizabeth and the formal beginning of the affiliation was marked with an exchange of plaques (and a most enjoyable dinner) on Trafalgar Day 2014.

Much has been reported about the 'top trumps' statistics of HMS Queen Elizabeth and at 280m long is a truly impressive sight to see. She will be the biggest and most powerful surface warship ever constructed for the Royal Navy and will enable the delivery of increased strategic effect and

influence around the world. There have been more than twenty ships named Queen Elizabeth, the list of Battle Honours for which extends from the Armada in 1588 to Guadeloupe in 1810. Only one ship by the name HMS Queen Elizabeth has served with the Royal Navy, as the lead ship of an important and innovative class of battleships which served with great distinction in both World Wars.

We are very proud to be affiliated to the Royal Navy's newest and most impressive ship and look forward to another long period of close links and friendship.



The Commanding Officer HMS Queen Elizabeth.

Exercise Caribbean Wings 2014

by Capt C H P Sanford

Capt J Lindley; Capt B Figgures-Wilson (WG); Lt C Sanford; Lt E Birrell (WG); Sgt G Miller (RS); LSgt C Kotze; LSgt B Middleton; LSgt N Watson (IG Band); LCpl Battison; Gdsm Childs; Gdsm Matthews; Gdsm Turay; Gdsm Fowkes; Gdsm Nelson

Exercise Caribbean Wings is an annual expedition aboard the 70 foot Challenger class ocean going yacht *Discoverer*. Groups of 14 servicemen and women from all three forces sail the yacht in two week stints from Portsmouth to Antigua, then on to Miami before finally sailing it up to New York, from here the yacht makes its return journey to Portsmouth.

The Battalion was fortunate enough to be given a full crews' worth of berths to sail from Miami to New-York over a two week period in April. Many will note that it does not take two weeks to sail this distance and so a handful of stop-offs would be required en-route; unsurprisingly it was not difficult to find volunteers for this trip! A couple of qualified yachting enthusiasts were hunted down from elsewhere in the Household Division to fill the requisite qualification requirements and then before we knew it we were in Miami literally being shown the ropes by the permanent Skipper named Greg Miller (RS). We were split down into our two 'watches', issued oilskins and life-jackets and generally taught the basics of sailing. Although large, *Discoverer*

comes complete with a full suite of refits, including a kitchen sink, and so the 14 'berths' were not exactly luxurious. After 48 hours in Miami enjoying the scantily clad sites that 'South-Beach' has to offer we were ready to slip our moorings and set sail. The boat was full of supplies, the crew had passed the crash course in sailing and everyone was suitably worse for wear. We motored out of Miami harbour, raising the sails as we headed out to sea and continued east until we lost sight of land and picked up a good wind. From here we bore away and headed north, staying out of site of land on a broad-reach for 48 hours until heading in to Cape Canaveral to see the Space-Station and collect supplies. After a brief inspection we noted that the space station was,



as expected, full of space ships and not quite as alluring as the town waterfront which was full of fried shrimp and cold beer, and this was where we set up camp until our early departure the following morning. After conducting the same routine of heading east and then north we made for our next stop, the charming port of Charlestown. For the uninitiated, Charlestown boasts a famous old fort, some fantastic eateries and bars and a couple of all girl universities. Needless to say, Charlestown was hard to leave, and with sad faces we headed East and then North for what was to be the longest and hardest leg up to New York. We had been warned that once past Cape Hatteras the weather would turn, that watching dolphins at the bow (front) in shorts and tee-shirts would be replaced with watching huge waves in full oilskins. The warnings were right and as night fell the weather turned from calm seas and a light following breeze to 'Sea State 6' (big waves) and strong winds. Greg the Skipper insisted on midnight sail changes, probably just to test our mettle, and here we learnt a thing or two about ourselves and our shipmates. 'Hooking on' and going forward of the mast when serious waves are coming over the bow is quite something for soldiers who have never sailed before and I am proud to say that everyone did their bit and got on with it in less than favourable conditions. We were later passed overhead by an electrical storm which, to our astonishment, constantly illuminated the ship for the 4 hours until dawn. With dawn came a break from the rain and for the following 48 hours we had good wind to take us north as far as Atlantic City. However, the weather once again turned to 'Sea State 6', and Greg decided that discretion was the better part of valour and pointed us into Atlantic City where we refit broken parts from the plethora

of spares and generally licked our wounds. Delaying here also meant that our arrival into New-York would be by day and so just before dawn we once again slipped our mooring and headed north for the final time. Sailing up the Hudson into Manhattan was certainly a once in a lifetime experience, and many aboard were sent (willingly or otherwise) up the mast to get a truly unique 'selfie' with The Statue of Liberty and the New York skyline.



Once we had moored up, scrubbed down and generally made *Discoverer* glisten we were free to enjoy Manhattan for 48 hours before returning to England. Here a good time was had by all and it was with sad faces that we boarded the plane for home. It should be noted that Gdsm Nelson volunteered to stay on with the next crew in order to cross the Atlantic and return *Discoverer* to Portsmouth. Of this he can be duly proud as an Atlantic crossing is a feat few have the privilege of completing.

Ex Desert Soldiers 1 3–21 March 2014

by **Capt C J D Stevenson**

The UK is '...committed to active engagement by the Army for strategic advantage.'

Defence Senior Advisor to the Middle East 2013

As current enduring operations draw to a close the British Army has begun to focus its efforts on two main lines of development: contingency operations and so-called 'up-stream capacity building'. Whilst these focal points may not be synonymous with each other, the golden thread is that of building foreign relations. The strategic document that is shaping current thought within the Ministry of Defence is the Future Character of Conflict (FCOC) report produced by the Development, Concepts and Doctrine Centre (DCDC) alongside the Centre's Global Strategic Trends Programme. The study concludes that any future operations are likely to

be conducted in an environment that contains a range of simultaneous threats and adversaries in an anarchic and extended operating area and that future conflict will be described by the 5C's; Contested, Congested, Connected, Cluttered and Constrained. Recently added to the list was a sixth C, that of Coalition. Given the rebalancing of the Armed Forces as part of the Army 2020 programme, it is more than likely that any enduring focused intervention by British Armed Forces will only take place as part of a coalition and thus building foreign relations is the vital activity. Exercise Desert Soldiers saw a three week deployment by the 1st Battalion Grenadier Guards looking to do exactly that, with the Grenadier Guards Battle Group working to 20 (King Abdul Aziz's) Brigade of the Royal Saudi Land Forces. It is experiences and lessons learned from such deployments that will not only enhance, but determine, our ability to engage with our foreign allies and conduct successful contingency operations.

Ex Desert Soldiers 1 began with the establishment of a battalion headquarters from scratch, an experience very different to arriving in a well established Camp Bastion or



The Grenadier Guards Battalion HQ in the desert of Saudi Arabia.

forward operating base, yet a procedure that will prove vital in future contingency operations. Ex Desert Soldiers 1 presented several exciting and challenging tasks. Receiving orders from a higher formation is usually a fairly straight forward process, however when dealing with allies where neither a common language is shared, nor pre-existing modus operandi in place, remaining open-minded and patient is essential. The value of a good interpreter, and more importantly his understanding of his Commander's Intent has proved critical. Simple effects verbs, if not translated correctly, can lead to unnecessary complexities and significant consequences in the battle space. However language was not only translated from one type of military parlance to another, but understanding of the Commander's intent allowed the interpreter significant freedoms in his engagement with the Saudis, and ultimately created large gains as he pursued this in his dialogue.

The Saudis are incredibly welcoming and hospitable people and socializing is an important way for them to build working relationships. Therefore, knowing and understanding the culture and customs of our foreign partners is a good position to start from. We found customs heavily dictated the way in which work was conducted, and ultimately how operations are planned. The clash of working practices could prove frustrating, however understanding gleaned during the exercise recce, and from the G2 cell allowed us to come prepared and able to work seamlessly together. It is evident that it is not just for the senior ranks to grasp what is important about the culture of our partners, but the responsibility of every individual. The idea of the 'strategic corporal' is as relevant in defence engagement as in combat, making

education on such issues not only necessary before deployment, but also as an ongoing process. Doing everything with your right hand, from greetings, passing items and eating as well as respecting the strict hierarchy of the military with which one is working with may be considered the basics in Saudi cultural practice, but if not learned and followed correctly can have implications in one's ability to build bonds and enduring relationships.

The building of bonds and relationships proved the heart of the exercise, with Defence Engagement being the Main Effort for both sides. Understanding of customs proved useful in this, however patience was the pre-eminent quality. The disparity over tactics or planning must take a back seat if they undermine the

friendships being made, a lesson that must be taken forward. The exercise is a small part of wider engagement with our ally in the Middle East. Relationships develop quickly in Saudi Arabia, however trust takes longer to earn. The reactions of our Saudi colleagues altered significantly over the course of three weeks from exceptional courtesy to genuine warmth of feeling and mutual trust. These individual relationships will not only prove a force multiplier in defence engagement, but a force driver in contingency operations, and are to be strongly encouraged.

Exercise Desert Soldiers 1 has proven the significance of Short Term training teams within the context of enduring operations that are coming to a close and the importance of relationships from the lowest level upwards can not be underestimated. It has been a culturally insightful and fruitful overseas exercise. Finally, it has provided lessons to take away for future deployments and has been full of experiences unique to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.



The Officers' Mess in traditional dress – Saudi Arabia.

The Carrington Drum Award

by Capt Andy Butcher

The 2014 Carrington Drum, which is awarded to the unit from the Regular Army and Army Reserve that raises the most funds for ABF The Soldiers' Charity, has been won by the Recruiting Team from the 1st Battalion Grenadier Guards. The team, who are based in Aldershot, raised money by running in the London Marathon, collecting at the Army vs Navy Rugby Match and the RHS Chelsea Flower Show. They also assisted at several Soldiers' Charity events around the UK.

Lieutenant Colonel Charles Broughton MBE, Commanding Officer 1st Battalion Grenadier Guards, said of the teams; 'I am immensely proud of the Grenadier Guards Recruiting Team for winning the Carrington Drum. Capt Andy Butcher, LCpl McCormack and Gdsm Viggors and Avery have raised a vast amount of money for the Charity over the last couple of years and this award is a testament to their hard work and dedication



Left to Right: LCpl McCormack, Capt Butcher, Gdsm Viggors and Gdsm Avery of The Grenadier Guards Regimental Support Team receive their award from General Sir Mike Jackson GCB CBE DSO DL, President of ABF The Soldiers' Charity.

in supporting the Charity'.

F Company Scots Guards, who undertook a unit-wide skydiving day (amongst other activities), were placed 2nd while 3rd place went to the Army Training Regiment (Winchester).

Gdsm Wallace, Battalion Recce Group – Penn Award

Gdsm Wallace is 25 years old from Royston. Away from the Army he enjoys keeping himself fit, working in the gym, boxing and travelling.

Gdsm Wallace arrived in the 1st Battalion from Nijmegen Company in September 2013. Straight away he attended the recce group cadre where he immediately made a good name for himself as a physically fit and hard working individual. He continued to go from strength to strength over this period

passing the cadre and joining the recce group. Shortly after the cadre he deployed on OP FIRIC to the Falkland Islands. Yet again over this period Gdsm Wallace performed to a high standard in all he did and despite being very junior was clearly determined to learn at every available opportunity.

Most recently Gdsm Wallace was selected to attend the junior non commissioned officers course (LCpls course) at HDPGCC. The fact that he was one of only two selected from the recce group speaks volumes for his hard working and diligent attitude as well as his desire to progress with his career. With limited experience Gdsm Wallace drove him self throughout the LCpls Course and both on physical training and field soldiering highlighted himself as a quality soldier and an individual with huge amounts of potential. Gdsm Wallace completed the course with strong pass, a grade not often attained on a LCpls course and even scarcer by someone so junior.

Gdsm Wallace is a credit to the recce group and Battalion and his professional attitude, mental and physical robustness are an example to those around him. He is due to be on the next HDPGCC sniper course before deploying to Kenya. After this deployment he is keen to attend Pre Parachute Selection Course (P Company) with a view to an attachment to the Guards Parachute Platoon in the future.



THE FAGAN AWARDS – 2014

Gdsm Nicholson

Gdsm Nicholson is awarded the Fagan Award for his individual effort, passion, and enthusiasm for Target Rifle Shooting.

This involves the use of non-military 7.62mm target rifles engaging targets on a static range from 300m–1000m.

Gdsm Nicholson first began Shooting in 2005 as a 13-year old serving with the Army Cadet Force. It was there that Gdsm Nicholson developed his passion for the sport. He continued shooting until 2009 when the financial costs of the sport made it too expensive for him. Gdsm Nicholson joined the British Army in May 2011 and on arrival in Nijmegen Company in 2012 was able to continue Target Rifle Shooting. He shoots at Bisley most weekends.

Gdsm Nicholson is now a member of the four-man Infantry team which has won the Imperial Competition for the last two years. The Imperial Competition is a civilian event held at Bisley. Gdsm Nicholson was also ranked 230 out of the 1,000 that shot in the event. It should be noted that the Infantry team is open to all ranks and he is the most junior member. In 2012 he was asked to cover the position of team adjutant for the Inter-Services competition, a position normally covered by a Captain and is responsible for all administrative

aspects of the team.

Gdsm Nicholson is a worthy nominee for the Fagan Award as it is rare that you find such a junior guardsmen with so much commitment to a sport, and commitment that involves sacrificing his personal time. More so, as a junior guardsmen, he is already representing the Infantry team which makes him a good ambassador for the Grenadier Guards.

His aim is to be selected for the Army team. This will require more years of practice but is achievable. Gdsm Nicholson's passion for the sport is infectious and he should be commended for the commitment he has shown.



Gdsm Pottow

Gdsm Pottow arrived on EX FROSTED BLADE having only ever skied once on a dry ski slope. After six weeks of intensive, physically and mentally demanding

training he was seeded in the top 40 of 170 competitors, many of whom had been skiing their entire lives.

Gdsm Pottow's attitude and willingness to push himself throughout the exercise was outstanding. He fully immersed himself and embodied everything that the

Directing Staff were hoping for from the junior soldiers; demonstrating skill, courage and determination balanced with team spirit and a keen sense of humour.

In barracks, Gdsm Pottow is exemplary in all he does. Whether it be demanding Physical Training or on the Drill Square he is always of the highest standard. Gdsm Pottow richly deserves to be a recipient of the Fagan Award.

This award will allow him to further hone his skills as a sportsman of great potential.



Ypres Staff Ride

by Lt Tom Hargreaves

As part of the wider commemoration of the 100th Anniversary of the outbreak of the First World War, several officers and Warrant Officers of the Regiment undertook a Staff Ride to Ypres, exploring parallels between the British Expeditionary Force and subsequent Volunteer and Conscripted Armies, and the British Army today.

After a ferry crossing similar to that taken by our forebears, we headed straight to the railhead at Poperinge where the stand-down station of Talbot House is preserved. There, under the direction of our guide Lieutenant Colonel (Retd) Peter McLelland OBE (The Queen's Regiment), we discussed the moral component of the war and its wider implications on those who fought.

The following morning took the group to Gheluvelte, to discuss the defence of Polygon Wood by 2nd Battalion The Worcesters, and their subsequent counter-attack, which not only stemmed the tide of the German advance, but amid individual heroic acts managed to catch the looting Army off-guard and set the battle lines for months to come.

Continuing the theme of defence, the next study was at the Hoge Crater and museum, where the physical problems of deadlock and trench life and routine were discussed in the shadow of the crater left when a British tunnel system was detonated under German trenches in 1916. The adjacent museum provided examples of the kit and equipment used at the time, with many artefacts discovered as recently as 2013 in the thick Passchendaele soil.

En route to Hill 60 the group stopped at Zillibecke and

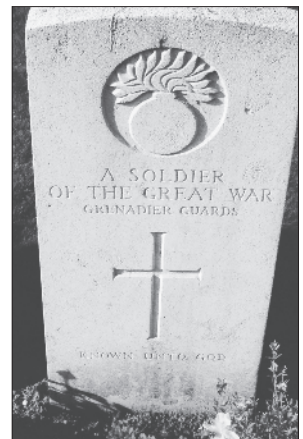
paid their respects at the 'Aristocrats' Cemetery, one of the only examples of war graves in hallowed ground on the Western Front, and so-named after the dozen or so titled Officers found there. At Hill 60 itself the group turned to the conceptual component of fighting power, to look at what made a man-made heap of spoil one of the key, if not vital pieces of ground in the area. That evening we returned to Ypres town itself, to marvel at the rebuilt market square, Cloth Hall, and Cathedral. At sundown the group gathered at the Menin Gates for the Last Post, and for the laying of a wreath by the Commanding Officer in one of the most moving acts of remembrance that has been enacted daily since 1918 and is upheld by the Mayor of Ypres to this day.

The next day the group started at Essex Farm Dressing Station, the legendary scene where Lieutenant Colonel John McCrae wrote his iconic poem *In Flanders Fields*. Nowhere more than here do the realities of field hospital conditions of the day and the advances in casualty evacuation come to life. The final study took the group onto the offensive, and followed the advance of Guards Division at Boezinge during the Third Battle of Ypres (known as Passchendaele after the ridge on which it was fought), and

included a visit to Artillery Wood Cemetery where 61 Grenadiers lie amongst the 200 graves of their Foot Guards brothers. Here, and at the nearby Langemarck Cemetery the humbling feats of bravery were exemplified in first-person accounts of the gains made in late 1917, including LSgt John Harold Rhodes who was awarded the Victoria Cross and Croix de Guerre for his single-handed capture of a German pill box in the face of effective enemy fire at Poelcapelle.

The Staff Ride came to a close at the Grenadier Guards Wall at Tyne Cot Cemetery, where the group made their act of remembrance amongst the graves of twelve thousand of the fallen, and 35,000 from across the Commonwealth are remembered, for whom there is no known resting place.

We would like to thank Lieutenant Colonel Peter McLelland, and Lieutenant Colonel Richard Dorney for all their hard work and indispensable knowledge which made the Staff Ride as intellectually rigorous as it was enjoyable.



An Unknown Grenadier Soldier in Ypres.



Menin Gate at Night.

Exercise Austrian Grenadier

by *Lt Tom Hargreaves*

For over 100 years German and Austrian Mountain troops have undertaken a gruelling endurance march across the Carinthian Mountains in southern Austria, earning them the coveted 'Edelweiss' badge. For the second year the Regiment was invited to take part in an event inspired by the legendary feat, known as 'The Grenadier Games'. Two teams were sent: Capt Hugo Cartwright led a two man team of LSgt Dent and LCpl Furneux from the Mortar Platoon, and Lt Tom Hargreaves a team from the Queen's Company consisting of LSgt McCormack and Gdsm Coughlan.

The five-day event in its current form is the brainchild of Maj Michael Glanzer of the Bundesheer Honour Guard, with the aim of bringing together inter-service groups from across Europe. Hosted at the Army barracks at Glainach, the military skills element tested a range of core activities from navigation, target indication, and mass-casualty drills to escape and evasion, close-target reconnaissance, and close-quarter marksmanship.

The highlight of the week was the 'Edelweiss March' which resembled as closely as possible the revered rite of passage undertaken by Mountain Troops to this day. This ascent was mounted in two legs over 24 hours with a number

of checkpoints with tasks to be completed. The first leg was a 20km speed march to the base of the mountain, which saw fierce competition from Danish and German teams, and during which the route was enhanced by high wire crossings over deep ravines, and a 'black attack' on a Cold War era tunnel system.

Teams then set up an overnight bivouac to allow for an early start the following morning. Sadly inclement weather called for a halt on the final ascent, but after a restart teams climbed over 3000ft up the wooded slopes beyond the trailhead and up scree-lined paths to the summit of *Kosiak* at 6640ft to be rewarded with views over the border into Slovenia and the rest of Carinthia.

Both teams competed hard for the trophy, with the Mortar Platoon gaining a Silver Medal and the Queen's Company placed seventh at a sunset awards ceremony attended by the Commandant to the sound of the Alpine Troops' March.



Lt Hargreaves, LSgt McCormack, Gdsm Coughlan at the summit of Kosiak.

Cambrian Patrol

The Cambrian Patrol is an arduous 48 hour patrol competition in October through the demanding back drop of the Black Mountains and Sennybridge training area. It is a rigorous test of chemical skills navigation, endurance and military stands, including recce patrols, section attacks and obstacle crossings. The Battalion had an excellent foundation for the competition, following the success of Exercise Grenadier Reach in Otterburn in the summer.

Both the Recce Platoon and The Inkerman Company entered teams. CSgt Hughes and the Training Wing put together a challenging month-long training program for the 2 teams; this culminated with a week long beat up exercise in Brecon, including a couple of trips over Pen-Y-Fan. The final week of training saw the two Grenadier sections being joined by a team from 8th Battalion, Garhwal Rifles from India. Having been trained on the SA80 and comparing section tactics and techniques, the 3 teams deployed to Wales.

Having received and delivered orders under the section commanders, the teams started the competition. The initial phase was a 12 hour recce patrol. Conditions were tough, with visibility very poor, as to be expected in Brecon in October. Following the recce, patrol reports were compiled before moving onto the larger part of the competition, a tab through a series of stands. The 'highlight' of this was the

obstacle crossing through the Usk Reservoir, where The Inkerman Company team arrived after last light. The far from temperate water was not what the team had become accustomed to whilst first learning these drills in Brunei!

Nearly two days after they had started the teams made it, via a 2km ammunition carry to the final stand, and a demanding section attack on X Range. All that was left after this was a thorough kit check and hour long debrief.

All those who took part on the Cambrian Patrol had certainly learnt a great deal about themselves. They can be hugely proud, having completed a competition that a large number did not manage. The Recce Platoon, commanded by Sgt Gunning, were rewarded with a Silver Medal. The Cambrian Patrol is a fantastic test of fitness, resilience, military skill and sense of humour, which all the guardsmen showed throughout. It will certainly one of the most challenging tasks any who took part have undertaken, it will certainly set all ranks up phenomenally well for any promotional courses.

It was also a fantastic opportunity to work closely with and learn from a foreign military. The Gharwal Rifles were a brilliant addition to the Cambrian training. I have no doubt that they returned to India greatly impressed by the Grenadiers, having seen the Inkerman Company mount a Windsor Guard on the Sunday, a Guard of Honor on the Monday and compete in the Cambrian Patrol on the Wednesday.

Brussels 1945

by Paul Cordle

Guards Armoured Division in Brussels in July 1945. Peter Linford, son of Sergeant Les Linford, has let us use these photos from his father's scrap book. Les was a long time and much loved Secretary of the Yorkshire Branch.



A Grenadier Memorial Peal of Bells

by Major P A J Wright OBE

In June 1916, the belfry of Lillington Church in Dorset was repaired, the bells (the oldest cast in 1552) were rehung and the peal increased to five with the addition of

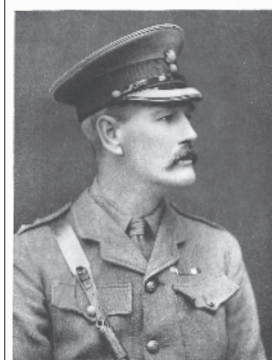
three new bells cast in Loughborough. This work was dedicated by George Hamilton Fletcher of Leweston Manor 'To the Glory of God and in memory his elder son, Gareth, 2nd Lieutenant Grenadier Guards', who was killed in action at Guinchy La Basse in France on 25th January 1915. A few weeks later his son-in-law, Lieutenant Colonel Laurence Fisher-



Marble shield in the church.



Lieut. G. Hamilton Fletcher.
Joined Regiment on 15.8.14
Recorded overseas on 3.4.15 and joined 1st Batt.
Killed in action at Guinchy on 25.1.15
with 1st Batt. Scots Guards.



Lieut. Colonel Laurence Fisher Esq.
Commanding 1st Battalion
and was killed on 17th March 1915.

Rowe died of his wounds on 13th March 1915, while commanding 1st Battalion Grenadier Guards at the battle of Neuve Chapelle. The sacrifice of these two Grenadiers from the same family is jointly commemorated on a marble shield in the church. On 25th January this year, the 100th anniversary of Gareth's death, a 50 minute 'quarter peal' was rung in his memory by the Sherborne Abbey ringers in Lillington Church.

Memorial Service for Major Lord Bernard Gordon Lennox, Grenadier Guards

by Major P A J Wright OBE

'A heavy loss this day was the death of Major Lord Bernard Gordon Lennox, who was killed by a high explosive shell. For three months he had been in the thick of every engagement, always cheerful, and always making the best of every hardship. He was one of the most popular officers in the Brigade of Guards and his death was very keenly felt by everyone.'

On 10th November 2014, the 100th anniversary of the death of Major Lord Bernard Gordon Lennox, a large gathering of his family and descendants attended a service of commemoration and thanksgiving in the Guards Chapel. His



Jemima and Willa Gordon Lennox, great great granddaughters, before the service.

Lieutenant Colonel Robert Batty 1st Guards

by Evelyn Webb-Carter

At the end of 2013 a little ceremony took place in St Martin's Gardens, Camden Town. A memorial obelisk which had been erected in memory of an old Grenadier shortly after his death in 1848 had been restored and was rededicated and unveiled. The Regiment were kind enough to make a significant contribution. But there is a link with another event which took place earlier in 2014.

Robert Batty was born in London in 1788, the son of an obstetric physician, but after studying in Kirby Lonsdale and London he travelled as a young man of 15 to Italy where he cultivated a taste for the arts and learnt to draw. He further studied at Caius College Cambridge before qualifying as a doctor in 1813. However he never did practice, instead he purchased a commission in the 1st Guards and served with the 1st Battalion in the latter stages of the Peninsular War,

widow, Evelyn Gordon Lennox, and nephew, Charles Settrington, were also remembered. Major General Sir George Norton, Regimental Lieutenant Colonel Grenadier Guards, was represented by Major Grant Baker. The service was led by the Reverend Dowell Conning, Chaplain to the Household Division, and sung by the Guards Chapel Choir under the direction of Mr Tim Horton. Edward Gordon Lennox, great grandson, gave an introduction, describing Lord Bernard's service with 2nd Battalion Grenadier Guards from the retreat from Mons to the battles of the Marne and Aisne. He was killed in action near Ypres on 10th November 1914. The Duke of Richmond and Gordon read from the Funeral oration by Pericles for those who fell in the Peloponnesian War of 431BC. The Earl of March gave an introduction to Charles Settrington, describing his service with the Irish Guards until his death in action at Archangel in 1919. David Gordon Lennox, grandson, gave his memories of Evelyn Gordon Lennox, who died when the Guards Chapel was destroyed by a V1 flying bomb during a Sunday morning service on 18th June 1944. Last Post and Reveille were sounded by a Drummer from 1st Battalion Grenadier Guards and the Regimental Collect was read by Major Simon Gordon Lennox, great grandson.

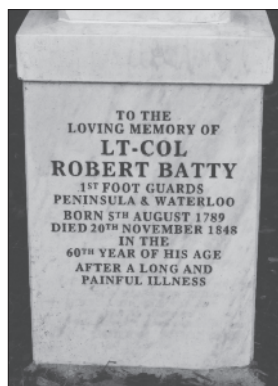


Major Lord Bernard Gordon Lennox. Grenadier Guards.



notably at Nivelle, Nive, Adour and at the Siege of Bayonne. After Bayonne he returned to England in July 1814.

He returned to the Continent with the 3rd Battalion and thus found himself involved at the Battles of Quatre Bras and Waterloo wounded in the hip whilst in the square. Batty entered Paris with the rest of his battalion on the 3rd July



having been involved in the storming of the fortress of Peronne on 26th June. He went on to serve, rather surprisingly, in the Russian Army of Occupation at Maubege during which time he wrote an account of the Waterloo campaign which he dedicated to his commander Lieutenant General Prince Michel Woronzow. In 1821 he married and then went to Portugal as ADC to General Sir William Clinton who

commanded an expedition to counter Spanish backed rebels. Clearly peacetime life in the 1st Guards did not, as so many have found before and since, attract as he went on half pay in 1828 and then sold his commission in 1839.

As good a soldier as Batty may have been he is better known as an accomplished artist, an exhibitor at the Royal Academy and wrote topographical books complete with sketches on the sceneries of France, Germany, Wales, Saxony, Denmark and India. No wonder he went on half pay!

However in 1823 he also wrote an account with his own illustrations of 'The Campaign in the Western Pyrenees'. In April this year I went with several others including Hugo Cartwright representing the Regiment to a Bicentennial event in Bayonne and whilst there were conducted on a battlefield tour of the Nive in which the 1st Guards played a significant part. We visited a house in the village of Barouillet on the road between Bayonne and St Jean de Luz. In the garden of what had been the mayor's house were three graves of Officers in the 1st and 3rd Guards.

The story as told by Batty is as follows;

'there is a coppice-wood in front of Barouillet; and to the right of the great Bayonne Road, it is separated from the Maison de Barouillet by a large field and orchard. At this point there is a small farmhouse, and the slope of the hill down to the ravine in front is skirted by a remarkably thick coppice wood; here the picquets of the third battalion were posted. On the right of this house there is another large orchard, which was occupied by the picquets of the first battalion, formed on the high ground a little to the rear, under the command of Colonel Henry Askew. At about ten o'clock on the 12th December 1813 a strong line of tirailleurs advanced to the crest of the enemy's position, along the brow of the ravine, in front of the first brigade of Guards. Some artillery had been stationed at the farmhouse before described and on seeing this body of tirailleurs the officer in charge of the guns, imagining that the attack was about to commence, fired at them, and in a moment the whole line of picquets commenced a hot fire

which was kept up on both sides with great warmth.

The skirmish was kept up during a great part of the day, and some brave officers and men were killed, and many wounded.

Captain Watson, the Adjutant to the Third Guards was one of the first who fell; he had early in the morning remarked what an abundance of laurel grew around the house of Barouillet, to deck the graves of those who should die on the field of glory; fate struck him off first. Lieutenant Colonel Martin commanding the picquet of the first battalion of the First Guards was shot whilst giving some directions to those around him in the orchard where his men were stationed; and almost immediately after Captain Thompson, an officer of high promise, also in the first battalion, fell in the act of directing the fire of his men against the French tirailleurs. Several officers were wounded; the total number, however of killed and wounded was below two hundred'

In our party was a descendant of Captain Thompson and he gave me a photograph of a portrait they have of this promising and handsome officer. We reflected over the graves of these three officers killed during the action that day whilst being entertained by the current owners who were very proud of their link with history in their garden. So ends two stories linked by one man, Robert Batty.



Charles William Thompson.



Thompson grave.

Coarse Shirts

by Major Paul Cordle

Last year, 2014, was properly taken up in remembering the centenary of the start of the Great War during which the Regiment, by then over 250 years old, continued in its proud and costly tradition of service to the Crown. As it happened 2014 was also the 300th anniversary of John Churchill, 1st Duke of Marlborough, being re-instated as Colonel of The First Guards, a position from which he had been removed by Queen Anne three years earlier. The reason for his removal as Colonel and from other senior appointments is to be found in high politics, couched in Britain's changing European policy, as much as any falling out of favour with the Monarch.

Times were tumultuous, a person's religion could enhance or ruin a military career and political uncertainty was a feature of the day. Queen Anne had died on 1st August 1714 and George, Elector of Hanover, was proclaimed King of Great Britain and Ireland; he entered London on 20th September. So highly was Marlborough regarded that, even before he arrived in England, the King re-appointed him as Captain General of all the Forces and on 26th September, only six days after his arrival, 'reposing especial trust and confidence in his loyalty, courage and conduct' re-instated him as Colonel of the First Guards.

It is important to remember the extent of the political instability of the time and the fragility of support for the new King especially as the Jacobite pro-Stuart faction grew in numbers; the danger to him and his family was real. The regiments of the Guards provided his close protection and it was not long before the twenty eight companies of the First Guards were called out of billets and ordered into an encampment in Hyde Park ready to protect the King.

Regrettably the Regiment itself was not free of Jacobite infiltration. Hamilton's history of the Regiment records that a Sergeant Silver, whose real name was later discovered to be Sullivan, had recruited men into his company on the understanding that 'they were to act for the Pretender (James Edward Stuart, son of King James the Second) when required'. He assured his recruits of his captain's support. The captain in question, Lieutenant Colonel Paul, was temporarily placed under guard until eventually being cleared of any involvement with the Jacobites. Sullivan was soon arrested, tried, convicted of treason and executed. Even more alarming was that the Duke of Ormond, the Regiment's 8th Colonel who had been removed to make way for Marlborough's return, was subsequently found to have been a prominent leader of the Jacobite cause for some time, even during his Colonelcy, and opposed to the King. It was not long before he was attainted and fled the country.

It was against this troubled background that that 'an accident' (Lediard pp. 392-395) befell Marlborough which, unless dealt with promptly, could have had severe implications for the standing of the regiment, him and

indeed the King. The First Guards all but mutinied. Readers must remember that Marlborough, who had only been Colonel for a little over six months, would have been acutely aware of the danger posed by any threat to the King's safety besides the effect it could have on his own position and reputation. The cause of the mutiny? A trivial matter which the Jacobites incited soldiers of the First Guards to see as a major wrong; the poor quality of new shirts issued to them!

The matter was reported in Fleet Street by Malbard's news sheet 'The First Regiment of Foot-Guards, being lately Cloathed, and much impos'd on in their Cloaths, as being very bad indeed, there was a great Grumbling amongst themselves, especially concerning the extraordinary Coarsenes of their Shirts, one of which a Cook bought for Twopence to make a Dishclout. However their Discontent still increasing, one of the Captains order'd the Men in his Company to pull of their Shams, and expose their Coarse Shirts, for he would not wink at any such Baseness of cheating the men under his Command; After which some of them pull'd off their Coarse Shirts and throw'd them about in publick Places, that they might be seen by Men in Authority, in hopes of being righted'.

The trouble had started when a review for the King's Birthday had been ordered in Hyde Park for 18th April 1715. The new clothing had not been delivered until the previous evening and, in a great hurry, the officers had it issued to the men without examining it. As described by Lediard, it turned out to be 'so Coarse, particularly the Shirts, that the Soldiers were likely to mutiny upon it. There being an Abundance of *Irish Papists* and other disaffected Persons, then in the Guards, their Discontent was easily improved, by the Enemies of the Government, insomuch that some of the Soldiers had the Insolence, to throw their Shirts into the King's and the Duke of Marlborough's respective Gardens at *St. James*'.

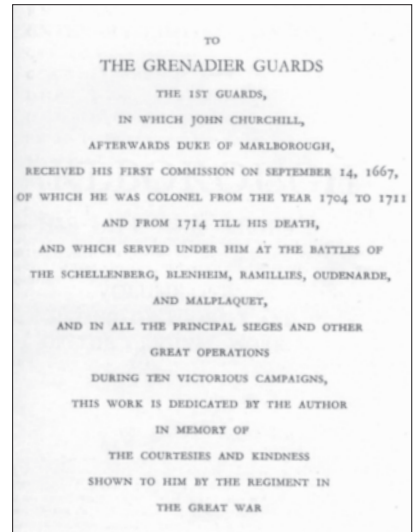
Worse was to come less than a fortnight later. On the morning of Monday 30th May, a detachment of The First Guards, as it marched from Whitehall through the City to relieve the Tower Guard, pulled out their shirts, showing them to shopkeepers and passers-by and shouting '*These are the Hanover Shirts*'. The Court was informed and orders were immediately sent to the Guard at Whitehall to burn the new shirts; this was done that evening by between 200-300 men in the Tilt Yard. Lediard also tells us that the Duke of Marlborough's enemies, used the 'Occasion to reflect on his Grace, as if he were to bear the Blame of the Injustice done to the Soldiers of his Regiment'. To calm feelings throughout the City, an advertisement was placed in the newspapers. This described the steps taken by Marlborough to set up an enquiry to investigate the supply and quality of the clothing, this found that 'the soldiers had been very much abused', and that he had ordered the burning of the remaining garments. 'In the mean Time, his Grace ordered two Shirts to be made of good Linen-Cloth for each Soldier, in Lieu of one, as likewise new Waistcoats'. He also ordered that all the old clothing was to remain the property of each soldier.

Such was the urgency that two days later, on Thursday 2nd June, Marlborough ordered the First Guards to parade and, after reviewing them, made a speech, also published in news-sheets, saying that he had been concerned to find the men's complaint was entirely just, that the cause of it was not his fault, that he insisted on full satisfaction from the contractors and had ordered a new set of clothing 'such as would in very way become his Majesty's First Regiment of Foot Guards'. The full script of the speech can be found elsewhere in the magazine.

Having made good the damage, Marlborough, being the veteran commander and leader he was, had not quite finished; he went on 'I hope I shall now leave you good Subjects to the best of Kings and every Way entirely satisfied' whereupon he presented a barrel of beer to each company to drink His Majesty's health. How well he knew his men!

Nothing else is recorded about the matter in official papers; the contractors and manufacturers however each declared their innocence in the press and passed the blame to others. Mr William Churchill (not thought to be a relation of the Duke), the main agent (although referred to as contractor), published his side of the story in the 'Daily Courant' of 6th June and gave an account of the First Guards' finances. He named a Mr Brooksbank, a factor for woollen cloth and 'a very rich substantial citizen of London', who undertook to provide the 'Cloathing according to the Patterns'. Churchill admitted that, for whatever reason, the clothing did not meet the demands of the patterns and should have been returned to Brooksbank. Brooksbank published his story the next day, 7th June, also in the Daily Courant, saying that the garments met the patterns but that some of the shirt linen supplied to him without his knowledge had not been up to standard. His cutter and tailor agreed with this. He cited a Mr Heron, a linen draper, who supplied the cloth. Mr Heron was not prepared to take the blame and replied that Brooksbank had seen all the cloth, had liked it sufficiently to have some sent to his home, and had paid for the order. Heron added that Brooksbank had not taken the trouble to check the whole order and claimed

that he had never been asked to supply material according to any particular pattern. And so we are left wondering who took the blame three hundred years ago – perhaps no one but at least, for their trouble, the men got two shirts and their beer.



The author is greatly indebted to Mr John Forster, Archivist to His Grace the Duke of Marlborough, for his advice and for enabling him to see the first three books listed below.

- i. *The Life of John, Duke of Marlborough*, Thomas Lediard 1786. Publ: J Wilcox
- ii. *Memoirs of John, Duke of Marlborough*, William Coxe 1819. Publ: Longman, Hurst, Rees, Orme & Brown
- iii. *'Marlborough, His Life and Times'* Sir Winston Churchill, Library of Imperial History and GG Harrap.
- iv. *First or Grenadier Guards (Vol 2)*, Lieutenant General Sir FW Hamilton 1874. Publ: John Murray

Footnote: *Since writing this piece, the author has received an interesting comment from John Forster who said 'your story shows the Duke in a very good light. It is part of his image here at Blenheim that he was good to his men hence his affectionate nickname 'Corporal John (or Jack!)'.*

John Churchill, 1st Duke of Marlborough's Speech

Made at the head of the First Regiment of Foot Guards in Hyde Park on Thursday the 2nd June 1715 about the 'ill State of the Cloaths, especially their Shirts, which they publicly Burnt before White-Hall on Monday the 30th May'.

Gentlemen

I am much concerned to find your Complaints so just about the ill State of your Cloaths. I take this opportunity to tell you That I am wholly innocent of this Grievance; and, depend upon it, no Application shall be wanting on my Part, to trace out the Measures that have been taken to abuse you and me. I am resolved

nothing shall divert me from demanding forthwith (wherever it may happen to fall) a just Satisfaction, and shall think nothing too much on my Part in regard to so much Merit. I have ordered you a new Sett of Cloathing as will be every way becoming His Majesty's first Regiment of Foot Guards. I desire you will return these, and take your Old till such time as the New can be compleated, which I give you my Word shall be as soon as possible. I have had the Honour to serve with some of you a great many Campaigns and believe you will do me the Justice to tell the World, that I never willingly wronged any of you; and if I can be serviceable to any (the least) of you, you may very readily command it, and shall be glad of any Opportunity for that purpose. I hope I shall now leave good Subjects to the best of Kings, and every way entirely satisfied.



WHERE ARE THEY THIS YEAR?

*by Major Dominic Alkin
(writing at the end of 2014)*

Another frenetic year has passed and serving Grenadier officers continue to be involved in the full spectrum of military outputs. We were all promised a varied and rewarding career when we walked up the steps at Sandhurst and a quick run through the Grenadiers around the world is reassuring in this respect.

Several Grenadiers are keeping NATO running including **Major General George Norton KCVO CBE** who is the Deputy Commander NATO Rapid Deployable Corps. In Mons, **Colonel David Russell-Parsons OBE** undertakes the duties of Senior Joint Operations Officer Supreme Allied Headquarters Europe whilst **Capt Richard Da-Gama** serves at the NATO Joint HQ in Izmir, Turkey. Other Grenadiers abroad include **Lieutenant Colonel Martin David MC** who is the British liaison officer to the French staff in Paris whilst **Lieutenant Colonel Andrew James MBE** is the Defence Attaché in Vienna. Further afield, **Lieutenant Colonel Guy Dennison-Smith** is a member of the Directing Staff at the Kuwaiti Army Staff College. **Capt Alex Stonor** is probably finding his appointment in Somalia to be more austere but just as exotic.

At home, **Brigadier Roly Walker DSO** commands 12 Mechanised Brigade. **Brigadier David Maddan** is Commandant of the School of Infantry where **Adam Wellesley-Wood** also serves, as an Adjutant, and **Will Harries** commands a platoon. **Major Rupert King-Evans** joins the Yorkshire contingent at ARTD Recruiting Group.

Grenadiers at staff include **Colonel James Bowder OBE QCVS** who has recently taken over as Colonel Army Strategy on the General Staff. **Lieutenant Colonel Jerry Levine MBE** works on the Army's Interoperability & Architecture requirements at the Information Capability Directorate; **Major James Greaves** is planning future operations in his role as SO2 J5 at PJHQ; **Major Ben Jesty** is involved in the lessons learned process at the Land Warfare Centre; **Major Simon Gordon-Lennox** is a Land Requirements Manager at Defence Equipment and Support in Bristol and **Capt Florian Kuku** supports operations from HQ Theatre Troops.

In London, **Lieutenant Colonel Simon Soskin** keeps HQ London District running as the Brigade Major; **Capt Neil Strachan** commands Nijmegen Company, **Capt James Taylor** is Adjutant of London Central Garrison and officer recruiting is in the safe hands of **Capt Mike Dobson** who is Temporary Equerry to HRH the Duke of Edinburgh.

At Shrivenham, **Lieutenant Colonel Richard Maundrell MVO** was a member of the directing staff at ACSC; in Andover **Lieutenant Colonel Skid Dorney MBE** is SO1 Plans at Directorate of Personal Services (Army) and **Major Gordon Gask** supports the ARRC in Innsworth.

In Aldershot, the First Battalion is commanded by **Lieutenant Colonel The Hon Chips Broughton MBE** with **Capt Tom Hendriksen** as the Ops Officer and **Paddy Rice** as his Adjutant until Paddy takes command of a platoon at Sandhurst early next year. **Major Richard Green** was the Senior Major until he took command of ATR Pirbright and he was assisted by **Capt Christopher Stevenson** as the Intelligence Officer. The Captain of The Queen's Company is **Major James Seddon** with **Capt Olly Holcroft** as the Second Captain. **Major Jim Green** is commanding No 2 Company and being supported by **Capt James Garton** and the mighty Ribs are commanded **Major James Shaw** with his second in command, **Capt Toby Simpson**. In Support Company, the Reconnaissance Platoon is commanded by **Capt Alex Budge**, Mortar Platoon, **Capt Hugo Cartwright** and Fire Support Platoon, **Capt Johnny Hathaway-White**.

The Battalion's logistic requirements are kept flowing by **Major Stumpy Keeley MBE** who is the Quartermaster and **Capt Andy Butcher** who is the QM Tech. **Major Neil England MBE** is commanding HQ Company, **Capt Steve Munro** is the RCMO and the Welfare Officer is **Capt Daz Westlake** and **Capt Faz Farrell, MTO**.

Involved in training are **Major Vince Gaunt OBE** who trains the late entry officers at Sandhurst, **Capt Alex Bayliss** who instructs at the Support Weapons School, **Capt Nico Wills** who is a Coy 2IC at Pirbright, **Lieutenant Colonel Vern Overton** is at the Foundation College in Harrogate as is **Capt Hamish Hardy**, who commands a platoon there. Setting the bar in the outer offices of Andover is **Major Piers Ashfield DSO** who is MA to COS CLF whilst standards at the Royal Military Academy continue to be razor sharp thanks to the Academy Sergeant Major, **Capt Glen Haughton**.

Having served as SO2 Ft Gds for two years, I hand over to **Ed Paintin** in the New Year and Ed takes over having completed his time commanding the Guards Training Company at 2 Infantry Training Battalion where his commitment and diligence have served the Foot Guards notably well. I have no doubt he will serve them just as well as their desk officer at Glasgow. He will find, as I have, that the post offers an excellent vantage point from which to track the careers of our brother Grenadiers. So as I prepare to handover to Ed, I reflect that whatever else the year brings, our brother officers will continue to be representing the Regiment, wearing their grenades with pride as they go about their profession around the globe. Good luck to everyone in 2015 wherever you serve.

Lieutenant Colonel Alex McKay

– Our new Commanding Officer for 2016



Lieutenant Colonel Alex McKay is currently studying at the Joint Service Command and Staff College in preparation for command of the Battalion in 2016. Originally a Worcestershire and Sherwood Forester, he joined the Army in 1997 following the Old Swinford Hospital School and Aston University. His first 8 years

of service were spent in an armoured infantry role ending as the Operations Officer, and then company commander in Bosnia, Omagh, Botswana, Kenya, South Armagh, and Northern Afghanistan. In 2005, he instructed at The Royal Military Academy Sandhurst.

In 2007, he took post as Military Assistant to the Military Secretary then returned to Regimental Duty as a Company Commander with 3rd Battalion, The Mercian Regiment. Based in Bad Fallingbostal with 7th Armoured Brigade, he had two years of armoured role training in the United Kingdom, Germany and Canada before deploying to Afghanistan in the

light role for Op HERRICK 14. Attached to the Danish led Combined Force Nahr-e-Seraj (North), his company held Khar Nikar in the Upper Gereshk Valley, Helmand. In 2011, he moved on to spend nine months embedded within the London Organising Committee for the Olympic Games (LOCOG), responsible for the military contribution to Olympic venue security delivery. More recently, he completed two years as Chief of Staff 7th Armoured Brigade, again enjoying an armoured foundation training cycle in Germany and Canada before deploying with The Desert Rats on Op HERRICK 19 as Chief of Staff Task Force Helmand.

He was awarded a Commendation in 2001 for service in Omagh and Belfast, and a Queen's Commendation for Valuable Service in 2005 for his time as a company commander in Afghanistan during Op TARROCK/HERRICK 1. In 2013 he was appointed as an Ordinary Member of the Military Division of the Order of the British Empire (MBE) in recognition of his support to the provision of security at the London Olympics, later transferring to The Grenadier Guards in 2014.

Married to Emily, a part-time upholsterer, curtain maker and picture framer, they have two children, Eleanor and Matthew. A keen sportsman, he enjoys offshore and dinghy sailing, working with his springer spaniel, and runs along the cliff paths at home in Cornwall.

WO2 (RQMS) Mark Cox



WO2 Mark Cox joined the Army in May 1996, and was posted to The Queen's Company 1st Battalion in Ballykinler, Northern Ireland in December. Being only 17 and not able to deploy on the ground he was on day on day off barrack guard with each Company as they rotated through for the next four months. This was

no bad thing as he got to know all personalities across the Battalion. His 18th birthday was memorable as he was moved by CMV to Besbrook Mill to join his the remainder of his Company on Ops 1. That same day he had his first helicopter ride and then sat in over watch in a park for eight hours in the rain (no beer to be seen until leave three weeks later).

The Battalion moved to Elizabeth Barracks Pirbright in March 98. There he was successful on the Recce Cadre. On one of the wettest Cambrian patrols in history the he was part of the section achieved a Gold. Having been deployed any many OTX including America, Canada, Cyprus and Kenya. He returned to Northern Ireland, East Tyrone. The platoon split their time between Dungannon and Coal Island. On return he was posted as a Section Commander to Catterick for two and a half years. On returning to Battalion he joined the Inkerman Company as a Section Commander. On completion of PSBC he rejoined the Queen's Company as No

1 Platoon Sergeant. During this appointment he led the platoon during a cold winter tour of Bosnia 05.

On successful selection he went on to RMAS as a CSgt Instructor between 2006–2008. His next appointment was as CQMS of Support Company where he deployed on overseas exercises and to Afghanistan (Op Herrick 11). On return was a quick turn around for the Queens Birthday Parade (Colour Point delta). Promotion followed to WO2 in 2010, and taking over as CSM No 2 Company. This was a busy time on state ceremonial public duties and pre deployment training for Afghanistan. During this tour he was offered the chance to go to RMAS as a CSM but decided to see the tour through with his Company. Handing over the reins of No 2 Company to WO2 Brooks he moved on to CSMIM, followed by the appointment of Drill Sergeant and all that it entails, including a short posting of 3 months to Saudi Arabia teaching Honour Guard Drill. This in itself was a challenge with the language barrier and learning their Foot and Rifle (SLR) drill to teach back to them. Having never done drill with a SLR a lot of research had to be done. Returning to the Battalion he started to plan the Queens Birthday Parade with Sergeant Major Westlake and Drill Sergeant Law. On taking over from RQMS Williams he is now settled in at RHQ learning the wider Grenadier family and responsibilities included with this role and planning Regimental events for this coming year. He has been very active in the writing of and coordination behind this year's Gazette. WO2 Cox is married to Nicola and has a son Terence, 13 and they currently live in Aldershot.

CSgt David 'George' Roper



Originally from Lincolnshire, CSgt David Roper joined the Regiment in 2001 shortly before his 19th birthday. After successfully completing Phase 1 training at ATC (Pirbright) and Phase 2 training at ITC (Catterick), he was called off leave early to join Nijmegen Company on 1st April 2002 in order to take part in the Guard

of Honour for the funeral of Her Majesty The Queen Mother, his first State Ceremonial duty of many. After settling into life in Wellington Barracks in London (and being given the nickname 'George' by the then-Company Quartermaster Sergeant, the name by which he is still known to this day), he was sent to Pirbright to complete the Potential Junior Non Commissioned Officers' Course after serving only four months as a Guardsman, promoting to LCpl later that year. He remained with Nijmegen Company in that rank, completing three Queen's Birthday Parades and an overseas exercise in Kenya, until partway into the First Battalion's tour of Bosnia in 2005, whereupon he

was posted to The Queen's Company.

Later that year, following a fourth Queen's Birthday Parade, he was sent on the Section Commanders' Battle Course at IBS(Brecon), achieving a Distinction and the accolade of Top Student on the Skill At Arms phase. Returning to Victoria Barracks in Windsor on successful completion of the course, he was promoted to LSgt early in 2006, just in time to begin PDT for Op TELIC 8 as a Section Commander, still with The Queen's Company.

Following the tour of Iraq, during which time he served in Baghdad and at the Divisional Temporary Detention Facility in Shaibah Logistics Base, he then went to Afghanistan in an Operational Mentoring and Liaison Team (OMLT). Following a second Afghan tour in 2009 and after taking part in a fifth Queen's Birthday Parade, this time in the Escort For The Colour, he was posted to ITC (Catterick) as a Platoon Sergeant, followed by being successful on the Sandhurst Cadre, and becoming the youngest CSgt in the Regiment at that time – and joined the Academy staff in August 2012.

CSgt Roper is currently learning all about the exciting world of G4 as the Company Quartermaster Sergeant of Nijmegen Company in Wellington Barracks, London. He is married to Clare and enjoys driving his tuned Toyota Supra on track days at venues all across the country and playing obnoxiously loud heavy metal music at every opportunity.

Sgt Anwar Pitters (The Sheriff)



Sgt Anwar Pitters joined the Grenadier Guards in the summer of 2002. Sgt Pitters passed out of the Infantry Training Centre Catterick, just before Christmas 2002. He was posted to Nijmegen Company who was based in Wellington Barracks at the time. The next three years just flew by, passing his Class 2 Drummers Course.

Three Queen's Birthday Parades and an operational tour to Bosnia (Op OCULUS).

In February 2006 Sgt Pitters was promoted to LCpl and shortly afterwards deployed on OP TELIC 8 2006. The turn around was short and within 9 months he found himself redeployed with the Battalion on Op HERRICK 6 March 2007. With the reformation of No 3 Company, Sgt Pitters was a Sect 2ic for this Deployment.

Sgt Pitters passed the SCBC and was promoted to LSgt

in May 2009. The same year he deployed on Op Herrick 11 attached to The Queens Company as a Section Commander. Upon returning to the UK in March 2010, Sgt Pitters was plunged straight back into preparation for The Queen's Birthday parade, and that year held the privileged position of The Lone Drummer, for The Queen's Birthday Parade, one of the scariest and, at the same time, proudest moments of his career.

In 2011 Sgt Pitters successfully passed the Platoon Sergeants Battle Course and deployed on Op HERRICK 16 2012, as a Fire Support Group Multiple Commander attached to The Inkerman Company. Sgt Pitters stayed with The Inkerman on his return. In October 2014 Sgt Pitters was appointed The Regimental Police Sergeant of the Battalion.

Sgt Pitters has completed overseas exercises in Kenya and Brunei, as well as deployments to Malaysia and Russia with the Corp of Drums.

He is a keen boxer and has won the Fagan award on 2 occasions for his contribution to the sport. Sgt Pitters is the proud father to his son Ethan who is fast approaching his second birthday.



www.thegrenadierguards.com
for all the latest news on Battalion life



Sgt Brett Gunning



Sgt Brett Gunning joined the Army in May 1997, serving five years in The Inkerman Company, before pursuing opportunities as a civilian. However, as the Army's operational tempo increased, the prospect of serving with the regiment in Afghanistan was tantalising; Sgt Gunning rejoined the Grenadiers in 2009.

Sgt Gunning was fortunate to deploy to Afghanistan twice in varied and challenging roles. On Herrick 11, he was a LCpl in The Inkerman Company that formed part of the Mastiff Battle group. The dust of Sharzad was a different world from the streets of Northern Ireland that he had patrolled as a junior guardsman a decade earlier!

The summer of 2012 enabled Sgt Gunning to deploy as a Platoon Sergeant on Herrick 16. Posted to 4 Platoon, No 2 Company, his men quickly became known as 'the Spartan elite' within the battle group. Indeed, the Platoon's sense of identity and unity set conditions for a successful tour.

Between tours, Sgt Gunning enjoyed returning to conventional warfare whilst attending command courses in Brecon. Section Commanders' Battle Course (May 2010) and Platoon Sergeants' Battle Course (Jan 2012) were the perfect way to re-engage with traditional field soldiering.

Similarly, Sgt Gunning lists the Jungle Warfare

Instructors' Course (JWIC) he attended in Brunei (Sep – Nov 13) as a career highlight. Gunning thrived in adapting to the specific demands of jungle soldiering: heat, limited visibility, navigation and personal administration to name but a few.

As a Jungle Warfare Instructor, Sgt Gunning planned and delivered The No 2 Company Group's RSOI package on their deployment on EX ULU RAJAH, Brunei (Jan 2014). Sgt Gunning then deployed with his Platoon deep into the Labi jungle, testing their skills on an arduous final exercise.

The JWIC experience also enabled Sgt Gunning to subsequently join a thriving training wing in the summer of 2014. The insight into planning, delivering and assessing a Battalion level patrol competition (EX GRENADIER REACH) was fantastic.

Sgt Gunning is a boxer who has fought at Company and Battalion level. He has also gained invaluable experience as a coach, taking five Grenadiers to the Army Boxing Championships. Indeed, LSgt Shepherd and LCpl Ngwenya's victories in these championships reflect the investment made by the regiment in this gladiatorial sport.

Since October 2014, Sgt Gunning has been the Reconnaissance Platoon Sergeant. His first act was to lead the Cambrian Patrol team to a Silver medal. He looks forward to attending the Reconnaissance Commander's Course in the coming weeks (Jan 2015) before deploying to Kenya in the summer.

Sgt Gunning is married to Fern Gunning and they live in Aldershot. Sgt Gunning has one daughter, Ava, four. He is a keen sportsman and a proud Manchester United supporter.

25133373 Gdsm Wayne Flint – a very Senior Guardsman



On joining the Army in June 2001, and on completion of training at Pirbright and Catterick, **Gdsm Flint** joined Nijmegen Company in Wellington Barracks to learn State Ceremonial Public Duties (SCPD). On the sad occasion of The Queen Mother's funeral, he was part of the Westminster Guard of Honour, was part of

the Golden Jubilee Guard of Honour and Trooping the Colour. That year also saw him in the role of a BART (Breathing Apparatus Rescue Team) operator during the fire-fighter strikes on OP FRESCO. On being posted to the 1st Battalion in Windsor in 2003 where he joined the Inkerman Company, he carried out a number of Battalion exercises both in the UK and overseas to Kenya. More Public Duties were to follow before pre deployment training

for his first operational tour to Bosnia and Herzegovina on OP OCULUS which then became OP ALTHEA. After returning from Bosnia he was posted to ITC Catterick as a barrack room instructor carrying out barrack room duties and teaching battle lessons on platoon exercises. During his time in Guards Company, he was attached to 2 Royal Signal Regiment in Kabul in 2007 as a VVIP Driver/Commander. Gdsm Flint returned to Guards Company to complete the remainder of his posting there.

Gdsm Flint returned to the 1st Battalion in 2009, this time to Lille Barracks in Aldershot and to No 2 Company. With No 2 Company he went on to further exercises to Kenya and a short stint in the Falklands on OP FIRIC. Next was pre deployment training for OP Herrick 11 in 2010. There was then a quick turnaround from operations to ceremonial; he went on to Trooping the Colour after the Presentation of the New Colours in Buckingham Palace. 2012 was again, pre deployment training and his third tour of Afghanistan. In 2013 Gdsm Flint was posted to Horse Guards where he is currently working for the Garrison Sergeant Major in London District as his orderly, ensuring that at all times he is turned out in the highest of Grenadier standards.

The FIRST or GRENADIER REGIMENT of FOOT GUARDS

at December 2014

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

Capt A Ogden

Major PAJ Wright OBE

15th Company REGIMENTAL HEADQUARTERS

REGIMENTAL

HEADQUARTERS

Maj (Retd) GVA Baker
WO2 (RQMS) M Cox
Sgt A Bonsell
Sgt R Broomes
LSgt M MacMillan
LCp B Hollis
Gdsm Pallister

REGIMENTAL BAND

Maj (DOM) K Davies
WO1 (BM) T Taylor-Smith
WO1 (SBSM) A Wood
CSgt R Maddocks
CSgt Holt
Sgt M Altree
Sgt Burton
Sgt N Penny
Sgt R Plant
Sgt J Smout
Sgt Starbuck
LSgt Hall
LSgt L Henaghan
LSgt A Houldsworth
LSgt A Johncock
LSgt Lorimer
LSgt Matthews
LSgt Shakspeare

LSgt J Thomson
LCpl Brown
LCpl Byrne
LCpl P Matthews
LCpl A Nixon
LCpl D Nixon
LCpl S Petchey
LCpl Porter
LCpl A Shellard
LCpl Sinclair
Musn Barber
Musn B Beavis
Musn V Carter
Musn A Challinor
Musn H Clavering
Musn P Cowley
Musn R Ellard
Musn T Greenhalf
Musn Griffiths
Musn Jackson
Musn K Lee
Musn J McElroy
Musn N Rushforth
Musn Sadler
Musn Scowen
Musn I Shepherd
Musn M Thomas
Musn D Venter
Musn Wong

14th Company INFANTRY TRAINING CENTRE CATTERICK

Maj E Paintin	OC	LSgt R Elliot	Instructor
Capt AA Wellesley-Wood	Adjutant	LSgt D Lyons	Instructor
		LSgt C Freiss	Instructor
Capt WLR Harris	PI Comd	LSgt D Langridge	
Lt AJP Shirreff	PI Comd		Instructor
Sgt B Orrell	PI Sgt	LSgt J Pierce	Instructor
Sgt S Castel-Nuovo	PI Sgt	LSgt R Thomas	Instructor
		LSgt R Tracey	Instructor

The Regimental Trustees

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Brigadier DJH Maddan

The Regimental Council

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Regimental Lieutenant Colonel
President, Grenadier Guards Association
Representative of the Regimental Trustees
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Officer Commanding Nijmegen Company
Chairman, The Colonels Fund Committee
Editor, The Grenadier Gazette
Regimental Archivist
Regimental Adjutant (Director of Welfare)

1st Battalion

Battalion HQ

Lt Col CL Broughton
Maj R Green
Capt H Cartwright
Capt T Hendriksen
Capt S Munro
Capt C Stevenson
WO1 T Bearder
WO2 G Davis
WO2 P Childs
CSgt B De-Vall
Sgt D Sullivan
LCpl M Ceasay Jnr
Gdsm SM Bayameyame
Gdsm B Sonko

The Queens Company

Maj A Seddon
Capt F Moynan
2Lt THR Hargreaves
2Lt TR Parkes
WO2 C Dougherty
CSgt DG Bailey
Sgt D Jones
Sgt SP Warwick
LSgt S Beekman
LSgt L Davis
LSgt J Dicastiglione
LSgt K Elasi
LSgt A Hendy
LSgt J McCormack
LSgt B Middleton
LCpl N Atanga
LCpl J Austin
LCpl T Battisson
LCpl D Clarke
LCpl S Emmett
LCpl S Galvin
LCpl T Hunt
LCpl DB Jones
LCpl A Matthews
LCpl N Ngwenya
LCpl A Turay
LCpl A Wingate
Gdsm J Andrews
Gdsm HD Aspinshaw
Gdsm J Boardman
Gdsm AB Boylan
Gdsm J Buck
Gdsm JW Brunt
Gdsm H Clews
Gdsm G Churchill
Gdsm G Cordell
Gdsm J Cornelius
Gdsm F Coughlan
Gdsm B Davis
Gdsm C Drew
Gdsm N Eamer
Gdsm JL Fowkes
Gdsm R Froggatt
Gdsm A Gallagher
Gdsm D Granger
Gdsm N Green
Gdsm R Grey
Gdsm R Griffiths
Gdsm H Grossman
Gdsm N Hands
Gdsm O Hicks
Gdsm WE Howitt
Gdsm H Kendall
Gdsm M Knott
Gdsm J Lloyd
Gdsm A Mabert

Gdsm A May
Gdsm C McKerral
Gdsm C Moss
Gdsm G Parker
Gdsm J Patterson
Gdsm S Ray
Gdsm J Reader
Gdsm G Reese-Evans
Gdsm A Rollo
Gdsm K Simonaitis
Gdsm D Spittle
Gdsm S Taylor
Gdsm K Tracey
Gdsm N Tuft
Gdsm K Wakeling
Gdsm D Wallace
Gdsm A Wates
Gdsm A Whitehouse

No 2 Company

Major J Green
Capt JAL Garton
LT C Wright
LT B Tracey
WO2 JP Summerscales
CSgt L Owen
CSgt C Nicholson
Sgt GA Hudson
Sgt G Mann
LSgt A Finlan
LSgt V Goodman
LSgt B Hayden
LSgt G Harper
LSgt L McLoughlan
LSgt B Moffat
LSgt H Samuel
LSgt J Tuicicia
LCpl L Dawson
LCpl D Frank
LCpl S Freeman
LCpl S Hubbard
LCpl B Jones
LCpl P Kirk
LCpl P Ndungu
LCpl K Peters
LCpl D Smith
LCpl GI Stocker
LCpl N Thompson
Gdsm EK Appiah
Gdsm M Bowen
Gdsm B Bull
Gdsm J Clark
Gdsm JB Claypole
Gdsm S Conteh
Gdsm J Cook
Gdsm C Fairley
Gdsm B Fulton
Gdsm S Garratt
Gdsm A Harris
Gdsm L Hendry
Gdsm S Hicklin
Gdsm MW Hinnigan
Gdsm P Koritala
Gdsm R King
Gdsm B Kumadey
Gdsm N Lynch
Gdsm A McDermottroe
Gdsm JA Millerchip
Gdsm M Morewood
Gdsm S Moya
Gdsm D Mitchell
Gdsm RJ Nightingale
Gdsm B O'Hanlon

Gdsm E Oyengo
Gdsm LJ Pass
Gdsm AR Robinson
Gdsm AO Sanda
Gdsm J Seal
Gdsm R Smart
Gdsm CG Smith
Gdsm MK Sivyver-Yorke
Gdsm B Shingler
Gdsm L Stokes
Gdsm AW Ward
Gdsm S Wilkes
Gdsm S Wilson

The Inkerman Company

Major JENB Shaw
Lt D Welham
2Lt CJ Naughton
2Lt RE Phillips
2Lt K Vamuza
WO2 M Betts
CSgt R Wiseman
Sgt SDW Hepburn
Sgt J Lockley
Sgt M Williams
LSgt M Davison
LSgt MJ Hall
LSgt P Laird
LSgt T Mercer
LCpl J Heale
LCpl J Hewson
LCpl WEJ Hurst
LCpl CM McClendon
LCpl AJM McCormack
LCpl MJ Ogden
LCpl J Phillips
LCpl R Punter
LCpl K Rowlatt
LCpl CJ Saville
LCpl WJ Slater
LCpl BS Sonko
LCpl AH Stoney
LCpl AP Swinford
Gdsm JT Addison
Gdsm J Alexander
Gdsm K Angel
Gdsm RD Bannister
Gdsm G Barry
Gdsm S Baxter
Gdsm B Berry
Gdsm JR Cornish
Gdsm BJ Cornish
Gdsm T Deans
Gdsm JDA Dexter
Gdsm PB Effah
Gdsm JA Enderby
Gdsm O Few
Gdsm N Fray
Gdsm S Ginty
Gdsm DJ Glover
Gdsm PJ Gray
Gdsm N Handford
Gdsm B Hodson
Gdsm RGA Hollis
Gdsm S Holmes
Gdsm J Hubbard
Gdsm BI Iwuoha
Gdsm IG Jones
Gdsm LR Kellie
Gdsm J Lewis
Gdsm F Mabasa
Gdsm S Martinez
Gdsm J Mack
Gdsm J Mitchell
Gdsm S Murray
Gdsm TM Ndegwa
Gdsm A Ngum
Gdsm LAG Nicholson

Gdsm JO Odei-Ansong
Gdsm E Owusu-appiah
Gdsm P Pearson
Gdsm T Pinsent
Gdsm MA Poffley
Gdsm K Purdy
Gdsm J Robinson
Gdsm J Selome J
Gdsm EG Taylor
Gdsm R Thompson
Gdsm J Williams
Gdsm T Williamson

Support Company

Maj W Harries
Capt A Budge
Capt JJ Hathaway-White
WO2 D Moore
CSgt M Lloyd
Sgt B Gunning
Sgt SJ Cathcart
Sgt KJ Dunk
Sgt M Oldham
Sgt ST Perry
Sgt NAJ Smith
Sgt AM Stott
LSgt MJ Bailey
LSgt JMA Browning
LSgt M Bunyan
LSgt SD Dent
LSgt DL Farrell
LSgt M Fakalogologo
LSgt JE Garcia
LSgt SP Harvey
LSgt M Jallow
LSgt J McDonagh
LSgt J Moore
LSgt JR Rainima
LSgt M Shaw
LSgt LA Swan
LSgt SJ Thorne
LSgt S Wells
LSgt N Wintle
LCpl M Beasley
LCpl SJ Bentley
LCpl AC Bone
LCpl LJ Bowers
LCpl J Brown
LCpl NC Caiger
LCpl A Cooper
LCpl RJ Davies
LCpl K Ellis
LCpl BJ Furneaux
LCpl J Howard
LCpl CD James
LCpl O Lee
LCpl C Maloney
LCpl F Nelson
LCpl BTF Painter
LCpl J Plant
LCpl CM Price
LCpl A Pugh
LCpl JSJ Poole
LCpl AR Rigby
LCpl OL Rosser
LCpl L Seer-Boylan
LCpl AA Talbot
LCpl NM Truman
LCpl N Walker
LCpl TJ Wallace
LCpl AF Young
Gdsm E Barry
Gdsm NJ Batchelor
Gdsm J Bell
Gdsm J Bestwick
Gdsm AJ Blatchley
Gdsm PM Brady
Gdsm JT Brady

Gdsm J Brunt
Gdsm JB Buswell
Gdsm J Charman
Gdsm C Clarkstone
Gdsm RJ Collins
Gdsm BTF Cordwell
Gdsm RM Cornell
Gdsm M Culloity
Gdsm E Davies
Gdsm C Dovey
Gdsm GC Fielding
Gdsm MC Frame
Gdsm MW Grove
Gdsm J Hall
Gdsm GW Hatt
Gdsm EJ Hartop
Gdsm G Haynes
Gdsm JI Hobbins
Gdsm JW Horvath
Gdsm JH Hunter
Gdsm E Jones
Gdsm JSJ Lambert
Gdsm JA Logan
Gdsm JJ Lunn
Gdsm TR Lyons
Gdsm JR Marsay
Gdsm MT Meakin
Gdsm L Mitchell
Gdsm C Moss
Gdsm BL O'Hara
Gdsm C Poole
Gdsm MT Rance
Gdsm MAA Robinson
Gdsm S Rose
Gdsm MG Rosser
Gdsm A Samateh
Gdsm SW Sambells
Gdsm RG Shaw
Gdsm L Thomas
Gdsm JJ Tuckwood
Gdsm S Turner
Gdsm MS Whitates

The Corps of Drums

DMaj DP Thomas
Sgt R Bainbridge
LSgt HC Sutton
LCpl P Ellis
Dmr DA Barton
Dmr Z Biddulph
Dmr R Booth
Dmr J Childs
Dmr C Doak
Dmr D Durie
Dmr J Edwards
Dmr AEA Hinton
Dmr R Martindale
Dmr A Mckenna
Dmr JN Ramsbottom
Dmr DW Silverman
Dmr G Smith
Dmr K Taslimi
Dmr JML Walker

HQ Company

Maj N England
WO2 RL Parkes
CSgt J Thompson
LSgt GM Casburn
LCpl TM Hayward
Gdsm SC Frederickson
Gdsm Herbert
Gdsm MSG Hawes
Gdsm HJ Van Niekerk

Quartermasters Platoon

Maj JA Keeley

Capt A Butcher
WO2 M Howlin
WO2 H Lawn
CSgt JL Burns
CSgt SD Fry
Sgt M Parker
LSgt LP Heatley
LSgt D Kidd
LSgt T Timmins
LSgt G Francis
LCpl J Kidd
Gdsm L Bates
Gdsm D Marshall
Gdsm G Sylva
Pte Ridley

Signals Platoon

CSgt SC Harrell
Sgt PA Struczynski
LSgt P Monstad
LSgt M Poxton
LSgt S Richardson
LSgt A Saxton
LCpl C Davis
LCpl M Jallow
LCpl L Macdonald
Gdsm C Adams
Gdsm UJ Atuanya
Gdsm AMM Edwards
Gdsm D Harvey
Gdsm G Jones
Gdsm DJ Parkes
Gdsm A Robinson

MT Platoon

CSgt M James
Sgt KJ Oldfield
LSgt M Bent
LSgt A Martin
LSgt PA Trussler
LCpl E Munezero
Gdsm DL Bentley
Gdsm L Ceesay
Gdsm RA Chimes
Gdsm PO Coker
Gdsm J Cox
Gdsm L Fowkes
Gdsm D Gomez
Gdsm C Pendergast
Gdsm L Rigler
Gdsm L Saho
Gdsm Sonko
Gdsm H Sylva
Gdsm Wiggins
Gdsm H Fowler
Gdsm S Wilkes

Training Wing/Gymnasium

Capt IM Farrell
LSgt K Partridge
LCpl C Lopez-Moreno
CSgt J Bennett
Sgt C Fiddy
Sgt J Hill
LCpl J Adom
Gdsm DA Sherwin

Welfare

Capt D Westlake
Sgt P Easters
LSgt K Plant

Regimental Police Staff

Sgt A Pitters
LSgt R Haughton
LSgt K Newton
LCpl M Goom

Nijmegen Company

Maj NA Strachan
Capt CAG Williams
Capt A Stonor
Lt BG Conway
Lt HR Waterfield
2Lt O Wace
WO2 HL Brooks
CSgt D Roper
Sgt DP Bonsell
Sgt M Parker
Sgt D Harrison
LSgt AP Beeby
LSgt A Harper
LSgt Harvey
LSgt A Jones
LSgt B Marchant
LSgt M Morris
LSgt J Perreira
LSgt A Shepherd
LSgt AP Skinner
LCpl R Blakeney
LCpl G Davis
LCpl MD Hadfield
LCpl D Hankey
LCpl S Howcroft
LCpl J Loftus
LCpl T Lowry
LCpl CJ Mitchell
LCpl DJ Meyers
LCpl S Pitt
LCpl AG Pottow
LCpl LB Whybrow
Dmr P Skellern
Gdsm MO Adeleke
Gdsm HD Aspinshaw
Gdsm CR Austin
Gdsm T Batty
Gdsm M Belomarkovic
Gdsm R Bibbings
Gdsm JJ Blaney
Gdsm RP Bobey
Gdsm GR Boulton
Gdsm JG Brookes
Gdsm M Campuzano
Gdsm AO Cham
Gdsm SA Charman
Gdsm D Charters
Gdsm S Carter
Gdsm J Clarke
Gdsm A Cochrane
Gdsm D Coghlan
Gdsm J Coleman
Gdsm C Constantine
Gdsm AK Corbett
Gdsm AE Cox
Gdsm HG Cross
Gdsm G Davison
Gdsm LD Doyle

Gdsm L Debattista
Gdsm NJ Dexter
Gdsm C Dunphy
Gdsm JJ Elmalem-Watson
Gdsm E Fairley
Gdsm CS Fletcher
Gdsm RJ Fowler
Gdsm JL Fowkes
Gdsm L Furnell
Gdsm S Gardner
Gdsm J Gaskell-Burnup
Gdsm N Green
Gdsm B Henworth
Gdsm JL Heslop
Gdsm KG Hollinshead
Gdsm LR Hook
Gdsm WE Howitt
Gdsm L Hughes
Gdsm JE Hudson
Gdsm T Hunter
Gdsm L Jallow
Gdsm M James
Gdsm KJ Keegan
Gdsm AK Keers
Gdsm W Langford
Gdsm P Leason
Gdsm TJ Lester
Gdsm MC Livesey
Gdsm AJ Lloyd
Gdsm CW Mackenzie
Gdsm AM Macdonald
Gdsm J McDowell
Gdsm R McGeoch
Gdsm EY Mensah
Gdsm T Millington
Gdsm E Morris
Gdsm JGJ Mullarky
Gdsm C Munro
Gdsm J Oliver
Gdsm L Owen
Gdsm RM Perry
Gdsm J Porter
Gdsm ML Ramsdale
Gdsm S Sray
Gdsm N Reilly
Gdsm FJ Russell
Gdsm M Samwell
Gdsm I Shahry
Gdsm DD Sharp
Gdsm JNE Simpson
Gdsm TJ Smith
Gdsm B Swindells
Gdsm LE Waine
Gdsm GO Westwood
Gdsm LG Whittaker
Gdsm CD Willis
Gdsm JAS Wilson-Fraser
Gdsm H Wykes



Officers

SENIOR OFFICERS

Major General Sir George Norton KCVO, CBE	UK NSE HQ NRDC-ITA
Brigadier DJH Maddan	Comd ITC – HQ School of Infantry
Brigadier CRV Walker DSO	Brigade Commander, 12 Brigade
Colonel DJC Russell-Parsons OBE	SHAPE, Mons
Colonel JMH Bowder MBE	MA to Commander Land Forces

REGIMENTAL OFFICERS

Lieutenant Colonels

The Hon CL	Broughton MBE	Commanding Officer 1st Battalion
JLJ	Levine MBE .....	.SO1 Interoperability
RT	Maundrell MVO .....	.DOC-SO1 Land
AFR	James MBE .....	.DA Vienna DES
SG	Soskin .....	.Bde Major HQ London District
GR	Denison-Smith .....	.Kuwait Staff College
MP	David MC .....	.C/O British Defence Staff British Embassy Paris

Majors

EJ	Paintin .....	.OC Guards Training Company, Catterick
DJ	Alkin .....	.SO2 Ft Gds, APC Glasgow
PL	Ashfield DSO .....	.MA to CoS LF
JCM	Greaves .....	.PJHQ
RJH	Green .....	.Senior Major
JA	Seddon .....	.The Captain, The Queens Company
SC	Gordon Lennox .....	.Abbey Wood
JR	Green .....	.OC No 2 Company
RE	King-Evans .....	.Recruiting Group
JENB	Shaw .....	.OC The Inkerman Company
AJ	Tiernan .....	.MoD A Block
WHL	Harries .....	.OC Support Company

Captains

*DENOTES ACTING MAJOR

BJR	Jesty .....	.Warminster
FAO	Kuku .....	.HQ Theatre OPS
NA	Strachan* .....	.OC Nijmegen Company
PJ	Rice .....	.PL Comd, Sandhurst
MOC	Dobbin MC .....	.MoD A Block
AWE	Bayliss .....	.RSO
RC	Da Gama .....	.Turkey
TR	Hendriksen .....	.Ops Offr
JD	Brown .....	.MoD A Block
AA	Wellesley-Wood .....	.Adjutant, 2ITB, Catterick
JR	Taylor .....	.Adjutant, London Central Garrison
CJD	Stevenson .....	.INT Officer
N	Wills .....	.2 I/C Training, Pirbright
AHMC	Budge .....	.Recce Pl Comd
HC	Cartwright .....	.Adjutant 1st Battalion
A	Stonor .....	.PL Comd Nijmegen Company
WLR	Harris .....	.PL Comd, ITC Catterick
JJ	Hathaway-White .....	.PL Comd, ATK PL
MWS	Dobson .....	.Assist Equerry to HRH Duke of Edinburgh
JAL	Garton .....	.2 I/C No 2 Company
FCB	Moynan .....	.Second Captain, The Queens Company
DR	Welham .....	.2I/C, The Inkerman Company
HRW	Hardy .....	.PL Comd, Harrogate

Lieutenants

CHP	Sanford .....	.PL Comd, The Mortar PL
AJP	Shirreff .....	.PL Comd, ITC Catterick
HR	Waterfield .....	.PL Comd, Nijmegen Company
BG	Conway .....	.PL Comd, Anti-Tank PL
CAG	Williams .....	.2I/C Nijmegen Company
CLI	Wright .....	.PL Comd, No 2 Company

Second Lieutenants

THR	Hargreaves .....	.PL Comd, The Queens Company
TR	Parkes .....	.PL Comd, The Queens Company
BRN	Tracey .....	.PL Comd, No 2 Company
KMD	Varmuza .....	.PL Comd, The Inkerman Company
OM	Wace .....	.PL Comd, Nijmegen Company
CJ	Naughton .....	.PL Comd, The Inkerman Company
REL	Phillips .....	.PL Comd, The Inkerman Company
RDS	Laing .....	.PCD
GWJ	Barnes .....	.PCD
JMB	Silver .....	.PCD

Late Entry Commissions

Lieutenant Colonels

R	Dorney MBE .....	.Personnel Services, Andover
VJ	Overton .....	.OP HERRICK Force Quartermaster

1st Battalion

Majors

M	Gaunt OBE .....	.OC LEOC, RMAS
G	Gask .....	.ICSC, Jan 2014
NA	England MBE .....	.OC HQ Company
JA	Keeley MBE .....	.QM, 1st Battalion

Captains

A	Butcher .....	.QM (T), 1st Battalion
IM	Farrell .....	.Training Officer, 1st Battalion
S	Munro .....	.RCMO, 1st Battalion

Retired Officers still in Military Employment or Occupation

Majors

GVA	Baker .....	.Regt Adjutant
DNW	Sewell .....	.HQ Foot Guards
PAJ	Wright MBERegt Archivist
AJ	GreenRegt Treasurer

Captains

A	OgdenRegt Archivist
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Grenadiers at Extra-Regimental Employment

RMAS

WO1	G	HaughtonASM
WO1	J	FrithOC RSM
CSgt	R	Dacey	.....Instructor
CSgt	J	Stenton	.....Instructor
CSgt	M	McClean	.....Instructor
CSgt	R	Archer	.....Instructor
CSgt	D	Oliver	.....Instructor
CSgt	D	Walton	.....Instructor
LCpl	S	Scott	.....CIS Wing
LCpl	T	Love	.....RP Staff
Gdsm	J	Bradford	.....Orderley

HDPRCC

CSgt	D	Claxton	.....Instructor
CGsgt	D	Johnston	.....CQMS
Sgt	A	O'Brien	.....Instructor
Gdsm	J	Warde	.....Storeman/driver

AFC (Harrogate)

LSgt	K	RhodaInstructor
LSgt	M	WilsonInstructor

All Arms Drill Wing

CSgt	L	WaltonInstructor
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Cadet Training Teams

Sgt	B	CobbInstructor
Sgt	D	JonesInstructor
LCpl	B	SonkoInstructor

Bobsled

LSgt	L	DeenTeam GB
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HDIV Stables

LSgt	P	Newton
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Recruiting Offices

Sgt	J	LangdownBirmingham
Sgt	L	FindlerWolverhampton
LSgt	S	Hayes	.....Stoke on Trent
LSgt	L	HumphriesManchester
LSgt	P	LyonsTaunton

London Regiment

WO2	S	RoughleyCSM
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IBS Brecon

CSgt	R	ShepherdInstructor
Sgt	P	MoneyAssault Pioneers
LSgt	P	DuffettCIS Wing

Oxford UOTC

CSgt	M	HughesInstructor
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ATC (Pirbright)

LSgt	M	HaynesInstructor
LSgt	M	MooneyInstructor

Demolitions Trg Regt

WO2	S	Ross MCCSM Search Wing
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OPTAG

CSgt	P	RackleyInstructor
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LWC Warminster

LCpl	S	LawaTraining Staff
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Adventure Training Wing

LSgt	N	RoweCapel Curig
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12 Brigade

Gdsm	D	SherwinDriver
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Warrant Officers

Warrant Officer Class 1

WO1	G	HaughtonRMAS ASM
WO1	J	FrithOC RSM
WO1	T	Bearder	.....1st Battalion

Regimental Quartermaster Sergeant (WO2)

WO2	M	Cox	.....RHQ
WO2	H	Lawn	.....RQMS(T)
WO2	M	Howlin	.....RQMS(M)

Drill Sergeants (WO2)

WO2	P	Childs	.....1st Battalion
WO2	G	Davis	.....1st Battalion

Company Sergeant Majors (WO2)

1st Battalion			
WO2	C	Dougherty	.....The Queens Company
WO2	JP	Summerscales	.....Number Two Company
WO2	D	Moore	.....Support Company
WO2	M	Betts	.....The Inkerman Company
WO2	R	Parkes	.....Headquarter Company
WO2	S	Brookes	.....Nijmegen Company

ERE

WO2	S	Roughley	.....London Regiment
WO2	S	Ross MC	.....CSM Search Wing



Marriages

WO2 Roughley to Mrs Ally Roughley
 Sgt Mann to Mrs Rachel Mann
 Sgt Gunning to Mrs Fern Gunning
 Sgt Struczynski to Mrs Jennifer Struczynski
 LSgt Thorne to Mrs Victoria Thorne
 LSgt Moore to Mrs Samantha Moore
 LSgt Saxton to Mrs Melony Saxton
 LSgt Rainima to Mrs Seini Rainima
 LSgt Marchant to Lauren Marchant
 LSgt Hayden to Mrs Charlotte Hayden
 LCpl Dawson to Mrs Simone Dawson. New child Amelia Grace Dawson
 LCpl Rigby to Mrs Rebecca Rigby
 Gdsm Marshall to Mrs Justine Marshall
 Gdsm Appiah to Mrs Catherine Appiah. New Child Afia Nyamewah Appiah Kubi
 Gdsm Hinnigan to Mrs Sinita Hinnigan
 Gdsm Kumadey to Mrs Priscilla Frimpomaa Kumadey
 Gdsm Siver-Yorke to Mrs Amy Siver-Yorke

Births

To Capt Hathaway-White and Mrs Rebecca Montefiore Hathaway-White a daughter Esme Tabitha Montefiore Hathaway-White
 To Sgt Mann G and Mrs Rachael Mann a son Lewin Gregory James
 To LSgt Farrell and Mrs Debbie Farrell a daughter Isabelle
 To LCpl Bentley and Miss Jade Major a daughter Frankie Ray
 To LSgt Moore and Mrs Samantha Moore a daughter Nellie
 To LSgt Saxton and Mrs Saxton a daughter Scarlett
 Gdsm Marshall and Mrs Marshall a daughter Daphene

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Capt BM Carney, Gloucestershire
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	Mr CJ Harrison, Salop	Mr R Jolly BEM, Staffordshire	

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Mr	DM Mills, Ipswich	Mr	CA Ramsay, Nottingham	Mr	DS Sneller, West Sussex	Mr	JP Whelan, West Yorkshire
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Mr	WH Moores, Coventry	Mr	D Richardson	Mr	JW Stanyard, Surrey	Mr	I Whyte, Northants
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Mr	VJ Overton, Windsor	Mr	L Scholes, Bolton	Mr	C Till, Somerset		
Mr	BJ Owen	Mr	M Scott, Gwynedd	Capt	CJO Tilly, Essex		
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Mr	RC Page BEM, Lincoln	Mr	REG Seale DL, Worcester	Lt Col	S Tuck BEM, Norfolk		
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Mr	CM Parker, Wiltshire	Mr	RS Senior, Hampshire	Mr	JMN Upton, London		
Mr	N Parr, Milton Keynes	Mr	T Sentence, Kenya	Mr	A Urvoy, Berkshire		
Mr	RJ Patrick, Leighton Buzzard	Mr	J Seymour, Northants	Mr	S Vaughn, Kent		
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Mr	W Paynes, Hampshire	Mr	M Sharples, Lancashire	Mr	P Wakelin, Cheshire		
Mr	AD Peachey BEM, West Sussex	Capt	BE Sheen, Isle of Wight	Mr	J Walker, North Lincolnshire		
Mr	MM Pearce, Essex	Mr	P Shelbourn, Mid Glamorgan	Mr	W Wall, Halifax		
Mr	M Peaty, West Sussex	Mr	J Sheldon, Derby	Mr	GR Wallace, Cambridge		
Mr	LFH Perkins BEM RVM, Kent	Mr	AN Sherratt, Surrey	Mr	T Walmesly, Ontario		
Lt Col	RAJ Phasey BEM, West Midlands	Mr	C Short, Lincoln	Mr	JG Walmsley, Middlesex		
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				Mr	GJ Waters, Suffolk		
				Mr	NM Watts, Cambridgeshire		
				Lt Col	SA Watts OBE, Berkshire		

OBITUARY

We will remember them

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

2623893	GL Adams	Oxfordshire	2623956	E Jackson	Nottinghamshire
22545045	J Ainscough	East Kent	22213440	DG Jones	Lincoln
23344568	R Alland		22213523	DD Jones	Worcester & Herefordshire
22032295	L Allen	Bristol	23252592	BG Jones	Worcester & Herefordshire
23509678	DJ Anderton	Worcester & Herefordshire	23862864	W Jones	Shropshire
2613649	A Attenborough	Derby	2629303	GF Keiller	London
Capt	JEM Ault		2623520	DJ Kennedy	Nottinghamshire
23862994	R Barham	Lincoln	22213968	WB Leonard	
23557418	D Barley	Gloucestershire	2624100	L Lesage	Spalding
21006051	J Bartram	Lincoln	Capt	RP Letcher	
2628643	GC Beach	Australia	2621423	LR Linford	Yorkshire
2624032	W Betteridge	Medway	2628288	D Lloyd	Oxfordshire
22213585	MJN Blackman	North America	24021015	T Mann	Manchester
23320660	D Blake	Bath	22213451	C McDonald	London
2627529	VH Bradley	Nottinghamshire	2614465	H Mills	March
24122396	DK Bradwell	2013	2618463	J Monks	
2629304	RF Brooks	Surrey & East Hampshire	2624291	J Mooney	Manchester
2615574	EA Brown	Nottinghamshire	2627315	JD Morgan	Nottinghamshire
23252076	SR Buchan, RVM		22213267	H Mudd	Northumbria
23407706	B Butcher	Kingston & District	2623359	R Murcott	Windsor
23509357	RP Cadge	Suffolk	2627724	GC Neave	Norfolk
23362734	L Cambridge	Bristol	2627880	FIC Newman	East Kent
2616538	S Claridge	Surrey & East Hampshire		DK Oliphant, Esq	
22955297	EA Clift	Manchester	2624807	HGR Pain	East Kent
2625063	R Colley	East Kent	5510869	R Parkhouse	
2623499	AJ Conn	Aylesbury	24164994	K Parry	2013
22213792	A Corless		2622889	L Payne	Cambridge
22484216	RF Creek	Manchester	22955540	K Priestley	
2614523	LW Cronk	Wessex	2254572	R Privett	
22955426	G Dance		22386762	BS Redsell	
23252039	J Danvers	Derby	2626956	FEC Rich	Australia
26256271	S Davies		24291891	J Rigg	Windsor
22650089	J Diplock		23969853	TK Riley	Medway
23688382	J Dunne	Lincoln	23132197	J Robinson	Manchester
23688382	LM Easton	Wigan & St Helens District	21006176	M Rowe	Wolverhampton
Capt	EF Fairbanks-Smith		23509927	WS Rushen (Year 2013)	Manchester
2628008	H Faulkner	2013	21006073	J Ryan	Manchester
2618252	J Finan	Manchester	Major	JA Sandison, QGM, MBE	
24259777	R Finch		23252044	BP Searcey	Nottinghamshire
23252633	M Florence	Surrey & East Hampshire	24472760	MA Sessions	Derby
24021090	P Flowers			CJHM Shaw, Esq	
24753705	CRE Foster	Nottinghamshire	2614761	H Smith	Nottinghamshire
22545941	R Foster	Oxfordshire	22071941	PR Stanhope	
2628221	P Fuller		22447441	JH Stevenson	Nottinghamshire
22213775	B Fulton-Hart		23117686	P Strong	Wolverhampton
21006036	D Gladman	Spalding	2626954	SN Taylor	Matlock
24460903	M Goodwin		23252244	B Teale	Shropshire
2616362	RS Goody	2013	14671712	J Thompson	Liverpool
2628980	J Green	Gloucestershire	4975706	P Thompson	London
Capt	JR Greenwood, MBE	Sussex	22545130	JM Tomlinson	Bath
23300949	GC Griffiths	Worcester & Herefordshire	24464131	RV Venant	Nottinghamshire
2628180	LP Hancock	Suffolk	3710365	A Vernon	2012
2616339	R Head	Sussex	23301237	BA Walker	London
Major	E Hemsall	Windsor	23252003	I Wallis	Lincoln
24000393	CJ Higgins	Cambridge	22213678	RJ Wasley	Gloucestershire
24852277	JR Hobbins	Wessex	2619944	F Whittle	Manchester
23879793	WL Homewood	Windsor	2626994	RJ Wickens	London
22213651	D Hooper	North America	22669767	BV Wilkinson	2013
2616192	C Howells	North Staffordshire	Capt	Sir William Dugdale, Bt, MC CBE	
24262725	A Hughes	Nottinghamshire	22213810	I Williams	Manchester
2622695	C Hunter	Manchester	2618591	GV Winter	2013
2626184	RC Hutchinson	Nottinghamshire	23648169	RG Yeatman	2012



Major. Rtd, John Edwin Michael Ault

John Edwin Michael Ault, 27 July 1923–18 April 2014, passed away in his sleep, Bangkok Hospital, Thailand.

I first met John Ault five years ago where I found him sitting in a large comfortable arm chair looking through a pair of binoculars as he studied a pair of Hornbills that were taking a lunch break in his beautiful gardens. He proceeded to lecture me on the life style of this great bird in a beautifully clipped English accent reminiscent of Rex Harrison as Professor Henry Higgins.

Over the years I discovered what a remarkable and interesting man John was, and we often sat on his verandah drinking tea while he regaled me with the most amazing tales of his life. This elderly, giant of a man had joined the Grenadier Guards as a young man and as a subaltern attended dance classes (he claimed) on the orders of his Commanding Officer so that he could partner the young princess Elizabeth at Windsor Castle as she often complained that the young officers were always treading on her toes.

I believe he joined the Regiment during World War 2. He was hospitalised in Scotland due to a serious illness, and his father the late Lieutenant Colonel HEE Ault OBE, was even summoned to his bedside fearing he might not survive. After hospital, duty called and an appointment in Brussels followed, where he met his first wife Suzanne. Further appointments followed after the war with service in Remscheid and Koln/Cologne and then, as a Captain he worked alongside the great Field Marshall Montgomery of Alamein.

Leaving the Guards as a Major, John took up an appointment with the Foreign Office (initially in London, where he went to work in a suit and a bowler hat). Later appointments were to see him commuting to the South Coast where he worked at Fort Monkton. Life in the Foreign Office took John to Asia where he became a specialist in Asian affairs. The exact nature of John's work was never revealed to me although any interested party will find reference to him in the book 'MI6 Inside the Covert World of Her Majesty's secret Service' by Dr Stephen Dorril.

Retirement kept John in Thailand with his new wife where he pursued his great passion in life of gardening; he was also a keen amateur lepidopterist, herpetologist, ornithologist and botanist and has created a living legacy in the gardens at Pala-U Scenic Park, just outside Hua Hin. Visit pala-u.org.

John was an amazing man and I am so glad that I got to know him. It is an honour for me to have written this small insignificant piece and I have done my duty as he requested in notifying his beloved Regiment of his passing. It is said that 'Old soldiers never die, they simply fade away. In John's case he discreetly blended into the background at Pala-U.

Major Ernest Hempsall

Ernest Hempsall, known to many older Grenadiers as a very generous benefactor to Regimental charities and other worthy causes, died at the Beaconsfield Residential Home, Ramsay, near to his house on the Isle of Man on 29th June last year. To younger Grenadiers, especially those in the Windsor Branch, he was known for his equally generous support and hospitality.

Ernest was born in Grimsby on the 8th August 1915. He was an only child and there is no known family connection with the Regiment but, in 1933 jobs were scarce and he decided on a military career. Having survived the Guards Depot he was posted to the 3rd Battalion just in time to sail with the Battalion in November 1933 on board HMT Nevasa for a three year tour in Cairo. Along with most of the Battalion, Ernest much enjoyed his time in Egypt. He served in No 2 Company, commanded by Major Alan Adair, future GOC the Guards Armoured Division. Also in the Company were three other future generals: Rodney Moore, Geordie Gordon-Lennox and Peter Deakin.

When war was declared in 1939 there was an acute shortage of officers throughout the Army and many suitable non-commissionsd officers were selected for officer training. Ernest was one of those chosen from the Regiment, along with George Hulme and the post war film star Anthony Steel. On 9th July 1940 Ernest was commissioned a lieutenant in The West Yorkshire Regiment and after a period of officer training he joined the 2nd/5th Territorial Battalion. It is known that the 2/5 W Yorks served in France in 1940, but in 1943 while at Shorncliffe they were converted into a Royal Armoured Corps Tank Transporter Regiment and disbanded a year later.

In post war years Ernest, together with two colleagues, acquired control of the Bailey Bridge industry and together made a huge success. Ernest was remarkably generous with his good fortune. He was a munificent benefactor of the Windsor Branch, which he joined in the early 1950s, serving as President for many years and funding their new Club House. He entertained many Grenadiers at his homes in Devonshire, Mallorca and latterly on the Isle of Man, who were always made very welcome.

His office in London was close to Claridges Hotel, which he called his 'local pub'. There he would give lunch to Major General Sir Alan Adair, his former company commander and they would reminisce about days in Egypt.

Although a most generous and genial host, Ernest was a most unassuming personality who divulged little about his personal circumstances. His son Michael was sadly killed in a motor accident on Mallorca and his daughter, Patricia, died some ten years ago following an illness. His heir is therefore his grandson, Mark Hempsall, who also lives on the Isle of Man. In total, there are six grandchildren and nine great grandchildren of which he was so very proud.

Ernest was a devoted Grenadier in every sense of the word and he will be greatly missed by those in the Regiment who knew him and enjoyed his hospitality and friendship.



Capt RP Letcher

Capt Peter Letcher died aged 90, on 15th November 2014. During World War 2 he applied to join the Grenadier Guards. As a potential officer, the Lieutenant Colonel saw fit to ring a mutual acquaintance Lord Manners during the interview to check Peter's credentials. After Brigade

Squad and officer training, he was commissioned in February 1944 and was posted to the Guards Training Battalion at Windsor. He served in 1st (Motor) Battalion as a platoon commander in the King's Company and took part in the post Normandy Battles as the Guards Division advanced from the Seine to the Rhine and beyond. On 3rd September 1944, he fought in the highly successful action at Pont-à-Marq near the Franco-Belgian frontier against spirited opposition from a German rearguard. 15 Grenadiers were killed and a large number were wounded including Letcher, who remained in action. At the battle of Nijmegen, he fought with the King's Company alongside the United States 82nd Airborne Division to secure the bridge, which opened the way to the North German plains. In November 1944, he was seriously wounded by a shell splinter in the right arm at Gangelt, a small town just across the German border from Holland. He was Mentioned in Despatches in April 1946. In Germany, he served in on the staff of the Military Government and later the Central Commission as ADC to the Regional Commissioner of North Rhine and Westphalia and was demobilised in the rank of Captain. In 1947, he qualified as a solicitor and joined the family firm of Letcher and Son. He practised for several years before concentrating on international commercial work in the Eastern Bloc and underdeveloped parts of the world. He was a great countryman and enjoyed ocean racing, motor racing, point-to-pointing, hunting, shooting and fly fishing. In 1957 he married Virginia Fenn-Smith and is survived by her, their two sons and five grandchildren.

towards a trench, and, outstripping his platoon by several yards, he reached it simultaneously with the Germans. Holding one of them down with his foot, he grappled with another, the third having run away. His men then came up and the prisoners were secured. Later he was with Bill Sidney (Viscount De Lisle) when he was awarded the VC at Anzio, and was himself mentioned in despatches for his role in defending the Anzio beachhead in an action in which he was his company's only surviving officer. In peacetime he took over the family estates including Baddesley colliery and trained as a solicitor. He rode in the 1952 Grand National and flew small aeroplanes in races around the world. He succeeded to the baronetcy on his father's death in 1965. In 1975 he became chairman of Aston Villa and saw its resurgence from the third to the first division, culminating in winning the European Cup in 1982. He was chairman of the Severn Trent Water Authority (1974-1983) and of General Utilities (1988-1999). As chairman of the National Water Council he entertained the Trade Unions at Scott's during the national water strike of 1983, while keeping his promise to Mrs Thatcher that he wouldn't give in to them. He served as both High Sheriff and Deputy Lieutenant of Warwickshire and was appointed CBE in 1982. In 2011 he published his revealing and humorous memoir, *Settling the Bill*. He married first, in 1952, Lady Belinda Pleydell-Bouverie. She predeceased him, and he married secondly, in 1965, Cylla Mount, who survives him with two sons and four daughters.



The Venerable Anthony Turney

Anthony Turney was born in 1937 and spent four years in a Church of England children's home before adoption by the Turney family from Aylesbury. In 1955, he joined the Grenadier Guards and was posted to

2nd Battalion in the Canal Zone. During three years service he became a LSgt and performed ceremonial duties in London. He moved to the United States after discharge in 1968 and made a name for himself as an independent event producer. He was ordained in the Episcopal Church in 1996 and was appointed Archdeacon of the Diocese of California. His career included positions as Executive Director of the Dance Theatre of Harlem and Deputy Chairman of the National Endowment for the Arts in Washington. In 2000 he was a consultant to the US Agency for International Development. An energetic traveller, he spent a month walking across Spain along the Camino de Santiago and bicycled three times from San Francisco to Los Angeles. Together with seven other members of the North America Branch, he came to Her Majesty's Grenadier Day at Buckingham Palace 26th June 2013 as one of the highlights of his life. He died aged 76 in San Francisco 4th July 2014 on the 38th anniversary of his becoming a US citizen.



Sir William Dugdale, Bt, CBE, MC, DL

Sir William Dugdale, 2nd Bt, who has died aged 92, was born on 29th March 1922. He was educated at Eton and Balliol College, Oxford where he joined the Officer Training Corps. He went to Sandhurst and was

commissioned into the Grenadier Guards and posted to 3rd Battalion. In Tunisia in 1942, the battalion occupied Grenadier Hill and dominated the area by aggressive night patrols. Dugdale was the first to draw blood in an encounter with five Germans. In 1943 he was awarded a Military Cross for leading his platoon up a Tunisian hillside under intense fire to knock out a German machine gun post. During the assault Dugdale saw three men running

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. |
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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
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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
Sgt Humphries ACO Manchester
LSgt Hayes ACO Stoke
LSgt Lyons ACO Taunton
LSgt Findler ACO Wolverhampton
LSgt Browning ACO London

Army Recruiting Team

Gdsm Bah ART Woolwich

Gdsm Marsland ART Chilwell
Gdsm Hill ART Preston
Gdsm Hands Outreach West Midlands
Gdsm King Outreach West Midlands

Regimental Support Team

Capt Butcher Regimental Recruiting Officer
CSgt Fry RST Comd
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; Cambridge; Chesterfield; Derby; 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.

News from the Dining Club

Norfolk Branch Dining Club

The Norfolk Dining Club closed 2013 with another very jovial Christmas Evening. Over 70 members with their wives, friends and families enjoyed the usual excellent meal and very well supported Raffle. 'Over seventy' is a good description, as most of us are! The 'Surprise' this year was a delightful young lady in a striking red dress, who entertained us with songs of the '40s and '50s. Everyone could sing along, even though several of the gentlemen present were quite overcome by that dress! It was only sometime later that we found out that her speciality is entertaining in Homes for the Elderly; very fitting.

In April we celebrated the 90th birthday of our second oldest member, **Allan Phillips**. He suggested we make it a real 'Day Out' by first visiting Flixton Air Museum near his home, and a very interesting place it was. Added interest to Grenadiers is that Flixton Hall was, for many years, the family home of Major General Sir Allan Adair, our Colonel prior to Prince Philip.



Dining Club members visiting Flixton Air Museum with Allan Phillips (fourth from left).

A great character, Allan fought his way up through Italy with the 5th Battalion, being wounded three times and even being put in the Welsh Guards for a short time because his own Battalion had left without him. He said none of that was as bad as having to have his photograph taken and cutting his birthday cake in front of a camera, but we all enjoyed giving him a good pub lunch to celebrate.

A few of us have taken to joining the Cambridge Branch for their bi-monthly lunches, which have been very enjoyable. **Mick Draper**, now Branch Secretary for Cambridgeshire is a regular at our Dining Evenings and is trying to persuade more of his members to come to either our dinners, or lunches at Thetford. We are having a little trouble persuading them that they will not need passports and they do not need to hide in (or on the back



Allan Phillips cutting his 90th Birthday cake.

axle) of articulated trucks. They will be very welcome in Norfolk.

On 21st June three of us, with our ladies, made the trip to Northampton to attend the inaugural dinner of the Northampton Branch Waterloo Dining Club on the invitation of **Matt Ellmer**. We all enjoyed ourselves and wish the Club all best wishes and encouragement for the venture. We hope for many reciprocal visits.

Somewhat more sobering was a talk given to us at the



Members of the Norfolk Dining Club 'intermingling' with the Cambridge Branch.

June Dinner by **David Mason**, a local Pharmacist on 'Strokes – and what to do about them'. Certainly it made all of us realise that if we are not looking after ourselves already, it's time we did so!

Undoubtedly the highlight of our year was celebrating our 'Coming of Age' 21st Anniversary of our founding. Wanting to make sure that no one was left out we asked our most senior Norfolk member, HRH The Colonel, if he could help us mark the occasion and were delighted when he agreed and again invited us to hold the Dinner at Sandringham House in his presence. As with our 15th Anniversary in 2008 he made us all most welcome and joined us for a group photograph.

We were very pleased that **Major Andy Green**, now a regular Dining Club Member was able to be with us along with **Capt Mike Dobson**, Assistant Equerry to The Colonel and **Richard Jewson** HM Lord Lieutenant of Norfolk. It was a most pleasant evening which we sincerely hope The Colonel enjoyed as much as we did.

For the August Dinner we were at last able to entertain **Jim** (Grenadiers Reunited) **White** as our guest after many months waiting for him to bring his caravan for a

holiday in Norfolk. We much enjoyed having him and hope he enjoyed Norfolk enough to venture this way again soon. Thanks to his weekly newsletter we have made contact with one new Grenadier, **Jeff Wilson**, who has dined with us and there are two more potential members we hope to tempt along too.

On that note, we close by repeating 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 relaxed and enjoyable.

The Dining Evening dates for 2015 are:

April 17th, June 26th, August 21st, October 16th, and December 4th.

Alternatively the provisional dates for lunches at Thetford will be **May 13th** and **November 4th**; both Wednesdays. 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.



Members of the Norfolk Dining Club celebrating their 21st Anniversary with HRH The Colonel at Sandringham House (in the relaxed manner for which they are known).

Back Row: T A Smith, R J Cooper, B L Barber, C J E Harrison, A J Ford.

Fourth Row: Lieutenant Colonel R R Holland OBE, BEM, A A Smith, W J Goffin, B W Willsher, M E Ayres, M Draper, F J Green.

Third Row: D A R Beckett, C D T Page, R A Fletcher, R Smith, J E Pearce, R Ibson, C R Warren.

Second Row: Major A J Green, D J Beckett, G R Lawn, J J Crowley, A D Willsher, J M Feakins, B H Taylor, Capt M W S Dobson.

First Row: K W Cross, Lieutenant Colonel H M L Smith, G R Donaldson, HRH The Colonel, R F Barwick, R Jewson Esq, J.P., Capt P J S Allen.

The Grenadier Guards Commemorative Kneeler Appeal

by *Ross Donaldson*

As reported in the last edition of the Gazette the total Amount donated to the Appeal will be enough to fund at least forty-seven new kneelers for the Guards Chapel as part of their current project to replace the old and worn ones.

We have on the suggestion of Regimental Headquarters, widened the field to include all the men who were killed on Active Service since the end of the Second World War, in Northern Ireland, the Cameroons, Malaya, Palestine and Egypt. We have just delivered to the Chapel kneelers to commemorate the six who died in Northern Ireland and **Gdsm John Lunn** who was killed in the Cameroons.

Progress has slowed slightly due to some difficulties establishing the exact list of men killed in Malaya as records differ but the list will be established and the kneelers produced as quickly as possible.

Through these pages could we ask that if any readers have any personal knowledge of men killed in these tours of duty could they please get in contact with the Appeal Co-ordinator (details below) with any information they have.

Again, huge thanks must go to all the people who have donated – these Kneelers make a most impressive show in the Chapel.

Appeal Co-ordinator:

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

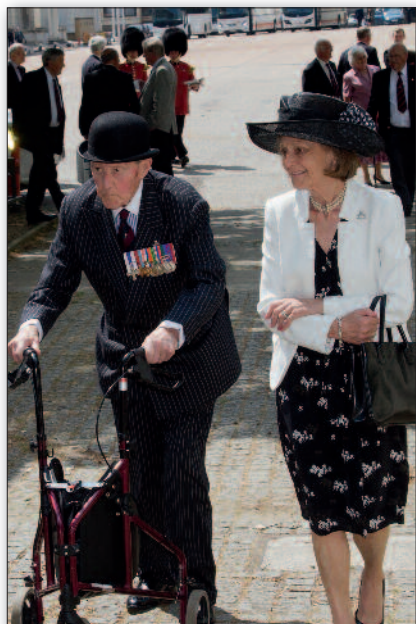


Three of the named kneelers commemorating the Northern Ireland and Cameroons casualties.



On 11th November 2014, Major The Viscount De L'Isle, President of the West Kent Branch, laid a wreath at Landrecies Communal Cemetery on the grave of his Great Uncle, 2Lt Robert Vereker, Grenadier Guards, who was the first Grenadier Officer killed in the Great War.

REGIMENTAL REMEMBRANCE DAY 2014



Clockwise from the top: Lord Wigram with his daughter Lady Celia Webb-Carter; Trevor Jones from the East Kent Branch; members of the Leicestershire & Rutland Branch; Mike Sterling, Ray Huggins, Norman Mitchell and Chris Bennett at the Mareth Cross; The Lieutenant Colonel at the Guards Memorial, Mick Milton and Mike Sperrin bearing the Regimental wreath.



GRENADIER DAY 2014



Clockwise from the top: Colonel Richard Aubrey-Fletcher; the 1st Battalion Pace Sticking team; a first taste of the Grenade Machine Gun; hot action from the White Helmets display; the inimitable Capt Andy Butcher; Stuart McKinnon at his signals stand.



Monte Battaglia – 70th Anniversary Ceremony and Battlefield Tour

by *Lt Henry Waterfield*

In October 1944 as part of the 1st Guards Brigade the 3rd Battalion Grenadier Guards were moving north through Italy in order to push their way into Germany from the South. Monte Battaglia was strategically important as it was where the German counter attack was halted. On our trip Monte Battaglia presented itself as a sunny and peaceful part of Italy where the wine was flowing and long lunches was the main occupation of the locals. However 70 years ago in horrendous conditions with the hillsides waterlogged and the mountainous terrain almost impassable the Grenadier Guards conducted a relief in place with the American 350th Regiment on Monte Battaglia. They formed the centre of the Guards Brigade with the Coldstream Guards to their left and the Welsh Guards to their right. From the 4th of October the entire Brigade was subject to heavy shelling and constant skirmishes as the Germans attempted to



The author with two Italian Grenadiers.

retake the heights. The attacks culminated on the 11th of October when, with heavy losses, a large German assault was repelled.

The author was joined on this trip by two brother Guards officers; one a Coldstream and one a Welsh Guard in order to represent the three Battalions that fought there. Also joining us was **Sgt 'Spider' Webb** of the Welsh Guards as part of their Association. On Saturday 6th September 2014 we were privileged to be given a tour of the battlefields by **Romano Rossi**, a local historian who had just published a book on the battle, alongside **Danny Fort** who provided language assistance throughout. We were informed in depth as to the part each Battalion played in the battle whilst also able to see the difficulties faced by the aggressive slopes and the hostile terrain. The return from the tour itself made us truly appreciate how fantastic the British road system is as we found ourselves on what could only be considered a rally track though, to the Italians was a main road.

Sunday 7th saw the remembrance parade itself and, in true Guards' style, it was left to our contingent to ensure that the service was conducted smartly and correctly. Amidst the flamboyant gesticulation and discussion from the Italians on marched the Guards to lay their wreaths at the British memorial. After the parade the Guards contingent were then hosted by the Italian Grenadiers who, in true Italian style, provided a fantastic five hour lunch where the number of courses was pushing double figures.



At the Memorial to the Guards on Monte Battaglia.

Adventure's with a Dirty Grenade (Part IV)

by 24417868 *'Fingers' Worsfold*

Firstly I have to admit that this latest fundraising adventure was (a) poorly planned and (b) a bit of infill in that I/we hadn't organised anything since the Wellington to Waterloo Cycle Ride. Secondly, with the promise of possibly being accompanied by **Colonel Euan Houstoun** in his Regimental Battle-Barge, 'Trincomalee' (his canal boat), the charity Polo Match at the Guards Polo Club and the Laying up of Old Colours at Radley College, this adventure seemed all the more relevant and attractive. Thirdly, having recently heard of a contemporary Grenadier with whom I served, suffering greatly from past traumas I felt I should urgently redouble my efforts and raise more cash for the Colonel's Fund. Lastly, I failed to pack my beret so, this time, I can't lose my name for having a 'dirty grenade'!

So what was the challenge? Many years ago whilst serving in Berlin, I had perchance to read the travelogue 'Three Men in a Boat' by Jerome K Jerome, and I always fancied doing that myself. It seemed quite fun and, as is now becoming the norm, I would get a chance to raise some cash for charity. It was hard to pick a week when I, and others, were available. Being older and softer I preferred the weather to be good and, obviously we needed a date when our Thames skiff, would be available for hire. Not being a nautical type I knew nothing about boats, skiffs, yachts, dinghys, barges, ships, narrow boats or stuff like that and, as far as I was concerned, a schooner was something you drank out of, knots are lumpy bits in lengths of string and rollocking was what the Sergeant Major gave to me on numerous occasions. I had no idea of times, tides or expected speed of travel.

I estimated the 90 odd miles would take 7 days and because the book was written travelling upstream, despite protestations from my compatriots, we would do the same. In the end it was agreed that going upstream, away from London, was actually preferable. I had seen the TV documentary with Dara O'Briain, Rory McGrath and Gryff Rhys-Jones emulating the same trip and thought that if they could do it then so could I. Naturally there would need to be three of us on this trip.

As before I managed to rope in one of my younger brothers to come along. Alas, though, he could only manage three days at 'sea', the advantage of this was that he had a dog, Wilbour. So as per the book we could be 'Three Men in a Boat plus a dog, Montmorency'. It was only later, after Wilbour had spent three miserable days on our skiff (he's not an ocean-going type) I read that the 'dog' in Jerome's book was entirely fictitious and added only for literary effect. If I had a pound for every time someone, be they afloat or on the river-bank, made a humorous retort of, 'Ah three men in a Boat? Have you got a dog?' the Colonel's Fund would be very wealthy!

After a bit of research I found a lovely company, Thames Skiff hire (*funnily enough*) who would be foolish enough to rent us a craft. She was 26' long and over 130 years old. Two of us would skiff (row) whilst the third would steer (in the loosest definition of the word). We skulled (rowed) for roughly six hours a day spending around an hour in each of the three stations. Roughly four

hours on two hours off – *that seems strangely familiar*. A Thames skiff has a series of demountable hoops onto which a canvas awning can be fitted. This meant that at least two of us could sleep on the boat. This took practice to erect and was the cause of much mirth for innocent bystanders and those not involved. I slept in a tent on the river bank. In the event of rain we could leave the awning partially up to provide a bit of cover but this did mean we couldn't rapidly 'ship' oars. For those onboard answering



Three Men in a Boat – The End.

the call of nature, at night, presented a serious fire and manoeuvre exercise with much cursing and swearing, and limited 'bilge' depth!

We learnt that rowing is generally using a single 'oar' with a semi-closed swivelling rollock whilst skulling has two 'oars' and a fixed slot into which it fits. The skulls had protective leather sheaths that needed to be lubricated with tallow on a regular basis. After much hilarity at getting us loaded and aboard we set off from Walton on Thames. This was the nearest to Kingston we could get in the water as there are no public slipways suitable for us further down-stream. In 7 days we would hopefully arrive at Donnington Bridge, Oxford all in one piece, where the boat would be collected.

For the 3 days my brother crewed the boat we managed to start early, finish late and average about 4mph. Once we reached Marlow and he handed over to an old friend of mine (who also acted as my Best Man many moons ago)

our speed dropped to 2mph and we developed all sorts of problems, snags and disasters. On his 1st day we (he) managed to break and oar, smash the gas lamp, lose my camera lens-cap, swamp the skiff, hole the boat, snap a rollock, destroy most of the map, soak the sleeping bags and cause injury and mayhem to all and sundry. It also rained all day. Maybe he's just accident prone...or it could be the numerous pints consumed in vast quantities earlier and earlier in the day. But he is an excellent cook and we dined well from then on (my brother just brought along large quantities of out of date crisps and chocolates). It occurred to me as we settled into a steady rhythm and watched the scenery flow gently by that in a way we were travelling through a Household Division heartland. London to Oxford, with Eton, Ascot, Henley, Radley and of course Windsor all en route.

The people we met along the Thames were generous, encouraging and helpful whilst the lock-keepers were warm and welcoming. The pubs fantastic and the views relaxing. It is fortunate that the locks on the Thames are manned most of the time which made our progress faster

and more relaxed. Which is just as well as the only lock we found that we had to operate ourselves took us a while and we nearly broke that! It was just such a shame that fishermen on the banks, to a man, seemed a surly, taciturn, misanthropic lot. No wonder they sit on their own, away from home, for hours on end.

Suffice to say that we successfully completed the trip and had more 'adventures' than I can relate in a few paragraphs. Sadly I have to declare, that we saw neither hide nor hair of **Colonel Houstoun**, never made the Polo match, didn't see the Colours get laid up and that we did not raise the sort of sums that I/we would have liked. Mind you with limited ablution facilities on the trip we might have been a bit 'ripe' towards the end so it was probably in everyone's best interest if we were absent from the odd social occasion. So if I'm going to lose my name for anything, make it that and not the wearing of a dirty grenade.

P.S. I learnt that our skiff 'Susa' had at some time been rowed across the Channel. Now that would be something worth sponsoring...

The Quartermasters Lunch, Sergeants' Mess, Lille Barracks, Aldershot

Wednesday 26th February 2014



Standing from Left to Right: Major Neil England, Capt Andy Butcher, Capt Ian Farrell, Capt Steve Munro, Major Maurice Joyce, Capt Chris Gillham, Major Dave Groom, Major Mick Holland, Major Derek Rossi, Major Andy Green, Capt Pete Richardson, Major Joe Coleman, Capt Sammy Loxton, Capt Stan Holloway, Major Dennis Bradley, Major Eddie O'Keefe.

Seated from Left to Right: Lieutenant Colonel Steve Tuck, Lieutenant Colonel Paul Harris, Lieutenant Colonel Dave Webster, Lieutenant Colonel The Hon Charles Broughton (Comd Offr), Major Stumpy Keeley, Capt Darren Westlake, Lieutenant Colonel Rick Kitchen, Major Vince Gaunt and Lieutenant Colonel Andy Phasey.

The Colonel's Fund and the St Andrews Golf Legacy 2014

by Mr Matthew Ellmer – Regimental Casualty Officer

On 29th July 2014 four wounded soldiers arrived at Edinburgh Airport from Canada to play seven rounds of golf in Scotland supported by the St Andrews Golfing Legacy. This charity was formed two years ago by an amazing couple; **Graham and Marion Proctor**. They originate from Glasgow but now live and run a guest house in St Andrews. We were fortunate to be accommodated there for the duration of our trip.

I heard about this scheme and was invited to put together a Grenadier team of injured personnel to play against the Canadians and to bring some competition to the occasion. From those I had to choose from my eventual and very competent team became **Major Bernie Broad, Sgt Carl Shadrake, LCpl Nick Davis and LCpl Scott Blaney**. The Colonel's Fund supported and contributed towards the event.

On our first day, Wednesday 30th July 2014 we played golf at the Crail Club just outside St Andrews where 30mph winds provided a very challenging introduction to links golf. The next day we drove to the Mull of Kintyre to play twice in two days at the Machrihanish golf course; the 27th best course in the world and with the best opening hole. In the evening after our first round we dined with the Club Captain and some of his members and I took the opportunity to say a few words in recognition of the fact that it was **Carl Shadrake's** last day as a serving soldier. On



At St Andrews on the famous Swilcan Bridge.

the second day at Machrihanish we also experienced a whisky tour at Campbeltown and slept well on the way home, sadly that was apart from me, as I was the designated driver! Day four, Saturday 2nd August found us back in St Andrews where we played the Kingsbarns Course, a very wet and windy day which was by far the most challenging game and toughest day of the tour. Day five took us inland a few miles to the Dukes Golf Course, the weather was great but the course was unforgiving and very tough. We played at the Jubilee Course on day six and on Tuesday 5th August, our final day we had the honour of playing at the Old Course, St Andrews and then in the evening attending the

Edinburgh Tattoo where **Scott Blaney** was recognised by the Royal Bank of Scotland for what he had achieved since his injury in 2007. What a privilege it was to be able to have taken part in this competition, regardless of how well we played, the people and scenery were almost as intoxicating as the whisky had been on day three.

The aim of the event was to relax, enjoy and play golf; this we achieved but we could not match the Canadians, next time guys, next time! Links golf in Scotland with the rain, wind and sand dunes was very tough, but the early practise rounds settled our nerves and we felt confident. Unfortunately the Canadians, **Jay, Kevin, Riad and Andy** were the more accomplished golfers.



From Left to Right: Day one at Crail, **Bernie Broad, Scott Blaney, Nick Davis and Carl Shadrake**.

During the event lots of locals and friends of **Graham** and **Marion** gave up their time, and offered their expertise and friendship to make the trip a memorable one. **David**, **Gary** and **Uncle Angus** put their own special spin on and added much to our enjoyment of the week. For my part I felt very privileged to be able to help by generally supporting and ferrying the team around and contributing in some small way in helping to ensure the trip was a total success.

Golf does help to focus the mind, having to concentrate and be disciplined can take thoughts away from injuries and brings some normality to a day. It is very satisfying to reflect upon the thoughts of **Bernie Broad** who said "I have to say that playing golf is one of the few things that I am actually better at now than before I was injured".

Since I took on the role of the Regimental Casualty Officer it has become very clear to me that the Colonel's Fund makes a huge and very positive impact on those who benefit from it. The fun, joy and comradeship experienced by everyone in Scotland during this week of golf is testament to that. Those that have contributed to it over



The two teams with the R & A in the background and the author on the right.

the years have my sincere thanks and of course the thanks of our injured, in this case **Bernie**, **Carl**, **Nick** and **Scott** who enjoyed a once in a lifetime experience.

2622452 Gdsm ALBERT GREEN

*by Joan Kimberley
Secretary, Essex Branch*

On 14th July 2014 (Bastille Day) **Albert Green** of the Essex Branch was awarded the insignia of Chevalier in the Legion d'Honneur. The presentation was made by the French Ambassador, **His Excellency Bernard Emie** at his official residence in London. Present at the ceremony to represent the Regiment was the Regimental Adjutant **Major Grant Baker** and the General Secretary



Albert with the French Ambassador in London on Bastille Day 2014.

of the Grenadier Guards Association, **Major Andrew Green**. Alongside eight other British WW2 Veterans, Albert accepted the insignia with honour and pride. The official citation was read by the Ambassador as follows:

"**Albert Ernest Green**. You enlisted as a volunteer with the prestigious King's Company as a Grenadier Guard in April 1941. You took part in many operations in France including Arronanches, Cagny, St Charles De Percy and Vernon.

"You left active service in September 1946 and became a lifelong member of the Grenadier Guards Veterans Association. In it you raise awareness among young people of the duty of remembrance and you've regularly taken part in exchanges, especially to Pont-a-Marcq, organised with the Association. Every year as Pont-a-Marcq's last surviving 'liberator' you have unfailingly contributed to keeping alive the memory of liberation among young people by sharing your experience and occasionally offering advice during your attendance at commemorations in France. Always anxious to maintain the duty of remembrance for your Brothers-in-Arms killed in action. Your human qualities, charisma, humility and kindness make you an iconic figure in the Grenadier Guards and popular with everyone in the local civilian and military authorities in France and the UK.

"**Albert Ernest Green**, you played an active role in liberating France with the British Army"

In September 1944 **Albert** was a mortarman in The King's Company charged with the liberation of Pont-a-Marcq, a small coal mining town to the south of Lille on the main Paris to Brussels road. During the action, 23 Grenadiers and 40–50 members of the Macquis were killed before the enemy were driven back. All Grenadiers that fell are buried in Lille Cemetery.

Albert was nominated for the award by the Mayor of Pont-a-Marcq, **Monsieur Daniel Cambier**. Later in 2014 on the weekend of 23rd–24th August **Albert** was once again in Pont-a-Marcq to commemorate the liberation and the loss of his comrades. During the weekend another formal ceremony was held in the Town Hall and **Albert** was entered into the Societe de Legion d'Honneur by a local senior member of the Societe and given a scroll signed by President Holland.

After the ceremony **Albert** made it clear that he accepted the award with much pleasure on behalf of his



Albert at Pont-a-Marcq in August 2014.

comrades and colleagues of the Regimental Association. Health permitting he hopes to continue with his annual visits to the town.

My Time at Regimental Headquarters 1961–1974

by Derek Money MBE

I left the Orderly Room as the Sgt Clerk of the 2nd Battalion, at that time stationed at Hublerath near Dusseldorf, in March 1961 on posting to Regimental Headquarters in London. In those days the Headquarters was in the (now) small block at the Chapel end of the square and occupied in the cellar, all personal documents filed in numerical order of Regimental Number and there were hundreds of them going back to the Great War and earlier. The ground floor was occupied by the Effective Records, Non-Effective Records and at the rear were the Association and Guards Employment Society Offices. The first floor, held the General Office and the Orderly Room. The second and top floors were occupied by RHQ Scots Guards but I don't know where their Records Office or documents store were located.

My task was to take over the responsibility for the Non-Effective Records Office (the Regimental Reservists) and upon arrival I discovered that the previous incumbent had been released from the Regiment some months previously. I set about gleaning information from the staff and from the files which I could find and peruse and then worked out what I was going to do to in order to put my own stamp on the way in which the office would continue to work.

I had a staff of about five, I think, and at this time the total staff was, in addition to the Officers, 23 which included the RAPC NCO and the RQMS and storemen and also **Gdsm Barry Double**. The whole of the Headquarters staff worked well together with interaction between the General Office, Records Office, Non-Effective Office and the Stores. The morning tea breaks needed a bit of organising for

everyone seemed to wander about with a tea bag or coffee in mugs. So I arranged to get a tea urn from the Stores and that we, the staff, would pay into a kitty from which tea, coffee, biscuits etc would be purchased and this seemed to work quite well and went on for quite a considerable time.

I had only been in the Non-Effective Office for about 18 months or so when it was decided, by whom I know not, that all the soldier staff would be replaced by civilians and so after only a very short time this took place and after all the civilians were in place I was out of a job.

Next door was the Office of the Regimental Association combined with the Guards Employment Society and this was manned by **Sgt Davies** for the Employment Society and **LCpl Dennis Gillham** for the Association. **Sgt Davies** was just about to go on release at the time my job came to an end so I took over from him in the Employment Society. I held this position for some time although I was finding it very difficult to find employment situations for men of the Brigade who were being released from service. Some of the time I was helping **LCpl Gillham** with the Association work and indeed when his time came for release I took over the position of Association Clerk full time. At about the same time and because of the poor results of obtaining employment situations the Employment Society was wound up.

In those years the General Secretary was also the Secretary of the London Branch and so when he had written a branch newsletter I had to type it up, run it off on the Gestetna and then with my wife's help fold them up and tuck them in so that they could be posted and when you were dealing with the London branch the folded letters would fill and army suitcase easily and I had to take them round to the post office near the Stillington Street married quarters. There were dinners held in a hotel in Tottenham Court Road and of course the big dinner which was called the London Branch Dinner but in reality was

the Association Dinner which took place in Lyons Corner House in Coventry Street in the West End. I would have to do a table plan and seat possibly five hundred persons. They were wonderful evenings but much work was involved. The next big London Branch affair was the Christmas Draw and this time it was held in the Chatham Rooms at Victoria Station and one could look down on the clock and the entrances to the platforms. This was always a lively affair and on those occasions I worked all through the night and with the help of **RQMS Don Smith** by the morning we had produced a list of those people who had won a prize and if they had collected it. The prizes that had not been collected were auctioned and the resulting money received for those prizes was entered on the prize list and I had to go to the local post office just outside the back gate in Petty France and obtain loads and loads of postal orders and with a short letter they had to be sent to the person whose ticket it was.

Another event held at the Chatham Rooms was the Association AGM and prior to that there was much to do in informing all the Branch Secretaries about the meeting, ask them what they wanted for the lunch and most of them asked for Steak and Kidney Pudding which came in huge basins and held enough for ten portions, enough for the round tables of ten people. Following this event there were all the minutes of the meeting to type up and send out so it was a very busy time but I really enjoyed all of what was involved. I learned a lot from all these events, how to arrange dinners and allocate seating, sending out large quantities of mail, organisation and so on and of course I met so many people and always

welcomed them for years afterwards.

Another one of my duties was that when **Colonel Fred Turner** became a Military Knight of Windsor he was given the task of producing a memorable programme of the Knights of the Garter Day at Windsor Castle. He did this because he had knowledge of doing a similar thing for the Earls Court Exhibition. He asked me if I thought I could organise the selling of these programmes and handle the cash involved. This involved bundles of programmes which I passed out to the sellers (Guardsmen from the resident battalion at Victoria Barracks). All went well on the first occasion and in fact I did this duty after **Colonel Fred** had died and **Colonel Arthur Spratley** had himself become a Military Knight right up to 1973. After I left the Regiment I had a nice letter from the Dean of the Royal Chapel at the Castle thanking me for all that I had done over a number of years.

One other thing that happened before I left was that Knightsbridge Barracks was being rebuilt and so it had been decided that the Household Cavalry horses would be accommodated in Wellington Barracks and the temporary stables were built just behind the rear of the Block we were in and at times it became rather smelly particularly in the hot weather. On a most recent visit to Headquarters I saw that temporary stables are being erected for use by the Kings Troop Royal Artillery.

For the eight years or so that I carried out the duties of the Association Clerk I really enjoyed all that I had to deal with until my own release in January 1974 but it wasn't until I left the Headquarters that there was some reorganisation and Branches had to do a lot for themselves as the centralised system at RHQ ended.

The photograph shown is of the 1963 Staff at Regimental Headquarters, I think that most of them must have passed on by now. **David Sneller** is a retired member of the Sussex Branch, as I am. **Barry Double** is retired and now lives in Suffolk, **Phil Manning** is somewhere in America and the last I heard of **John Woodman** (second row) he was in the Australian Army. Staffing levels have diminished now and there is a photograph in a previous Gazette showing that there were 17 Grenadier Staff (excluding Officers) which included one **Capt Double** as the Assistant Regimental Adjutant but of course also The General Secretary of the Association. It appears now that staffing levels are so low it is a wonder how the present crop cope as well as they do.



My Memories of Sir Winston Churchill's Funeral

by *Lincoln (Polly) Perkins RVM BEM*

All movements practised and early morning rehearsals through the streets of London completed so, on a cold, damp and misty January morning in 1965 we were in our positions outside Westminster Hall awaiting the arrival of the hearse that was bearing the body of Sir Winston Churchill. We, the bearer party were privileged to have been chosen from the 2nd Battalion Grenadier Guards (The Queen's Company and the 1st Battalion were out of the country).

An eerie silence lay around the Hall as the coffin was taken out of the hearse. Commands were given to place it on our shoulders for the first time and take it to the catafalque inside Westminster Hall where it was to be laid in state; the first phase was completed and we retired to a small room within the Hall. We all thought that the coffin was remarkably heavier than the one we had been practising with. We found out later from the funeral parlour that it weighed over 8 CWT 2 Stones and was lead lined.

After the period of Lying in State was completed it was time to begin Phase 2. We marched through the streets of London; bands were playing with muffled drums and to the sound of the wheels from the Gun Carriage grating over the sand that had been laid. The crowds were huge but not a sound did they make as we passed them on the way to St Pauls Cathedral.

The coffin was taken off the Gun Carriage outside St Pauls and we were ready to proceed up the two flights of steps. The first flight caused little problem and at the top

we adjusted our positions ready to proceed up the second flight. We were half way up when the procession that was leading came to a halt. This left us stationary and due to its weight the coffin began to slip backwards off the first set of shoulders. My link-man, the late **David Sweeney** and I placed our hands under the Union Flag and grabbed the handles of the coffin to stop any further movement backwards. Even to this day if it was not for the two (pushers) behind the coffin it would have been a disaster. However, we somehow managed to make it to the top of the steps and into the entrance of the Cathedral. We were later informed that **Lord Attlee** took a stumble which caused the procession to come to a halt.

We had time to gather our thoughts and adjust our positions ready to proceed down the aisle of the Cathedral. I was overheard to have said "Don't worry Sir, the Grenadiers have got you". It was a long march down to the waiting catafalque where no further problems were encountered. To this day as we turned about to face the congregation I will never forget seeing the World's Kings and Queens, Heads of State and the building bulging with people who had come to say farewell to such a great man.

After the service we took up our positions to carry the coffin back to the waiting Gun Carriage. We had a clear route back down the steps of the Cathedral and difficult though it was we managed to place it properly in position. From there we escorted it to Tower Hill and eventually placed it on the Havengore for it to be taken to the Festival Hall, where the funeral parlour staff took over, and then to Waterloo Station.

It was a very moving sight as we started our final journey, to see all the cranes alongside the Thames go to half-mast as we passed them.

Personally I did not think that cold and misty morning of 30th January 1965 would still be remembered 50 years on. I and other members of the bearer party who are fortunate to still be alive today I am sure, would agree that it was a proud day to be a Grenadier.



Lincoln Perkins with Sir Winston once again at Dover Town Hall.



LSgt L F H Perkins, left hand file as you look, 2nd from the left, aboard the Havengore.

Memories of CSgt (CQMS) E J (Dixie) Dean

By George (Sweeney Todd) Turton

The diminishing company of Grenadier veterans of WW2 suffered another sad loss with the passing on 12 October 2014, the eve of his 93rd birthday, of Dixie, veteran of the Italian campaign and later, MT Sergeant of the 3rd Battalion – and manager of the MT Platoon's all-conquering football team.



On board HMS Illustrious with the London Branch in August 1998, Dixie is standing on the extreme right; the author is two to his right.

Dixie was born in Islington home of Arsenal FC, Herbert Chapman and, later of Miss Bessie Simmonds his lifelong partner; first in the church youth club's table tennis section and later again, in 1950 as his beloved wife and mother of his two sons, Colin and Geoff.

After only a few years of peace, working in industry, Dixie joined the Regiment in 1941. He took to Army life right away and, after the demanding training of those days in Caterham, Hawick and other places found himself in the 5th Battalion, eventually fighting their way north through Italy; he was wounded in the leg and spent VE day in a military hospital in Florence.

Soon after that he joined the 3rd Battalion and went to Palestine, as it then was, as an NCO in the MT Platoon with Lord Montagu, now of Motor Museum fame, as MT Officer and the late Reg Sheppard as MT Sergeant. It was the first and, perhaps the worst, of Dixie's three experiences of internal security duties; the thankless task of keeping the peace between the two competing groups, totally opposed to any compromise, and intent only on murdering each other, and, if possible, British peace-keepers as well.

After leaving that country in the unhappy state it is still in today, the Battalion was sent off after only a few weeks in England, doing what Guardsmen do in London in Summer, to Malaya, where Mao-tse-Tung, victorious in mainland

China, was sponsoring a guerrilla campaign to take over mineral-rich Malaya from the British. He was frustrated partly by the determination of the British and Malay security forces but, basically, by the willingness of Malay and other politicians to work together for the greater good.

Back in London, at Chelsea Barracks, Dixie took the opportunity and married Bessie, as she was always known, in 1950. He was now the MT Sergeant, known to all and feared by all and occasionally as employed soldiers were, taken for duty on the Bank of England picquet; a tough order, especially in winter-time London and especially if you worked normally in barracks between the two nights of a 48 hour guard period. Later, after some 20 Army cadets were run over in a London fog by a bus, the Regiment arranged for a Drummer fore and aft of the picquet, carrying a hurricane lamp.

At the end of the Summer of 1951, Dixie accompanied the Battalion to sunny Tripoli; in those days the country was ruled by dear old King Idris-el-Senussi. Defended by the British; the sun shone all day, Tripoli had lots of beautiful Italian architecture, and Simonds (no relation) beer from Malta was about sixpence a litre. It couldn't last and it didn't.

King Farouk of Egypt, a self-indulgent and unpopular young man, successfully deflected much of the population's discontent on to the British, who had troops safeguarding the Suez Canal, regarded then, and now, as a vital link with the Commonwealth. The 3rd Battalion were hurriedly transferred by the Navy to Tobruk, of wartime fame, and then on by RAF to Tel-el-Kebir in the Canal Zone, a 19th century Grenadier Battle Honour, then a huge ordnance depot and REME workshops.

The area had not improved greatly since the encounter with the Mahdi, but Dixie had one of his rare strokes of luck! Bessie decided to present him with No 1 son Colin at the British Military Hospital in Tripoli and a kindly Regiment allowed him leave to be with her, which although an anxious time for them was probably a slight improvement on TEK as we called it.

Dixie completed his active service in the not very comfortable and sometimes mildly dangerous conditions of TEK and later at Deversoir, where the canal joined the Great Bitter Lake. He left the Army after 12 years and showed his personal courage and determination by, at the age of some 32 years and having been seriously wounded in the leg, completing the demanding entry process for the London Fire Brigade in competition with younger men who had not had to endure the war.

He served a full term in the Fire Service attending several disasters such as the Moorgate underground crash and showing his characteristic absolute dependability and courage. He ended his service as the storekeeper for special equipment at Southwark Fire Station.

Dixie was then appointed Chief Usher at Highgate Magistrates Court and was to be seen, striding around the various courts in a black academic gown (looking a bit like Batman!) allocating miscreants to magistrates courts. His helpful but no-nonsense manner reminded one of Memoranda from a few years before.



Dixie's 80th Birthday celebrated with the North Staffs Branch in 2001. Dixie is sat to the left of Lord Montagu holding his Birthday present. Also present are many former members of the 3rd Battalion MT Platoon.

On retirement, Dixie was offered a part-time job delivering completed printwork to customers around London; his encyclopaedic knowledge of London, derived from his time as MT Sergeant, and Fire Service driver, and his total reliability, made him ideal for the job. It gave him time to keep up with all with all the friends he had made in a long and varied life which was probably what he liked doing best. He was also a volunteer driver for the

London Ambulance Service, delivering and collecting disabled patients to hospital appointments.

And now he has gone to re-join **Bessie**, who predeceased him some four years ago; we offer our condolences to **Colin and Geoff**. We need not grieve unduly; the world is a better place for Dixie having passed through.

Oh! For the touch of a hand that has gone and the sound of a voice that is still.

A Grenadier Wedding in Wartime

Last year's Gazette included the obituary of **Guardsmen Jim Howland** and a piece about **Lance Sergeant Ray Gilliver**. As a result their sons, **Allan and Stephen**, have been in touch as their respective fathers were in the same Squad at Caterham in 1938, and became good friends. In 1942, Ray met his future wife, **Joan Pullen**, while he was an armoured vehicle driving instructor and she was a Sergeant in the ATS, both working at Pirbright. They got married on 23rd June 1945 at Holy Trinity Church, Burnley, and had a brief honeymoon in Blackpool.



Ray and Joan Gilliver on their Wedding Day.

In Search of a Tuscan Villa

*by Capt Patrick Allen Grenadier
Guards 1973–1980, President and
Chairman of the Norfolk Branch*

The picture below shows No 2 Company, of the 3rd Battalion, somewhere near Greve in Chianti in February 1945. The officers, in blue berets are (left to right) **Lt Graham Allen** (my father), **Major David Bonsor** – the Company Commander, **Lt Patrick Hedley-Dent** and **Lt Dick Candlish**. Absent was the Company Second in Command **Capt Richard Neville**.

During the winter of 1944/45 the Battalion were having a pretty miserable time, in static positions high up in the northern Apennines around Mount Battaglia. The weather was appalling with constant rain and snow which made supplying the forward companies by mule extremely arduous, and to add to the discomfort, they had to endure constant shelling and mortar fire.

It was under these conditions that the Commanding Officer, **Lieutenant Colonel Nelson**, decreed that Companies would be rotated fairly frequently and the relieved Company would be sent back to recover well out of the line. For this purpose, the Battalion requisitioned a Villa near Greve, 25 miles south of Florence.

And so it was, in September 2014 armed with the photograph that I set out on a mission to find this Villa. I

had no other information other than it was owned by a 'Contessa' who was English by birth. On our first morning I tackled the owner of the delightful hotel just outside Greve where my wife and I planned to spend a relaxing 6 days. Unfortunately they were unable to help so we decided to take a walk round the town. My father wrote in his diary of a full Battalion church parade, on the 18th February 1945, in the Square where the Commanding Officer took the salute standing on the memorial in the centre of the Square. Today the Square is unchanged from 70 years ago.

We ended up in a small café for a bit of lunch and got talking to the waiter. We showed him the photograph but he did not recognise the site or building, but fetched his father-in-law who was equally baffled. However, the father-in-law went off and rang a friend of his who came round. He took one look at the photograph and instantly said he was sure that it was the Villa Calcinaia. They gave us directions, so off we went to investigate. Driving up the long drive to the Villa we found the place firmly shut up. Undeterred we decided to have a wonder around. Walking round to the front of the house we immediately identified the location of the photograph. The tall cypress tree had been cut down, but the stump remained. The trees in the back ground had grown up obscuring the hills in the far distance, but the corner of the villa was easily identifiable.

Having succeeded in finding the Villa we decided to seek more information as to the present owners, so called at the Wine shop on the main road. There, the man in the shop was intrigued by our story, and my father's



connection with the Villa, and insisted on telephoning the current owner, **Conte Niccolo Capponi**, who was in Florence. I then spoke to him for 45 minutes!

It transpires that Niccolo's grandmother, the Contessa, was in residence at the Villa during the war. In 1943 she was pushed out by the SS! Following their withdrawal in 1944, the Grenadiers took over. Though the Contessa was, in fact, English by birth – she had a cousin serving in the Welsh Guards at the time – she was not the easiest of Landlady's! My father wrote home and referred to her in several letters as being 'most difficult' and trying to 'have us evicted'! He refers to one incident when she came across two Sergeants asleep, in their boots, on a priceless 16th century bed! My father wrote "it is the only thing of value in the place and, besides, I am now in that bed"!

Niccolo knew all about the disputes between his grandmother and the Battalion. He mentioned a story he had heard, that she had summoned Lieutenant Colonel Nelson on one occasion and told him "You may be the senior Regiment of Infantry in the British Army, but as far as I am concerned, you are nothing but a bunch of thieves"!

It transpired that Niccolo not only spoke perfect

English, and was a fan of Flanders and Swann the comedy duo of the 1950/60s, but he was also a Military Historian!

Two days after our trespass around Villa Calcinaia, and my conversation with Niccolo, he came out from Florence and invited us for a drink and a chance to look round the Villa. I was shown the very 16th century bed that my father referred to, and the writing desk that he would have used to write home.

It was really quite emotional to be standing there almost 70 years after he had been there in very different circumstances. He, sadly died in 1981, aged 58, and though we had discussed taking a trip to Italy to revisit some of his old haunts, we never did. I hope, on my next visit, to investigate the area around Monte Battaglia.

I would be interested to hear if any of the other members of that No 2 Company are around and remember the Villa. Equally I would be interested to know if there are any ex-Grenadiers who have studied those months on the Gothic Line. I have my Father's letters, which don't say too much for censorship reasons, his diary that gives a little bit more and of course Volume 2 of the Grenadier Guards 1939–1945 covering that period.

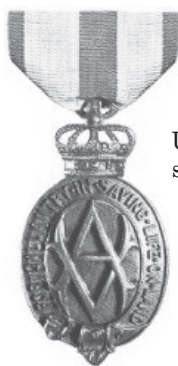
William Herbert Meredith, Albert Medal

by Bob Goodson
Secretary, East Kent Branch

Published on pages 37 and 38 of the 2014 Grenadier Gazette is a report entitled **Albert Medals Awarded to Grenadiers in the Great War**, by Major P A J Wright OBE. The report records that **Lance Corporal William Herbert Meredith**, 4th Battalion Grenadier Guards, was awarded the Albert Medal (AM) at Buckingham Palace, in February 1919, for an action of bravery on 5 November 1916.

The **Albert Medal for Lifesaving** was a British medal awarded to recognise the saving of life. It is a very rare award (since replaced by the George Cross (GC) – the equal highest award of the United Kingdom honours system, being second in the order of wear (but equal in precedence) to the Victoria Cross).

There were only 154 awards of the Albert Medal in WW1, and only two were awarded to Grenadiers; the other Grenadier recipient being **18905 Private P WARWICK**. In 1971, the award of the Albert Medal was discontinued and recipients were invited to exchange



The Albert Medal.

them for the George Cross. Meredith chose to retain his as he had received it from the hand of King George V.

As a result of the report written by Major Wright, the Victoria Cross and George Cross Association asked if the date Meredith died was known as if it could be established with certainty that he died after 1971, his name could then be added to the official list of GC or equivalent holders.

The Regimental archives were searched and Internet searches were conducted, but nothing could be found that could provide the date of death for William Meredith, AM. What was known was that in 1995 Meredith's medals were presented to the Regiment by his widow (**Ellen**) and a nephew of the Meredith's and that Ellen's last known address was 4 Dover Road, Capel-le-Ferne, Nr Folkestone, Kent CT18 7JJ.

In early May 2014 the East Kent branch was contacted with a request that someone visit the address to see if any light could be shed on the date of death of William Meredith, AM. At the East Kent branch meeting a few days later, **William (Bill) Marshall** volunteered to visit and, in his absence, also volunteered **Robert (Bob) Harding**. And so, Bill and Bob set out on a quest for information.

They had to visit approximately six properties in the area before they found anyone that remembered the Meredith family, but on 18 May 2014 were able to report back that Ellen had died in 1997 and that the property was then sold. They managed to locate the man that purchased the property and people they spoke to believed that the nephew might have lived in London.

On returning home, Bob utilised his IT skills and



Eva.



Ellen.

started searching the Internet utilising the snippets of information that he and Bill had discovered. It was not long before he had located a record on Genes Reunited that recorded that William Herbert Meredith was born in 1892 and that he had died in the third quarter (July–September) of 1974 in Shepway.

This information was duly fed back to **Major Wright**, but as we were unable to provide him with the specific date of death, and now intrigued by the story, members of the East Kent branch continued the quest and contacted local newspapers, published pleas for information on Facebook and various websites and wrote emails to any lead that could be found. **Chris Baker** of the website 1914–18.org advised he would look through records he had and Major Wright performed a Google search for “William Herbert Meredith died 1974 Shepway Kent” and found the very entry we were looking for.

We located pictures of Meredith on the www.cotteridge.com website and our request to the webmaster resulted in the nephew (**Cliff Fleetwood**) making contact. He advised that ‘Bill’ Meredith, or as he was known to him and his family ‘Uncle Bill’, died in September 1974, leaving behind widow **Ellen (Auntie Nell) Lydia Meredith**.

Bill was previously married to “**Eva**” and they lived in a bungalow at Hawkinge, Kent. This was after retiring from the Royal Mail in Birmingham. Cliff recalled that, for a while, his Uncle Bill worked on the “funicular” (the Leas Cliff Lift) at Folkestone and latterly at Pfizer’s.

Pictures were located on the www.cotteridge.com website and above you can see pictures of the two women connected to Bill.

The couple stood in the garden is **Eva & Bill**, and the lady at Wellington Barracks is **Ellen (Auntie Nell)** who remained at New Dover Road until her death just before completion of the Channel Tunnel. She is shown with her nephew (right) and Major Peter Lewis who at the time was the Regimental Archivist.

Also mentioned on the Cotteridge site was the fact that Bill

served as a WO1 with the Home Guard based at GKN Stirchley Birmingham, and where Chris got to know him more closely during his service with Birmingham City Police Messengers.

Auntie Nell (Ellen) was very vulnerable in her later years (Construction Workers/Channel Tunnel) and Cliff and other members of their family were constantly in touch. It was after her death that Cliff discovered how she depended on the food parcels they sent Ellen.

With September 1974 established as the month and year of death, **Bill Marshall** and **Bob Harding** visited Hawkinge Crematorium and checked their records. They discovered that William A Meredith, AM died on 22 September 1974 and was cremated on 26 September 1974. A plaque displaying William Meredith’s name is at the Crematorium. This information was duly fed back to Major Wright who took the matter forward with the Victoria Cross and George Cross Association.

A message (see below) was subsequently received from Major Wright confirming that Lance Sergeant W H Meredith may now be added to the official records of those recipients of the Albert Medal who were alive and eligible to receive the George Cross in 1971.

**From: Major PAJ Wright OBE, Honorary
Regimental Archivist, Regimental
Headquarters Grenadier Guards**

Dear Bob,

A copy of a letter from Mrs Didy Grahame, Secretary of The Victoria Cross and George Cross Association, is attached confirming that Lance Sergeant W H Meredith may now be added to the official records of those recipients of the Albert Medal who were alive and eligible to receive the George Cross in 1971. She has asked me to pass on her appreciation and gratitude to you and members of the East Kent Branch for all your efforts to find out and confirm that Meredith died in Kent on 22nd September 1974. In doing so you provided not only this valuable information but also a great deal extra about his career and life after he left the Regiment.

As you are aware, he was awarded the Albert Medal in recognition of his gallant conduct in saving life at rifle grenade practise on 5th November 1916, while serving with the Regiment during the Great War. As a result of the meticulous research carried out by yourself and members of the East Kent Branch, and as a fitting tribute to an exceptionally brave Grenadier, his medals can now take their place alongside the ten Victoria Crosses and one George Cross awarded to members of the Regiment, which are held in Regimental Headquarters.

With my personal thanks for your prompt and effective response to my original request.

Yours ever, Philip

The East Kent Branch is happy to have been of service.

BRANCH NOTES

AYLESBURY & DISTRICT

(Formed 1929)

President: Vacant

Vice Presidents: Major THE RT HON LORD CARRINGTON, KG, CH, GCMG, MC; DH MILLER Esq; Major GAG SELBY-LOWNDES; Colonel REH AUBREY-FLETCHER, DL; Capt SIR BEVILLE-STANIER, Bt (Welsh Guards); M FINDLAY, Esq (Household Cavalry); Capt 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

This has been a quiet year for the Aylesbury & District Branch. We kicked off with the Association AGM back in March at Wellington Barracks jotting down details and events for the coming year and messages from the 'head table' from our new President **Colonel R E H Aubrey-Fletcher**. A splendid Lunch of a very high standard was served afterwards to those that attended the AGM to settle a few tummies that were rumbling.

After the meeting our Secretary **Mr George Baker** decided to take a walk across St James's Park to St James's Palace to reminisce about being on duty at the Palace. Sadly he was stopped by sentries on duty and was unable to get any where near the forecourt opposite the Guardroom. Moving round the front to Pall Mall he again found police barriers and policemen stopping any one entering the area. A flash of the Regimental tie and photo of where he used to stand in the forecourt resulted in clearance (with a police escort) and a picture of the Secretary 43 years later opposite the guardroom on the same spot, albeit without the sentry box which had been removed.

The widow of **Brian Sidney Weavers** a Branch member who passed away 2011, phoned the Secretary to say that Brian had kept all his Grenadier Gazettes and Guards Magazines since the fifties and would the Branch like them. 273 Magazines and Gazettes were later collected from her home in Houghton Regis. A subsequent phone call from **Colonel A T W Duncan LVO OBE** who, having been made aware by **Bob Fallon**, Secretary of the Manchester Branch, of the existence of these magazines, resulted in us being able to help fill in a few gaps in his collection. The magazines were handed over to **Colonel Duncan** at Grenadier Day for which a generous cheque was received.

Regimental Remembrance Day again saw a small number of the Branch attend but not so many of marching age. **Mr Norman Hinds** is one of our staunchest supporters and was on duty at the Coronation in 1953, he is an immaculate man

who loves to attend any function with the Branch and we record our special thanks for his years of dedication.

Grenadier Day turned out well; the Branch Secretary was collared by two Branch members as to where the Aylesbury Branch stall was. A little embarrassed he reported that it had failed to make an appearance for many years and the challenge has never been taken up since.

Remembrance Day 2014 here in Aylesbury was supported by the Aylesbury & District Branch with the Chairman **Mr Don Dover** Secretary **Mr George Baker** and Treasurer **Mr David Hibble** attending. The Marshall who sorts all ranks out for Remembrance Day here in Aylesbury told us that from the usual two columns we were down to one and it's getting thinner each year.

The Branch is pleased that no deaths been reported this year.

BATH

(Formed 1952)

President: Major HA BAILLIE.

Vice Presidents: Lieutenant Colonel THE LORD WIGRAM, MC, JP, DL; Lieutenant Colonel SIR ANDREW FORD, KCVO; Major GRANT BAKER; Major RON KIRKWOOD (Royal Signals).

Chairman: B MITCHELL.

Secretary: M JACKSON, Berry Cottage, 72 Bradford Road, Atworth, Melksham, Wiltshire, SN12 8HY. Tel: 01225 899321.

Email: Malcolm.jackson@fsmail.com

Treasurer: M JACKSON.

Meetings: The second Tuesday of every month at Coombe Down Rugby Club, Bath at 1930hrs.

Our Annual General Meeting was held at Coombe Down Rugby Club on 8th April 2014 and 17 members attended. Our President agreed to continue for another year. Our Chairman, **Les Hardwick** decided to stand down and **Mr Brian Mitchell** was elected in his place. Our Secretary, **Major Ron Kirkwood** also stood down having served the Branch brilliantly for several years. Our grateful thanks go to both **Ron** and **Les** for their untiring support of the Branch. As no one came forward to fill the role of Secretary our Treasurer agreed to take up the post until a replacement could be found.

Members from the Branch attended Grenadier Day at Lille Barracks with guests and members of their families. A great day was had by all and our thanks go to the Battalion for their hospitality and brilliant displays.

We held our Branch Christmas Lunch at Cumberwell Park Golf club on 7th December 2014 and as usual a great time was had by all. We were honoured this year with the attendance of the Association President, **Colonel Richard Aubrey-Fletcher** and **Mrs Caroline Aubrey-Fletcher**. A total of 104 members and guests attended.



We received our new Branch Banner this year and cannot say how pleased we are with the result. Our grateful thanks go to Master Taylor **John Southern** and **Christine Southern** for producing such a splendid Banner for us.

Sadly two of our members have died in the past year. **Duncan Blake** died suddenly in September 2014; he was a stalwart of the Branch for over 45 years. He was also our Treasurer and Deputy Treasurer for many years and will be greatly missed. **Michael Tomlinson** died in November 2014. Michael was immensely proud of his time as a Grenadier, in particular being one of the 50 Grenadiers inside Westminster Abbey at the Coronation of Her Majesty.



Branch members with our new Banner.

BRISTOL

(Formed 1919)

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

Vice Presidents: Lieutenant Colonel THE LORD WIGRAM, MC, JP, DL; 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 RM DORNEY, MBE; C SAVAGE, Esq; K JONES, Esq.

Chairman: Mr C SAVAGE.

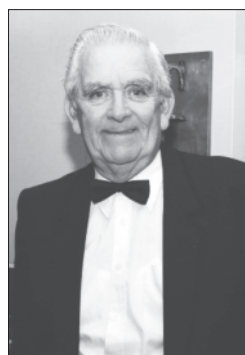
Secretary: Mr M ALLEN, 51 Vowles Close, Wraxall, Bristol, BS48 1PP. Tel: 07891 238866. E: bristolbranch@grengds.com

Website: www.bristolgrenadiers.org

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

2014 began in most sombre fashion for the Bristol Branch, at the beginning of March with great sadness we

recorded the passing of our dear friend and Branch stalwart **23382734 Lance Cambridge**. Lance had been a great driving force behind the Bristol Branch for many years, always one of the first to volunteer when help was required whether it be helping to set the tables for the Branch dinner or visiting a fellow Grenadier who was in need of assistance, **Lance** would be there. It is testament to the man that approximately 500 mourners attended his funeral



Lance Cambridge
1938–2014.

at Westerleigh Crematorium, so great were the number of mourners that not all could fit into the crematorium's Chapel and the service had to be relayed on loudspeakers to those outside. Among the mourners were some 40 Grenadiers from the Branch who formed a Guard of Honour at the entrance. **Lance**, who outlived his Brother and fellow Grenadier **Ray** by four years, will be sadly missed as will the bread pudding that he regularly brought to Branch meetings; an impeccable Grenadier, Lest We Forget.

The sombre mood within the Branch continued into April when on Saturday 19th the Branch suffered a crushing defeat at the hands of the Bristol Branch of the Coldstream Guards Association at the annual St George's Cup skittles match. The Coldstreamers were victorious in all but one of the eight sets and deservedly won the Trophy. The Grenadier team captained this year by **Roy Godwin** sorely missed **Lance Cambridge**, a keen skittler who had played the game for many years and who had thrived at this occasion in the past. It was decided later in the Year, by the Branch Committee to commission a Shield to be presented to the highest individual Branch scorer at the competition, in recognition of **Lance's** love of the game and to honour his commitment to the Bristol Branch over many years, this shield would be named

The Cambridge Memorial Shield. The Shield this year was presented to **Peter Ogden** at the Branch Dinner in October for his fantastic score of 38. The skittles team look forward to April 2015 when they will be under immense pressure to regain the Cup as no team has ever lost two years in succession. We would encourage all Branch members to come along and support the Branch team at the Port of



Peter Ogden with the 'Cambridge Memorial Shield'.

Bristol Sports and Social Club in Shirehampton, there is no charge and a complimentary buffet is laid on, the bar prices at the venue are subsidised and there are ample grounds with a children's play area. The date for the 2015 competition will be announced in the 2015 Branch newsletter.

The mood of the Branch lifted in mid-May when a nearly full coach departed Bristol for the annual run up the M4 for Regimental Remembrance Day. As is becoming the custom for the day we exited the motorway at Swindon to avail ourselves of the hospitality of the Beefeater Grill and Restaurant at Lydiard Fields who did not disappoint with the standard of breakfast available to Branch Members, all present commented on both the excellent quality of the food and the very high standard of service. This stopover is now a firm favourite with branch members as it means that the search for refreshment upon arrival in central London is no longer necessary thus allowing our attending members more time to take in the uniquely Grenadier ambience of the day. After an hour's respite and having collected our Branch Members from Swindon we continued into London where upon arrival in Birdcage Walk most of our members repaired to the Garrison Sergeants' Mess to not only take full advantage of the extremely reasonable bar prices but also to seek out friends and former comrades from other Branches. The formalities of the day, as one would expect, were executed to the highest standard with a large number from the Bristol Branch joining the Parade and marching to the Guards Memorial on Horse Guards to lay the Association Wreath. After the parade we again availed ourselves of the hospitality of the Sergeants' Mess whilst waiting for our coach to arrive for the journey home, of course this journey home would not be in keeping with tradition if we did not stop at Windsor for a fish and chip supper, again by the very kind arrangement of the Windsor Branch, this refreshment stop is now very popular with those Branch Members who regularly attend Regimental Remembrance Day and along with the Breakfast stop earlier in the day will be included in the 2015 itinerary. The Bristol Branch extend its thanks and gratitude to **Bob Gilbert** and the Windsor Branch for their hard work in arranging the supper and for making us all so welcome.

Our mood lifted further in mid-July when again we set off from Bristol for the journey to Aldershot for Grenadier Day, which as usual did not disappoint. In the absence of the Branch Secretary the Branch cider stall was taken to Aldershot by **Mike O'Gorman** and **Roy Godwin** who did a fantastic job getting everything ready for the arrival of the Branch coach. As soon as the stall was assembled and ready for business **Mike** and **Roy** found that our cider was quite popular and a queue had started to form, unfortunately the plastic glasses were on board the coach and after some frantic phone calls the branch 'advance party' realised that the coach, now bogged down in traffic due to the Farnborough Air Show, would be quite some time in arriving and that this could jeopardise our early sales.

After some exhaustive but fruitless searching for replacement tumblers by **Mike** and **Roy** a saviour emerged

in the form of **CSgt (CQMS) James Thompson** who not only found some tumblers within minutes but also assisted **Mike** and **Roy** on the stall until the arrival of the Branch coach. This timely assistance from the 'Pay Bloke' certainly saved the day for us and we would extend our grateful thanks to **James** for his help. Cider sales on the day were brisk and we nearly sold out of the stock that we brought, this is not only fantastic news for the Branch Treasurer, **Tony Lock** who is constantly worrying over the Branch Accounts, but also for the wider membership of the branch as it proves that our cider stall is as popular as ever at the event and gives us encouragement to continue with our efforts into the future. Unfortunately the team that we entered into the Boyton Cup competition did not fare too well, but this disappointment spurs us to greater effort in 2016 which we look forward to immensely.

After a fairly quiet period for the Branch during the Autumn we looked forward to our Branch Dinner in October, the preparations for which had not run smoothly for the Branch Committee, we had, in the Branch newsletter distributed earlier in the year advertised this as being the Branch Centenary Dinner which was to be held amid celebrations of the 100th Anniversary of the Bristol Branch. However some documentation was presented to the Branch Committee by our Branch President **Major General Sir Evelyn Webb-Carter KCVO OBE** that conclusively proved that the Bristol Branch was in fact officially formed in 1919, after the Great War. This information is somewhat at odds with the information that is displayed on the Regimental Website which states that the Bristol Branch, among others was formed by 1914. The documentation presented by the Branch President was most compelling and led to much discussion at Branch Committee meetings, it has now been accepted by the Committee that 1919 is undoubtedly the date of the formation of the Bristol Branch and the likelihood is, that in 1914 a number of Grenadiers started meeting informally in the area. With this matter now resolved we proceeded with our plans for the dinner which would now be a 'normal' Branch Annual Dinner.



The Branch Treasurer, **Tony Lock** with his good lady, **Janet** at the Branch Dinner.

Having held our previous four Dinners at the Royal Artillery Grounds on Whiteladies Road in Bristol, the Committee felt it time for a change of venue and early in the year started seeking suitable venues, this was a subject that again warranted much discussion at the Branch Committee meetings and it was finally decided that we should take advantage of the offer made to us by the Holiday Inn at Filton, Bristol. This proved to be a very wise decision by the Branch Committee as on the 26th October we held one of the most successful dinners in recent Branch history. The dinner was, as always hosted by the Branch President **Major General Sir Evelyn Webb-Carter KCVO OBE** and the gracious **Lady Celia Webb-Carter**, we were delighted to welcome Branch members from as far afield as Southampton, our magnificent webmaster **Roy Cox** and his charming wife **June**, from Portsmouth the well-travelled **Stan and Dorothy Tucker**, from Birmingham, the ever present **Dave Scolding** and from the Battalion in Aldershot we were graced with the company of **CSgt (CQMS) James Thompson** and his delightful wife **Emma**.

Our Branch Chairman, **Chris Savage** through his role with working for the MOD had secured the services of **Major Simon Gordon-Lennox** as our guest speaker for the evening, **Major Gordon Lennox** did a sterling job of not only updating us on Battalion affairs but had also done some considerable homework on the current affairs of the Coldstream Guards and was able to update the dozen or so members present from the Bristol Branch of the Coldstream Guards Association, whilst on the subject of the Coldstream Guards Association, we were honoured to welcome to our top table their Branch President **Colonel Martin Sommervell OBE**. The Branch would extend its grateful thanks to our Vice President **Lieutenant Colonel Skid Dorney MBE** for not only finding the time to fit our dinner into his hectic schedule but also for donating two copies of his book, 'The Killing Zone' to our raffle on the evening. It also gave us great pleasure to welcome our Life Vice President, **Lieutenant Colonel the Lord Wigram MC JP DL** to the dinner in this, his 99th year.

Following discussions with Regimental Headquarters earlier in the year we were honoured and delighted to have present, **LSgt Matt Shaw** and **Gdsm Scott Rose** in Bearskins and Tunics to welcome guests as they arrived, this added to the occasion immensely and we are grateful to the staff at RHQ for allowing us this privilege. The standard of both the food and the service was extremely good and after the formalities of the speeches the Cambridge Memorial Shield was presented to **Peter Ogden** for his score at the St Georges Cup earlier in the year, by **Lance Cambridge's** daughter **Beverley**. At the end of the dinner a number of Branch members retired to the rooms that had been booked on the discounted rate afforded to us by the hotel, this not only negated the need to drive home but also allowed all to meet up for breakfast the next morning. The dinner proved to be a resounding success with all present having a most enjoyable evening and all agreeing that we should return to the same venue next year.

During 2014 the Bristol Branch engaged in fundraising

for the VC Trust, a charity based in Doncaster, Yorkshire. The VC Trust is a registered charity that renovates the graves that have fallen into disrepair of those that have been awarded the Victoria Cross. The majority of these graves are of those that have left Military service and returned to civilian life, those that were killed or died whilst on Military Service usually come under the remit of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission. This is a vast undertaking by the charity as there are many such graves that warrant their attention and we are proud to have done our little bit to assist with their tremendous effort.

Numerous Branch members made personal donations and we tirelessly advertised on behalf of the VC Trust on our Twitter feed and Face book page to the wider Grenadier community, it should however be noted that one of our Branch Members took this cause to heart and single-handedly raised the majority of the money that was donated; stand up and take a bow **25229976 Chris Mellor**. **Chris** decided to run in a number of events throughout the year on behalf of the VC Trust which included the Skyline 10km, the Bristol 10km, the Frenchay 10km, the Cheddar Gorge 10km, the Bristol Half Marathon, the Roman Bath 10km, the Reading Half Marathon, the Laycock Abbey 10km, the Bath Festival 10 km, the Bath Tunnels 10km and the Dyrham Park 10 km. Towards the end of the year **Chris** wrote to the Branch to apologise for their being so many 10 Kilometre runs and explained that he would have liked to have competed in more full marathons but had been carrying quite a serious knee injury all year and that this had limited him somewhat. Despite this injury **Chris** was able to compete in the Clifton Chilli Eating competition in November where we understand he did very well.

As 2014 drew to a close for the Bristol Branch the sombre mood that prevailed earlier in the year returned in November, when on the 9th, fittingly Remembrance Day, we recorded the passing of **22032295 Laurence C Allen**. **Laurie** was an ex 3rd Battalion man who had served with the Regiment during the Malayan Emergency, he was extremely proud of his Grenadier roots and had served on the Branch Committee for a great number of years but due to his failing health had been unable to attend Branch events in recent years, **Laurie's** funeral, held in Weston-Super-Mare was very well attended by the Branch and we provided a Guard of Honour for the procession into the Chapel, Branch member **Chris Quinlan** carried the Branch Banner and all mourners wore red Poppies to commemorate the date of **Laurie's** passing. His meticulous attention to detail will be sadly missed;

Lest We Forget.



Laurence Courtenay Allen
1930-2014.

CAMBRIDGE

(Formed 1932)

President: Capt CNR BROWN.

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

Chairman: D CLARK, Esq.

Secretary: Mr MICHAEL DRAPER, 48 Jopling Way, Hauxton, Cambridgeshire, CB22 5HY. Tel: 01480 413175.

Email: mickdraper725@btinternet.com

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

The Cambridge Branch thank **Mrs Pat Mason** who has been our Secretary for several years and wished to retire, she was presented with a plant and card signed by members of the Branch

Our bi-monthly lunches have gone very well with a good attendance although it is getting difficult with health problems for some of our members to come along. Sadly we have to report that **Mrs Mary Bevan** passed away on the 27th April 2014. A service of thanksgiving was held on Monday 23rd June with Members of the Branch attending. **Mrs Bevan's** late husband **Michael Bevan** was our President for many years and Lord Lieutenant of the County, they resided at Longstowe Hall where we held many functions, which included Cricket Matches and where the Caravan Section would meet up for the weekend and have a great time, we also had our Annual Dinners in the Hall which was a wonderful setting.

Mrs Bevan had previously arranged for the Branch Banner that was made by **Mrs Florence Smith** to be laid up in Longstowe Church on the 22nd June, as this had already been organised it was decided to continue as **Mrs Bevan** would have wished.



The Branch Banner in Longstowe Church.

Our Annual Dinner was held at the Meridian Golf Club and our guest The Regimental Adjutant, **Major Grant Baker**, gave a very interesting and humorous speech and spoke personally to many members of the Branch.

It is with great sadness that we report that **24000393 Chris Higgins** has passed away. **Chris** was great supporter of the branch until health problems prevented him from attending.

CHESTERFIELD

(Formed 1952)

President: Vacant.

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 Branch continues to 'mark time' with regard to our strength and attendance at monthly meetings. We have had no addition to numbers and, thankfully, no losses. Our ever-increasing age profile means that ill health takes a part in reducing our active strength with **Charles Limb**, **Fred Neal**, **Dennis Thompson**, **John Metcalfe** and **Albert Perrins** (Coldstream Guards) currently unwell.

Though the above are unable to attend Branch functions as often as they would like, we maintain connection with them by phone or visit where possible. It is also rewarding to keep in touch with **Betty Digby**, **Penny Osborn** and **Pamela Done**, widows of past members.

We remember all of those above with our best wishes and hope that they will continue to support the Branch in their own way. Special congratulations are extended to the two members of the 'ninety plus' club, **Charles Limb** and **Albert Perrins**. **Albert** was, unfortunately, taken to hospital in August suffering from a heart attack but we are happy to report that he is now at home recovering in the capable hands of relatives.

Our thanks are due, once again, to **Mick Garrett** who continues in his unofficial role of Branch fundraiser. **Mick** manned the Branch stall on Grenadier day with his usual skill and, as such, raised much-needed funds for the Branch. **Mick** reported, on his return, that in his opinion it was probably the best-organised Grenadier Day that he had ever attended. Praise indeed from a veteran of many such events; our congratulations to those responsible for a successful day.

The Branch was well represented on Black Sunday. It was particularly pleasing to learn that **Fred Neal**, his wife **Di** and members of his family were able to attend. **Fred** does not enjoy the best of health at present and we know that attending this event and taking part in the parade is one of the high spots of his year; our thanks to **Peter Brown** for his help with **Fred** and his wheelchair at this event. On National Remembrance Day in November wreaths were laid on behalf of the Branch by **David Leech** in Chesterfield and by **Mick Garrett** and **John Metcalfe** at Clowne.

We would finally like to record our grateful thanks to **David Leech** our Branch Chairman and **Major Green** and **Sgt Broomes** at Headquarters for their continued support during the year.

DERBY

(Formed 1914)

President: Vacant.

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 at 2000hrs at Alexandra Hotel, 203 Siddals Road, Derby, DE1 2QE.

The Branch started the year with a change to the venue for meetings. After six years using the Station Inn the owners Dave and Lynne retired and unfortunately like a number of British pubs it closed. We have now moved to a place around the corner to the Alexandra Hotel at 203, Siddals Rd, Derby DE1 2QE.



From Left to Right: Hon Secretary Ian Sutton, Chairman Trevor Savage, Treasurer John Butler and seated the Late President Arthur Attenborough.

In all this year's recognition of the start of the Great War it was also a century ago on the 31st July 1914 Derby and four other Branches, Cardiff, Manchester, Nottingham and Reading were formed. The following year these Branches then attended the first Annual General Meeting at Chelsea Barracks on 26th March 1915.

The Derby Branch held its first Dinner in 1923 in the (original) Derby Assembly Rooms. Apart from the period between 1939 and 1945 an annual celebration has been held through succeeding years. During its history there

have only been the following five Presidents:

Colonel R.W. Chandos Pole 1922–1930

Major Bishop 1930–1947

Major J.W. Chandos Pole 1947–1994

(Son of the first President)

Captain W.M. Ogilvie 1994–2003

Mr Arthur Attenborough 2005–10th

October 2014

(Arthur was also Chairman for 34 years)

Secretaries have exceeded this number by just one with the following:

Mr Thomlinson 1914–1925

Mr A.E. Croft 1925–1950

Mr A. Cleavley 1950–1981

Mr G. Stubbs 1981– 988

Mr E. Edwards 1988–2000

Mr I.J.D. Sutton 2000–Present

In addition to the above **Mr Trevor Savage**, the present Chairman has held the post for nearly two decades and our Treasurer, **Mr John Butler** controlling the books for the last decade.

To celebrate the Branch Centenary a traditional high tea was arranged and held 100 years to the day from the formation of the Branch. Parading at the Lawns Hotel in Chellaston Derby we hosted the event on the afternoon of Thursday 31st July 2014. The majority of the Association and invited guests attended with the Mayor of Derby. Although at the time in hospital, our Branch President, 98 year old **Arthur Attenborough** also got a day's release to join us



Banner Bearers; Derby – Geoff Gadsby and Nottingham – Graham Sneath.

but sadly this was his last Association parade. On arrival at reception guests were greeted with a Bucks Fizz and then entered a room decorated in Regimental colours. Here we were served with a high tea of sandwiches, cakes and jellies on vintage crockery. Accompanied with pots of tea or coffee and enjoyed by all. Before during and after photographs were taken and an album containing the memories of this historic event has been produced.

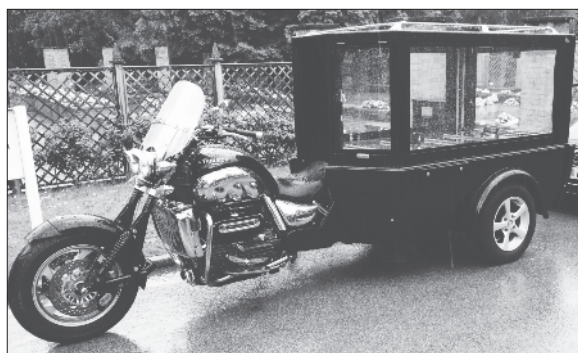
A decade before on the Branch's 90th anniversary to give the Branch an identity, a Banner was purchased. This was dedicated in Derby Cathedral the



All members, family and friends at the Branch Centenary celebrations on 31st July 2014.

following February. The first Banner Bearer **Terrence Sellers** has now been succeeded by **Geoffrey Gadsby**. **Geoff, Terry** and the Secretary went to the Northern Ireland Veterans Memorial Service at the National Memorial Arboretum in Alrewas on Saturday 20th September 2014. While there we met up with some of the Nottingham Branch and their Banner Bearer.

Sadly it is with regret to report in May the passing of **24472760 Mark Sessions (Sesh)**. Mark was given a Guard of Honour by the Branch at his funeral. Unknown to us he was a great bike enthusiast and an estimated 200 bikers attended his funeral riding together through Derby to the crematorium; Lest we forget.



Mark Session's last ride.

Also at the time of writing **Albert Parker** has just passed away at the age of 91. He joined at the Regiment in 1942 and served in the Guards Armoured Brigade; Lest we Forget. Finally our oldest member and President **Arthur Attenborough** passed away on the 10th October 2014 just a couple of months before his 99th birthday. Arthur attended our meetings on a regular basis and only missed the last couple after a fall. Always smartly dressed and a Grenadier through and through he was respected by all. Joining the Regiment in 1933 and leaving in 1937 to join the Police, he was then recalled in 1939 for the war. He got injured in Italy to then have his wounds tended to by the enemy. He was ordered to go towards the enemy lines and left but he ran the other way escaping a prison of war camp. On behalf of his family we would like to thank **25192530 LSgt Harry Sutton** and **30071716 LCpl Kane Ellis** (who sounded the Last Post) for representing the Regiment;

Lest we Forget.



Derby Branch President Arthur Attenborough on his last parade.

EAST KENT

(Formed 1948)

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

Vice Chairman: T JONES, MBE, Esq.

Vice Presidents: Lieutenant Colonel RM 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.

Honorary Branch Chaplain: Reverend Canon HWJ HARLAND.

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.

Our expectations of a great Christmas party at the end to 2013 were exceeded and our entertainment, the Swingtime Sweethearts, excelled themselves. Dressing suitably for the occasion and with their harmonic singing, they thoroughly entertained us.

2014 started well and Branch meetings have seen an increased attendance. We are delighted to have welcomed more new members, but saddened that some of our members passed away. Our Annual General Meeting was held in March 2014 where members once again voted that the committee members remain unchanged and they were duly re-elected.

In early July 2014, the biennial Hythe Festival occurred and we were invited to march in the military part of their High Street Parade. Although only a few members were able to march, we had a number of others that attended and watched. Large crowds were in Hythe that day. The War and Peace Revival was held in July and it is now held at RAF Westenhanger (Folkestone Racecourse) which is only a few miles from Hythe. Our Branch Visiting Friend, **Bill Marshall**, obtained free tickets for members and reduced price tickets for their spouse/partners and a good day out was had by all who went.

Our Annual Dinner was held on Saturday 2 August 2014 at the Royal Temple Yacht Club, Ramsgate. We organised a free coach from Hythe to Ramsgate and this encouraged more from that area to attend. The venue overlooks the Royal Harbour and it was a lovely setting. Our entertainment was the very popular singer and keyboard player **Gavin Bull** whose stage name is 'One For The Road'. The meal was excellent and we were looked after magnificently by the club's chefs and waiting staff.



The Swingtime Sweethearts.

Commodore Frank Martin DL, Commodore of the Royal Temple Yacht Club, attended as a guest.



The Royal Harbour, Ramsgate.

On Monday 4 August Branch members marched in the “Step Short” Parade in Folkestone. Each one of the millions of fighting men who marched through Folkestone and down to the waiting boats at the harbour on their way to the Western Front between 1914 and 1918 would have gone down ‘The Slope’ as it was then known. At the top of the hill they would have heard the order “Step Short”, an instruction to shorten their stride in order to negotiate the gradient safely.

That road is now Folkestone’s Road of Remembrance, but it was not what it was. A project named Step Short began the process of tidying, replanting and restoring the road to the point where it is again a fitting memorial to the bravery of the millions of soldiers whose footsteps and songs echoed as they marched to and from the Harbour.

A new memorial Arch, with a classic design, at the top of the Road of Remembrance was unveiled by **HRH Prince Henry of Wales** (Prince Harry). This arch provides a focus for remembering the men and women whose journeys took them down the road and as a symbol of Folkestone’s status as a key gateway to the Western Front. Although it was a very long parade that started on The Leas in very hot sunshine and ended in the harbour area with rain, it was a privilege to have taken part.

In mid-September 2014, the Branch went away for a



Drinks in Bruges.

weekend on our Nijmegen Trip. This trip coincided with the 70th Anniversary of the Battle of Nijmegen and was our main Branch event for the year. The trip was organised by **Trevor Jones MBE**, our Deputy Chairman.

On Friday 19 September we had early pickups in Hythe and Ramsgate before heading to Dover docks. We were introduced to our drivers, **Neil and Shaun**, and to **Dan Mills** our Battlefield Guide. The Channel crossing on the *Pride of Burgundy* was smooth, but weather conditions were otherwise poor and it was very foggy.

On arrival in Calais we headed to Bruges and then to the Guild of Saint Sebastian. Although usually closed on a Friday, they opened the Guild especially for us. A good tour of the museum, Kings Hall and the grounds was followed by a very refreshing drink at the bar in the garden. We then took the coach to the Coach Park in Bruges and headed to the town centre for a few beers and something to eat.

Following our return to the coach, a three hour coach ride to Hotel Amrath followed and we spent the journey watching *The Hangover 2*, or sleeping. The hotel was four star and very comfortable.



The Mayor of Nijmegen.

On Saturday 20 September we drove into Nijmegen as the Mayor of Nijmegen had arranged for us to receive VIP passes for entry to the Commemorative events. We attended a VIP ceremony at the new memorial that is erected close to the new bridge that spans the Waal. A Grenadier officer and two Grenadier Drummers were also on parade.



Members at the Waal Bridgehead Memorial.

A 95 year old American veteran gave an account of his experience of the crossing 70 years before. After the ceremony, **Major Dennis Bradley BEM, DL** presented the Mayor with a hand painted Grenadier in Guard Order with SA80. The officer from Nijmegen Company presented the Mayor with a framed picture.

The East Kent Branch had four known members who fought at Nijmegen; **Brigadier Peter Prescott MC**, **Ernie Couchman**, **Ron Bean** and **Ray Colley**. Sadly, none of



Members at Uden War Cemetery.

them are alive to have witnessed the commemoration.

We stopped at the Grenadier Guards viaduct and laid a wreath in memory of those that fought at Nijmegen. We hung the wreath close to the Grenadier plaque that is erected at that viaduct. **David Grassham** (ex-Regimental Band) sounded a note perfect Last Post and we drew a small crowd of onlookers. A young Dutch boy named **Symen Hartzema** asked if he could have one of the baseball caps that Trevor Jones had specially printed for our trip. We were unable to give him one that day, but the Branch Secretary sent him one on our return to the UK and **Symen's** mother subsequently sent us a picture of him wearing the cap at the Waal memorial.

Plans to watch a vehicle parade in Nijmegen that afternoon were thwarted when we were advised that unless the coach was moved from its parking position, then we would not be able to move until 2000hrs. With a dinner organised at our hotel for that evening, we decided to depart and went to the hotel to prepare, have some time out and relax. **Lt Henry Waterfield**, a LSgt and a LCpl from the Corps of Drums and a LCpl from Nijmegen Company attended the dinner as our guests.

In appreciation for the work he had done organising the trip, **Trevor Jones MBE** was presented with a bottle of Champagne by the Branch President, **Major Dennis Bradley BEM DL**, who requested that our best wishes be passed on to Trevor's wife, **Carol**, as she had to miss the trip at the last minute due to a spider bite that became infected and resulted in her having to rest.

On Sunday 21 September we had an early breakfast



Symen in his Baseball Cap.

and departed the hotel at 0900hrs. On our route back to the UK we drove over Arnhem Bridge and visited the Uden War Cemetery where we paid our respects at the gravestones of the ten Grenadiers one Coldstream, one Welsh Guardsmen, plus the numerous others that are there. **David Grassham** sounded Last Post and Reveille, **John Morris** carried and dipped the Branch Banner and **Bob Goodson** laid a wreath.

A slow drive back to Calais followed and we watched "A Bridge Too Far", paid a visit to a chocolate factory and stocked up on cigarettes and wine. The Spirit of Britain brought us safely home to Dover docks, then drop offs at Dover, Ramsgate and Hythe followed.

It is pleasing that the East Kent Branch continues to thrive and is able to attend many local, Regimental and Branch organised events. Any readers who reside in our catchment area and who are not yet members of the Branch are encouraged to make contact and support the Branch and its activities. You will be made most welcome.

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 JOAN KIMBERLEY, Alderbrook, Worlds End Lane, Feering, Colchester, CO5 9NJ. Tel: 01376 571650.

Email: j-kimb@tiscali.co.uk

Treasurer: Mrs LINDA LAND.

Meetings: Royal Air Force Association, Hall Street, Chelmsford.

The Essex Branch is continuing to progress as well as it can. The Branch events throughout the year have been well supported but new members would always be welcome.

Thanks to the generosity of our members the funds in the Branch are in a reasonably healthy state which is very pleasing in these somewhat straitened times. We have been very grateful for a number of voluntary contributions from our members.

In July, this year, we enjoyed a delightful garden party at the home of **Mr and Mrs George Courtauld**, where despite dodging the showers, members were able to socialise and enjoy the delicious food and beautiful gardens.

In addition we have met for two Sunday luncheons at Prested Hall in Kelvedon and were very pleased at how well both events were attended and enjoyed. At the second event, our 'Annual Luncheon' we were pleased to welcome **Capt Steve Munro** who addressed us on the activities taking place in the Regiment. His speech was very interesting and informative and appreciated by the members.

We are very proud that **Albert Green**, one of our

Branch members, has been awarded the prestigious French award, the Légion d'Honneur for his work in France during the Second World War. He was also present at the lunch and we were delighted to share in his experience of being awarded the medal.

Our Annual Newsletter will shortly be published but in the meantime we should like to thank all our Branch members for their support and encouragement.

GLOUCESTERSHIRE

(Formed 1949)

President: Colonel LCA RANSON TD.

Vice Presidents: Lieutenant Colonel THE LORD WIGRAM MC, JP, 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 FERGUSON-CUNINGHAME, MC; Major S MARCHAM, MBE; NJ SIMMS, Esq; P G GWILLIAM, Esq; Lieutenant Colonel CJE SEYMOUR, LVO; DAE GEORGE, Esq; Capt EC GORDON-LENNOX; Colonel GW TUFNELL, CVO, DL; Lieutenant GL BANKS; Sir HENRY W.G. ELWES, KCVO.

Chairman: JOHN WELCH.

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 28th annual report with **Colin Knight** as Branch Secretary. 2014 has been, once more, a busy and active year for our Branch.

The Nominal Roll holds well and it is pleasing to be able to report a couple of new additions; the advent of communications via the internet is credited for this. This Branch is very fortunate to have an excellent assortment of Associate and Honorary members who support the Branch well. Unfortunately there has been a loss of members since the last report; we have lost **Ron Wasley, David Barley, John Stainer, Malcolm Addison and Jimmy Green**, known to many as **Mitzy**, to the higher parade ground.

Meetings are held every other month commencing at 1930hrs normally concluding about 2145hrs or even later. During the interval complimentary hot pies are served and continue to prove to be very popular. To make meetings more interesting a guest speaker is introduced from time to time. At the last meeting we were fortunate to have the Regimental Casualty Officer **Matthew Ellmer** attend to give a detailed account of his role. At the conclusion of his presentation he left no one in any doubt as to the value of the Colonel's Fund.

The Branch is indeed fortunate to have the Victory Club in Cheltenham to hold our meetings. It is a large comfortable room with excellent bar facilities at affordable prices. The formula appears to be working well as attendance at meetings, far from decreasing, is holding

well. Interest by the ladies has notably increased.

The Branch can pride itself, for yet another year, with regard to welfare. Welfare Officer **David Leighton** is now in his sixth 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 Gift cheques were personally given to 20 of the more senior members to include some of those, who for whatever reason have not enjoyed good times of late.

Remembrance Sunday 2013 saw all the allocation of tickets received taken for the Muster and Service of Remembrance at Cheltenham Town Hall. Early December 2013, for the eighth consecutive year, saw a 'Full House' at Dumbleton Hall for a Christmas Lunch, **Derek Knott** takes it upon himself to organise this. Guests sit down to a first class traditional Christmas Dinner in lovely surroundings with a warm seasonal atmosphere. On these occasions children and grandchildren join the merry throng to make it a real Grenadier Family occasion. The Winchcombe Silver Band makes an appearance entertaining everyone with carols and seasonal music. Oh and yes, Father Christmas paid a visit too, however suffice to say that, yet again, the Honorary Secretary had been left off his presents list; a big "Thank you **Derek**" for arranging this seasonal occasion for the members.

Thanks must go once more to the Social Secretary **Alan Holford** for being the Promoter of the Christmas Lottery. **Alice** his good lady, ably assists **Alan** who we know would be lost without her help and guidance. No one escapes **Alan** in his enthusiasm to promote the draw and to sell tickets. Fingers are crossed every year that sales might not fall, however it is pleasing to report that sales from the draw hold steady ensuring it still makes funds for the Branch, as does the separate 100 Club which holds four draws per year; good old **Alan** is the administrator for this scheme as well. Bet you wished you had never volunteered in the first place all those years ago, must be ten plus now **Alan**, when you volunteered to be the Promoter!

The attendance at the Branch Christmas Social, a little down on previous years, concluded the calendar for 2013. A hot two course lunch was served together with a host of interests to keep the audience on their toes. The format is to be repeated again this year with some tweaking and additions. With numbers down slightly last year, this year there is going to be an experiment with a live professional entertainer. The existing format has run for at least 20 years, so time for a change.

Moving forward to 2014, March was the month of the well-attended Annual General Meeting at which **Peter Jones** sadly stepped down as Chairman to be replaced by **John Welch**, dare it be said a Coldstreamer. **John** is a polished performer as an up front man and organiser, members are indeed lucky that **John** has willingly volunteered to step into the role. **Peter** was thanked for the long stint he completed. Apart from that all officers remained in their respective posts.

In March **Edwin Brown** known to everyone as **Boxer**

died in Nottingham. For a while, while living in Gloucestershire, he was a very active member of the Branch. Although deciding to move back to his roots in Nottingham, he still remained in touch and remained on the Branch Nominal Roll. Such was his popularity that for his funeral, held in Nottingham, there were so many members wishing to attend that a complimentary coach was run from Gloucestershire to satisfy demand; that to us said it all.

Members attended Regimental Remembrance Day in May and both on the outwards and return journey we stopped at the Grenadier Club in Windsor. On our way back we were well looked after with a Fish & Chip Supper. Thanks to the Windsor Branch Secretary **Bob Gilbert** and his wife **Sue**, who together with his team, ensure that everyone is always made most welcome.

It is sad to report, that for the first time ever, the Branch did not run a coach to Grenadier Day at Lille Barracks. The reason is attributed to the fact that the Farnborough Air Show was scheduled for the same day with Branch members indicating that they would give it a miss due to anticipated traffic problems. Fingers crossed for a coach with a good turn-out in 2016. Several years ago the Branch attended the Derby which used to have a Grenadier Hospitality Marquee; many had not forgotten the long length of time spent in a traffic queue getting to the course.

Yet again a good gathering was achieved for a Spring Lunch at a Gurkha Restaurant. Something different always has an appeal. Thanks were given to **David Leighton** for the idea and taking on the responsibility once again. Due to a variety of circumstances the traditional Garden Party at the home of **Colonel John Peel** was not held. It is hoped that it will be able to be held in 2015.

Twice during the year a Branch Walk was arranged, each time on a different stretch of the Stroudwater Canal, finishing up with a late lunch. **Derek Knott** is to be awarded a credit for arranging and organising this. **Derek** goes to great lengths to do his homework to be able to give informative information at the various points of interest that are stumbled across.

The Annual Formal Luncheon in October was held at the Hatherley Manor Hotel, near Gloucester with an excellent attendance, in fact the best for many years with 123 guests. The gathering were privileged to have as their principal guests the Association President **Colonel Richard Aubrey-Fletcher** and **Major General Sir Evelyn Webb-Carter** both of whom gave excellent and informative addresses.

Late October saw a coach load of members travel to London for the day to witness the poppies in the moat at the Tower of London, indeed a memorable sight and one to be remembered for a long time. By prior arrangement a meal was taken in the Union Jack Club, which proved not only popular, but was a credit to the Club for the service and quality of the meal provided. To conclude the year there is still the Dumbleton Christmas Family and Friends Luncheon – already a sell out and the Christmas Social to look forward to.

Birthday cards continue to be sent to every member for whom there is a recorded date of birth which is the majority. The scheme now six years old is well received by the

membership. It is now run by the former 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; they are the backbone of this very successful Branch. **Norman Mitchell** a character member, now resident at the Royal Hospital Chelsea, keeps regularly in touch and is always full of the joys of spring.

The Branch has embraced modern technology, with 149 members who can now be communicated 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 12 months. Keeping in regular touch, it is believed, is one of the main ingredients of the continued success of the Branch. **Colonel Lance Ranson** our President is always very active and gives the Branch tremendous support throughout the year. All members would like to thank him for his leadership and guidance.

Many members from the Branch are in receipt of the weekly newsletter from **Jim White**, who once more, is to be commended for his enthusiasm and indeed very personal effort in undertaking this task.

The Branch is looking forward to the challenges ahead for the year ahead confident that they can address any problem or set of circumstances that may arise. As the pen is put back in the inkwell for another year, it must be mentioned that a Branch trip to Waterloo in 2015 is being arranged. 25 years ago the Branch attended the 175th anniversary re-enactment with many still reliving memories of it. If the two hundredth celebration matches up to the last one they attended, then they are in for a fine occasion.

The report is concluded by thanking **Major Andy Green**, **Sgt Rob Broomes** and the small staff at Regimental Headquarters; they are all very dedicated to keeping the spirit of the Association very much alive, as our members are certainly endeavouring to do in Gloucestershire.

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 336 1884.

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.

The reporting year commenced with a Branch Christmas lunch in The Bannister Mess, Staff Leadership Skills, Alexander Barracks, Pirbright on 1st

December 2013. The Branch retains a welcome at Pirbright through the good offices of **WO1 Barry Daniels**. This year we varied the format a little by having a choice of menu items rather than a fixed menu. **Liz Howell** assisted by **Maureen Spencer** ran a raffle which proved to be a great success.

On the evening of 2nd December the format of our December Branch meeting was changed to accommodate our annual bring and buy sale. Members donate items which are auctioned by our Branch President **Major Derek Rossi MBE**. We were also treated to a buffet generously prepared and provided by **Liz Howell**.

Closely following our December festivities we suffered a near disastrous Christmas and New Year losing several members in quick succession. First of these was our Chairman **Peter Horsfield** who had been poorly for a couple of years but still active in the Branch and attending meetings. **Brigadier Greville Bibby CBE** was amongst those who attended the funeral as he had grown up knowing Peter. Secondly we learned of the death of one of our newer but valued members, **Brian Butcher** who had been diagnosed with terminal cancer only just before Christmas; thirdly and in quick succession **Bob Burman**, Welsh Guards and Associate Branch member since the 1970s.

The Branch continues to maintain a presence on Black Sunday including some who manage to march. It's a great day to catch up with friends that you manage to meet only occasionally. In June the Branch suffered yet another loss with the death of **Joy Jones**. **Joy** and her husband **Roy** had been Associate members since the 1990s.

Grenadier Day was enjoyed by all who attended and proved to be a very successful day for the Branch. Unusually the Branch stall had two differing themes. The first of these was a Tombola organised and staffed by **Liz Howell** and **Maureen Spencer**. Most of the stock had been provided, at their expense, but there were other donations as well.



Liz Howell and Maureen Spencer at the Tombola stall.

The second theme took the form of a raffle with items kindly donated by Crawley Audi; prime amongst them was



John Knight the Branch Secretary lurking by the raffle stall.

a kiddies car. Our Secretary was indebted to **Debbie Evers** who did all the hard work selling tickets on the day.

In September **Mark Worsfold**, in company with others, took a six day fund raising trip on the Thames rowing from Kingston to Oxford. In company with others the voyage was made in a 26ft skiff that was 150 years old. The aim of the journey was to raise funds for two charities, The Colonel's Fund and Save the Rhino.

This year, due to diminished numbers, we were unable to arrange a Summer lunch. Due to the determination of Branch members we have varied our established venue and are working towards a lunch get together for Christmas.

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: J 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.

Our report begins with some good news. We have new members joining the Branch. Firstly, **25146938 Drum Major Damian P Thomas** who is still serving with the 1st Battalion and secondly, recently demobbed **30065129 Martin Nelson** along with ex Sgt **25004456 Tim Baker**.

The British Legion Festival of Remembrance was held at the De Montfort Hall, Leicester on Saturday, 2nd November 2013. Entertainment was provided by the Band of RAF Waddington and the British Legion Pipe Band. The evening was a great success. On Remembrance Sunday members attended their local church services and parades in order to show their respect for fallen comrades.

Our Annual Christmas raffle draw took place on Tuesday 3rd December 2013 at our usual venue. Our President **Mr R Murray-Philpson** and our Chairman **Mr J Cowley** presided over the draw and prize giving helping to make the evening run smoothly. Afterwards those present were treated to a fine buffet. The following Sunday, 8th December 2013, members and guests sat down to our annual Christmas Lunch. Our resident caterer and staff were each rewarded for their hard work throughout the year with a small Christmas gift.

Our first invitation of 2014 came via the local branch of the Coldstream Guards Association, who asked us to join them for a talk given by **Major General Peter Williams CMG OBE** at the Glen Gorse Golf Club, Oadby, Leicestershire on 14th February, 2014. He told us of his experiences in a military liaison unit called BRIXMIS in Berlin during the Cold War; a truly fascinating, and enlightening talk indeed. A buffet was provided and all proceeds from the evening went to the restoration of the farmhouse at Hougoumont at Waterloo, Belgium; a worthy cause.

The Branch AGM was held on Sunday 6th April 2014. All officers serving on the Committee during 2013/14 were re-elected. The turnout was very good and the Chairman thanked them all for their support throughout the past year. On Saturday 12th April 2014 the Branch Secretary visited **Mrs Henton**, a widow within the Branch and presented her with a bouquet from the members. It was her 100th birthday. The gesture was extremely well appreciated by the lady and all her family present.

On Saturday 26th April 2014 some 30 members and friends joined the Nottinghamshire Branch at their invitation, to celebrate their Centenary Anniversary which took place at the Nottinghamshire County Council Building, West Bridgeford. The Dinner and Dance was a resounding success enjoyed by us all; our thanks to the Nottinghamshire Branch. We wish them all the very best for the future.



Branch Secretary Ron Fletcher presenting a bouquet to Grenadier widow Mrs Henton on her 100th birthday.

Regimental Remembrance Day on Sunday 18th May 2014 was attended by 15 Members and friends. A few were able to march to Horse Guards. **Mr J Morrey** in a wheelchair was ably pushed by **Peter Hayles**. The weather was excellent and the day pleasant.

On Thursday 29th May members, partners, friends and guests left Leicester by coach on a mystery trip organised by our Social Secretary, **Mr John Cowley**. We arrived at Salford Quays, Manchester to be pleasantly surprised by its many attractions including the Lowry Exhibition building, National War Museum, BBC and ITV studios. Shops and cafes were easily accessible as the area was attractively pedestrianised. Trips on the canal also added enjoyment to the day.

Members were again invited to join the Normandy Veterans Association for their Annual Remembrance Service on Saturday 31st May, 2014 at Packington village Church. Alas, this will be the last one. The Association in Leicestershire will close, its members now too few for it to be practical to continue.

On Sunday 20th July 26 members, partners and guests left Leicester to attend Grenadier Day at Lille barracks, Aldershot. Entertainment throughout the day was excellent. There were stalls to browse and displays of interest, including weaponry, by members of the Battalion. The weather also made the day very enjoyable for those able to attend.

Sunday 10th August saw us hold our Annual Branch Garden Party at the usual venue. Unfortunately the weather let us down this year, but it didn't deter people from attending, especially the contingent from the Northamptonshire Branch who we were delighted to see. Coldstream members also joined us, helping to make the day a comparative success despite it being spent mostly inside. Well done the Committee and Members who assisted in making the day pleasurable. Finally, a big thank you to the Association Staff at RHQ for your invaluable support throughout the year.

LINCOLN

(Formed 1923)

President: Major D BRADLEY, BEM, DL.

Vice Presidents: Mr A HILL.

Chairman: JD MARSHALL.

Hon Secretary: Mrs AM MARSHALL, 84 De Wint Avenue, Lincoln. LN6 7DZ. Tel: 01522 871 184.

Email: marshall84@ntlworld.com

Treasurer: N CROWTHER.

Meetings: Third Friday of every other month (February/April/June/August/October/December) at the MS Therapy Centre, Outer Circle Drive, Lincoln LN2 4JH at 1930hrs.

In 2015 we are changing our branch meetings to every other month beginning in February. In the intervening months

we will continue to hold our usual Sunday lunches at various venues throughout the county. During the past year we have welcomed a few new members and Branch meetings are very well supported by our usual loyal members, which we hope will not be affected by the proposed changes above. The meetings consist of a very short formal meeting which is followed by a social event. The Branch Annual General Meeting is to be moved from March to April of each year to fit in with the new arrangements for meeting dates.

A chilly 2013 November morning and as is the custom we attended the Remembrance Day Service in Lincoln Cathedral. As always our thanks go to **Pat Houldridge** for laying our poppy wreath and **Roger Gardiner** for parading the Branch banner during the service. This was followed by lunch at The Woodcocks Pub, where we were also joined by other Branch members who had attended services in their local towns and villages.

At our December meeting we always invite the local Army Cadets for a Christmas Social and Games Night. The games and the Christmas raffle are overseen by **Roger Gardiner** who keeps control over the events to ensure there is no cheating; after all there is usually a large tub of chocolates for the winners!

On Friday 21st March 2014 the branch held its AGM, all officers were re-elected with no opposition. **Charlie Short** continues as welfare officer and **Roger Gardiner** continuing as the entertainments representative at monthly meetings. In May we travelled to London for Regimental Remembrance Day. The majority decided to stay overnight on the Sunday evening and were joined by friends from other branches; a very enjoyable day meeting with old friends and comrades.

For Grenadier Day as is our usual custom we travelled down together by coach staying the night before in a hotel close to Windsor. The stall we ran was a great success, with thanks to everyone for their input, not only in the

preparation, but also setting up and helping out on the day. Our thanks go to all concerned, especially **Charlie and Marie Short** who ran the two games with very few breaks from the stall and to **Anne Marshall** for her handcrafted items which almost sold out. A busy day, made even better by the good weather and the fact that, even coming from 'Bomber County', we got the best view of the Vulcan for quite some time! As always the day was not long enough to catch up with everyone you would like. At the end of the day a weary but very happy bunch boarded the coach for the return journey.



Eleanor, the Treasurer's granddaughter, helping out on the Grenadier Day stall.

Our Dinner and Dance was again held at The Bentley Hotel in Lincoln with many guests staying overnight to make use of their excellent facilities. Our guest speaker for the evening was **Major Grant Baker** who began with an excellent joke about Alex Salmond and Scottish independence and then brought us up to speed with Regimental activities. As the Regiment hold the freedom of the City of Lincoln and to continue our strong links we always invite the Mayor and Mayoress of the City. Unfortunately they were unable to attend this year and we welcomed their deputies, **Councillor Andrew Kerry** and **Ms Sharon Longthorne** in their place and we look forward to inviting them back again next year when they take the position of Mayor and Mayoress. Following the meal the entertainment was provided by **Ryan**, the son-in-law of Branch member **Richard Singleton**. **Ryan** was accompanied by his wife, **Alison**; and we are pleased to report that they had the dance floor full for most of the evening.

We were also very pleased to welcome several serving soldiers and their wives and girlfriends; we hope to see them again in the future. The Newport Detachment of the ACF are badged as Grenadiers and we were pleased to welcome not only some of the staff but also some of the older cadets and hope that they got at least a small



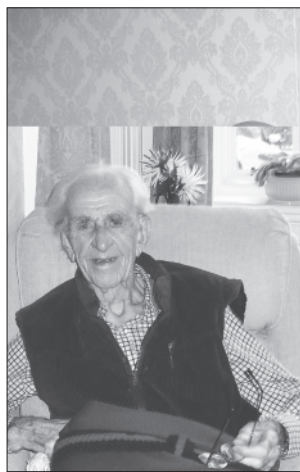
Roger Gardiner at the Cadet Games Night.

glimpse of life in the Regiment should they choose to take that path in the future. Thanks must go once more to our Treasurer Neil Crowther and his wife Sheila for organising the splendid raffle.

The Chairman and Secretary recently visited our oldest branch member **Ted (Curly) Crowe** to wish him many happy returns – he reached the grand age of 99 on 9th November 2014. Ted joined the 2nd Battalion on 10th April 1935 and was demobbed on 2nd March 1946. He saw service in Egypt, was part of the BEF in 1939 and then returned via the beaches at Dunkirk in 1940. The Battalion was then billeted in Louth, Lincolnshire where they were reformed, reinforced and then returned with the Guards Armoured Division in 1944 working their way through Belgium, Holland and Germany, which included the Battle of Nijmegen. He has been a stalwart member of the Branch ever since he left the Regiment.



Major Dennis Bradley BEM DL (Branch President) and Regimental guest Speaker, Major Grant Baker.



Ted Crowe in his service days and now aged 99.

Sadly during the last year we lost **23862994 R Barham, 21006051 J Bartram, 22213440 D Janes and 23252003 I Wallis.**

Please check our website www.grenguards.lincoln.org.uk for up to date information on forthcoming events. Finally the committee would like to thank the team at RHQ for their assistance and all branch members for their support during the past year.

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 Inns, Vernon Street, Liverpool L2 2AY

Our 2013 Annual Dinner and Dance was held on Saturday 23rd November at the Thistle Hotel, Chapel Street, Liverpool. The Branch President **Lord Derby** was in attendance and the Regimental representative was **Major J A Keeley MBE**, the newly appointed Quartermaster of the 1st Battalion who was accompanied by his wife **Samantha**. Our normal out of town attendees **Mr Paul Jupp MBE** and his wife **Dawn** travelled in from Morden in Surrey for a two night stay. The Oxfordshire Branch secretary **Peter Cook** and his wife **Margaret** also came for two nights, along with their Branch treasurer **Mrs Janet Shayler** who attended with her husband **Roy**. The North Staffs Branch was represented by **Mr & Mrs Albert Gregory**, **Timber Woods** and his wife **Beryl**, came in from Grimsby for two nights, Branch member **Colin Roberts (Scots Guards)** & his wife **Jean** came in from Warrington, and Branch member **Joe Baxter (Irish Guards)** came in from Wigan.

On the Friday evening a three course Christmas dinner was booked at the 'First National Pub' in James Street in the City Centre and 11 sat down for a very nice dinner in our own private area. A total of 16 rooms were occupied over the two nights at the Thistle, a nice hotel in a prime position for all the amenities. Thank you to everyone who has supported this branch throughout the year, and especially to those at this function that took the time and made the effort to travel into the city to support the Branch.



Barbara and Frank Pennington.

We held two raffles during this function to support Branch funds

and all prizes were donated by those in attendance. The first raffle was for a Christmas Hamper donated by **Frank & Barbara Pennington**, and this year was won by **Mrs M Worsley**, a lady attending one of our functions for the first time. The second raffle had in excess of 33 prizes on offer ranging from bottles of spirits, wines and chocolates and lots of other 'goodies'. A big thank you to **Mrs Margaret Burns**, **Mrs Linda Baker** and **Mrs D Tuohey** our ticket sellers, and to all the ladies involved in the folding and preparation of the tickets for the draw, even **Lord Derby** was seen to be folding tickets and also thanks to **Mrs Dawn Jupp** for her help with the running of the two raffles. To our Branch Chairman **Ivor Griffiths** for the prayer before dinner, and especially to the 96 persons in attendance for making it a most enjoyable and very successful occasion – thank you all. Many diners commented on the function being one of our better ones.



Members gathered for the Annual Dinner and Dance.

2014 commenced with our AGM on Thursday 30th January, with lots to talk about and organise for the coming year; a total of 20 members were present. The Branch officers were confirmed at this meeting – no new faces to run the Branch so everyone must be content. The Branch Treasurer informed the meeting that apart from our normal end of year accounts being sent to London for an Association audit, we were also asked to send all paperwork, receipts and financial documentation to London for an audit by Saffrey Champness, auditors to the Regiment. Apart from our Branch another three branches of the Association were asked to do the same, all paperwork was returned some weeks later.

Frank Pennington attended the Association AGM at Wellington Barracks on Saturday 22nd March and what a difference in the weather compared to the previous year, no snow, train cancellations or severe weather to trouble him. It was reported at the meeting that an affiliation had been formed between the Regiment and the Ironmongers Company, one of the 'Great 12' Livery Companies. The affiliation was marked on the 12th November 2013, by the Regimental Band Beating Retreat near the Barbican, followed by a dinner at the Ironmongers' Hall.

In May a very good Regimental Remembrance Weekend was had by everyone, with the weather turning out just the way the weather man had predicted. On Saturday 17th we left Liverpool with a total of 46 persons on board our coach, **Ivor Griffiths** had pulled out late during the week, as did **Mr & Mrs C Loudon**, but I received an immediate replacement for two persons, we finally ran the coach with a few empty seats. After dinner on Saturday evening we were invited to attend the Royal Hospital Chelsea and their club, it was a superb evening with a live band playing Liverpool 60s music and yes the dance floor was in use all evening. The weather man predicted warm weather for Sunday and he did not disappoint, over again to Covent Garden after breakfast, and to arrive at Wellington Barracks by 1.30pm. The service in the Guards Chapel is getting better with the help over the past couple of years of the Guards Chapel choir.

It was reported that there were over 600 persons on parade to and from Horse Guards, and the weather hit 75 degrees that afternoon. On Monday we left our hotel at 10.50am for our trip to Stratford-upon-Avon en route to Liverpool, the weather was the same as on Sunday – beautiful. 26 raffle prizes were handed to our Secretary by those travelling before we left Liverpool, so it was a good job we had some spare seats to put them all on. We raffled off 13 prizes en route to London. We took 4 prizes to the Chelsea club on Saturday evening to donate to their raffle and on return to Liverpool we raffled off another 9; a total of £274.00 was raised in the two raffles, and from that money we gave the staff in the hotel £50 in gratuities, with the Branch placing £224.00 in our funds, a big thank you to everyone for their help in supporting the Branch and also for donating these prizes. Many 'thank you' cards were received from members for this trip.

A letter was received in September from the Royal British Legion in Warrington confirming that the City of Liverpool wished to honour any person that was born in the City, served in the Second World War and still had residence in the City, with the Citizen of Honour of the City of Liverpool. We were able and proud to forward four names: **2616402 L Edge**, **2624998 G H Norris**, **2625427 C Yates** and **2626010 W J Edwards**.



George Norris, Leslie Edge and Charles Yates with their awards of 'Citizen of Honour' of the City of Liverpool.

A further letter came from the Ministry of Defence which informed us that the Government of France had advised the Ministry of Defence that in conjunction with events to mark the 70th Anniversary of the Normandy landings it wished to award the Legion d'Honneur to all surviving veterans; not only of the landings, but also the wider Battle for Normandy, the Invasion of Provence (Operation Dragoon), the Liberation of Paris and the Liberation of France. We have put **2616402 L Edge** forward for this award as he joined the Regiment in May 1939, saw action at Dunkirk and served with the Guards Armoured Division throughout France including the battle for Cagny, where he was honoured some years ago along with other Grenadiers by the Mayor.

At the time of writing we are in the process of organising our next Annual Dinner and Dance which will take place on Saturday 22nd November 2014 at the Atlantic Tower Thistle Hotel, Chapel Street, Liverpool. Our guest from the Regiment will be Captain Jamie Garton who serves in No 2 Company; we still have over a month before the cut off date for numbers so we are still confident of a good turnout.

It is with deep regret that we report the very sad loss this year of **14671712 Thompson J** but happily welcome **23383115 Humphreys G** 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 THE HON JONATHAN FORBES; Lieutenant Colonel RG CARTWRIGHT, LVO; Lieutenant Colonel PR HOLCROFT, LVO, OBE; Lieutenant Colonel H FLOOD; Major THE LORD GLENTORAN, CBE, DL; Major TH HOLBECH, MBE; Major PAJ WRIGHT, OBE; Capt CAG KEELING; Capt I REID, MA; Capt RAC DUNCAN; Capt TBCH WOODS; Capt A CLUFF, DL; Capt J LENAGHAN; Capt RJB PINFOLD; HJL MANSELL, Esq; WH SMITH, Esq; GV FRANKLIN, Esq.

Chairman: PA LANES, Esq.

Secretary: C BENNETT, 12a West Street, West Malling, Kent, ME19 6QX, Tel: 07952 548 324.

Email: tremaineroad@yahoo.com.au

Meetings: Third Wednesday of every month at the London District Sergeants' Mess, Wellington Barracks, SW1E 6HQ from 1900hrs, unless advised otherwise.

This year has seen the completion of a substantial change in the Branch Executive Committee. In 2012 **Phil Lanes** handed over the appointment of Social Secretary, after 25 years of exemplary service, to **Andy Johnson** who manages to admirably combine his duties with his career in the Metropolitan Police. Last year saw the retirement of **Bill Smith** as Branch Secretary after 10 years splendid service to the Branch, which included the provision of parcels of "benefits" to serving Branch

Members in Afghanistan. **Bill** handed over, initially, to **Frank Hooley** already Branch Treasurer and Welfare Officer. **Frank** soon found it impossible to carry the additional workload with his employment as a Battle Field Tour Guide. In the absence of a Grenadier volunteer, Branch Honorary Member **Chris Bennett** stepped into the breach. **Chris**, whose father served in the 6th Battalion in the War, has been, and remains, a very active supporter at Branch events.

The longest serving Committee Member to retire, after almost 60 years service, was **Harry Mansell** who handed over as Chairman to **Phil Lanes**. For many years **Harry** did an outstanding job as Secretary, virtually running the Branch single handed, and a tremendous vote of thanks is due to him. Throughout his time in office, he was ably supported by **Jean**, his dear wife, who sadly died last year. **Harry** has been suffering from ill health for some time and both he and **Jean** are much missed within the Branch. The last move will see the handover of the Presidency when, after 23 years in the appointment, **Colonel Duncan** hands over to **Lieutenant Colonel Robert Cartwright** in June 2015. These changes in the Executive Committee will bring the average age of the Committee, with one exception, much more in line with the seniors in the serving Regiment.

Compared to 2013, the year has been comparatively quiet at both Regimental and Branch level. Several Members attended the Birthday Parade when Nijmegen Company Trooped their recently presented 2nd Battalion's Queen's Colour.

The year's social calendar included the usual very popular Garter Ceremony, visits to HM Tower for the Ceremony of the Keys and a most enjoyable and informative visit to the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst to see a Rehearsal for the Sovereign's Parade. The visit was hosted personally by **Academy Sergeant Major Houghton** assisted by **CSgt Dacey**, to both of whom the Branch is most grateful. A very successful Grenadier Day was held at Lille Barracks, courtesy of the 1st Battalion, and the Branch, as usual, supplied a stall manned by a small, dedicated team of Members ably supported by their wives. Unfortunately, the arena displays had to compete for sound quality with the nearby Farnborough Air Show, which, at times, even made conversation difficult. Once again, the Christmas Draw was held at the Union Jack Club. Sadly, attendance was slightly down on 2013, but nevertheless a generous contribution towards Branch funds was achieved. Sincere thanks are due to **Ilona Johnson** who carried the burden of the organisation of the event as her husband was otherwise engaged on police duties. As this was **Colonel Duncan's** last Draw as President, a presentation was made to him of a splendid engraved glass decanter (complete with contents), together with a beautifully embroidered Grenadier cushion. **Colonel Duncan** effusively thanked those present for the kind and generous gifts for which he was extremely grateful. A further presentation was made by the President to **LCpl Michael Beasley** of the 1st Battalion Corps of Drums. This was a Grenadier Cypher tie pin that had once been presented

to a Grenadier by the name of **Russell**. When **Mr Russell** died in 1969, he left the pin to his colleague 2626994 **Richard Wickens** on the understanding that "in time to come" **Wickens** would pass it to a worthy member of the Association in order to keep the pin within the Regimental family. **Mr Wickens** died in June 2014 and his niece, Mrs **Angela Worsell** then contacted the Branch for assistance in selecting a suitable recipient. The Executive Committee recommended **LCpl Beasley**, a Serving Member, as he was recently selected as the winner of the 2014 Household Division Silver Bugle competition. In a letter to **LCpl Beasley** which was handed over with the pin, it was made clear that "when the time came" the pin should be handed over to another member of the Association in order that it remained within the Regimental family.

It is with great sadness that we record the posting to the Holding Battalion of the following during the year: 2621893 **S B Cooper**, 2622218 **E (Dixie) Dean**, 22213451 **In Pensioner C Macdonald**, 28384 **F Tofts** and 2626994 **R Wickens**.

Finally, the Branch would like to thank **Major Andy Green** and **Sgt Broomes** for their advice and help given during the year.

MANCHESTER

(Formed 1913)

President: Lieutenant Colonel CE KITCHEN, MBE.

Vice Presidents: F GREEN.

Chairman: M COTTRELL.

Secretary: RA 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, Ardwick Green, Manchester, M12 6HD.

In December 2013 the Branch held their Christmas Dinner and Dance at the Britannia Country House Hotel, Didsbury, and we had 117 members and guests attending. This hotel has always given us a great deal on food and accommodation and the service is first class.

The Branch Annual dinner on Saturday 12th April 2014 was again at the Britannia Hotel with 100 members and guests attending. This is our formal dinner and our guest of honour was **Colonel Richard Winstanley**, who gave a short but very informative talk on the Regiment's activities for the coming year.

The Branch has two forms of fundraising, the first is our Grand National Sweepstake draw in April and the second is a stall at Grenadier Day. These two functions raised around £2100 for branch funds and it is all down to the help and support of our members and friends who sell tickets and stock with great enthusiasm.

Our first trip of the year was down to Grenadier Day at Lille barracks with 39 members and guests making the journey. We erected our gazebo in record time to set out our stall and sales started before we could display all our goods, thanks to the fine weather. It was a wonderful day full of displays and activities for both young and old, so a big word of thanks goes to RHQ for all their hard work in setting it up.

On September 22nd we boarded a coach for a 5 day, 4 night trip to the Grenadiers spiritual home Bruges and although the numbers were down to 14 members and their wives, we had a memorable few days. On the Tuesday we travelled to Tyne Copt Cemetery and then on to Ypres for the Menin Gate ceremony.

On our return to Bruges we were invited to the Saint Sebastian Guild of Archers to have a guided tour.

Our final evening in Bruges gave us time to celebrate our wonderful trip with a dinner. What a good way to end a fabulous week away.



Arriving at the Park Hotel, Bruges.



Tyne Cot Cemetery.



Our Banner Party at the Menin Gate: Mick Cottrell, Phil Hoskison, Tony Jennings, Mike Tarkenter and Jeff Johnston.



From Left to Right: Dave Pugh, Jim Parry, Phil Hoskison, Mike Tarkenter and Bob Fallon with school children from Liverpool at the Menin Gate.



The Kings Hall at the Guild.



The Guild Refreshment Room.



We must end on a very sad note, on Sunday 19th October 2014 at 0930hrs our Chairman and stalwart of the Branch **Mr Ivor Williams** passed away. His funeral was held on Monday 27th October at St Andrews Church, Eccles followed by a cremation at Peel Green Crematorium, Eccles. He was given a grand send off with around 150 comrades and friends attending.



The late Ivor Williams (left) with Bob Fallon the Branch Secretary.

Last but by no means least, and after a gap of several years we are delighted to have as our new President, **Lieutenant Colonel (Ret'd) C E Kitchen MBE**, who was selected, approached and approved by the Association President to assume the appointment in October. Born and bred in Manchester, although currently living in Swindon and working at the Defence Academy at Shrivenham, we are delighted to have **Colonel Rick** as our President and welcome him most warmly to the Branch.

MARCH

(Formed 1968)

President: Capt CNR BROWN.

Vice Presidents: Capt (QM) TA ROLFE; W GIBBS; Mrs P MASON.

Chairman: E SALMON

Secretary: CM WHITEBROOK, 21 Davie Lane, Whittlesey, Cambs. PE7 1YZ. Tel: 01733 350 059.

Email: whitebrook9834@hotmail.co.uk

Branch HQ: The Conservative Club, March.

Meetings: Second Wednesday March, (AGM)

Another year has passed, with yet another set of notes for the Gazette. We are reminded by our General Secretary, **Major Andy Green** and his erstwhile assistant **Sgt Rob Broomes**, that if we did a little at a time it would not be so burdensome a task. Regrettably our Branch Secretary, **Chris Whitebrook**, probably like many others, has again let it creep up and become a race against the clock to complete the task. Whilst serving we were always ready and 'On Parade' 5 minutes before time, however in retirement we seem to lose a little of that time available to us.

The past year has again proved to be an important one within the Branch albeit that it could not have been anticipated to be so. The major occurrence within the Branch has been the

retirement from office of our Branch Treasurer, **Ben Haylett**.

Branch member **Des Pritchard**, that willing volunteer again took responsibility in representing the Branch for the Remembrance Day Parade in his home town of March, as well as on Armistice Day. The Branch Secretary took part in the Remembrance Day Parade at Peterborough Cathedral, also at this parade was Branch member **John Porter**. At Chatteris the Branch was represented by **Neville Patter**. For such a small Branch this was very good representation around the County.

The Christmas Lunch was enjoyed by all present, and once again we were able to welcome family and friends of members. The Table Quiz and Raffle were looked after by **Morag Whitebrook**, **Caroline Sutcliffe** and Branch Chairman **Ed Salmon**. Although the numbers attending were slightly fewer than in past years it was still a successful event enjoyed by all.

At the turn of the Year our Treasurer, **Ben Haylett**, announced that after 37 years in the role the time was right to stand down. Following discussion within the committee it was agreed to appoint **Morag Whitebrook** to the role. It was also agreed that the outgoing Treasurer should be honoured at the Annual Lunch later in the year.



From Left to Right: Bill Gibbs, Morag Whitebrook, Sheila Haylett, And Ben Haylett.



'Show Grenade Polished!' From Left to Right: Ann Patter, Gerry Graham, Ben Haylett.



From Left to Right: Ben Haylett, Sheila Haylett.



From Left to Right: Standing: Chris Whitebrook, Ed Salmon
Seated: Ben Haylett, Morag Whitebrook.



From Left to Right: Bill Gibbs, Pat Mason.

The attendance at the AGM at Wellington Barracks was the opportunity for the new Treasurer to learn more of the requirements for the role as far as Association Headquarters are concerned, together with the opportunity to meet members

from other Branches. It was also the opportunity, together with the Secretary, of greeting our new Association President **Colonel R E H Aubrey-Fletcher**. As a Branch we look forward to the opportunity of hosting him at a Branch function.

At the Annual Lunch the Branch took the opportunity of recognising the valuable service given to the Branch by **Ben Haylett**, together with all of the work that went on behind the scenes by his good lady, **Sheila Haylett**. Following a superb meal the Regimental Report, together with Loyal Messages were given by the Regimental Casualty Officer, **Matthew Ellmer** who with his wife **Averil Ellmer** was attending a Branch function at March for the first time. A narrative of the role that he performs for the Regiment was informative, poignant and challenging and was extremely well received.

Presentations were then made to **Ben and Sheila Haylett**. Whilst Sheila was delighted with her floral arrangement within a glass Swan the 'Grenade Fired Proper' that Ben received almost moved him to an emotional state. He was pleased to learn however that the 'Grenade' would not require polishing having been treated. On behalf of the Branch Vice President **Bill Gibbs** also presented a framed Certificate of Appreciation.

On behalf of the Cambridge Branch, represented at the lunch by **Terry and June Foreman**, March Branch Vice President **Bill Gibbs** presented a framed Certificate of Appreciation to Mrs **Pat Mason**. This was to mark her two periods as Secretary of that Branch.

Black Sunday, the rehearsals for the Birthday Parade and the Birthday Parade itself were supported in the usual manner by the Branch. Members were justifiably proud of the high standards shown to the outside world by the Regiment.

A few weeks after the Birthday Parade the Secretary was present at Buckingham Palace for a Garden Party accompanied by **Morag Whitebrook**. She had missed the Regimental Garden Party the previous year due to suffering a double stroke and was delighted when the Regimental Adjutant, **Major Grant Baker**, arranged for her to be presented to HM The Queen. Despite the horrendous weather conditions Her Majesty spent some time in conversation and was pleased to hear both of her recovery and Branch involvement.

Grenadier Day at Lille Barracks, Aldershot was enjoyed by Branch Members, **Chris and Morag Whitebrook**, **Malcolm and Pam Clifford** and **Neville and Ann Patter**. The organisation by the Battalion led to a thoroughly enjoyable day. Whoever arranged the "free" Air Show at neighbouring Farnborough needs to be awarded a credit. It was worth the traffic snarl-ups to be able to enjoy the two events at the same time.

The Sausage & Mash Lunch like so many of the Branch functions saw new faces present. A fine meal and pleasant afternoon in convivial company was enjoyed by all. Already indications have been received from newcomers that such was the welcome given that they wish to attend future functions. Whilst we would welcome more Grenadiers at least if we can attract more friends or even Associate members then the Branch will continue to go forward.

MATLOCK

(Formed 1955)

President: D RAWSON, BEM.

Chairman: JD KILLINGSLEY-SMITH, FInstLM.

Treasurer: A BIRNIE Esq.

Secretary: FA KNIGHT, 9 Croft Avenue, Parwich, Nr Ashbourne, Derby, DE6 1QG. Tel: 01335 390109.

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 President and entire Membership would like to extend a massive 'thank you' to our husband and wife team **Andrew and Rosemary Birnie** who through heavy work commitments have found it necessary to step down from their respective posts as Chairman and Treasurer and to thank **Mr David Brignull** for taking over as our new Branch Treasurer.

At Remembrance Sunday on 10th November 2013 our ex-Chairman **Mr Bill Pickford** accompanied by Assistant Secretary **Mr John Wright** kept up our Branch tradition by attending Edensor Parish Church on the Duke of Devonshire's Chatsworth Estate where an Association Wreath was laid on behalf of the fallen. Unfortunately our Honorary Secretary **Mr Fred Knight** who had recently undergone major surgery to his foot had to forego his long tradition of leading the Parade in his home village of Parwich. We are pleased to report he has now made a full recovery and will no doubt be back on Parade in the future.

We were pleased to learn that our Branch President **Mr David William Rawson** a Bakewell Rotarian was awarded the British Empire Medal as announced in the 2013 Queen's New Year's Honours list; this long overdue award was in respect of both his own and his Wife **Tina's** endless voluntary work for their community. This includes their work for the elderly, their contributions year on year to the Bakewell Carnival and their services to the Aquabox Project. The latter being a charity which supplies water purification systems to disaster areas all over the globe. Last but not least we thank him for the sterling work he carries out for our own Matlock Branch.

We held our Spring Luncheon on 23rd April and our Autumn Luncheon on Wednesday 8th October 2014.



Mr David William Rawson and his Wife Tina.

Both very successful these two events were jointly organised by our President **David Rawson**, Assistant Secretary **John Wright** ably assisted by their respective Wives **Tina & Margaret**; our hosts on both occasions was the Bakewell Golf Club who as always did our 30 plus guests proud with their excellent food and warm hospitality. Particular thanks to the Club stewards **Tim** and **Justine Galley**. Included among the guests attending the Spring Luncheon was **Mr Andrew J Wright** the son of Margaret & John. **Andrew** was over on a UK business trip from his home town of Narangba, Brisbane, Queensland, Australia.

On Tuesday 10th June 2014 we learned of the peaceful passing at his home of our senior member and past Branch



The late Sidney Norman Taylor.

Treasurer **262954 Mr Sidney N Taylor**, 'Norman' was 86 years old having been born on 2nd December 1926. A National Serviceman with the 3rd Battalion, Norman saw active service in Palestine. His claim to fame being that while posted abroad he served as Batman to 2Lt

Littleton who latterly became famous for being the leader of the 'Humphrey Littleton Jazz Band'. Following his retirement Norman, a keen Golfer became a regular Volunteer Warden at Chatsworth House.

Norman's funeral which took place at the Chesterfield Crematorium on the 23rd June 2014 was attended by our Branch Chairman **Mr Andrew Birnie**, ex-Chairman **Mr Bill Pickford** and Assistant Secretary **Mr John Wright**, a wreath was kindly provided by Association H.Q.

On Thursday 18th September 2014 following a short illness we lost our beloved and much valued lady member **Dinah Twigg** at the age of 93.

Affectionately known as 'Twigg' her funeral was held at St Giles Church, Starkholmes, Matlock on Friday 3rd October 2014 where the following Members and their wives attended to pay their respects; **David Rawson**, **Fred Knight** and his wife **Ann**, **John Wright** and his wife **Margaret**, **Mrs Margaret Bishton**, **Chesterfield Branch Vice President Mr Michael Carnall** and his wife **Enid**. Generous to the end, Twigg in her final days instructed her family to gift wrap a ceramic Guardsman replica cruet set and hand it over 'to her boys at the Branch' as she affectionately referred to us and be used as a raffle prize at our forthcoming Autumn Luncheon. Additionally, the family have instructed that half of the church collection on the day of the funeral be donated the Matlock Branch Funds; thank you Twigg – we will miss you.



The late Dinah Twigg.



Our President David Rawson BEM together with a group of Branch members enjoying an organised walk in the grounds of Haddon Hall on Sunday 19th October 2014.

During the last two years and as a result of the passing of several of our senior members, combined with long term sickness, our Branch membership has been reduced quite dramatically, so much so that our April 2014 Branch meeting was devoted almost entirely to an amicable and frank discussion about our own sustainability. Thanks to the dedication of our remaining active members and the advice and support afforded us by our General Secretary **Major Andy Green** and his staff we feel our continuation, at least for the foreseeable future is assured. Additionally we are pleased to report that we have recently recruited two new members to the Branch; a 'big warm welcome' to **23403074 Mr Brian Wall** and his wife **Brenda**.

The Branch sends their best wishes to all our members who for reasons of ill-health etc. no longer find it possible to attend our monthly meetings; in particular our former Honorary Secretary **Mr Ian Morton** and senior member **Mr Bill Bishton**. We miss you both. We conclude by saying a big thank you to our Honorary Secretary **Mr Fred Knight** and his wife **Ann** for their contribution in keeping our Branch so vibrant.

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 Sheppey, Kent. ME12 2LX. Tel: 01795 876935.

Email: stephen.vaughan@aol.co.uk

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.

Our October Annual Dinner 2013 held at the Grange Moor Hotel in Maidstone was once again a very successful evening with 76 attending. **Major James**

Greaves, accompanied by his wife **Eila**, gave us the latest update from the Regiment and what was planned for the near future. We were joined by **Joe and Anne Marshall** and **Neil and Sheila Crowther** from Lincoln and **Andy and Babs Reid** from Surrey and East Hampshire. It is always a pleasure when other Branches join us. The dinner went on until 10pm and then we danced until midnight.

That was followed in December with the Christmas Draw at the Warren Wood Social Club where we danced until midnight to the music of Mike Harris. Lots of prizes were won from the raffle and the club laid on a lovely hot and cold buffet to suit all tastes. It was a good start to the Christmas season.

Our previous President, **Lord Robin Kingsdown KG**, passed away in November 2013 and in February a group from the Branch attended his memorial service in Canterbury Cathedral. It showed what a popular man he was when there were not enough seats for everyone with many having to stand.

In February 2014 we held our AGM and the only change in Branch Officers was when **Chris Warden** asked to step down as our Welfare Officer because of his increased work commitment. He was replaced by **Mo Robinson BEM** who has now taken on that role.

At Armed Forces Day held in Gillingham, we had a stall and gazebo advertising the Branch and with our golf challenge managed to raise some cash to fill the pots and drum up some recruits.

In July some of us attended The Ashfest at the Beach Hotel in Minster, Isle of Sheppey, run by **Duane Ashworth**, father of the late **LCpl James Ashworth VC**. Lots of past and present Grenadiers turned up and enjoyed the music, food and chat with old mates. The weather was beautiful and it was a good day for all.

Later that month was Grenadier Day which went well and all Branch stands were well supported and with the general public being allowed in for the first time it was interesting to see how the whole day went. It was made even more interesting with the Farnborough Air Show in the background. The Branch managed to fight off the competition and remain the holders of the Boyton Cup for another year. Thanks must go to **Major Andy Green** for the organisation of the day.

In August our annual game of Petanque was cancelled due to the weather that day when the heavens opened and we had a month's rain in about two hours. We would have needed snorkels and flippers to complete the course. We



John Garwood at the Tower of London.

still enjoyed our Sunday Lunch that afternoon and were otherwise undaunted by the weather.

At our October meeting we were pleased to have **Matt Elmer**, the Regimental Casualty Officer come and brief the Branch on his job and how the money from the Colonels Fund is being used. **Matt** does a brilliant job and the Branch thanked him for taking time out to visit us and explaining what his job entails.

October 11th was our 2014 Annual Dinner at The Grange Moor Maidstone where we had another successful evening. Our President, **Lieutenant Colonel Paul Harris MBE** read the Loyal Messages and then the guest speaker **Capt Fred Moynan**, the Second Captain of The Queen's Company, gave us a really good update and judged the audience just right. He was almost foiled when just before he started his speech he had to go and move his car as he was blocking someone in who was trying to leave. After dinner we were entertained by Carla Winters who sang a mixture of songs till midnight. The food and company was good and the evening was a success.

We have welcomed new members to the Branch this year who are: 24472686 **Andy Beet**, 24508249 **John Ingram**, 24164887 **Paul Record** and 24706762 **Dave Trimble**.

NORFOLK

(Formed 1938)

President and Chairman: Capt PJS ALLEN.

Vice Presidents: Capt TRE COOK; Major JFQ FENWICK, QC; Capt DJT LENG; Capt JM STRATTON; JM BATTEN, Esq.; CH MITCHELL, Esq.; Lieutenant Colonel HML SMITH; BL BARBER, Esq.; RF BARWICK, Esq.

Vice Chairman: J FEAKINS.

Treasurer: CR WARREN, 10 Highland, Poringland, Norwich, NR14 7QU. Tel: 01508 494 379, Mob 07885 088387.

Email: christwrr@btinternet.com

Secretary: Mr TA McCLENAHAN, 7 Crowes Loke, Little Plumstead, Norwich, Norfolk, NR13 5JB. Tel: 01603 721624.

Email: terry.mcclehanan@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.

AGM: 27th March 2015 at 1930hrs for 2000hrs.

The Norfolk Branch has had a very quiet year, with not much going on, other than the two Association Meetings, the Annual Luncheon, and the Norfolk Dining Club.

We started the year with the AGM in March at the Dereham Town Football Club attended by 17 members, which for Norfolk was pretty good. It was followed by a get together, a chat and a finger buffet. Thanks to **Roger Smith** for yet another year at this venue.

We welcomed three new members to the Branch and look forward to seeing them at functions in the future: **Brian Barnes**, **Andrew Steven** and **Alan Smith**.

Current membership now stands at: 75 Grenadiers, 7 Honorary Members and 10 Widows.

In May the Annual Luncheon took place at the Park Farm Hotel and Country Club with 45 people sitting down to dine. This year we celebrated the 75th year of the Branch. All who attended were greeted with a glass of 'Bubbly' to toast the 75 years and to go forward for as long as possible as a Branch.

Our Guest Speaker from the Regiment was **Capt James Stafford-Allen** who was accompanied by his wife. The after dinner speech was very much enjoyed, as the information about the Regiment is always an interesting subject to us all. After dinner we had the much awaited raffle and yet again **John Feakins** and **Robbie Cooper** must be thanked for the efficient way the raffle was managed. A big thank you must go to **John Feakins** and his wife, **Janet**, for the organisation of the whole day.

John has now decided that this year must be the year he stands down as Entertainment Organiser for the Branch. He has been a rock throughout the years and without the dedication and time he has given us some of the events would not have taken place. Of course, a big thanks to **John's** wife, **Janet**, for standing by him through the tantrums and frustrations that happen when things don't go to plan.

On behalf of the Branch, a big thank you to them both for all their hard work and patience. We wish them well for the future. A presentation was made to **John** and **Janet** at the Dining Club Ladies Night by **Capt Patrick Allen**.



John Feakins being presented with his Grenadier figurine by Patrick Allen.



Janet Feakins being thanked for her contribution to the Branch.

The post of entertainment, transport and functions Secretary has now been taken on by **Frank Green** who we know will do a great job. Our Annual Luncheon will be held on Sunday 6th September 2015 at the Park Farm Hotel and Country Club, Hethersett, Norwich.

The Norfolk Dining Club still meets every other month. **Ross Donaldson** who runs and organises everything will be happy to take new members and welcome anyone who would wish to visit. Just give him a call on 01692 598336 for more information. Some of our wives also meet at the venue and have a Ladies only dinner evening while the men have theirs.

From all members of the Norfolk Branch to all our comrades, their friends and families – we wish you well.

NORTH LANCASHIRE

(Formed 1953)

President: Major M OWEN.

Vice Presidents: R PACKER Esq; J WHITE Esq.

Secretary: Lady R EMMONDS Westview 57 Aspen Drive, Brunshaw Park, Burnley, BB10 3FB. Tel: 01282 451208. Mob: 07738562357.

Email: rosemary.emmonds@nhs.net

Meetings: First Thursday in month (except January and August) at the Hapton Inn, Accington Road, Hapton, Lancs BB11 5QL at 2000hrs.

Our Chairman **Richard Packer** had a very serious fall in 2013 and was in hospital for some time. Therefore, he could not represent the Branch on Remembrance Sunday. Fortunately, **Barry Taylor**, the President of the Wigan & St Helens Branch quickly gave **Peter Emmonds** our Branch Welfare Officer a lesson on how to carry the Branch Banner. **Peter Emmonds** was very proud to stand-in on behalf of **Richard**.



Peter Emmonds (left) represents the Branch at Remembrance Sunday.

The Branch AGM was uneventful and was held at The Sparth House Hotel in Clayton-le-Moors. The attendance

was excellent and we had a special appearance from our Area Representative **Barry Taylor** and his wife. It was an opportunity for members to air their views and maybe take on a role as an official. There were no changes to the official positions within the Branch.

The Coldstream Guards celebrated their Annual Dinner in March at the Sparth House Hotel in Clayton-Le-Moors near Blackburn. It was a lovely evening enjoyed by all those who attended.



The Coldstream Guards Annual Dinner.

In Spring 2014 our Chairman, **Richard Packer** was visiting South Island, New Zealand and attended his granddaughter's wedding. During his stay he had the great fortune and privilege to attend the R.S.A. ANZAC (Australian and New Zealand Army Corps) Day, held at Anzac Park, Mosgiel, near Dunedin, South Island, New Zealand on 25 April 2014. The Parade formed up at 9.15am on what was a beautiful morning and **Richard** very much enjoyed marching with the old veterans there. The bad weather didn't stop the well supported veterans, families and friends from attending. Some perched in trees to watch the ceremony at the National War Memorial and hear tributes paid to fallen soldiers as dignitaries, ambassadors and officials sheltered under their programmes from pounding rain and gusty winds. It really brought home to **Richard** the great sacrifice that had also been made, particularly in World War One, by our allies on the opposite side of the world. This was also underlined by the numerous and impressive First World War memorials encountered on his travels around South Island, New Zealand; these memorials also being a testament to the large number of young New Zealanders who lost their lives – a fact which impacted so heavily on the small New Zealand population.

ANZAC Day is an important national occasion in Australia and New Zealand. It marks the anniversary of the first major military action fought by Australian and New Zealand forces during the First World War. At that time the population of NZ was 1 million, 100,000 went to war and 50,000 were killed. For such a small country it was a huge loss.

During his stay on South Island **Richard** did a lot of walking on Mt Cook which make him look a bit intrepid (which of course he is). He walked up a very rocky track



Richard walks in the Rocky Mountains.



Richard looking over the mountains.

to get a view of the snout of the Tasman Glacier and the glacial lake. His family were concerned because he could have tripped and had his skull cracked again at any stage in that walk, it was nerve racking for his family and they said "if we had remembered how rocky it was we would never have taken him there." Apparently, his daughter **Jane** had to keep telling him off for doing the Parkinson's walk with his hands behind his back. In the close up photo Mt Cook (highest mountain in New Zealand) is seen in the left background.

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 sunny and bright. The gathering re-grouped for lunch inside the Rishton Conservative Club with a beer or two!



The Branch Annual Green Bowling Event.

The Branch delayed their Annual Dinner until November leaving September for the Royal British Legion Accrington and Accrington Pals to have a special evening to commemorate the last 100 years held at the Mill House, Masonic Hall, in Clayton-le-Moors.

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 year and particularly to the Area Representative, **Barry Taylor** for his guidance and Branch members whose regular attendance and support is invaluable.

NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE

(Formed 1933)

President: Sir ALGY EH HEBER-PERCY, KVCO, JP, LL.

Vice President: Rev TM CARTER DL, JP; Major RG WOODFIELD, MBE.

Chairman: K WRIGHT.

Hon Secretary: DG ROBINS, Nabb Cottage, Nabb Lane, Alton, Staffordshire. ST10 4AY. Tel: 01538 702 974, Mob: 07968 037082

Email: david.robins@hotmail.co.uk

Meetings: Please contact the Branch Secretary for Details.

November 2013 was a busy month for the Branch. Members attended the Remembrance Day Parade at the National Memorial Arboretum, a very wet parade; the RBL Festival of Remembrance at the Gatehouse Theatre Stafford and the Armed Forces Covenant launch event at Stoke-on-Trent Town Hall. On the 11th an Association Wreath was placed on the Memorial to **LSgt John Rhodes VC**. At the end of the month members joined the Shropshire Branch for their Christmas luncheon, a much enjoyed day. The Branch held its' own Christmas lunch at the Black Lake Hotel at the end of the month.

During December 13 Christmas gifts were distributed

and gratefully received. At the monthly meeting members enjoyed the annual Christmas supper organised by **George Higginson**. At the monthly meeting plans were put in hand for a Memorial Bench and Tree to be installed at the National Memorial Arboretum. These being in memory of the men from Staffordshire and Cheshire who have served in the Regiment since 1656 and plaques to this effect were also ordered. The Branch is extremely grateful to two members who made very substantial donations towards the cost of these memorials.

In January 14 all members were delighted to hear the news that the Branch President had been honoured with a Knighthood in the New Year's Honours List. Early in the New Year plans began to be formulated for an event to commemorate the centenary of the start of the First World War.

The Branch AGM was held in March and the usual suspects were reappointed to office. In April members visited the ACF Band Camp at Altcar, near Liverpool. An enjoyable time was spent with members of the local cadet, Grenadier Guards, Corps of Drums who excelled at the prize giving. Members also attended the Memorial Service, at the Commonwealth War Graves Cemetery at Cannock Chase, for the ANZAC Forces who are buried there.

During the summer Branch members paraded at Stoke-on-Trent Armed Forces Day Event held in the city. Several members visited London for Regimental Remembrance Day and Aldershot for Grenadier Day. A number of other events were held in the local area, to commemorate the centenary of the commencement of the First World War, in which members were involved. Two members were very fortunate to be allocated tickets to attend Founders Day at the Royal Hospital Chelsea, a truly outstanding parade.

The highlight of the year was in June when the President, Sir Algy Heber-Percy and Lady Jane, hosted an event at their home, Hodnet Hall, for the Branch along with members of the Shropshire Branch and the local Welsh Guards Association. The proceedings commenced with a Drum Head Memorial Service conducted by the Branch Vice-President, the **Rev Mr Mark Carter**. After the service everyone enjoyed canapés and drinks in the beautiful surroundings and even the sun shone for a few minutes. This was followed by an excellent lunch after which a few, brief, speeches were given and appropriate presentations were made to the hosts in appreciation of their splendid hospitality.

The Branch was pleased to be joined by **Major Bob Woodfield**,

Vice-President and his wife and **Major Andy Green**. An interesting and absorbing exhibition of First World War memorabilia was staged by **George Hughes**, Branch Vice-President, from his extensive collection. In the afternoon the Staffordshire ACF Corps of Drums, Beat the Retreat and guests had the opportunity to walk around the beautiful gardens, it was a truly enjoyable day.

Sadly, in September, the Branch's oldest member, **Charles Howells** passed away. Charles was a pre-war Grenadier who was recalled to the Colours in 1939 and became a Sergeant Tank Commander, he will be greatly missed.

At the Branch's October meeting it was decided that future meetings should be held at lunch time. This decision was reached after considerable discussion and was made in the light of the advancing age of those members who attended meetings and the large geographical area that the Branch covers. Whilst the Branch is rapidly becoming a twig there is still a lot of life and enthusiasm there and it continues to provide everything that it should. Several welfare cases have been dealt with during the year and welfare remains the Branch's priority.

The Branch is grateful for the continuing help and support received from Birdcage Walk.

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

(Formed 1929)

President: Lieutenant Colonel EHL AUBREY-FLETCHER, DL.

Vice Presidents: Major THE LORD BRASSEY of APETHORPE, OBE, DL; THE HON TI BRASSEY; Major JFC MAGNAY; Lieutenant Colonel JS SCOTT-CLAKE; Major JM HIRST; Capt R WILLMOTT, DL; C MANNERS, Esq; Colonel REH AUBREY-FLETCHER; P GOUDIME, JP; Colonel DJC RUSSELL-PARSONS; AJ CRAWLEY; AE PACKE.

Chairman: G STANGER, 35 Bracken Close, Kettering, NN16 9BG. Tel: 07548761036.

Secretary: MA BRITTON, 2 Lowlands Close, Rectory Farm, Northampton, NN3 5EP. Tel: 01604 416101.

Email: nhantsgrenadier@aol.com

Treasurer: WM HIGGINS, 18 The Silver Birches, Kempston, Bedford, MK42 7TS. Tel: 07854070321.

Meetings: First Thursday of each month (excluding January) at 2000hrs at the Royal Naval and Royal Marines Club, Lorne Road, off Barrack Road, Northampton, NN1 3RN.



Something for the President's and Lady Jane's garden.

2014 has proved to be another benchmark year for the Northamptonshire Branch, Grenadier Guards Association, with the Branch yet again growing in membership from all generations of Grenadiers.

Black Sunday was well attended and a coach was hired to take our party to London so that former members of the Regiment could pay their respects to, and remember, comrades from their time with the Regiment. Following our arrival to waving crowds, we de-bussed and looked for familiar faces. Many members met up with former comrades, with a number spending time outside the

chapel or inside of the Sergeants' Mess reminiscing of days past and long missed friends and remembering both fun and sad days during their service period.

Our social calendar kicked off in April with river boat trips on the good ship *Titanic* on the river Nene for 24 of our members and their families, which included a ride along the river, lunch at a public house, then a fairly safe return journey under the helmsmanship of our most senior member (**Arthur Crawley** – 1939 to 1946), directed by the drunken navigation of several self-professed experts in water-born assault tactics. Note to **Arthur**: Never turn right when the river goes left despite what anyone tells you.

Summer also saw our annual visit to Flore where **Lady Braye DL** and our President **Lieutenant Colonel E H L Aubrey-Fletcher DL** invite members of the Branch to view their garden (an outstanding example and a main feature in the Flore 'open garden' show). At this event we partook of the Colonel's wine cellar to wash down the delicious nibbles prepared by **Lady Braye**, whilst Household Cavalry members of the Branch were happily stomping the roses and feeding the fish with sausage rolls. A great time was had by all, and despite our best efforts, we believe the garden featured well in the show. We look forward to 2015 and the re-enactment of the Battle of Waterloo we are planning to hold in the garden this year.

June 2014 also saw our practice run for the Waterloo Ball, which combined the annual Branch dinner with a rehearsal dinner for the big event coming up in June 2015. Over 100 members of the Branch and their families attended the new Northamptonshire Masonic Hall to celebrate the victory at the Battle of Waterloo and the naming of the Regiment. Our guest of honour for the evening was **Kerry Ashworth** the mother of **LCpl James Ashworth VC**.

The evening commenced with the traditional speeches and toast by our President, **Lieutenant Colonel E H L Aubrey-Fletcher DL**, then dinner was served accompanied by light music from members of the Household Division Band (Retired). A raffle was held to raise funds for SSAFA, The Royal British Legion and The Colonel's Fund which raised over £500 and when put with the profits from the dinner, a healthy amount was donated to these noble causes; bookings for the 2015 ball are now being taken.

Following the formal part of the evening, entertainment was available which included more music by the band, dancing and (for the brave hearted) Karaoke, with carriages at midnight. With the last members leaving by 12:45am, the night was deemed a success and the rear guard retired for the night – and this was just the rehearsal dinner for 2015.

During the summer months, further boat trips were organised and, despite '**Captain**' **Crawley** attempting to put a 40ft narrow boat sideways through a 13ft lock entrance and nearly pulling it off on our earlier trip, with the '*Titanic*' proving it was good for more than one trip.

In October 2014, a curry night was organised at the 'world famous' Royal Tandoori Indian Restaurant. 24 members of the Branch and their families squeezed on to one long table and had a riot of a time as the Facebook pictures showed, with certain members of the Branch being poured in to a cab at just

after midnight – not bad for a dinner that started at 8:00pm.

The penultimate social event of the year was a trip to the National Arboretum in November when we hired a coach to make the 90 mile round trip from Northampton, with pick-ups in Corby and Kettering. 30 members of the Branch attended a touching ceremony at the Guards Memorial where we formed up and marched down to the memorial where the last post was sounded and a wreath placed in memory of fallen Grenadiers.

Our final social event of the year was our traditional Christmas raffle, held at the Royal Naval and Royal Marine Club, where over 40 members and guests joined to together to chat, buy raffle tickets, win prizes, drink drinks and eat buffet. With over 40 prizes available most, if not all, came away with a prize or two, excluding our President whose tickets we forgot to put in the hat. Thanks to **Jean** and **Sue Elvy** for the excellent catering.

Overall, with 11 Branch meetings and numerous social events held throughout the year, Northamptonshire Branch, Grenadier Guards Association is alive and well.

Branch meetings are held at 8:00pm on the first Thursday of each month, excluding January, with social event information available on request.

If you live near Northamptonshire, and it has been a while since you saw old comrades, or just fancy getting into a lively social network, why not pop down to one of our monthly meetings and meet a few of the members.

All members of the Household Division are welcome.

NORTHUMBRIA

(Formed 1926)

President: Colonel JM CRASTER, MA

Vice Presidents: THE DUKE OF ABERCORN (Lord Lieutenant of Co Tyrone); Major JHN PORTER; Sir HEW HAMILTON DALRYMPLE, Bt, GCVO; Capt SIR CHARLES FERGUSON, Bt; Major JD MAGILL CRICHTON MAITLAND.

Chairman: A DANIEL.

Hon Secretary: J KEEGAN, 12 Oaklea Close, Norton, Stockton-On-Tees, TS20 1HN. Tel: 01642 556534.

Email: johnkeegan1@virginmedia.com

Hon Treasurer: Capt DE GARDNER.

The Branch has marked three very important dates this year; the 70th Anniversaries of D Day and Arnhem and the 100th Anniversary of the outbreak of WW1.

We had our first committee meeting of the year in February 2014 to agree the functions for the forthcoming year, the Committee agreed to organise numerous functions on behalf of the members, starting with a St Patrick's night Celebration on the 14th March 2014 in association with the Aden Veterans Association (AVA), hosting **Capt Neil McClelland**, Welfare Officer and **RSM (WO1) Dave McPhee**, from 1st Battalion Scots Guards with their lovely wives **Sarah** and **Fiona** at the Royal Navy Club, Stockton-On-Tees, we had a finger buffet and a karaoke.

The St George's Day Celebrations on Friday 25th April 2014 saw us back at The Royal Naval Club, Stockton-On-Tees, for a finger Buffet & karaoke; this occasion was supported by the AVA, the Coldstream Guards Association and The Household Division Association.

Our Annual General Meeting was held at the Parkwood Hotel on Sunday 11th May 2014 were the Branch officials and committee were returned unopposed. 30 members and guests sat down for an enjoyable lunch afterwards. Unfortunately **Capt David Gardner** our Branch Treasurer did not attend due to ill health, **Colonel Michael Craster** wished him a speedy recovery on behalf of the Branch and thanked the Officials, Committee and members for their support over the past year.

Then on Sunday 20th July 2014 we attended the Help for Heroes family fun day at Redcar Racecourse. We had a really enjoyable day, with a good turnout of standards and veterans from all Branches of the armed forces.

Once again we returned to the Hartlepool Historic Quay in the Sir William Gray Suite on Saturday 27th September 2014 for our Annual Dinner, the entertainment was provided by **Joe Lawson**. The occasion was to remember



Capt Barry Parkin, Cadet Commanding Officer, Corp of Drums with two Gdsm from the 1st Battalion Scots Guards.

with respect to the three Anniversaries (70th Anniversary of D Day and Arnhem and the 100th Anniversary of the outbreak of WW1). We were joined by **Major Edward Paintin**, Grenadier Guards, ITC (C) Company Commander, **Colonel Michael Craster** and his wife **Fiona** along with 67 members and guests, our third dinner at this venue.

The guests were played to dinner by the Cleveland Army Cadet Corp of Drums by kind permission of **Capt Barry Parkin**. Two Guardsmen from 1st Battalion Scots Guards were resplendent in Home Service Clothing. Once again many thanks to **(WO1) RSM Dave McPhee**, the Branch will be sorry for the loss of our Scots Guards friends when they are posted to Aldershot in 2015.

Once again a party from the Branch travelled down to London on Friday 7th November 2014 for Remembrance Weekend, staying at the Kensington Close Hotel & Spa. We met up with old friends from the Household Division on Saturday 8th November in the Royal Hospital, Chelsea; thanks again to **Sergeant Major Pearse Lally IG** for their hospitality. On Sunday morning we attended Whitehall for the Cenotaph Service and parade.

We sat down to a lovely Christmas Lunch at the Marton Hotel and Country Club on Sunday 14th December 2014 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 24th January 2015. Last year each person who attended the supper received a commemorative coaster in Divisional Colours with a picture of Robbie Burns in the centre, this year the Branch has commissioned something even more special. **John Keegan** and his wife **Ros** were fortunate to attend a Garden Party at Buckingham Palace in June 2014 by invitation of the Not Forgotten Association.

Sadly one of our Branch members has passed away; **Harold (Harry) Mudd** died after a short illness. Harry was a good member of the Branch and attended most of our functions, condolences go to his family.

We would like to take this opportunity to offer the Branch's best wishes to everyone for 2015 with special thanks to **Sgt Rob Broomes** and **Major Andy Green** and all the staff at Regimental Headquarters for their continued support.



The Cleveland Cadet Corp of Drums.



Guests being entertained by the Cadet Corp of Drums.

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

(Formed 1914)

President: S SWANWICK.

Vice Presidents: G SEVERN; Sir ANDREW BUCHANAN Bt;
R L SHARPE; GE HALLAM.

Chairman: SH DAVIS.

Secretary: Mr GE HALLAM 14 The Lawns, Whatton in the
Vale, Nottinghamshire, NG13 9EZ.

Email: nottinghambranch@grengds.com

Website: www.grenadierguardsnotts.org.uk

Treasurer: Mrs MJ GREENBERRY

Meetings: Second Friday of each month (except December) at The
Victory Club, Church Drive, Daybrook, Nottingham, NG5 6JG.

This report commences with some excellent news – the Branch has a President, namely **Mr Sam Swanwick** an ex-Sergeant Major of both the 1st and 2nd Battalions during his service; a Nottinghamshire Grenadier and member of this Branch since 2003. Also new to the Branch are **25048731 Lunt J P**, **24141120 Derrett C**, **30163710 Castle J**, **24263743 Straw L**, **23879715 Byard T E** (Hon), **3521041 Potter C A** (Hon), and **24000333 Roberts M C**, a very warm welcome is extended to them all.



The new President Mr Sam Swanwick and his wife Coralyn at our Centenary Dinner 26th April 2014.

The 2013 Christmas and Veterans four course lunch at the Albert Hall, Nottingham was a superb occasion with more than 40 attending with the members requesting a similar function be held in 2014. This year it is being held on the 6th December with an added delight; the members are being admitted free. The annual Branch Prize Draw unfortunately wasn't as successful as in previous years.

Taking pride of place this year however was the 100th Anniversary Celebrations held at the seat of the Nottinghamshire County Council, County Hall, West Bridgford to mark the formation of the Branch initially entitled the 'Nottingham Branch' in 1914 and subsequently renamed the Nottinghamshire Branch.



Vice President Mr G Severn leading the dancing with the Lord Mayor of Nottingham, Councillor M Bryan.

The occasion was honoured with the presence of **Lt Henry Waterfield** of Nijmegen Company who spoke of the activities of his Company and the Regiment. Other



Mr A M Dutton (Social Secretary & Welfare Officer) at our Anniversary Dinner, County Hall, Nottingham.

VIPs included the Chairman of the Nottinghamshire County Council, **Councillor John Allin** and his wife **Mavis**, The Lord Mayor of Nottingham, **Councillor Merlita Bryan** and the Mayoress **Shannon Bryan** and **Gdsm Jack Castle** of The Queen's Company.

Music for the evening was provided by the 'Geoff Sutton Show Band' accompanied by 'Carlita' a dynamic vocalist. This group of first class musicians was organised by the Branch's own musical Impresario, **Nigel Turner**. What a team they made. The music during the meal and for dancing thereafter was second to none. The selection of food provided, which consisted of 2 options for each of the three courses, was first class as was the service of the County Hall staff.

The usual toasts were proposed and **Mr S Davis**, Branch Chairman, presented Centenary celebratory ties, to all the male VIPs. The Lord Mayor of Nottingham was given a cheque for £50 payable to her selected charity. In total some 147 attended including many Grenadiers and friends from many Counties throughout the UK. All members should have received a tie by now, If not then please contact the Secretary. Sincere thanks must go to those members of the Branch who worked tirelessly to make the event so outstanding and memorable; they are **Mr & Mrs P Martin**, **Mr & Mrs J Smith**, **Mrs M J Greenberry**, **Mr & Mrs R Sharpe**, **Mr & Mrs R Grocock**, **Messrs G Hallam & C Dunne**

together with all those too numerous to mention who donated prizes or attended to give their support.

A coach load of Grenadiers and friends attended Regimental Remembrance Day on the 18th May, although not many paraded; a sign that old age is catching up with a lot of the men folk. Nevertheless it was a great day out.

Another big event in the year was the Armed Forces weekend held at Wollaton Park on 28–29th June. This year the Branch had its own Gazebo suitably decorated with Regimental and Grenadier memorabilia. Whilst low key compared with 2013, with only minor arena displays on both days, a Dakota aeroplane flypast on the Saturday helped to cheer things up. A Drumhead Service took place on Sunday. **Graham Sneath** was the Parade Marshal for the Standard Bearers and **Richard Grocott** was the proud bearer of the Branch Banner. The weather was kind, reasonably warm with a few clouds and only a shower of rain during Sunday afternoon. Many people attended the Branch stall, their ages varying from the old and bold including a Chelsea Pensioner and the very young, as well as four serving Grenadiers on weekend leave. All received a warm welcome.

The usual few stalwarts of the Branch and some of their ladies showed their mettle once again by manning the



Mr Richard Grocott leading the Parade of Standards in Wollaton Park.

gazebo. It was packed to capacity with items for sale, for children and adults there was hand-crafted woodwork made by **Mr A Ping** and woollen dolls and Grenadiers made by **Mrs S Sharpe** and **Mrs E Smith**. Free sweets and balloons were available for the children. Tombola was cleared of all the 60 or more good quality prizes by the closure on Saturday. Many prizes were donated by **Mr & Mrs J Smith**, **Mr & Mrs B Twigger**, **Mr S Davis** and others with the Branch at heart. The furnishing of the interior of the gazebo was the responsibility of **Jeff Smith** who masterminded the adornments.



The Grenadier Gazebo at Wollaton Park.

Finally we would like to thank all those mentioned in this report, **Mrs S Grocott**, **Mrs J Sneath** and anyone else who contributed but whose names have been inadvertently omitted.

The Branch Facebook Group Page continues to do well with new members queuing up to join. On 10th April 2015 we are planning a trip to Duxford Air Museum and American War Cemetery at Alconbury, transportation will be free to members and £10 to others, please contact **Mr R Grocott** for inclusion in the party.

More Grenadiers have been added to the Roll of Honour, in particular **Edward (Ted) Brown** a former Branch Welfare Officer for many years, **Eric Jackson** a committee member and **Rex Smith** all WW 2 veterans. Both **Ted** and **Eric** were active members in the running of the Branch. Condolences go to all the bereaved families.

Roll of Honour:

24262725 Hughes A, 2446093 Goodwin M, 24753705 Foster C R E

261557 Brown A E, 2623956 Jackson, Owen K R, 2614761 Smith H R and 24021090 Flowers P.



The Geoff Sutton Show Band with Nigel Turner a former Warrant Officer of the Regimental Band providing the percussion.



Workers at the Armed Forces Weekend, Wollaton Park, 28th June 2014.

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); P COOK, Esq.

Chairman: P BROOKS.

Hon Secretary: D WRIGHT, 31 Blenheim Way, Horspath, Oxford, OX33 1SB. Tel: 01865 874819.

Email: wright.dcw@btopenworld.com

Treasurer: Mrs J SHAYLER.

A full year has now passed since **David Wright** took over from **Peter Cook** as secretary of the Branch and he now fully appreciates what a valuable asset he has been to all of us. Again our yearly activities began with what has now become a well-supported annual visit to the morning carol service in The Guards Chapel and by socialising having breakfast before the service and then drinks in the Mess afterwards; this all makes for a very enjoyable day's outing. Also in December 2013 55 members of The Dining club sat down to Christmas lunch at The Four Pillars Hotel, an excellent time was had by all and everyone went home happy each with a raffle prize, our thanks to **Peter Brooks** for all the hard work he puts into organising this event.

In April 2014 we held our Branch AGM at the Four Pillars Hotel Oxford, 12 members and 5 Associate members attended, the main outcome of the meeting was the resignation of **Peter Cook** who had been our secretary for 20 years and held the Branch together in his own efficient manner. On behalf of all of us, well done **Peter** and let us not forget **Margaret** his wife who has supported him through those years. Afterwards, members, wives and friends sat down to another excellent lunch organised by our Social Secretary **Peter Brooks**.

Whilst the Branch did not organise any functions this year other than mentioned, members were kept busy attending functions organized by other surrounding Household Division Branches. Our members gave support to The **Bill May** Memorial skittles event held at The Hungerford RBL and various Branch lunches. Special mention of The Henley Guards Club must be made as a good example of how members of all the Household Division Branches can mix and socialise together as many of the members are Grenadiers. Their activities included a cheese and wine party held at **Mr Herbert's** house at Bradenham, a visit to Fawley Train museum, home of **Lord McAlpine**, a trip through the bluebells on **Lord Alvingham's** estate, an annual lunch and a Christmas get together held at The Quince Tree pub Stoner; special thanks are due to the Secretary of the club **Barrie Padwick** Coldstream Guards

and his wife **Pat** as without their tireless efforts in organising these events all Household Division members in the area would be much poorer.

Peter Brooks in conjunction with The Dining Club organised a fun day and charity football match between the Regiment and Kidlington FC held at the latter's ground. Events included Aunt Sally, Horse Shoes competitions, Face Painting, Pig Roast and a host of other attractions. The event was a great success for the locals and their families who thoroughly enjoyed themselves in the glorious weather. The Association President **Colonel R E H Aubrey-Fletcher** and our own President **Colonel E T Hudson** attended. The Branch Chairman gamely tried his hand at Aunt Sally and as a result may find himself being recommended for membership of the Blobbers Club. We are sorry to say that The Regimental team lost the match 14-0 but many people commented after the game when they socialised with the families attending how smart and courteous the lads were, they were a credit and a good advert not only for the Regiment but also for the young men of today, and so as to redeem themselves they won the Aunt Sally competition with top dolls scored; much to the disapproval of the local experts. Thanks to **Peter's** efforts the event raised £1749.00 for the Colonels Fund well done **Peter** and all those who helped to make this occasion a success (not forgetting him above who blessed us with such good weather).

Again the Branch ran a Tombola and displayed items for sale on our stall at Grenadier Day, manned by the usual dedicated members and their partners, who raised £105.00 for Branch funds, the Secretary wishes to thank all those who generously provided the prizes. Besides being a glorious day everyone enjoyed themselves and had chance to meet old acquaintances with the bonus of a free viewing of most of the aerial display from the Farnborough air show next door. During the closing ceremony **Peter Brooks** presented The Association President **Colonel R E H Aubrey-Fletcher** with a cheque for £1749.00 for The Colonels Fund which was raised at our Fun Day.

On 18th June 1944 a terrible tragedy struck the Guards Chapel during the morning service when a V1 flying bomb struck the Chapel killing 121 people and injuring 147 more, one of the survivors was a Grenadier chorister named **Keith Lewis** who is one of our committee members, apparently **Keith** is the only known survivor



The Association President trying his hand at Aunt Sally.

of the disaster and he and his family were given pride of place at a service commemorating the 70th anniversary of the event held at the chapel on 22nd June 2014.

On what now appears to be an annual pilgrimage for the Branch, 12 members and wives including our President **Colonel Hudson** joined with the Royal Fusiliers to take part in the 100th anniversary of the 1st Battle of the Marne. On Friday 12th September the main ceremony, held at The Mondement Memorial was a much grander affair than in previous years as the French MoD took over its organisation. The French Prime Minister and all his dignitaries along with the Attaches from many European countries attended making it a very colourful event. Afterwards we attended a champagne reception in the grounds of Chateau Mondement and in the afternoon a 'Lunch of Friendship' at La Fere Champenois. On Saturday 13th September we visited La Ferte where the magnificent war memorial to those men of the BEF who fell on the retreat from Mons to The Marne, and have no known graves, is situated. **Peter Brooks** laid a wreath on behalf of the Association in memory of the many Grenadiers whose names are on the memorial.

On Sunday 14th September we attended a religious service in Sezane and afterwards joined local ex-service personnel in a wreath laying ceremony in their local war cemetery which also contains the graves of many fallen from all the Household Division regiments. Afterwards we joined the locals for a vin d'honneur and an excellent lunch.

On 20th September, members attended a band concert given by the Regimental Band at Radley College, Oxford and the next day we had the privilege of attending the Laying Up of the Old Colours of the 2nd Battalion which was held in the college chapel and a very impressive service it turned out to be.



Our Branch President, Colonel Edmund Hudson discussing tactics with Remi Becourt Foch, the grandson of Marshal of France Ferdinand Foch who was Supreme Commander of Allied Forces in WW1; this in the heart of Champagne Country.

Finally on 26th October we held our annual lunch at The Banbury Cricket Club. Over 70 people sat down to an excellent four course lunch with wine all provided by Mrs

Higgs and her staff. The President of The Association **Colonel R E H Aubrey-Fletcher** gave us an excellent update on the present and future roll and requirements of the Regiment, The Colonel's Fund and its associated welfare benefits.

As **Lieutenant Colonel Alan Cowie** our intended speaker was hospitalised, **Peter Brooks** proposed the toast to the Association and **Colonel Aubrey-Fletcher** then presented, on behalf of the Branch, our retiring secretary **Peter Cook**, with an inscribed watch and meritorious service certificate signed by the Colonel of the Regiment in recognition of the 20 years outstanding and loyal service he has given to the Branch. To recognise the support that she has given to him during that period **Margaret** his wife was presented with a Grenadier brooch. Our new Secretary thanks both **Peter** and **Janet** our treasurer for the assistance they have given to him during his initial period in office.



Peter Cook, pictured with his wife **Margaret** receives his Colonel's Certificate from **Colonel Aubrey-Fletcher**.

The afternoon ended with the usual raffle and we must say that we were amazed at the generosity of those members attending the lunch who donated 28 quality prizes which enabled us to raise almost £200.00. Also on behalf of the Branch our President **Colonel Hudson** wrote to **Peter Cook** inviting him to become a life Vice President which we are glad to say he accepted so his expertise will not be lost to us.

Sadly during the year we lost 2623893 **George Adams**, 22545941 **Reg Foster**, 23163314 **Brain Mace**, 2628288 **Dennis Lloyd**, Mr **Jim Bennett** and three of our widows; Mrs **Little**, Mrs **Stickley** and Mrs **Painting**.

We would like to end by thanking our President **Colonel Hudson**, our accountant Mr **Colin Hessey** and all committee members for the hard work they have put in over the past year to help the Branch function, and if there are any ex or serving Grenadiers in the area who may read this, please make contact so that we can offer you a warm welcome and invite you to come along to enjoy our functions, friendship and hospitality.

READING

(Formed 1913)

President: Lieutenant Colonel HS HANNING.

Vice Presidents: Major General BC GORDON LENNOX, CB, MBE; THE HON Mrs JEREMY MONSON; JG SOUTHERN, Esq; D McMAHON, Esq, RVM; G SLADE Esq.

Chairman: P FLOWERDEW.

Secretary: T DAY, 1 Harness Close, Reading, Berks, RG2 8PF.
Tel: 0118 9868328.

Email: t.day661@btinternet.com

Treasurer: J Veary.

We held our Branch AGM on Sunday 23rd March at the Calcot Hotel, Reading and 14 members attended. Our committee of seven all agreed to stand for a further year and this was carried by all. Our two events this year were Grenadier Day at Lille Barracks and our Annual Branch Lunch in September. Grenadier Day was a lovely hot summer's day and we had a very good display of goods to sell. Margaret's handmade miniature Guardsmen were very popular.



Margaret Rogers with her handmade miniature Guardsmen.

Pat McSweeney decided to sell a lot of the memorabilia he had collected over the years and he had very little left at the end of the day.



Pat McSweeney with his memorabilia.

Pat also designed a birthday card featuring all the Regiments and these too were very popular. The Secretary does have a few left.



Birthday cards designed by Pat McSweeney Treasurer Jim Veary and Margaret Rogers.

A marvellous display of model soldiers was put on by Richard and Derren, Honorary members of the Branch. This year they decided that as it was 100 years since the start of WW1 they would display a scene depicting the trenches and also a display of the Household Division Military Bands; both displays were excellent.



Richard White with his Regimental Band models.



Richard White's WW1 display.

We held a very successful Annual Branch Lunch in September at the Calcot Hotel. Our two speakers were **Major James Shaw**, Company Commander of The Inkerman Company who brought us up to date on the Regiment and **Graham Jones MBE** an ex Director of Music of the Coldstream Guards. **Graham Jones** told us how music is such a great part of the army both now and in the past. He used videos to explain how music can be used in both sad and joyful occasions. We would love him to come again next year. We also invited four Chelsea Pensioners and they are always very popular. One of them, **Michael Allen** was doing a sponsored zip wire flight in aid of the Royal Hospital – he is on the right of the picture and is either very brave or completely mad!



From Left to Right: **Allan Goddard**, **Norman Mitchell**, **Fred Brunger** and **Michael Allen**.



From Left to Right: **Mrs Elizabeth Hanning**, **The Hon Mrs Patricia Monson**, **Graham Jones MBE**, **Lieutenant Colonel Henry Hanning**, **Mrs Susan Jones** and **Mr Philip Flowerdew**.

Finally we send good wishes to **Major Andy Green**, all at RHQ and to all Branches for a successful 2015.

SHROPSHIRE

(Formed 1927)

President: Major GV INGLIS-JONES.

Vice Presidents: Sir AEH HEBER-PERCY, KVCO, JP, LL; Major RG WOODFIELD, MBE; Capt D VERNON; C BECK Esq; Lieutenant Colonel FS ACTON; G PRITCHARD, Esq; HW SPENCER, Esq; Capt G WHITAKER; Mr WSI KENYON-SLANEY OBE, KstJ, DL.

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 held our Branch AGM at the Lord Hill Hotel in Shrewsbury on Sunday 6th April 2014 with 21 members attending and four apologies recorded. It was good to see our President, **Major Giles Inglis-Jones** at the meeting and looking more like his old self. He assured the Branch that all is going well with his treatment and we all wished him well. We must thank those members of the Worcestershire Branch; **Mr and Mrs B Baylis** and the Branch Secretary **Mrs Patricia Smith** who came to the meeting for the second year running; they are great company and were welcome guests. We as a Branch should attend their AGM in the near future.

We are planning a luncheon in 2015 to be held in Shrewsbury, as yet no date has been arranged but we will inform RHQ when the date and venue are finalised for the details to be put on the Association website as we would like to see as many old and new members as possible come along to enjoy a very warm welcome. Members of other Association Branches would be very welcome too.

On Saturday 28th June, 31 members of the Branch attended a Garden Party in the grounds of Hodnet Hall, the home of **Sir Algy Heber-Percy**, the President of the North Staffordshire Branch. We were entertained by the Army Cadet Force Corps of Drums whose drill and musicianship were excellent, they did their instructors proud. There was also a short service of hymns and prayers which was followed by a lovely meal. Afterwards we all enjoyed looking around the beautiful gardens. We would like to convey the thanks of all who attended from the Branch to **Sir Algy** and his wife and to the members of the North Staffordshire Branch, especially their Secretary **David Robins** for making us so welcome. We look forward to maintaining this very close and enjoyable link with them all.

We did not arrange a coach for Regimental Remembrance Sunday or Grenadier Day as the Branch have difficulty getting enough members together to make the expense worthwhile. The Branch Secretary went to Grenadier Day with the Wolverhampton Branch and enjoyed it. He reported on a good day and is sure those that did not make it now understand what a good day they missed.

At the time of writing preparations for the 2014 Christmas lunch are well under way. It is being held at

the Lord Hill Hotel, Shrewsbury and we are very much looking forward to welcoming the President of the Association, **Colonel Richard Aubrey-Fletcher** and his wife **Caroline** as our guests.

Sadly the Branch lost **Bill Ashley**, one of our Associate members in late 2013. Bill served in the Irish Guards during WW2, he was quite a character and attended all our lunches, he will be sorely missed. The Branch was represented at his funeral and our condolences go to his family.

In closing this report we would like to convey our very best wishes to those members of the Branch recovering from illness especially our President **Major Giles Inglis-Jones**, **Chris Harrison**, **Douglas Vernon** and **George and Audrey Pritchard**. We hope all will be well enough to attend our future functions. Finally our thanks go to all at RHQ for their help and advice during 2014. To all Grenadiers and their families, we in Shropshire wish you a healthy and prosperous 2015.

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.

The last year saw the Branch reach another milestone as we celebrated our formation 60 years ago. The

Queen was newly crowned and the country was full of hope and optimism, there has been much turmoil since then but whenever needed the Regiment has played its part to perfection. During this time we have also shared very happy and proud occasions and as our Secretary always says "whatever work we have done for the Branch we have reaped the reward tenfold". To mark the anniversary our President **Major Simon Turner** and his wife **Annetta** invited the members to a luncheon at their home and this proved to be an extremely happy occasion enjoyed in glorious sunshine. Our guest from the Regiment was **Major Simon Gordon-Lennox** and his resume of Regimental activities was of great interest to all present and the time he took talking to individual members was greatly appreciated; he was an excellent ambassador. We were very pleased to have several Branch widows with us and we know the ladies enjoyed the day and we certainly enjoyed their presence. The Turner family always pull out the stops for us and acting as a most efficient waiter was the son of the house **Philip**, like his father late Scots Guards. Philip was ably assisted by **Hector and Katie** the children of **Major General E A Smyth-Osbourne** and his wife **Lucy**. Lucy is the sister of Philip. During the afternoon a presentation was made to Major Turner and flowers given to Mrs Turner. The Branch counts itself extremely fortunate in having such wonderful support not only from the President but also from his entire family; the more so because their true allegiance is to the Scots Guards!

Members attended the service and parade in the town's Peace Garden and on this occasion the Plaque Markers were **Brian Gedney** and our Welsh Guards member **Don Thomas**. At the town's annual Remembrance service the Branch wreath was laid by **Harold Harris**. It was



The Branch at their 60th Anniversary Luncheon.

gratifying to see the large number of people attending; it is very obvious that the Forces are now held in high regard. This has been a long time coming but the tide of opinion in the country has turned and our Armed Forces are now getting the recognition they richly deserve.

It is now our sad duty to report the death of **21006036 Derek Gladman**, until his last illness Derek was a regular attendee at our meetings, he was very proud of being a Grenadier and we will all miss him. We well remember Derek's excitement at being in Bruges to celebrate the formation of the Regiment. Derek had formerly been Mayor of Stamford and it could truly be said he was loyal to the extreme to his family, his community and his Regiment.

We would now like to thank everyone who has helped us in the past year, the unending support received from our President and all the members make the job of the Secretary so much easier and knowing expert advice from RHQ is only a phone call away makes for piece of mind, Thank you all.

SUFFOLK

(Formed 1926)

President: Colonel DHC GORDON-LENNOX.

Vice Presidents: Major CXS FENWICK, LVO; Major FAO CLARK; FA WALLACE, Esq; CR DEARING, Esq.

Chairman: PGD T del C 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 Annual General Meeting was held at Bury St Edmunds Golf Club on the 27th April 2014, 13 members were in attendance. The Branch President, **Colonel D H C Gordon Lennox** told the meeting that it gave him great pleasure to present Certificates of Service to **Albert Jones** and **Peter Wood** for 10 years sterling service to the Branch. Presenting Albert with the Colonel's Certificate of Service, he thanked him for his hard work and dedication as Branch Secretary, particularly during his period of family bereavement. Presenting Peter with the Branch President's Certificate, he complimented him on the manner in which he had immaculately maintained the Branch finances over such a long period of time.

As far as the election of Officers was



Albert Jones receiving the Colonel's Certificate of Service.



Peter Wood receiving the Branch President's Certificate of Service.

concerned it was – 'As you were'. The Chairman and Secretary agreed to stand again and in the absence of a nomination for Treasurer the Secretary agreed to continue in the dual role. A new appointment to the Committee was that of Archives Officer who will collate photographs and general information about the Branch; **Brian Taylor** agreed to take on this task. Within the rules of the Association, another step forward was to appoint Branch Auditors at the A.G.M; **Bernard Taylor** and **Kingsley Minns** agreeing to carry out this duty. Following the AGM members and their wives and partners posed for a



From Left to Right: Sid Kenworthy, Patricia Double, Len Taylor, Janet Beaumont, Barry Double, Mrs W. Pinder, Patrick G.D.T. del C. Nisbett (Chairman), G. Pinder, Albert Jones, Brian Taylor, Dulcie Taylor, Bernard Taylor, Pauline Taylor, Garry Reincke BEM, Colonel D.H.C. Gordon Lennox (Branch President), Kingsley Minns, and Barry Lovelace.

photograph prior to lunch.

There was a good turn-out for Regimental Remembrance Day 2014. It was the turn of the Suffolk and Sussex Branches to carry the Camp Colours. The highlight for the Branch was seeing "our man" **Bernard Taylor** back on the parade ground.



Under the watchful eye of Major Andrew Green (Regimental Treasurer and General Secretary), Bernard Taylor was soon at home; well done Bernard.

Sadly two of our Branch members have died in the past year. **Roger Cadge** passed away in June following a long illness; he was well respected for his time spent supporting the local community and his involvement with the Church. **Lawrence Hancock** passed away at Ipswich Hospital in October; he will be remembered as a staunch Branch Member. May they Rest in Peace.

Congratulations to one of our Vice Presidents, **Major Frank Clark**, who informs us that as a result of proceeds from the sales of his book 'We Were Brothers in Arms' he recently sent a cheque to the Colonel's Fund for £500. The total raised to date is nearing £1,500. Copies can still be obtained from the Regimental Shop. On Sunday 14th December, the Branch held their Annual Christmas Lunch at Hintlesham Golf Club. The Chairman welcomed our guest speaker, **Major Andrew Green** who brought us all up to date with news of the Regiment.

The Branch Committee would like to show their appreciation to **Andy Green** and **Rob Broomes** for their help during the past year.



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: Colonel EH HOUSTOUN, OBE.

Vice Presidents: Colonel EH HOUSTOUN OBE; Lieutenant Colonel RM DORNEY MBE; Lieutenant Colonel HMP De L'ISLE; Lieutenant Colonel TJ TEDDER; Lieutenant Colonel DJ WEBSTER; Lieutenant Colonel GR WHITEHEAD RVM; Capt CH COX, TD; Capt R HUTTON; Mrs P DOWLAND; Mr S KEYWORTH MBE; Mr P HODGKINSON BEM.

Chairman: Mr ANDY REID.

Secretary: Mrs BABS REID.

Address: 71 Wyke Avenue, Ash, Aldershot, Hants, GU12 6EA.
Tel: 01252 316757.

Email: babsrgga@gmail.com

Welfare Officer: Mr SAM KEYWORTH, MBE.

Treasurer: Mr TERRY TAYLOR.

Meetings: Third Wednesday of each month apart from December at 1930hrs at the Sgts Mess, ATR, Pirbright, Surrey, GU24 0QQ.

Sadly we start by having to report the loss of three of our members since the publication of the 2014 Grenadier Gazette. **2616538 Mr Sid Claridge** died on Saturday 30th August 2014, **Mrs Jessie Flannigan** died in November 2013 aged 100 and **Mrs Tess Wescott** died in March 2014; 'Lest We Forget'.

On a much happier note we are very pleased to report that we had the pleasure of welcoming new members to our Branch; **24638751 Paul Burrows (REME)**, **23215808 Mr Gerald Drudge (Life Guards)**, **22361493 Mr Phil Cook** who re-joined the Branch after a long absence and **22507997 Mr Alan Noakes (Coldstream Guards)**.

Our Christmas Lunch was held on Saturday 14th December 2013 at Clandon Regis Golf Club, Epsom Road, West Clandon, GU4 7TT and was attended by 71 members. For the second year running the Clandon Regis Golf Club put on another wonderful spread for us and went the extra mile to give us a memorable Christmas Lunch. After lunch and on behalf of the Branch the Chairman **Mr Andy Reid** presented our President **Sir John** and **Lady Smiley** with a Golden Wedding Rose and card as they had just celebrated their Golden Wedding. This was followed by the normal raffle during which **Mr Mark Worsfold (Kingston Branch)** won both the first prize, a bottle of alcohol free wine that came with a Classic E-Type Jaguar Car (donated by one of our members **Mr Tim (Piggy) Johnson** for the lucky winner to have for one day of driving pleasure), and the £50 cash prize, **Mark** went away very happy with his haul of prizes. There were plenty of other prizes to go round and lots of other people went home with a prize as well. A thoroughly enjoyable lunch and time was had by all who attended.



From Left to Right: Mr Ken Ward and his wife Heather, Mr John Lattimore and his wife Sue.

We are sad to report that our President **Lieutenant Colonel Sir John Smiley Bt** has decided to stand down this year after 13 years in post, but not before finding a suitable replacement to take the Branch forward. We are delighted to inform you that our new President is **Colonel Euan Houstoun OBE** who took over at our AGM on 15th Jan 2014. Our members offer **Sir John** and **Lady Smiley** their sincere thanks and gratitude for all they have done for the Branch over the years, and they leave us in the knowledge that we are in safe hands. **Colonel Euan Houstoun OBE** as everyone knows had just stepped down as Association President of over 40 branches, now he has only one branch to look after, so it should be a breeze for him and we all look forward to working together with him and his wife **Joanna** in taking our Branch forward for future Grenadiers and their partners.

Our Mini Holiday this year was to the Afton Hotel, Eastbourne from 28th February to 2nd March 2014. This was attended by 12 members who joined the coach at Pirbright Camp to travel down to the Afton Hotel (just in front of Eastbourne pier). Members did their own thing during the day, walking the seven sisters, open top bus tours, exploring and shopping to name just a few. We all met up in the evening to enjoy each others company over a few drinks and dinner. The entertainment in the hotel was great and had some of our members gracefully floating around the dance floor for the duration. Our time was up all too quickly and we found ourselves back on the coach for our return trip to Pirbright. A thoroughly good time was had by all and we look forward to the next one some time in the future.

Our Annual Dinner this year was held at the Frensham Pond Hotel, Churt on Saturday 26th April 2014 with 57 people attending. This included members from the Lincoln, Medway and Kingston Branches and also the Scots Guards Association. Before dinner started our President **Colonel Euan Houstoun OBE** stood and welcomed Grenadiers, their wives, friends and visitors from across the Association and the Household Division. Our Guest Speaker this year was **Capt Johnny Hathaway-White** who gave us a very informative update on what the Regiment had been up to,

and what they were going to do in the following year.

Our President again stood to speak about the six members who had "moved on" since our last dinner. He drew our attention to their names and the fact that two of them **Mr Ron Grant** and **Mrs Jessie Flanagan** were centenarians or centurions. He then went on with news about what the Branch has been up to throughout the year and thanked all those who organised the events and those members who attended. Then he moved on to the vital business of the night, a farewell to our guests of honour **Lieutenant Colonel Sir John Smiley** and **Lady Smiley**. He said he had been privileged to know **Sir John** since his command of 14 Coy at Pirbright in 1966 to 67 when one of his other platoon Commanders, **Peter Hodgkinson** and he did their best to qualify in the Flying Dutchman sailing dinghy for the 1968 Olympics – and Frensham ponds was one of their training grounds. They failed to be selected but he remembered that time with great affection – it was such good fun for which he thanked **Colonel John**. His last comment, and maybe it was a reflection on his last appointment, was to congratulate **Colonel John** for leaving and handing over a great Branch. He then handed the floor to our Chairman **Mr Andy Reid**.

Our Chairman stood saying that it gave him great pleasure to talk about our guests of honour. **Lieutenant Colonel Sir John Smiley Bt** took over as President of our Branch from **General Sir David Fraser GCB, OBE** and served for 13 years from 2001 until he handed over earlier this year at the AGM on 15th Jan 2014. He remembered **Sir John** telling us how one day when he was at a garden party at Buckingham Palace he was spotted from across the other side of the lawn by our then Branch President **General Sir David** who beckoned **Sir John** over with a wave of his hand. A conversation then took place about the Branch and somehow **Sir John** found himself being volunteered to take on the job of our new President. Since the time of taking over he and **Lady Smiley** have given the Branch their full support in everything we have done. When the Branch did any fundraising for the various charities they would even drum up some financial support from their friends and colleagues. He remembered the time when **Sir John** even went on our local radio station to gain a bit more support when the Branch organised the very successful Grenadier Band Concert at Guildford Cathedral in order to raise money for the Colonel's Fund. He also spoke of another time when he and **Lady Smiley** opened up their home to the Branch to hold a tea party in their garden. That morning as we set up the gazebos, tables and chairs we were all in our shirt sleeves with the sun shining down on us, then in the afternoon when the tea party was in full swing, it started to rain and didn't stop. **Lady Smiley** threw open the patio doors and we ended up all pouring into their house for the remainder of the afternoon. Poor **Sir John** and **Lady Smiley** were cleaning up behind us for the next week.

Even last year when **Sir John** was very poorly and recovering from an operation, he was determined to support us in attending the Centenary Dinner only days after being allowed home from the hospital. Andy finished



Top Table From Left to Right: Mrs Faye Cox, Capt Johnny Hathaway-White, Lieutenant Colonel Sir John Smiley Bt and Mrs Joanna Houstoun.



Seated on the left our Guest of Honour Lieutenant Colonel Sir John Smiley Bt and our Chairman Mr Andy Reid try out the garden bench presented to Sir John.

by saying “**Sir John**, anything anybody could ever say about how we feel about you and what you and **Lady Smiley** have done for us over the years would only scratch the surface and that’s all I’ve done with these few words. I can only offer you both now the heartfelt thanks of every member of the branch”. Our chairman then asked everyone to stand and raise a glass in a toast to the continuing good health of **Sir John** and **Lady Smiley**.

Our President then asked the Chairman to do the presentations. The first was to **Lady Smiley** who normally insists that we do not buy her flowers. However she did not have a say in it and we got her two very special Peruvian Lilly plants called Little Miss *Davina* (**Lady Smiley’s** Christian name is **Davina**) which we hoped she would enjoy looking at in her garden with fond memories of our members. To **Sir John** who we knew loved to spend time out in his garden, we decided that we should get him something to go in it as well. So we asked him to accept a garden bench where he and **Lady Smiley** could sit and enjoy their surroundings in comfort. To our guest speaker’s wife who unfortunately was not able to join us we asked if our guest speaker would mind accepting flowers on her behalf. Finally to **Mrs Sally Bell** for all the work she put in shopping for and doing the raffle that evening.

Sir John took the floor to thank members for their loyalty to him during the time he had been President and wished the Branch all success in the future. He thanked

members for the wonderful presentation of the bench and insisting that our Chairman sit on it with him for a photo shoot which caused great amusement in the room.

The **Bob Bennett** Memorial Charity Fishing Match was held this year on Sunday 13th July at the Henley Park Lake, Pirbright. 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. This year the winning team were the Environment Agency with the Grenadiers coming second. We are pleased to report that **Mr Peter Paine** (Grenadier) won the tankard for the biggest fish at 10lb 10ozs. The tankard for biggest weight (26lbs) and £70 prize money to boot “well done Peter.” The Surrey Police came third, and the winners of last year the Aldershot Garrison Angling Club came last. Reports said the venue was not fishing that well, however everyone had a good day. The proceeds of the day of £160.00 went to the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds which was **Bob’s** favourite charity.

Grenadier Day for our Branch was a great success. We had two teams enter the Boyton Cup Shooting Competition and we are pleased to report they came second and third. On our Branch stall, **Mr Colin Francis** sold out of all his Grenadier Tole painted items. **Mr Windy Miller** had everyone queued up guessing the contents of 20 bags hanging on a line in one minute on the £1 a feel competition. This caused great amusement amongst those taking part and even the onlookers. The Tombola run by **Mrs Tina**

Ward and **Miss Maisie Ward** did very well as always. The childrens Throw a Dice run by **Mr Malcolm Hammond** had the children coming back again and again, because there was a guaranteed winner with every throw. The photo display run by our Chairman **Mr Andy Reid** caused a lot of interest for the third year running, with Grenadiers reminiscing over the 350 plus Platoon and Squad photos on display. With a couple of requests from people for copies to be sent to them (we have to say that the photos have been so successful and caused such an interest that our Chairman has now set up a Facebook Group called Grenadier Guards Company Platoon Squad Photo’s; already it has 206 members, with over 380 photos being shared with other Grenadiers. If you have a PC and are signed up to Facebook, why not join his group and share some of your photos on it. Our stall had a visit from **Lieutenant Colonel Sir John Smiley Bt** and a very pleased **Lady Smiley** who had in her hand a beautiful little flower which she wanted to show us. It was a cutting of the



Standing outside the hall to welcome all our members are **Windy Miller and **Wendy Seager**.**

Peruvian Lilly, Little Miss Davina that the Branch had presented to her at our annual dinner. **Lady Smiley** told us that her plants were thriving and in full flower, how nice of her to go to the trouble of bringing a cutting along to show us.

The 4th August 2014 saw our Branch Centenary Commemoration Service of The Great War 1914–1918 at the Lord Pirbright Hall, Pirbright. The Service was taken by **The Reverend Christine Musser** (Vicar of St Michael & All Angels, Pirbright), a reading by **Mr Windy Miller** followed by the Last Post, a one minute's silence and Rouse. The Service was followed by some entertainment by Variety Collective, a professional group of performers who presented a show called "Keep the Home Fires Burning" (a Centenary Commemoration in music, song and dress of the day) of the build up to, and the outbreak of The Great War, the entertainment lasted for two hours with an interval in the middle. This was thoroughly enjoyed by all who sang along to the old songs with flags waving, some members even dressed in some of the clothing of the day. After the show members were served sandwiches, cakes, tea and coffee at the tables. All our hard work was rewarded by praise from members saying what a very enjoyable time they had and

how much they enjoyed the show. Something the Branch must repeat in the future.

One of our members **Mr Mike (Jake) James** donated a Grenadier Tenor drum to be auctioned off to Grenadiers in order to raise some money for the Branch funds.

This was circulated around Branches in order to reach all Grenadiers and give them a chance to bid in a sealed envelope. We are pleased to say that the highest bid was £515.00 which was given to our treasurer. Our thanks go to **Mike** for his very kind donation, and of course not forgetting the highest bidder.

The Branch BBQ was held on Saturday 6th September 2014 at our Chairman and Secretaries house; another great day of fun and laughter with everyone enjoying their selves amongst friends. With plenty of food, drink and sunshine who could ask for more?

Our Sunday Lunches are still held on the last Sunday of every month at the Lakeside International Hotel, Wharf Rd, Frimley Green, Surrey, GU16 6JR at 1230hrs for 1300hrs, these continue to be well attended and we have now fixed this location as it's popular with those members who normally attend.

We have now changed the format of our Branch meetings. Although they are still held on the third Wednesday of every month we now alternate them with one as a meeting and the next as a social meeting where we invite someone to give a talk, or we have a games night. At the social meetings we also have a buffet and the normal raffle. This has proved to be very successful and we find that we have more members turn up.

This report just about sums up what our branch has been doing since the last time we wrote. However before we go we would just like to say a big thank you to our President, Committee and Members for their support. Also to everyone at Regimental Headquarters for their continued help and support. "THANK YOU EVERYONE."



1st Battalion Tenor Drum donated by Mike (Jake) James.



Members before the service started.



The Variety Collective entertain us.

SUSSEX

(Formed 1947)

President: Capt JS GREENWOOD.

Vice Presidents: Lieutenant Colonel TEM DONE; Capt JS GREENWOOD; AD MAYHEW Esq.

Hon Vice Presidents: Colonel JC RICHARDSON. MA.(RAMC)

Chairman: MW BRACKSTON.

Secretary: Mr J NORRIS, 1a Sea Lane Close, East Preston, West Sussex, BN16 1NQ. Tel: 01903 786247.

Meetings: Formal meetings on the second Thursday in the month at lunchtime (1115hrs-1430hrs) except in January and February when there are no meetings and also in April which is the month of the Branch Annual Dinner. Meetings are held at the Royal British Legion, Lancing. Contact the Branch Secretary for further details.

A full year has now gone by since **Barney Cresswell** and **John Norris** assumed the roles of Treasurer and Secretary. They were both aware of the excellent work of **Derek Money MBE** over the past 39 years in fulfilling both roles and over the year it became apparent just how much time he had spent on making it such a success. In all his time he was supported by his wife **Eileen** who worked so hard in our meetings in welcoming new members and preparing refreshments. Our finances are in good order under **Barney** (who has muttered it was easier fighting the Germans in Normandy). Whilst for **John**, he is still trying to find a table to get his feet under.

The Branch continues to meet on a monthly basis at the Royal British Legion Club, Lancing. All our members are entitled to free TV licences and winter fuel allowances. We number about 14 members and 10 ladies. The meetings last for approximately three hours and refreshments are prepared by **Carol Holland**, **Toulla Norris** and **Barbara Room**, who do an excellent job in preparing and serving the food; our grateful thanks to them.

We sometimes have a quiz prepared mostly by **Roy Prior** and always have a raffle. Our members are both generous in donating prizes and buying tickets. This is our total source of income. Our conversation is of regimental memories and varied subjects such as hip replacements. What more could you want from a Branch meeting!

It was decided at our AGM that we would consider making changes to attract new members and try to follow the example of other clubs by introducing Honorary Members into our ranks. However, some of our members resisted the idea but it was decided that we would try, by means of moving some of our meetings to other parts of the county and varying the times, to provoke new Honorary and normal members.

We held a BBQ at the Windmill Inn in Rustington on 24th August which was described as a Family Day to promote the suggestion of new Honorary members. We had an attendance of 42, which included friends and family. A pleasant time was had by all and the weather was kind to us but it failed in its primary objective.

Our Annual Dinner took place at the Windsor Hotel, Worthing, West Sussex. There were 68 members and guests present and was presided over by our new President **Capt J S Greenwood**, who has taken on the role vacated by his father, **Capt J R Greenwood**, due to ill health. Our guest speaker was **Mr Leslie Coppard** who is the Chairman of the Royal British Legion, Sussex. He regaled us with tales of the trials and tribulations of the Legion in Sussex and also some of the work it does.



From Right to Left: Major James Greaves, Capt J S Greenwood and Mr L Coppard.



From Right to Left: Mrs L Johnson (Derek's daughter), Derek Money and Eileen Money.

Our Regimental guest **Major James Greaves**, who is the Company Commander No 2 Company 1st Battalion Grenadier Guards, gave an outstanding account of what the Regiment is doing and to its future deployment. Any young person listening would have joined up straight away!

Our new President **Capt J S Greenwood** gave his inaugural address which was very well received by all present. There were some excellent raffle prizes donated by our members and the food was good. The evening was enjoyed by all (or so they said).

On Remembrance Sunday the Branch was represented by **Tom Holland**, **David Sneller** and **John Norris**. They comprised a quarter of the Grenadier detachment. Unfortunately we did not have an Officer to lead the Guards Division and as we were following a Highland Light Regiment (The Cameronians), their pace was shorter than ours and it was very difficult not to get entangled with them. It was a beautiful day and another great experience.



From Left to Right: Mr T Holland, Mrs R Cresswell, Mr B Cresswell, Mr D Room, Mrs B Room, Mr J Stevens, Mrs Stevens, Mrs C Holland and Mrs R Holland.

The saddest part of any report is announcing the passing of others. During the month of February 2014, **Robert Head** died aged 94 years. **Bob** served with the Regiment from 1939 until 1945 in both the 3rd and 5th Battalions. He joined the Branch in 1976, a total of 38 years. He was known to a number of members with fond memories. His funeral took place in Hastings where he spent his last days and was attended by **Derek Money MBE** and **Jim Stevens** who represented the Association and took the Grenadier Guards Wreath to place on the coffin.

During the month of June 2014 our previous President **Capt John Richard Greenwood MBE** aged 88 years died at his home in Balcombe, East Sussex. His Memorial Service took place at St Mary's Church, Balcombe on 3rd July. The Church was full, the marquee outside was full and the gravestones, used as benches, were also fully occupied, which just goes to show just how much he was respected and loved. He served with the Regiment for a number of years from 1945, mostly in Germany, with the 2nd Battalion where he attained a very unusual title of Brigade Forestry Officer. As there was no coal, he was in charge of cutting down trees, which he did very successfully and also managed to avoid drill parades, much to the chagrin of his fellow officers. He was also taught how to dance 'The Dashing White Sargent' by no less a person than HM The Queen, when she was a Princess at a party at Windsor Castle, when he was stationed at Victoria Barracks Windsor. The service was followed by refreshments at the Dower House given by **Mrs Greenwood** which was attended by at least 200 people. Amongst them were 10 members from the Sussex Branch. The Branch members have many fond memories of times spent with him, particularly **Derek Money MBE**, our previous Secretary, who worked with him from 2002 until 2014.

As for the future, Our Annual Dinner will take place at The Windsor Hotel, Windsor Road, Worthing, West Sussex, on Friday 25th April 2015, starting at 7.30pm. Branch meetings take place on the second Thursday of the month starting at 11.00am and finishing at 2.00pm, at the Royal British Legion Club, Lancing, East Sussex.

TAMWORTH

(Formed 1965)

President: Awaiting Appointment.

Vice Presidents: AW WALE.

Chairman: B WATTON Esq.

Secretary: PETER MAGUIRE, Tel: 0121 343 2356.

Email: tamworthbranch@grengds.com

Meetings: 2nd Sunday of the Month at Royal British Legion, 11 Aldergate, Tamworth, Staffordshire, B79 7DL 1230hrs.

This has been a year of firsts for Tamworth. Members attended the first Grenadier Day in nearly 30 years and a Christmas lunch has been booked on the same basis. The AGM of the branch was held in May and the existing officers were all re-elected to their posts.

Three members attended a fundraising walk at the National Memorial Arboretum on 11th May and in November a trip was organised to see the poppies at the Tower of London which was a moving experience for all.

Meetings are held on the 2nd Sunday of the month at 12.30pm and new members are always welcome to join us, the venue is the newly renamed Aldergate Club (previously The Royal British Legion), 7 Aldergate, Tamworth, Staffs.

WALSALL

(Formed 1974)

President: Major J COLEMAN.

Vice Presidents: G PHILLIPS; Mr C JONES.

Chairman: B DOYLE, Esq.

Secretary: C JONES 94 Delves Green Road, Walsall, West Mids. WS5 4NH. Tel: 01922 620970.

Email: Cliffjones94@sky.com.

Treasurer: G PHILLIPS 58 Broadstone Avenue, Leamore, Walsall, West Mids. Tel: 01922 408531.

Email: glynnphillips34@gmail.com

Meetings: Second Wednesday of each month at Short Heath Royal British Legion Club, Church Road, Willenhall, WV12 5PT.

Unfortunately we start on a sad note; **Fred Ball** our Secretary has not been too well during the year and has been in hospital therefore it has fallen on the Branch Chairman to submit the Annual Report on Fred's behalf.

Our first gathering since the Annual Dinner last year was the Christmas social evening in December 2013 at the British Legion Club. The Club Steward laid on a beautiful buffet which was quickly demolished by the 70 members who attended a lovely warm Christmas get together which we all enjoyed. In January 2014 the AGM was held with all officers being returned.

In February 2014 we heard the news that our wonderful venue for the Annual Dinner had gone into

liquidation. We had held our Dinners there for the last 25 years. It was really sad news and we immediately began to search for a new venue.

March 2014 saw 30 members travel by coach to Tenby in South Wales. We stayed at the Belgrave Hotel overlooking the beach on full board with a free bar from 6 to 11pm every night and entertainment. It was a wonderful short break which we strongly recommend. In May 20 members together with members of the Wolverhampton Branch attended Regimental Remembrance Sunday to pay respect to our fallen comrades.

In July members attended Grenadier Day, together again with members from Wolverhampton. The Branch set up a stall and came away with a small profit of £253. It was raining prior to our arrival but it turned out to be a pleasant afternoon with good entertainment in the arena and from the Farnborough Air Show.

On the 5th September the Branch held its Annual Dinner at the Fairlawns Hotel, Aldridge near Walsall with 100 people sitting down to enjoy fine food, wine and good company. **Major Jim Green** from the 1st Battalion brought us up to date with what is happening in the Regiment now, and what is likely to happen in the future. It was an excellent evening ending with the usual raffle. However the shape of the room did not suit our needs so we will be looking for a new venue next year. I think we have been spoilt by the accommodation our previous venue provided for us. Remembrance Sunday was observed at the cenotaph in Walsall town centre, our wreath was laid by **Bill Bakewell**.

At the time of writing the Branch is looking forward to our planned holiday in March 2015 when once again 30 members will be travelling to Bournemouth (another free bar of course).

It is sad to report the deaths of the following members in 2014, all of whom will be missed: **Bob Jolly BEM** who served 24 years in the Regiment having joined in 1974. Bob had just returned to the Branch after being away for a few years, and he was the type of man we would have liked to take over reins but sadly he died so young. **22545926 Peter Bland** served with the 2nd Battalion in Egypt and unfortunately 10 years ago suffered a severe stroke which more or less left him bedridden most of the time. A sad loss to us because he socialized so well and gave us a good name. We also lost **A Bourne** (Coldstream Guards) **G Bayliss** (Royal Signals) and **R Simkins** (RAF); they all supported the Branch in everything we did and we will certainly miss them.

Our main concern at the moment is the fact that our sick parade is getting longer, this we believe is due to the fact that we have all had too many birthdays. Joking apart the majority of the Branch members are in their 70s and 80s; young blood is urgently needed. We do get round as best we can to see people (thanks to the likes of Glyn Phillips) otherwise we keep in touch by phone to see if anything is required for any special needs.

All members of the Walsall Branch send greetings to all Grenadiers and their families everywhere and a thank you to **Major A Green** and **Sgt Rob Broomes** at RHQ for their help over the last 12 months.

WESSEX

(Formed 1949)

President: Lieutenant Colonel AC McMATHER, CVO, OBE.

Vice Presidents: Capt CR ACLAND; JTS BOWER, Esq; Major PH CORDLE; Capt CTF FAGAN, DL; Lieutenant Colonel A HEROYS; CJ HOPE, Esq; Major RW HUMPHREYS; MFMO JODRELL, Esq; Lady C LINDSAY; Major TTR LORT-PHILLIPS; THE LORD MONTAGU OF BEAULIEU; Capt (QM) BE SHEEN; THE RT HON. HGW SWIRE, MP.

Chairman: D BAKER.

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 & Mrs O SWYER.

Meetings: Third Monday of the month (February to July, and September) at 2000hrs. The Conservative Club, 22 Christchurch Road, Ringwood.

(No meeting in August/October). The meetings in January and November to be held at a venue to be determined during the year.

Our November 2013 meeting was again held in Wimborne, at The Man in the Wall. This could prove to be a regular venue for one of our winter lunchtime gatherings. The landlord reserved us a cosy room which was so welcoming with a log fire burning and lots of fine food. There were around 20 members that came along which made for a nice luncheon and get-together.

We all enjoyed our Christmas Social in December at the Conservative Club, Ringwood. There were 32 of us, which was a splendid turn out considering the distance some had to travel. We always have a lovely selection of food brought in by members for us to enjoy during the evening. We all joined in with the Music Comedy Quiz which was run by **Alan Maslin** – doing a professional job on the microphone! We had the Christmas Draw where members won £150 between them and also the Branch Raffle – with lots of festive prizes to be had. Our thanks go to **Bill & Glenda Butt** for the time and effort they put into organising this and other raffles throughout the year, it is much appreciated.

Our first meeting of 2014 was held at Haskins Garden Centre, Ferndown and again at lunchtime. After discussing Branch matters, there were 24 of us who enjoyed lunch followed by a raffle. It was such a beautiful sunny day (so different from last year when we had snow and had to abandon the idea of a meeting).

The Branch AGM took place in February, with many attending. It was on this occasion that our Chairman, **Barrie Fleming**, stood down after a period of 10 years in the role. He was presented with a walking out stick, on behalf of the Branch, by our President, **Lieutenant Colonel Anthony Mather**, and was thanked for all his enthusiasm and hard work as Chairman along with his 8 years as Treasurer and 4 years as Welfare-co-ordinator. **Derek Baker** was elected as the New Chairman which was welcomed by everyone.



Outgoing Chairman, Barrie Fleming – who is a stick-ler for detail!! Being presented with an ‘apt’ present by our President, Lieutenant Colonel Anthony Mather.

The Branch provided one of the Wreath Bearers at Regimental Remembrance Day in May and we would like to say that **Mike Sperrin**, once again, did us proud! Several travelled up to London by coach and all found the occasion a very moving experience.

Grenadier Day was a scorcher! – goodness me – everyone was wilting! The day was buzzing and attracted many visitors which was tremendous. We are grateful to all those who supported us by buying raffle tickets for the wines, spirits and chocolate hamper to be won which raised £137.50. A big thank you to **Joy Clowes** who made a selection of cards to be sold on the stall – they went down a treat. **Mike Sperrin**, as in previous years, was there, on site, from 8.30am setting up the gazebo – with a little help! Also we were joined by **Peter** and **Brian Durrant** who brought along their many photo albums which, as always, attracted a lot of interest. It was lovely to have the Battalion at home, and the arena displays were excellent.



Mike Sperrin (right) with Barry Swyer and Alan Maslin.

This year our Summer Luncheon ‘Party’ was held in August, at Pythouse Kitchen & Garden, Tisbury. Not the easiest of places in the world to find but what fabulous surroundings – a hidden gem! A big thank you goes to **Major Paul Cordle**, (Vice-President), who invited us along to enjoy a splendid meal on such a lovely day – always a highlight in the Branch calendar.

Also in August, a group of 14 went on a tour of the Royal Hospital, Chelsea. What a fantastic day – stunning buildings with so much history. We would all like to thank our tour guide, **Bill Bullick**, for showing us around this special place, for his humour, and informative talk. We

also met up with former Grenadier, **Norman Mitchell**, (6th Battalion), a resident at the hospital, who greeted us with a lovely smile. A big thank you goes to **Gary Crew**, driver extraordinaire. Gary is the only one who would take a short-cut on the way home through Heathrow Airport to avoid the M25 traffic (and it worked)!



A happy group with our guide, Bill Bullick.

October is Branch Luncheon time which everyone looks forward to. As in previous years, this was held at the Days Hotel, Bournemouth, and with 54 present it made for a thoroughly enjoyable occasion. Thanks go to **Ann Crew** for organising the event with such enthusiasm. The meal was delicious and yet again the cost was the same as in previous years. We held a raffle, expertly run by **Bill** and **Glenda Butt** which raised £155 – well done to them!

We were delighted to have as our guest speaker, **Colonel Richard Aubrey-Fletcher**, who, in his speech, reflected on what was happening with the Regiment on that day 100 years ago and as things were in current times. He also brought us up to date with Association matters and was looking forward to his role as President of the Grenadier Guards Association. We thank him for his time and that he was able to join us.

We are very fortunate, as a Branch, to have **Lieutenant Colonel Anthony Mather** as our President, who, along with his wife, **Gaye** are very active in their support. This is so much appreciated by us all.

It is with great sorrow that we have to report the passing of the following:

2625066 **R Chilcott** – December 2013

Mrs D Smith – December 2013

2614523 **LW Cronk** – August 2014.

Mrs D Mole – March 2014 who attended regular Branch meetings and wife of 2627887 **D Mole**.

If you live in the Wessex area and would like to come along to one of the Branch meetings, please do so, we would be delighted to see you – new members always welcome. Meetings take place as stated in the header above. If you would like further information, please do not hesitate to contact the Branch Secretary. Look forward to seeing you.

WEST KENT (TUNBRIDGE WELLS)

(Formed 1951)

President: Major THE VISCOUNT DE L'ISLE MBE, DL.

Vice Presidents: K RICHARDSON Esq; C WELLINGS Esq MM.

Chairman: C WELLINGS MM.

Hon Secretary: W FULLER, 18 Sheffield Road, Tunbridge Wells, Kent. TN4 0PD. Tel: 01892 518 029.

Email: bill.fuller@hotmail.co.uk

Treasurer: Michael Link.

Email: linkmrj@yahoo.co.uk

Meetings: The Constitutional Club, Sandrock Road, Tunbridge Wells, Kent, on the first Thursday in every month at 1945hrs, October to December, also February to May inclusive.

The age and medical condition of the few interested members of the Branch has precluded them from attending formal meetings. However, at times three or four have managed to attend an occasional lunch meeting at the Constitutional Club.

On 26th November 2014 a Branch lunch time meeting was held at Penshurst Place, courtesy of our President where we all enjoyed a lovely lunch. The few remaining Grenadiers were supported by wives, widows and a carer. They were brought up to date on Regimental and Association matters by **Major Andy Green**. It is highly likely now that the Branch will have to close but will remain in touch with the Regiment as much as possible and have been assured of the support of Association HQ should the need arise.

WIGAN, ST HELENS AND DISTRICT

(Formed 1974)

President: B TAYLOR.

Vice Presidents: Capt (QM) TA ROLFE.

Chairman: A PRICE.

Secretary: G YOUNG, 18 Hesketh Meadow Lane, Nr Warrington, Cheshire. WA3 2AJ. Tel: 01942 605 401.

Email: gyoung24433@blueyounder.co.uk

Meeting: Last Tuesday of the month 1945hrs at Whelley Ex-Servicemen's Club, 180 Vauxhall Road, Wigan, WN1 3LU.

Well, what a tumultuous 12 months we have had. For starters, we all thought we would be celebrating our 40th anniversary in 2014 and then discovered we wouldn't. After a lot of searching and digging it was found that our Branch had actually been formed in 1974 but wasn't actually recognised as a Branch in its own right until 1978.

For the 4 years in between we were a subsidiary Branch of Liverpool. The good news is that we still have our 40th to look forward to. Thanks to the Liverpool Branch, particularly **Frank Pennington** for the information which prevented us going ahead and getting egg on our faces.

December 2013 saw the Branch's last major function of the year with the Christmas lunch at the Village club Culcheth (all our events are held at this venue due to it being perfect for all our needs). Over 50 members, family and friends enjoyed a lovely Christmas meal. **Warren** and his staff looked after us superbly as they all ways do.

In March the Secretary, no names mentioned (**Graham Young**) was placed on report for going AWOL from the Secretaries AGM in London which he thought was being held the week after. Having bought his train ticket for the said weekend the committee decided that was punishment enough.

The first major event of 2014 was the annual St George's Day lunch held on Sunday 27th April. Almost 50 members and guests sat down to a superb three course meal. As with the Christmas lunch this allowed the members who can't get to all the meetings to get together and enjoy a good afternoon of good food and good company. The Branch held its AGM at the end of April; the committee stood down and after a very close count (100% for 0% against) the committee was voted back in for another year.

On Monday 5th May the Del-Boys and Rodneys (**Barry, Graham and Eric**) and their manageress **Adel** set up their market stall at Culcheth Community Day. The weather was very kind to us and thousands of people attended enabling us to raise quite a sum for our Branch welfare fund; a big thank you to all who donated goods for us to sell. On the day we were supported by the Grenadier detachment of the Wigan Army Cadet Force who proved to be very popular. This has now become another annual event that the Branch can use to reach out to Grenadiers residing in the area.

May continued to be a busy month with Regimental Remembrance Day on 18th. 24 of us boarded the coach on Saturday 17th and headed for our hotel which, this time, was The Millennium Gloucester in Kensington. After booking in and refreshing ourselves we headed off to the Royal Hospital, Chelsea to spend an evening with the Chelsea Pensioners; big thanks to **Alan Goddard** who arranged the visit for us and looked after us so well, the perfect 'mine host'. As always, Black Sunday was a momentous occasion. We don't all manage the march nowadays but it's just good to be there and meet up with old comrades and, indeed, make new friends. After a busy day we headed back to our hotel to have a quiet evening. Some of us met and had a meal but just about all of us relaxed.

On Monday we boarded the coach and headed off home breaking our journey with a visit to the National Memorial Arboretum – well worth a visit just to see how much it has changed.

Our 2014 Annual Dinner took place on Saturday 11th October with exactly 50 members, family and guests sitting down to a wonderful meal. **Warren** seems to exceed expectations with every meal and we wonder just how good it can get! This year we were delighted to welcome **Capt Alexander Budge** from the Battalion as

Regimental guest speaker who gave an enlightening speech ensuring everyone was quite clear about Battalion movement and 'goings on' and the commitments of Nijmegen Company. With all the sport, training and adventurous training planned many of us were wishing we could join up again.

Apart from all our annual events we do have our 'day to day' business to get on with. Monthly meetings are well attended and usually followed by an hour of social enjoyment.

Adel provides sandwiches and cake which always go down well. The welfare of our members and families is a major factor in our criteria and visits and telephone calls are important for us to remain aware of how outlying members are faring and to reassure them that they are not forgotten. Our oldest member is 93 years young and, although he has family, he really appreciates a visit from a fellow Grenadier. Our monthly meetings serve as a forum to inform and swap information about members we don't see on a regular basis.

2014 saw us on parade with our Branch Banner on numerous occasions, notably, the inaugural church parade of the new Mayor of Wigan, Armed Forces Day in Wigan and at the dedication and renaming of a street in honour of Anthony Palmer VC in Heywood. The latter being special as our Regimental Band was on parade; three great occasions which we were proud to be part of. The sad occasion was the funeral of **Ivor Williams** Chairman of the Manchester Branch. We were, again, on parade with our Banner on Remembrance Sunday – this time in the town of Leigh, part of our district.



Branch members marching in Heywood during the Anthony Palmer VC parade.

So, another year comes to an end. Thanks go to every member of the Branch for making it successful and enjoyable, thanks and appreciation also go to the team at Regimental Headquarters who give us so much support; **Colonel Aubrey-Fletcher**, **Major Green** and **Sgt Broomes** – we couldn't do without you. And, to end on a happy note – congratulations to **Sgt Rob Broomes** on his promotion – well deserved.



Eddie Burke and his good lady Sandra at the Branch Annual Dinner.

WINDSOR

(Formed 1926)

President: Major MB HOLLAND

Vice Presidents: "President Emeritus" Major BT EASTWOOD, LVO, MBE; Lieutenant Colonel SIR JOHN SMILEY Bt; Capt DW LING; Major General SIR MICHAEL HOBBS KCVO, CBE; Mr JA STEEL, BEM; RA DOBSON, Esq; Mrs SR HOWELL; RC GILBERT, Esq.

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 SR HOWELL.

Email: sheila439@btinternet.com

Meetings: First Wednesday of each month, at the Grenadier Club, Maidenhead Road, Windsor, SL4 5EY at 2000hrs.

Another year has gone by, and it is time to write the Branch annual report. **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 10th November 2013. After the service members met at the Club with members from other local Associations based in Windsor.

The Christmas festivities started with the Branch Christmas Draw on Saturday 14th December. Once again the club secretary **Sue Gilbert** spent long hours successfully obtaining nearly a hundred prizes from local businesses. Many members turned up on the night 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. A big thank you goes to those who continue to support the draw by buying and selling tickets and donating prizes.



Christmas Draw Prizes waiting to be won.

The following Saturday 60 members and friends returned on the Saturday evening to enjoy a delicious traditional Christmas Dinner and then spent the rest of the evening boogying to the disco. The year's activities finished, at the club, with members gathering to celebrate, and see in the New Year.

2014 started off at a slow pace with a few private functions at the club until The Branch Annual General Meeting on Wednesday 2nd April. The Secretary, **Bob Gilbert**, gave an overview of the years past events. The Treasurer, **Sheila Howell**, produced the Branch and Club audited reports that were accepted. **Major B T (Jim) Eastwood** LVO, MBE retired as the Branch President and **Major M B (Mike) Holland** has been appointed our new President by **Colonel**

R E H Aubrey-Fletcher the Association President. A short break was taken when Members enjoyed the buffet provided by the committee. The following were re-elected as Branch and Club officers. The Chairman, **Tony Steel BEM**, Secretary, **Bob Gilbert**, Treasurer, **Sheila Howell** and Club Secretary, **Sue Gilbert**. Due to ill-health **Peter Penny** sadly had to stand down as the Welfare Officer and **Rev John Wasley** has been elected to take his place. **Major Holland** addressed the meeting and offered the secretary, **Bob Gilbert**, the position of Vice President which he accepted and which was welcomed by all members present.

Major Jim Eastwood LVO, MBE retired as our Branch President following prolonged ill-health. He took over from **Major Hemsall** in 1993 and led the Branch for 20 years, initially during his very demanding appointment as Superintendent at Windsor Castle. Throughout his Branch Presidency he was most charmingly supported by his wife **Sheila** and his family. In recent years, he and **Sheila** travelled from their home in Horndean to almost every Branch Meeting and major function until he was forced to give up driving. Un-daunted, his family continued to convey him and **Sheila** to many occasions, including Her Majesty's Grenadier Day at Buckingham Palace. To mark the Eastwood family's loyalty to the Branch, we held a Gala Luncheon for them all on 4th October at which it was announced that **Major Eastwood** had been appointed our Branch President Emeritus.



Presentation of an Illuminated Scroll to Major Eastwood LVO, MBE, 1 to r; Bob Gilbert, Sheila Eastwood, Tony Steel and seated, Major Jim Eastwood.

On Saturday 26th April, the club held its 3rd St Georges 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 Regimental Remembrance Day (Black Sunday) we once again welcomed **Colin Knight** and the Gloucestershire Branch who called in for a refreshment break on their way to the Service and Parade in London. After the parade the Bristol Branch and the Gloucestershire Branch called in for a fish and chip supper before continuing on their way home.

The following Saturday the 24th May 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 before and those who attended said they had enjoyed themselves and are looking forward to the next one. We thank their Chairman and Secretary **Andy** and **Babs Reid** for arranging members of their branch to attend.

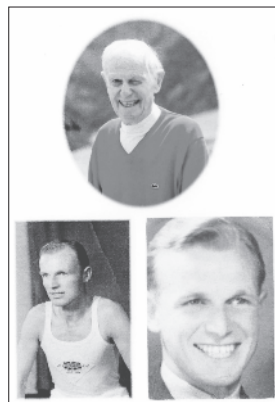
On Saturday 7th June we had a coach of 24 members and friends going to the Derby at Epsom. As we arrived at the enclosure the heavens opened up and we were greeted with a 15 minute downpour but after an hour the rain stopped. At midday the sun came out and as the day proceeded it got hotter and hotter when sun tan lotion was required. Many members had a good run on the horses and came away with full wallets and big smiles.

The Branch Annual Dinner and Dance was held at the club on Saturday 5th July. 40 members and guests once again enjoyed a superb four course meal, provided by the outside caterers, 'Linda's Kitchen'. We were privileged, to have as our guest of honour the Association President **Colonel R E H Aubrey-Fletcher** and his wife **Caroline**, who updated members and guests on the Regiment. After the meal and speeches we continued the rest of the evening with dancing to the disco.

Two weeks later on Grenadier Day **Bob** and **Sue Gilbert** made their own way to Lille Barracks in Aldershot and erected the gazebo, ready for the arrival of the Branch members travelling by coach. The weather was kind to us that day. The Branch did not run a fund raising stall but members enjoyed the time meeting old friends and catching up with their latest news.

Alan Merry arranged a reunion at the club on Saturday 6th September. This was a celebration of him joining the Regiment with the rest of his Intake 40 years ago. For many it was their first time at the club and it was suggested that they should make this an annual event, rather than wait for their 50th Anniversary. The next major event at the club was on Saturday 18th October for the British Guiana Reunion arranged by our President **Major Mike Holland**. All though the numbers were small a few had travelled some distance to attend and enjoyed a very good time talking about the past.

It was with great sadness that the members of the Windsor Branch received the news that their benefactor and former President **Major Hemsall** had died on 29th June 2014. **Major Hemsall** was our Branch President from 1963 to 1993. A Sergeant in the Regiment at the start of the 2nd World War he was commissioned and served elsewhere, at the end of the war he was a substantive Major. He was



Major E Hemsall.

highly successful in business but never forgot his origins in the Grenadiers. He most generously financed the construction of the Grenadier Club in Windsor and twenty years later also paid for a complete refurbishment. On his retirement as President, he gifted the building to the Branch. In retirement on the Isle of Man he continued to support the Regiment, entertaining whole Rifle Companies on his estate and continuing to make generous donations to worthy causes.

We have also said a final farewell to three of our members, **22712096 Mr D B Lamb, Derrick** served as Branch Chairman from 1993 to 1995. **2619713 Mr A Welcher, 2389793 Mr W L Homewood, 2623359 Mr R Murcott,** Ray severed as the Branch Welfare Officer before becoming Branch Chairman from 1995 to 1997.

The club still continues to hold regular Friday Night Bingo sessions and Quiz Nights with a fish and chip supper on the last Wednesday of the month. The Club is currently open on Friday nights 1930hrs to 2300hrs and Sunday Lunch times 1200 to 1500 hrs. If any members of the Association, and their families, are in the area, you are more than welcome to visit the club.

Our final words are to give thanks to the Branch and Club members, and ladies, for their support over the last 12 months.

WOLVERHAMPTON

(Formed 1917)

President: L THOMAS.

Vice Presidents: WSI KENYON-SLANEY, Esq, OBE, KstJ, DL, Esq.; S BENNETT, Esq; F WHITE, Esq.

Chairman: Vacant.

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.

At the end of 2013 the reporting year started well with a group from the Branch going on a five day 'Turkey and Tinsel' trip to Torquay, Devon. An enjoyable time was had by all.



Christmas came early for the Wolverhampton Branch.

Our annual Dinner and Dance was held at the end of November 2013, we were delighted to have as our guests of honour, **Colonel Euan and Mrs Joanna Houstoun**. During the evening our Chairman, **Mervyn Rowe**, presented a plaque to **Christopher Brown** as a thank you for raising £310.00 in sponsorship for our Branch. **Christopher** (a relative of **Alan Wilson**) took part in the Junior Great North Run and came 8th out of 160 older athletes. The evening was enjoyed by all.



Presentation of cheque by Christopher Brown.



Branch members and families at the Annual Dinner.

In April **Jack and Jenny Snead** attended the Nottinghamshire Branch Centenary Dinner and Dance and they would like to congratulate the committee for an excellently organised event. **Jack Snead** was able to renew old friendships with platoon members.

The Regimental Remembrance Service was held in London on the 18 May and we shared a coach with the Walsall Branch. It was good to see so many members of the Association taking part. Members and friends went by coach to see a Review for Trooping the Colour and the event was enjoyed by all.

Several of our members attended the Armed Forces Day Service at the National Memorial Arboretum on Saturday 28 June. **Jack Snead** took his place amongst the Banner party with the Lord Lieutenant of the County officiating.

It was a sad day on 14 July 2014 when our Chairman, **Mervyn Rowe**, lost his battle for life after successfully fighting cancer and pneumonia in recent years. (An obituary appears below).

Grenadier Day was a lovely Summer day and members and their families from Wolverhampton travelled by coach to Lille Barracks. **Barbie and Chris Oakes** did a magnificent job

making quality handmade cards which were sold on our stall.

We would like to thank **Rob Broomes** and **Andy Green** at RHQ for all their hard work during a busy year.

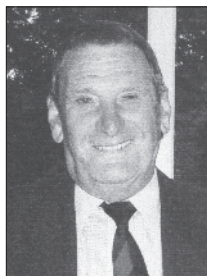
OBITUARY

21006176 CSGT MERVYN ROWE
15 July 1930–14 July 2014

Mervyn was born near Wisbech, Cambridgeshire but the family moved to Tettenhall, Wolverhampton in his early years. Mervyn joined the Grenadier Guards in December 1947 and served in the 3rd Battalion in Malaya, Tripoli and Egypt. During his service in the Regiment he was a keen all round sportsman and was in the athletic, boxing and cricket teams; he played football for the Battalion and No 2 Company, and during this time No 2 Company won the Company Cup.

On leaving the Grenadiers in May 1953, Mervyn worked for the Wolverhampton store Beatties for 40 years and progressed to Receiving and Distribution Manager before retiring. Mervyn was a keen footballer having been signed by Stan Cullis and playing as an amateur goalkeeper for Wolverhampton Wanderers, Queens Park Rangers, Sheffield Wednesday and Lincoln City in his younger days. Later he scouted locally for Chelsea when Geoff Hurst was manager. Mervyn enjoyed his most successful spell as manager of Chasetown Football Club. Mervyn had been a member of Wolverhampton Branch for many years and was a popular Branch Chairman.

Mervyn Rowe died on 14 July 2014, and is survived by his wife Pauline, 3 sons and a daughter.



WORCESTER & HEREFORD

(Formed 1922)

President: Capt HL GRAY-CHEAPE JP, DL.

Vice Presidents: Lieutenant Colonel PR HOLCROFT, LVO, OBE; Major DJC DAVENPORT, CBE, DL; Lieutenant Colonel K EDLIN, MBE; Lieutenant Colonel LCA RANSON, TD; Major RG WOODFIELD, MBE; Colonel SIR THOMAS DUNNE, KCVO; Lieutenant Colonel TW JALLAND; D SPENCER, Esq; GJ ROSE, Esq; JA BARTLET, Esq; Capt D MORGAN; TW HEWLETT, Esq.

Chairman: REG SEALE DL.

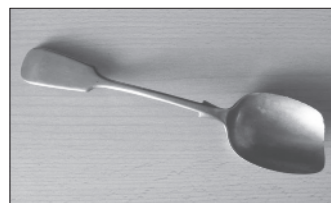
Secretary: P SMITH.

Email: worcesterbranch@grengds.com

Treasurer: DC SPENCER.

Christmas Lunch 2013 seems a long time ago. We were well looked after by the staff at The Chateau Impney Hotel and it was lovely to see such a good turnout of

Members and friends. **Capt Andy Butcher** gave an interesting talk on his life in the army and brought us up to date with the year's events in the Regiment and we had a delightful tale from **John Preece**, a guest at the lunch. His Grandfather **Henry Thomas Bateman** served with the Regiment from 1905–1908 and then joined the Worcester Police Force. He enlisted again in 1914 and served till 1918. After the war he rejoined the Police Force. Henry died in 1961. After his grandfather's death, his Grandmother gave him a rather dull old fashioned desert spoon, but stamped under the handle with the number "12309 3GG" and the WD symbol. Quite a portion of the spoon was worn away. It was part of his mess kit and travelled with him in his pack throughout the First World War. It was common for soldiers in the trenches to dig or carve out niches in the trench walls in which to store some small items. Very likely he used this spoon to do just that and this is how it was worn away.



The spoon belonging to Henry Thomas Bateman.

Our AGM was held on 23rd February 2014 at Six Ways Rugby Club. The Committee for 2014 were duly elected as follows: President; **Hamish Gray-Cheape**, Chairman; **Ray Seale**, Vice Chairman; **Derek Turney**, Treasurer; **David Spencer**, Branch Secretary; **Patricia Smith**, Minutes Secretary and Luncheon Master; **Bruce Baylis**. The meeting was followed by lunch and a presentation to **Dale Carter**. **Dale** stood down as Branch Secretary at the January Committee Meeting, having held the post for three years. We appreciate the work that he did for the Branch during his time in office supported by **Dot** his wife. **Dale** was presented with whiskey and whiskey tumblers and **Dot** received a lovely bouquet

A small group from the Branch travelled to London on 18th May to attend Regimental Remembrance Day at Wellington Barracks. Thanks to **Ken Allan** for organising the coach; as numbers were down on previous years we had

plenty of room and a comfortable journey. As always we were made welcome in the Sergeants' Mess – an opportunity to meet up with old friends and enjoy a beer! The Guards Chapel was packed to capacity and following a moving service our 'boys' lined up to march on parade. A lovely day, thanks to all who attended.

Grenadier Day on Sunday 20th July saw



Bruce Baylis and Shaun Hinton.



Bruce and Patricia setting up the stall.

Bruce, Veronica and Patricia up at the crack of dawn loading the trailer for the journey to Lille Barracks, Branch members following later by coach. Thanks **Ken** for getting everyone there in good time, it was a very successful day with our stall making in excess of £200 profit – Grenadier

Gingerbread biscuits (handmade by **Veronica and Patricia**) were a sell out as were the cakes made and donated by **Shaun Hinton** (he should enter the Bake Off competition!).

Ken Allen came up trumps with his raffle for Teddies and a signed football making a profit of £200. **Ken Jones** made two Grenadier Sentry boxes and people were asked to put in offers. One was bought by the parents of **Lance Corporal James Ashworth VC**.

Thanks to everybody who donated prizes for the Tombola and those who helped on the day, **Kath and Joan** standing guard whilst **Veronica, Bruce and Patricia** had a break. The weather was lovely and although a long day we can certainly mark it down as a success. A big thanks to **Andy Green** and his team for all the hard work they put in and making everything so easy for the rest of us.

Worcester Artillery Day was held on 16th August and although not a scheduled Grenadier event we were invited by the TA and British Legion to take part. The day started with a service in the Cathedral commemorating the 150th Anniversary of 214 (Worcestershire) Battery, Royal Artillery. At 12 mid-day the troops marched through the City followed by a wonderful array of Tanks, Lorries and Armoured Vehicles of all ages; a truly grand display and at this point the Veterans joined the parade and marched to Pitchcroft Racecourse. It was nice to see Branch members stepping out. This was followed by a lovely buffet lunch, provided by the City Council and an afternoon wandering around enjoying the various displays on offer.

The Branch Secretary would like to record her thanks to all our members and ladies for their support during the past year with special thanks to **Veronica Baylis** for setting up our Branch computer kindly given to us on permanent loan by our President **Hamish Gray-Cheape**, and to all the committee who have been such a help during her year first year.

On a sad note we have to report the death of the following members: **23509678 David Anderton**, **23252592 Bryn Jones**, **23300949 George Griffiths** and **23862946 Ron Lavender**. Finally, a big thank you to **Andy Green** and **Rob Broomes** who are always so patient and helpful.

YORKSHIRE

(Formed 1948)

President: THE LORD HOTHAM, DL.

Vice Presidents: THE MOST HON THE MARQUESS OF ZETLAND; D BURNETT, Esq; Brigadier DJH MADDAN; W WALL, Esq.

Chairman: A DANIEL, Esq.

Treasurer: A DANIEL, Esq.

Secretary: M SPENCER, 52 The Grange, Woodhan Village, Newton Aycliffe, Co. Durham. DL5 4SZ. Tel: 01325 321218.

Email: michael-spencer2@sky.com

This year has certainly been quieter than last; however the Branch continues to flourish with meetings being well attended by our (staunch) members.

Sadly **2621423 Les Linford** died peacefully on 5th March 2014 aged 91 (1922–2014). **Les** had led a very full and interesting life. Always the first to apply to attend our Branch functions, he was good company, with a wonderful sense of humour. He was also a very private and family orientated person.

Les was Secretary for many years. His old friend **Dennis Burnet** recalls attending the very first meeting of the Yorkshire Branch in 1948, held at the Great Northern Hotel Leeds. To his knowledge there are now only two founder members left, himself and **Joe Whelan**. If there is anyone else with that longstanding honour, then please contact the Branch Secretary. **Dennis** remembers that when **Les Linford** took over as secretary, he got things going with cricket matches at Ripley Castle between the Grenadiers and Scots Guards, trips to London on Remembrance Day, meeting old friends at the Guards Chapel. There were trips to other Branch dinners, often to the Northumbria Branch where they would meet up with their secretary, the late **Bill Potts**, having both served in Palestine from 1945 to 1948 when the mandate finished. They also enjoyed the Sunday Lunches that **Les** organised at different pubs in and around Yorkshire, which were well attended, and holidays to Scotland, Torquay and Eastbourne, (everyone who went enjoyed them.) With the passing of many old Grenadiers and no younger ones joining the Branch, the events we had in the past are no longer viable.

The Annual General Meeting was held at Pontefract, on Saturday 5th April 2014, (and 10 members attended). All those members in attendance were welcomed and thanked



Les Linford at the Majestic Hotel Annual Luncheon, 6th October 2012.

for showing their support to the Branch. As our President **the Lord Hotham** was unable to attend the meeting the Secretary gave a comprehensive update in his report. The Executive Officers were elected for a further year and members then joined the ladies and families for a buffet lunch.

Members of the Branch attended Black Sunday at Wellington Barracks, and also the Queens Birthday Parade with Nijmegen Company providing the Escort and the 1st Battalion providing two to four Guards which proved to be a very good parade and a most enjoyable weekend.

Our Branch Annual Luncheon was again held at the Majestic Hotel, Harrogate on Saturday 4th October, 2014.

The Branch welcomed **Capt Adam Wellesley-Wood** Grenadier Guards, Adjutant of 2 ITB Catterick who updated us on Regimental affairs. 28 members with family and friends joined us for a memorable day. September saw a milestone for the Branch when Vice President **Dennis Burnett**, (who served in Palestine with the Regiment), celebrated his 90th birthday. Members acknowledged this at the luncheon with gift vouchers presented by **Lady Hotham** and a floral bouquet was presented to **Dennis's Martha** by the Chairman **Tony Daniel**. Dennis said he felt so honoured to receive these gifts from the Branch.

John Fear visited Ypres in October, and laid a wreath on behalf of the Yorkshire Branch to mark the intense fighting between the Germans and the Allied Forces in World War I. **John** and **Anne** visited a number of monuments including the Menin Gate and the 'In Flanders Fields' Museum.

On 9th November, Branch Members attended the annual Remembrance Day Parade at Ripley Castle, followed by a service in All Saints Church. A wreath was laid on behalf of the Branch by **Tony Daniel**. This was followed by an excellent lunch at The Boars Head Hotel.



Dennis Burnett Camp 260, Palestine 1946.



Ripley Castle 9th November 2014.

In closing this year's report it is our sad duty to report the passing of **Mrs Joyce Kent** the wife of **George Kent**, **Les Linford** and **Mrs Anne Sowden** an Honorary Member. Our prayers and thoughts are with their families.

I close this report by thanking the **Lord Hotham** our President, **Tony Daniel** Chairman and Welfare and **John Fear** Fund Raising, for their total dedication to the Branch at all times. Our thanks to the members who help keep the Branch running with their hard work and enthusiasm and the loyal members and wives of the Branch who show their continued support by attendance at our functions.

NORTH AMERICA

(Formed 1972)

President: Lieutenant JA TRIGGS.

Chairman: R BROWN, BEM.

Vice Chairman: Vacant.

Secretary: Mrs E PICKERING, 45466 Thomson Line, Belmont, Ontario. N0L 1B0. CANADA.

Email: lon.rpickering@imag.net

Honorary Treasurer: R BROWN, BEM.

The North America Branch has had a very quiet 12 months since our last report. A number of Western members have resigned from the Branch and we have not enrolled any new members, although we are endeavouring to find ex-Guardsmen living on this continent.

There were no changes to the Executive at the AGM in September 2014. Following the meeting we enjoyed a very pleasant dinner with members of the Scots Guards Association and in early December we had our Annual Christmas Lunch. It is unfortunate that attendance is dwindling at these events, mainly due to ill-health and driving long distances.

The following members died during the past year: 22113585 **Michael Blackman** died in Quebec on 25th May, 2014, 222131 **Donald Hooper** died in Florida on 27th September, 2014. We convey our best wishes to Guardsmen 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.

Our islands much regret to report that they have gone sick. You really won't want to know what goes on out there when that happens but they expect to be back out on the beach before too long.

YOUR LETTERS...

Grenadier William

Dear Andy,

An article I wrote entitled 'Looking to the Future' was published in the Gazette some years ago in which I emphasised the need to preserve our Association and suggested that our 'young ones' should be encouraged to become involved. This is something of an 'offshoot' of that article and bears the same message.

A fellow Chelsea Pensioner has a friend whose son is determined to join the Regiment and I have given him several items such as a wall plaque, the cap badge he is holding in this photo and a book full of pictures of Grenadiers in all forms of dress from which he refuses to be parted – I think he would sleep in his tunic if allowed!

He is known to us as 'Grenadier William' but he will have to be patient as he is only in his fourth year, and must wait for 2028 to enlist. If he serves for, say, 22 years he will then be 40 years old and will undoubtedly become an enthusiastic Association member.

He much enjoys visits to the Royal Hospital and will surely want to become a Chelsea Pensioner when he retires from work by which time it will be 2075 and that is also – LOOKING TO THE FUTURE. Seeing William reminded me of that short article.

(The article below has been reproduced by the The Association Editor and is the one referred to above and sent in by 2620362 Norman Mitchell of the Cheltenham Branch. It was published in the 1999 Gazette – food for thought?).

OUR Association was born as a result of great comradeship in time of War and was, indeed, formed immediately after the 1914–18 war. Thereafter, with three Battalions always up to strength, and increasing to six Battalions during the 1939–45 war,

the Association greatly and steadily increased in numbers. Inevitably the years take their toll, and with the Regiment reverting to three Battalions, now, sadly, reduced to only one due to what was euphemistically called "Options for Change", as we of the older generation 'Fall Out', membership of the Association in terms of ex-serving Grenadiers, will of course be drastically reduced. With imagination and wide publicity this sad process could be halted by encouraging all present members to interest their children and grandchildren into understanding the meaning behind the Association and to take interest in that meaning, where such interest may not already exist. Bring them to Regimental Remembrance Day, Grenadier Day, get them to read the Gazette and books on Regimental History, and imbue them with the pride and excitement that comes from belonging to our great Grenadier family, making it clear that it is a family which they are welcome to join.

As well as visits to see us here he has also been to see the Changing of the Guard and I hope one day we may see him and others like him in the Regiment. Thank you for reading my letter and please convey my best wishes to Grenadiers everywhere.

Norman
(The Royal Hospital, Chelsea)



Wedding Photograph – can you help?

Dear Andy

I found the attached photograph in my Aunt's house when clearing out her effects. The writing in the bottom right corner gives a name but I can't find this on the Association nominal roll or in the obituary section. Wantage was the next village along to where my Aunt lived. She was a seamstress and I suspect that she made the bride's dress, we found many other, non-family wedding photos, but obviously this one caught my eye because of the cap badge.

I didn't know whether this could be put in the Gazette to try and trace the people involved?

Best wishes

Anne Marshall (Secretary Lincoln Branch)





2624193 Gdsm Derek Weaver

Dear Andy,

I am looking for help in tracing any former Guardsmen who might remember my Uncle, 2624193 Gdsm Derek Weaver, who was killed in the destruction of the Guard's Chapel on 18th June 1944 aged 19.

The last letter he wrote gave his unit as 1 Company Grenadier Guards, Westminster Garrison Battalion, Wellington Barracks and he had been based there since December 1943. He was one of 7 children from Shepherds Bush, West London where his mother and father, Bert and Millicent, still

lived. He used to visit them every fortnight on a Sunday afternoon and I know sometimes he took his mates with him. One friend whose name I have heard mentioned is Jim Dunn (not sure of the spelling) from Coventry who was himself injured in the bombing. Derek had ambitions to join the Palestine Police Force after the war but never got the chance.

Three of Derek's sisters are still going strong but they were too young to remember much about him. Derek is buried in the military cemetery at Brookwood and his loss is still felt greatly.

I realise anyone who served with him will be at least 89 now but I hope there's still a chance.

I can be contacted by email at grwson@hotmail.com, by phone in the evenings on 020 8544 9936 or at 18 Mayfield Road, London SW19 3NF.

King Regards

Gareth Watson



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 2015

APR	17	Norfolk Dining Club Dinner, Stower Grange Hotel, School Road, Drayton, Norfolk, NR8 6EF	18	Lincoln Branch Annual Dinner, Bentley Hotel, Newark Rd, South Hykeham, Lincoln, LN6 9NH
	17	Manchester Branch Annual Dinner, The Britannia Country House Hotel, Didsbury, Manchester, M20 2WG	21-25	Grenadier Guards Association Battlefield Tour
	17	Yorkshire Branch AGM, Fox & Grapes, Leeds, York Road, Leeds, LS15 4NJ	OCT 3	Yorkshire Branch Annual Lunch, Waterton Park Hotel, Wakefield WF2 6PW
	18	Bristol Branch St. George's Cup Skittles match vs. Bristol Branch Coldstream Guards, Port of Bristol Social Club, Nibley Road, Shirehampton, Bristol, BS11 9XW	10	Wigan Branch Annual Dinner, The Village Club, Culcheth, Warrington, Cheshire, WA3 4LY
	18	Surrey & E. Hants Branch Annual Dinner, "Waterloo Ball" Village Hotel, Pinehurst Road, Farnborough Business Park, Farnborough, GU14 7BF	11	Wessex Branch Annual Lunch, The Days Hotel, 3 Russell Cotes Road, Bournemouth, Dorset BH1 3AB
	19	March Branch Annual Lunch, The Conservative Club, March, Creek Road, PE15 8RD	16	Norfolk Dining Club Dinner, Stower Grange Hotel, School Road, Drayton, Norfolk, NR8 6EF
	25	Sussex Branch Annual Dinner, The Windsor Hotel, Worthing, BN11 2LX	17	Medway Branch Annual Dinner, The Grange Moor Hotel, Maidstone, ME16 8BS
	26	Wigan Branch St. George's Day Lunch, The Village Club, Culcheth, Warrington, Cheshire, WA3 4LY	24	Bristol Branch Annual Dinner, Holiday Inn, Filton Road, Hambrook, Bristol, BS16 1QX
MAY	13	Norfolk Dining Club Lunch, Thetford Golf Club, Brandon Road, Thetford, Norfolk, IP24 3NE	NOV 4	Norfolk Dining Club Lunch, Thetford Golf Club, Brandon Road, Thetford, Norfolk, IP24 3NE
	17	Regimental Remembrance Day	5	Field of Remembrance, Westminster Abbey
	18	First Guards' Club Dinner	7	Festival of Remembrance, Royal Albert Hall
	30	The Major General's Review	8	Remembrance Day, Cenotaph Ceremony Parade
JUN	6	The Colonel's Review	8	Yorkshire Branch, Ripley Civic Service of Remembrance, All Saints Church, Hollybank Lane, Ripley, North Yorkshire, HG3 3AY
	10-11	Household Division, Beating Retreat	21	Liverpool Branch "95th Anniversary" Dinner & Dance, Atlantic Tower by the Thistle Hotel, Chapel Street Liverpool, L3 9RE
	13	The Queen's Birthday Parade	27	Derby Branch Annual Dinner (Location TBC)
	15	Garter Service, Windsor Castle	DEC 4	Norfolk Dining Club Dinner, Stower Grange Hotel, School Road, Drayton, Norfolk, NR8 6EF
	20	London Branch Waterloo Event, Wellington Barracks	6	Nottingham Branch Annual Dinner, The Albert Hall, N Circus St, Nottingham NG1 5AA
AUG	26	Norfolk Dining Club Dinner, Stower Grange Hotel, School Road, Drayton, Norfolk, NR8 6EF	6	Wigan Branch Christmas Lunch, The Village Club, Culcheth, Warrington, Cheshire, WA3 4LY
	8	East Kent Branch Annual Dinner, Royal Temple Yacht Club, Westcliff Terrace Mansions, Pegwell Road, Ramsgate, CT11 9HY	12	Manchester Branch Christmas Dinner, The Britannia Country House Hotel, Didsbury, Manchester, M20 2WG
	21	Norfolk Dining Club Dinner, Stower Grange Hotel, School Road, Drayton, Norfolk, NR8 6EF		
SEP	6	Reading Branch Annual Lunch, Calcot Hotel, Bath Road, Reading, RG31 7QN		
	10	Yorkshire Branch Family Bowls Day, Selby Bowling Club, Baffam Lane, Selby, North Yorkshire, YO8 9AX		

This list covers events which have been notified to the General Secretary prior to publication.

If you wish to add an event please email
Sgt Broomes at assnnco@grengds.com

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