

# The Grenadier Gazette

THE REGIMENTAL JOURNAL OF  
THE GRENADE GUARDS



## 2016



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# THE Grenadier Gazette 2016

THE REGIMENTAL JOURNAL OF THE GRENADIER GUARDS



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## Foreword

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

Even a brief 'flick through' of this year's Gazette will give the reader a sense of the richness and variety of life in the Regiment – an experience enhanced by the new 'all colour' format adopted for the first time this year. All of the companies have had the opportunity to exercise independently, as well as deploying to Kenya as a battle group, and all of this while serving in London District. For this the Regiment has much to thank Brigadier Richard Smith, formerly of the Rifles, who has just handed over as Deputy Commander, as well of course Lieutenant Colonel Chips Broughton, whose highly successful tour as Commanding Officer of the 1st Battalion has also just drawn to a close. Superimpose on this a Household Division cricket tour to South Africa; kayaking in New Zealand; and a full sporting calendar, and it is clear that service within the Regiment is as fulfilling as it has ever been. No surprise, therefore, that we are fully manned across the rank structure, but not without sterling efforts from our recruiters, reflected in Captain Andy Butcher's well deserved MBE in the New Year's Honours List.

2015 has seen a string of memorable Regimental anniversaries, including the 200th of the Battle of



**The Regimental Adjutant, enjoying a moment's respite.**

Waterloo, which many of us celebrated in one capacity or another as part of Major General Sir Evelyn Webb-Carter's Waterloo 'command task'. VE Day and VJ Day have both been marked, as indeed have 2 other events of more direct Regimental note: the 40th anniversary of Prince Philip's Colonelcy, and Lieutenant Colonel Lord Wigram's 100th birthday, both of which were wonderful 'family' occasions and an honour to be party to.

Looking forward, the 1st Battalion is in the midst of a move to 11 Infantry Brigade under its new Commanding Officer, Lieutenant Colonel Alex McKay. Mercifully this sees no change in barracks, but an exciting role as the first Spearhead Battalion within NATO's newly established Very High Readiness Joint Task Force, which is designed to re-energise NATO's deterrent effect against today's potential aggressors. The exercise programme will be busy, and the challenges significant, particularly given the multinational nature of this force at the lower tactical level. But more of this in next year's Gazette, by when we will know if the UK is to remain part of the European Union, or head into the unknown...

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



**Chips Broughton, making the Battalion's case, as he has done so well for the last 2 years.**

## Editorial Notes

### Editing at a distance (or maybe not . . .)

Another year passes and this journal reflects on the life of the Regiment between March 2015–February 2016. This time my half of the editing team has to be more remote when working on the journal this year, from the city of Riyadh and wider across the Arabian Peninsula as I remain fixed by the various demands and challenges of maintaining and developing the British-Saudi military relationship. It remains such a pleasure to keep monitoring and staying close to Regimental business in reading and working on Gazette ‘copy’, and a welcome break from the relentless reporting of the very challenging circumstances here in the Middle East. And yet even in the editing process without physical contact with Regimental Headquarters, or the wider personalities who we rely on to put together these 140-odd pages, I am surrounded by reminders of what the Regiment does in the Middle East.

Firstly, one of the key documents and examples of best practice with the Saudi Army remains the exercise done by the 1st Battalion in 2014 (and featured in the 2015 journal). The exercise which is now seen as a benchmark for future Land/Army exercises, with a requirement to up our game with the Saudi Army, the least known of all the Saudi Services to the UK, and arguably the most under pressure when it comes to defending its borders and prosecuting a campaign in Yemen. And we are looking in 2016 to another Battalion in the Army to come and match what the Battalion did two years ago. As a second reminder as I host the various and frequent senior visitors to the Kingdom, from the Vice Chief of Defence, the Senior UK Military Advisor to the Middle East, Lieutenant General Tom Beckett (who the Saudis love as they quiz him for his wider views of the region), the House of Commons Select Committee, they are met with a Saudi Honour Guard with an obvious stamp of British ceremonial drill. One of the last UK trainers was WO2 (RQMS) Cox, now in Regimental Headquarters. Add that to additional Household Division commitment to the region, including the Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment capacity building in Bahrain and a thriving Middle East Guards Association, it is refreshing to see opportunities for Divisional and Regimental soldiering under a imminent UK Gulf Strategy which should see increased presence across the Middle East, something our Regimental forebears will remember well. I am very conscious of how many Grenadiers served in Sharjah and elsewhere across the region. As the Saudis tell me often, we have been here for a very long time (100 years of diplomatic relations this year 2016, and over 100 years since the first British officer was killed in the service of King Abdul Aziz). Those threads of history, the 25th anniversary of the liberation of Kuwait currently being celebrated by an impressive number of Grenadier veterans in the UK during 2016 and the prospect of finding opportunities for Grenadiers to be here (conscious they have a different regional affiliation, though) makes the editing process a little less remote.

### Gazette Aims

It may be worth reflecting on the ongoing aims of the Gazette as we look forward to next year. The Editorial team remains Regimental Treasurer, Major Andy Green, as Association Editor, and myself. We would want to encourage the maximum amount of varied contributions for both halves of the journal, balancing the mix of past and present content, from all parts of the serving and retired Regiment. As a result of direction from Regimental Headquarters, we have gone to all colour version to cover the very considerable achievements of everyone serving. It does introduce a different feel from previous years, and does justice to the considerable photographic skills of everyone who has contributed. Our detailed objectives for the journal are as follows:

- produce a really readable review of the past year, as colourful as we can make it, and anticipate future activities and Regimental priorities.
- keep a very accurate record of all serving and past Grenadiers and activities, conscious of the potential enquiries later, and ongoing requests to Regimental archivists.
- provide a very receptive forum for the widest selection of contributions possible. Hopefully everybody with an urge to write is given the opportunity to contribute.

We do keep a watch on all the other Household Division magazines, conscious that there are some very glossy Regimental versions out there, and many more photos than text but they are perhaps not so strong on the Regimental history or maintaining their records. Our aim is to keep this journal as a good balance between the traditional and the ‘interesting’. Whether we can get that right, the readership should judge ...

### Congratulations

We would offer huge congratulations to Capt Andy Butcher for being awarded MBE in this latest New Years Honours List as well as Senior Band Sgt Major (SBSM) Andrew Wood. He received the Meritorious Service Medal in the same list and will be presented with his medal by the Colonel at the GRANBY service on 26 Feb. Thereafter, he has reached the end of his service and is leaving the Army, having spent the past 12 years with the Regimental Band.

### Contributions

We do thank all those who have contributed this year, which of course includes those on the Regimental Headquarters team, the Adjutant, and the obituary writers. You will note the considerable effort which has been made into this key area of Regimental records. We thank Philip Wright again for his fascinating articles, and then those in the serving Regiment who have exercised their pen for the first time. Every single Grenadier is strongly encouraged to bombard Major Green and myself with material to maintain the journal’s aims for this coming year. It is ‘your’ journal, and we can keep developing it together.



## Regimental Headquarters

2015 passed with relentless speed and it seems that the wheel of life at Regimental Headquarters spins faster and faster with every year! The 'people' at RHQ have largely remained the same: Capt Fred Moynan, however, joined Regimental Headquarters in the Spring as Assistant Equerry to The Colonel and with responsibility for Officer Recruiting. Alan Ogden is our Regimental Archivist and Philip Wright our Regimental 'historian and scribe'. RQMS Mark Cox continues as RQMS RHQ, Sgt Rod Haughton is the Regimental Affairs NCO, LSgt 'Mac' Macmillan continues to be responsible for Regimental Property and visits. Dmr Walker has joined as our driver/orderly. Yomi Fowowe has joined RHQ as our civilian Admin Clerk.

On the 19th March, The Colonel paid a brief visit to Wellington Barracks where he visited Regimental Headquarters, Nijmegen Company and the Regimental Band. As well as presenting a number of Long Service and Good Conduct Medals, he managed to speak to nearly everyone.

The Regimental Headquarters annual 'High Pressure moments' (Regimental Remembrance Day, the Spring Trustees' Meeting, Spring Regimental Council Meeting and 1st Guards Club Dinner) came and went successfully



The Regimental Adjutant lays the wreath at the Mareth Cross.



Another 'Side' to the Ironmongers' Visit to Kenya.

and without incident thanks to the hard work and support of all members of RHQ.

Once again this year, the First Guards Club Dinner was held at the Ironmongers' Hall, was attended by The Colonel and seemed to be considered a great success.

Nijmegen Company found No 4 Guard for The Queen's Birthday Parade, whilst the 1st Battalion provided the Streetliners along the Mall, before departing on exercise in Kenya.

On 22nd July, the Regimental Adjutant accompanied 10 members of the Ironmongers' Company to visit the 1st Battalion who were training in Kenya. Their account of the trip is chronicled elsewhere in this edition of the Gazette, but from a Regimental perspective the visit was a huge success, not only further cementing the affiliation between the Ironmongers and the Regiment, but also giving them a clear insight as to how a modern infantry battalion operates in the field.

On 10th September we held a small lunch party to celebrate the centenary of Lieutenant Colonel The Lord Wigram. Lord Wigram arrived earlier than the guests, in



Marching to Horse Guards.



**The Lieutenant Colonel 'saying a few words' at Lord Wigram's Centenary Lunch.**

The digitization of the Regimental photographic collection is still underway and we hope to have it completed by Spring 2016. Repairs have been made to a number of historic documents and books in the library and various miscellaneous photographs, audio cassettes, film reels and video tapes have been digitalized and are now available on the external hard drive in the Library.

During the Summer, the Library was 'sorted out' and a number of superfluous books were discarded; the remainder were re-ordered and re-

catalogued. In addition, visitors to the Library will see a rare King Edward VIII tunic on display.

Meanwhile, The Colonel's Fund Committee have held quarterly meetings and Matt Ellmer, the Regimental Casualty Officer, has been continuing his invaluable work supporting our Grenadier wounded and bereaved. The year has shown an increase in cases of mental difficulties coming to light, and a few of these cases have been very serious. It is clear that mental health is a neglected area of the service provided by the NHS, and notably so in the case of ex-servicemen. We have been assisting a Consultant Trauma Specialist who has been helping with our cases, in her efforts to persuade the NHS to improve the treatment pathway for these serious cases; her efforts are slowly beginning to yield results, but in the meantime, she is providing our Grenadiers who are suffering with vital help and treatment.

Finally, a portrait of LCpl James Ashworth, VC, by the artist Michael Alford and commissioned by the Regiment, is nearing completion. It is intended that the portrait should be hung in Battalion Headquarters of the 1st Battalion, so that it will be on view to all members of the Battalion.

order to watch Nijmegen Company dismounting Queen's Guard; after the dismount, the Regimental Band formed up outside the Officers' Mess and played Happy Birthday, after which they marched off to the British Grenadiers. During the lunch, the Lieutenant Colonel 'said a few words', to which Lord Wigram replied, clearly demonstrating how completely 'on the ball' he is! It was a very memorable lunch.

On 11th November, after chairing a Regimental Council Meeting at Buckingham Palace, The Colonel accompanied Her Majesty The Queen to a lunch to mark the 40th Anniversary of his Colonelcy. The lunch was held at the Cavalry and Guards Club and was attended by 60 Grenadiers from across the Regiment. It was a happy and most enjoyable occasion and both The Queen and The Colonel seemed to be on sparkling form.

And on 16th December came the welcome 'stand down' for Christmas and the New Year.

Whilst 2015 may have been slightly 'light' on Regimental events, there has been a lot of important work going on in the background:

RQMS Cox has been leading on a campaign to smarten up Regimental Headquarters, but in spite of a tight budget and with a lot of self-help, he has achieved a great deal and Regimental Headquarters is looking more 'spick and span' as a result.

Alan Ogden has been representing the Regiment on the Foot Guards project to get Soldiers Records digitized and then moved to the custody of the National Archive at Kew; this is proving to be a lengthy and complex procedure, but we are starting to make some headway. At the same time, another project is under way to transfer a large part of the Regimental Archive of Public Records to the National Army Museum. Most readers will be unaware that at RHQ we have neither the infrastructure nor resources to store and maintain Soldiers Records and Public Records properly as required by current regulations; in particular, the move of the Archives to the National Army Museum will ensure that they are stored and maintained in perfect condition, whilst being far more accessible to academics and interested members of the public.



**The Regimental Band playing 'Happy Birthday' at Lord Wigram's Centenary Lunch.**

## SERGEANTS' (PAST AND PRESENT) CLUB

by WO2 (RQMS) M J Cox

The annual Sergeants' Past and Present Club dinner was held on Saturday 14th November 2015 at the Sergeants' Mess, Lille Barracks for the third year. The dinner goes from strength to strength and was another resounding success attended by 182 serving and past members supported by their wives and partners.

Capt Darren Westlake was the President of the Club and our Guest of honour was Lieutenant Colonel Martin David MC. Lieutenant Colonel David spoke fondly of his memories of many past and present members, the exceptional quality of individuals he had served alongside during his time with the battalion, and how delighted he was to see so many familiar faces. Many of whom were Lance Corporals or Guardsmen the last time he was with the battalion.

The Sergeant Major gave an update on what the Battalion and Nijmegen Company had been up to in the previous 12 months, and what was planned for the future, emphasising the excellent way the Regiment had conducted itself on state ceremonial and public duties and how we were preparing for a change of role in early 2016 as we re-subordinate to 11 Brigade.

As ever members of the Regimental Band played some outstanding musical accompaniment whilst we all enjoyed a fantastic five course dinner. After dinner everyone moved into the Sergeants' Mess bar where a contemporary four piece band selected by CSM Matthew Betts played us into the early hours. Everyone appeared to have a fantastic evening and I would like to thank RQMS Mark Cox, DSgt Gareth Davis,



After the meal some of the members from the top table gather for a photo.

From Left to Right: WO2 RQMS (RHQ) Cox M, Capt Westlake D, Mr David Felton, WO1 RSM Bearder.

and the Pioneer Sgt Tom Loader and his team for their hard work in making the whole event a resounding success.

The AGM was held in the Lord Room of the Sergeants' Mess prior to the dinner, where ways of moving the Club forward were discussed prior to the President thanking the committee for their support over the previous 12 months and handing over to Mr Malc Mayoh who is the President for the forthcoming year.

The 2016 AGM and dinner will be held in the Sergeants' Mess, Lille Barracks, Aldershot on a date yet to be confirmed during 2016.



Pete putting his thumbs up as he thinks no one noticed him disappearing for a 'comfort break'.  
From Left to Right: Vice President Malc Mayoh, committee member Pete Hales.



## THE REGIMENTAL BAND

### Band of the Grenadier Guards Grenadier Gazette 2016

by *LSgt G R Hall*

Since the summer season closed in 2015, the dust has finally settled on Horseguards, and the Band has been involved in an array of high profile events both at home and abroad.

Early in September, the Band took to the concert platform at the University of Worcester Arena. The concert was promoted by the local branch of the Grenadier Guards Association, with all important funds being raised for the ABE, The Soldiers Charity. The concert gave the Band an opportunity to showcase the talents of LCpl Dean Nixon on Soprano Saxophone and also featured LCpl Ben Beavis and the recently assigned LSgt Owen Duffield in a trumpet duet. Other highlights of the evening were the ever popular 'Finlandia', Elgar's 'Pomp and Circumstance' and the newly arranged 'Symphonic Animations'; an eclectic mix of the very best theme tunes from animated films, skilfully arranged by one of our colleagues from the Royal Marines Band Service. This was the opener to the Band's concert season which saw the Band later perform at Lincoln Cathedral in October, again in support of the ABE, The Soldiers Charity and in November joining forces with National Concert Band Champions, Eynsford Concert Band. The time spent with the combined Band gave the Grenadiers an opportunity to re-acquaint themselves with ex Director of Music, Major Mike Smith, who is also Musical Director of Eynsford. Star soloists for

these concerts included CSgt Mike Altree on Euphonium and LCpl Peter Batai on Oboe.

A few days later the Band embarked on an epic voyage of discovery on the high seas when undertaking a weeks adventurous training, courtesy of the Joint Service Adventure Sail Training Centre based in Kiel, Germany. The week away allowed the band take part in all aspects of Yacht Crew training. Thanks to the high level training and 'can do' approach to the tasks at hand, all members of the 'Grenadier Fleet' achieved the Royal Yacht Association qualification of Competent Crew. The trip certainly lived up to its adventurous expectations and the varying conditions of the Baltic Sea allowed crew members to bask in the sun during some rare downtime. At the other extreme they ventured to fix sails at the front of their boats in Force 9 gales. The week was a fantastic opportunity and one that all members of the band will certainly remember.

Early December sees the traditional 'Scarlet and Gold' Concert take place in Cadogan Hall in London. These concerts celebrate all things Household Division and this year's spectacle offered no exception. The Band is made up of the very best players from within the Household Division Bands, including the Band of the Household Cavalry. However, we do like to boast that the largest representation is from the Band of the Grenadier Guards! This year saw a commission from the pen of Rob Wiffin OBE, former Director of Music of the Central Band of the Royal Airforce and currently the Professor of Conducting at the Royal Military School of Music. The music was titled 'Scarlet and Gold' and featured the full band with assembled Fanfare Trumpets. The Household Division Big Band also made an appearance at the concert and played a number of Frank Sinatra charts in celebration of 'Old Blue Eyes' birth. Their encore featured the trumpet section including LCpl Beavis and LSgt Duffield in a piece aptly entitled 'Scream Machine'. The featured soloist of Scarlet and Gold was the inimitable talent that is Musician David Wong, Principal Clarinettist with the Band of the Grenadier Guards, who brought the house down with his rendition of 'Viktor's Tale', from the film 'The Terminal'.

As the final notes were ringing around Cadogan Hall, the Band took a trip back to Germany in support of British Forces. The tour started off with a Brass Quintet taking part in a number of school concerts and mess nights in and around Bielefeld. The remainder of the Band later made their way across the channel to take part in the Children's Christingle Service at Abinghof Church and at the Anglo German 'Nine Lessons and Carols' Service in Paderborn Cathedral.

The Band finally wound down for Christmas but unfortunately said 'Cheerio' to two cornerstone members of the Band. Firstly LCpl Alex Nixon from the clarinet section left to undertake Bandmaster training at The Royal Military School of Music, whilst LCpl David Porter from the trombone section left to undertake a recruiting post at the Armed Forces Careers Office in York. We wish them both the very best of luck and remind them that



LCpl Porter, WO1 (SBSM) Wood, LCpl Matthews and Musn Rushforth 'all aboard' Pintail whilst Adventure Training in Kiel, Germany. Photograph courtesy of Sgt R Lorimer.



**The Guards Brass Ensemble aka 'Ebury Brass' after their recital in the Guards Chapel raising funds for 'Children of Fire'. Photograph courtesy of LCpl D Porter.**



**The Band of the Grenadier Guards with new Director of Music, Major Philip Stredwick in the Guards Chapel, January 2016. Photograph courtesy of Rob Howe, UNI Photography.**

**'Once a Grenadier, always a Grenadier'!**

Returning from leave in January saw the Band once again say farewell, this time to Director of Music, Major Kevin Davies. Major Davies had been with the Band for approximately three and a half years and moves to the Army Personnel Centre in Glasgow where he will be in charge of Career Management for the whole of the Corps of Army Music. Stepping into Major Davies's boots is Major Philip Stredwick, formally Director of Music of The Countess of Wessex String Orchestra. Major Stredwick is welcomed back into the Grenadier Family as he was one of the first Warrant Officer Bandmasters to the Band. To celebrate Major Davies's service and to mark the handing over of the baton, the Band assembled in the Guards Chapel for new Band photographs, separately featuring both Directors. The good news of New Year's Honours also spread into the Band as Senior Band Sergeant Major, Warrant Officer Class One, Andrew Wood, was awarded the Meritorious Service Medal just before he steps off with promotion in February. Mr Wood has served the Band of

the Grenadier Guards for 12 years and been in the Army for 30. He is to be replaced by WO2, Band Sergeant Major, Mark Buckley, who comes in on promotion from the Band of the Irish Guards.

Looking forward to 2016, the Band will take part in the usual array of State and Ceremonial occasions and will attend to these duties with an extra spring in their step due to the 90th Birthday of Her Majesty the Queen. The Band are due to collaborate with colleagues from the Band of the Coldstream Guards for a special St George's Day Concert in Cadogan Hall to celebrate 360 years of continued service to the Crown. Both bands will come together to raise money for ABF, The Soldiers Charity. The concert takes place on the 23rd April 2016 at 7.30pm. The Band will perform a varied programme of music with help from guest soloists Philip Cobb, Principal Trumpet of the London Symphony Orchestra, Soprano, Suzanne Dymott and compere Christopher Biggins. Tickets are available from [www.cadoganhall.com](http://www.cadoganhall.com).

Further highlights in 2016 will see the newly formed Guards Brass Ensemble, aka Ebury Brass, take part in a number of exciting projects. The group is formed as a brass ten piece primarily made up from members of the Band of the Grenadier Guards, with some friends from the Band of the Irish Guards along for the ride! The group have a number of events to look forwards to, including a concert at Pangbourne College in Reading alongside James Fountain, Principal Trumpet of the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra. Later in the year the group will take part in workshops,

recitals and concerts at Huddersfield University, and at Saddleworth School in Yorkshire. The group are proud to be working working with the charity Children of Fire to help raise much needed awareness and funds towards their work in Africa. The Band are also due to send a Brass Quintet to Pakistan where they will perform at a number of high profile events in Lahore and Islamabad to celebrate her Majesty's 90th Birthday.

**Should you wish to find out further details from the Band, their social media links can be found at:**

**[www.facebook.com/bandofthegrenadierguards](https://www.facebook.com/bandofthegrenadierguards)**

**Twitter – @grengdsband**

**[www.army.mod.uk/music/23946.aspx](http://www.army.mod.uk/music/23946.aspx)**

**To book the Band or to gain any further information please do not hesitate to contact the Band Administrator Mrs Donna Manuel on 0207 414 3267.**



## 14TH COMPANY Infantry Training Regiment, Catterick

*by Major A A Wellesley-Wood*

**I**t has been another busy period for Guards Training Company. Within the frantic pace of life, staff continue to find ways to stretch themselves. Guards Training Company continues to thrive and has the statistics to prove so. Wastage rates are down, and a number of initiatives to improve training are gaining traction. The past year has seen the Company improve in all areas and continue to justify the need for an independent CIC. In fact, in many aspects the Company is at the forefront of instigating new methods and rewriting best practice and policy within ARTD.

This change is centred around retention. In an effort to reverse the large number of recruits discharging from training the Army is modifying the way in which recruits are taught, led and developed. Although for many this feels like new territory it has been bubbling away for a number of years. Most notably some of the methods, including progressive physical punishment and increased amounts of praise and reward, were trialled at RMAS to great effect. Unnecessary shouting, a structured punishment system and instilling a greater understanding of why things were being done all worked to reduce discharge rates. Head a couple of hundred miles north to ITC and the same thing is also producing good results. The days of breaking a man down to build him up in the Army's image is no longer effective at an establishment where 30–40% drop out rates are unacceptable.

The change begins with the training teams. Each training team initially completes the instructional course at the Army Staff and Leadership School, building on their skills as an instructor and setting them up to succeed in the role they are about to undertake. They will then participate in a 'Zero Week' consisting of a series of briefs ranging from Diversity and Inclusion to the Commanding Officer's Directive. This is

followed by how the Army Leadership Code will be incorporated into the training of recruits. The week concludes with the training team presenting their plan to Battalion and Company Headquarters. This is their opportunity to demonstrate how they intend to undertake the next 28 weeks.

It's easy to look at much of this and realise it isn't that new or ground breaking. And you would be right. What is new is that many of these effective, retention inducing, ideas are now being made best practice. They are no longer the reserve of a dedicated and empathetic Platoon Sergeant. Now every training team is expected to train in, and not select out. Essentially training teams are expected to treat recruits as they themselves would wish to be treated. The simple fact is that people perform better, learn better and have higher levels of motivation when they are treated decently.

Treating people decently works, we know it does and have the statistics to prove it, but that only scratches the surface. There is now a real desire to get deeper into the psychology of what makes recruits tick. What can be done to further increase their self-confidence, motivation for remaining in training and overall performance? The application of sport science has been used to great effect to lower injury rates. So why not use Psychological Skills Training (PST) to improve confidence and performance.

PST is often said to be the difference between an elite athlete and a good one. The world of sport and business has used PST for over a decade and it absolutely makes sense that this form of training can be applied to the Army. However, the biggest battle you are going to face with something of this nature is acceptance from those who need to use it. It would be foolish to think that despite being such an adaptive Army we are totally open to change, particularly change of this nature.

With the correct recruitment process in place the amount of recruits that don't make it to the end should be minimal.

This is why the concept of specific PST lessons, including anxiety regulation, positive imagery and mental rehearsal, are being taught firstly to the training team and then to the recruits. This is currently still going through the trial phase but it works. This is going to become the norm at ITC and interest from the wider Army is encouraging.

The fact the Army has standardised its own leadership code is endemic of an organisation realising and embracing the need for change. The good old times were good, and in many cases great, but progress is essential. Guards Training Company embodies one of the oldest and most traditional parts of the Army, and without dropping standards; it has accepted and had many successes with this change. This is certainly not the finished product and there will undoubtedly be more refinement to come.



Trainee guardsmen practice their urban skills on exercise.



## Battalion News A Look Forward to 2016

by Capt Hamish Hardy

The Battalion has spent the last year successfully juggling the challenges of Public Duties and State Ceremonial, alongside some arduous training and deployments in Wales, Kenya, Cyprus and the Falkland Islands. Much of this year has seen the battalion separated, conducting various sub unit activities, but managing to deliver as a cohesive unit for the Trooping of the Colour and Exercise ASKARI STORM.

It was a matter of days into the New Year before the Battalion saw over 120 members of the Inkerman and Support Company deploying out to the Falkland Islands as the Roulement Infantry Company, assigned to the protection of the islands for a two month rotation. This is always a highlight for any rifle company's training year, with the joint training opportunities between all three forces abundant, as well as the autonomy of command at every level. Many a time have the section patrols around the islands been the making of a strong LSgt section commander. The Inkerman Company group were extremely fortunate with the weather and fair seas throughout the deployment allowing the exercises to be brilliantly supported by highly skilled Typhoon pilots as well as HMS Clyde. Never has a company felt more at home on a ship than the Ribs and it was a disappointment to many that there were no Royal Marines on board to remind them who their predecessors were!

During this time the remainder of the Queen's Company and No 2 Company deployed to Cyprus on Exercise LION

SUN. Although normally a company level deployment, the uplift in manpower proved extremely useful with both companies testing and pushing each other throughout. Early into the exercise they were faced with the rather unique situation of being removed from the exercise areas due to the Cypriot hunting season! Every man returned safe to the camp and this provided them all with some adventure training opportunities. The geography and climate again provided a suitable challenge for everyone prior to the battalion's deployment to Kenya later in the year.

The return of all the rifle companies in March saw the swift return to Public Duties ready for a busy Easter period. Aside from overseas exercises and their duties, the Battalion has, where possible, continued to send strong teams onto the sports field. The squash and hockey teams retained their respective London District Tournaments without losing a game! The football and rugby teams continue to perform well despite the lack of training time available owing to the busy schedule. The Battalion rugby team, Bearskins RFC, even made an appearance on BT Sport's Rugby Tonight programme as the demonstration team. Sadly the Battalion were unable to defend their Major Unit Cricket title owing to a poorly timed (for the cricket season) exercise in Kenya.

The Officers' Mess were fortunate enough to take part in a week of field sports on the northern coast of Scotland for a second year running. This is a brilliant opportunity to get as many people as possible together, something which proves much harder than it might first seem.

During April and May, having returned from various overseas exercises, the Battalion's focus was on providing the State Ceremonial role in support to London District, including Trooping the Colour. In preparation for the impending deployment to Kenya, the Battalion deployed, *en*

*masse* to Sennybridge Training area to conduct Operational Fitness Test (OFT) 6. Designed during the height of the Afghanistan campaign in order to prepare soldiers for carrying heavy weights great distances during patrol, it was an excellent measure of the levels of fitness within the companies. OFT 6 involves two three hour heavy weight marches covering 12 miles each time. This culminated in a battalion attack and represented a realistic test of what would lie ahead in Kenya. The greatest challenge proved to be weather as torrential rain and strong winds severely tested everyone's resolve throughout. The stamina and determination displayed by all were qualities that would prove vital later in the year. Soon after returning from Wales, in what was to become a familiar rapid turnaround, the Battalion were providing Numbers 1 to 10 half companies for the State Opening of Parliament.



Major Ben Jesty escorting President Xi for his state visit.

After a brief Easter leave the start of June saw the companies being put through their paces during CBRN (chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear) concentration week. Never a favoured training topic amongst the guardsmen no doubt owing to the frequency of conducting degradation training, usually playing football in a full CBRN suit, in order to experience the debilitating effect of living and operating in a CBRN environment for a sustained period of time. Within recent operations there has been a relatively low CBRN threat, however with the nature of future conflict as unpredictable as it is, maintaining good skills and knowledge is imperative. Having street lined for the Trooping of the Colour, conducted the Garter Service, the Battalion was ready to deploy to Kenya.

Exercise ASKARI STORM focuses on training and testing light role infantry battalions in an arduous and diverse environment. The main exercise is broken down into four subparts: Exercises ASKARI WARRIOR, ASKARI CENTURIAN, ASKARI SPARTAN and ASKARI IMPI. The scenario is loosely based on East Africa and sees a UK infantry brigade deployed as part of a larger UN Multi National Task Force to re-establish the integrity of an international border after a hostile neighbouring country invaded with the aim of securing key population areas and resources. With a conventional adversary operating in a multifarious environment such as east Africa there are numerous complexities that can manifest themselves depending on the actions of the soldiers on the ground. The design and contributing elements of the exercise make for a very real and demanding scenario.

The Battalion was based out of a transit camp next door to the Kenyan Air Force's Laikipia Airbase on the outskirts of Nanyuki, a sprawling typically African town that has continued to expand exponentially with each passing year of the British Army's presence in the country. Located in the shadow of Mount Kenya, the views are fantastic and the weather slightly erratic if predictable; one can almost guarantee rain in the afternoon as the dramatic clouds form off the beautiful peak of Mount Kenya. The camp is sparse and austere and despite the 12 hours of sunshine, cold 'solar' showers will be the lasting memory. ASKARI WARRIOR saw the battlegroup deploy to the area of Ole Doinyo Lemboro, around one hour north of Nanyuki, to conduct company-led live and blank training. This was an excellent opportunity for the companies to plan and conduct their own training, something that is treasured by sub unit commanders. Based out of a company harbour in the middle of the bush, the training started at the lowest level of individual skills on a live field firing range and culminated in a complex and arduous live platoon attack by day and night. The



**Start of the Exercise COCKNEY LANANA trek with Mount Kenya in the distance.**

close terrain made navigating and operating by both day and night extremely difficult and tested both section and platoon commanders alike as well as keeping all ranks on their toes with some exceptionally close encounters with lions, elephants and hyenas to name but a few.

After a brief resupply back at camp the battlegroup then moved north to Archer's Post Training Area. Having conducted their own internally led training, ASKARI CENTURIAN saw the companies being put through their paces by BATUK (British Army Training Unit Kenya) in a three way rotation consisting of a CALFEX (combined arms live fire exercise), enabling and defensive phases. With each phase being 56 hours in duration the chance to rest was minimal and each phase was demanding in its own way. The defensive phase saw the companies inserting into a ready-made company defensive position defending the key feature of God's Bridge. The company were probed throughout the day and night by a determined enemy using a myriad of tactics including a CBRN weapon. Many forgotten lessons were remembered quickly and the need to be adaptive and creative when in defence was a well identified lesson. During the enabling phase the companies were given the task of escorting a convoy along a 26km route with a high threat of both conventional and non-conventional adversaries. This phase saw the companies working closely with the engineers attached to the battlegroup for the first time, and the learning curve was steep – obstacle crossing not being as formative to light infantry as it does to armoured infantry owing to our ability to cross most obstacles on foot. However the lessons learnt put the battlegroup in good stead to excel later in the exercise. The final phase was an exceptionally demanding CALFEX that challenged everyone within the companies from the junior guardsman to the company



**Members of the Queen's Company at the completion of an attack.**

commanders. Commendation must go to the rifle companies for their performances throughout the CALFEX with the grit, determination and no little tactical acumen displayed drawing lavish praise from the BATUK staff.

The battalion then returned to camp in Nanyuki for a brief respite and battleprep before deploying onto the final exercise. The scenario saw the Grenadier Guards Battlegroup operating as part of a UK Brigade moving into a contested area to defeat a conventional enemy force before moving into a battlegroup defence. Complexity was added with over 500 locally employed civilians role playing, at times, a remarkably convincing local population of various tribes and religions. The exercise culminated in an exceptionally arduous final attack that saw the companies ascending what can only be described as 'hills on steroids' in order to clear enemy positions. The fact that the platoons were racing each other up them is testament to the levels of fitness that had been built up over the past year in preparation for the exercise. The more observant of the guardsmen might well have noticed a lone 9x9 tent erected on the highest feature overlooking the area for the final attack; it was here that the Regimental Adjutant and the Temporary Equerry were hosting 10 members of the Ironmongers' Company, who had come out to Kenya to visit the 1st Battalion. Before flying home a large proportion of the Battalion were fortunate enough to take part in various adventure training activities at some uniquely African locations; the highlight of which was Exercise COCKNEY LENANA, a six day expedition to climb Mount Kenya in preparation for a planned month long expedition to Nepal at some stage in the near future.

Following some much needed summer leave, the battalion returned to work for a final stint in London District conducting Public Duties. The principle occasion in this was the state visit of the President of China, with Major Ben Jesty

commanding the Guard of honour. Elements of the Queen's Company deployed back to Kenya in order to provide range teams, and over the Christmas period, No 2 Company provided the Roulement Infantry Company in the Falklands. At the time of writing (January 2016) the Battalion is moving rapidly towards its re-subordination to 11 Infantry Brigade. This will see a multitude of exercises from Kenya to Latvia followed another re-subordination to 20 Brigade and NATO as the spearhead battlegroup. Coinciding with the arrival of the new Commanding Officer, Lieutenant Colonel Alex McKay MBE, the Battalion has a busy and demanding year ahead.



**Brigadier Richard Smith (pictured right), Deputy Commander London District, who has been the architect of the Battalion's first class training programme on multiple exercises during its 3 years in London.**





## THE QUEEN'S COMPANY

### The Queen's Company Permanent Range Team

by 2Lt Robbie Thompson

It was only a few short weeks after returning from Kenya on a very successful Exercise ASKARI STORM that The Queen's Company found itself once again on a plane to Nairobi. This time not as exercising troops but as part of the team that delivered this tough test to the 3 PARA Battlegroup. The company was not only asked to provide range staff and observer mentors to the exercise but also a large Force Protection platoon that was kept busy in the Nanyuki Show Ground (NSG), Laikipia Air Base (LAB) East and the airfield. Along with The Queen's Company there was a strong contingent of The Inkerman Company and Support Company who were tasked with providing the Safety and Directing Staff for their opposing numbers in 3 PARA.

After what felt like a slow start to the exercise with traces to be drawn, long recess out on the ranges and probably too many milkshakes in the NAAFI, the Queen's Company was ready to deploy to Archers Post to deliver the first part of the CALFEX (Combined Arms Live Fire Exercise). This challenging part of the exercise consists of a defensive lane, an enabling lane and the CALFEX over a week in some difficult and hot terrain. The BATUK training staff run both the Defensive and Enabling lanes which left The Queen's Company to set-up, run and supervise the CALFEX. There were some initial problems

which were difficult to overcome such as the sheer heat of the Archers Post training area and the vast areas that we were covering.

The heat sapped the battery life from the electronic targets but also interfered with the range of the radio transmitter which meant Guardsman Owen, as the target operator, was often seen right behind the assaulting section to ensure the range ran smoothly which was no mean feat in that level of heat. The problem of distance could not obviously be solved but it was made easier by a very efficient supply column run by Pay Sergeant Bailey who always managed to get hot meals and water to the safety staff with few vehicles and over long and rough roads.

Locals cause further problems by wandering into the Range Danger Area at night with their herds and then proving hard to move by helicopter in the morning. This meant that the start of ranges was often delayed, meaning that by the time the ranges went live we were very much in the full heat of the day. Following the successful completion of all three PARA Rifle Companies through the Company Calfex, the PRT had to turn its attention to the Battle Group range which had been designed by fellow Grenadier Guards officer Major Hathaway-White. This was a complicated range with many moving parts which tested both the exercising troops and the PRT which had now doubled in size (thanks to the 2 RGR COEFOR) to deal with the scale and complexity of a Battle Group range. For many of the junior members of 3 PARA and the PRT this range also gave an opportunity to see the effect of Mortars on a FOB and the firing of several Javelin missiles, safety provided by Capt Sanford and CSgt Stott respectively.

With some relief the PRT was able to leave the furnace of Archers Post and return to LAB East before redeploying in a number of roles to assist the BATUK staff with the final exercise on the Lolldaiga and Ole Naishu ranches. The Company was now split up over a large area as village managers and observer mentors. This gave a chance for the village managers to get to know many of the local nationals that work to make the exercise as realistic as possible and the observer mentors an insight into the planning and execution of the Battle Groups operations. These final weeks in



A grenade detonates during the CALFEX.

Kenya were accompanied by the constant threat by the weather to break for the rainy season. Fortunately for everyone the dark clouds did not break until after the end of the exercise and the only unfortunate event was a non-lethal elephant attack on the second in command of A Company which served as a reminder to us that the African savannah can be a dangerous place if it is not taken seriously.

Although another trip to Kenya so quickly after leaving it as exercising troops was not on the top things to do over summer leave for many in the PRT, but the job was done with the normal efficiency and professionalism that can be expected. Exercise ASKARI STORM is a great exercise and all involved in the PRT were keen to return to Kenya in May this year to get suck into the African veldt once more.



The Queen's Company PRT at work.



## NO 2 COMPANY

*by Capt Henry Waterfield*

Having conducted a recce for the deployment in the latter part of August, where we were met with freezing blizzard conditions and a wind so fierce that the hold doors weren't allowed to be opened, expectations for our December to February tasking were not high. The Southern Hemisphere, however, dug deep and produced a sterling display of sunshine in which we could enjoy watching the reports of soldiers in the UK drafted in to help with the flooding.

The deployment took the standard shape of a FIRIC (Falkland Islands Roulement Infantry Company) with the constant requirement to provide a QRF and a patrols function. The first hurdle the company would encounter would be Christmas and New Years' week where emotions would be running high, and operational commitments would be a close second to family back home.

While the QRF platoon enjoyed manning the Ops Room and wearing a Father Christmas hat, the rest of the company followed suit and formed up in smart ranks of Santas to receive Commander British Forces. This also presented the opportunity to give out rank slides to newly promoted Lance Corporals. Following the presentation the company marched smartly down to the scoff house with our 'Gifts for Troops' treasure boxes stuffed with toys and inside a sandbag. Company Sergeant Major Hughes bellowed the word of command, "Chaaange, Christmas Sacks", and as one by one the company immaculately performed the change arms with their Christmas gift sacks.

Lunch was followed by some time spent using the wifi to get in touch with families back in the UK. Later in the afternoon an epic dodgeball tournament ensued, seeing



Members of the Roulement Infantry Company march to the cookhouse on Christmas day.

the PRT and Officers team come out the victors after a closely fought final with the Sergeants Mess members. A fantastic BBQ was enjoyed by all.

Each platoon has fulfilled the operational requirement to patrol the more remote parts of the Islands. 6 Platoon helped local farmers shear sheep and also burn some tails. The local landowners and farmers are very welcoming to the British Army, and often have some very interesting stories about the war itself. 2 section of 5 Platoon were welcomed into the homes of one family with a delicious pasta bake and a warm

barn (heated by peat they had helped dig all morning) to sleep in. The patrols act as a very effective means of gaining intelligence on all manner of things, from mapping to local issues. They also assist in reassuring the population of the Falkland Islands and projecting Her Majesty's Government wish to continue the strong bonds with the UK. They are also a fantastic training opportunity for section commanders to build up section SOPs.

Another brilliant facility to aid training whilst concurrently providing the operational requirements of QRF and patrolling, is to conduct platoon ranges. This takes the form of a week up on Onion Range, which is a vast area with an almost 360 degree opportunity to fire. The platoons have been through bayonet and individual grenade ranges all the way up to a long, gruelling, but rewarding platoon attack range in another corner of the area. The end of the range week culminates in an 18.7 mile tab back into Mount Pleasant Camp.

Being in the Joint Services environment provides a good opportunity to look at what other branches of the military do, of particular interest have been the Typhoon Squadron based in the Falklands. Seeing the jets up close and talking to the pilots about their experiences provided an insight into what goes into putting the jets up once or twice a day. In true RAF style, this usually occurs just when one is trying to pick up the phone, at which point there is always a pause due to the terrific noise they make as they screech overhead. HMS Clyde, the Rapier Artillery Battery, the Military Working Dogs and visits to the Search and Rescue Sea Kings have also been interesting.



**The Mortar Platoon conducting ranges in the Falklands.**

The QRF provides a perfect opportunity to conduct platoon training in order to prepare the company for future commitments to come. Whilst the QRF was held at high readiness the actual day to day routine was calm, allowing huge amounts of training to take place. This included everyone becoming a qualified team medic and gaining full knowledge of the majority of the infantry personal weapons and weapon systems.

So far the FIRIC has provided a lot of challenge and opportunities to all. Though distant from the UK at over 8,000 miles the company has settled well and is clearly the most tightly knit unit on the island. With only four weeks left until the next roulement arrives it seems as though there is a lot to cram into that small period of time. No 2 Company however look as though they will, as usual, take it all in their stride.



## THE INKERMAN COMPANY

*by Lt Richard Phillips*

The Inkerman Company began 2015 in the Falkland Islands. We undertook the duties of Op FIRIC (Falkland Island Roulement Infantry Company) based at Camp Pleasant for two months starting 5th January. The Company was put through its paces providing two rotating responsibilities, patrols and the camp's QRF. A third rotation of live firing training at the Onion Range complex North of Mount Pleasant was also included. Our time at Camp Pleasant was busy and the guardsmen behaved impeccably. During the patrolling phase the Guardsmen were flown to the extremities of the East and West Islands by Merlin helicopter and operated at section level, a great opportunity for all section commanders in the company. For the QRF phase a platoon would remain in Camp Pleasant and provide help where needed. The last rotation involved an 8km march up to Onion Ranges where each platoon conducted live firing in preparation

for Exercise Cape Bayonet, held in the last two weeks. The exercise was a great challenge for the company and on the whole was a great success. The company returned to Britain in high spirits ready to commit itself to a busy schedule of Public Duties.

The following months were spent on duty at St James' Palace, Buckingham Palace, The Tower of London and Windsor Castle. Each of the Guardsmen showed the utmost discipline and diligence during each 24 hour guard and the period culminated with The Queen's Birthday Parade in June. The 1st Battalion provided Half-Companies to line The Mall. Public Duties continued throughout the build up for Exercise Askari Storm, which commenced at the end of June, and whilst the Main Body of the Battalion boarded flights or were already in Kenya a detachment remained to take part in the 200th Anniversary of the Battle of Waterloo Service at St Paul's Cathedral. By the time the Battalion was complete in Kenya the majority of Guardsmen had marched off either Horse Guards or the Mall only 24 hours





**The Major General firing a sniper rifle on his visit to the Falkland Islands in February 2015.**

prior to standing in the baking heat of Kenya.

Based in the Eastern part of the Laikipia Air Base complex the Battalion completed three phases. These comprised Company Live firing in the North at Archers post followed by a Company blank exercise. The final phase, by the far the most gruelling, involved the entire Battalion and all attachments. The exercise was a great success for the Battalion, which was only emphasized by the weight of Public Duties that filled our preparation time in the preceding months. After a few days conducting adventure training the Company returned on the first flight home ready for another bout of Public Duties.

By October the Inkerman Company had settled back into the routine of mounting and dismounting the various Guard duties. It was decided that a productive break was deserved and Exercise Cockney Ribs was conducted, a weeklong Adventurous Training expedition to RAF Akrotiri in Cyprus.

The trip looked to be very rewarding, largely thanks to QMSI Richardson's local knowledge and contacts. The first few days saw the guardsmen challenging themselves in a variety of environments, ranging from the racetrack to the open ocean. The activities started with the 'Akrotiri Kart Racing Club Grand Prix'. The day culminated with an exciting final race, which LCpl Swinford leaving the competition in his wake. Scuba diving provided the first real challenge for the guardsmen, with strong winds making conditions less than ideal. Those that managed it were rewarded with the eerie wreck of a Lynx helicopter and a 1950s fire engine resting 16 meters below the surface.

The following days saw the majority

of the group's nerve tested on sheer rock faces and terrifyingly fast races on the winding roads of the Troodos Mountains. The mountain biking appeared to be to the guardsmen's liking, with some eventually negotiating punishing off road turns at up to 38 miles per hour, much to my dismay. Somewhat surprisingly, members of the company were more intimidated by the rock climbing and abseiling package. However, with some heavy encouragement from LSgt Partridge, one of the PTIs for the trip, the guardsmen found the mettle necessary to continue. It was pleasing to note that every guardsman managed to scale the smaller 15 meter climbs. The majority of the group also completed a 30 meter abseil which I found somewhat nerve racking, much to the delight of all those on the ground, I am sure.

The week ended in the 'function room' of one of Akrotiri's finest restaurants. The venue served fantastic food and a great selection of local beer, needless to say the group behaved impeccably throughout the evening. All in all, the trip was a most successful endeavour and I must thank LSgts Hendy and Partridge for their involvement, and of course QMSI Richardson for his tireless effort and involvement both during and prior to the expedition. Finally I commend all the Guardsmen for their attitudes throughout all of the week's activities. Whether that be conquering vertigo, overcoming fears of the unknown on the sea bed, or participating fully in the 'trip dance-off' in Akrotiri. Exercise Cockney Ribs was a resounding success, enjoyed by all, and a welcome break from day to day life.

The last few weeks of the year were again spent on guard duty and as per Inkerman Company form the guardsmen proved their worth. 2015 proved to be a thoroughly busy year and specifically very successful for The Inkerman Company. All serving members can feel proud of the successes and challenges that all took part in.



**Lt Richard Phillips led the Inkerman Company adventure training to Cyprus.**



## NIJMEGEN COMPANY Wellington Barracks, London

The end of August saw the return of Nijmegen Company from Summer Leave and some dramatic changes to its command structure. Major Bayliss started in his role as Company Commander, joined by CSM Betts and Capt Garton who came directly from Battalion. Furthermore all three platoon commanders changed over, coming from Battalion and the recent success on Ex Askari Storm in Kenya. The Company hit the ground running, with the first day back from leave being on the ranges to get all the guardsmen up to the standard for their live firing exercise on Salisbury Plain.

After the usual ceremonial duties the Company deployed to Salisbury Plain near the end of September, for what turned out to be a very eventful two weeks. The live firing included a challenging day and night defensive shoot; while on the dry phase the platoons had a chance to be flown round the area in a Chinook, joined on a hasty attack by an Apache and shown around a Squadron on Challenger tanks. Furthermore the weekend inbetween was used to bring all the guardsmen through their annual mandatory training tests and help prepare them for their move to Battalion. The Battalion padre, Anthony Wilson took the time to come down to Salisbury and speak to the guardsmen too.

Back in the city of London, the eventful start of the Rugby World Cup saw many members of the Company having the privilege to be flag bearers at Twickenham Stadium and also some members of the company attended



**The Apache gunship helicopter giving top cover to 5 Platoon as they advance.**

the opening party with the England Team and Prime Minister in attendance.

October saw the Company dealing with a wide range of tasks. The continuous main effort of ceremonial duties saw Nijmegen providing three half companies for the Chinese President's State Visit and the Guard of Honour for Kazakhstan's visit. Concurrently Lt Naughton successfully completed the Cambrian Patrol with Sgt Perrer and returned proudly with a silver medal. With all the PDICs putting teams forward, rivalry was fierce but



**A Chinook helicopter dropping off the men for a deployment on Salisbury Plain.**





**Cambrian Patrol team on top of the Pen-Y-Fan, working for their Silver Medal.**



**CSM Betts, dressing the men off for the state visit.**

Nijmegen came out on top. Small groups of Guardsmen were also being supplied to units round the country and in London for RAAT tasks.

The end of November saw the Company deploying for a four day exercise in rainy Sennybridge, where the guardsmen were tested in day and night navigation. The week finished with a challenging Company level insertion and attack – which for many of the Junior Guardsmen was their first. Capt Garton made the attack go with a bang by setting up some simulated mortar fire on the enemy position, despite the cold wet weather the attack ran smoothly and the men looked forward to a return to London.

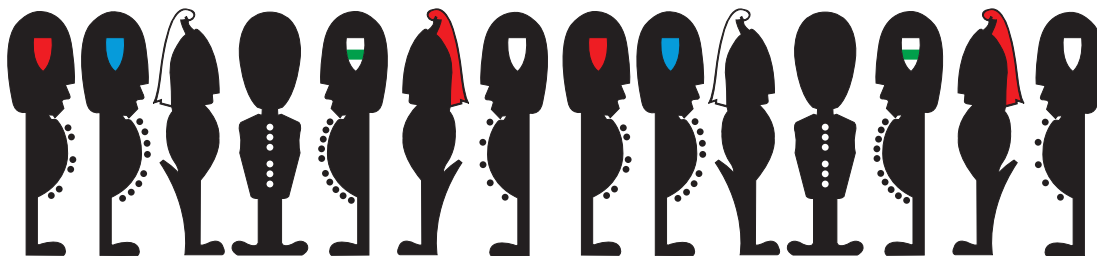


**Christmas Dinner in the Guards Museum.**

In December the Company Sergeant Major, using all of his networking skills arranged a Christmas Dinner for the guardsmen in the Guards Museum. With wine and food on the tables the Company enjoyed an opportunity to relax together in a fantastic setting, with some members of the Grenadier Guards Band joining in to add some festive cheer.

The Company looks forward to the January ski trip in the New Year and further exercises to Pirbright to complete a series of ranges and further battlefield skills.





## Horse Guards News

As ever the Horse Guards focus for the year has been on activity in London and delivering the usual range of glittering public spectacle in the form of the State Visits, the State Opening of Parliament, the Troop and the Cenotaph Parade. At each of these the Grenadiers – the Battalion, Nijmegen Company or both – contributed faultlessly, no mean feat given their very demanding training programmes which have seen them bouncing between London and Wales, Kenya and the Falklands on an almost monthly basis.

This has been a year of notable commemorations and anniversaries – at each of which the Household Division staff at Horse Guards have arranged the military ceremonial and at each of which London District troops and men and women of the Household Division have delivered in memorable style: the Herrick Commemoration Service, the Gallipoli Centenary Commemoration, the VE and VJ Day commemorations and, by no means the most important, but definitely the most enjoyable, the commemoration of the 200th anniversary of the Battle of Waterloo.

We used the Battle of Waterloo commemorations as the main theme for the Beating Retreat in June and included 100 re-enactors and their cannon within the finale – they used this as final pre-deployment training before joining 3900 fellow enthusiasts on the battlefield for the main celebrations a week later. The Beating Retreats went fantastically well – not only because of the usual world class musical performances from the Massed Bands and various guests but because we continue to improve our marketing and front of house efforts and so, for the second year running, all seats sold out on both nights. This is important as, in addition to covering the MOD's costs and raising a tidy sum for the Household Division and other charities, full to bursting stands create a tremendous atmosphere which is very impressive to the senior guest – the Duchess of Cornwall took the salute this year – and the very many Defence, Army, diplomatic and community guests who are invited to spend an evening with the Household Division.

The Welsh Guards trooped their Colour this year – a brand new one that had been presented by Her Majesty at a glorious Windsor Quadrangle parade just the month before – and, along with the PDICs who provide the other Guards, produced an immaculate Queen's Birthday Parade befitting of their centenary year. This years parade also marked the retirement of Garrison

Sergeant Major Mott OBE MVO who after 13 years in the post and guiding 10s of 1000s of Guardsmen through every conceivable ceremonial event swaps his bearskin and Horse Guards for a future in Kentucky, USA.

The Grenadiers and Welsh are both coming to the end of their first 'A2020 era' 3 year rotation in London and are ready to move back to the Field Army for a spell. Both battalions have worked hard to support Public Duties while maintaining their operational skills – an effort which has forced both to move between ceremonial and the field frequently with little break. Arranging next weeks street-lining half companies or guard changes with Adjutants who are sitting in Kenya or Canada is now almost the norm and watching the men adapt to this with no drop in standard on parade has been very impressive. Those battalions move to 11 and 12 Brigades in early Feb 16 and we look forward to welcoming the Coldstream and Irish Guards back to London in their place.

### Household Division Main Events – 2016

<b>8th March</b>	State Visit by the King and Queen of Spain
<b>23rd March</b>	Easter Choral Concert – Guards Chapel
<b>18th May</b>	State Opening of Parliament (planning date)
<b>28th May</b>	Major General's Review of the Queen's Birthday Parade
<b>4th June</b>	Colonel's Review of the Queen's Birthday Parade
<b>8th &amp; 9th June</b>	Household Division Beating Retreat
<b>11th June</b>	The Queen's Birthday Parade
<b>13th June</b>	Garter Service
<b>30th June &amp; 1st July</b>	Battle of the Somme Centenary Commemorations
<b>5th Oct</b>	Installation of the Constable of the Tower of London
<b>13th Nov</b>	National Act of Remembrance at the Cenotaph
<b>25th &amp; 26th Nov</b>	'Scarlet & Gold' – Winter Band Concerts, Cadogan Hall

*Septem Juncta in Uno*

### Exercise COCKNEY WAKA

*by Capt C J D Stevenson*

Exercise COCKNEY WAKA saw 12 members of the Grenadier Guards, accompanied by two instructors make their way to New Zealand to conduct an eight day sea kayaking expedition in December 2015. It was the fruition of over 12 months of planning and re-planning. As many readers will be aware, Adventurous Training, or AT is it is more commonly known, is a core tenet of the military. It presents soldiers with unique opportunities to challenge themselves in unfamiliar environments and situations, whilst allowing them experience a myriad of emotions from fear to euphoria. The ability of AT to enhance teambuilding and leadership qualities is also ubiquitous. With the 're-shakes' that the recent Strategic and Defence Security Reviews of 2010 and 2015 have bought respectively it remains clear that AT will and must continue. When the incumbent Chief of the General Staff was Commander Land Forces he directed that at least 1/3 of a unit should conduct some type of AT per annum. With the steady rotation of State Ceremonial Public Duties that the Grenadier Guards have undertaken over the last 2-3 years this directive has been challenging but nonetheless, achievable. Readers will be familiar with the many AT trips that members of the Battalion have undertaken that have been reported on in these pages.

With the Battalion's 2.5-year tenure in London District drawing to a close it was felt that the Battalion should mount a major overseas expedition under the London District flag whilst the opportunities and more importantly time still prevailed. The planning of a far-flung expedition is no mean feat but mercifully there are many fonts of knowledge within the Army and wider military AT world. So it was with access to this knowledge that the Battalion's AT cell set about planning Exercise COCKNEY WAKA (*Waka* meaning canoe in Maori). What attracted most about a sea kayaking expedition in New Zealand was that one had only been conducted once within the last 20 years. Without doubt the best area to paddle is the Marlborough Sounds, a 4,000km<sup>2</sup> area of sunken valleys at the top of the south island of New Zealand. Its many coves and inlets mean that despite covering only a small area geographically of the island, it actually makes up more than ¼ of New Zealand's 17,209km total coastline.

The aspiration of the expedition was for 12 novice sea kayakers to undertake an eight day, point-to-point, and unsupported expedition covering over 100 miles. As one can imagine, finding volunteers for an expedition of this nature did prove difficult, particularly given the way in which guardsmen of today actively seek out and embrace new and challenging adventures. Although one junior non

commissioned officer did have a slightly different point of view when we quite eloquently exclaimed 'kayaking in December, what have I done to end up this proverbial creek, this time with a paddle?'. Fortunately, for him, he oversaw the fact that December is the start of New Zealand's summer. Despite the fact we were taking 12 novices out on the expedition; military AT guidelines dictated that all participants had to gain their Basic Kayak Foundation (K2F). Fortunately, the Battalion's Overseas Training Exercise for 2015 took place in Kenya. This allowed 20 potential expedition members to spend a week at the end of the exercise paddling on the River Mathioya.

The last weekend in November saw the 12 members of the expedition (1 Captain, 1 SNCO, 2 JNCOs and 8 Gdsm) along with the two instructors (WO1 Navin, RAPTC SMI in HQ London District & Mr Huw Richards SIO at SDW in Sennybridge) meet at Lille Barracks to issue the necessary kit and equipment and conduct a final administration check before departing for Heathrow for our flights onto Christchurch. Owing to a late change in the personnel, 13 members of the group were flying via Dubai and Sydney whilst a lone instructor was flying the opposite (and more dangerous!) way around the world via Los Angeles and Auckland. Given that New Zealand is as good as the opposite side of the world to the UK, flying times were nearly comparable and we reformed in the arrivals lounge at Christchurch airport having lost a day somewhere over the Indian Ocean. Given New Zealand's strict policy on the importing (accidental or otherwise) of foreign soils and objects there was a bit of a delay clearing customs owing to the amount of outdoor expedition equipment we were carrying. With tents and clothing checked for foreign 'nasties' and the transport collected we started the first part of our domestic journey. The road from Christchurch to Picton is one of the most stunning coastal drives; sadly this was lost on the group after 30 hours of travelling. Thankfully we made the 308km journey in one piece and arrived at our campsite in Anakiwa to rain and fog. Fortunately the hosts of our campsite took pity upon us and rather than spending our first night under canvas kindly put us up in their empty cabins. The following day we awoke to beautiful sunshine, much more akin to what we were expecting, and made the short journey to our kayak hire company and hosts/organisers Sea Kayak Adventures. This company specialised in catering for kayak expeditions and trips and as such were well equipped to provide us with suitable 2-man kayaks. There was some apprehension prior to seeing them that we would struggle to fit all of our equipment and food for 8 days into the kayaks. Our fears were allayed with guarantees that, with smart packing, there was sufficient space for food and water for a trip more than double the length of time of ours. Time was spent with the instructors pouring over maps and

charts, confirming routes, layovers, campsite locations and emergency procedures for the expedition.

With an eye on developing the teamwork and leadership skills of the junior members, each boat (2 men) was issued with the correct amount of CILOR (cash in lieu of rations) with instructions that they were to use to shop for the food for the next 8 ½ days. Should they run out or miscalculate, there would be no reserves! The instructors were also eager that each boat should be in charge of providing the route cards and subsequently navigating each day, thereby developing useful military skills as well as introducing everyone to navigation and sea. With supplies bought and a final afternoon spent briefing the route and safety procedures to the group we settled into the evening with a final BBQ. The following morning was an early rise in order to pack the kayaks and then transport them to our starting point, Anakiwa, within the Queen Charlotte Sound. The sun was showing glimpses through the cloud cover and there was a brisk wind. Weather forecasts were of gales in the Cook Straits but the local chat was that the high mountainsides dominating the Marlborough Sounds would greatly reduce the wind within the bays. As we were to find out, although this was the case, the topography of the land resulted in unpredictable wind directions within the Sounds.

After a final photo call we mounted our kayaks and set sail. The skegs, or rudders took a little bit of getting used to but quickly all 7 boats were making good headway with a tailwind and spurts of sunshine. Day One was to prove a

tough introduction to sea kayaking with the southerly winds bringing rain and a sharp drop in temperatures. Very quickly we discovered that, as predicted, wind direction quickly changed depending on what the lay of the land was making it do. This more often than not meant that it was blowing out of the bays that lined our routes. As a result every bay we crossed involved a hard 30-40 minute slog, upwind before turning and making a run with the wind in the hope that we had made sufficient distance across the bay so as to avoid tacking again into the wind. It took a bit of practise but at the end of 6 hours paddling and 23km travelled we made it; gratefully, to our first campsite at Ranimera. All of our campsites along the route proved very similar, only accessible by sea, a tap or stream for drinking water and a long drop latrine. The first cooked meal passed without incident and the party settled in for a solid night's sleep.

We woke to beautiful sunshine and still waters the following morning, we were further treated to a close encounter with a pod of dolphins which swam around our boats for 30 minutes or so. This wasn't the only encounter we had with the native wildlife but it certainly was a brilliant experience for all. Day Two saw us paddle 14km from Ranimera to Blumine Island. An early issue with a broken skeg was overcome with plasti-cuffs and tape before continuing on our way. Blumine Island was an old WW2 naval fort with guns and submarine lookouts pointing out into the Straits; this was a 250m climb from the campsite but was a just reward for those who attempted it with



Crossing from Blumine Island.



stunning views into the Straits. Day Three saw us paddle 16km from Blumine Island to Cannibal Cove. Another early problem, this time with a steering mechanism, was overcome before a couple of large bay crossings. The lunchtime stop for the day saw us halt in Ship Cove; the first spot Captain James Cook landed in New Zealand with his ship Endeavour in 1770. There now stands a large monument to Captain Cook and his feats, many of which were both astounding and humorous. Cannibal Cove saw us the furthest east and closest to the Cook Straits. Unfortunately the following day brought the rain, wind and fog that the forecasters had predicted. Now nearly halfway through we were undeterred and donned cagoules for the day's paddle back to Punga Cove. Day Five saw us collected by our kayak hire company and portaged by vehicle to allow us to paddle in the Pelorus Sound, the biggest of the three. The wind was again to prove against us as we attempted to make for our camp 7km down Nydia Bay. Unfortunately as we arrived at the bay the wind speed made the water look like a fast flowing river that we were going to try and paddle upstream. A hasty navigation adjustment was made and we ran with the wind to reach our 5th and most stunning campsite in Jacob's Bay. The bay proved fruitful for some of the guardsmen who caught their first fish of the week; they fried it over their cookers for a tasty if not plentiful supplement having covered 29km in the day.

The final few days proved uneventful if just as stunningly beautiful with further encounters with seals, one of whom was intent on showing off as much as possible. Our eighth and final day saw us complete our expedition in Duncan's Bay having paddled a total of 152km with an average of 6.5 hours paddling per day. It was with sore backs, shoulders and blistered hands that we formed into extended line as we



Expedition members at the Cook Memorial, Ship's Bay.

pulled into the finishing point at Duncan's Bay with an immense sense of achievement coupled with a feeling that we would only truly appreciate what we had seen and done after the event. We were fortunate to spend our final day exploring Christchurch, a wonderful city still recovering from the 2011 earthquake that destroyed large amounts of the city. It was with somewhat heavy hearts that we departed for London and Christmas leave having had a truly unique experience in one of the most stunning places on Earth coupled with a convivial and generous population. The expedition certainly tested the resolve of many taking part in it and pushed us both physically and mentally all the while helping to develop future junior non-commissioned officers of the future. With the experience gained both in Kenya and New Zealand there is definite interest amongst the guardsmen in gaining their instructor qualifications and being able to lead similar expeditions in the future and there are plans afoot for paddling the River Wye as well as taking part in the Devises to Westminster canoe race; watch these pages!

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

## Hadrians Wall: Nov 23–27 2015

by *LCpl Ash Robinson*

Late in November last year the Signals Platoon of the 1st Battalion Grenadier Guards undertook a monstrous task. A small team would travel all the way to Hadrian's Wall, an 84 mile long path, that would see them walk from east coast to west coast and do so in three days. We all understood that this would be hard, and being that this was an exercise in Junior Non-Commissioned Officer development, that we would only have ourselves and our peers to look to for inspiration and strength when the going got tough. With all that in mind the small team assembled.

Well, that small team was us, Capt Gauntlet, CSgt Harrell, Sgt Saxton, LSgt Jallow, LCpl Morris, LCpl McDonald, LCpl Robinson, Gdsm Harvey and Gdsm Alexander. We few humble signallers, were ready to take on this challenge.

Day One, Monday, started with leaving Aldershot for Otterburn camp. Once there we settled down for the night and rested, insuring our full strength would be available for the next days activity.

Tuesday quickly came around, which meant time to get up, get ready and hop on the transport, the destination of the start of the walk would be Bowness-On-Solway, a tiny village 10kms or so from Carlisle on the west coast of England. Once at Bowness-On-Solway we dismounted the minibus and began the walk. What took place over the next 50km until we finally finished the day's leg, is only comparable to Frodo's Fellowship from the Lord of the Rings films. We first walked our way to Carlisle, which was hard going enough, where shortly after we lost our first member to injury. So CSgt Harrell was left in the safe

hands of the admin team, Sgt Saxton and Gdsm Harvey. The remainder then pushed forward and soldiered on. Another long leg of increasingly arduous terrain rose up to meet us after we departed the Carlisle area, the going only got tougher from here. With darkness falling and the team's legs rapidly fatiguing, we were lucky to happen upon a village called Newtown where our transport was waiting for us, to take us back to Otterburn.

Wednesday began with aches and pains from the previous day's exertions. Every member of the walking team felt the pain. After having our breakfast, we departed Otterburn camp once again. We were then dropped off in Newtown, where the walk began anew. The morning saw us traverse some hills of varying steepness and by the time we were stopping briefly to have lunch, the toll was already showing on our fatigued legs. From midday onwards every step for every member was a personal battle, something as simple as placing one foot in front of the other becoming increasingly more difficult. Almost 100km in and over half way across the country, the decision was made by the officer in command, Capt Gauntlet, that the team were no longer in a fit state to continue, injuries becoming more and more likely amongst the walkers.

So we withdrew back to Otterburn, defeated in the sense that we hadn't achieved our goal of completing the wall in our given time frame but bolstered with the knowledge that we had in fact achieved far more than anyone could have estimated in just two days.

With that, the decision was made to return to Aldershot on the Thursday, with a view to having a long weekend, a 'well done' from the Company Commander, which was very well received from the men. Those few days will forever be remembered by all involved, characterised by the almost intolerable fatigue felt by all in our pursuit to achieve our goal.



## Visit of a party of Ironmongers to 1st Battalion Grenadier Guards in Kenya

**In order to further ‘cement’ the Affiliation between the Regiment and The Ironmongers’ Company (a City Livery Company), we invited a party of 10 from the Ironmongers’ Company to visit the 1st Battalion on Exercise Askari Storm in Kenya. What follows is their ‘take’ on the visit:**

*by Mr M S W Tilbury, Liveryman*

After considerable planning and instruction from the Assistant Clerk, a group of ten Ironmongers assembled on Wednesday 22nd July at Heathrow’s T5 for the eight hour flight to Nairobi.

On the plane we caught up with Major General Sir George Norton, the Regimental Lieutenant Colonel and also an Ironmonger, and Major Grant Baker, the Regimental Adjutant, and so the full touring party was assembled.

We were met at Nairobi Airport by Capt Fred Moynan who had gone on ahead as an advance party to ensure the visit went without a hitch. The evening air was cool and comfortable. Capt Moynan brought with him three guardsmen who drove us in a collection of 4x4s for the entire expedition. 40 minutes later, after witnessing some appalling Kenyan driving, we were collecting the keys for our rooms at the wonderful Muthaiga Club (of ‘Out of Africa’ and ‘White Mischief’ fame). The ambience and smell of wax in the corridors took us all immediately back to what it must have been like in colonial times.



Briefing Master George and General George.

Despite the late hour of our arrival, we were fed and watered and then to bed for the longer road trip ‘up country’ to Nanyuki situated just north of the Equator (0° 01’ North).

A full spread for breakfast on Thursday set us up for the four hour trip to Nanyuki, leaving promptly at 0830hrs. There was just time in the schedule to stretch our legs half-way to Nanyuki at a touristy curio shop offering ‘just for you, a special price’ deals and again at the Equator to take photos. The time spent in the vehicles was a good opportunity to talk with the drivers who had been on multiple tours of Afghanistan and had both amusing and very sad stories to tell.

1230hrs saw us arrive at the Nanyuki Sports Club with check-in completed in short order. We were soon back into the 4x4s and heading off to EXCON (Exercise Control) in the Kenyan back country to learn what the Grenadier Guards had been doing the last five weeks on exercise.

Here we were introduced to the Deployable Tactical Engagement Simulation training system (DTES) that monitors each soldier’s position and shooting results and reports back to EXCON in real time with such accuracy that it can even tell if the soldier is standing up or lying down. This allows the training team to track and then play back troop movements for analysis and feedback to the men in a subsequent debrief. The weapons and webbing the soldiers use/wear also includes laser systems which pick up ‘hits’ and disable the targeted soldier’s weapon reporting him as injured or killed dependent on where he was hit.

After a brief, recent history of the Guards worldwide movements (most recently ‘the red stuff’ such as Trooping the Colour) given by Brigadier Richard Smith, Deputy Commander London District, Colonel Tom Vallings, Commander BATUK (British Army Training Unit Kenya), and Major Alex Hutton (also BATUK) talked us through the role of BATUK and the timeline and objectives of the current Grenadiers’ six-week training programme.

We were told that the culmination of the programme was an attack by the three companies of the Grenadiers, with support from the Royal Engineers and the Royal Artillery, to take the three hills (codenamed Gold, Silver and Bronze) overlooking the village of Katooma (a village fabricated for the exercise) and then secure the village.

The BATUK team work incredibly hard to deliver a first class training environment using officers from many regiments, other ranks and civilian contractors. They deliver over 159 ‘nights out’ a year on training manoeuvres within the 240,000 hectares of ground available. All this is currently delivered under the uncertainty of a renegotiation of the





**Lunch in the bush.**

Defence Cooperation Agreement (DCA) with the Kenyan Government which could mean the whole operation gets shut down if a new agreement can't be reached soon.

The timing of the presentations was impeccable as, whilst listening to the instructors and safely under canvas, the heavens opened for a dose of tropical downpour! The late afternoon shower proved to be a regular feature of each day.

We had been led to believe that we should expect that night's accommodation to be in line with a typical soldier's lot in the field. In the end, however, Major 'Stumpy' Keeley, Quartermaster of the Grenadier Guards and his team pulled out all the stops with a fantastic BBQ and some superbly sited tents furnished with camp beds and sleeping bags. It was a cold but dry night and most settled down early due to H hour being scheduled for 0541hrs. A few of the 'younger' members gave forth on a range of subjects burning the midnight oil in confab with the NCOs, who also provided more stories from their postings. A fabulous dawn saw us given a grandstand view of the upcoming final assault.

The sound of a spotter plane signalled the start of proceedings closely followed by some impressively percussive flash bangs representing a mortar attack on Grenadiers. The attack was on! We were joined by Capt Barry Cork, Royal Gurkha Rifles, who had a DTES laptop showing the system we had viewed the day before. This allowed us to follow events both on the screen and from our great vantage point. It soon became apparent that the enemy had located the Grenadiers as they formed up and carefully laid plans had to be changed at the last minute. From our vantage point we were able to see Queen's Company secure Gold, but at the expense of 50% casualties, and then see No 2 Company and the Inkerman Company skirt around our position to enable No 2 Company to attack Silver and witness Inkerman Company almost sprinting the mile to engage and secure Bronze as the deadline Brigadier Smith had said he wanted the exercise completed by loomed. The enemy fought hard with machine guns in entrenched positions but the expertise of the Grenadiers eventually won the day and, four hours

later, the enemy was neutralised.

We then went down to the village to meet some of the very exhausted soldiers. We had all been very impressed with the professionalism of the soldiers, especially if one considers that the Grenadiers spend over 50% of their time on ceremonial duties.

We Ironmongers then retired to Nanyuki Sports Club for a shower and a little, light lunch. The possibility of golf was considered but quickly shelved as the torrential rain arrived, so a welcome afternoon siesta was the answer.

Early evening took us to Cape Chestnut restaurant to dine with some of the Grenadier Officers and a few of the BATUK staff. The company, food and wine were excellent. Another opportunity to hear how incredibly busy they have been and how impressed the BATUK team were by the Battalion's performance as a whole.

The next day (Saturday) took us to LAB(E) (Laikipia Air Base East) on the outskirts of Nanyuki, where the visiting battalions are based. After a 'brew', necessitated by the Army ethos of 'hurry up and wait', we were taken to hear a presentation delivered by Major Price, Royal Engineers. He is the Project Continuity Officer responsible for delivering the next phases of development of the base's infrastructure which, if completed, would cost over £120 million. The job isn't made any easier by the use of local contractors with a different take on interpreting both the building regulations and the architect's plans, coupled with the ongoing uncertainty over whether there will actually be a British presence at the base at all if the DCA is not renewed.



**Isla Kennedy on Horseback.**

We then went to meet the DTES team again who allowed us to try the laser systems first hand firing anti-tank weapons and RPGs at targets. The Senior Warden volunteered to walk through a set of TES landmines which exploded with plenty of noise and showers of talcum powder. To simulate the reality of the dangers faced by soldiers on tour in Afghanistan, the DTES team even have suicide vests in the training armoury.

Lunch was in the base canteen with the Officers and NCOs from the Grenadiers as well as other regiments involved in the current exercise. In the Grenadiers' exercise, the enemy was played by the Rifles regiment. The esprit de corps was very evident across all the regiments and ranks. During the meal, the Master presented an Ironmongers' plaque to the Grenadiers' Commanding Officer, Lieutenant Colonel The Hon Charles (Chips) Broughton MBE.

The afternoon was our own for some R&R and preparation for the Battalion Cocktail Party at Le Rustique restaurant. This was another triumph of the Regiment's hospitality with local landowners and worthies also invited. The Grenadier Guards' Corps of Drums kindly put on a fantastic show and the Master was given the honour of taking the salute. The Corps' members join without any previous musical experience and learn on the job.

Sunday morning came and we mounted up to be driven by our ever-patient, relentlessly cheerful drivers on the hour's journey to Borana Lodge. The last part of the drive was across a very rough track (which Andrew Wauchope must have found very painful lying down in the front seat with tendonitis) but the destination proved to be every bit worth the journey. Borana Lodge is spectacularly located and very well appointed. After a delicious lunch we were taken out in safari Land Rovers driven by knowledgeable guides. The guides found us elephants, lions (with cubs),

buffalo, giraffe, zebra, a jackal and many impala, gazelle, hartebeest and oryx.

Monday morning's horse ride at 7.30am and subsequent Land Rover safari brought warthog, a goshawk and a black Rhino. Even from the verandas of the Lodge one could view the water hole and its visitors as well as the hyrax living just under the Lodge's buildings.

In the early afternoon we took the five hour drive back to Nairobi with a short road-side stop for souvenirs and an evening meal at the Muthaiga Club before the return to the UK. The ETA at Muthaiga had been set for 1800hrs by Capt Moynan and we rolled through the gates at 1800hrs to the second! Even the Nairobi traffic could not stop the Grenadiers delivering us to the airport in good time for the flight (although there were some scary overtaking manoeuvres to avoid).

The Ironmonger touring party would like to thank all the officers and men for the time they gave to us to allow an insight into the life and work of an active infantry battalion and support units. They also wish to thank the Battalion for its kind generosity in paying for all the in-country costs of the trip. Special thanks to Sir George Norton and Major Baker for their own insight into what was happening around us. A final, and biggest, thank you to Capt Fred Moynan for organising the trip with such panache and good humour ("I am only doing my job") and making it such an unforgettable experience.

Given all that the Grenadier Guards contribute to protecting our national interests, and with the potentially life changing risks that they run whilst on active duty, the Ironmongers' contribution to the Colonel's fund is unarguably an extremely worthwhile involvement in helping the Regiment look after wounded soldiers who need rehabilitation and others (and their families) who struggle upon having left active service.



The whole group in Kenya.



## Serving Officers at The Grenadier before Black Sunday



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Brigadier David Maddan, shortly before retiring from the Army, shows us that he still knows 'The Fan Dance'





## Guards Cricket Club to South Africa

by Capt Fred Moynan

On the 9th of January, 20 members of The Household Division deployed on the first major overseas tour of the Millennium. Amongst the tourists were eight Grenadiers, five Coldstreamers, two Welsh Guards, two Household Cavalrymen, one Irish Guard, one Scots Guard and The Equerry to HRH The Prince of Wales. With the rank range from Guardsman (and Trooper) to Lieutenant Colonel, it presented a unique opportunity for many serving Officers and other ranks to go on a once-in-a-lifetime sports tour.



The Guards Cricket Club in Wellington Barracks before the flight.



Capt Fred Moynan conducting the toss with Neil Watson at Western Province Cricket Club, overseen by Capt Charlie Williams (in Regimental umpire's coat).



It's not Burton Court, but it will have to do: the view of the pitch and Table Mountain at Western Province CC.

After a day acclimatising at The Victoria and Alfred Waterfront, the players dusted off the cobwebs at Western Province Cricket Club in the lee of Table Mountain in preparation for the first match against our hosts, Western Province CC. The first team meal of the tour saw the tourists take maximum advantage of the favourable exchange rate and Major Harry Pilcher attempt to eat half a cow. He lost the competition but won the respect of his team from the off.

The first game, but a stone's throw from Newlands, saw a typical Guards performance of decent bowling and not enough runs from the top order (less 66\* from Capt Jonny Olley, CG). Losing by 60 runs was a disappointing start after LSgt Bent (GGG) and Capt Alex Budge (GGG) did such good work with the ball in searing heat – Guards CC would have to improve rapidly if we were to return with our heads held high. After the game we were hosted by Lieutenant Colonel Lott of The Cape Town Highlanders in the Sergeant's Mess of The Castle of Good Hope. Built by the Dutch East India Company between 1666 and 1679, the Castle is the oldest existing colonial building in South Africa. It was used as a prison in the Second Boer War and is dripping with history – a wonderful place for us to have a beer and see some of the Grenadier memorabilia including a large Queen Victoria Royal Cypher Reversed and Interlaced. The Commanding Officer of The Cape Town Highlanders will be attending celebrations for Her Majesty this year where we intend to reciprocate his generosity. The next day saw a trip to Cape Point and a picnic in a local vineyard. To round off the day, the Club was hosted by a long-time friend of The Household Division, Charles McGregor, for a Braai and cocktails at his house Brogo in Bishopscourt; it was a good day.

On Thursday 14th January we travelled to Stellenbosch to play at Groot Drakenstein CC, the oldest grass wicket



**Being hosted by Lieutenant Colonel Lott of The Cape Town Highlanders in the Sergeant's Mess at The Castle of Good Hope.**

in South Africa and surely one of the most beautiful grounds in the world. Guards CC was captained by Gdsm Blackburn (CG) in his first command appointment for the Club. Alas, not enough runs from the batsmen meant the game went the same way as the first. Excellent seam bowling not being backed up by the 'batsmen' saw Guards CC slump to a second 50 runs defeat. A Windhoek lager on the pitch with the opposition post-match took the sting out the tail but a disappointed team found themselves staring down the barrel despite our promises the emulate the national side. The tourists were able to take their minds off the defeats with another arduous day wine-tasting and picnicking at Fairview and Boschendal vineyards before playing Elgin CC on the 16th.

After playing at Western Province CC and Groot Drakenstein we travelled to Elgin CC; an impossibly



**Capt Moynan after his match winning 88\* at Elgin CC.**

beautiful ground situated next to the Eikenhof dam and in the shadow of the Hottentots Holland, Nuweberg and Groenland mountains to take on a jovial bunch who we predominantly fruit farmers and 'wine men'. With a raging local forest fire put to the back of their minds Elgin set about destroying the Guards CC bowling effort in a 35 over game before we eventually bowled them out for 176 (having been 140-2 with 10 overs to go). In 40°C heat and at 45-6 after 22 overs Guards CC were morose at best. 88\* from the captain, Capt Fred Moynan (GGG), ably assisted by Capt Alex Budge (GGG), Major Harry Pilcher (Equerry to HRH The Prince of Wales), Lt Oscar Alsop (WG) and

some dodgy umpiring by Capt Charlie Williams (GGG) we got over the line with a ball to spare. Everyone into the dam for a cold Castle lager!

After an enjoyable team meal in Stellenbosch, the next day we travelled into the centre of town to play Scorpions CC. A competitive side and probably the best we had faced, we ended up with an honourable draw in blistering heat. Some more excellent bowling by Budge and Bent meant that the ex-Dutch international player was restricted to 80 and didn't take the game away from us. Runs from Moynan and Budge steadied the ship and Williams took off his umpiring hat and entered the fray as a Billy Bunter-esque number 11 to save the game. Another good game of cricket.

The final game saw us down in Hermanus on the coast after a brief sojourn to Aquila Private Game Reserve. Highlights at Aquila included a 13 day old White Rhino, the Regimental Quartermaster Sergeant 'AGA'ing' Capt Charlie Williams for getting sunburnt, sundowners in the bush and a glass or two of red with some international swimwear models. It was another memorable day for the touring party and a much better safari than being in a Patrol Harbour at Archer's Post. The game against Hermanus CC saw us win our final game by some distance; Lieutenant Colonel Rich Green picking up four wickets, LSgt Bent with three. Such was the margin of victory that we had time to play another



**Capt Williams goes in to bat against Scorpions CC.**





**The Regimental Quartermaster Sergeant cooks the last team braai in Hermanus.**

game in the evening in which the Regimental Quartermaster Sergeant made his Guards CC debut with some electrifying leg-spin and some not-so-handly batting.

A special thank you to our host, Neil Watson, a former Chairman of the Western Province Cricket Club, without whom the tour would not have been nearly as successful. Also to the many friends we made over the tour who gave us

an exemplary display of how to host opposition cricket teams and of how to play the game in the very finest spirit. We hope they will play at Burton Court one day when the Rand allows!

The Club has experienced something of a dip in form and attendance by serving soldiers during the last decade of operations; something that Lieutenant Colonel Rich Green, the new Secretary, has reversed in quick order. The Club is now back to its former glory: we have 22 fixtures in the season, two overseas tours under our belt in the last 12 months and a vibrant cohort of young players, both Officers and other ranks, to manage fixtures and encourage the next generation. 2016 promises to be a vintage season and members of First Guards Club will be reminded of Burton Court's majesty at the cocktail party and Past vs Present T20 on 21st July – we look forward to seeing you there.



**Major Harry Pilcher, Capt Fred Moynan and Trooper Mathews on the flight home.**



**The Grenadier contingent: LSgt Bent, RQMS Cox, Captains Moynan, Stevenson, Dobson, Lieutenant Colonel Green and Capt Williams.**





## 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]

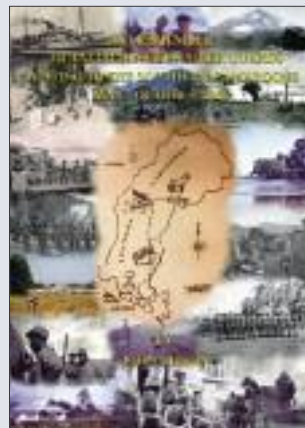
**Regimental Headquarters Grenadier Guards, Wellington Barracks,  
Birdcage Walk, London SW1E 6HQ**

## As I Remember

*1st Battalion Grenadier Guards, Posting to the Southern Cameroons, May–October 1961 by John Gibson*

*by Philip Wright*

John Gibson is a former Grenadier Guardsman, who served with 1st Battalion in the British Southern Cameroons (since Cameroun) from May to October 1961. The battalion arrived just after the plebiscite when the Southern Cameroons had voted overwhelmingly to be united with the Cameroun Republic rather than Nigeria. The Battalion's job was to prevent rebellion in the neighbouring French Cameroun Republic spilling over the border. His book is an eyewitness account of this tour when communist influenced terrorists were conducting raids on plantations, assaults on Gendarmerie posts, ambushes, and attacks on missions and villages from across the border with the Cameroun Republic. During his time in West Africa he took over 100 photographs. The book will be keenly read by former members of the Household Division involved in its post-war operations and anyone interested in the 'stepping stones to independence' of former British colonies.



*As I Remember* by John Gibson published privately, is 50 pages with copious illustrations. It may be purchased from the author at, preferably [john.wgibson@btinternet.com](mailto:john.wgibson@btinternet.com), or 10 Hambledon Crescent, Loughborough, Leicestershire LE11 2SH. It costs £4.50 plus £1.26 UK postage. A £2 donation for each copy sold will be made to the Grenadier Guards Colonel's Fund.




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**BUFFET CRAMPON** **WATERLOO UNCOVERED**

## The King's Company Role on The Final Journey of The Unknown Warrior

by Major P A J Wright OBE  
formerly Grenadier Guards

On the night of 10th November 1920, the remains of the Unknown Warrior arrived at Victoria Station. A single unidentified serviceman, he represented all those whose bodies were missing in the Great War. A guard was mounted on platform 8 by 1st Battalion Grenadier Guards consisting of one Sergeant, three Corporals and twelve Guardsmen of the King's Company commanded by Lieutenant Philip Gregson Ellis. The scene was described by the correspondent of The Times as follows:

"The carriage, with its small shunting engine came in very slowly. The few civilians who awaited its coming on the platform took off their hats. The Grenadier Guards drawn up at the end of the platform saluted. There was a great silence....one heard a smothered sound of weeping. The smoke in the roof bellied and eddied around the arc lamps. The funeral carriage stopped at last."

The ceremony of changing the guard with the guard on the train was enacted and the keys of the van handed over on an almost empty platform, as the public were excluded from the station. The disparity in height and style of drill between the two guards was noticeable. The King's Company posted two sentries on the platform outside the van resting on their arms reversed. They were relieved every half hour throughout the night.

On Armistice Day at 9.30 am, the bearer party of eight Guardsmen from 3rd Battalion Coldstream Guards



The coffin with steel helmet, belt and sidearms at the Cenotaph.



The plaque at Victoria Station platform 8 where an annual commemorative service is held on 10th November.

removed the coffin from the van and a Union Flag, steel helmet, webbing belt and bayonet were put on it. It was then placed on a gun carriage drawn by six black horses. The procession through London via the Cenotaph to the last resting-place in Westminster Abbey was led by the massed bands of the Brigade of Guards and the Scots Guards pipers. Dense silent crowds lined the streets.

Within the Abbey, the choir and congregation were accompanied by the band of the Grenadier Guards. The final hymn was Rudyard Kipling's *Recessional*, including the line: *Lest we forget- lest we forget!* The grave was filled with earth from the French battlefields. Standing guard over the tomb on the day of its dedication in the Abbey were Sgt Alfred Fasham MM and LCpl Horace Stafford of the King's Company, both six foot five inches in height.



LCpl Horace Stafford (bottom left) standing guard over the tomb of the Unknown Warrior.



## Floreat Etona!

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

**F**loreat Etona! (May Eton Flourish) was painted in 1882 by Elizabeth Thompson, Lady Butler, one of the greatest military painters of the 19th Century. The painting depicts Lt Robert Elwes, Grenadier Guards, at the battle of Laing's Nek on 28th January 1881, during the First Boer War. He is shown shouting at another old Etonian, Lieutenant Monck, Adjutant of 58th Regiment, whose horse had been shot, "Come along Monck! Floreat Etona! We must be in the front rank!" He was shot and killed immediately afterwards while Monck survived. The Queen's Colour of the 58th can be seen in the background, the last time a battalion carried its colours into action.

Following the Boer declaration of independence for the Transvaal in 1880, the British suffered a series of defeats attempting to regain the territory. At the outbreak of war, Elwes was seconded from 3rd Battalion Grenadier Guards to 58th Regiment and appointed ADC to Major General Sir George Pomeroy Colley, Commander in Chief of Natal. On 10th January 1881 Elwes left with the British Natal Force led by Colley into Transvaal to relieve the garrison in Pretoria, which was short of food and ammunition. On the



**Lt Robert Elwes, Grenadier Guards.**

morning of 28th January, Colley tried to force a way through the Laing's Nek Pass in the Drakensburg Mountains.



**'Floreat Etona!' by Lady Butler 1882.**

The Boers, under command of General Joubert, had about 2000 men in the area with 500 defending the heights above Laing's Nek. Colley unusually directed five of his staff, including Colonel Bonar Deane, who commanded the Natal Defence Force, to accompany the 58th Regiment. At about 10.40am, Deane was ordered to lead 58th up the hill. When they reached the top of the ridge the Boers opened with volleys of well aimed rifle fire. Deane gave the order to fix bayonets and charge. His horse was shot but he continued on foot shouting out that he was alright. Again he was cut down and his Orderly Officer, Lt Edward Inman, 60th Rifles, a member of Colley's staff, was shot dead beside him. Just behind Major Higeston, now commanding the 58th, urged his men forward until he too was mortally wounded. Major Poole and Elwes, both of Colley's staff, were killed at the same time. Colley had lost seven officers, 77 men killed and 110 wounded. The Boers had 14 killed and 27 wounded. He withdrew his force to Mount Prospect to await reinforcements.

Inman had been commissioned from the ranks, a rare promotion in those days. He enlisted in 19th Hussars and was promoted to Troop Sergeant Major. Six years later he



Mount Prospect Military Cemetery, Natal.

was commissioned as a subaltern in 10th Hussars from where he exchanged into the Grenadier Guards, then finally the 60th Rifles. Colonel Henry Davies, commanding 1st Battalion Grenadier Guards, wrote to his father, the

Rector of St Mary Magdalene Church, Newark, “I can assure you that his brother officers in the Guards have sincerely regretted his death as a good friend as all know that the army has sustained a loss by his untimely end, and as I feel quite certain there was no better or more gallant officer among the subalterns of the British army”.

Deane, Inman, Higeston, Elwes and Poole are all buried in the Mount Prospect Military Cemetery. Colley was killed a month later at the battle of Majuba Hill, which ended the war, and is also buried there. ‘Floreat Etona!’ was exhibited at the Royal Academy Summer Exhibition in 1882. The British army had been deeply affected by the defeat and wanton loss of life and similar sentiments were endorsed by contemporary critics in their

reviews of the painting. *The Illustrated London News* for example quoted Marshal Bosquet, the French divisional commander, on the charge of the Light Brigade, “C’est est magnifique, mais ce n’est pas la guerre”.

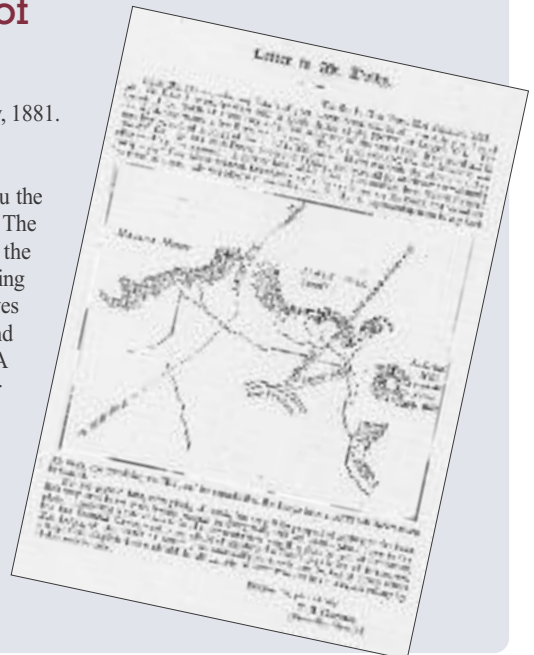
## Letter to Mr Dolby, Editor ‘Journal of the Brigade of Guards’

The Castle, Cape Town, 21st February, 1881.

Dear Mr Dolby,

As any details of poor Elwes’ death will be of interest to you, I send you the little I know, together with a rough sketch of the position of Lang’s Nek. The ascent of the Table hill was very steep, but fairly out of fire except from the conical hill to the right near where a few Boers were placed. The fire on reaching the top, however, was very heavy, and at a range from 100 to 200 yards. Elwes was with the 58th when they breasted the top, and with Deane, Poole and Inman, they were all killed almost immediately. after reaching the summit. A private letter which I have just received from Mount Prospect cap says, “Poor Elwes behaved thundering well; he ran in among the Boers, and loosed off his pistol at them. He was almost at once shot down.” My correspondent goes on to say that the Boers are fortifying the Nek, and he expects that the troops have a heavy job before them to take it.

Believe me, yours truly  
H. E. Colville,  
(Grenadier Guards).





## What Ensign William Barton, 1st Foot Guards, Saw and Did at The Battle of Waterloo

by Major P A J Wright OBE  
formerly Grenadier Guards

The story of Waterloo has been often told, however eye witness accounts are of particular interest. William Barton, who had carried the King's Colour of 3rd Battalion Grenadier Guards at Quatre Bras, was well placed to describe *"what I actually saw or did"* in the centre of a four deep square with the unfolded Colour still in his grasp when *"this slaughtering business began"*.

Prince Jerome Bonaparte, Napoleon's brother, and his Corps attacked the orchard and farm of Hougomont while the battery in front exchanged heavy fire with the French artillery. Behind, Barton's square was: *"receiving the balls and shells, twelve men at a time being wounded and two or three blown up in the air. Captain Colquitt took up one live shell and threw it out of the square."* Soon after, the great French cavalry attacks of the afternoon took place against the British squares. *"They might just as well have charged a wall, though nothing could have been more dashing on their part, officers in front to attract our first fire. We told our men to fire low and first dismount them, then with their cuirasses and big jack boots they were sure to stick in the muddy field and be knocked over with ease, so after four desperate charges those who could disappeared and we had time to breathe."*

The orchard at Hougomont had been lost and Lord Saltoun and the light company rejoined the battalion just before the Imperial Cavalry of France came on again. *"I*

*unfolded again my Colour but the Adjutant Gunthorpe called out to fold it up again. Next to me stood Pardoe, we both looking to the men's firing and keeping well locked up, and thus we beat the cavalry again, though they brought up at the end Infantry and the balls whistled about us profusely. To my great grief one hit poor Pardoe in the forehead; he dropped on his face and spoke no more!"*

After the enemy retired, Barton took Ensign Pardoe's sash, watch and valuables and delivered them to another officer, who was a relation of his. He had enough to carry already through the wet beaten down cornfields. Of his six colour sergeants only two were left. Pardoe's blood-stained coat was left lying on the ground. A Sergeant recorded that a brother NCO picked up the coat and waved it, cheering on the men, saying: *"While the officers bleed we should not reckon our lives dear."*

3rd Battalion was then moved up nearer the ridge of Hougomont and subjected to concentrated fire from Napoleon's artillery. *"Then we were ordered to lie down and so fatigued were we that some of my men were snoring, fast asleep."* The French Imperial Guard had been retained fresh and in reserve all day; edged forward by Napoleon for the final blow which the elite of the Grand Army, so far uncommitted, was intended to make decisive at about seven o'clock in the evening. *"When I was outside the wood at Hougomont before the action began,"* said Lord Saltoun to one of Wellington's staff, *"I saw a column of men, as far as I can guess, about 5,000 to 6,000, go into the hollow opposite; I have kept my eye on this spot all day, and have never seen them come out yet."* And Wellington brought up his glass and called *"By God, he is right. They are coming out now!"*

*"Later up came the brave Duke calling out to us "Now Guards at them*



Waterloo – The advance of the Imperial Guard.



Wellington and his 1st Guards at the climax of the great victory.





La Belle Alliance – Field of Waterloo.

again.” And what did we behold? A large mass creeping up the incline in serried Battalions with huge fur Grenadier caps screaming out, “Vive l’Empereur en avant en avant.” We formed a line of four deep, the first rank kneeling, the second also firing, the third and the fourth loading and handing on to the front and kept up such a continued fire into mass of heaped up Grenadiers, who were also taken in flank by General Adam’s brigade and artillery, so that none ever reached the top.”

As the French Grenadiers breasted the ridge the line of Guards stood up; the accurately controlled volleys and the irresistible charge that followed ended twenty years of war and destroyed the Empire which Napoleon, with so

much violence and suffering had achieved.

For Barton, the victory had hung on a thread and those still alive had drawn a prize in the lottery of warfare. “Our Cavalry was sadly cut up; we had but four hundred left of our men, lost killed and disabled, all our field officers at Quatre Bras; ...it took five days to clear away the wounded. After a night’s sleep on the floor of the hayloft of Belle Alliance he felt fit enough to look after his men. “But what a sight to behold – heaps of bodies of all nations, dead and wounded – suffering! Asking for help and water lying about for miles around! This was worse than the battle itself and I was glad when the orders came to fall in and march off after the enemy. My horse had disappeared, so I had to trudge along.”

On 29th July 1815 the London Gazette announced:

“His Royal Highness has also been pleased to approve of the First Regiment of Foot Guards being made a Regiment of Grenadiers and styled “The First or Grenadier Regiment of Foot Guards in commemoration of their having defeated the Grenadiers of the French Imperial Guard upon this memorable occasion.”

Capt William Barton retired in 1833 and died on 14th May 1874 in Jersey aged 78. His account of his military career ends: “Those who ever take the trouble to peruse these few lines, must be indulgent, for I was never a Writer or ever wished to publish; it may only interest some of my old brother officers who may have shared the perils and duties, and loves his Regiment as I did, and still do.”



A Wills cigarette card depicting Captain Colquitt's bravery at Waterloo.

## Where Are They This Year?

by *Major Ed Paintin* (written as at Feb 2016)

As I sit here in the land of the Wildings, North of the Ice Wall, far from the bright lights of London, staring out at the rain soaked streets of Glasgow from the confines of my spartan cubicle in the Army Personnel Centre, it occurs to me that yet another year has passed in the blink of an eye. In that period, serving Grenadier Officers have continued to move around the many varied and interesting postings the Army has to offer with unswerving alacrity. We are, as a cohort, spread far and wide from the vast plains of East Africa, to the more sunnier climes in the Middle East and the more urbane and sophisticated populous centres of Europe.

**Major General Sir George Norton KCVO CBE** is still keeping NATO afloat and running on a steady course as the Deputy Commander NATO Rapid Deployable Corps in Italy. General Sir George is shortly due to handover to the current General Officer Commanding London District, **Major General Ed Smyth-Osbourne** and will move on to Brussels to take over as the United Kingdom Military Representative to NATO and the EU on promotion to Lieutenant General. **Brigadier David Maddan** has now handed over the reigns of the School of Infantry and has retired to sunny Yorkshire and life in civilian attire. **Brigadier Roly Walker DSO** has handed over command of 12 Mechanised Brigade to Brigadier Rob Sergeant (Late Coldstream Guards) and has now moved to reinforce Major General Mark Carleton-Smith (Late Irish Guards) in the Strategy Directorate. **Brigadier David Russell-Parsons OBE** has now taken up residence in Riyadh as the Defence Attache to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and as his many emails bear witness to, is now very well versed in Arabic. **Colonel James Bowder OBE QCVS** is valiantly forging his way through Higher Command and Staff College.

**Lieutenant Colonel Chips Broughton MBE** has just recently relinquished command and will shortly be joining the many Grenadiers making a name for themselves in the business world. **Lieutenant Colonel Jerry Levine** has retired and is no doubt enjoying the delights of retirement. **Lieutenant Colonel Richard Maundrell MVO** is still DOC SO1 Land whilst **Lieutenant Colonel Andrew James MBE** is still our man in Vienna where hopefully his ritualistic consumption of sacher tort has improved the entente cordiale still further. **Lieutenant Colonel Simon Soskin** has now safely escaped the hardships of London District and the necessity to ride horses on a daily basis, to wrestle with the vexacious issues of the day in the Directorate of Army Manning in Army Headquarters. **Lieutenant Colonel Guy Denison-Smith** is still imparting knowledge and wisdom at the Kuwaiti Staff College as a member of the directing staff and **Lieutenant Colonel Martin David MC**, now fully fluent in all matters French, is maintaining the entente cordiale with our nearest European neighbours in Paris as the BLO EMAT. **Lieutenant Colonel Richard Green** is now commanding ATR Pirbright. Lastly our newest Lieutenant Colonel, **Lieutenant Colonel Piers Ashfield DSO** is being educated, in preparation for future greatness, in the hallowed halls of the Advanced Command and Staff College.

Amongst the field officers, **Major Dominic Alkin** is still keeping the Irish Guards on the straight and narrow, certainly not the easiest task in the world, as their Battalion second in command. **Major James Greaves** is still beaver away in the murky, inner sanctum of the PJHQ J5 shop and is shortly due to deploy to the latest sandpit of woe, as the J3/5 Deputy Director CJATF based in Qatar. **Major Andrew Seddon** is safely ensconced as the Senior Major and is ably assisting the new Commanding Officer, **Lieutenant Colonel Alex McKay MBE** in guiding the Battalion into the Very High Readiness operational cycle, following Colonel Alex's brief sabbatical at Chatham house. **Major James Green** is still at the helm commanding No 2 Company alongside the Captain, **Major Simon Gordon-Lennox** and the Company Commander **Inkerman Company, Major Ben Jesty**. **Major James Green** is shortly due to hand over to **Major Rupert King-Evans** who returns to the bosom of the Battalion following his two years north of the Watford Gap, in the heartlands of Yorkshire, at ARTD Recruiting Group. **Major Andrew Tiernan** fresh from ICSC, is wielding the sword of retribution and unleashing hell on those that would do us harm, from the green and pleasant land of the Marcher Lords. **Major James Shaw** is boldly heading up the 11 Brigade Operations and Commitments staff whilst **Majors Will Harries** and **Neil Strachan** are putting themselves through their paces at Shrivenham on the Intermediate Command and Staff Course. **Major Neil Strachan**, once he has completed ICSC, is bound for the delights of the Infantry Battle School where he will take up post as SO2 Plans. **Major Will Harries** is headed for sunnier parts, to the highlands of Africa to take up post as Ops B on the British Peace Support Mission. **Major Alex Bayliss** conducted an effortless relief in place with **Major Neil Strachan** and now finds himself fully involved in the Public and State Ceremonial events of London as Company Commander Nijmegen Company. **Major Adam Wellesley-Wood** is still maintaining the constant flow of fresh faced, eager young Guardsmen from the Infantry Training Centre in Catterick where his skills with a gun and rod have also improved markedly.

**Captains Mike Dobbin MC** and **James Brown**, also residents of the lands of the Marcher Lords are deeply engrossed in sending bad men to meet their maker. **Capt Mike Dobbin MC** is shortly due to attend ICSC before moving onwards to staff whilst **Capt James Brown** will continue his good work for a while longer. **Capt Paddy Rice** is maintaining the standards at the Royal Military Academy and is also shortly set to attend ICSC before moving on to staff. **Capt Richard Da-Gama** has now returned from deployment in Turkey in the NRDC Istanbul and is now heavily involved in the preparation of UK force elements heading off on operations as an OPTAG instructor. **Capt Folarin Kuku** has flown the nest and is now making his name, in business, back in Nigeria. **Capt Tom Hendriksen** has now moved on to be SO2 Dismounted Close Combat Training in CD Combat as an Acting Major. **Capt James Taylor** is ably assisting one of the stalwarts of our great Regiment, **Lieutenant Colonel Vince Gaunt OBE**, Commanding Officer London Central Garrison as his Adjutant. **Capt James Taylor** is shortly due to head off to staff and is handing over the reigns as Adjutant to fellow Grenadier, **Capt Jamie Garton**. **Capt Chris Stevenson** has



handed over the Intelligence Officer role to **Capt Hamish Hardy** and has taken over the role of Ops Officer. **Capt Nick Wills** is still ensuring standards are maintained at ATR Pirbright as the second in command, 3 Regiment and is shortly due to move on to his next staff appointment. **Capt Alex Budge**, after a brief spell in Kenya scaring the Masai, is now back in Blighty and has taken over as the Adjutant of the Support Weapons School from **Capt Hankin-Evans**, Coldstream Guards. **Capt Alex Stonor** is now the Adjutant of the London Regiment, a role one can only describe as 'Karmic'. **Capt Will Harris** has now firmly settled in as the Ops Officer of the Irish Guards assisting Major Dom Alkin in maintaining the steady course of the Irish Guards. **Capt Johnny Hathaway-White** is commanding Support Company having returned from a brief spell abroad. **Capt Mike Dobson** is shortly due to take over from **Capt Hugo Cartwright** as the Adjutant as Captain Cartwright steps off into the world of staff. **Capt David Welham** is still maintaining the traditions of 'The Ribs' as the Inkerman Company Second in Command whilst **Capt Fred Moynan** walks the Palace floorboards as Equerry to HRH The Prince Philip and maintains a steady flow of new potential officers through the Regimental Adjutant's door.

**Capt Kit Sandford** is commanding the Mortar Platoon, whilst **Capt Alex Shirreff** is in training for another attempt at that arduous course in Wales and **Capt Henry Waterfield** has taken over as No 2 Company Second in Command. Of the younger officers, Subalterns **Bolitho**, **Thompson** and **Laing** are keeping the Queen's Company SNCOs busy, Subalterns **Phillips** and **Wace** are wreaking havoc in the lower decks of the Inkerman Company and Subalterns **Barnes**, **Silver** and **Staunton** are living up to the reputation of No 2 Company Platoon Commanders. Last, but by no means least, Subalterns **Tracey**, **Varmuza** and **Naughton** are all learning the dark arts of Public Duties in Nijmegen Company whilst fending off the hoards of admiring tourists.

Having taken over this role as SO2 Foot Guards from Major Dom Alkin just over a year ago, I have found that this is truly a privileged vantage point from which to survey and track the careers of my brother Grenadiers. From where I sit, it is hard not to recognise that they are all, to a man, leaving an indelible mark on the Army, ensuring that our fine Regiment continues to be held in high esteem throughout the world, in every operational activity and location. May they continue to serve in the footsteps of those who have gone before them.

## Major Andrew Seddon



**Major Andrew Seddon** has been the Senior Major since the Battalion's return from Kenya in July. Commissioning in 2002, he was posted to The Queen's Company after completing the last Warminster based Platoon Commanders Battle Course before its move to Brecon. A fresh arrival to the

First Battalion in May secured him the honour of carrying the Colour when The Queen's Company provided a memorable Escort in 2003. Following the Battalion's exercise in Kenya later that year, he was posted to the Army Training Regiment Pirbright as a platoon commander instructor. After a short stint with the Battalion during the EU Force Bosnia tour, he served as the Temporary Equerry to HRH The Colonel in 2006. He was then the Inkerman Company Second in Command when the Battalion deployed to Iraq as the Rear Operations Battlegroup in Basra.

Returning from Iraq in September 2006, the Battalion had the unprecedented task of preparing for its first deployment to Afghanistan in six months. Major Seddon was successfully selected to serve as a Platoon Commander in 12 Mechanised Brigade's Reconnaissance Force for the tour. The BRF conducted operations throughout Helmand, regularly supporting the Battalion in its task mentoring the Afghan Army. He was appointed as the Operations Officer in 2008 and returned with the Battalion for its second tour, securing the Nad Ali District west of Lash Kar Gah. He was awarded a Mention in Despatches in 2009 and a Queen's

Commendation for Valuable Service in 2011.

In 2010 he completed the Intermediate Staff College course at Shrivenham, staying to complete the Cranfield Battlespace Technology MSc. Following this employment training he was posted to CGS's Equipment Strategy branch in the MOD as the Army made large adjustments to its equipment programmes following SDSR 2010. Appointed as The Captain, between 2012 and 2015 he deployed the Company for operations and exercises to the Falklands, Denmark, Cyprus and Kenya.

He is married to Sarah, a Squadron Leader and Puma pilot based at RAF Benson. They have a one year old son, Arthur. He is a keen sportsman who won the Wyfold Cup at Henley Regatta in 2005, the first military boat to win an event at Henley for 49 years. More recently he has taken up endurance kayaking and learning to fly a Tiger Moth.

## WO1 (RSM) MJ Howlin



**WO1 (RSM) MJ Howlin** enlisted into the Grenadier Guards in March 1995. On passing out in November 1995 he was posted to the 1st Battalion in Wellington Barracks. He deployed to Northern Ireland with The Queen's Company for a two year residential tour. On completion

of the tour the Battalion was posted to Elizabeth Barracks in Pirbright where he successfully completed the Reconnaissance Platoon cadre. Serving two years with the Reconnaissance Platoon saw him complete exercises in Jamaica, America and



Canada and deploy on another six month tour of Northern Ireland. Whilst serving in the Reconnaissance Platoon he was promoted to LCpl and was badged as a sniper.

He completed SCBC in winter 2000 and was cross posted back to The Queen's Company as a Section Commander where he deployed back to Canada on exercise before a posting to ATR(P) as a Section Commander instructor in 2001.

He returned to Battalion in 2003, completed PSBC and was promoted to a Gold Sergeant in No 2 Company. During this period the Battalion deployed to Bosnia.

In 2006 he was posted to the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst as a Colour Sergeant instructor. He returned to No 2 Company in 2008 as the CQMS. He deployed on Op Herrick 11 in 2009.

Whilst deployed on Herrick 11 he was selected for promotion to WO2 and took up the appointment of Company Sergeant Major Instructor Musketry for six months.

He was then appointed as CSM of The Queen's Company where he completed a full two years along with a deployment back to Afghanistan on Op Herrick 16.

On returning from operations he was appointed as the DSgt where he supervised the Battalions transition from operational to state ceremonial and public duties.

After 15 months as the DSgt he was appointed as the RQMS(M) and in Dec 2015 was selected for promotion to WO1 and is now currently serving as the Sergeant Major of the 1st Battalion Grenadier Guards.

## Sgt Matthew Mooney



**S**gt Matthew Mooney joined the Army in January 2007 and on completion of training at ITC Catterick, joined Nijmegen Company in July 2007.

After six months of conducting State Ceremonial Duties, Sgt Mooney was posted to the 1st Battalion Grenadier

Guards, joining No 1 Platoon of The Queen's Company. In early 2008 he completed the HDPRCC JNCO Cadre and was promoted to Lance Corporal before deploying to the FALKLAND ISLANDS on Op FIRIC as a section commander.

On returning to ALDERSHOT, the tempo of life increased and the pre-deployment training started for Op HERRICK 11. Sgt Mooney was placed as MT Rep for the Company and he also completed the All Arms Search Course in Chatham and deployed with the Company, now as part of No 3 Platoon, to KENYA on Ex GRAND PRIX in 2009.

On completion of Op HERRICK 11, he was a part of the Escort for the Colour for his first Queen's Birthday Parade. In 2010, Sgt Mooney completed the Section Commanders' Battle Course and was promoted to Lance Sergeant. Sgt Mooney married in 2010 to Lorna and moved house to the

Aldershot area. Sgt Mooney spent six weeks in BATUS (CANADA) as part of the Permanent Range Team.

With the build-up for Op HERRICK 16 starting again, Sgt Mooney completed again the All Arms Search Course but this time as a Section Commander, also completing numerous driving courses as MASTIFF, RIDGEBACK, JACKALL and HUSKY driver and instructor qualifications.

On completion of Op HERRICK 16, he went to Val D'Sere on a skiing trip with The Queen's Company. Sgt Mooney was then posted to ATC Pirbright as a Section Commander for two years. In late 2014, Sgt Mooney completed the Platoon Sergeants' Battle Course. He returned to the 1st Battalion Grenadier Guards in April to assume the mantle of Platoon Sergeant of No 2 Platoon, The Queen's Company. He deployed in this role again to KENYA on Ex ASKARI STORM and then returned again for another six weeks as Force Protection Platoon Sergeant. His wife Lorna is currently expecting their first child, who is due to make an appearance in March 2016. Sgt Mooney is a keen rugby and cricket fan and plays at every opportunity.

## LSgt Lopez Moreno



**L**Sgt Lopez Moreno is currently serving as an AAPTI at ITC Catterick representing the 1st Battalion Grenadier Guards.

A keen rugby league player who started playing for the Battalion in 2010 immediately impressed coaching staff which gained the young winger a

regular place in the squad.

In 2014 LSgt Lopez Moreno was fortunate to attend trials for the Infantry again impressing the coach and securing his spot on the Infantry squad. Whilst selected for the Infantry as a second row he was improving his own performances playing against other quality corps teams.

His spell of success continued throughout 2015, he was asked if he was interested in a trial with Spain, LSgt Lopez Moreno a British soldier of Spanish origin was honoured to attend a trial in Valencia Spain, this consisted of a full game against a Spanish league club, whilst not knowing any of the other squad players he was confident and delivered a great performance.

In October 2015 he was asked to join the pre-selection squad made up of 35 players across Spain. The days went on and the numbers reduced, fortunately LSgt Lopez Moreno impressed the coaching staff and was selected and presented his team shirt to play against Italy in a friendly match.

Travelling to and from Catterick to Spain with most of the travel costs paid by him he built a good rapport with the squad and was released from his duty as an AAPTI to fulfil his international commitment. Other matches

included a European qualifier against Malta followed by an away game against Greece in Athens, which qualified Spain in group B for the World cup in 2017.

With a diary full of international fixtures LSgt Lopez Moreno has settled into the squad with the 2017 World cup in his sights. He has matches against Russia and Ireland in the near future along with other international friendly matches.

## LCpl Nigel Ngwenya



**L**Cpl Nigel Ngwenya was born in South Africa but brought up in South London started boxing after joining the Grenadier Guards. As a soldier over 91kg he was not short of opposition in the Grenadier Guards Inter Company Championships. Ngwenya won the Grenadier Guards Super

Heavyweight title in his first season and successfully defended it in his second. As a Novice boxer he was entered with a nine wins from nine bouts record in to the Army Individual Championships in June 2014, a competition in which he maintained his 100% win record.

LCpl Ngwenya joined the Army Boxing Team in August 2014 as a Super Heavyweight. He had only just reached the bout limit to be categorised as Class B boxer (11) he was also only 95kg so relatively light in Super Heavyweight terms. He was selected to represent the Army and the Combined Services in the National Novice Championships at Class B in Oct. He surprised everyone across the South of England when he comprehensibly beat hot favourite for the overall title Tom Welsh in a qualifier. He quickly went on to beat the London Super Heavyweight too and qualified for the final in Sunderland on 1 Nov, his opponent weighed in over 25kgs heavier and with greater experience. With speed, power and aggression overwhelmed the boxer from Hull and the Army were proud to have a National Class B Super Heavyweight Champion.

LCpl Ngwenya had a record of 14 wins from 14 bouts and the queue to take the 100% record from him was growing, yet he maintained his perfect record through to the New Year and began to focus on the Inter Services. He was a comfortable winner again against the best the Royal Marines could throw at him. He would progress to the Elite Finals tournament in Liverpool's Echo Arena (a three day tournament to find the best boxer at each weight in England).

The reputations and records of the opponents in the draw were impressive. He bullied his way through a tough quarter final on the first day, and then his semi final against the England Finalist and former international Declan Fusco. Ngwenya had reached the final of the most prestigious tournament in the country, his opponent was 125kg GB representative Fraser Clarke. The bout went the distance but at last Ngwenya had met his match, and

lost on a unanimous points decision.

Ngwenya had gone from Inter Company boxing to the England Elite Final in a year a massive achievement.

Ngwenya has since had three GB Boxing training selection camps and awaits a call up at Heavyweight. He is a huge talent, and was crowned the Army Sports Rising Star of 2015, being ranked 5th in Great Britain.

## LCpl Robert 'Money' Punter



**L**Cpl Punter joined the Army in late 2011 and completed training at ITC Catterick before joining Nijmegen Company. He joined The Inkerman Company in May 2013 where he was given the nickname Money.

In early 2014 The Inkerman Company back filled No 2 Company on EX ULU RAJAH in Brunei. He also completed the Wellington to Waterloo charity cycle ride and OP PRISMED covering the London Ambulance Strike. In August 2014 he attended HDPCC and was promoted shortly afterwards.

2015 has been a busy year starting off with OP FIRIC from January to March. The Falkland Islands provided a good chance for LCpl Punter to work as a Section Commander as part of 12 Platoon. The Falklands provided many opportunities to practice and hone platoon skills. On the patrols phase of the exercise, LCpl Punter and his section were sent to Weddell Island (population 2) and this was a great opportunity for him to command a section on his own. The final exercise ended on a high when due to high winds their heli lift to the final attack was unable to pick them up off of HMS Clyde.

On return, June brought the whole Battalion together for EX ASKARI STORM. LCpl Punter will not be forgetting the exercise in a hurry as on the final exercise while in an all round defence waiting for an Infantry Assault Bridge to be built a rather large lion strolled out of the bushes some 10m in front of himself and Gdsm Angel. Luckily for Gdsm Angel the lion wasn't hungry because although LCpl Punter may not be able to outrun a lion he can out run Gdsm Angel.

After some summer leave LCpl Punter returned to Kenya as Range Team for 3 Paras exercise and while hoping to see a good exercise from the spearhead force he has come away thinking they are not quite upto the reputation they give themselves.

LCpl Punter is currently waiting to go on EX COCKNEY PAKEHA WAKA, an adventurous training expedition, sea kayaking in New Zealand.

He hopes to attend Section Commanders Battle Course early next year and is keen to learn a new language and other skills to further his career.

# The FIRST or GRENADIER REGIMENT of FOOT GUARDS

at December 2015

*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 Sir George 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 F Moynan

Major Streadwick

WO2 (RQMS) M Cox

Major AJ Green

Capt A Ogden

Major PAJ Wright OBE

## 15th Company REGIMENTAL HEADQUARTERS

### REGIMENTAL

### HEADQUARTERS

Major (Retd)	GVA	Baker
Major (Retd)	A	Green
Capt	F	Moynan
WO2 (RQMS)	M	Cox
Sgt	R	Broomes
Sgt	R	Haughton
LSgt	M	MacMillan
Dmr	J	Walker
Gdsm	L	Scanlon

### REGIMENTAL BAND

Major (DOM)	P	Stredwick
WO1 (BM)	T	Taylor-Smith
WO2 (BSM)	M	Buckley
CSgt	M	Hamilton
CSgt	K	Miles
CSgt	M	Altree
Sgt	A	Starbuck
Sgt	J	Smout
Sgt	J	Burton
Sgt	J	Rowles
Sgt	R	Lorimer
Sgt	L	Henaghan
Stg	P	Scott
LSgt	FF	Shakespeare
LSgt	S	Hall

LSgt	G	Hall
LSgt	M	Sinclair
LSgt	O	Duffield
LCpl	D	Byrne
LCpl	PF	Matthews
LCpl	D	Venter
LCpl	P	Batai
LCpl	B	Beavis
LCpl	RF	Riley
LCpl	I	Shepherd
LCpl	RF	Ellard
LCpl	T	Greenhalf
LCpl	B	Jackson
LCpl	S	Hicks
Musn	C	Barber
Musn	R	Bowering
Musn	V	Carter
Musn	HF	Clavering
Musn	P	Cowley
Musn	D	Griffiths
Musn	S	Jolly
Musn	K	Lewis
Musn	NF	Rushforth
Musn	A	Scowen
Musn	M	Thomas
Musn	D	Wong

## 14th Company INFANTRY TRAINING CENTRE CATTERICK

Sgt	S	Castel-Nuvo
Sgt	C	Green
LSgt	D	Lyons
LSgt	J	McCormack
LSgt	H	Samuel
LSgt	A	Thomas

LSgt	J	Moore
LSgt	C	Kotze
LSgt	G	Harper
LSgt	R	Elliott
LSgt	M	Bunyan
LSgt	S	Beekman

### The Regimental Trustees

Major General Sir George Norton KCVO CBE  
Lieutenant Colonel PR Holdcroft LVO OBE  
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The Rt Hon the Earl of Derby DL  
Brigadier DJH Maddan

### The Regimental Council

HRH The Colonel  
Regimental Lieutenant Colonel  
President, Grenadier Guards Association  
Representative of the Regimental Trustees  
Commanding Officer 1st Battalion  
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  
Major A Seddon  
Capt D Westlake  
Capt H Cartwright  
Capt C Stevenson  
WO1 T Bearder  
WO2 S Brooks  
WO2 G Davis  
Sgt D Sullivan  
LCpl M Ceesay Jnr  
Gdsm SM Bayameyame  
Gdsm B Sonko

### The Queens Company

Major SC Gordon Lennox  
Capt MW Dobson  
Lt R Laing  
2Lt T Bolitho  
2Lt R Thompson  
WO2 D Roper  
CSgt DG Bailey  
Sgt D Jones  
Sgt M Mooney  
Sgt K Richards  
LSgt D Clarke  
LSgt L Davis  
LSgt K Elasl  
LSgt S Galvin  
LSgt A Hendy  
LSgt B Marchant  
LSgt M Wilson  
LCpl J Austin  
LCpl B Davis  
LCpl S Emmett  
LCpl G Cadec-Trimmer  
LCpl T Hunt  
LCpl A Matthews  
LCpl A Turay  
LCpl A Whitehouse  
Gdsm GR Adeleke  
Gdsm J Andrews  
Gdsm HD Aspinshaw  
Gdsm J Boardman  
Gdsm AB Boylan  
Gdsm J Buck  
Gdsm JW Brunt  
Gdsm SA Charman  
Gdsm A Cochran  
Gdsm G Cordell  
Gdsm DA Coghlan  
Gdsm HG Cross  
Gdsm N Eamer  
Gdsm R Grey  
Gdsm R Griffiths  
Gdsm H Grossman  
Gdsm N Hands  
Gdsm O Hicks  
Gdsm LR Hook  
Gdsm J Hunter  
Pte S Leckies  
Gdsm J Lloyd  
Gdsm A May  
Gdsm C McKerral  
Gdsm JGJ Mullarky  
Gdsm N Ngwenya  
Gdsm G Parker  
Gdsm S Ray  
Gdsm G Reese-Evans  
Gdsm A Rollo  
Gdsm K Simonaitis  
Gdsm K Tracey  
Gdsm C Wylie

### No 2 Company

Major J Green  
Capt H Waterfield  
2Lt GWJ Barnes  
2Lt JMB Silver  
2Lt O Staunton  
WO2 M Hughes  
CSgt D Bennison  
CSgt G Mann  
Sgt D Marsden  
Sgt B Orrell  
LSgt M Baker  
LSgt L Dawson  
Cpl P Edusei  
LSgt H Foxcroft  
LSgt A Harper  
LSgt L McLoughlan  
LSgt B Moffat  
LSgt J Tuicicia  
LCpl M Baptiste-Isles  
LCpl LN Coulbert  
LCpl D Frank  
LCpl S Freeman  
LCpl S Hubball  
LCpl P Kirk  
LCpl K Peters  
LCpl D Smith  
LCpl CG Smith  
Gdpl N Thompson  
Gdsm EK Appiah  
Gdsm M Belomarkovic  
Gdsm RP Bobey  
Gdsm M Bowen  
Gdsm J Clark  
Gdsm Clarke  
Gdsm S Conteh  
Gdsm AE Cox  
Gdsm J Cook  
Gdsm G Davison  
Gdsm L Debattista  
Gdsm E Fairley  
Gdsm C Fairley  
Gdsm CS Fletcher  
Gdsm L Furnell  
Gdsm S Gardner  
Gdsm S Garratt  
Gdsm R Halliburton  
Gdsm L Hendry  
Gdsm Henworth  
Gdsm S Hicklin  
Gdsm LDL Hughes  
Gdsm L Jallow  
Gdsm M James  
Gdsm N Lynch  
Gdsm M Livesey  
Gdsm MacDonald  
Gdsm R McGeoch  
Gdsm E Mensah  
Gdsm M Morewood  
Gdsm A Payne  
Gdsm J Porter  
Gdsm Oliver  
Gdsm E Oyengo  
Gdsm Ramsdale  
Gdsm AR Robinson  
Gdsm J Seal  
Gdsm I Shahry  
Gdsm D Sharpe  
Gdsm R Smart  
Gdsm CG Smith  
Gdsm MK Sivyver-Yorke  
Gdsm B Shingler  
Gdsm S Wilkes

### The Inkerman Company

Major B Jesty  
Capt D Welham  
Lt O Wace  
Lt REL Phillips  
WO2 J Bennett  
CSgt R Wiseman  
Sgt SDW Hepburn  
Sgt T Mercer  
LSgt RFJ Blakeney  
LSgt M Davison  
LSgt MJ Hall  
LSgt D Langridge  
LSgt WJ Slater  
LCpl V Afidemenyo  
LCpl J Heale  
LCpl J Hewson  
LCpl WEJ Hurst  
LCpl S Murray  
LCpl MJ Ogden  
LCpl J Phillips  
LCpl R Punter  
LCpl K Rowlatt  
LCpl AP Swinford  
Gdsm JT Addison  
Gdsm CR Austin  
Gdsm RD Bannister  
Gdsm G Barry  
Gdsm S Baxter  
Gdsm B Berry  
Gdsm BJ Cornish  
Gdsm D Charters  
Gdsm AO Cham  
Gdsm J Coleman  
Gdsm T Deans  
Gdsm JDA Dexter  
Gdsm L Doyle  
Gdsm PB Effah  
Gdsm JJ Elmalem Watson  
Gdsm S Ginty  
Gdsm DJ Glover  
Gdsm PJ Gray  
Gdsm N Handford  
Gdsm JL Heslop  
Gdsm B Hodson  
Gdsm RGA Hollis  
Gdsm KG Hollinshead  
Gdsm S Holmes  
Gdsm J Hubbard  
Gdsm IG Jones  
Gdsm K Keegan  
Gdsm MA Knott  
Gdsm J Lewis  
Gdsm F McGowan hayes  
Gdsm J Mitchell  
Gdsm E Morris  
Gdsm RJ Nightingale  
Gdsm JO Odel- Ansong  
Gdsm E Owusu-Appiah  
Gdsm A Pallister  
Gdsm RM Perry  
Gdsm T Pinsent  
Gdsm T Preston  
Gdsm K Purdy  
Gdsm J Robinson  
Gdsm FJ Russell  
Gdsm EG Taylor  
Gdsm R Thompson  
Gdsm J Williams  
Gdsm J Williamson

### Support Company

Major JJ Hatherway-White  
Capt BG Conway  
Capt CHD Sandford  
WO2 D Moore  
Csgt M Lloyd

CSgt J Stenton  
CSgt A Stott  
Sgt S Cathcart  
Sgt B Gunning  
Sgt J Langdown  
Sgt P Money  
Sgt M Oldham  
Sgt SJ Perry  
Sgt A Pitters  
Sgt L Swan  
LSgt N Atanga  
LSgt M Bailey  
LSgt Baker  
LSgt SD Dent  
LSgt K Dicastiglioni  
LSgt D Farrell  
LSgt BJ Furneaux  
LSgt CD James  
LSgt O Lee  
LSgt G MacDonagh  
LSgt K Pearce  
LSgt J Plant  
LSgt C Price  
LSgt J Rainima  
LSgt K Rodda  
LSgt M Shaw  
LSgt SJ Thorne  
LCpl T Battison  
LCpl PM Brady (Mor)  
LCpl J Brown  
LCpl NC Caiger  
LCpl M Cooper  
LCpl J Howard  
LCpl D Jones  
LCpl C McClendon  
LCpl C Maloney  
LCpl B O'Hanlon  
LCpl T Pugh  
LCpl JS Poole  
LCpl OL Rosser  
LCpl NG Simmons  
LCpl D Talbot  
LCpl NM Truman  
LCpl T Wallace  
LCpl N Wintle  
LCpl A Wingate  
LCpl AF Young  
Gdsm KL Angel  
Gdsm NJ Batchelor  
Gdsm A Bell  
Gdsm JJ Blaney  
Gdsm A Blatchley  
Gdsm GR Boulton  
Gdsm LA Bowers  
Gdsm NM Brady (RECCE)  
Gdsm JC Brunt  
Gdsm JB Buswell  
Gdsm D Carroll  
Gdsm JS Charman  
Gdsm CL Clarkstone  
Gdsm H Clews  
Gdsm M Compuzano  
Gdsm C Constatine  
Gdsm RM Cornell  
Gdsm L Coughlan  
Gdsm A Culloty  
Gdsm E Davies  
Gdsm NJ Dexter  
Gdsm C Dovey  
Gdsm C Dunphy  
Gdsm J Enderby  
Gdsm GT Fielding  
Gdsm MC Frame  
Gdsm NA Fray  
Gdsm B Fulton  
Gdsm G Hall  
Gdsm N Hands  
Gdsm A Harris

Gdsm ES Hartop  
Gdsm G Hatt  
Gdsm A Hinton  
Gdsm JI Hobbins  
Gdsm JW Horvath  
Gdsm Howitt  
Gdsm JE Hudson  
Gdsm JH Hunter  
Gdsm E Jones  
Gdsm AK Keers  
Gdsm W Langford  
Gdsm P Leason  
Dmr TJ Lester  
Gdsm AJ Lloyd  
Gdsm J Logan  
Gdsm T Lyons  
Gdsm F Mabasa  
Gdsm S Martinez  
Gdsm CW McKenzie  
Gdsm L Meredith  
Gdsm M Mitchell  
Gdsm C Munro  
Gdsm C Moss  
Gdsm BL O'Hara  
Gdsm L Owen  
Gdsm J Patterson  
Gdsm MA Poffley  
Gdsm C Poole  
Gdsm N Reilly  
Gdsm S Rose  
Gdsm M Rosser  
Gdsm A Samateh  
Gdsm S Sambells  
Gdsm S Turner  
Gdsm LE Waine  
Gdsm AW Ward  
Gdsm A Wates  
Gdsm GO Westwood  
Gdsm L Whittaker  
Gdsm CD Willis  
Gdsm Wilson Fraser

### The Corps of Drums

DMaj R Bainbridge  
Sgt HC Sutton  
LSgt M Beasley  
LSgt J Moore  
LSgt A Rigby  
LSgt S Wells  
LCpl A Bone  
LCpl J Childs  
LCpl K Ellis  
LCpl L Seer-Boylan  
Dmr DA Barton  
Dmr Z Biddulph  
Dmr R Booth  
Dmr C Doak  
Dmr D Durie  
Dmr J Edwards  
Dmr R Martindale  
Dmr A McKenna  
Dmr JN Ramsbottom  
Dmr G Smith  
Dmr K Taslimi

### HQ Company

Major N England  
WO2 RL Parkes  
CSgt R Shepherd  
LCpl TM Hayward  
LSgt A Bush  
Gdsm T Herbert

### Quartermasters Platoon

Major IM Farrell  
Capt S Munro  
WO2 M Howlin

WO2 H Lawn  
CSgt SD Fry  
Sgt T Loader  
Sgt M Parker  
LSgt LP Heatley  
LSgt D Kidd  
LSgt T Timmins  
LSgt G Francis  
Gdsm O Few  
Gdsm D Marshall  
Gdsm G Sylva

### Signals Platoon

CSgt SC Harrell  
CSgt P Rackley  
Sgt B Cobb  
Sgt P Monstad  
Sgt A Saxton  
Sgt PA Struczynski  
LSgt M Jallow  
LSgt S Richardson  
LSgt S Scott  
LCpl C Davis  
LCpl L Macdonald  
LCpl M Morris  
LCpl DJ Parkes  
LCpl A Robinson  
Gdsm D Alexander  
Gdsm G Filer  
Gdsm R Fowler  
Gdsm AMM Edwards  
Gdsm D Harvey  
Gdsm G Jones  
Gdsm A Mabert

### MT Platoon

CSgt J Thompson  
Sgt KJ Oldfield  
LSgt M Bent  
LSgt M Deakin  
LSgt A Martin  
LSgt E Munezero  
LSgt PA Trussler  
Gdsm D Barton  
Gdsm J Cox  
Gdsm L Fowkes  
Gdsm H Fowler  
Gdsm J Marsay  
Gdsm L Rigler  
Gdsm L Saho  
Gdsm H Sylva  
Gdsm A Wiggins

### Training Wing

Capt S Munro  
Sgt C Fiddy  
Sgt DP Thomas  
LCpl J Adom  
Gdsm UJ Atuanya

### Gymnasium

LSgt K Partridge

### Welfare

WO2 JP Summerscales  
LSgt K Plant

### Regimental Police Staff

Sgt D Johnson  
LCpl J Dexter  
LCpl M Goom

## Nijmegen Company

Major AWE Bayliss  
Capt CAG Williams  
Lt BRN Tracey  
Lt HR Varmusa  
Lt CJ Naughton  
WO2 MP Betts  
CSgt D Oliver  
Sgt DP Warwick  
Sgt M Parker  
Sgt D Harrison  
LSgt AP Beeby  
LSgt J Garcia  
LSgt S Harvey  
LSgt B Hollis  
LSgt A Jones  
LSgt B Middleton  
LSgt J Perreira  
LSgt J Ranima  
LSgt A Shepherd  
LSgt AP Skinner  
LSgt S Thorne  
LSgt BT Cordwell  
LSgt G Davis  
LSgt P Ellis  
LSgt D Frank  
LSgt MD Hadfield  
LSgt D Hankey  
LSgt S Howcroft  
LSgt J Loftus  
LSgt CJ Mitchell  
LSgt MR Morris  
LSgt DJ Meyers  
LSgt LB Whybrow  
Dmr D Durie  
Gdsm JRM Bailey  
Gdsm JA Bennett  
Gdsm C Bepatt  
Gdsm O Bibby  
Gdsm CJ Bird  
Gdsm ER Brunt  
Gdsm B Chipchase  
Gdsm MJA Curzon  
Gdsm W Chappell  
Gdsm A Dagnall  
Gdsm PD Dixon  
Gdsm C Drew  
Gdsm R Edwards  
Gdsm JJ Elder  
Gdsm BC Fanning  
Gdsm W Farmer  
Gdsm K Fogarty  
Gdsm IG Galt  
Gdsm D Garrett

Gdsm J Gaskell-Burnup  
Gdsm T Goodwin  
Gdsm J Granger  
Gdsm M Grange  
Gdsm CJ Hammond  
Gdsm RM Halliburton  
Gdsm AM Hardman-Haworth  
Gdsm J Hayward  
Gdsm C Hodgkins  
Gdsm JH Holding  
Gdsm S Howells  
Gdsm LA Inskip  
Gdsm B Jackson  
Gdsm LM Jones  
Gdsm L Kellie  
Gdsm AJK Kenny  
Gdsm C Key  
Gdsm JLD Lopez-dare  
Gdsm NAL Lyon  
Gdsm S Mabbott-Day  
Gdsm MS Massey  
Gdsm JS McDonald  
Gdsm J Mcdowell  
Gdsm T McLaughlin  
Gdsm JA Mcculloch  
Gdsm T Millington  
Gdsm E Mottershead  
Gdsm B Mycock  
Gdsm O Norris  
Gdsm C Neary  
Gdsm V O'neil  
Gdsm K Osullivan  
Gdsm ZD Pincott  
Gdsm M Pittaway  
Gdsm ST Poynter  
Gdsm L Reynolds  
Gdsm S Roberts  
Gdsm M Samwell  
Gdsm JL Sentance  
Gdsm TS Small  
Gdsm D Smith  
Gdsm A Smith  
Gdsm I Stark  
Gdsm J Swales  
Gdsm P Swift  
Gdsm LJ Taylor  
Gdsm N Walker  
Gdsm AJ Wilson  
Gdsm O White  
Gdsm G Whyte  
Gdsm R Wolfe  
Gdsm C Worsey



## Officers

### SENIOR OFFICERS

Major General Sir George Norton KCVO, CBE .....	Deputy Comd, NATO Rapid Deployable Corps, Italy
Brigadier CRV Walker DSO .....	Head Strategy, Strategy Directorate, Amy HQ
Brigadier DJC Russell-Parsons OBE .....	Defence Attache Saudi Arabia
Colonel JMH Bowder MBE .....	Col CGS's Initiatives Group

### REGIMENTAL OFFICERS

#### Lieutenant Colonels

The Hon CL	Broughton MBE .....	Commanding Officer 1st Battalion
RT	Maundrell MVO .....	DOC-SO1 Land
AFR	James MBE .....	DA Vienna
SG	Soskin .....	SO1 Infantry Manning Pers Plans, DMA
GR	Denison-Smith .....	SO1 DS BMM Kuwait
MP	David MC .....	British Defence Staff, British Embassy, Paris
AR	McKay MBE .....	Chatham House, Commanding Officer Designate
PL	Ashfield DSO .....	ACSC
RJH	Green .....	SO1 CD Combat, Army HQ

#### Majors

DJ	Alkin .....	Second in Command, 1st Battalion Irish Guards
JCM	Greaves .....	SO2 J5 Plans, PJHQ
JA	Seddon .....	Senior Major
SC	Gordon Lennox .....	The Captain of The Queen's Company
JR	Green .....	OC No 2 Company
RE	King-Evans .....	SO2 Recruiting Ops
JENB	Shaw .....	SO2 J3, HQ 11X
AJ	Tiernan .....	MoD A Block
WHL	Harries .....	JCTTAT Team Leader
BJR	Jesty .....	OC The Inkerman Company
NA	Strachan* .....	ICSC
EJ	Paintin .....	SO2 Ft Gds, APC Glasgow

#### Captains

\*DENOTES ACTING MAJOR

PJ	Rice .....	PI Comd, RMA Sandhurst
MOC	Dobbin MC .....	MoD A Block
*AWE	Bayliss .....	OC Nijmegen Company
RC	Da Gama .....	Staff Officer (Policy), HQ NRDC Istanbul
TR	Hendriksen .....	SO2 DCC Army HQ
JD	Brown .....	MoD A Block
*AA	Wellesley-Wood .....	OC Guards Training Company, Catterick
JR	Taylor .....	Adjutant, London Central Garrison
CJD	Stevenson .....	Operations Officer
N	Wills .....	2IC Training Wing, ATC Pirbright
AHMC	Budge .....	SO3 Plans, BATUK
HC	Cartwright .....	Adjutant 1st Battalion
A	Stonor .....	Adjutant London Regiment
WLR	Harris .....	Operations Officer, 1st Battalion Irish Guards
*JJ	Hathaway-White .....	OC Support Company
MWS	Dobson .....	Second Captain The Queen's Company
JAL	Garton .....	2IC Nijmegen Company
FCB	Moyanan .....	Assistant Equerry to The Colonel
DR	Welham .....	2IC, The Inkerman Company

HRW	Hardy .....	Intelligence Officer
CAG	Williams .....	Nijmegen Company
CHP	Sanford .....	PI Comd, Mortar Platoon
AJP	Shirreff .....	PI Comd, ITC Catterick
HR	Waterfield .....	2IC No 2 Company
BG	Conway .....	PI Comd, Anti-Tank Platoon

#### Lieutenants

CHP	Sanford .....	PI Comd, The Mortar PL
CLI	Wright .....	PI Comd, ITC Catterick
THR	Hargreaves .....	PI Comd, ITC Catterick
TR	Parkes .....	PI Comd, Reconnaissance Platoon
BRN	Tracey .....	PI Comd, No 2 Company
KMD	Varmuza .....	PI Comd, Nijmegen Company
OM	Wace .....	PI Comd, The Inkerman Company
CJ	Naughton .....	PI Comd, Nijmegen Company
REL	Phillips .....	PI Comd, The Inkerman Company
RDS	Laing .....	PI Comd The Queen's Company
GWJ	Barnes .....	PI Comd No 2 Company
JMB	Silver .....	PI Comd No 2 Company

#### Second Lieutenants

RJH	Harding .....	PI Comd, Nijmegen Company
ER	Harmer .....	PI Comd, Nijmegen Company
OSB	Staunton .....	PI Comd, No 2 Company
TA	Bolitho .....	PI Comd, The Queen's Company
RE	Thompson .....	PI Comd, The Queen's Company

#### Late Entry Commissions

##### Lieutenant Colonels

M	Gaunt OBE .....	Garison Comander, London Central Garrison
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##### 1st Battalion

##### Majors

G	Gask .....	MoD Main Building
NA	England MBE .....	OC HQ Company
JA	Keeley MBE .....	ICSC
A	Butcher .....	QM

##### Captains

IM	Farrell .....	QM (T)
S	Munro .....	MTO
DA	Westlake .....	RCMO

#### Retired Officers still in Military Employment or Occupation

##### Majors

GVA	Baker .....	Regimental Adjutant
AJ	Green .....	Regimental Treasurer
DNW	Sewell .....	HQ Foot Guards
A	Ogden .....	Regt Archivist
PAJ	Wright MBE .....	Regimental Historian



## Grenadiers at Extra-Regimental Employment

### RMAS

WO2	C	Dougherty	.....CSM
CSgt	V	McClean	.....Instructor
CSgt	R	Archer	.....Instructor
CSgt	D	Walton	.....Instructor
CSgt	A	Obrien	.....Instructor
LCpl	T	Love	.....RP Staff
Gdsm	J	Bradford	.....Orderly

### HDPRCC

CSgt	R	Dacey	.....CQMS
CSgt	J	Donovan	.....Instructor
Sgt	G	Hudson	.....Instructor
Sgt	S	Hepburn	.....Instructor

### All Arms Drill Wing

CSgt	L	Walton	.....Instructor
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### Army Sports

LSgt	L	Deen	.....Bobsleighting team
LSgt	G	Francis	.....Boxing team
LCpl	N	Ngwenya	.....Boxing team

### HDiV Stables

LSgt	P	Newton	.....Farrier
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### Recruiting Offices

Sgt	L	Findler	.....Wolverhampton
Sgt	N	Smith	.....Stoke
LSgt	L	Humphries	.....Manchester
LSgt	G	Casburn	.....Birmingham

### London Regiment

WO2	S	Roughley	.....CSM
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### IBS Brecon

LSgt	P	Duffett	.....CIS Wing
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### Oxford UOTC

CSgt	L	Owen	.....Instructor
CSgt	J	Nicholson	.....Instructor
LSgt		Finlan	.....Instructor

### ATC (Pirbright)

LSgt	M	Hayes	.....Instructor
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### Demolitions Trg Regt

WO2	S	Ross MC	.....CSM Search Wing
LSgt	V	Goodman	.....Search Wing

### LWC Warminster

CSgt	D	Claxton	.....Instructor
CSgt	P	Easters	.....Instructor
Sgt	P	Struzynski	.....Instructor
LCpl	S	Lawa	.....Trg Wing

### Adventure Training Wing

LSgt	N	Rowe	.....Capel Curig
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### 12 Brigade

Gdsm	D	Sherwin	.....Driver
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## Warrant Officers

### Warrant Officer Class 1

WO1	G	Haughton	.....ASM
WO1	J	Frith	.....NC 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	S	Brooks	.....1st Battalion
WO2	G	Davis	.....1st Battalion

### Company Sergeant Majors (WO2)

#### 1st Battalion

WO2	G	Roper	.....The Queens Company
WO2	M	Hughes	.....Number Two Company
WO2	D	Moore	.....Support Company
WO2	J	Bennett	.....The Inkerman Company
WO2	R	Parkes	.....Headquarter Company
WO2	M	Betts	.....Nijmegen Company
WO2	JP	Summerscales	.....Welfare

### ERE

WO2	S	Roughley	.....London Regiment
WO2	S	Ross MC	.....CSM Search Wing
WO2	C	Dougherty	.....CSM RMAS



## Marriages

Sgt Fiddy married to Ms Linda Mansergh  
 LCpl Meyers to Nicola Meyers  
 LCpl Murray married to Libby – 14th Feb 15  
 Gdsm Addison married to Marta – 30th August 15  
 Gdsm Holmes married to Bethany – 7th August 15

## Births

Sgt Parker and Mrs Parker a Baby Girl  
 Sgt Saxton and his wife to daughter Scarlett  
 Sgt Sullivan birth of daughter, Imogen  
 LSgt Davison and his wife Sarah to Baby Emily  
 LSgt Deakin and his wife to son Luka  
 LSgt Hollis and Charlotte Benham a Baby Boy  
 LSgt Munerzero and his wife to son Levi  
 LCpl Hadfield and Sarah Hadfield a Baby Girl  
 LCpl Loftus and Melissa Heywood a Baby Girl  
 Gdsm Lewis Hook and his girlfriend Miss Charlie Blake to a son, Teddy

# The FIRST or GRENADIER REGIMENT of GUARDS SERGEANTS' (PAST AND PRESENT) CLUB ROLL OF MEMBERS

2016

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Capt D Westlake

**Vice President**  
Mr M Mayoh

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Major D Bradley BEM  
Major B Broad  
Lt Col RM Dorney  
Major I Farrell  
Mr J Ford  
Major G Gask  
Lt Col M Gaunt OBE  
Major AJ Green  
Major MB Holland  
Capt A Holloway  
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Lt Col DJ Webster  
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Mr J Dorris, Surrey (ACC)  
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LGSM  
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OBE

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Mr HR Booth, Lancashire  
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Mr AS Cameron, Ipswich  
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Mr G Cox, Canterbury  
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Mr JK Finch, Cypress	Mr I Hall, Surrey	Mr ME James, Surrey	Mr D Marshall, Scotland
Mr G Fishwick, Eastbourne	Mr MS Hall, Wiltshire	Mr CM Jeanes, Avon	Mr JD Marshall, Lincolnshire
Mr MS Fitch, Bath	Mr GE Hallam, Nottingham	Mr LL Jeffery, Buckinghamshire	Mr PD Marshall, Oxon
Mr D Fitzgerald, Nottingham	Mr P Hallam, Nottingham	Mr D Jelves, West Yorkshire	Mr TDJ Marshall, Dumfries
Mr K Fitzgerald, France	Mr LA Hamill, Hampshire	Capt HC Jenkins, Dorset	Mr AE Maslin, Dorset
Mr DT Fleming, Bristol	Mr MR Harding, Hampshire	Mr VG Jewell LVO, Angus	Mr DJR Masterman, Kent
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Mr T Foreman, Cambridge	Mr DF Harris, Northampton	Mr T Johnson	
	Mr CJ Harrison, Salop	Mr R Jolly BEM, Staffordshire	



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Mr	J Moores, Shropshire	Mr	B Reynolds, Surrey	Mr	R Springall, Australia	Lt Col	GR Whitehead RVM, Surrey
Mr	K Moores, Channel Islands	Mr	JM Richards, Cambridgeshire	Mr	I Stannard	Mr	PB Whorton, Windsor
Mr	WH Moores, Coventry	Mr	D Richardson	Mr	JW Stanyard, Surrey	Mr	I Whyte, Northants
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Mr	P Morgan, Essex	Mr	PF Richardson, Surrey	Mr	A Steed, Nottingham	Mr	MM Wilkinson, East Sussex
Mr	W Mottershead, Macclesfield	Mr	JM Richards, Cambridgeshire	Mr	H Stern, Essex	Mr	CJ Wills, West Midlands
Mr	A Mould	Mr	D Richardson	Mr	J Stevens, East Sussex	Mr	SS Wilson, Middlesex
Mr	JF Mundy, Lincoln	Mr	A Richardson, Cheshire	Mr	G Stevenson, Spalding	Mr	WE Wilson, Essex
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Mr	W Orton, Surrey	Mr	MR Rowe, Shropshire	Mr	KL Thomson, Wiltshire		
Major	VJ Overton, Windsor	Mr	P Salt, London	Mr	C Till, Somerset		
Mr	BJ Owen	Mr	R Sargeant BEM, Stafford	Capt	CJO Tilly, Essex		
Mr	JE Page, Hertfordshire	Mr	RF Saunders, Milton Keynes	Mr	Tomlinson, East Yorkshire		
Mr	RC Page BEM, Lincoln	Mr	CC Savage, Bristol	Lt Col	S Tuck BEM, Norfolk		
Mr	D Paine, Kent	Mr	L Scholes, Bolton	Mr	J Upton, Surrey		
Mr	CM Parker, Wiltshire	Mr	M Scott, Gwynedd	Mr	JMN Upton, London		
Mr	N Parr, Milton Keynes	Mr	W Scully, Devon	Mr	A Urvoy, Berkshire		
Mr	RJ Patrick, Leighton Buzzard	Mr	REG Seale DL, Worcester	Mr	S Vaughn, Kent		
Mr	L Paynes, Surrey	Mr	A Sehrman	Capt	D Vernon, East sussex		
Mr	W Paynes, Hampshire	Mr	RS Senior, Hampshire	Mr	P Wakelin, Cheshire		
Mr	AD Peachey BEM, West Sussex	Mr	T Sentence, Kenya	Mr	J Walker, North Lincolnshire		
Mr	MM Pearce, Essex	Mr	J Seymour, Northants	Mr	W Wall, Halifax		
Mr	M Peaty, West Sussex	Mr	P Shaman, Surrey	Mr	GR Wallace, Cambridge		
Mr	LFH Perkins BEM RVM, Kent	Mr	K Sharples, Lancashire	Mr	T Walmesly, Ontario		
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		Mr	C Short, Lincoln	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.

23509095	MR Abrahams	Sussex	22955285	RT Lancaster	Reading
Major	NW Alexander		Captain	J Lenaghan (QM)	London
14220891	J Armitage		22545102	H Lewis	Manchester
2614230	CWG Barrett		22213825	JT Lines	
24185890	JR Bates		23688115	MAR Lloyd	2012
2627862	R Bignall	Leicestershire	22213085	DJ Lotherington	Windsor
22663947	J Birtles	Manchester	2617424	GE Machin	2014
2625438	WE Bishton	Matlock	Major	JD Makgill Crichton Maitland	
2624642	DA Blizzard	2014	2627985	JCE Marsh	East Kent
2625389	EG Bond	2014	22955573	J Marshall	Medway
22213295	GE Bradford	Nottinghamshire	2615612	TG Martin	Bath
22545874	R Bragg	Essex	22285084	EG Mash	
Major the Lord	Brassey of Apethorpe, OBE, JP, DL		2627534	WR Masters	Worcester & Herefordshire
2622925	T Bray	Spalding	23688155	JP McIntosh	Surrey & E. Hants
24493787	M Carr	North American	24278606	R Mearing	
2623387	ES Cassidy	Manchester	23122128	D Mills	North American
2622834	HT Chaffer, MM		2622726	AB Mills, MM	Suffolk
23509030	DI Chapman	Gloucestershire	2625031	R Mole	Wessex
24155428	C Chinn		The Lord	Montagu of Beaulieu	Wessex
22955816	DE Clarke	Cambridgeshire	23509695	J Moore	
24125238	P Clarke	Medway	22545401	JJ Morton	Matlock
23879752	J Connolly		24076213	MD Mulloy	
24428622	SG Copp	Medway	24096342	A Myles	
24707188	NJ Corah	Lincoln	23688424	RW Neul	
22213620	WB Cottingham	Sussex	22213435	JH Noble	Reading
22545627	P Cowhey	Shropshire	2628549	T Novis	Sussex
23094856	J Crawford	Yorkshire	23688397	PJ Offiler	Nottinghamshire
14580995	KW Cross	Norfolk	22545875	G Parry	
24164851	JA Cross	Medway	Captain	B Parry	Welsh Guards
2624902	JG Darwent	Matlock	22955259	DT Payne	
2627420	I Davies	London	22955158	P Payne	Leicestershire
22545143	JS Dawkins	Suffolk	22430008	J Payne	Wolverhampton
2624556	D Denham	North American	2625288	R Perry	Worcester & Herefordshire
Captain	AM Denny		22899732	JA Perry	London
22213959	R Dudley		22476844	RD Plumb	London
Major	BT Eastwood, LVO, MBE		23252503	G Powis	Walsall
24125399	JT Evans		22898465	A Price	Wigan & District
	RDN Fisher	Gloucestershire	23509556	J Priestley	
2626281	R Foreman		22213911	RH Redford	Surrey & E. Hants
22677833	E Foster	Liverpool	24141760	KA Regan, BEM	Reading
22213812	RJ Fowler	Shropshire	2629033	G Rickard	Medway
2623687	DC Fowler	March	22603330	R Roberts	Worcester & Herefordshire
22955434	KHG Freeman	Medway	2626319	EC Ross	
Major	HW Freeman-Attwood		23252198	DW Sansome	Walsall
22451371	M Gammons	Sussex	22955745	G Santus	Surrey & E. Hants
23509381	T Gray	Bristol	22955716	T Savage	Derby
23252047	PE Gretton	Medway	Lt Col	MB Scott	
23879705	JN Griffiths	Manchester	22213036	A Simcox	Wolverhampton
22213951	C Griffiths	Surrey & E. Hants	2622179	WG Slade	Reading
23688669	MR Groom	Lincoln	22955380	MG Slater	Worcester & Herefordshire
23252167	JM Guy	Wolverhampton	2624731	CAW Sleep	Windsor
Captain	AM Hackett Pain		2626439	A Stainton	Nottinghamshire
2616447	J Halsall		24000350	R Swift	Chesterfield
23879893	C Harrison	Shropshire	22955304	J Tassell	Medway
Lt Col	PH Haslett		24164881	JJ Taylor	Manchester
23509993	DJ Hazell	Suffolk	22955711	B Ticehurst	
23865013	BD Holmes	Lincoln	24220621	GC Tindall	
2623286	J Horrocks		23252071	ME Toyne	Lincoln
22955731	R Hughes		2628900	R Tremayne	
Major	RW Humphreys		22955883	Rev AB Turney	2014
22456752	AG Ives	Cambridgeshire	23509175	MG Waller	Reading
22955176	ME James	Surrey & E. Hants	2629254	A Wardle	Nottinghamshire
2616248	K James	North American	23688050	A Warman	
23252949	AM Jones	Bristol	2619713	A Welcher	2014
2628883	PD King	North American	Captain	JRH Wills	
2626122	FC Kingdon	Wessex	23426760	FG Wiltshire	London
24076302	M Knight		23375028	W Woolley	
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## Lieutenant Colonel P H Haslett MBE

Philip Haslett, who has died aged 88, was born on 7th January 1927. He was the only son of Sir William Haslett, a specialist in mental and neurological disorders. His mother was a niece of Sir Claude 'Crawley' Champion de Crespigny. He was educated at Marlborough and commissioned as a 2Lt in the Grenadier Guards on 28th September 1945. In 1949, he commanded a platoon on operations with 3rd Battalion, patrolling against bandit gangs around Sungei Besi during the Malaya Emergency. He returned there some 45 years later and asked the friendly villagers how they had got on since the Emergency. They cheerfully replied that they were too young to remember it. In 1954, he was selected to be Adjutant of Mons Officer Cadet School. He returned to 3rd Battalion as Support Company Commander in 1957, during the Cyprus Emergency. The tour involved cordon and search operations in Nicosia and the surrounding area. Over several months, the Army had reduced 16 terrorist gangs to five; 69 EOKA had been killed and rioting and looting virtually stopped. In 1959, he was appointed Captain of the Queen's Company at Tidworth before deploying to Bamenda in the British Cameroons in West Africa in 1961. A terrorist camp was located on the border with the French Cameroons. Philip personally led a close reconnaissance patrol before the camp was successfully attacked and two terrorists killed with the loss of one Guardsman. He was appointed MBE in the New Year Honours 1962. After flying to Libya on a training exercise and a tour in Wuppertal, BAOR, as Senior Major 2nd Battalion, Philip was appointed Brigade Major of Berlin Infantry Brigade in 1965. He was promoted to Lieutenant Colonel and appointed Commanding Officer 2nd Battalion at Chelsea Barracks in 1969. In August the Battalion was unexpectedly placed on Spearhead and deployed to Northern Ireland where there was a real danger of civil war. Both in Londonderry and Belfast the soldiers were at first made welcome, but it did not last. However, at the end of the five month tour it had not proved necessary to fire CS gas or live ammunition and tension gradually subsided. This was in no small part due to his calm and sensible leadership. After further appointments in the Ministry of Defence, he retired from the Army in 1977. In retirement he was an enthusiastic bridge player, gardener, ornithologist and traveller. One notable journey involved trekking in the Himalayas and visiting the base of Mount Annapurna. A kind and considerate man, he was President of the Weybridge Branch of the Royal British Legion and a volunteer guide at Painshill Park. He attended Her Majesty's Grenadier Day at Buckingham Palace on 26th

June 2013 and, together with other former Captains of the Queen's Company, was presented to the Queen. A charming, unassuming and delightful Grenadier with an excellent sense of humour who, for an obvious reason, was affectionately nicknamed 'Chrome Dome'. A lifelong bachelor, he is survived and much missed by his three sisters, Mary Camilla, Rosemary and Barbara, their children, his many friends and his devoted carers, Melissa Phillips and Karen Fourie, who attended to him over the last few years.



## Major Lord Brassey of Apethorpe OBE JP DL

David Brassey, 3rd Baron, who has died aged 82, was born on 16th September 1932. He was the son of Lieutenant Colonel Lord Brassey MC TD, 2nd Baron Brassey of Apethorpe. He was educated at Stowe where he excelled on the athletics track. His Housemaster wrote 'There are few people whom I would rather have with me in a physical crisis, provided he understood what the crisis was about'.

He was commissioned from Eaton Hall Officer Cadet School into the Grenadier Guards in September 1951 and posted to 3rd Battalion in Egypt before transferring to 1st Battalion in 1953. He qualified on the 120mm anti tank gun course. Later another officer introduced himself as 'Richardson, 3rd Tanks.' to which David replied 'Brassey, Anti Tanks.' A Jaguar owner, motoring enthusiast and regular supporter of the Monte Carlo Rally he was appointed the Battalion's Motor Transport Officer in 1955. He was on the Staff of HQ London District from 1959-61, Second in Command of the Junior Guardsmen's Company at Pirbright in 1962 and then Company Commander with 2nd Battalion in BAOR, Caterham, British Guiana and Windsor.

During 2nd Battalion's tour in British Guiana from June 1963 until March 1964, David commanded Headquarter Company throughout considerable racial strife between Africans and Indians. In January 1965, he commanded a Grenadier detachment from the Battalion in the State Funeral of Sir Winston Churchill. Later that year, he flew to Libya on a desert training exercise. In all his command appointments David showed dash and imagination being more at home in the field than in the office.

He succeeded to the title in 1967 and retired from the Army as a Major the following year. His activities in retirement were characterised by his pursuit of perfection coupled with a strong sense of public duty. In 1970 he was appointed Justice of the Peace and became Chairman of the Corby Magistrates and a prison visitor at Gartree Prison where he was popular with both the staff and inmates. He ensured that their requests and requirements



were carefully considered and was much respected for his compassion and ability to always remain fair in his dealings with others. He was appointed OBE in 1994. He was made a Deputy Lieutenant of Northamptonshire in 1972 and Vice Lord Lieutenant in 2000.

He loved fishing and shooting and was a keen gardener and ornithologist. He bred a wide variety of ducks at Apethorpe and was a trustee of the Slimbridge Wetlands Centre for Birds. Its founder, Sir Peter Scott, was astonished to find that David could not only identify almost all resident British birds, but also their equivalent Latin names. David was a clear and independent thinker with an idiosyncratic sense of humour which concealed a loyal and generous spirit. The large attendance at his thanksgiving service adjacent to the lake at Apethorpe included many former Grenadiers and reflected the widespread affection he was held in. He is buried in his favourite wood nearby which he maintained so beautifully.

His love of the countryside and everything in it was second only to his love and devotion to his family and friends. He married first in 1958, Myrna Baskerville-Glegg. She predeceased him in 1974 and he married secondly Caroline (Midgie) Evill in 1978. She survives him with their two daughters, Zara and Chloe, and the son of his first marriage, Edward, who served as a Captain in the Regiment and succeeds to the title.



## Major H W Freeman-Attwood

Warren Freeman-Attwood, who has died aged 91, was born at Dalhousie, India, on 20th September 1923. He was the son of Major General H A Freeman-Attwood DSO, OBE, MC and educated at

Marlborough. He was commissioned into the Grenadier Guards and was posted to 6th Battalion in Tunisia in 1943. In September, the Battalion landed at Salerno and Warren fought in the first battle of Monte Camino overlooking the road to Naples. To bullets and shells were added the discomfort of frostbite and exposure. In December, when the Battalion descended from the mountain after nine days, it could only muster 263 men for duty. After a second battle, the mountain was captured. Warren was the sole platoon commander to emerge unscathed from both battles; however the loss of so many friends remained etched in his memory.

His platoon's next task was to dominate no man's land and patrol up to the River Garigliano. Fortunately a fat pig wandered into the anti-personnel minefield and provided a welcome Christmas dinner. In January 1944, in an attack on the high ground across the river, the Battalion captured 78 prisoners and 12 machine guns. Warren recommended

Harry Butcher, his orderly, for a Military Medal, which he was awarded for his single handed capture of a machine gun. In March, Warren and 16 other officers were transferred to 5th Battalion as part of the 6th South African Armoured Division. By October, they were opposite Monte Sole carrying out close contact night patrols.

Shortly afterwards, Warren and others who had seen continuous fighting was selected to go to South Africa for two weeks. The object was to inform the South African public what their Division had achieved in Italy. Warren returned to the Battalion as it fought its way northwards. On 1st January 1945 he led a fierce raid against Casa Fudella and was Mentioned in Despatches. In 1945 he moved to HQ 1st Guards Brigade for the final battle across the River Po. At the end of the war, Warren transferred to 3rd Battalion and then 1st Battalion on active service in Palestine followed by a tour in Tripoli. In 1950 he attended Staff College. He took part in the Lying in State of King George VI in Westminster Hall and was posted to the Canal Zone in Egypt on the staff of HQ 32 Guards Brigade. He was appointed Regimental Adjutant in 1958 and retired from the Army in 1960.

He joined the Stock Exchange until 1984 when a brain haemorrhage caused him to retire. For many years he helped run the 5th and 6th Battalions Officers Dining Clubs and in 1995, played a leading part in establishing the 6th Battalion's Mareth Cross at the West Door of the Guards Chapel. Warren was admired throughout the Regiment for his bravery in battle, intelligence, dedication and ability. He had a wonderful sense of humour and wide interests from opera to shooting.

His first marriage, in 1947, to Elizabeth Mostyn-Owen was dissolved. His second, in 1960, was to Marigold Wedderburn, who survives him with their son, Professor Jonathan Freeman-Attwood who is Principal of the Royal Academy of Music, a son and daughter from his first marriage and two sons and a daughter from her first marriage.



## Major J D Makgill Crichton Maitland

David Makgill Crichton Maitland, who has died aged 89, was a scion of the Earls of Lauderdale. He was born on 10th September 1925, the elder son of Colonel M E Makgill Crichton Maitland CVO, DSO, DL

and his wife the former Patience Fleetwood Fuller. His father commanded 1st Battalion Grenadier Guards during the Great War and was Lieutenant Colonel Commanding the Regiment at the beginning of the Second War. David was educated at Eton and, following in his father's footsteps, was commissioned into the Grenadier Guards in May 1944.

He was attached to the Irish Guards before joining 1st

(Motor) Battalion in BAOR in April 1945. In 1946, he was granted a Regular Commission and joined the newly formed Guards Independent Parachute Company as the first platoon commander of 1 Platoon in 1948. The Company was responsible for the path finding role - the securing, marking by visual and radar means, and defending parachute dropping zones. David attended a three month Pathfinder Course at the United States Airborne School in Georgia and obtained an excellent result.

In 1951 he spent four months in BAOR with 2nd Battalion and then joined 3rd Battalion in the Canal Zone. In 1952, David served on the staff of HQ 1st Guards Brigade during a period of intensive internal security operations and was rated by the Brigade Major, David Fraser, (later General Sir David Fraser VCGS) to be a first class staff officer and problem solver. The following year he returned to 3rd Battalion as commander of Headquarter Company during its hand-over in the Canal Zone and subsequent move to London. In 1956, David deployed with 3rd Battalion, first to Malta during the Suez Crisis, and then to Cyprus during the emergency as 3 Company Commander. The tour involved cordon and search operations in the Troodos Mountains. Over several months the Army had reduced 16 terrorist gangs to five, 69 EOKA had been killed and rioting and looting virtually stopped. In all his commands David led by example showing a great deal of imagination and dedication.

He retired from the Army as a Major in 1957 to live at and run the Estate of Houston in Renfrewshire to which he devoted his considerable energies and expertise. He greatly improved both the estate and the farm bringing them into today's world. He had a strong sense of public duty and was much liked and respected throughout Renfrewshire where he was President of SSAFA. He was appointed a Deputy Lieutenant in 1962, Vice Lord Lieutenant in 1972 and Lord Lieutenant from 1980 until 1994. He appreciated all aspects of the countryside and its future management and handed the estate and farm over to his son in 1995.

He married first in 1954, Jean (Patsy) Creagh, only daughter of Major General Sir Michael O'Moore Creagh KBE, MC and Lady O'Moore Creagh. She predeceased him in 1985 and he married secondly Mary Ann Curzon (née Ogilvy) in 1987 and moved to Daluaine in Aberdeenshire. He continued to assist with SSAFA and laid a wreath at the Rhynie war memorial every Armistice Day in his Guards Independent Parachute Company beret, as well as attending the annual Regimental Remembrance Day in London in his bowler hat. Combining humour with ability he was a delightful and popular Grenadier. David loved shooting and he and Mary Ann enjoyed entertaining their friends and family at Daluaine as well as trips to London to the ballet and theatre. She survives him with his son, Mark and daughter, Mary from his first marriage.



## Capt A M Denny

Anthony (Tony) Denny, who has died aged 93, was born in London on 2nd March 1922. He was the eldest son of John and Eileen Denny of Horwood House, Buckinghamshire. His father served with 2nd Battalion Grenadier Guards in the Great War. On 25th

January 1915, he and three other Grenadier officers on temporary attachment to the Scots Guards were hit by a shell that exploded in their trench. The first three were killed and his father was severely wounded. After he recovered, he became ADC to the Viceroy of India and went into the family business E M Denny and Co Ltd (bacon curers). Tony was educated at Eton and, following in his father's footsteps, was commissioned into the Grenadier Guards in September 1941.

He joined 3rd Battalion which sailed from Scotland to Algiers in November 1942. In December, the Battalion crossed into Tunisia. During the main battle of the Tunisian campaign - the Battle of Djebel Mansour, on 4th February 1943, Tony commanded his platoon in the attack on Djebel Alliliga by 2 Company. Three German machine guns were disposed of and the east shoulder of Alliliga captured at a cost of fifty per cent casualties, including one of his fellow platoon commanders killed and the other wounded. On 20th March, he commanded a successful fighting patrol to the village of Grich el Oued and captured four German deserters, who provided invaluable information on the strength and disposition of the Garrison.

Complete victory came with the joining up of First Army with Eighth Army and the final battle leading to the fall of Tunis in May. The Battalion spent June and July bivouacked by the sea at Sousse awaiting orders to embark for Italy. As a relief from camp life, Tony led his platoon on an expedition to the Atlas Mountains to shoot Mouflon (a wild sheep with large inward curving horns). On returning from his initial trip into the mountains, he found the whole platoon had decamped to the nearest bordello, from which he had to extract them.

In Italy on 28th May 1944, during the attack on Monte Grande, Tony's platoon was hit by a salvo of shells on a narrow track and suffered twenty casualties. He rallied the survivors but they were too few to carry out their original task. On 29th June, he carried out another successful fighting patrol along the steep and thickly wooded banks of the Tiber and captured four Germans in a farmhouse. He was promoted to Captain in September 1944. He remained with the Battalion until returning to England in May 1945 and was Mentioned in Despatches in November. Tony was next posted to 2nd Battalion and joined the Control Commission of the British Military Government in Germany. He was released from the Army in July 1946 but for years afterwards suffered recurrent

nightmares from his experiences during the war.

After the war he went to Art School in Bristol intending to become an architect. Instead he worked for the family business which had been started 135 years earlier by his Great Great Grandfather. In January 1955, he married Daphne Speir, daughter of Kenneth and Henrietta Speir, at the Brompton Oratory. The family lived in London before moving to Hattingley in Hampshire where Tony was able to indulge his passion for fly fishing on the Itchen. He loved to travel and was actively involved in charitable work for the Provision Trade Benevolent Institution, which helps those who have worked in the provision trade and find themselves financially distressed. He is survived and much missed by his wife, Daphne, their three children, Melissa, Richard and Jane and their six grandchildren.



## Capt Sir John Lambert KCVO, CMG

**J**ohn Lambert, who has died aged 94, was born in London on 8th January 1921. He was the son of Colonel R S Lambert MC, who was

Regimental Adjutant of the Grenadier Guards and Brigade Major of the Brigade of Guards. He was educated at Eton, the Sorbonne and Trinity College Cambridge where he joined the Officer Training Corps. After Brigade Squad and Sandhurst, he followed in his father's footsteps and was commissioned into the Grenadier Guards in March 1941.

He joined 3rd Battalion in Scotland and became Grenadier Liaison Officer with HQ 1st Guards Brigade. The Brigade sailed from Scotland and joined 1st Army in Algiers in November 1942. John, as Liaison Officer, was allotted a motor-cycle and, being fluent in French and German, was able to liaise both with the French forces and interrogate German prisoners. In December, the Brigade crossed into Tunisia and had their baptism of fire around Medjez-el-Bab. The Brigade nicknamed 'the Plumbers' were called upon to plug leaks as the Germans attempted to break out from encirclement.

John rejoined 3rd Battalion as Intelligence Officer in the pursuit of the Germans over the Kasserine Pass towards Tunis. The Battalion captured Hammam Lif on 8th May 1943 and he was sent by Colonel Algy Heber-Percy to detain the Bey of Tunis (whose neutrality was suspect) in his Summer Palace. While John was holding the fort with the Bey in a throne room strewn with broken glass, a Lieutenant Colonel and Major arrived from 1st Army Headquarters with instructions to take the Bey off to Tunis in their truck. After tricky negotiations, conducted by John, the Bey and his entourage were allowed to leave

in the state Daimler instead; and John returned to the Battalion with a photograph of the Bey, a Citroën car and two bottles of champagne (courtesy of the Tunisian Interior Minister). During the final days of the advance he commandeered a Volkswagen driven by the ADC to General Graf von Sponeck and was involved in the surrender of hundreds of Italian and German prisoners during and after the final battle leading to the fall of Tunis.

In February 1944, the Battalion landed at Naples and for ten days, John commanded 3 Company in the battle for Cerasola high above the snow line in the mountains. The Battalion continued to fight its way northwards and after the capture of Perugia in June he was put in charge of training Grenadier replacements for the considerable number of casualties which Battalions had been having in Italy. In March 1945, he rejoined 3rd Battalion, which led Eighth Army in the crossing of the River Po, and took over command of 1 Company. He was in Cividale on VE Day trying to keep the peace between the Italians, Tito's partisans and Serbian Chetniks and in Austria until August 1945 when he returned to England in the belly of a Liberator bomber with a South African crew.

He was demobilised as a Captain and joined the Diplomatic Service as Third Secretary at the Hague Embassy. It was here that he met and enjoyed dancing with Audrey Hepburn and they remained good friends. During his distinguished career he held appointments in Damascus, Belgrade, Manila, Geneva, Stockholm and Vienna. His penultimate appointment was as Minister and Deputy Commandant in the British Military Government in Berlin from 1974 until 1977. He was appointed CMG in 1975. His last appointment was Ambassador to Tunisia from 1977 until 1981. During the Queen's State Visit in 1980 he was able to show Prince Philip the Grenadier and other Household Division memorials in St George's Church. He was appointed KCVO in 1980.

He was the first Director of the Heritage of London Trust and was its President until his death. His many interests included the arts, music, tennis and golf. His book 'A Memoir 1921-1948' was privately published in 2015. He married Jenny Urquhart in 1950. She predeceased him in 2013, and he is survived and much missed by his son, Andrew, two daughters, Victoria and Rosamund, and his four grandchildren.



## Capt John Lenaghan

**C**apt John Lenaghan died after a short illness on 23rd August 2015 at the age of 56.

Born in Bushey on 7th April 1959, he enlisted into the Regiment at ACIO Wembley on 22nd July 1976.



On completion of his basic training he was posted to the 2nd Battalion in April 1977, where his ability to spell and write his own name was soon spotted! Various clerical appointments went hand in hand with rapid promotion, namely: LSgt (Records NCO), Guards Depot/Regimental Headquarters, December 1983-September 1986, followed by a very short stint as the Orderly Room Clerk, 2nd Battalion until May 1987, ORCSgt/ORMS 1st Battalion May 1987–November 1991 and finally reaching the pinnacle of the Clerical world by becoming WO1 (Superintending Clerk), which unbeknown to anybody at the time, would be the Regiment's last.

By now with a very much depleted staff, his last acts in this appointment were to oversee the drawdown of the 2nd Battalion and the handover of Soldier/Officer manning from Regimental Headquarters to the 1st Battalion, when the newly formed Adjutant Generals Corps became responsible for providing clerical support. After taking up his commission in 1996 as the Families Officer of the 1st Battalion, he was posted in April 1999 to ITC Wales as the SO3 G1/G3. It was in January 2001 whilst serving in Wellington Barracks with the Scots Guards as their Human Resources Officer that he was offered employment as The National Events Manager The Royal British Legion, an offer which was too good to refuse and John retired on 11th February 2011.

However, it is for his time spent at the Union Jack Club that he will be fondly remembered by so many, having led the Club and its staff for eleven years in his roles as Club Manager and Deputy Chief Executive – positions that earned John great praise and huge respect from everyone who knew him, especially the Members.

Apart from his love of football (being a keen Chelsea fan), his passion for marathon running was well known and it was during his first London Marathon that John's mischievous sense of humour came to the fore, when after completing 25 miles, he turned round and said "come on Juppy let's get a sprint on, only a BFT left to do". I have never forgotten seeing that huge grin across his face as he waited for me at the finishing line. There are many more such occasions that I could mention especially at The Annual Sergeants' (past and present) Club Dinner, and but for his untimely death he would have been the Club's President in 2016, a position I know he was greatly honoured to undertake and to which he much looked forward.

He was held in high esteem by his superiors but more importantly greatly admired by those who served under him, from which firm friendships grew well beyond Regimental life. John very recently decided to move to Gateshead and before his premature demise, was probably one of the smartest men to ever work at Tesco – his legendary tie and cuff-link collection would give any well known department store a run for its money!

Although he will be sadly missed by his devoted family, I know they have so many happy memories to treasure, as do those lucky enough to count themselves among his close-knit group of friends.



## Capt J R H (Jinks) Wills

*by his son, Capt Nico Wills*

Dad was born in Longparish, Hampshire on 27th January 1955. As was to be a theme of his life, Dad thrived in the pursuit of outdoor sports

winning his colours at Eton as part of the Shooting Eight, Boat Club and remarkably for a wet-bob, the Ramblers. Although less successful at hunting (where he and his pony were banned from the local hunt for being 'a disruptive influence on the other horses') shooting was to be a mainstay of his life. Fiercely proud of his family it was natural that he would want to follow his father, uncle and brother into the Grenadiers.

Sandhurst was a very happy time for him, maybe rather too good a time. Standing in front of the Company Commander with another Officer Cadet they were informed, "Gentlemen, it has come to my attention you are living beyond your means!" Their mess bill was more than their monthly pay. Colonel Harry Scott, a lifelong friend of Dad recalls many stories of their time spent there. Most poignant to him was the fact that he, Simon Ledger, Simon Stephenson and Dad all met their future brides while they there, a bond that has lasted since their teenage years.

Dad's first tour of duty with the regiment was in Hong Kong with the Second Battalion. This was a mixture of hard slog when conducting border patrols in the jungle balanced with the fun of being based in Hong Kong's vibrant settings. Two stories stick from this period; one that is probably not for publication featuring a Guardsman coming a cropper while trying to protect his personal affects from leeches and another more printable involving a patrol to stop Chinese immigrants on the mud flats. As the poor potential illegals hared it away across the mud the Company Commander (un-named) bellowed, "After them lads, follow me!" before leaping off the hard standing, and with his kit on ending up to his chest in mud. There was much merriment as a land rover was called for to haul him out. Dad adored his time at Shornecliffe teaching on the Junior Leaders course. He, Simon Stephenson, and Bernard Hornung lived at Number 1 Sea View Terrace; the fact that the main windows looked straight onto a brick wall lead them to call themselves the 'No View Club', a photo of which still lives on in Foot Guards messes around the UK. Save tours, his beloved dog Nada went everywhere with him, "she never got used to helicopters" I remember him telling me. According to friends he was particularly pleased with the way that when she sat her feet angled apart perfectly, only a Guardsman could appreciate that!

Undoubtedly the experience that matured Dad the most in the Army, other than marrying Mum, was his time spent in Northern Ireland. Dad deployed on quite a few tours with the most notable being his time as the Second Captain in Crossmaglen where he was Mentioned in Despatches (and

also as was the custom grew a rather reproachable moustache). This was as a result of an adventurous day out chasing gunmen across the Irish border as part of Op WOTAN, in which he masterminded an enormous 'come on' when the Queen's Company patrolled very openly in XMG covered by covert OPs on the immediate outside and by the SAS on the border. Col Alexander Heroys, his Commanding Officer at the time recalls listening to the excitement on the Battalion net as he spotted an illegal Vehicle Check Point as he was flying overhead. He persuaded the pilot, who happened to be the Commanding Officer of the AAC Regiment, to give chase despite them being shot at for daring to do so. They followed the fleeing suspects across the border into a farmhouse and then directed the Irish Guardai onto the location. Having done so, they were required to return across the border. It was a courageous thing to have done.

One of those things that set the Foot Guards apart from other units is the close relationship they have with the Royal Family. Dad served as Temporary Equerry to HRH Prince Philip and also spent time with the Queen Mother recalling one time when, while wearing a great coat in the Chapel Royal she informed him that he looked rather flushed, and that he shouldn't stand on ceremony and should remove his coat. Dad feigned decorum in terror of exposing the Mickey Mouse t-shirt worn underneath.

Dad's last hurrah was as Subaltern for The Queen's Birthday Parade of 1983 when he carried out his duties perfectly, as with everything he did. He later confided in my brother and I that just before the parade his brother teased him, "Just don't drop your sword!" He worried about it all day and when it came to my turn on the parade last year (although less immaculately than Dad's execution of it) he forbade my younger brother from telling me the same!

Although Dad left the Grenadiers in 1984 the Regiment has continued to play a huge part in his life, very much embodying the spirit of 'Once a Grenadier'. When the opportunity came to help raise money for The Colonel's Fund by cycling from Wellington Barracks to Waterloo he jumped at the opportunity. Many a person will have, as I do, happy memories of charging across Western Europe alongside Dad, more than one young officer was tested on the Belgian hills by the sight of Dad careening past them! Dad was inspirational to all in his wicked humour and hyena like laugh. Many a person has commented that to sit beside Dad was to feel like the funniest and most interesting person in the room, regardless of age or station. A true countryman Dad was never happier than with shotgun in hand and dog at his heel be it the finest shoot in the land or a morning of walked up. Generous to a fault you would never seem him smiling more than on the very rare occasion you were standing beside him and managed to wipe his eye.

It has always been said of Dad that he had three things in life that he truly treasured; his family and friends, his shooting, and his time as a Grenadier. Well before his proper time, Dad passed away peacefully in his sleep at home in February 2015, surrounded by friends and family having shot the last day of the season. Few could imagine a better way to go.



## Regimental Sergeant Major H Chaffer MM

Regimental Sergeant Major Henry (Jack) Chaffer, who has died aged 91, was born in army quarters at Kingston-upon-Thames on March 6

1924 The son of a regular soldier, Jack falsified his age to join the Grenadier Guards at 16, and suffered his first setback on sentry duty at Windsor Castle, when he was presenting arms as King George VI walked past with his dogs. As it was a hot day, and he was wearing a steel helmet and respirator on his chest, the King suggested that he might be more comfortable if he stepped back into the shade of a buttress. Chaffer's commanding officer was unimpressed by his account, however, and the young man spent three days in the guard room until an equerry confirmed his story. He received a week's leave in compensation.

Six months after marrying at 18, he sailed to North Africa as part of the newly raised 5th Battalion for the Tunisian campaign. He landed at Salerno for four months of bitter fighting, and then was sent to Naples for a rest, only to be ordered to join the amphibious assault on Anzio. Promoted Lance Sergeant, Chaffer was subsequently wounded and spent six weeks in hospital. Upon recovery, he was sent up to the Gothic Line near Florence where, on December 2 1944, he took part in a moonlight attack on a strong German position in the foothills of Monte Sole.

The Grenadiers were 70 yards from their objective when they came under a hail of machine-gun fire in which the officers and seven members of Chaffer's own platoon were casualties. Seeing his platoon commander lying seriously wounded, Chaffer rushed forward into a minefield and brought him back to safety. Assuming command of the platoon, he quickly recognised the precariousness of their position. By making use of the high ground they occupied to provide covering fire on to the enemy positions, however, he was able to extricate his men without further loss or injury.

The citation for his Military Medal described how "the courage, coolness and efficiency of this lance-sergeant has been notable throughout the whole of the present campaign and was, on this particular occasion, outstanding and a great inspiration and encouragement to his platoon." Chaffer returned home in August 1945 and after three weeks was posted to Germany as a colour sergeant. He was demobilised when 5th Battalion was disbanded, and worked briefly at the Hawker aircraft factory in Kingston.

When the Territorial Army was reformed in 1947, however, Chaffer immediately joined the local 'terrier' battalion of his father's regiment, the East Surreys, and was soon made an honorary member of the sergeants' mess. He spent so much of his spare time with them that it was suggested he should rejoin the regular Army and was signed on for a full 22 year

engagement. He became recruiting sergeant at Great Scotland Yard, where he had first enlisted, and served in Malaya, Aden and Cyprus. At one point he was provost sergeant, the position his father had also held 20 years earlier in India.

On retiring in 1976 from the Queen's, as the regiment had by then become, he joined the Tower of London where, at more than 6 ft tall and kitted out in Tudor state dress, he made one of the more impressive Beefeaters at the Tower, while his politically incorrect accounts of English history made him a favourite with the crowds. Jack Chaffer's wife, Doll, predeceased him in 2011. Their son and daughter survive him.

*By kind permission of the Daily Telegraph*



## LSgt E C Ross 2626319 Grenadier Guards

**E**ddie Ross enlisted as a regular on 18/09/44 one day before his 17th birthday having lied about his age. Following training he was posted to

Germany, several weeks after the German surrender. He was then posted to 3rd battalion destined for the invasion of Japan but prior to departing UK the Japanese surrendered.

In October 1945 the 3rd Battalion were sent to Palestine. As a young Guardsman during early operations he was successfully mentored by veterans of Tunisia and Italy. The next 30 months were spent on operations against Arab and Jewish terrorists. The Battalion returned to UK in 1948 but within a few months were again on active service in Malaya. The next 7 months were spent on operations in the jungle against communist bandits.

He returned to Windsor in 1948 performing public duties, including the King's Birthday Parade 1950. Despite his active service background he enjoyed public duties. In 1950 he was posted to 2nd Battalion in BAOR serving alongside his younger brother Len. Plenty of banter between Eddie, LSgt in a Rifle Company, and Len, Guardsman in the MT platoon.

Upon leaving the Army on 20/09/52 Eddie worked, until retirement, as an aeronautical fitter in the aircraft industry. Eddie served from 1971–1992 as a Captain in the Army Cadet Force as OC Welwyn Garden City Detachment. He passed on his military experience and enthusiasm to several generations of Cadets, many of whom joined the Army.

His wife of 50 years, Jean, predeceased him in 2001. He passed away peacefully aged 87 years following a long illness. Always a proud Grenadier to the end, his stories of his time in the Regiment will be missed by his family. He leaves behind his brother Len, son Mark, grandsons Chris, Dave and Tom and his great grandson Austin.



## Lord Montague of Beaulieu

**E**dward Montague, 3rd Baron, who died on 31st August 2015 at the age of 88, was born on 26th October 1926. He inherited the title and the Beaulieu Estate at the age of two on the death of his father, the second Lord Montague,

a motoring pioneer. His education at St Peter's Court, Broadstairs was interrupted by the Second World War when he was evacuated first to Devon, and then Canada, where he attended Ridley College, near Niagara Falls. Aged 16 he returned to Britain and went to Eton. Called up for military service, Lord Montague was commissioned into the Grenadier Guards in September 1945, and joined 3rd Battalion in Palestine where the British were mandated to keep the peace between the Jews and Arabs, while preventing bloodshed and destruction. He was promoted to Motor Transport Officer and involved in intensive internal security operations.

On leaving the Army as a Lieutenant in 1947, he went to New College, Oxford. In November 1947, he took his seat in the House of Lords and in January 1948 made his maiden speech on Palestine. He pointed out that in the past year "our soldiers have always behaved with the most remarkable restraint in the face of every provocation." On his 25th birthday in 1951, he took over the running of the Beaulieu Estate. The infamous Montague trials in 1953 and 1954 resulted in him being charged with homosexual acts, which were then illegal. He pleaded not guilty, but was given a 12 month sentence. In prison he worked in the tailors shop supervised by two prison officers, who were both former Grenadier Guards NCOs. On his release, his brother officers, led by Robin Leigh-Pemberton, later Lord Kingsdown gave a lunch for him in Soho. He immediately went about rebuilding his life and developing the estate.

He returned to the Lords in 1958 and was a regular participant in political life. When the 1999 reforms were implemented he was one of the Conservative hereditary peers elected to remain. By the mid-Sixties, Beaulieu was attracting over half a million visitors a year and in 1974, the National Motor Museum was awarded the prestigious National Heritage Museum of the Year. Having played a major role in the Historic Houses Association he was appointed first chairman of English Heritage in 1983. His candid autobiography, *Wheels within Wheels*, was published in 2002. He wrote: "Of all the institutions with which I have been connected, the Guards have always been the most conspicuously loyal." He was a Vice President of the Wessex Branch of the Grenadier Guards Association, and member of the 1st Guards Club.

In 1959, he married Belinda Crossley with whom he had a son, Ralph, and a daughter, Mary. The marriage was dissolved in 1974, after which he married Fiona Herbert with whom he had a second son, Jonathan, in 1975. He is survived by Fiona and his children. His elder son, Ralph succeeds to the barony.



# GRENADIER GUARDS ASSOCIATION

**Patron:** Her Majesty The Queen

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

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

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

## **Life Vice Presidents:**

Captain H.C. Jenkins  
Captain B.E. Thompson, BEM  
Colonel G.W. Tufnell, CVO, DL  
Colonel D.H.C. Gordon Lennox  
Colonel A.T.W. Duncan, LVO, OBE  
Lieutenant Colonel A. Héroys  
Major General Sir Michael Hobbs, KCVO, CBE  
Major General B.C. Gordon Lennox, CB, MBE  
Brigadier M.S. Bayley, MBE  
Major General Sir Evelyn Webb-Carter,  
KCVO, OBE

Captain B.D. Double  
Major R.G. Woodfield, MBE  
Mr R.E. Jones  
Mr H.J.L. Mansell  
Colonel E.T. Bolitho, OBE  
Lieutenant Colonel C.J.E. Seymour, LVO  
Lieutenant Colonel T.J. Tedder  
Captain (QM) T.A. Rolfe  
Colonel E.H. Houstoun, OBE

## **Executive Committee:**

### **The President (Chairman)**

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

**Captain B.D. Double** (Life Vice President)

**Major General Sir George Norton, KVCQ, CBE** (Regimental Lieutenant Colonel)

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

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

**Lieutenant Colonel A.R. McKay, MBE** (Commanding Officer 1st Battalion Grenadier Guards)

**Major N.A. Strachan** (Officer Commanding Nijmegen Company Grenadier Guards)

**W01 (RSM) M. Howlin** (Sergeant Major 1st Battalion Grenadier Guards)

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

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

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

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

**Mr D.G. Money, MBE** (Southern Area Representative)

**Mr S. Vaughan** (South Eastern Area Representative)

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

**Association Headquarters:** Wellington Barracks, Birdcage Walk, London SW1E 6HQ

Tel: (020) 7414 3285 Fax: (020) 7222 4309

Email: [assnco@grengds.com](mailto:assnco@grengds.com)

Website: [www.grengds.com](http://www.grengds.com)

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

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

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

## OBJECTS OF THE ASSOCIATION

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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.</li> <li>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</li> </ol> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>nature and that the funds of the Association permit.</li> <li>3. To circulate information concerning the Regiment and the advantages of service therein, and to encourage desirable candidates to join.</li> <li>4. To arrange meetings in London or such other place as may help to promote the objects herein before.</li> </ol> |
|--|---|

## 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.

### 6 ADMINISTRATION

#### 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.

## 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.*

## 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 Humphries ACO Manchester  
Sgt Smith ACO Stoke  
LSgt Casburn ACO Birmingham  
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  
Dmr King Outreach West Midlands

### Regimental Support Team

Capt Bearder Regimental Recruiting Officer  
CSgt Fry RST Comd  
Gdsm Silver 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](mailto:assnnco@grengds.com) or on the Regimental Website [www.grengds.com](http://www.grengds.com)*

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

**Overseas:** North America.

## BRANCHES OF THE HOUSEHOLD DIVISION ASSOCIATION

*The following shows the location of all Branches of the Household Division Association. Further details can be obtained from Association HQ on 020 7414 3285 or email [assnnco@grengds.com](mailto: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 Norfolk Dining Club

by *Ross Donaldson*

The year of 2015 has proved to be a quiet year, in some contrast to 2014!

In February we sadly lost **Bill Cross**. (14580995 K W Cross – 1st Bn 1944 – 1947). Bill had been unwell for some time and had not been fit enough to attend dinners regularly but we had managed to get him to our dinner at Sandringham with The Colonel last year and to all our lunches at Thetford, all of which he thoroughly enjoyed.

Unfortunately several ideas for 'Days Out', including a hoped for visit to Waterloo, never came to fruition but in September we got together to visit the local Radar Museum which is housed above a disused cold war air defence control bunker deep underground. Very interesting! From there we moved on to look at Langham Dome. This is a WWII Gunnery Training Dome situated on the now disused Langham RAF Station. **Patrick Allen**, the Norfolk Branch President is also Chairman of the Langham Dome Preservation Group which has made such a good job of restoring the building. Needless to say the weather behaved as it so often seems to for a Dining Club Day Out – very badly, with driving rain and a cold wind. We were very glad to retire to the Allen's where Mrs A served a delicious and very welcome hot Supper!

The Thetford Lunches are proving most enjoyable and are attracting more Grenadiers each time. For the

November gathering we had 25 – not only from Norfolk but from Suffolk, Cambridgeshire and we even tempted **Barry Double** out for the day. This was up from the May Lunch of 20 and the November 2014 Lunch of 11. We do hope that any Grenadier reading this who lives within reach of Thetford will seriously think of joining us; a simple lunch, pleasant venue and convivial Grenadier company.

To close on a note of enthusiasm we have been very pleased to make contact and welcome back three Grenadiers who have been 'out of contact' with the Regiment for a long time: **John Elliott, Al Cameron and Ken Wheal**. Very interesting that it turns out that both John Elliott and Ken Wheal were, at some point in their Grenadier careers, Barrack Room Trained Soldiers to two of our existing members! Thankfully there did not seem to be any lasting animosity.

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 and relaxing.

The Dining Evening dates for 2016 are:

**April 22nd, June 17th, August 19th, October 21st and December 2nd.**

Alternatively, the provisional dates for lunches at Thetford will be **May 11th** and **November 9th**, both Wednesdays. Just give the Club organiser, **Ross Donaldson** a call on 01692 598336 or e-mail [norfolkclub@grenads.com](mailto:norfolkclub@grenads.com) for all details. We really hope to hear from you.



The May Lunch at Thetford Golf Club

**Standing:** Brian Chandler, Roy Ibson, Henry Ford, Steve Tuck, Ray Holland, Al Cameron, Bill Goffin, Bill Willsher, Tom Perkins, Kingsley Minns, Barry Lovelace, Mick Draper.

**Seated:** Mick Ayres, Allan Phillips, Ross Donaldson, Peter Sanderson, Rob Cooper, Darrell Beckett, Bernie Taylor, Tony Willsher.

# The Grenadier Guards Commemorative Kneeler Appeal

by *Ross Donaldson*

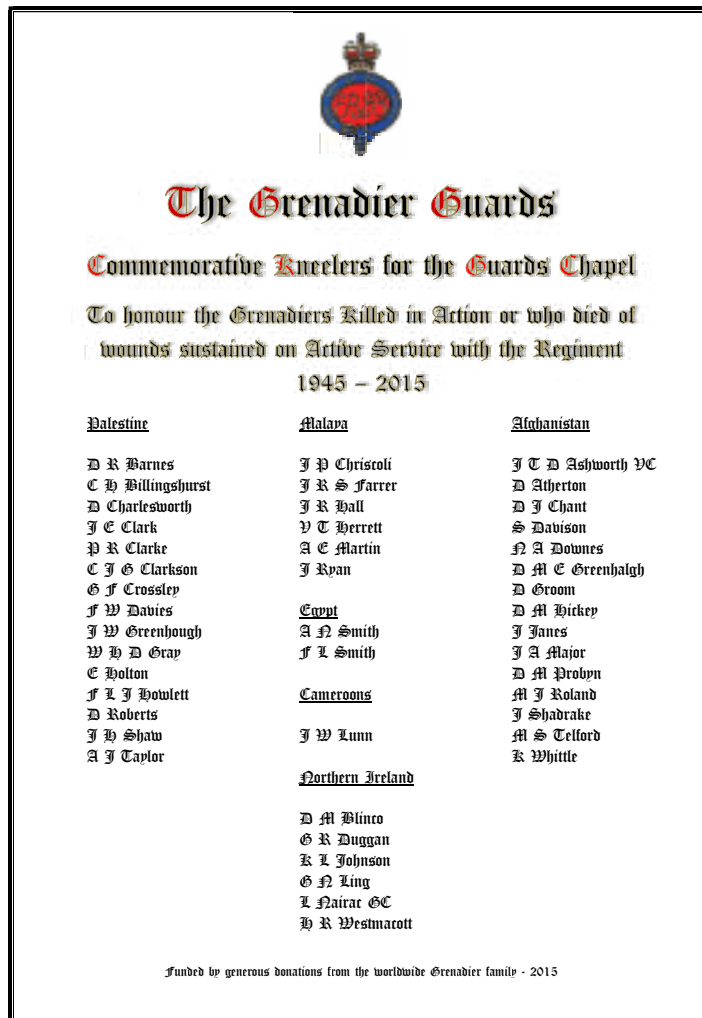
I can at last report that a final list of casualties from the Palestine Campaign has been established and the Kneelers will be produced shortly. Fortunately, even with a small increase in the cost of production, we have sufficient from the Appeal to cover all the names, with enough remaining for one more. With the agreement of Regimental Headquarters this will be in the name of 'Grenadiers Reunited', in keeping with the spirit of the Appeal and to acknowledge the very significant part played

by Jim White's weekly electronic newsletter of that name.

A list of all the Grenadiers commemorated with a Kneeler has been compiled and is shown here.

It is our hope that a suitably framed copy of this scroll, printed on vellum paper, will be exhibited in The Guards Chapel and also that a space can be found at Regimental Headquarters. If any of the Branches that donated to the Appeal would like a copy, do please let me know and I will be pleased to send you one.

Again, huge thanks must go to all the people who have donated. It really was the most amazing response to the Appeal and I hope that everyone who gave so generously approves the result. If I have an address or an e-mail for a donor I will, over the next weeks, make every effort to thank everyone personally but if I inadvertently miss anyone do please take this as sincere thanks for supporting this Appeal in true Grenadier tradition.



## REGIMENTAL REMEMBRANCE DAY 2015



Clockwise from the top: Bernard Taylor (Suffolk) and Terry Taylor (Surrey), the Wreath Bearers; Last Post at the Guards Memorial; Mark Worsfold (Kingston) entertaining the President; Jeff Smith (Assistant Secretary Nottinghamshire) with his wife Edna; The Lieutenant Colonel and Joanna Houstoun; Sgt Lockley (1st Bn) on Colour Point Duty.





## Len (Tiger) Payne

by *Pat Mason*

**2**622889 **Len Payne** died suddenly in his sleep on Monday 21st October 2014. We were unable to obtain any information about his funeral but we knew he was cremated and his ashes scattered at Pontefract Castle.

He was known as **Tiger** because of the Tigers head tattooed on his chest. Tiger joined the Regiment in the 1940s and was sent to Germany. He served in Egypt, Tripoli, Cyprus, The Cameroons, returned to Germany and then finally in Pirbright. He was a great Master Cook, his buffets were famous, the likes of which will not be seen in the Regimental Messes again. Nothing was too much trouble for him and he would help anyone who needed it. Tiger had a great sense of a humour, a quick wit and many funny stories to tell. When he left the Regiment he became a chef for the Prison Service.

He was a member and great supporter of the Caterham Branch for many years and became Chairman of the Branch in 1999 when **John Mayes** left to move to Sussex. He kept the Branch going with the other officials, until the



falling attendance made it unsustainable. We had our farewell Dinner and Dance on the 19th November 2011.

Tiger was instrumental along with others in arranging for a tree to be planted in the Arboretum and a bench to be put on the sports field in Caterham Barracks with two plaques; one for the Caterham Branch of the Grenadier Guards Association and the other reading 'Donated by the Caterham Branch in Honour of All Guardsmen who Marched Through Caterham'.

On 16 March 2015 former members and friends of the Caterham Branch, some 20 in all, met at Caterham Barracks to say our farewell to Len. Arrangements had been made by **Robert Baynham**, formerly Welsh Guards and a stalwart of the Branch, for a plaque for Tiger to be put on the bench we bought when the Caterham Branch was closed. It reads; 'Tiger Payne Grenadier Guards passed away 26 10 2014'. Robert provided two bunches of flowers – red roses and yellow daffodils. We had a superb trumpeter who played Abide with Me, Last Post and Reveille. We also had a tot of wine each and made a toast to Tiger.

The bench is on the road side by the playing field, which the developers have kept and is worth a visit if you are ever in the area. The whole development has been well done apart from the garish Tesco Supermarket just inside the gate where the Guardroom used to be. What a shame they never had a statue of a Guardsman instead of the awful pillar block. Tiger was a very proud Grenadier and will be greatly missed by his many friends.





Trevor Jones of the East Kent Branch and Treasurer et al. of the Whitecliffs Shooting Club in Dover. Trevor is pictured here in November 2015 at Hythe Ranges and is taken back to the time when he and Gdsm Lodge won the South East Asia Sniper Pairs competition whilst serving with the 2nd Battalion in Hong Kong in 1975.

## Presentation of The Légion D'honneur

by Barry Taylor

On Friday 27th November 2015 over 40 family members, friends and Association members gathered to honour two members of Wigan, St. Helens & District Branch. 2622146 Leonard Harmer and 2623818 Eric Radcliffe are both recipients of the Légion d'honneur awarded by the Government of France and a special presentation ceremony was arranged for them to formerly receive their medals. The ceremony took place at Alexandra Care Home (Leonard is a resident) where the Mayor of Wigan, Councillor Susan Loudon pinned the medals onto the chests of both men.

This was a special day for Eric and Leonard and everyone present felt nothing but pride in them. The reading of a message from the Regimental Lieutenant



Colonel added extra meaning to the occasion. The photograph above was taken after the ceremony. L – R Barry Taylor (Branch President and Secretary), Len Harmer, the Mayor, Eric Radcliffe and Mike Thompson.

## Household Division Charity Short Break at Highbullen, Devon: October 25–28 2015

by Mrs Phyllida Middlemiss

*The 2015 October half term saw the Household Division Charity arrange a short break for a group of eight bereaved Household Division families at a Country House Hotel in north Devon called Highbullen. This was a consequence of The Major General and trustees of the Household Division Charity along with Regimental Adjutants of the Household Cavalry and Foot Guards Regiments collectively recognising the importance of promoting positive support to such families. The Household Division Charity endeavoured to extend an invitation to all bereaved Household Division families with children; a key aim of the initiative being to provide an on-going support network for the children of deceased service personnel, many of whom had been unborn, or very young, when their father had died and who may have never met other children whose parents had also died in service. Huge recognition and credit must go to Mrs Sheenie Chant who started the initiative originally several years ago until handing over responsibility for this year's event, adopted so generously by Mrs Phyllida Middlemiss and who has written the following short report.*

The October half term initiative grew out of a Household Division welfare weekend that had taken place at Centre Parks in Wiltshire in 2014; one of several previous attempts at getting a group of widows and children together arranged by Mrs Sheenie Chant. On that occasion, the group of about 20 adults and children only met up with each other on the last afternoon; nonetheless, the adults present were struck

by the instant bond that the children seemed to forge and there was definitely a special feeling in the way that they all played together and looked out for each other in the huge Centre Parks swimming pool. At the end of that afternoon, I was stunned when my 11 year daughter, busy arranging knives and forks, started a conversation with a 9 year old by asking her, "How old were you when your daddy died" – and then they both proceeded, quite happily and without any awkwardness, to talk about their fathers whilst they laid the table together. The trust and acceptance in that exchange was enormous and in marked contrast to the endeavours that my three children make to avoid talking about their father in their everyday life. As they have explained to me many times; I don't like saying that Papa is dead because it's awkward and people don't then know what to say to me. I recently discovered that my 10 year old son – always looking for practical, low emotion solutions – often simply says that Daddy is away on business. And my youngest daughter, on being asked at the start of the school year to write about herself and her family, wrote "My Dad doesn't live with us any more". In short, it's hard being different.

Following on from Centre Parks, the general feed-back provided to the Household Division Charity was that the idea of a short break was sound but that it could be more 'intimate' than the experience provided by Centre Park, where we were guests with several hundred others. Further, since some of the families had benefited greatly from working with a national bereavement charity called Winston's Wish, we would be missing a trick if we didn't include a counselling element. Finally, it seemed that the group should not just be aimed at widows and their children, but that it should be widened to include any family grouping where there were children of deceased service personnel; i.e. grandparents in care of the children and families where there had been a subsequent re-marriage. A plan was hatched, with the icing on the cake being that all the Household Division Regiments contributed funds to ensure that there was minimum cost to families whatever their experiences.

So it was that, during the 2015 October half term, a group consisting of 6 women, 2 men and 16 children aged from 14 months to 16 years old met up at the Highbullen Golf and Country Club in North Devon for 3 nights of ... well, we weren't quite sure, to be honest, but we all knew that: it looked like a nice hotel on the edge of the moors; children (and dogs) were definitely welcome; Winston's Wish, funded by Help for Heroes, were coming for a day of voluntary activities; there was an indoor pool and table tennis room that should keep the children busy (important given the vagaries of the British weather); the Household Division Charity were kindly laying on an adult dinner in the very good restaurant (and baby sitters to sit on the children whilst we enjoyed ourselves); and that if it didn't work out, there were plenty of activities in north Devon with which we could fill our days.

We needn't have worried. The hotel couldn't have been more welcoming, and with all the staff really working hard





to make us feel at home, it didn't take long for the children to gel. Within a very short time, the pack of 16 (most of whom had not met before) were buzzing around the grounds playing billiards together, rugby on the golf course (sorry), endless monkeying around in the swimming pool, walking the dogs in the woods and really looking out for each other. Joyce and Lorraine, aged 1 and 3 and Joseph and Johnny, 3 year old twins, stole the show and had everyone running around after them. But all the children had a huge amount of fun, whatever their age, and the older teenagers even went off one afternoon to 'surf the wave' in Croyde before returning to a delicious, and very good humoured group supper and yet more billiards – a game that seemed to appeal to all ages. Hannah and Sophie Thorneloe have since made these lovely observations:

*"I enjoyed it because I felt that everyone there was my friend and I didn't have to explain why my daddy wasn't there, because sometimes that's really hard. The Winston's Wish team let us go and talk to them about what we felt like and if they could help. They gave me "A pocket full of plasters", which is a really good little book, which tells me what to do when you are in a muddle and I don't know what to do about not having my Daddy there to help me. I made really good friends with everyone and would love to see them again."*

*"When everyone had arrived it was quite late, but we all had one big great game of the night playing 'it' in the dark with all our new friends. Soon everyone was playing together like they had known each other for ages. We took part in a workshop with Winston's Wish which made me feel that our family is a team. The weekend made me feel far more confident about being a family of 3 not 4 and that this is OK."*

And, of course, as any parent knows, a happy child means a happy adult. The following are extracts from letters received after the weekend and sum up our positive experience perfectly. Thank you so much to the Household Division welfare arm and to William Style in particular, for making this possible.

*"It was good to meet other parents and their children, and having time to chat about things in a calm atmosphere. The boys especially enjoyed meeting new friends and talked about this for several days after we left. The session with Winston Wish was also very productive for us personally and gave us lots of ideas about how we can support the boys as they get older. The hotel was comfortable and the food excellent."*

*"I arrived home from our break away at High Bullen, feeling calm and quietly re-assured we are still moving ever onwards in the right direction. Winston's Wish was a positive move. It was good to spend time in the company of others, swapping news, information and sharing our lives and experiences. Thank you for making this possible."*

*"We had a lovely relaxing time at the hotel and were made to feel very welcome from the minute we arrived. All the staff were lovely and I particularly liked the opportunity for a meal with Adults only. I have never left the children with anyone other than family before so my daughter was especially anxious about the baby sitter coming, but all the girls who came to babysit were amazing with the children."*



*"When I returned they had played monopoly, watched TV and dressed the dog up in a tutu! She loved it and asked when they could have a baby sitter again. This was a real treat to me so thank you all involved for our lovely relaxing retreat."*

*"I wanted to write to thank you so very much for all your time and effort organising the few marvellous days in Devon. I cannot tell you how much it meant to me. I'm not sure if I have reached a stage where I am able to see beyond the pain of it or whether it was the group, the place, the freedom of time to share without constraint, I don't know but I came away so much stronger and more at peace. Knowing and feeling just how much suffering there has been within our group touched me deeply. I think it is so important to be connected and so hope this initiative will continue. I am sure all will agree; we really need this. The activity was eye opening, rather distrustful from bad experience but I got so much out of that. Thank you so much for organising that too. The children had a wonderful, wonderful time and looking at them all, what fabulous young people!"*

*The Household Division Charity intends to sponsor a similar short break in 2016, probably at Highbullen during the October 2016 half term. Please contact William Style – [hdf-treasurer@gmail.com](mailto:hdf-treasurer@gmail.com) – if you would like to be included or know of someone who may be interested in being included.*



## The Colonel's Fund At Work

by Matt Delaney

I would like to thank the Grenadier Guards Colonel's Fund, along with the Regimental Casualty Officer Matthew Ellmer, whose support and hard work have been invaluable.

I sustained a serious injury to my leg whilst on a tour in South Armagh in 1991. I was part of a multiple of Grenadiers attached to the 2nd Battalion Coldstream Guards. After six months in Musgrave Park Hospital, Belfast followed by seven months at RAF Headley Court, I was returned to the Battalion only to be medically discharged the following year in 1993.

Since my discharge my injuries had started to deteriorate,



On my rehabilitation programme that proved so beneficial.

and over the past six years I have undergone several bouts of surgery and had more metal work put in to my ankle. The nerve damage to my lower leg and ankle is still extensive, so earlier this year I was offered a below the knee amputation.

After speaking to BLESMA, I was put in contact with an Army Surgeon, Lieutenant Colonel Cubison, who'd been using a pioneering new device at RAF Headley Court. This device (an exoskeleton), had

been developed by the US Military to negate the need for below the knee amputations. It had been used so successfully at Headley Court that the team using it wanted to roll it out to veterans and civilians who were seeking amputation for lower leg injuries. Lieutenant Colonel Cubison felt I would be an ideal candidate; unfortunately, the device isn't available on the NHS and not available to veterans. As it costs approximately £5,000 and the vital rehab could only be carried out by the team at Headley Court, and Headley Court don't offer rehab for veterans, I felt my only option was to go for the amputation.

Lieutenant Colonel Cubison suggested seeking the vital funding from one of the various military charities and as I wasn't aware of the Colonel's Fund I didn't know where to start. I was explaining this to a mate on Facebook, Justin Lee, who told me about the Fund and that I should approach the Regiment. After calling Regimental Headquarters and speaking with Major Andy Green I was put in contact with Matthew Ellmer; within a week Matt was sat at my kitchen table asking how the Regiment could help.

Thanks to the Colonel's Fund and Matt Ellmer the device and the private rehabilitation programme (costing a further £2,500) have been fully funded. I have now completed the rehabilitation programme which was two weeks of hard physiotherapy and I'm now getting back to some previously enjoyed pastimes and even looking forward to a return to work after 6 years of ill health.

Thanks to everyone who has raised money for the Fund, it really has had a massive impact on my life.



Happy at home.



## The Finest ACF Regimental Visit: Shropshire ACF – May 2015

*by Lieutenant Colonel G Newbrook (ACF)  
Deputy Commandant Shropshire ACF*

During Whitsun, members of Shropshire Army Cadet Force spent six days with No 2 Company, 1st Battalion Grenadier Guards. The visit was designed for the Cadets to gain an insight into the life of a regular soldier in the Grenadier Guards, which the County is affiliated to. The visit also served to strengthen the partnership between Shropshire ACF and the Battalion.

The exciting programme was filled with different activities ranging from ceremonial duties to fieldcraft, which reflects the unique mix of duties of the Grenadier Guards that has gained the regiment its high reputation across the world. From dawn till dusk, the Cadets were active and on occasions were privileged to see sights not usually afforded to the general public.

**Day 1 – Central London.** The first day was spent in and around Westminster; centre of the UK government and historic landmarks including the Houses of Parliament, Big Ben, the Treasury and Cabinet Offices, Horse Guards Parade, Trafalgar Square, and Buckingham Palace which is next door to Wellington Barracks, home to Nijmegen Company Grenadier Guards. The group also visited the Imperial War Museum that has endless exhibits that provide stories and experiences of how modern war and conflict has shaped peoples' lives. The

Cadets were overwhelmed by their experience in the centre of London and the hustle and bustle of the city. Previous visits to London had been to a specific location by coach and limited to the views through a window.



**Day 2 – Ceremonial and Operational Duties.** The second day was spent with No 2 Company and commenced by looking at their preparations for the State Opening of Parliament, specifically the marching and drill sequences for this event. Mid-morning, the Cadets were briefed and then completed a short lecture on Fire and Manoeuvre. After completing the theory, the Cadets travelled to the training area and demonstrated their newly developed understanding of the subject. All of the Cadets thoroughly enjoyed the demonstrations and being given the opportunity to participate themselves, under the watchful eye of regular soldiers from the Battalion.

The Cadets walked taller and prouder from the training area, each of them having their own stories of how they spotted the enemy first!

**Day 3 – Ceremonial Duties at Windsor Castle.** No 2 Company's Second in Command was the Officer of the Guard at the Castle. The Cadets were given a guided tour of the Guardroom, introduced to some of the soldiers and then taken on a guided tour of the Officers flat in the castle which is steeped in history. The Cadets enjoyed listening to the stories behind the carvings on the wall and laughed at the fact that, regardless of their regiment, every Officer that stays there sleeps in a bed made by the Grenadier Guards! The Cadets





then walked round the castle where they spoke to ex Grenadiers who now work as guides. The Cadets enjoyed talking to them about their experiences and the guides in turn showed their appreciation by letting them enter the exhibits without queueing.

**Day 4 – Fieldcraft.** On day four, the Cadets joined elements of No 2 Company on the ranges. They completed concurrent activities based around Fieldcraft and then rotated around the SA80, the GPMG and the LMG. All of the Cadets successfully hit the target with each of the weapons although some slightly better than others. Firing a burst on the GPMG turned the smallest cadet into a giant and she walked away with a huge grin on her face. After a very quick turnaround, that evening we travelled to the Tower of London to witness the Ceremony of the Keys. Again, this is something that not many people get to see and the Cadets listened carefully to the information being given and then stood silently throughout the ceremony. This was another highlight that the Cadets identified as being something they would never forget.

**Day 5 – Drill.** The penultimate day was spent at Lille Barracks again to complete a drill session under the command of one of the Platoon Sergeants and the Cadets were subsequently ‘dismissed’ from the Battalion and their visit to the Grenadier Guards.

**Day 6 – Ceremonial Duties.** The final day was spent witnessing the Major General’s Review on Horse Guards. The Cadets watched the event from St James Park, stood with The Kings Troop, Royal Horse Artillery. The Cadets

learnt a lot during their visit and experienced even more. It is these experiences that they will continue to talk about for the rest of their ACF careers if not their lives. Whether it be the Ceremony of the Keys, firing bursts on the GPMG and LMG or conducting contact drills with regular soldiers, I am sure that this group of cadets will confirm that their week with the 1st Battalion Grenadier Guards has been one of the best, most action packed and enjoyable weeks of their time with Shropshire Army Cadet Force and an experience from which unforgettable memories have been forged.



## Bearskins Veterans Rugby – Saturday 18th April 2015

by *Pete Hales*

I took part in the Darren Chant Memorial Trophy in 2014 and as an egg chaser a few people enquired why we couldn't do the same thing with a rugby match?

I have been coaching at Loughborough RUFC for ten years and heard about a Veterans Tournament that they were arranging. I tentatively enquired if I could enter a team which would be predominantly made up of ex-Guardsman and would proudly be called The Bearskins Veterans. The more the merrier was the response so I took to the wonderful medium that is Facebook and set about recruiting a band of merry men to come together play rugby and maybe have a little to drink!

The response was overwhelming and so the wheels were set in motion, we had a very generous offer of sponsorship for a set of shirts, which due to the demand became two sets of shirts! AAA sports provided one set and donations from the Nottinghamshire, Northamptonshire and Leicestershire Branches of the Association meant that 42 shirts could be ordered in all.

Unfortunately due to some of the sizes being XXXXL the original manufacturer could not provide enough material although another was soon found. There was also the problem that everyone that I used to play with who was then a Back had all become Forwards! Everyone wanted a personal number which again proved problematical and so it was decided that all the shirts would be adorned with BRB on the back thus preventing any argument.

So the scene was set, the shirts had arrived and now we just needed a team. It was planned that those with a long distance to travel would do so on the Friday and partake in

the famous Hales hospitality. The first to arrive were Kev and Martin Smith, who had driven up from Devon, closely followed by Darren Smith and last but not least Shane Lawton who had ventured all the way down from Glasgow. After the usual warm greetings we set off to the pub to discuss tactics and generally just catch up, here we were joined by Mark Sanders-Crook who was staying at a local hotel. We had a 'few' and then retired to Guardsman's Rest to prepare for the following days tournament.

The night was spent wondering if anybody else would turn up. Did I have enough shirts? What tactics should we use? I couldn't sleep and decided to rouse the troops, they too were keen and raring to go and so we set off for Loughborough Rugby Club. We were the first to arrive but the kitchen was churning out bacon cobs and tea so all was not lost. We were soon joined by Ray Cox and his family; I was starting to feel like Yul Brinner in the Magnificent Seven but I need not have worried as we soon had the makings of a team.

Neil Trebble although a footballing legend (apparently), always wanted to play rugby, Mark Harding, Paul Mizzi, Steve Rimmer, Jason Sunderland, Geoff Clampin, Steve Penney, Jason (White Shorts) Dando, Andy Clark, Major Robin Reames, Andy Daniels, Mark Briggs, Paul Green, Rob Bullock, Carl Johnson, Martin Meager, Simon Frazer, Rob Creighton and Iain Maynard, a fantastic mix of old, bald and not so old and bald 26 good men and true turned in ready to play rugby, drink beer and generally enjoy themselves.

The Tournament was run in a two league system with a semi-final between the first and second in each league. I gathered the troops in a changing room thanked them all for coming hoped that they would enjoy themselves and get plenty of game time. Our first game would be against Ampthill RUFC Veterans a team that had been playing together for quite a while; fortunately they had also been drinking since 0700hrs so maybe we could give them a decent game.



The Author – Front, Centre and Prone.





**“Come on I’ve nicked the ball” – Ray Cox and Paul Mizzi.**

### **Bearskins 28 v Ampthill 5**

Selection for our first match had taken place and it appeared that we had every position covered apart from Scrum Half (so that would be me then!). To say that we looked rusty at first may be a bit of an understatement, with our first meaningful ball dropped by Robin Reames (sorry Robin); Ampthill pounced and scored a try. Support had started to gather with Grenadiers on their way to Skid Dorney’s retirement bash stopping off for some light refreshment and entertainment en route.

All was not lost and we realised that if we managed to get the ball out to Iain Maynard standing 6’ 4” and full of muscle we may stand a chance. The forwards ably led by Ray Cox started to get the upper hand and the ball sailed along the back line (I am allowed artistic licence) to the big man who set off at a trot that turned into a gallop that turned into a sprint, swatting defenders like flies to score under the posts; the crowd went wild and Martin Meager duly converted.

Half time came and went in far too quick a blur for most. Paul Mizzi had taken to being the voice of inspiration and rallied the troops for more of the same, tackles were being made with Rob Bullock and Mark Briggs flying around smashing anything that moved closely followed by the Flankers (I did say flankers) Jason ‘white shorts’ Dando and Darren ‘ouch that hurt’ Smith winning ball at the breakdown that was again fed to Maynard who repeated his heroics of the first half and scored again.... oh and again, both duly converted by Mr Meager.

Then came the move of the match with Mizzi passing to Rimmer, he in turn to Kev Smith who popped a pass to brother Martin who dummied before releasing Shane Lawton who still had work to do and those watching from the side didn’t think that he would. With arms and legs pumping he set off towards the posts to score a memorable try and seal the Bearskins Veterans a fine victory. A special mention must go to Jason Sunderland who played for Ampthill and was their best player. He seemed to enjoy smashing into his Guardsmen friends a little too much!

### **Bearskins 0 v Ashby 7**

The next game was against the much fancied Ashby who had been playing together for many years. Changes to the Bearskins line-up were made so that everyone got a game. Mad Dog Clampin and Steve ‘its relaxed muscle’ Penney were brought in to bolster the front row. Andy Daniels and Paul Green into the second row and Andy ‘Nobby’ Clark who was heard to mutter on more than one occasion “I’m too old for this”, “Hales I owe you one” and “why oh why was there no BMX racing this weekend” was

brought in on the flank. Unfortunately our now not so secret weapon young Mr Maynard had not practised what he preached and was struggling with his hamstrings. Not to worry as we still had Neil ‘I used to drive Beckham to training’ Trebble chomping at the bit. After explaining to him what way to run, pass, tackle and where to stand we were ready; what could possibly go wrong?

It proved to be a tense match with no quarter asked or given. The tackling from both sides was ferocious and it was in this game that we lost young Darren Smith who although proclaiming he would be fine and wanted to play on, had actually ruptured his Achilles tendon; a fact that he did not discover for another two weeks! Having been level at nil all at half time the clock ticked down towards the end of the match. The Bearskins had enjoyed the majority of possession and Ashby were conceding penalty after penalty; something had to give. With shouts of “take the bloody points” ringing in their ears as the final seconds



**“Get off its mine” – Kev Smith.**





**Rob Creighton – “who needs a ladder”.**

approached, it was decided that would not be in the spirit of the festival so we would kick to the corner. Unfortunately Steve Rimmer under cooked his kick and Ashby proceeded to run the ball back and score under the posts with the last play of the game. Final score Bearskins 0 Ashby 7.

#### **Bearskins 0 v Loughborough 42 (ish)**

Our final match saw us take on the hosts and by now most spectators were following the Bearskins. We had attracted many new friends with our banter and over-vigorous shaking of charity buckets (thanks to the Cox girls). The fact that the majority of the Loughborough team were young enough to still be playing 1st team rugby did not deter us as we stepped into the fray buoyed by the fact that the majority of the crowd actually wanted us to win!

By now our squad was depleted having suffered numerous injuries with some more serious than others. The first half got under way and it was soon evident that Loughborough, who were warming up for the County final, were not only younger but also quicker than us. Four unanswered tries were scored before half time came but we wanted to make sure everyone got a run out so

changes were then made. More importantly Paul Mizzi gave the sort of Churchillian half time speech that made the hairs stand up on the back of our necks. Needless to say this is a family magazine and as such much of what was said cannot be committed to print!

It went along the lines of “they are taking the micky, we are Grenadiers, we have been to war! No more tries; if needs be I will start a fight and you will all follow” Thankfully we played a lot better in the second half, managing to prevent them scoring quite so often. The referee finally put us out of our misery and blew the final whistle at Bearskins 0 Loughborough 42 (ish).

At this point we all got in a huddle. I thanked each and every man for turning up and helping raise some money for the Colonel’s Fund. It was agreed that this should become a regular occurrence and we trooped off to rapturous rounds of applause. It was beer o’clock so we retired to the bar and the festivities began. There was a presentation and this gave us the chance to once again let people know who we were raising money for. We received a trophy which everyone agreed we would give to our player of the tournament and by unanimous decision it went to Ray Cox. Later that evening we retired to Loughborough where the party was in full swing. I would go into details but as any rugby player knows ‘what happens on tour stays on tour’.

Finally I would like to thank all the players, friends and their families for their support, the good people of Loughborough RUFC who made us feel incredibly welcome and our sponsors for the shirts. We managed to raise the grand total of £1265.51 which was handed over to the Regiment on Black Sunday.

The plan is to make this an annual event so if you are keen either to pull on your boots or just come and support please watch this space!



**Neil Trebble and Iain Maynard –“I told him, I was a footballer”.**

## Battlefield Touring with a Dirty Grenade (Part V)

by 24417868 'Fingers' WORSFOLD

It has been several years since the Wellington 2 Waterloo Charity Cycle Ride and I had still been unable to journey any closer to 'my' beloved battlefield. During that momentous charity event I was bewildered to see and meet some of the 'old and bold', dressed in full bib and tucker, on the P&O ferry crossing to Calais. A few were familiar faces whom I'd had the honour of serving with many moons ago. But what puzzled me, at that time, was what were they doing there? They obviously weren't cycling, being clean, polished and pressed, rather than the hot, sweaty, aromatic, aching Lycra clad entourage I was accompanying. They looked clean, relaxed and enjoying themselves on the short Channel crossing with no hint of trepidation at the two day slog across Flanders Fields.

I was to find out later that this was the first 'Cockpit Grenadier' battlefield tour organised by RHQ to coincide with the W2W ride. I was to have joined this group for a day on completion of the 3 day cycle before returning to the UK, on a guided tour of Waterloo. Alas the fates intervened and I was prevented from doing so by unseen hands (*you'll have to go back through your old 2014 Gazette to find out why and read the full story*). Suffice to say, despite having been enthralled with Napoleonic history since a small boy, I have never, ever managed to get to that monumental battlefield – Waterloo; so deeply ingrained in the Grenadier persona and psyche!

But then, thanks to Major Andy Green (and others), I possibly had another chance. There was to be another 'Cockpit Grenadier' battlefield tour; and this is the best bit, in the same year as the 200th Anniversary of the Battle. The fates were now surely smiling?

Places booked, bags packed, passports checked, history revised, maps gleaned, I was ready. This time nothing was going to stop me. I even dragged my 84 year old mother along (she would only have sat at home and watched 'Strictly!'). I had hoped to bring along my 18 year old nephew, whom I nearly recruited into the Regiment, but he began his first year at University on the day we departed, studying . . . Military History!

As on the W2W Cycle ride I (we) checked into the excellent Union Jack Club. Tea & Coffee would be served in the Officers Mess Ante-Room at Wellington the following morning and we had to be seated on the coach and ready by 0800 hrs. I didn't want to take chances so a night in London seemed prudent.

Bags were loaded, toilets visited, bums placed on seats and the pax list checked. The guard on the West Picquet gate attentively hauled the gates open, and we were off in a trice, dashing into the morning rush hour. At last I was on my way....to Waterloo! But then I hadn't reckoned on

the organisational skills of the Association Treasurer. A quick tour of Parliament Square and we were suddenly heading back down Birdcage Walk, through the West Picquet Gate and back to the Officers' Mess. Had the fates intervened again? No. It seems he had left his mobile phone behind.

Then we had another problem. None of us are getting any younger and no sooner had the coach drawn to a halt inside the gate when there was a steady stream disembarking back into the Officer's Mess to answer the call of nature or to take a quick fag break. Major Green had the unenviable task of shepherding and cajoling us back into our seats. But achieve this he did and once more we were on our way.

Next stop Dover! Well, Thurrock Services actually, where we were to pick up Mrs Alison Cooper, our tour guide's wife. Soon we were onto the ferry at Dover and then speeding past French and Belgian Fields towards our first Hotel in Waterloo! At last I thought – nearly there! There was the Lion Mound (speeding past), there was Quatre Bras (speeding past), there was the town sign, 'Welcome to Waterloo' (speeding past), there was the town sign saying 'Thanks for visiting Waterloo' (speeding past)! I think I broke into a cold sweat and glanced over at Major Green. I'm sure to this day he had a wry, evil smile on his face. Thankfully I was assured that we were staying in Waterloo and that we would be visiting the battlefield the following day.

We met our excellent guide, Graeme Cooper, formerly Green Howards, on arrival at the Grand Hotel from where he had been conducting a previous tour along with our driver Richard Towns. At this point let me say that Richard deserved a medal as he managed throughout to swiftly negotiate our coach through traffic, down boggy country lanes, the narrowest of village streets and over variable terrain that would have made even the hardest APC driver think twice. After settling in and freshening up we RV'd in the bar for Champagne and nibbles, introduced ourselves, became acquainted and settled into a superb dinner, Graham then outlined the following day's itinerary.

The following day was overcast with a hint of rain. Graham gave us a chronological tour of the battlefield starting at Quatre Bras and ending at Hougoumont via the Lion Mound. On climbing the latter and having been relatively fine all day, we were hit by a vicious squall that had us huddled together on the leeward side of the Lion Statue dressed in whatever warm and dry clothing we could find. This was quite poignant given that in the lead up to the battle the combatants had had to endure far worse conditions and for even longer.

We toured the excellent new Museum and had lunch in the nearby Restaurant where there was an interesting interlude. One of our companions requested a Cheese and Onion Sandwich. The waitress hearing 'sandwich', promptly provided the only 'sandwich' on the menu...a Beef Wellington Sandwich. "No, No, No" our compatriot declared "a CHEESE AND ONION Sandwich". Again our waitress scurried away to return with more Beef

Wellington sandwiches. With growing ire on one side and despair on the other, the drama continued until it was time to leave. Suffice to say, that some went away with rumbling stomachs mumbling something about "...foreigners", the waitress was reduced to a nervous wreck and I had had my fill of Beef Wellington Sandwiches.

The end of the day was spent walking along the ridge towards Hougomont adjacent to where Maitland's Guards had risen up out of the cornfield and defeated elements of the Imperial Guard helping to end Napoleons dreams of European conquest. At Hougomont we held a short service and laid a wreath by the chapel in memory of the 1st Guards who fought and died between 16th and 18th June. I felt very, very honoured to be invited to read the Regimental Collect. Especially in the presence of such august and distinguished company and on such hallowed ground.

That night we were treated to a fantastic presentation by Graeme about his father; ex-Scots Guards Officer Johnny Cooper, one of the David Stirling's SAS 'Originals'. Graham enthralled us with tales of derring-do and his father's exploits in many of the far-flung

corners of the globe.

The following day we were on the move. Our next stopover would be two nights in Arras. Time and space precludes listing all our 'adventures' in this article but to give you an idea of the packed itinerary here is a list of some of the sites we visited or passed on the way:

**MALPLAQUET, LOOS** (the Indian Memorial and Dud Corner Cemetery), **LANDRECIES** (where we navigated around some fences to walk around the spot where **Major B GORDON-LENNOX** and No's 2 & 3 Companys, 2nd Battalion held up the German advance), **FESTUBERT, NEUVE CHAPELLE** (where **Private BARBER** won his VC and Major Green showed us Private Barbers VC; for me it was moving to hold this treasured award standing on the same spot where it was won). **NIMY BRIDGE** (where the first VC's of WW1 was won and where our Guide had us scurrying up and down the railway embankment to get a better view, much to the consternation of his wife, the local Gendarmerie and the drivers of speeding trains!), **ESCUELBECQ, AGINCOURT** (not quite a Grenadier victory but a victory non the less), **CUINCHY** communal



Our Group at Malplaquet.



cemetery (where a wreath was laid by **Colonel Andrew Duncan** at the grave of a relative), **WINDY CORNER** The Guards Cemetery where a wreath was also laid), **St Symphorien Cemetery** and **St Ablain-St-Nazaire**, Nord Pas de Calais – not only is there a huge French cemetery here, permanently manned by the French equivalent of the British Legion, but also an oval ‘Memorial Wall’ listing all those killed in this part of France in WW1 irrespective of nationality. I found 10 with my surname alone.

We enjoyed many other highlights including a bizarre lunch in a polish restaurant somewhere out in the Uhlu! This involved much merry-making, back slapping, fancy dress and Polish vodka. In the same restaurant I was also thanked by a bemused French family dining there. They wanted me to pass on their gratitude to the Regiment for helping liberate their country during WW1 & WW2 (particularly the grandfather who had fought with the Free French Forces in the latter conflict).

At Dud Corner Cemetery, Major Green was also kind enough to show the VC mentioned earlier to a British Family also visiting the site. Although the younger children did not seem too fazed, the faces of the adults were a different story and full of awe.

Then after a five hour delay at Calais waiting for power to be restored in the tunnel it was ‘ENDEX’ and we were safely delivered back to Wellington Barracks. Should there ever be another ‘Cockpit Grenadier’ Tour, I shall certainly

get my name down for it and I would recommend it to everyone else, whether a Grenadier or not.

As always when I travel, I take a decent pair of binoculars with me (my wife complains, regularly that they cost more than her engagement ring, but that’s another story) and whilst at Dud Corner Cemetery, standing on the wall that surrounds it, I had the chance to scan the vast area around it. As far as the eye could see, dotted across the countryside, were almost countless little enclaves of white grave markers or crosses, gathered together. Each one signifying a cemetery or the site of a hard fought battle. As we drove through this tiny part of Europe I was amazed by the equally vast number of markers, memorials, graveyards, cemeteries, plaques and commemorative obelisks, statues or plinths; all dedicated to different regiments, battles, nations and events. There seemed to be one every 100 yards or so. Our Regiment, formed in 1656, has spent the greater part of its illustrious history marching and counter-marching across these fields. We had laid wreaths in memory of our fallen. We had held a commemorative service. Some of our party had visited graves or memorials to family members. And to bring it all home many of the names I saw on gravestones or were named in the description of the battlefields we visited were familiar to me. I had served with many of their descendants and feel proud and humble to be associated with each one of them.



Andy and Babs Reid of the Surrey Branch represented the Association at the CWGC unveiling of the new 1914-1918 Memorial at Brookwood Cemetery on which Alfred Cockerill Grenadier Guards is named. The ceremony took place on 4th November 2015 in the presence of HRH The Duke of Kent KG GCMG GCVO ADC and CWGC Director General Mrs Victoria Wallace who unveiled the new memorial. The Brookwood 1914-1918 Memorial is dedicated to the memory of more than 260 First World War servicemen who died in the United Kingdom and Ireland, or at sea, but who have no known grave. Many of the names are of newly recognised war casualties, whose details were omitted from official records produced during, and shortly after, the First World War. Readers may remember the article by Major Frank Clark about Alfred Cockerill beginning on page 78 of the 2014 edition of the Gazette.

## Recollections of My Army Service

*by Len Harmer (former Sergeant 1st Battalion Grenadier Guards)*

I was keen to join the army and was determined to be a front-line soldier with a first class regiment. My father had a friend who had been in the Guards and I always admired him and was fascinated by his stories. I resolved to join the Grenadiers as they were the senior infantry regiment in the British Army with a very proud history.

I joined up in February 1941 at the age of 19. You could only do this by volunteering as they did not accept conscripts. At that time the Dunkirk evacuation had already taken place, so effectively we had been driven out of Europe. Initially I reported to Chelsea Barracks but was later transferred to The Guards Depot at Caterham in Surrey.

The training was incredibly hard. There was drill every morning followed by PT. Everything had to be done in a hurry; there was always someone yelling at you and you got a real mouthful if you were slow. There was a lot of field training, going out on manoeuvres, long marches in full kit, and endurance training. On one occasion we had to sleep out on Salisbury plain in the middle of winter. We slept in our kit on the ground and I remember waking up to find my boots covered in frost. There was a lot of rifle drill and you had to learn how to strip down guns. The main machine gun in use at that time was the Bren, and we had to learn how to strip it down and reassemble it with our eyes closed.

After 16 weeks of initial training I was sent to Windsor. There was a lot more drill but it was more specific as they were assessing people's capabilities to decide what they were best suited to. In my case I was assigned to a 3 inch mortar crew. (In a battlefield situation, when mortars weren't required I served in an infantry platoon). Some others were assigned as machine gunners, anti-tank gunners etc. I eventually became part of The King's Company. This made me very proud as it was the elite company within the Grenadiers.

During my time at Windsor, I was often on guard at Windsor Castle and had an early encounter with royalty. One day early in the morning I saw a figure approaching me in an old army greatcoat. As he waved and called out "morning sentry" I realised it was King George VI and made a hasty salute. During this period I also saw a parade at the castle attended by King George and Queen Elizabeth where the then Princess Elizabeth (our present Queen) was made Colonel of our regiment. One amusing fact that I recall from my time at Windsor Castle was that whenever we were on sentry duty during the night, we had to wear carpet slippers so as not to wake the royal household, as our boots made too much noise on the gravel.

The Grenadiers were made up of 6 Battalions each of about 1,000 men, split into companies of about 100-120,



**Guardsman Len Harmer.**

and platoons of about 30 men. Each platoon was made up of three sections under a Corporal or a Lance Sergeant. I started my army career in the First Battalion in the Guards Armoured Division which comprised a squadron of tanks (20), and a company of infantrymen. I remained in this battalion throughout the war, but after the war I went to Palestine with the 3rd Battalion.

I first saw action during the D-Day landings. My company were first-line reinforcements, which meant we were in the second wave of landings. We had to jump out of the landing craft in full battle kit into water that came up to our necks and wade ashore. It was really frightening as you could go under with every step you took, and some of the lads drowned. By this time the Germans were being driven back from the beaches and we were quickly mobilised to advance through France and engage with them wherever we met resistance.

We moved inland through towns and villages, many of which had been totally destroyed. In one major town, Caen, hardly a building was left standing. Progress was very slow as the Germans had Tiger tanks with 88mm guns. These were far superior to the American Sherman tanks that we were using which only had 75mm guns. Our own British tanks would have been better but most of these had been sent to North Africa; however, thanks to air support and superior numbers we gradually got the upper hand. One of my mates who was an anti-tank gunner actually hit a German tank straight down its gun barrel moments before it could line up its gun on his own tank. It was absolute carnage; badly burned bodies were lying in the road alongside burned out tanks and there was machine gun fire everywhere. Also, as they retreated the Germans laid mines. On one occasion I happened to look down and my foot was about an inch away from one of the metal spikes of a mine protruding from the

soil as we crossed a field. A very close call!

The Germans were ruthless soldiers and you could never drop your guard even for a moment. On one occasion we captured a German tank and whilst we were rounding up the prisoners, one of them tossed a grenade into the hatch of one of our tanks and destroyed it with all its crew. At times we even came under 'friendly fire' from our own side when they were supposed to be firing over our heads to help with our advance and got their range wrong.

My worst moment came when I was asked to lead a small party into an area where there was heavy fighting, to search for some of our lads who were missing. We entered a small gully and found 13 of our colleagues lying dead. This was sickening as many of them were good pals of mine, and one of them, a lad called Alan who was only 19, had been reading out a poem from his girl friend only the night before. The memory of that day still haunts me!

One of my proudest moments was when, after a fierce and bloody battle in which several of my colleagues lost their lives, we forced the Germans to surrender at the town of Pont-a-Marcq (known to all the lads as Pontimar). The townspeople and the French Resistance treated us like heroes when we liberated their town. They brought out wine and food and there was a wonderful atmosphere of celebration. They treated us like heroes! We were so proud when the BBC World News reported on the radio that the town of Pont-a-Marcq had been liberated by a famous English regiment.

The following day we were on the move again as we continued our advance through France and onwards towards the Belgian border. We subsequently progressed through Belgium and ultimately reached Nijmegen in Holland.

We did have many light hearted moments along the way however with the locals in various towns and villages. We were always short of supplies and had many a laugh trying to barter with local farmers for eggs and cheese despite many misunderstandings due to the obvious language difficulties.

I alternated between duties between mortar crew and infantry platoon. We had to fire the mortars continuously and normally have 16 bombs in the air before the first one hit and we had to keep that up all the time. One legacy of the war for me personally is that I have been hard of hearing ever since as there was no ear protection in those days.

At Nijmegen I was involved in a major battle to capture a strategically important bridge; this was part of operation Market Garden, sometimes known as the Arnhem offensive, led by Field Marshall Montgomery. I was a Lance Sergeant at the time and was asked to lead an infantry section across an iron bridge over a ravine which led onto the main bridge. I and one of my men went ahead to recce the situation when a German machine gun opened fire on us. My colleague was hit in the temple and died immediately. I picked up some shrapnel in my back but managed to crawl off the bridge and get back to safety with bullets flying all around me. The bridge was eventually captured and became another Battle Honour for the Grenadiers, although the overall operation was not a success. They made a movie about it called "A Bridge Too Far."

Afterwards I needed hospital treatment and was flown home to England in a transport plane as all the field hospitals were full. The silence felt unreal on the journey to the hospital in England, as for a long time I had been used to bullets flying all around me and pinging off the sides of our armoured cars. They operated on me and I was eventually discharged, but after a few weeks my wound was not healing and a further X-ray revealed that I had a bullet lodged against my spine. Apparently it had flown over my head and ricocheted off an iron girder into my back at the same time as I had picked up the shrapnel wound.

I was operated on in a military hospital at Windsor and was given the bullet as a souvenir. Whilst in hospital the Queen and Princess Elizabeth made a visit to my ward and stopped to chat to me. The Queen asked to see my bullet and I was surprised that she knew it was a ricochet because it was flat on one side.

By the time I was fit to resume active duty the war was ending and I was sent to Palestine for a year. This was a very different situation, but equally dangerous as it marked the start of the Middle East conflict that is still going on. There were many attacks by militant Zionist organisations, one of which, the Irgun, blew up the King David Hotel, which was our headquarters in Jerusalem. As the attacks were carried out by civilians rather than uniformed troops, you had to be on your guard all the time as ambushes were frequent and deadly.

On a lighter note I felt very privileged to have had the opportunity to see all of the major religious sites in the Holy Land and we had some great times on leave in Beirut, which at that time was a beautiful modern city.

When I came home I was a Full Sergeant, what is known as a Gold Sergeant in our regiment. I was offered a further promotion to Company Sergeant Major, but I didn't really have the heart for it. I had seen most of my close friends killed and many of my other mates were returning to Civvy Street after the war, so I thought it was time for me to pack it in rather than make a fresh start as a peace-time soldier.

I still have the legacy of that bullet wound as I now have severe arthritis and spondylitis of the lower spine. Having said that, I never regretted joining the army and would do it again if I could turn back the clock, and all my mates would tell you the same. The camaraderie was fantastic. I had some great mates and made many lifetime friendships. You always knew your mates would never let you down. I have kept in touch with many of them over the years. Many of us were members of the local branch of the Grenadier Guards Association, and we would often reminisce about the old days.

There is not much glory in war. The reality is brutal and bloody. They were terrible times in many ways, but the sense of comradeship and the pride we all felt at having served our country never diminished. Sadly most of my pals have now passed away, but I will never forget them or the times we shared together.

(Note from the Assistant Editor: please also see the Legion d'honneur article in this Section)



## BRANCH NOTES

### AYLESBURY & DISTRICT

(Formed 1929)

**President:** Vacant

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

**Chairman:** Mr D DOVER, Esq

**Treasurer:** Mr D HIBBLE, Esq

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

**Tel:** (01296) 426506

**Email:** rgbakker@aol.com

The Branch attended the unveiling of the **Barber VC** plaque in the Church Square, Tring on 12th March 2015. We felt the young brave **Private Edward Barber** was duly remembered for his efforts during the First World War on the 100th anniversary of his award. Tring town celebrates its brave heroes on every occasion and were delighted to see many military personnel in attendance. A permanent stone plaque was laid on the pavement opposite the church, the Deputy Mayor of Tring unveiling the plaque with prayer and blessing. **Capt Sir Beville Stanier Bt** (Late Welsh Guards) and his wife attended the ceremony but unfortunately **Major HW Freeman-Attwood** was too ill to attend but thanked the Branch for inviting him. **Major the Rt Honourable Lord Carrington** expressed his disappointment at not being able to attend due to a prearranged appointment in London.

For Remembrance Sunday 2015 here in Aylesbury it was decided that whilst members attended the service we would also lay a wreath at Tring, that being the home town of **Edward Barber VC** and that our Chairman **Mr Don Dover** and his wife **Ann** would attend; they were greeted most warmly. The service was packed full with some having to stand. A Roll of Honour was displayed on two large screens with **Edward Barber VC** Grenadier Guards being displayed alone first, followed by every name in groups from 1914 to the present day. At the war memorial **Mr Don Dover** was invited to lay the first wreath after the Mayor in honour of **Private Edward Barber VC**.

We were saddened at the loss of two Officers of the Aylesbury & District Branch. After contacting members for the church service back in February for Edward Barber the Secretary received a card from **Mrs Selby-Lowndes** telling us that **Greville Selby-Lowndes** had passed away in May

2014 and apologising for not informing the Branch of his death sooner. **Major Harold Warren Freeman-Attwood** passed away on 20th April 2015. His service was held at St Mary's Church Haddenham, Buckinghamshire on Thursday 7th May 2015, the Secretary and **Laurie Jeffery**, a veteran member of the Branch attended the service at which every seat was taken. Towards the end the Musicians from the Band of the Grenadier Guards played 'The Grenadiers March'. Afterwards the family invited those wishing to join them for refreshments to The Green Dragon in Church Way.

We learnt of the loss of **22445019 Gdsm Geoffrey Brian Lee** through a letter from his solicitor. **Geoffrey** always attended our dinners in the past and the funerals of many; a loyal and decent gentleman who will be missed.

Our Chairman **Mr Don Dover** has decided informal get-togethers is the way forward for the Branch in 2016 as we feel dinners would be impossible to organise as we are losing too many of our number as age catches up.

### BATH

(Formed 1952)

**President:** Major HA BAILLIE

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

**Chairman:** Mr V DUNNE

**Secretary:** Mr M JACKSON, Berry Cottage, 72 Bradford Road, Atworth, Melksham, Wiltshire, SN12 8HY

**Tel:** (01225) 899321

**Email:** malcolm.jackson@fsmail.com

**Treasurer:** Mr A BILLETT

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



## 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; Colonel LCA RANSON, TD; DT GRIFFITHS, Esq; J FROST, Esq; Lieutenant Colonel RM DORNEY, MBE; C SAVAGE, Esq; K JONES, Esq; Capt J BUXTON

**Chairman:** Mr M O'GORMAN

**Vice Chairman:** Mr P FINCH

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

**Tel:** 07891238866

**Email:** bristolbranch@grengds.com

**Website:** www.bristolgrenadiers.org

**Twitter:** @GrenGdsBristol

**Facebook:** Bristol Grenadiers

**Treasurer:** Mr AF LOCK

**Welfare:** Mr R BLEADEN

**Meetings:** Committee meetings will be held at 1530hrs on the last Sunday of each month (Excluding December and January) at the Port of Bristol Social Club, Nisbley Road, Shirehampton, Bristol, BS11 9XW

As 2014 drew to a close some 32 members of the Bristol Branch attended the Coldstream Guards Association Christmas lunch at the Port of Bristol Social Club in Shirehampton, Bristol, on the 6th December. The Coldstream Lunch is becoming an extremely popular fixture on the Branch calendar and our numbers attending the event are improving year on year; this is a source of great pleasure for the Branch Committee. They as always were magnificent hosts and made the Grenadier contingent most welcome. The

President of the Bristol Branch of the Coldstream Guards Association, **Colonel Martin Somervell MBE** commented on the number of Grenadiers present and expressed his pleasure at seeing the hard work of the Committees of both Branches coming to fruition and proposed a toast to the continuing 'Bonhomie' between the two branches.

The beginning of 2015 was a quiet period for the Branch with the first major event on the calendar planned for April, when on the 11th we held our AGM at our new home, The Port of Bristol Social Club on Nibley Road in Shirehampton, Bristol. The Branch President, **Major General Sir Evelyn Webb-Carter KCVO OBE** presided over the meeting and during his address he commented on the general state of well-being within the Branch over recent years. The President informed the meeting that the number of Branch members attending events was up year on year and that in his opinion the Branch was going from strength to strength and that this was due in no small part to the hard work of the Committee whom the President thanked for their efforts.

Chairman and Vice President **Chris Savage**, former Sgt Major of the 1st Battalion then addressed the meeting and informed those present that he and his Wife, **Hilary (Hils)** had recently made the decision to 'up-sticks' and move to Essex to be nearer their Daughter. Chris stated that their move was imminent and he would not be standing for re-election. Chris went on to thank all at the Bristol Branch for making Hils and himself most welcome during the years that they had lived in Bristol and wished the Branch every success for the future.

The Branch Secretary, **Matthew Allen** responded to the Chairman's statement by saying that **Chris** would be missed enormously by the Branch and that he had been instrumental in its recent resurgence. The Secretary thanked **Chris** for his tireless work and meticulous attention to detail during his time with them and how everyone had enjoyed the Summer Garden Parties that



The Grenadier contingent at the 2014 Coldstream Association Christmas Lunch.

**Chris and Hils** had so kindly arranged at their house in recent years. To the delight of all it was agreed that **Chris** was to remain a Vice President of the Branch.

All Branch Officers and members of the Branch Committee were re-elected to their respective positions. When the time came to select a new Chairman the Secretary proposed that **Mike O'Gorman** be considered for the role, the Secretary explained that Mike had been actively involved with the Branch for many years and was always one of the first to volunteer to assist whenever help was required. This proposal was swiftly seconded and **Mike O'Gorman** was unanimously elected into the post of Branch Chairman.

Shortly after the AGM we gathered once again at the Port of Bristol Social Club, on Saturday 18th April when we took part in the annual St George's Cup skittles match against the Bristol Branch of the Coldstream Guards Association. Our team Captain, the newly installed Branch Chairman **Mike O'Gorman** was under immense pressure to deliver a Grenadier victory as the Coldstreamers had inflicted a crushing defeat on us at last year's tournament and it was unprecedented that a team win successive competitions.

It started quite well for the Grenadiers, we edged ahead in the first set, then however, things did not go quite to plan and they ended the second with a convincing lead. At the end of the third set and with **Brian Womack** scoring a very respectable 34 for the Grenadiers we had slightly reigned in the deficit and went into the final set with high hopes. Alas, the Coldstreamers were on excellent form and even with the Branch Secretary equalling **Brian Womack's** 34 we could not overcome the Coldstream advantage of the previous sets and they lifted the St George's Cup for a second successive year.

The 17th May saw a full coach of Bristol Branch members depart for our annual pilgrimage along the M4 to London for Regimental Remembrance Day. After our now customary stop at The Beefeater Grill in Swindon for a hearty breakfast we arrived in London in good time for plenty of socialising before the formalities of the day began. On arrival most of our number repaired to the Sergeants' Mess to not only take full advantage of the very reasonably priced bar but also to seek out friends and former colleagues from other Branches.

After the service some of our number joined the ranks for the march to Horse Guards to place the Regimental Wreath at the Guards Memorial. After the formalities had been completed we departed Wellington Barracks for the short journey to Windsor for our traditional Fish and Chip supper with the Windsor Branch. This is now a hugely popular stop off for the Branch and we extend our thanks to **Bob Gilbert** and his Committee for their hospitality and hope to join them again in 2016.

On 2nd August a small detachment from the Branch headed north to attend the Gloucestershire Branch annual Garden Party at the home of their Vice President **Colonel John Peel TD DL**. This event coincided with

the 100th Birthday of **Lieutenant Colonel The Lord Wigram MC** who is a Vice President to both the Bristol and the Gloucestershire Branches. A small party from both branches, including our Vice President **Keith Jones** visited **Lord Wigram** whose birthday celebrations were taking place nearby. Our attending Branch members reported that they had had a fantastic day and we extend our thanks to **Colonel Peel** for inviting us.

In September some two dozen Branch members gathered in Queens Square, Bristol for the planting of a tree and dedication service to the memory of **Gdsm Karl Whittle** who was mortally wounded in Afghanistan whilst serving with the 1st Battalion in 2012. The Regimental Casualty Officer, **Matthew Ellmer** had done a magnificent job organising the memorial and spoke most movingly at the service, as did the Lord Mayor of Bristol, **Councillor Clare Campion-Smith**. The dedication and memorial service was widely covered in the local press and on regional television. **Karl Whittle's** tree stands prominently in the south western corner of Queens Square at the entrance nearest the Arnolfini.



The Lord Mayor of Bristol, Councillor Clare Campion-Smith and members of the Bristol Branch look on as the tree is planted in Queens Square in memory of Gdsm Karl Whittle.



The Plaque on the tree commemorating Gdsm Karl Whittle.



At the beginning of October another small detachment from Bristol headed north for the Gloucestershire Branch Annual 'Presidents Lunch' which was held at The Hatherley Manor Hotel. The small number attending from Bristol, seven in total, had a most memorable day; we were made most welcome by the Gloucestershire Branch and enjoyed their hospitality in pleasant surroundings. The highlight of the day was surely being entertained by the Band of the Lydney Air Cadets who were magnificent; our grateful thanks to the President of the Gloucestershire Branch, **Colonel Lance Ranson TD** for inviting us.

On the 24th October we held our Annual Branch Dinner and due to the success of the previous year's event we returned to the same Venue, The Holiday Inn in Filton, Bristol. The 2015 Dinner has been widely accepted as a huge success, due in no small part to having musical accompaniment during the evening in the form of The London Military Band which comprises a wind ensemble from the Regimental Band. We would thoroughly recommend The London Military Band to other branches as this certainly added to the ambience of the evening, our thanks to **Alan Shellard** and the other band members who travelled from London to play for us.



**The London Military Band playing at the Branch Dinner.**

We seated 125 members and their guests at the dinner, which is the highest number in recent Branch history. We are delighted that numbers for this event are steadily rising and hope to improve upon this in 2016. We were privileged to welcome from the Regiment, **Capt Hugo Cartwright** Adjutant of the 1st Battalion, **CSgt James Thompson** and his wife **Emma** who are fantastic supporters of the Bristol Branch and have attended every dinner since James was the recruiting Sergeant in Bristol. **LSgt Matt Shaw** along with **Gdsm Charlie Poole** both did a magnificent job in welcoming guests and looking resplendent in their Bearskins and Tunics. We were also privileged to welcome **Sgt Rob Broomes** from Regimental Headquarters who does such sterling work not only on behalf of the Bristol Branch but all Branches of the Association.

After a splendid dinner it was time for the formalities of the evening and the Branch President, **Major General Sir Evelyn Webb-Carter KCVO OBE** addressed the dinner and thanked all for attending; some guests had travelled from Southampton, Gosport, Cornwall, Essex, Birmingham and Aldershot, Two Guests of **Fred Jones** had travelled from the United States to attend. **General Sir Evelyn** then thanked the Branch Committee for arranging such a splendid event.

Our Guest of Honour and Guest Speaker was

**Squadron Leader George 'Johnny' Johnson DFM** who is the last surviving member of the Dambusters (617 Squadron) from WW2. **Squadron Leader Johnson**, who was the bomb aimer aboard flight T for Tommy which attacked the Sorpe Dam, enthralled us for over half an hour recounting the Dambuster raid and the lead up to it. It was an absolute pleasure for us to host **Johnny Johnson** who, quite rightly received an extended standing ovation at the end of his speech.



**The Branch President Major General Sir Evelyn Webb-Carter KCVO OBE welcomes our Guest of Honour Squadron Leader George 'Johnny' Johnson DFM at the Branch Annual Dinner.**



**Squadron Leader Johnny Johnson DFM explains the ways of the Royal Air Force to Colonel 'Skid' Dorney MBE.**

The daunting task of following the Squadron Leader fell to the Adjutant of the 1st Battalion **Capt Hugo Cartwright** who updated those present as to the recent activities of the Regiment. After these formalities our Chairman **Mike O’Gorman**, on behalf of the Branch made a presentation of a framed print to former Chairman **Chris Savage** in recognition of his service to the Bristol Branch.



The changing of the Guard. New Branch Chairman Mike O’Gorman presents a gift from the Branch to Chris Savage.

**Beverly Spriggs**, daughter of the late **Lance Cambridge** then presented **Brian Womack** with the ‘Cambridge Memorial Shield’ for his highest Branch score at the St George’s Cup competition earlier in the year. As the evening drew to a close the Branch Secretary conducted the Prize Draw.



**Beverly Spriggs** presents **Brian Womack** with the Cambridge Memorial Shield.

Since our last report the Bristol Branch has enjoyed a hugely successful year and we continue to go from strength to strength, albeit in small steps, but certainly steps in the right direction. We are fortunate that we have a large membership many of whom are prepared to ‘roll up their sleeves’ and help towards our goal of a smooth running, well attended successful Branch. The Officers and Committee of the Bristol Branch extend their heartfelt thanks to all that help us towards that goal. We have been delighted to welcome one or two new members since our last report and regrettably we have also had to say goodbye to some of our number. It is our sad duty to report the passing of **2625389 Ted Bond**, **23509381 Tom Gray**, and **Mrs Jean Nunn**, the widow of one of our former long serving Branch members. We also bade farewell to **23252949 Tony Jones** a long serving member of the Branch Committee who sadly passed away just days before our Annual Dinner in October.

## CAMBRIDGE

(Formed 1932)

**President:** Capt CNR BROWN.

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

**Chairman:** Mr T FOREMAN

**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.

Another year has quickly passed by and as our age goes up so our Branch numbers go down. The Branch lunches have been well supported, with the widows of Grenadiers who like to keep in touch also attending, which is lovely.

The Annual Dinner in October was well attended; **2Lt George Barnes** was our guest from the 1st Battalion. He spoke with everyone and gave a very enjoyable and informative speech updating all those present with current and future Regimental activities.

**Bill Clarke** who was the Branch chairman for a great many years has not been at all well with eye problems and is in everyone’s thoughts. The Branch is indebted to **Harry Gelsthorpe** our Welfare Officer who visits many of our members who are experiencing ill health.

It is with great sadness that we have to inform the readership that two members of the Branch have passed away; **22955816 David Clark**, who was the Branch Chairman and after a long battle with cancer and **22456752 Alan Ives** who always supported Branch Lunches; they will both be greatly missed.

## CHESTERFIELD

(Formed 1952)

**President:** Vacant

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

**Chairman:** Mr D LEECH.

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

**Tel:** (01246) 206054.

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

**Treasurer:** Mr D BRIGNULL

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

The Chesterfield Branch remains active due to the efforts of a few enthusiastic members. In November 2014 wreaths were laid on Remembrance Sunday by our Chairman **23444637 David Leech** and **24281477 Peter Brown** at Chesterfield and at Clowne by **23135571 Michael Garrett** together with his wife **Maureen** and **22894448 John Metcalfe**.

At our December meeting we welcomed **Mr and Mrs Goddard** with their son **Kevin**. The Goddard family had received the sum of £750 from the Regiment following the sale of surplus items donated by Kevin's grandfather, the late **Fred Griffiths** a former member of the Branch. **Kevin**, together with his parents advised members that they had decided to donate £250 to the Colonel's Fund, £250 to Help for Heroes and the remaining £250 to the Chesterfield Branch. Our grateful thanks were given to the family and later we decided to donate the £250 to the VC Trust, an organisation that helps to maintain the graves of Victoria Cross winners that are not attended to by the War Graves Commission.

Sadly, **Albert Perrins**, Coldstream Guards, died in January. **Albert**, an Associate member, had supported us for over 40 years and despite his recent illness and loss of mobility continued to maintain contact with us.

Thankfully our overall strength has not diminished since then but ill health still continues to take its toll with some members who although still keeping a keen interest in Branch affairs, are unable to attend our monthly meetings. We are in regular contact with **2626625 Charles Limb**, our oldest member, **22648847 Dennis Thompson**, **2629256, Fred Neal** and **22894448, John Metcalfe**. We are happy to report that **John** now enjoys much better mobility following a knee replacement. **23862883, Michael Carnall** had an operation on his leg that is taking some time to heal but we are pleased to report that both he and **Enid** were able to travel to Spain in October. We wish all of the above the best of health and still hope to see them again in the future.

We were well represented at Black Sunday although **Fred** and **Di Neal** were unable to attend on this occasion. **Michael Garrett** was responsible, in his capacity as

Branch fundraiser, for collecting a significant sum by running our stall at the Newton Gala. Thanks are also due to his wife, **Maureen**, for her support at the function.

We are pleased to report that we keep in touch with two widows of past members; **Mrs Betty Digby** and **Mrs Penny Osborn** still support us when they are able to and thankfully they are both in good health and spirits.

It remains for us to thank our Chairman, **David Leech** and **Major A J Green** and **Sgt R Broomes** at Regimental Headquarters for their continued support.

## DERBY

(Formed 1914)

**President:** Vacant

**Chairman:** Vacant

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

**Tel:** (01332) 755156

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

**Treasurer:** Mrs H SUTTON

**Meetings:** Third Wednesday of each month starting at  
2000hrs at The Alexandra Hotel, 203 Siddals Road, Derby,  
DE1 2QE

This year has sadly seen a decline in the membership and activity of the Derby Branch. We have several members plagued with ill health and sadly we have to report that on the 14th June 2015 we lost our Chairman of over ten years, **22955716 Trevor Savage**. **Trevor** was very dedicated to the Branch and his enthusiasm and pride of having served in the Regiment will be missed by us all. His widow **Mary** still attends monthly meetings and our condolences go to her and her family. We have not just lost much valued support, but a very dear friend.

**Trevor's** funeral was attended by over 200 people including representatives of other Association Branches and from all military services in the Derby area. His family were very touched and honoured that three Drummers attended in Guard Order.

The Secretary and his wife **Helen** were invited to celebrate the Lord Lieutenant of Derbyshire, Mr William Tucker's 70th birthday. This was held in the beautiful setting of Repton Independent School on the Monday 29th June. The entertainment was a Reception with



**Trevor Savage at the 2014 Branch Centenary celebrations.**





**Derby Branch Banner Bearer Geoff Gadsby and Drummers Walker, Silverman and Edwards.**

Beating Retreat by the Band of the Grenadier Guards; an excellent evening enjoyed by all present with the band giving a world class performance.



**The Band of the Grenadier Guards at Repton Independent School, 29th June 2015.**

To encourage attendance we have kept our meetings to every third Wednesday but moved them to lunch times over the winter period. At our November meeting we had a presentation by the Regimental Casualty Officer, **Matt Ellmer**. His insight into the expenditure of the Colonels' Fund was so informative and brought a tear to the eye of all present. He has a very rewarding but extremely difficult job to do and we would like to take this opportunity to thank him on behalf of all Derby Branch members.

We would also like to congratulate **Sgt Sutton** on his promotion and thank him for laying a wreath on behalf of the Branch at this year's Derby Remembrance Service. Next year we will be promoting the Branch to try and improve the active membership.

## EAST KENT

(Formed 1948)

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

**Vice Chairman:** Mr T JONES, MBE, Esq

**Vice Presidents:** Lieutenant Colonel RM DORNEY, MBE, JG CLUFF, DL, Esq

**Secretary, Treasurer and Webmaster:** Mr RC GOODSON, Esq.

**Tel:** (01303) 263958

**Email:** eastkentbranch@grengds.com

**Branch Visiting Friend:** Mr WCF MARSHALL, Esq.

**Honorary Branch Chaplain:** Reverend Canon HWJ HARLAND.

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

Since our last report, much has happened. On Sunday 9th November 2014 the East Kent Branch paraded for the Armistice Day Parade in Hythe. As **John Morris**, our regular Banner bearer was on other duties in Ramsgate that day, our Deputy Chairman, **Trevor Jones MBE**, carried the Branch Banner. The Parade Marshall was a Cadet Warrant Officer, whose word of command was very difficult to understand. Never the less, East Kent Branch members headed the parade and set the standard for others to try and match. The parade started with a Church Service at the Hythe War Memorial and concluded with a march along the High Street; the salute being taken at the Town Hall.



**Hythe War Memorial.**



**The Swingtime Sweethearts.**

On Saturday 8th December 2014 we had another great Christmas party. Back by popular demand were the very harmonious **Annie Riley** and **Le'arna Castle** who perform under the name of the 'Swingtime Sweethearts' and who once again excelled themselves. Their love of forties music was plain to see as they gave us hit after hit from the Andrew Sisters, Ann Shelton, Gracie Fields, Vera Lynn and others. They have made several recordings including their single 'Not Forgotten' which features **Vera Lynn**.

2015 started with our January meeting where, pleasingly and despite the cold weather, we had 20 members in attendance at the Hythe Royal British Legion Club and numerous ladies partook of tea and coffee and socialised in the bar area until the meeting was completed. At our Annual General Meeting in March 2015 we saw another good attendance from our loyal membership and members re-elected our committee for another year. Pleasingly, **John Morris** agreed to take on the role of Social Secretary.

With effect the May 2015 meeting, **Joe Moran** (COLDM GDS) commenced organising Sunday lunches at the Hythe Royal British Legion Club and many of our members are now regularly staying after our meetings to socialise and dine together.

On Saturday 20th June 2015, a number of our members were privileged to have been invited to attend the Waterloo Commemorations at Canterbury Cathedral. Following a service in the Cathedral, we witnessed a re-enactment of the Waterloo Dispatch that the Duke of Wellington wrote immediately after the battle. History records that he wanted to get the good news of victory over Napoleon to the Prince Regent and Government as soon as possible, so in the immediate aftermath of victory on 18th June 1815, Wellington's challenge was to get the news to London. No problem in an era of 24 hour news, mobile phones and tablet computers, but with no such technology available to him, he wrote a dispatch and assigned Major Henry Percy of the 14th Light Dragoons to take it to London.

On 19th June 1815 the 30 year old, who was Wellington's only aide-de-camp to emerge unscathed from the battle, tucked the dispatch into a purple wallet and set off. He rode to Ghent, Bruges and Ostend where he boarded the Royal Navy sloop HMS Peruvian. Halfway across the Channel, the wind dropped and Percy and his naval companions, including Peruvian's captain James White, boarded a gig – a small boat – to row ashore, eventually landing at Broadstairs.

Percy then found a horse-drawn post-chase – or carriage – and rode through Canterbury, Faversham, Sittingbourne and Rochester, reaching London at 10pm on 21st June. He first went to 10 Downing Street before going on to 44 Grosvenor Square where senior politicians in the Cabinet were having supper.

He burst into the room, declaring "Victory, Victory, Napoleon has been beaten!" From there, he went to St James's Square to present Wellington's dispatch to the Prince Regent and the Prime Minister **Lord Liverpool**. Percy was instantly promoted to Colonel. A tearful Prince

said: "It is a glorious victory, but the loss of life has been fearful and I have lost my friends." The Waterloo Dispatch is therefore an important part of Kentish history because of its momentous journey through the county.

For our July 2015 meeting we had a change of venue and held it at the Black Horse, Pluckley. **Paul Murray** (1st Bn 1981-94, Recce Platoon) and his partner **Sarah** are the landlords. After the meeting Paul gave a very interesting brief on the history of the pub, plus details on some of its ghostly inhabitants and paranormal activities. Pluckley is recorded to be the most haunted village in England and The Black Horse is the most haunted pub in Kent. Those readers that watched the 1991 to 1993 comedy/drama 'The Darling Buds of May' will have known the pub, in the series, as the Hare and Hounds and it was noted as the favourite pub of David Jason's character, Sidney Charles 'Pop' Larkin. Following the meeting the majority of members, along with their ladies and some family and friends, stayed for a very enjoyable lunch.



**The Black Horse, Pluckley.**

The War and Peace revival was held at Hellfire Corner, RAF Westenhanger, Folkestone Racecourse between Wednesday 22nd and Sunday 26th July 2015 and **Bill** and **Beverley Marshall** kindly organised free tickets for a



**Presentation to Bob Goodson.**

number of members who expressed interest in attending over this period.

August saw us once again holding our Annual Dinner at the prestigious Royal Temple Yacht Club in Ramsgate where we were looked after magnificently. This is a wonderful venue that overlooks the Royal Harbour. **Colonel REH Aubrey-Fletcher** attended as our guest speaker and gave a most interesting update on the Regiment. On behalf of the Branch membership, **Colonel Richard** also made a presentation of two engraved crystal red wine glasses to the Honorary Secretary, **Bob Goodson**, in recognition of the work he does for the Branch.

An excellent evening was had by all and the dance floor was packed for much of the evening as we thoroughly enjoyed the excellent entertainment provided by 'One for the Road'.

Sadly two of our members, **2627880 Frederick (Fred or 'Lofty') IC Newman** (19th November 2014 – aged 89) and **2627985 John CE Marsh** (23rd September 2015 – aged 88), passed away over this reporting year.

We are looking forward to 2016 where some of our members are going on a trip to the Somme in late June. This trip is organised by the RBL Ramsgate and places were offered to us via our new Social Secretary.

## ESSEX

(Formed 1946)

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

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

**Chairman:** Mr R KEEBLE

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

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

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

**Email:** essexbranch@grengds.com

**Treasurer:** Mrs LINDA LAND

**Meetings:** Prested Hall, Feering – Contact Branch Secretary for further details

The Branch keeps marching on, although our numbers decrease every year. A recent survey indicated that we have a total of 73 members in the Branch, including our widows and Associate and Honorary members.

Our first function of the year was, very appropriately, on Waterloo Day at Prested Hall, Kelvedon. This was followed in July by a Garden Party at the home of **Mr & Mrs George Courtauld**, but owing to the incessant rain it turned out to be a house party. It was nonetheless a most enjoyable occasion.

The Annual Lunch was again held at Prested Hall on 6th December 2015 when our Secretary, **Joan Kimberley**, who

had made all the arrangements for the event, stepped down from the post that she had held for 20 years. **Joan** was the first lady secretary of any branch within the Association and had done a magnificent job over this long period. Following the traditional Christmas feast and the loyal toasts, our President, **Lieutenant General Sir Anthony Denison-Smith** paid tribute to Joan for all her hard work and great efforts for the Branch over the many years and presented her with a certificate signed by His Royal Highness The Colonel; an inscribed Grenadier statuette together with a copy of our history 'The British Grenadiers' was also presented as a gift from the Branch. A bouquet of flowers was also presented by **Lady Denison-Smith**. The President then introduced the General Secretary, **Major Andy Green**, who gave an excellent talk and update on what was happening within the Regiment.



**Joan Kimberley being presented with her certificate by General Sir Anthony Denison-Smith.**

During his speech, the President also welcomed two new members, **Chris and Hilary Savage** on their move from the Bristol Branch. Chris was chairman of the Branch and Sgt Major of the 1st Battalion in the early 1990s; their loss is our gain.

The Branch goes into 2016 with a new team. With the retirement of **Major Michael Giles** as Chairman, his place has been taken by **Ron Keeble**, a well-respected and long-time member of the Branch and **Stephen Norsworthy** who has stepped forward to be the new Secretary. **Linda Land** continues in the all-important task of Treasurer. We wish them well in their endeavours on behalf of the members.



**Capt Barry Double – a great supporter of the Branch and much admired former General Secretary.**



# GLOUCESTERSHIRE

(Formed 1949)

**President:** Colonel LCA RANSON, TD.

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

**Chairman:** Mr JM WELCH

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

**Tel:** (01594) 530154

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

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

This will be the 29th annual report compiled by **Colin Knight** as Branch Secretary. 2015 has once again been a busy and active year for the Branch. Unfortunately since the last report we have to report the passing of **Mr R D N Fisher** and **David Chapman**. We also lost **Joel Roberts**, Household Cavalry, known to all as **Joe**. Joe had been a staunch Branch supporter attending all functions and meetings for many years. It was fitting to see such a good turn-out of members at his funeral.

The Nominal Roll holds well and it is pleasing to report several new additions including two Scots, one Coldstream one Irish Guardsmen and two Honorary members; three new Grenadiers were also recruited. The advent of communications via the internet is credited for this success. The Branch is very fortunate to have an excellent and growing assortment of Associate and Honorary members who support the Branch well.

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 as always prove to be very popular. To make meetings more interesting a guest speaker, when available, is introduced from time to time. The Branch is indeed fortunate to have the Victory Club in Cheltenham to hold meetings; a large comfortable room with excellent bar facilities at affordable prices. Car parking is also no problem.

The formula appears to be working well as attendance at meetings hold steady. The Branch can pride itself, for yet another year, with regard to welfare. Welfare Officer, **David Leighton**, is now in his seventh year in office. **David** does an excellent job making many visits, telephone calls and undertaking various tasks for those with a problem. **Jeanette**, his wife, supports him well with his duties.

Christmas Gift cheques were personally given to nineteen of our more senior members to include some of those, who for whatever reason have not enjoyed good times of late.

Remembrance Sunday 2014 saw almost all the allocation of tickets received taken for the Muster for the Service of Remembrance at Cheltenham Town Hall. In December 2014, for the ninth consecutive year, saw a 'Full House' attend Dumbleton Hall for a Christmas Lunch, **Derek Knott** takes it upon himself to organise this. We sit down to a first class traditional Christmas Dinner in lovely surroundings with a warm seasonal atmosphere. On these occasions we are joined by children and grandchildren, to make it a real Grenadier Family occasion. The Winchcombe Silver Band makes an appearance entertaining us with carols and seasonal music. Oh and yes, Father Christmas paid a visit 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 our Social Secretary **Alan Holford** for being the promoter of our Christmas Lottery. **Alice** his wife, ably assists and **Alan** 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 will not fall and it is pleasing to report that sales from the draw hold steady ensuring it still makes funds for the Branch, as does our separate 100 Club for which we hold four draws per year. **Alan** is the administrator for this scheme as well, something he has done for at least 11 years.

Attendance at the Branch Christmas Social, a little down on previous years, concluded our calendar for 2014. 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 we are, this year, going to experiment with a few new ideas. The existing format has run for at least twenty years – so time for a change.

March 2015 was the month of the well – attended Annual General Meeting at which all officers retained their posts. Members were informed that their Branch was in good form on an interest, activities and financial footing. We wonder if the hot complimentary pies served during the interval had something to do with it.

Members attended Regimental Remembrance Day and on both the outward and return journey the coach stopped at the Guards Club, Windsor, where on the return journey they were well looked after with a Fish & Chip Supper. Thanks to the Windsor Branch Secretary **Bob Gilbert** and his wife **Sue** together with his team for ensuring that everyone was as always made most welcome. Unfortunately numbers attending from the Branch are falling and we have to look at it closely next year to see if it is viable to run a coach.

June saw almost a full coach leave these shores for a five day visit to Brussels to witness the 200th Anniversary of the Battle of Waterloo. The trip was blessed with fine weather



**George Knight, grandson of our secretary.**

throughout – always a bonus. Our secretary and organiser of the venture **Colin Knight** said he took total credit for the weather! The trip was very interesting and went well in all respects except for the actual re-enactment. In this respect it was obvious, on arrival on site that the organisers had put up too many stands and sold more tickets than they should as at least two thirds of the patrons had little or no

visibility of the actual battle. It was felt, not just by our group, but many others who had attended, that the organisers had made a very poor job of the seating arrangements and therefore had let many people down.

During the trip the party visited Ghent and also paid a visit to Harelbeke Military Cemetery.

**George Knight** (above), grandson of our secretary was the only youngster on the trip. Despite his young age **George** has a very keen interest in military history including the Grenadiers.

Yet again we achieved an excellent gathering for a Spring Lunch at a Gurkha Restaurant. Something different always has an appeal; 'Thank you' **David Leighton** for the idea and taking on the responsibility once again. This was followed a few weeks later by a walk in the Royal Forest of Dean concluding at a pub in idyllic surroundings. A glorious sunny day was a bonus for the good number who attended.

The July members' meeting was held in the Military Museum in Gloucester. Arrangements had been made for us to visit the premises exclusively for our own use. It was a glorious sunny evening with the Museum set on the front of the Gloucester Docks. This gave an excellent start for the meeting which was exceptionally well attended. The meeting was kept short as the party was split into groups for a tour. The ladies joined us on this occasion.

Our Annual Garden Party at the home of **Colonel John Peel** was held on what turned out to be a perfect sunny Summer day. There was an excellent turn out for a first class barbecue which was followed by a concert in the garden by the Chedworth Silver Band. Thanks go to the helpers who assisted on the day.

The President's Annual Formal Luncheon was held at the Hatherley Manor Hotel, near Gloucester with an excellent attendance of 117 guests. We were privileged to have as our guest from the Regiment **Lt Kit Naughton** who gave an interesting and up to date account of Regimental activities. Also with us was **Major General Sir Peter Williams CMG OBE** who gave an excellent address including a detailed account, on how many years

ago, he was one of those responsible for guarding Rudolph Hess the then sole inmate of Spandau Prison.



**Alan Holford left 'holding the baby'.**

**Alan Holford** (above) left 'holding the baby' at the luncheon; it is in fact a doll that was auctioned.

At the time of writing and to conclude 2015, we still have to look forward to a fully subscribed Branch four day visit to the Isle of Wight, Dumbleton Christmas Family and Friends Luncheon (already a sell-out) and the Christmas Social.

Birthday Cards continue to be sent to every member for whom we have a date of birth, which is the majority. The scheme is now seven years old and well received by the membership. It is now run by our former Chairman **Peter Jones** and his wife **Pamela**.

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 successful Branch.

This Branch has embraced modern technology with 151 members who can now be communicated with by e-mail, something over two thirds of the membership. Seldom does a week go by without members online receiving some form of Branch communication. Those without email have had four 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** is always very active and gives the Branch tremendous support throughout the year. We are sure that all members would like to thank him for his leadership and guidance as President.

Many members from the Branch are in receipt of the weekly newsletter from **Jim White**, who, once more, is to be commended for his enthusiasm and indeed very personal effort in undertaking this task. The Branch is looking forward to the challenges ahead and we are sure that there will be many during 2016.

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 we are certainly endeavouring to do here in Gloucestershire.

# KINGSTON & DISTRICT

(Formed 1935)

**President:** Major DR ROSSI, MBE

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

**Chairman:** Mr FS HOLLAWAY

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

**Tel:** (0208) 336 1884

**Email:** john-lh-knight@lineone.net

**Hon Treasurer:** Mrs L EDWARDS

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

At the Branch monthly meeting on 6th October 2014 it was confirmed that **Lyn Jones** and **John Knight** had both attended the Treasurers training day facilitated by the General Secretary, not being an accounting genius John had found the day particularly useful. In November **Liz Howell** and **John Knight** attended a Surrey Branch meeting where an evening's bingo and a buffet had been arranged.

Near to the end of 2014 the Branch members were working towards arranging a Christmas lunch on 30th November but were unable to reach the minimum number required to make the function financially viable. That was a very real disappointment as the venue was to have been Reed's School in Cobham. The Branch had established an affinity with the school through **Brigadier Greville Bibby CBE** our Vice President. That affinity continued with **Mark Worsfold** attending the school's annual ACF Sergeants' Mess Dinner. The members were determined not to leave Christmas unmarked and as a result several local venues were suggested. All save one were discounted and members enjoyed a Branch Christmas celebration at

the Avera Restaurant in Molesey.

The weather had turned from bad to worse and it was obvious that a number of members would not make the December meeting which by tradition was a bring and buy sale, this was swiftly cancelled and after a very short meeting, members braved the weather and adjourned to the local fish and chip restaurant for supper. **Major Rossi** had donated a bottle of whisky to the raffle with proceeds going towards the cost of the drinks bill!

At the Branch AGM in February 2015 **Eileen (Lyn) Jones** retired from her long term post as Honorary Treasurer. The President thanked her for her long and loyal service to the Branch and presented her with a bouquet of flowers. **Linda Edwards** stepped into the breach and was unanimously elected to the vacant post. **Stan Hollaway** was elected to the post of Chairman. Following the meeting, members were able to enjoy a display of photographs provided by **Kevan Harvey**, Coldstream Guards. **Liz Howell** our Master Cook resourced and provided an excellent buffet meal which was much appreciated. The Branch continues its attendance at Black Sunday and still manages to muster a few who march.

In March the Branch hosted **Major Green** the General Secretary and **Matthew Ellmer** the Regimental Casualty Officer, who came along to brief members on the scope of the casualty officer's duties. A very interesting presentation was given with Major Green explaining how the Association role tied in with Matthew's.

On the evening of 17th July **Liz Howell** and **John Knight** travelled to Herstmonceux Castle to watch Sounding Retreat by the Bugles and Band of the Rifles. (Did we really fly round the square at that pace at The Guards Depot, Caterham for four whole weeks?) It was an opportunity to enjoy a picnic (provided by **Liz**) on the lawn whilst watching the parade. The invitation had come via

**Derek Mead**, Associate Branch member and formerly of the Royal Military Police and 95th Rifles; a great evening in company with **Derek, Jacqui** and their friends. On 29th July **John Knight** and **John Edwards** joined members of the Surrey Branch on a tour of ATC Pirbright.

2015 was to be an important year for the Kingston & District Branch as it was to celebrate the 80th anniversary of its founding. Much of what remained of the year was given over to fund raising and organising the nature of the function that we would enjoy. A committee of **Mark Worsfold**, **Bill Maskell** and **John Edwards** were elected to oversee what was to happen. The initial decision taken was that, within our means, the Branch should strive to make the occasion as memorable as it could.



Glenmore House – a fabulous setting.



There were several suggested options for a venue but Glenmore House in Surbiton was the chosen site, and a spectacular venue it proved to be.

**Major Rossi** made an initial early approach to both Surrey and Windsor Branches and many of their members joined us to enjoy the day. The final head count was ninety eight and it's many a long day since we came anywhere near to that number. In addition to the venue's candelabrum the loan of some additional Regimental silverware was arranged to grace the tables making for a splendid show. Commemorative key rings were procured as a gift for those in attendance.

Following a lengthy process the Health and Safety audits were finally successfully concluded and agreed and a quintet of musicians from the Regimental Band attended to play during the meal. **Mrs Rossi** baked and decorated a celebration iced cake bearing the Association Cypher and our dates of 1935 to 2015. Our Guests of Honour were **Colonel REH Aubrey Fletcher**, President of the Grenadier Guards Association and his wife Caroline.

**Bill Maskell** attended with a group from the Royal British Legion Club, East Molesey and before we sat down to eat **John Knight** said grace in the form of the Regimental Collect. At the conclusion of the meal and before the speakers took to the floor the Branch senior soldier **Tom Gentle** cut the cake. He had joined the Branch under the presidency of **Major K Bibby** back in the 1960s.



**Tom Gentle with Major Rossi cutting the cake.**

**John Knight** had donated a bottle of champagne to be raffled and the numbered place cards were used as tokens. The draw took place after the cake had been cut; **Colonel Houstoun** being the lucky winner.



**The President's Table.**

Following a short break and when all had regained their places **Major Rossi** confirmed that he had written to Her Majesty, The Colonel in Chief, sending her our loyal greetings and informing her of our 80th Anniversary lunch being held at Glenmore House on Sunday 25th October. Her Majesty had graciously replied sending both her thanks and best wishes for a successful luncheon. The National Anthem was played by the Regimental Musicians and **Major Rossi** proposed the Toast 'The Queen'.

He confirmed that he had also written to His Royal Highness, The Colonel, sending him our loyal greetings and informing him of our 80th Anniversary. The Colonel had graciously replied sending both his thanks and best wishes for a successful luncheon. **Major Rossi** proposed the Toast 'The Colonel'.

In his address **Major Rossi** spoke of the hard work that had gone into making the day a success and recorded how much the Branch owed to **Mark Worsfold** and to **John Knight**. He continued by praising another largely unsung tireless worker who always stepped up to the plate and who had looked after us all very well over the years; **Liz Howell** was taken completely by surprise and left almost speechless when she was presented with a bouquet of flowers.

After his address **Major Rossi** introduced the guest of honour, who was able to brief us on Association matters and the changing role of the Regiment. **Colonel Aubrey-Fletcher** proposed the Toast 'The Regiment'. **Mark Worsfold** gave a short address and proposed the Toast 'The Grenadier Guards Association'.

All that remained for the year was to turn our thoughts to Christmas and to look forward to another successful year.

# LEICESTERSHIRE & RUTLAND

(Formed 1927)

**President:** Mr 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:** Mr J COWLEY Esq.

**Vice Chairman:** Mr J MORREY Esq.

**Secretary:** Mr R FLETCHER, 32 Main Street, Thorpe  
Satchville, Melton Mowbray, LE14 2DQ.

**Tel:** (01664) 840653

**Email:** gillm.c@btinternet.com

**Treasurer:** Mr 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 final events to end 2014 were the Annual Christmas Raffle, which took place on Tuesday 2nd December presided over by our Chairman **Mr John Cowley**; the raffle tickets were drawn and prizes presented to the lucky winners followed by a Buffet to end the evening. Then on Sunday 14th December we held our Christmas Lunch where 32 members and guests sat down to a three course meal followed by Irish coffee and mince pies. The Chairman then thanked everyone for their support throughout the year and hoped it would continue into 2015.

Our first event of 2015 revolved around the discovery of the remains of King Richard III. Having been discovered and recovered from a Leicester City car park, the King was paraded around the county and city. His remains were then laid to rest in state in St Martin's, Leicester Cathedral for the general public to pay their respects. It was decided by the powers that be to have Veteran members of the Armed Forces from within the County to stand guard around the coffin during its lying in state. As a result the Leicestershire Branch supplied four members **Mr Roy Jones, Mr John Cowley, Mr John Russell and Mr Ron Fletcher**. This duty was performed on Tuesday, 24th March between the hours of 2.00pm and 3.00pm. The event went smoothly and grateful thanks were received from the Cathedral Staff.

Our Branch AGM took place on Sunday 12th April, 2015. The Chairman thanked all members for their support during the year. Our Vice-president **Mr John Morrey** took the chair to appoint the officers for the next year. There were no nominations for change received, so the outgoing committee members were unanimously re-elected to serve the Branch in 2015/2016.

Remembrance Sunday on the 17th May was well attended by members and friends; 30 in all. The Service, parade and weather all contributed to a very enjoyable day out. On Friday



The Leicestershire Branch Guard of Honour.



John Cowley and Ron Fletcher with the coffin.



John Russell and Roy Jones.

19th June the Branch was invited to attend the flag-raising ceremony for Armed Forces Day at County Hall, Leicester.

Armed Forces Day on Saturday 4th July was celebrated with a service at Leicester Cathedral followed by a march by Veterans behind the Band of the Seaforth Highlanders through the streets of the City. The participants then returned to the Cathedral for a buffet. Those who attended enjoyed the occasion immensely.

We held our annual Garden Party on Sunday 23rd August at the usual venue, the West Leicester Conservative Club, with invitations going to the local branch of the



Coldstream Guards and members of our Oxfordshire and Northamptonshire Branches. We appreciated their attendance and despite the intermittent rain, were able to enjoy the afternoon's entertainments both inside and out.

The Branch is extremely pleased to announce three new serving members have joined us: **Danny Lyons**, **Thomas Lyons** and **Daniel Carroll**.



**Ron Fletcher and guests at the Garden Party.**



**Danny Lyons trying his hand at the Rifle Range.**



**John Cowley at the Boules.**

Finally our thanks go to the Association team at RHQ for their support throughout the year.

## LINCOLN

(Formed 1923)

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

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

**Chairman:** Mr JD MARSHALL

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

**Tel:** (01522) 871184

**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.

During the last year the new system of holding meetings bimonthly and a Sunday lunch in the intervening months appears to have worked very well. They are well supported by our usual loyal members with the occasional new member also joining us. The Sunday lunch venue changes each time throughout the county, but we always return to our favourites. These are well attended and have a very relaxed family feel about them, often with members bringing extended family to join us.

At our December meeting we always invite the local Army Cadets for a Christmas Social and Games Night. The games and the Christmas raffle were overseen by **Roger Gardiner** and followed by supper.

On Friday 17th April 2015 the Branch held its AGM; all officers were re-elected with no opposition. Midway through the year **Roger Gardiner** stood down as Entertainments representative due to family commitments and **Charlie Short** was elected in his place and also continues as the Branch Welfare Officer.

In May we travelled to London for Regimental Remembrance Day with a few new faces joining us this year. 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.

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 from the Regiment was our own Vice President, **Capt Ian Farrell** who brought us up to date with all the Regimental news. Following the meal the entertainment was provided by 'Streets Ahead' featuring ex Regimental Band musician **Nigel Turner**. We were also very pleased to welcome **Gdsm Wilson** from Nijmegen Company. Thanks must go once more to our Treasurer **Neil Crowther** and his wife **Sheila** for organising the splendid raffle.

On a chilly 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 **Keith Harvey** for





**Mr and Mrs Gaz Gallagher BEM.**

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



**Keith Harvey (Banner bearer) and Pat Houldridge (wreath layer) at the Remembrance Day Service.**

services in their local towns and villages. We also picked up a new member on his way into the lunch; I think the words spoken by our Treasurer were “nice tie where did you get that” the response “Grenadier Guards PRI shop of course”. He had recently left the Regiment and had also attended the service at the Cathedral. We were

very pleased to welcome him and his family to join us, bringing our numbers for lunch up to 30.



**Branch Members at Ted Crowe's 100th birthday celebration.**

Branch members recently visited our oldest branch member **Ted (Curly) Crowe** to wish him many happy returns – he reached his centenary year on 9th November 2015. Further details of this occasion can be found below.

Sadly during the last year we lost **23252071 M Toyne, 23688669 M Groom and 23865015 B Holmes.**

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

## **2614539**

### **Arthur Edward Maurice Crowe**

On Sunday 8th November 2015 Lincoln Branch members attended the Remembrance Service in Lincoln cathedral to remember the fallen from various conflicts. The following day we gathered together again this time to recognise the contribution of those who survived. In particular to celebrate the 100th birthday of one of our members; a veteran of World War II, **Ted Crowe** who now lives in Stewton House Care Home, Louth.



**The Birthday Cake.**

We were very grateful to the Battalion for sending our surprise guest for the event, **Gdsm Atuanya**. He is originally from Nigeria and moved to England in 2007, leaving his family behind with the intention of joining the British Army, in particular the Grenadier Guards. As he said “in my mind there was no other regiment worth joining, and they have now become my family”. When **Capt Farrell** asked for volunteers for this event he felt he just couldn't say no. He was extremely smart, very well presented, polite and chatted to everyone. He posed endlessly for photographs, not only with **Ted** and his guests, but also when accosted by other residents (and the staff) in the care home. He was a credit to the regiment.



**Ted Crowe arriving for the party.**

**Ted** or **Curly**, as he was known during his service days, was born in Lincoln on 9th November 1915. He left school aged 14 and his first job was as an errand boy for a local grocer, following that he worked for a furniture store, helping with deliveries and sometimes fitting carpets. In



**Ted Crowe with Gdsm Atuanya.**

1934 on a works outing the coach stopped in front of Buckingham Palace and on seeing the Guards he thought he would like to be a sentry. He did not hesitate to enlist and by 10th April 1935 he had joined the 2nd Battalion and was doing his first Public Duties, less than a year from his first sighting of the Guards. His service took him to Egypt from 1936 to 1938. After the outbreak of WWII he went through the BEF campaign ending with the evacuation at Dunkirk, and then after D Day on to the liberation of France, Belgium and Holland with the Guards Armoured Division, where he was a tank fitter with No 3 Squadron. He was demobbed in March 1946 having served 10 years and 327 days. His discharge papers read: 'A good and reliable man who has given excellent and loyal service in all conditions. He has never spared himself and has proved himself to be completely reliable, clean, sober and honest'.

Two of his most memorable and proudest moments were marching behind the Regimental Band into Buckingham Palace forecourt and entering Brussels to liberate the people and being kissed by Nuns!

**Ted** wrote an article for the 1991 issue of the Grenadier Gazette (page 40) about the 'Worst Day of his Life', which included his evacuation from Dunkirk. In September 1991, in Heesch, Holland there was a naming ceremony of street to be called 'Grenadierstraat'. Regimental Headquarters organised a four day visit for this with many veterans taking part, a full report is in the 1992 Gazette (page 72). At the end of the ceremony the veterans were to make their way back to the Town Hall for the evening's entertainment by coach. However, our **Ted**, not recognising this 'word of command' immediately formed up the men in three ranks and marched them smartly back to the Town Hall, much to the delight of the locals.

After the war he worked for Lord and Lady Monson in Burton by Lincoln as chauffeur and gardener. He actually chauffeured them to London for the coronation in 1953. A few years later he went to work in Louth where he stayed until he retired at the age of 65.

When on leave in 1938 he met his wife, **Sylvia** (known to many as **Sue**) at an M&S Christmas party and they began courting the following year. They married in 1941; sadly **Sue** passed away in 1997. He continued living alone until in April 2014 when at the age of 98 he decided to move into the care home, which, independent as always, he chose himself and then told everyone else. He also took the decision at that time to finally give up driving!

We had a wonderful afternoon; **Ted** spoke to everyone present and also gave a small speech. We would like to thank **Ted's** family for allowing us to be part of these celebrations and also to **Capt Ian Farrell** and others within the Regimental system that made our surprise guest possible. Always a staunch supporter of his local branch, the Lincoln Branch has copies of Branch meeting minutes back to the late 1940s in which **Ted** is mentioned. This just leaves us now to wonder – is he the oldest serving Grenadier – or do you know better?

# LIVERPOOL

(Formed 1920)

**President:** THE EARL OF DERBY.

**Vice Presidents:** WF PENNINGTON; C YATES; G HUGHES; GH NORRIS.

**Chairman:** Mr I GRIFFITHS.

**Secretary:** Mr 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 2014 Annual Dinner and Dance was held on Saturday 22nd November at the Thistle Hotel, Chapel Street, Liverpool. The Branch President **Lord Derby** was unable to attend but we were delighted to welcome **Major James Seddon**, Captain of The Queen's Company as the Regimental representative.

**Mr Paul Jupp** MBE and his wife **Dawn** travelled 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. Timber Woods** and his wife **Beryl** came in from Grimsby for two nights.

On the Friday evening before a three course Christmas dinner was booked at the 'Liverpool Pub' in James Street, in the City Centre and nine 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.

After a few late cancellations 82 members and guests were in attendance at the Dinner and Dance. The Branch had two raffles during this function to support Branch funds and all prizes are donated by those in attendance, the brown envelope draw our first raffle of the evening was for a Christmas hamper donated by **Frank & Barbara Pennington**, this raised £94.00. **Peter Cook** from the Oxford Branch won the hamper and **Mrs L Shields** won the second prize. The second draw was our main raffle of the evening and this raised the sum of £269.00.

At the conclusion of dinner and after the speeches, three framed certificates issued by the Lord Mayor of Liverpool entitled 'Citizen of Honour of the City of Liverpool' were presented by **Major Seddon** to **Leslie Edge**, **Charles Yates** and **George Norris**. The criteria for this award being that the recipient had to have been born in or lived in the City and served in the Second World War. **John Edwards** the other recipient of the award was not at the Dinner and Dance and he received his award the following month.

2015 commenced with our AGM on Thursday 29th January, with lots to talk about and organise for the coming year a total of 15 members were present. Our Branch officers were confirmed at this meeting. The Branch Secretary attended the Association AGM at Wellington Barracks on Saturday 21st March and took a two night stopover in the Union Jack Club, which was very handy for the bus to and from Wellington Barracks. Our Troop Ticket requirement was ordered and **J. Edwards** received his order of tickets for the 1st Rehearsal, and **R. Thomson** was awarded the Queen's Birthday Parade tickets, none were required for the 2nd Rehearsal.

44 of us travelled to London for Regimental Remembrance Day and we picked up **Mr & Mrs P. Cook**, **Mr & Mrs R. Shayler**, and **Mr & Mrs D. Wright** from the Oxford Branch on the way. 30 raffle prizes were handed in by those travelling before we left Liverpool, so it was a good job that we had some spare seats to put them all on; we raffled off 15 prizes en-route to London. We took four prizes to the Chelsea Hospital club on Saturday evening to donate to their raffle. On return to Liverpool we raffled off another 12 prizes and a total of £256.00 was raised; big thank you to everyone for their help in supporting the Branch and also for donating these prizes.

The weather was again kind to us and once again the Chelsea Hospital club looked after us very well; another very good evening was spent amongst some very nice people and yes the dance floor was in use all evening. Sunday after breakfast it was over to Covent Garden before arriving at Wellington Barracks by 1.30pm. The service in the Guards Chapel was again very good with the Chapel choir excelling. It was reported that there were over 800 on parade to and from Horse Guards.

On Monday we left our hotel just before 11am for our trip to Stratford-on-Avon en-route to Liverpool. The traffic was very busy from Docklands, with many detours and traffic jams, but our driver Ray had us in Stratford in good time for a two hour stay.

At the time of writing we are all looking forward to our 2015 Annual Dinner Dance taking place on Saturday 21st November 2015 again at the Atlantic Tower Hotel. 2015 is the 95th Anniversary of the Branch and our guest from the Regiment will be **WO1 (RSM) T Bearder** the Regimental Sergeant Major, he will be accompanied by his wife **Paula**. We also have **WO2 (RQMS) Mark Cox** from RHQ attending with his wife **Nicola** as guests of the Branch – a full report to follow in next year's edition.

Just before closing we would like to record our thanks to **Major A. Green** and **Sgt R. Broomes** for their help throughout the year.

It is with deep regret that we report the very sad loss of **22216839 P Flanagan** and **22677833 E Foster**. On a happier note we welcome **PO64800D J Dicastiolone**, **30185293 C D Moss** and **30212925 A Dagnall** as new members.



# LONDON

(Formed 1920)

**President:** Lieutenant Colonel RG CARTWRIGHT, LVO

**Vice Presidents:** Brigadier MS BAYLEY, MBE; Colonel ATW DUNCAN, LVO, OBE; Lieutenant Colonel PR HOLCROFT, LVO, OBE; Capt THE HON JA FORBES; Lieutenant Colonel H FLOOD; Major THE LORD R GLENTORAN, CBE; Major ARG CARTWRIGHT; Major TH HOLBECH, MBE; Major PAJ WRIGHT, OBE; Capt CAG KEELING; Dr I REID, MA; Capt RAC DUNCAN; Capt D HORN; Capt TBCH WOODS; Capt A CLUFF; Capt RJB PINFOLD; H MANSELL, Esq; WH SMITH, Esq

**Chairman:** Mr PA LANES, Esq

**Secretary:** Mr L COX, KtGC 6 Hill View Lane, Great Billington, Leighton Buzzard, Bedfordshire, LU7 9BH

**Tel:** (01525) 852229/07966203799

**Email:** lescox1@sky.com

**Email:** londonbranch@grengds.com

**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 so many changes it's been more like Old Guard out and New Guard in. **Colonel A T W Duncan** handed over as President after 23 years' service to **Lieutenant Colonel R G Cartwright**. **Chris Bennett** handed the Branch Secretary's role over to **Les Cox** and **Andy Johnson** handed over the role of Social Secretary to **Frank Lowe**. **Frank Hooley** still remains the Branch Treasurer & Welfare Officer. This is the first time for many years that we have had an all Grenadier Committee.



**The Outgoing Committee.**

Our thanks and respect go to **Colonel Duncan** for all the hard work he has put in over the last 23 years and we know he would not want us to forget to thank his wife Jacqui, affectionately known as 'the Pay Sgt'; we wish them both well for the future. We warmly welcome **Lieutenant Colonel Cartwright** as our new President; the committee looks forward to working with him. **Chris**

**Bennett** has done a sterling job as Branch Secretary and is only relinquishing the role as he is returning to Australia, our very best wishes to him too. Last but not least our thanks to **Andy Johnson** who has reluctantly had to give up his role as Social Secretary due to the amount of other work he has as a serving Policeman.



**The New Committee.**

The Branch's social events have again been well attended. We enjoyed a visit to HM Tower of London to watch the Ceremony of the Keys and afterwards enjoyed a buffet and a drink with the kind permission of the Yeoman Warders Mess. Members also had a chance to watch the Garter service parade at Windsor Castle, racing at Ascot was also well attended. But the event of this year was a cocktail party hosted by **Colonel Duncan** in the Officers' Mess at Wellington Barracks. This was a fitting place to celebrate the 200th Anniversary of the Battle of Waterloo. It was a rain soaked day with roads and tube stations closed and a demonstration march, but guests still managed to get there. Unfortunately due to the adverse conditions The Regimental Band, who were meant to Beat Retreat were not able to parade. That aside we all had a thoroughly enjoyable evening.

In October **Colonel Duncan** and **Phil Lanes** our Chairman and the rest of the old committee visited **Harry Mansell** at home to present him with a Silver Bed Plate and Plaque for all his years of commitment to the Branch as Secretary, Chairman and now a Vice President. **Harry** was delighted with the Bed Plate and delighted that his late wife **Jean** had been mentioned in the Plaque. Branch members are looking forward to the Christmas Draw later in 2015 and events planned for next year especially Grenadier Day in July.

With great sadness we have to report that this report was written before we learnt of the sudden passing of **Chris Bennett** just before he was due to return to Australia. Regretfully we also report the deaths of **Capt Sir John Lambert KCVO**, **Capt John Lenaghan**, 22899732 **J A Perry**, 22476844 **R D Plumb**, 2629033 **G Richard**, Mrs **EH Smith**, 2627420 **I Davies** and 2629144 **A Swain**.

Finally we would like to thank **Major Andy Green** and **Sgt Rob Broomes** at RHQ for all their help and guidance.

# MANCHESTER

(Formed 1913)

**President:** Lieutenant Colonel CE KITCHEN, MBE

**Vice Presidents:** Mr F GREEN

**Chairman:** Mr M COTTRELL

**Secretary:** Mr RA FALLON, 58 Newhouse Road, Heywood, Lancashire, OL10 2NU

**Tel:** (01706) 360818

**Email:** robert.fallon@talktalk.net

**Treasurer:** Mr AE JENNINGS.

**Meetings:** First Tuesday of each month, (except August).

Meetings held at Longsight Sports and Social Club, 140 Kirkmanshulme Lane, Longsight, M12 4WB

The Branch has enjoyed a very good year since our last report, kicking off with the Christmas Dinner and Dance held at our usual venue, The Britannia House Hotel, Didsbury. 94 members and guests sat down for a four course meal with wine, and dancing until 1am to the music of our regular DJ.



From Left to Right: Mrs Brackenridge, Joe Brackenridge, Mrs Kitchen and the President.



Janice and Phil Hoskison.

On Saturday 11th April the draw for our Grand National Sweep stake took place at the Secretary's house, present were the secretary, **Tony Jennings** and **Jim Parry**. It is becoming increasingly difficult to sell tickets because there are so many organisations asking for donations, we were however, able to sell enough tickets to cover our costs and the prizes and still make a



From Left to Right: Linda & Rick Kitchen, Mrs Murray, Lieutenant Colonel Gerald Lesinski, Cllr Murray & Mary Lesinski.

little profit for Branch funds.

Our annual Branch Dinner and Dance took place on Saturday 18th April at the Britannia Country House Hotel with 118 members and guests present for a splendid evening of good food, friendship, good speeches and lots of dancing. The occasion was renamed the Waterloo Ball to commemorate the 200th anniversary of the battle. The evening started with a marching display by the Scots Guards Association Pipes and Drums on the hotel car park, followed by a Bucks Fizz reception on the terrace before everyone moved into the dining room for dinner.



The Scots Guards Association Pipes and Drums.

Our Regimental guest was Lieutenant Colonel Gerald Lesinski with his wife Mary and the VIP was the Lord Mayor of Manchester Cllr Murray and his wife, we also had the pleasure of the company of the chairman of the Nottinghamshire Branch and his wife. The menu for dinner was made up, fittingly, of French and English dishes; for starter we had Onion soup and Beef Wellington (what else) for the main course. Dessert was Spotted Dick avec Crème Anglaise and the cheese board consisted of Brie and Cheddar. Following all the formalities the dancing went on into the early hours.





**Pat Davies, Bob Fallon, Pam Fallon and Stuart Davies.**



**The Mayoress and Mayor of Manchester, Bob Fallon, Pam Fallon and Lieutenant Colonel Rick Kitchen.**

The Branch AGM took place on Tuesday 5th May in the Longsight Sports and Social Club with 25 Members attending. The Chairman stood down the committee and handed the meeting over to the Vice President **Frank Green** who then asked all members present to nominate a committee for the coming year. There was one nomination for a member to be added to the committee: **Mick Tarkenter**, all the previous committee were voted back into office for another year.

The response from members for the trip down to London for Regimental Remembrance Day forced the committee to decide that it would not be financially viable to run a coach from the Branch. Members were advised that if they wished to attend they should ring the Wigan and St. Helens Branch and travel with them. Five members joined them with their wives and this helped to fill up their coach. The trip was extremely well organised and our thanks to **Barry Taylor** for letting us join them.

At our AGM **Jack Dummer** tendered his resignation as Welfare officer after 18 years of loyal service. Jack and his



**The Remembrance Day coach party arriving at the Hotel.**

wife were moving to Melksham in Wiltshire to be nearer their grandchildren; we all wish them health and happiness in their new home. By the time we had reached the July meeting there had been no volunteers for the vacant position of Welfare Officer and some members suggested that the Secretary's wife would do a splendid job. After much persuading **Mrs Pamela Fallon** accepted the post and is now the new Welfare Officer of the Manchester Branch.



**The President presenting Jack Dummer with his certificate for outstanding service.**

Sadly this year we have lost **24021015 Mann E**, **22955297 Clift A**, **24164881 Taylor J.J**, **23879752 Connolly J**, **2623387 Cassidy E S**, **22545102 Lewis H**, **22545952 Morton J**, **23184452 Hickey C**, **24479382 Jones G R** and **2622570 Beck F**.

**LEST WE FORGET**



# MARCH

(Formed 1968)

**President:** Capt CNR BROWN

**Vice Presidents:** Capt (QM) TA ROLFE; W GIBBS; B HAYLETT

**Chairman:** Mr E SALMON

**Secretary:** Mr C M WHITEBROOK, 21 Davie Lane, Whittlesey, Cambridgeshire, PE7 1YZ

**Tel:** (01733) 350059

**Email:** whitebrook9834@hotmail.co.uk

**Branch HQ:** The Conservative Club, March

**Meetings:** Second Wednesday March, (AGM)

Time, like an ever flowing stream, bears all its sons away; sat here attempting to put together the notes for this issue of the gazette, on the eve of Remembrance Day is a reminder that yet another year has flown by with so many highs as well as lows. Personal thoughts and collective occasions shared with so many members and friends at Branch and Regimental events and functions.

The Branch was represented at Remembrance Day parades at March, Peterborough, Chatteris and Whittlesey. **Des Pritchard** laid the Branch Wreath at March, **Chris Whitebrook** was on parade in the morning with **John Porter** at Peterborough Cathedral, and then in the afternoon at Whittlesey, and **Neville Patter** was at Chatteris.

The last of our social functions in 2014, the Christmas Lunch, was again extremely well attended, and the Secretary, **Chris Whitebrook**, in consultation with the caterer and the management team at the local Conservative Club laid on a first class meal and afternoon. The quiz set to be completed during the meal attracted the usual rivalry with table prizes supplied by **Bill Gibbs**. This was followed by a magnificent Raffle which was run with the assistance of **Eddie Salmon** and his partner **Caroline Sutcliffe**.

Attendance at the AGM at Wellington Barracks afforded the opportunity for the Branch Secretary and Treasurer **Chris and Morag Whitebrook** to meet with so many other Branch officials. It is always encouraging hearing the news at first hand rather than reading of events at a later stage.

The Annual Lunch was well attended this year, and the usual high standard of Catering was achieved. We thank our hosts, the Conservative Club, and their in-house Catering team for the way in which they support the Branch Functions. Black Sunday, the rehearsals for the Birthday Parade and the Birthday Parade itself were supported in the usual manner by the Branch.

On an extremely wet afternoon, following allocation of tickets by **Major Andy Green**, the opportunity was given by **Major Grant Baker** to have **Morag Whitebrook** presented to Her Majesty the Queen at an

Annual Garden Party at Buckingham Palace. This marked a tremendous improvement in **Morag's** health after having to miss Her Majesty's Grenadier Day in 2013.

Thanks to the efforts of **Colin Knight** (Gloucester Branch Secretary) a coach party was organised to attend the 200th Anniversary Celebrations of the Battle of Waterloo; a tiring event which whilst not historically accurate was in itself a tremendous spectacle. A mixed party from various parts of the country, and from many different Branches, enjoyed each others company and the opportunity of attending this important celebration. **Chris and Morag Whitebrook** were able to participate in this trip.

Apart from the stay in Brussels, and the visit to Waterloo for the re-enactment, a day was spent visiting the encampments of both the Allied and French Armies. The enthusiasm of the participants was infectious. A visit to the First Guards Battle Camp, in the orchard at Hougoumont, was most interesting.



**Left: The Rallying Point. Right: A Private and a Drummer of the First Guards circa 1815.**

A trip to Ghent was included in the busy itinerary. This meant that opportunity was given to visit the War Cemetery at Harlebeke en route. This cemetery is in the middle of the Village and is maintained, as a tribute, by the Villagers. Both British, Commonwealth and German War dead from the 1st World War are interred there. It was a moving and poignant visit which lasted a lot longer than was planned.





**Unknown but to God.**

The last social event of the Branch year, the Sausage & Mash Lunch was, this year, a particularly special event. The numbers were boosted by many of the guests arriving early for a special wedding the following day. Family members were informed that they would be expected to attend this function, to join with the Branch, in celebrating the marriage of our Chairman **Edward Salmon** to **Caroline Sutcliffe**. It was a superb occasion and many happy memories will be associated with this day. During the meal our Chairman was thrilled to be able to present **Des Pritchard** with a Grenadier Medal.



**From Left to Right: Edward Salmon and Des Pritchard.**

As a Branch we look forward to another year of happy memories, well attended functions, and looking after each other.

## MATLOCK

(Formed 1955)

**President:** Mr DW RAWSON, BEM

**Chairman:** Mr JD KILLINGSLEY-SMITH, FInstLM

**Treasurer:** Mr D BRIGNULL

**Secretary:** Mr FA KNIGHT, 9 Croft Avenue, Parwich, Nr Ashbourne, Derby, DE6 1QG

**Tel:** (01335) 390109

**Email:** wrightjohn4@sky.com

**Meetings:** 1200hrs for 1215hrs on the last Friday of each month (With the following exceptions) NO MEETINGS – August and December, VENUE – The Grouse Inn, Dale Road North, Darley Dale, Derbyshire, DE4 2FT.

**Tel:** (01629) 258220

**Email:** bridie54@outlook.com

This reporting year started on the 9th November 2014 when Branch members attended various Remembrance Day Sunday Services. Our Chairman **Mr Derek Killingsley-Smith** together with his wife **Kate** attended the Remembrance Day Parade at St. Mary's Church, Crich. Senior Member **Mr Bill Pickford**, his wife **Vera** and daughter **Sheryl** together with Branch Administrator **John Wright** attended a packed St. Peter's Church, Edensor Village on the Chatsworth Estate. Our Vice Chairman and Honorary Secretary **Mr Fred Knight** kept up his long standing tradition of leading the Parade in his home village of Parwich. Finally our retiring Chairman **Andrew Birnie** attended the 'Nestle Memorial'.

On Remembrance Day, 11th November 2014 Branch President **Mr David Rawson BEM** (who laid an Association wreath), **Mr Fred Knight**, ex-Chairman **Mr Andrew Birnie** and **Mr John Wright** attended the unveiling Ceremony of a new Memorial at Carr Bank Memorial Park, Mansfield dedicated to the late **LCpl Wilfred Dolby Fuller VC Grenadier Guards**. Following the formalities they were all invited to attend a lavish lunch in the Mayor's Parlour, Mansfield. The Matlock Branch would like to record its thanks to **Councillor Christine Smith** and her husband **Michael** for the tasteful way they organised this event and their warm hospitality.

At the November Branch Meeting, after seeking the approval of her immediate family, it was unanimously agreed to forward the legacy of the now late member **Dinah Twigg** to Major General E. A. Smyth-Osbourne CBE for the Guards Chapel Memorial Garden Fund.

Our Spring luncheon was held on Wednesday 8th April 2015 and our Autumn Luncheon on Wednesday 30th September 2015. These two well attended occasions were both highly successful and jointly organised by **David Rawson** and **John Wright** aided as always by their respective wives **Tina** and **Margaret**. Our distinguished Guest of Honour on both occasions was **WO1 (RSM) Ty Bearder** who once again did us proud with his



Carr Park, Mansfield.

informative updates on Regimental matters. Over his two visits the Branch presented him with cheques amounting to a total of £350 in support of The Colonel's Fund of which £250 came from the Branch and £100 was generously donated by the family of the now late founding Branch member **William (Bill) Earl Bishton**.



Sgt Major Bearder with the Matlock Branch Committee.

We have many to thank for their efforts over the last 12 months. Firstly our President **David Rawson** especially for organising a most pleasurable coach trip to the National Memorial Arboretum on Friday 4th September 2015, our new Chairman **Derek Killingsley-Smith** for his leadership during his first term in office, our Honorary Secretary **Mr Fred Knight** and his wife **Ann** for their contribution in keeping our Branch so vibrant and a massive thank you to our Treasurer **Mr David Brignull**. Last but not least thank you to our Regimental Treasurer and General Secretary **Major Andy Green** and **Sgt Rob Broomes** for their continued support.

22545401

**James Ian Morton**

14 February 1935 –

10 January 2015

**I**an (known as **Jim**) enlisted at Derby in 1952 and served for three years. He was posted to The Queen's Company in March 1953 and undertook State Ceremonial and Public Duties including the Coronation of Queen Elizabeth II, the Guard of Honour at Queen Mary's Funeral, the Presentation of New Colours and the Birthday Parade. Ian concluded his service by being posted to the Administration Section at Pirbright.

**Ian** was a member of the Nottingham Branch of the Association for many years and later transferred to the Matlock Branch where he became Branch Secretary. **Ian** served in this position for seven years until the onset of Parkinson's disease forced him to retire.

**Ian's** funeral took place at Christ the King Catholic Church, Alfreton on the 26th January 2015. In attendance were **David Rawson BEM**, **Derek Killingsley-Smith** (who read the Regimental Collect) and his wife **Kate**, **Bill Pickford** and his wife **Vera**, **John** and **Margaret Wright**, **Margaret Bishton** and **Walter Wardle** representing the Nottinghamshire Branch. A Guard of Honour was provided for **Ian** as he exited the Church. Also present afterwards at the Crematorium were **Fred Knight** and two members of the Derby Branch who lowered their Banner and sounded Last Post; our thanks to the Derby Branch Secretary **Ian Sutton** and his fellow Branch member for their support.



The late James Ian Morton.

2624902

**John Greaves Darwent**

28 February 1926 –

27 January 2015

**J**ohn was quiet, gentle man.

His family knew that he served as a Second World War Tank Driver in the Guards Armoured Division. He is known to have taken part in numerous crucial campaigns including at Nijmegen and the Battle of the Bulge but he was never one to discuss his exploits. **John** also sadly lost his brothers **Stanley** and **Eddie** on active service in the Far East.

At **John's** funeral held at St. Barnabas C of E Church, Bradwell on the 30th January 2015 the following Branch members attended (the male members forming a Guard



The late John Greaves Darwent



of Honour); **Derek Killingsley-Smith**, Mrs **Kate Killingsley-Smith**, **Fred Knight**, Mrs **Ann Knight**, **John** and **Margaret Wright**.

In spite of being diagnosed with a terminal illness John regularly attended Branch meetings right up until within weeks of his passing. He will be sadly missed.

**2625438 William (Bill)  
Earl Bishton  
28 September 1926 –  
23 April 2015**

**B**ill sadly passed away following a long illness on St. Georges Day. After signing on for 12 years he served in the 2nd Battalion from 2nd June 1944 until 1952. He saw service in Germany, Norway and the U.K. Bill maintained his connections with the Guards and his affection for the Regiment continued for the rest of his life. He was a founder and active life-long member of the Matlock Branch. Bill's Funeral took place on the 14th May 2015 at St. Thomas's Church, Nottingham Road, Somercotes, Derbyshire and afterwards at the Amber Valley Memorial Park Crematorium.

A Regimental wreath, Union Flag and Forage Cap were provided along with a Guard of Honour found by **Derek Killingsley-Smith**, **John Wright**, **Bill Pickford**, Chesterfield Branch Vice President **Michael Carnall** and **Brian Withers** representing the Nottinghamshire Branch. The Eulogy was given and the Regimental Collect read by **Derek Killingsley-Smith**. Derby Branch Secretary **Ian Sutton** was present once again with their Banner and we thank him for the very dignified manner in which he carried out his duties.

Generous to the end it was Bill's wish that the church collection on the day of his funeral be equally divided between St. Thomas's Church and the Matlock Branch. Bill was a big man with a big heart and a loving family man and proud Grenadier.

On the 2nd July 2015 **Kate and Derek Killingsley-Smith** represented the Branch at the funeral in Derby of **Trevor John Savage** who passed away in June 2015. **Derek** formed part of the Guard of Honour.



**The late William Earl Bishton.**

## MEDWAY

(Formed 1976)

**President:** Lieutenant Colonel P HARRIS, MBE.

**Vice Presidents:** Lieutenant Colonel S TUCK, BEM;  
Capt CD LEIGH-PEMBERTON; Capt AJH HOLLOWAY, MP;  
AJ WEST, BEM; Capt RC WORTHINGTON.

**Chairman:** Mr PA FRANKS

**Hon Secretary:** Mr S VAUGHAN, Franwynne, Scarborough Drive, Minster, Isle of Sheppy, 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.

**T**he Medway Branch started the year when 64 of us boarded a bus in January at the Warren Wood Club and made our way to The Tower of London where we were met by seven more of our members who had made their own way there. After our guided tour, Yeoman Warder **Kevin Kitcher** steered us into the Warders Mess for drinks and a fish and chip supper before we went back out to watch the Ceremony of The Keys which brought back lots of memories of standing out there on a cold night. Afterwards, it was back to the Mess for more beer before we left for home just before midnight. The Warders' Mess has loads of history to be seen on the walls with the different mementoes, badges and the collection of hats. Thanks go to **Kevin** for an enjoyable evening.



**Andy Baines and Kevin Kitcher at Headcorn.**

On Regimental Remembrance Day, **Chris Warden** drove a mini-bus with 12 members to Wellington Barracks for Black Sunday and was delighted to find the back door did not work properly and so gaining entry and exit was more like going on an assault course for the less-nimble of the group. It caused much amusement helping each other



in and out. In June the Branch had a good day at Armed Forces Day held on The Great Lines, Gillingham. With big crowds we had plenty of visitors having a go at our Golf Challenge and we all ended the day with a decent tan.

A Saturday in July saw **Steve Vaughan** drive a minibus with eight passengers to the National Memorial Arboretum, Staffordshire, where we were met by **Joe and Anne Marshall** from Lincoln. We spent the rest of the day seeing the many new memorials before going to the Premier Inn nearby for our overnight stay. We had four of our number on mobility scooters and it became a bit like a go-kart event with them jockeying for position. The weather could not have been better and we had two very enjoyable days visiting the whole site.



**From Left to Right: Back Row; John and Barbara Garwood, Pat Franks, Mo Vaughan, Anne Marshall. Front Row; Anita Malling, Joan Mew, Ted Mew and Joe Marshall.**

**Duane Ashworth** held Ashfest Day at The Beach Hotel, Minster when about 400 people turned up to remember **LCpl James Ashworth VC** with music and a BBQ and to meet with friends old and new. With a Status Quo and Beach Boys Tribute bands, the music went on till midnight.

We held our annual Petanque match at the Whitehouse pub near Maidstone in August and all was going well with 21 of us fighting for supremacy when after one and a half hours it was suddenly rain stop play and we all had to dash for cover. Because we had come in early, we had an hour to wait for our lunch but made use of the time having a beer!

At our Annual Dinner in October we had 78 guests sitting down to a splendid meal at the Grange Moor Hotel in Maidstone and then the pleasure of having **Colonel Richard Aubrey-Fletcher** speak brilliantly afterwards. The speeches were followed by our entertainer **'Danielle'** who had people dancing until midnight. Thanks go to **Chris Warden** for doing the auction and **John Chapman** the raffle, with **Mo Vaughan** and **Karen Flynn** selling the tickets.

We are very pleased to welcome **Dean Hammond**, **Terry**



**Ashfest.**

**Barnard** and his wife **Caroline** who attend all of the meetings and also **Michael Link** and **Ken Richardson** who have come onto our books after the West Kent Branch closed.

It is with much regret that we announce the loss of **Mrs Jean Freeman, 2629033** **Gerry Rickard, 24428622** **Steve Copp, 22955573** **John Marshall and 23252047** **Peter Gretton.**

## NORFOLK

(Formed 1938)

**President and Chairman:** Capt PJS ALLEN.

**Vice Presidents:** Capt TRE COOK; Major JFQ FENWICK, QC; Capt DJT LENG; Capt JM STRATTON; R DONALDSON; JM BATTEN, Esq.; CH MITCHELL, Esq.; Lieutenant Colonel HML SMITH; BL BARBER, Esq.; RF BARWICK, Esq.

**Vice Chairman:** Mr J FEAKINS.

**Treasurer:** Mr CR WARREN, 10 Highland, Poringland, Norwich, NR14 7QU

**Tel:** (01508) 494379 / 07885 088387

**Email:** christwrr@btinternet.com

**Secretary:** Mr TA McCLENAHAN, 7 Crowes Loke, Little Plumstead, Norwich, Norfolk, NR13 5JB

**Tel:** (01603) 721624

**Email:** terry.mcclenahan@btinternet.com

**Assistant Secretary:** Mrs L BOWDEN

**Meetings:** March and September 2016 at The White Horse Public House, 1930hrs for 2000hrs

**AGM:** 25th March 2016

During the course of 2015 we held two Branch Meetings, our Annual Luncheon and attended Regimental Remembrance Day.

Our year began with the AGM in March at Dereham Town Football Club which was attended by 14 members. After the meeting we enjoyed a finger buffet; our thanks to **Roger Smith** for his organisation. We attended Regimental Remembrance Day in May with a small coach

taking us to London. We thought the day was well organised and all went very smoothly.

The annual Branch lunch took place on 6th September at Park Farm Hotel Hethersett, Norwich. A Bucks Fizz reception greeted 55 members who took the opportunity to catch up with old friends. All our members looked in good health including our two 'bionics', who have had pacemakers fitted. We sat down to a delightful three course lunch after **John Crowley** said grace, reminding us all what we have to be grateful for. During lunch **Frank Green** encouraged us all to buy tickets for the rather good raffle which had some 25 prizes on offer.

Our guest speaker was **2Lt Jonathan Silver** who did an excellent job bringing us up to date with Regimental activity during the last year or so and what the future held. He spoke very well and we are indebted to him for coming to talk to us.

Towards the end of lunch **Frank Green** called the raffle with the very able assistance of **Ross Donaldson** who certainly earned his corn. The lunch came to a close at about 4pm and having said our goodbyes we headed home having had a really lovely afternoon. Special thanks to **Frank Green** and his wife **Tanya** for the excellent day.

On 2nd October our second meeting took place and for the last time at Dereham Football Club. We have decided that it is no longer a good idea to use a venue so far away; a good 60 mile round trip for most, so we have brought it back to Norwich and hope that will encourage a greater attendance. We have enjoyed our time at Dereham and thank **Roger Smith** and his daughter for their commitment during this time. We will now meet at The White Horse Public House in Trowse, Norwich with the next meetings taking place at 1930hrs on 29 March and 25 September 2016.

We welcomed two new members this year and look forward to seeing them in the future. Current Membership now stands at 75 Grenadiers, 7 Honorary Members and 10 Widows.

## NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE

(Formed 1933)

**President:** SIR ALGY EH HEBER-PERCY, KCVO, JP, LL

**Vice President:** Major RG WOODFIELD, MBE

**Chairman:** Mr K WRIGHT

**Hon Secretary:** Mr DG ROBINS, Nabb Cottage, Nabb Lane,  
Alton, Staffordshire. ST10 4AY

**Tel:** (01538) 702 974 / 07968 037082

**Email:** david.robins@hotmail.co.uk

**Meetings:** Please contact the Branch Secretary for details.

laying ceremony at the **LSgt John Rhodes VC Memorial**. This is located on the site of the school that **John Rhodes VC** attended in the late 1890s. The festive season was celebrated at the Branch's December meeting which was held, along with luncheon at a local hostelry. During the same month Christmas gifts were delivered and gratefully received, this involved the usual, long conversations and cups of tea with the offer of something stronger at most calls.

January 2015 arrived with the annual fiscal frivolities with the Branch's yearly financial report all away on time and it was assumed that as no dreaded 'phone call was received from the numbers crew, it was in good order. Early in the New Year members of the Branch visited The National Memorial Arboretum to view the tree and bench that the Branch had arranged to be installed in the area of the Guards Memorial. These features had been funded, in the main, thanks to the kind generosity of two Branch members. A further luncheon/meeting was held at The Plough and Carrier in the north of our area.

It was during the early part of the year that the majority of our 'active' members were struck down with various maladies, several of which required somewhat protracted stays in hospital and long recovery periods. It was, therefore, decided to do a Third Battalion and go into 'suspended animation' until the situation eased. Consequently the majority of 2015 was rather quiet as far as the Branch was concerned.

Prior to the above Branch officers had, initially, been involved in the early days of planning The Waterloo Luncheon which was being organised by the Shropshire and Wolverhampton Branches. Unfortunately they were unable to be a great deal of help in what turned out to be an excellent event. Several North Staffs members and their partners were able to attend the function and had a thoroughly enjoyable time.

By August most, but certainly not all, Branch members were up and running, albeit slowly, again. So before the summer closed down a Garden Party was organised at the Branch Secretary's home. There was a good turnout of members, partners and wasps, attracted by copious amounts of strawberry jam, no scones and cream next time! Fortunately only two members and no ladies were stung. The weather was good and the get-together was much enjoyed following The Branch's temporary close-down. A further lunch/meeting took place in November after which, it is hoped it will be business as usual.

The Branch wishes to extend its sincere thanks to the small and, no doubt at times, overstretched team at Head Office and thank them for their ongoing help and support, it is truly appreciated. It also extends best wishes to serving and past Grenadiers wherever they may be.

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**I**n November 2014 members of the Branch again attended, with pupils from the local school, a wreath

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## NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

(Formed 1929)

**President:** Mr C MANNERS, Esq

**Vice Presidents:** Lieutenant Colonel EHL AUBREY-FLETCHER, DL; LADY P BRAY, DL; THE HON TI BRASSEY; Major JCF MAGNAY; Lieutenant Colonel JS SCOTT-CLAKE; Major JM HIRST; Capt R WILLMOTT, DL; Colonel REH AUBREY-FLETCHER; P GOUDIME, JP; Brigadier DJC RUSSELL-PARSONS; A CRAWLEY

**Chairman:** Mr G STANGER, 35 Bracken Close, Kettering, NN16 9BG

**Tel:** 07548761036

**Secretary:** Mr MA BRITTON, 2 Lowlands Close, Rectory Farm, Northampton, NN3 5EP

**Tel:** (01604) 416101

**Email:** nhantsgrenadier@aol.com

**Treasurer:** Ms T CLARK, 154 St Johns Road, Kettering, Northants, NN15 5AT

**Tel:** 07564067210 / 07740716504

**Email:** sean\_craddock1971@yahoo.co.uk

**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

## NORTHUMBRIA

(Formed 1926)

**President:** Colonel JM CASTER, 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

Our 2015 Annual General Meeting was held on Sunday 10th May at the Masonic Hall, Stockton-On-Tees, 30 members and guests attended; our President, Officials and Committee agreed to continue for a further year. We had a discussion about what to organise for the coming year; we had already held two functions in 2015, those being St Patricks Night in March and St Georges Night in April.

Having agreed that the Branch should have some major events to mark the year, our social calendar began again in May and to commemorate the 70th Anniversary of VE Day, we held a concert in The Malleable Club, Norton with the Billingham Silver Band, Newton Aycliffe Pipes and Drums and the Northern Accord Choir; a delightful evening with nostalgic music and song from three first class groups.

July saw the Branch back at Redcar Races to support the Help for Heroes Family Fun Day, a most enjoyable day out for a worthy cause. September saw our Annual Dinner take place back at The Masonic Hall. We decided to dedicate this dinner to the 50th Anniversary of the death of **Sir Winston Churchill**, 70 sat down to a really nice meal and our guests for the evening included **Lt Chris Wright** from The Guards Company at ITC Catterick, **Barry Taylor** and his lovely wife **Adel** and two fine Grenadiers from St Helens.

Our entertainment for the evening was provided by **Kieron Boston** who took us on a musical journey through the West End and Broadway musical shows, the second half livened up with music from the 60s to the present day and the dance floor was in use all evening; a superb evening enjoyed by all present.

November saw a party from the Branch travel down to London for Remembrance weekend, staying at the Kensington Close, Hotel and Spa. On Saturday evening we were invited to attend The Royal Hospital Chelsea and their Club. In December 40 members and guests sat down to a first class Christmas Lunch at the Marton Hotel & Country Club and as we report, the Branch is looking forward to our forthcoming Burns Supper on the 23rd January 2016 at the same venue.

During the year the Branch also received invitations to a Not Forgotten Association Garden Party at Buckingham Palace in June with **Tony Daniels** and his escort **Kath Keegan** representing the Branch. At the end of the previous year **Major E D Paintin**, then commanding the Guards Company at Catterick, invited the Branch to a pass out parade at the Infantry Training Centre. It was a first class parade with very high standards of drill and turnout, although bitterly cold.

It is with deep regret that we report the very sad loss of **Maureen Semmens** whose funeral took place on the 15th December 2014; **Maureen** was the wife of former Branch Secretary **Roy Semmens**: Rest in Peace.

We would like to thank on behalf of the Branch **Major Andy Green**, **Sgt Rob Broomes** and all the staff at Regimental Headquarters for their continued support.

## NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

(Formed 1914)

**President:** Vacant

**Vice Presidents:** SIR ANDREW BUCHANAN, Bt; G SEVERN; RL SHARPE; GE HALLAM

**Chairman:** Mr 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

**Facebook:** Grenadier Guards Association (Notts) Branch

**Treasurer:** Mrs MJ GREENBERRY

**Meetings:** Second Friday of each month (except December) at The Victory Club, Church Drive, Daybrook, Nottingham, NG5 6JG

The Branch has had a couple of changes since the report published in the 2015 Gazette which will be mentioned later but firstly during the past 12 months the following have been recruited as members; **24000333 Roberts M C**, **24477060 Thomas A**, **24692878 Dixon R J**. We are also happy to include **25059338 WO2 Davis G**, **30159354 Gdsm Batchelor N J**, **25208716 LSgt Mc Cormack J**, **25206979 LSgt Swan L**, **25221050 LSgt Beekman S** and **30083901 Gdsm Bates L**, who, at the time of writing, are believed to be serving with the Regiment; a sincere welcome to you all.



The progress of the English Oak planted in the Arboretum Nottingham in 2013 to celebrate the 100th Anniversary of the Regimental Association.

The changes referred to earlier are that the Branch meetings now commence at 7.00pm and not 7.30pm. The President **Mr S. Swanwick** appointed in 2014 stepped down September 2015. On behalf of the membership heartfelt thanks go to him for his efforts during his term in office. The 2014 Christmas Luncheon at the Albert Hall, Nottingham was a great success in every way and at the time of writing another similar event is being planned for the 5th December 2015 at the same venue. The following Friday, 11th December 2015 a Social Evening will be held at Branch HQ with entertainment and music by 'Carlita'. Refreshments will be prepared by **Malcolm Greenberry** a former WO1 in the Army Catering Corps. There was no formal Regimental Dinner/Dance in 2015 although one has been arranged for 23rd April 2016, once again at the Albert Hall, Nottingham. Supporting the anticipated first class meal will be music for the evening provided by musicians arranged by **Mr Nigel Turner** formally of the Regimental Band.

Other events in 2015 consisted of on 11th March, the attendance of seven members including our Banner Bearer **Mr John Hadley** at the Ashfield District Council Headquarters, Urban Road, Kirkby in Ashfield, where the former President **Mr Sam Swanwick** assisted in unveiling a plaque to honour **LCpl W D Fuller VC**, a Grenadier and former resident of the Town. An Association Wreath was laid by the Chairman **Mr Stuart Davis**. The dedication concluded with a good buffet provided by the local Authority.

On Friday 10th April 2015 a coach load of 43 Grenadiers, family and friends went to Duxford Military Museum and the American War Cemetery, Cambridgeshire, a trip organised by **Mr Richard Grocott** in its entirety. It was a venture which will be



Members of the Branch, a Drummer from the 1st Battalion and civic dignitaries at the Fuller VC dedication.



Local school children, the Drummer from the Regiment and Standard and Banner Bearers at the ceremony in Kirkby in Ashfield. **Mr John Hadley** (right) was the bearer of the Notts Branch Banner.

remembered for a long time as the funds to pay for it emanated from the industry of **Richard** and his assistants at Car Boot Sales to raise funds. The weather was favourable and it was a pleasure to be out in the open spaces and countryside. In small groups the visitors wandered in and out of seven of the eight large aircraft hangers containing wartime exhibits of various descriptions. A 'Spitfire' and other aircraft were on hand for use by anyone desirous of a flight.

The American War Cemetery was a sight to behold with the names of nearly 4,000 service personnel and civilians engraved on the Wall of Remembrance including that well known band leader Major Glenn Miller. The Chapel which was inexplicably beautiful displayed mosaics and designs which are outstanding. Concluding the visit at 4.30pm the Branch Secretary, **Mr Geoff Hallam** and the Assistant Secretary **Jeff Smith** were honoured with the privilege of lowering the American flag during the ceremony of 'Taps', the American equivalent to the British 'Last Post'. When the flag was retrieved from its cord it was folded in the traditional 'American' manner by the Vice President **Ray Sharpe** and the trip organiser **Richard Grocott**. The final formal act was the laying of an Association Wreath by the then Branch President **Sam Swanwick**.



The Secretary Mr Geoff Hallam and Assistant Secretary Mr Jeff Smith lowering the American Flag at the ceremony of 'Taps' at the American War Cemetery, Cambridge.



Members of the Branch at the base of the Flagpole at the Cemetery.

Regimental Remembrance Day on Sunday 17th May 2015 saw the usual supporters go to London for the annual service and parade, this time organised by the Social Secretary **Arthur Dutton**. Armed Forces Weekend on 27th and 28th June at Wollaton Park went exceedingly well with visits from past and present Grenadiers. A double Gazebo was provided by the Council to accommodate all the prizes and displays which the unit contained. The usual volunteers, including the few ladies carried out their duties in an exemplary manner. It was a financially rewarding event too, in as much as the purchase of a similar sized gazebo has been made by this Branch for use at future events of this nature.

The new Gazebo will be in Regimental Colours with the Association name thereon together with the Royal Cypher. Labours regarding the design and its purchase were borne on the shoulders of **Mr Jeff Smith**. Many of the people already mentioned earlier in this report were assisted by amongst others; **Mrs Edna Smith**, **Sue Grocott**, **Sonia Sharpe**, **Coralyn Swanwick**, **Pat Davis**, **Anne Twigger**, **Larry Straw** and his lady, **Alan Ping**, **Chris Dunne**, **Stuart Davis**, **Geoff**

**Hallam**, **Ray Ridgard** and **Barry Twigger**. A big thank you goes to them all for all their hard work in making the events described so successful.



The Start of the Day at Wollaton Park; the Gazebo containing all the goods on display being viewed by the public. **Mrs Anne Twigger** is the lady in the Gazebo in the light coloured trousers and **Mrs Edna Smith** is outside on the right.



**Mr Alan Ping**, provider of the sculptured woodwork on sale with helpers **Barry Twigger**, **Geoff Hallam** and **Barry Withers**.

On a separate issue thanks must also be given to the Branch Treasurer **Michelle Greenberry** for her continued hard work during the year. On the 19th September 2015 a number of members attended the Northern Ireland Parade & Service held at the National Arboretum, Alrewas Staffordshire.



**Mr S Davis**, **Richard Grocott** (Banner Bearer), **Jeff Smith** and **Larry Straw** (Sale of Goods Officer) in attendance at the NI Parade and Service, National Arboretum, Alrewas, Staffs.



Members also attended the Branch Armistice Day Parade on the 8th November 2015 at All Saints Church, Granby, Notts. A wreath was laid on the altar by **Gerald Severn** dedicated to those who have died in past conflicts. The names of Grenadiers killed in action in Afghanistan were read out too. Respects were also paid by the family, friends and members of the Branch at the graveside of **Harry Nichols VC** at Wilford Hill Cemetery, Nottingham at 11am 11th November 2015. A Regimental wreath was laid on behalf of both the Regiment and Association and a trumpeter played Last Post.

Our condolences go to the family and friends of those we have lost this year: **23688397 Offiler P J, 22213295 Bradford George, 22213959 Dudley R D, 2626439 Stainton A, and 24707188 Corah N.**

## OXFORDSHIRE

(Formed 1936)

**President:** Colonel ET HUDSON, CBE

**Vice Presidents:** THE HON Mrs RS TYSER; Major AH GRAY; SIR JOHN GRAHAM, Bt, GCM; LORD RAGLAN; THE VISCOUNT ESHER; Major DPG IRVINE; D MASON, Esq; Major General THE LORD ALVINGHAM, CBE, DL; Major PFL KOCH de GOOREYND; M COCHANE, Esq, DL (Scots Guards); D PALMER, Esq, DL; Lieutenant Colonel RT MAUNDRELL, MVO; Major RM POTTER (Scots Guards); P COOK, Esq.

**Chairman:** Mr P BROOKS

**Hon Secretary:** Mr D WRIGHT, 31 Blenheim Way, Horspath, Oxford, OX33 1SB

**Tel:** (01865) 874819

**Email:** wright.dcw@btopenworld.com

**Treasurer:** Mrs J SHAYLER

**A**nother year has quickly passed by and whilst all our activities last year were well supported it is rather concerning that those of us who do attend these functions are the wrong side of 75 and we know that there are many younger Grenadiers in the area. Our thanks must go to all other Household Division members in the area who give us their support and make our functions viable. Our new secretary **David Wright** has with a great deal of help from **Peter Cook** now taken over the running of the Branch.

During the year **Peter Brooks** our Dining Club secretary has organized two lunches at The Four Pillars Hotel for members and friends. The first was in December 2014 where 50 sat down to an excellent Christmas lunch followed by a raffle; everyone enjoyed themselves and all went on their way with a raffle prize. The second coincided with our AGM when afterwards 45 of us again sat down to another excellent lunch.

At The AGM it was proposed that the Branch donate a kneeler for The Guards Chapel. This has been duly done and we hope to see it in the near future. Also at the AGM

our President **Colonel Hudson** proposed that a sum of money be set aside to subsidize a branch Waterloo lunch at the local Edward Brooks Barracks. Unfortunately although the setting for the proposed event was perfect with the Rifles silverware being on the table, the cost proved prohibitive. Instead in July, 60 persons sat down to a four course lunch with wine at The Woodstock Masonic Hall provided by **Mrs Ward** and her staff. The raffle held during lunch raised over £150 for the Dining Club.

In August the Branch held a Garden party at The Banbury Cricket Club where over 65 sat down to an excellent spread provided by **Nikki and Jo**. A raffle was held during tea and £160 was raised for Branch funds.

Regimental Remembrance Day was observed in a different format this year as members joined a coach party from the Liverpool Branch for the weekend staying at a hotel in Docklands. On Saturday evening we were entertained at the Chelsea Pensioners Club by an excellent vocal group and on Sunday morning we visited the Covent Garden area where our Secretary and his wife got totally lost. Fortunately the mobile phone came to their rescue and we managed to locate them.

We then proceeded to Wellington Barracks for drinks in the Mess before attending the Service of Remembrance and parade to the Guards Memorial. After a leisurely evening at the hotel we departed for Oxford the next morning. Many thanks must go to **Frank Pennington** the Liverpool Branch Secretary for organising the trip and to the warm welcome we received from his members in the party.

**Pat and Barrie Padwick**, who is the Secretary of the Henley Guards Association, deserve our thanks for their tireless efforts in organising events on behalf of members, many of whom are Grenadiers. A cheese and wine party was held at Mr Herberts house at Bradenham at which our new President **Mr David Loveridge** presented our retiring President **Major General The Lord Alvingham CBE DL** with a Silver Armada plate and **Lady Alvingham** with a cut glass vase and bouquet of flowers.

Other events organised were a return river cruise on **Salter's Steamers** from Abingdon to Oxford, the Annual lunch in September and a social get together in December both events were held at the Quince Tree pub Stoner. Once again our members gave support to **The Bill May** memorial skittles events held at The Hungerford RBL where £157 was raised and donated to The Lung Foundation a charity supported by his widow **Leslie**.

In September a party of 12 from the Branch again joined up with the Royal Fusilier Association to commemorate the 1st Battle of The Marne. This time we were based in an excellent hotel in the town of Troyes from where we made visits to La Ferte where **Peter Brooks** laid a wreath on behalf of the Association at the magnificent war memorial on which are inscribed the names of men of the BEF who fell in the retreat from Mons to The Marne and have no known graves; many of these were Grenadiers. We then visited Sezane and joined

the local ex-service organisations and various military personnel in their wreath laying ceremony at a military cemetery. On both occasions we were entertained to a Vin d' Honour at the local town hall by our respective hosts.



**The War Memorial at La Ferte.**

The highlight of our trip was the ceremony at The Mondement Memorial where dignitaries from many nations including the UK were present. Afterwards we attended a champagne reception in the grounds of the Chateau Mondement and in the afternoon a Lunch of Friendship at La Fere Champenios. Mention must be made of the French people who always make us welcome and to **Richard Adams** of the Royal Fusiliers who organised the trip.

Now two small items which may interest readers; first the Secretary attended an unveiling ceremony of a new plaque on the grave of **C M S Brooks VC** who served with the Oxford & Bucks Light Infantry during WW1 and was awarded the Victoria Cross in 1917 for outstanding bravery during the battle of Arras. Apparently in 1902 he had previously enlisted and served for 3 years in The Grenadier Guards and was on the Guard of Honour that welcomed **The Kaiser** on his visit to Britain

The second was a coincidence when our secretary, overseeing heating work in the State Room at Magdalen College Oxford, noticed hung on a wall, the medals of **Lieutenant Colonel R H R Brockelbank Grenadier**



**The Brockelbank Medals.**

Guards who lost his life on Monte Camino in November 1943. This was the very place where in 2013 we visited with The Association to commemorate that battle along with other various events.

Our annual luncheon was held at The Banbury Cricket Club on 25th October 2015. 75 members and friends sat down to the usual excellent lunch provided by **Nikki and Jo**. Our guest speaker was **Mr Humphrey Hudson** a Reuters foreign correspondent who has a vast knowledge of French military history. He gave us an in depth account of the ranks, pay, food and conditions of the French army leading up to The Battle of Waterloo. **Capt Moynan** direct from his honeymoon gave us an insight into the present state and future plans of the serving regiment. The lunch concluded with a raffle which raised the sum of £225 which together with the £77 from table envelopes saw £302 added to Branch funds.

Once again the committee wishes to thank the members attending who generously donated the raffle prizes. Finally thanks to our president **Colonel Hudson CBE**, our auditor **Colin Hessey** and all Branch members and all other Household Division members who never fail to give their support to the events we organise.

## 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, RVM

**Chairman:** Mr P FLOWERDEW

**Secretary:** Mrs T DAY, 1 Harness Close, Reading, Berks, RG2 8PF. Tel: (0118) 986 8328

**Email:** t.day661@btinternet.com

**Treasurer:** Mr J Veary

**Welfare:** Mr R Kellow

This has been a very quiet year for the Branch. We held our AGM in March and it was attended by our President **Lieutenant Colonel Henry Hanning** and 12 members. We had a discussion on events for the year but we only succeeded in arranging a Branch Lunch. Our President and committee of seven all agreed to stay on for a further year.

Our Branch Lunch was a great success with the President of the Association **Colonel Richard Aubrey-Fletcher** attending as our guest speaker. Our Welfare Officer, suitably dressed for the occasion gave an excellent talk on Waterloo which was much enjoyed. 60 guests attended including once again four Chelsea Pensioners; our Lunch would not be the same without them and we thank them for coming. We thank **Mark** who acts as chauffeur for the day and he is much appreciated by the



**The AGM at the Calcot Hotel. Fom Left to Right front: Jim Veary, Theresa Day, Philip Flowerdew, Pamela Flowerdew. Rear: Margaret Rogers, Richard White, John Southern, Darren White, Paul Stamp and Robert Wood.**

Pensioners. Our Chelsea Pensioner **Norman Mitchell (Mitch)** tells us they are very short of Grenadier and other Household Division Pensioners at the Royal Hospital. There are just three Grenadiers and he says it would be fantastic to welcome more ex-servicemen from the Guards to experience the lifestyle they enjoy.



**Our President Lieutenant Colonel Henry Hanning presenting a gift to our Chairman Philip Flowerdew at the Branch lunch.**

Our members and widows are kept in contact by phone during the course of the year and the majority are all coping extremely well. Our Welfare Officer is always available to give help where needed. Those who receive a Christmas Gift always thank the Association through the Branch. Sadly though we attended three funerals this year namely **George Slade** one of our vice-presidents, **Ray Lancaster** and **John Noble**, may they Rest in Peace.



**From Left to Right: Pamela Flowerdew, Philip Flowerdew, Theresa Day.**



**Is Mitch going back to Chelsea to give a concert?**



**Left: Robin in the uniform provided by John Southern. Right: The President Colonel Richard Aubrey-Fletcher with Robin.**





From Left to Right: The President of the Grenadier Guards Association, Colonel Richard Aubrey-Fletcher, Barry Cubitt, Tessa Baker, Lieutenant Colonel Henry Hanning, Mrs Monson, Elizabeth Hanning and Christopher Morgan-Smith.



Three of our Chelsea Pensioners on their way home, Michael Allen, Alan Goddard and Godfrey Young.

Finally we send good wishes to **Andy Green, Rob Broomes**, all at RHQ and all Branches of the Association for a successful 2016.



## SHROPSHIRE

(Formed 1927)

**President:** Major GV INGLIS-JONES

**Vice Presidents:** SIR AEH HEBER-PERCY, KVCO, JP, LL;  
Major RG WOODFIELD, MBE; C BECK Esq; Lieutenant Colonel FS ACTON; G PRITCHARD, Esq; HW SPENCER, Esq; Capt G WHITAKER; Mr WSI KENYON-SLANEY OBE, KStJ, DL

**Chairman:** Mr HW SPENCER, Esq.

**Secretary:** Mr C BECK, 133 Victoria Road, Bridgnorth, Shropshire, WV16 4LL

**Tel:** (01746) 761501

**Email:** chris40beck@googlemail.com

**Treasurer:** Major RG Woodfield, MBE.

We held the Branch AGM on Sunday 12th April at the Lord Hill Hotel in Shrewsbury. As in previous years we were once again down in numbers with only 12 attending but we were glad to see **Bruce and Veronica Baylis** at the meeting and at lunch afterwards. They are members of the Worcester Branch but have attended our Branch AGM for the last three years; we always look forward to seeing them and appreciate the distance they travel to be with us. 35 members and guests attended lunch and once again the Lord Hill excelled with the standard of food and service.

The Branch, along with the secretaries of the Wolverhampton, North Staffordshire and local Coldstream Guards Association held a Waterloo lunch on 14th June again at the Lord Hill Hotel. The venue was considered very appropriate as Lord Hill took part in the Battle of Waterloo and his statue at the top of a column is situated adjacent to the hotel. 133 guests enjoyed a very good meal and what else could we have chosen for the main course but Beef Wellington; very nice it was too!

Our guest speaker was **Major Stephen Dehnel MBE** who delivered a very informative talk about the Battle which was appreciated and enjoyed by everyone. We must also thank the secretary of the Wolverhampton Branch, **Mrs Jenny Snead** who along with her husband **Jack** took on the task of organising much of the administration and without her hard work and diligence we would certainly have struggled – thank you **Jenny**. We must also thank **David Robins**, the North Staffordshire Branch secretary who provided invaluable assistance with regard to our entertainment in the form of the North Staffordshire ACF Corps of Drums who played for us prior to lunch. At the time of writing we are looking forward to our Christmas lunch also at the Lord Hill on 29th November 2015.

In 2016 we will be saying goodbye to our Chairman **Bert Spencer** who will have held office for 30 years or more. He has decided that it is time to hand over to someone younger. **Bert** has been an outstanding

Chairman and we are sorry he will no longer be chairing our meetings although he and his wife **Beryl** will still attend our events and continue to support our Branch; our thanks to them both for their many years of hard work. Our treasurer **Fred Dawe** has also decided it is time for someone younger. **Fred** and his wife **Diana** have looked after the Branch finances for over ten years but will continue to support the Branch. We are indebted to them both for all their hard work. **Major Bob Woodfield MBE** continues to support the Branch in many ways albeit from Warwickshire and without him and the support of his wife **Joan** we would not have survived.

It is with great sadness that we have to report the death of five of our members, all within the first three months of 2015, they are; **23862864 Bill Jones** who served with the 2nd Battalion in the 1960s; **Capt Douglas Vernon** who served with the 2nd and 3rd Battalions and with the RAOC; **22545627 P Cowhey**; **23252244 Brian Teale** 3rd Battalion 1956 – 1959 and **23879893 Sgt Chris Harrison** who served with the 2nd Battalion from 1963 to 1978 seeing service in Germany, British Guyana, Hong Kong and Belize. The Branch was represented at all their funerals and our condolences go to all their families.

Finally we would like to thank **Major Giles Inglis-Jones** our President for all the help he and his wife **Arabella** have given to the Branch since his appointment; it is very much appreciated by us all, our thanks go to all at Regimental Headquarters as well for all the assistance given during 2015; may they all enjoy good health and prosperity in 2016.

## Douglas Vernon 1931–2015

**D**ouglas Vernon was born on 25 June 1931 and was educated at the King George V Grammar School, Southport. He enlisted into the Regiment in 1950 and his qualities were soon recognised. After basic training he reported to the 3rd Battalion in Chelsea Barracks prior to their deployment to Egypt where he was first promoted whilst serving in the Intelligence Cell.

On the Battalion's return from Egypt he was promoted to Gold Sgt and posted to RMA Sandhurst as a Sergeant Instructor in Gaza Company and quickly established himself by winning the Junior Drill Competition. He also became noted as a fine water polo player, coached the swimming team and was also a member of a very dominant Pace Sticking team. It was at this period that he met up with **Laurie Jeffery**; the start of a long friendship and with whom he would serve at a later period in his career.

After his service at the RMA he applied and was accepted



for a commission at Eaton Hall. He was eventually commissioned into the Royal Army Ordnance Corps and saw service on secondment in the Oman from 1958–60 and Sierra Leone in 1961. 1964 saw him serving in Uganda where he met up once again with **Laurie Jeffery** who had been seconded from the Regiment as Regimental Sergeant Major in the fledgling Ugandan Army. There they had the unenviable task of 'kitting out' a former ruler of the country, 'King Freddie' the Kabaka of Buganda.

His service ended in the late 1960s after the Ugandan episode when he retired to set up a book business in Lewes. In 1986 he moved to Shrewsbury where he set up a very successful print and picture framing business.

**Douglas** joined the Shropshire Branch of the Association and took over as Branch Treasurer in 1989, a position he held for several years until moving to Eastbourne and eventually retiring in 2007; even though quite a distance to Shrewsbury he and his wife **Suzan** continued to attend many Branch events.

**Douglas** passed away on 22 June 2015 and his funeral was attended by several retired officers with whom he had served over the years in the Oman and Sierra Leone and by fellow Grenadiers **Laurie Jeffery**, **Derek Money** and **Bob Woodfield**. He will be sadly missed by all that knew him.

## SPALDING

(Formed 1954)

**President:** Major SJE TURNER (Scots Guards).

**Chairman:** Mr D Higgs, Esq.

**Hon Secretary:** Mr M STEVENSON, 30 Crown Drive, Spalding. PE11 2HU.

**Tel:** (01775) 725535

**Email:** josiemalcolm50@talktalk.net

**Email:** malcolm@stevenson3.wanadoo.co.uk

**Meetings:** Last Thursday of each month at Royal British Legion Club.

**I**n a quiet rural part of Lincolnshire the Spalding Branch is working to promote the aims of the Association and to enhance the reputation of the Regiment. Branch representatives attend many events organised by the Spalding Remembrance Committee and other local bodies. Unfortunately we are an ageing Branch with members mostly in their seventies and eighties, but whilst steps become slower and eyesight dims the back is still straight and the smartness unmatched.

The local Remembrance Day parade is always well supported with Branch members well to the fore. This year our wreath bearer was **Harold Harris**. In the summer many townsfolk attended the annual parade to the Peace Gardens where our two plaque markers were **Brian Gedney** and our Welsh Guards member **Don Thomas**. Individual members travelled down to Regimental

Remembrance Day and also enjoyed a Grenadier band concert at Lincoln Cathedral; this was a wonderful event; the music excellent and the setting awesome.

Several years ago it was decided to alternate business meetings with social occasions. To this end members undertook to speak about their various interests. **Pearl Leavesley**, wife of **Trevor**, gave two talks on Peterborough Cathedral where she is a blue badge guide. **Pearl's** enthusiasm inspired some who now hope to arrange a guided tour for members followed by lunch. We also heard from **Graham Gilmore** who spoke about his visit to the Crimea with his re-enactment society. **Graham** and his fellow members have visited the Crimea on numerous occasions and have made many friends there which is all the more distressing now that the Ukraine has become a virtual war zone.

The most popular evening turned out to be what the children would call 'show and tell' when members brought their service memorabilia and squad photos. The evening passed so quickly and no one seemed ready to stop for the usual tea and wads; definitely a night to repeat. We also enjoyed a meal out together and we hope to repeat this on a bi-monthly basis. Therefore, although we are one of the smallest Branches we have a big heart and enjoy every minute.



**Our Show and Tell evening.**

Sadly we have to report the death of **2622925 Tom Bray**. **Tom** was a great supporter of the Branch and very proud of his service having enlisted in 1941. After the war **Tom** returned to his beloved home village of Pinchbeck becoming a district and parish councillor. He was also a well-known local historian and author. His funeral was attended by Branch members who together with members of The Royal British Legion formed a Guard of Honour at the church entrance.

**Malcolm Stevenson** the Branch Secretary would like to thank all members for all their help and commitment

during the past year for there are no 'sleepers' in this Branch and their dedication is much appreciated. Thanks also to the team at regimental Headquarters who sometimes give him a headache, mainly because he and technology were never meant to meet! So grateful thanks for their patience.

## SUFFOLK

(Formed 1926)

**President:** Colonel DHC GORDON-LENNOX

**Vice Presidents:** Major CXS FENWICK, LVO; Major FAO CLARK; FA WALLACE, Esq; CR DEARING, Esq

**Chairman:** Mr PGD T del C NISBETT, Esq;

**Secretary:** Mr DC BEAUMONT, 6 Wareham Avenue, Ipswich, IP3 8QD

**Tel:** (01473) 729524

**Email:** ggasuffolk@gmail.com

**Treasurer:** Mr DC BEAUMONT

Sadly two of our Branch members have died during the past year. **David Todd** passed away on 12th February 2015; he joined the Regiment as a Boy Soldier in the early 1960s and saw service with the 2nd Battalion and at Regimental Headquarters. He then transferred to the R.A.O.C. where he completed his military service. **David Hazell** (formerly **Berry**) passed away in April. **David** joined the Regiment as a Boy Soldier in 1958 and as a member of the Corps of Drums saw service with the 2nd Battalion serving in the B.A.O.R. and elsewhere; may they both rest in peace. Our thoughts are with their families at this time.

The euphoria of the celebrations for the 200th anniversary of the Battle of Waterloo reached its peak on 18th June 2015. Special parades supported by troops and Military Bands, both in this Country and the near Continent were splendidly conducted, but it was pleasing to note the manner in which the Branch, perhaps in a somewhat sedate way, paid their personal homage to all who had fought at that memorable battle, especially our Waterloo Man – **Sgt Major William Middleditch**, of the First Foot Guards. **Middleditch**, who lived his civilian life at Bury St. Edmunds, Suffolk, was a somewhat local hero, so the Branch considered it appropriate to parade at 1100hrs at his graveside to pay their respects to him and all who fought at Waterloo.

About 20 Association members and wives, joined by members of the public, who had read of the celebrations in the local press, assembled at the Bury St. Edmunds Great Churchyard. All were welcomed by the Branch Chairman who commenced proceedings by reading an eyewitness account of the battle, which was part of a letter written by **Private John Leworthy** of the First Foot Guards to his father. **Albert Jones**, a past Branch Secretary then read a short poem; followed by **Kingsley Minns** who read "The



Reminiscences" supplied by **Mr Wallace**, a past Branch Chairman. The Branch President **Colonel D H C Gordon-Lennox** then read an account of the funeral of **Sergeant Major William Middleditch** followed by **Brian Taylor** who laid a wreath on behalf of the Branch.

Following the dedication, all present went to the Cathedral refectory as guests of the Branch President who had laid on coffee and tea; as an added bonus, champagne was supplied by **Mr Wallace**, who incidentally at the time was actually with his wife at Waterloo in Belgium. All in all, it was a great day and a good memorial to **William Middleditch** and all who had fought at Waterloo. Our thanks are due to **Albert Jones** for his research and organisation and **Bernard Taylor** who frequently attends to the gravestone.

**Bernard Taylor** once again represented the Branch at Regimental Remembrance Day on Sunday 17th May; on this occasion as one of the wreath bearers.



**Bernard Taylor and Terry Taylor of the Surrey Branch on their way to Horse Guards on Regimental Remembrance Day.**

It is gratifying to note that this year's attendance at the AGM and Autumn meeting increased in numbers and we can still provide more chairs if needed! The Branch Christmas lunch was held at Hintlesham Golf Club on Sunday 13th December 2015. Members and their guests were welcomed by the Branch President **Colonel D H C Gordon-Lennox**; once again all enjoyed a very good meal and the convivial company. It was pleasing to note the very good turnout of Officers and their guests; thank you gentlemen for your support. Plans are well in hand for the Branch to celebrate its 90th anniversary on 24th July 2016 at the pestegious Culford Hall and Park near Bury St. Edmunds.

In conclusion we would like to convey many thanks to **Andy Green** and **Rob Broomes** for all their help during the year.

## SURREY & EAST HAMPSHIRE

(Formed 1925) as the Caterham Branch then in 1931 it changed names to the Surrey Branch, then again in 1986 to the Surrey & East Hampshire Branch.

**President:** Colonel EH HOUSTOUN, OBE

**Vice Presidents:** Lieutenant Colonel RM DORNEY, MBE, MStJ, MSc; Lieutenant Colonel HMP de LISLE; Lieutenant Colonel SIR JOHN SMILEY; Lieutenant Colonel TJ TEDDER; Lieutenant Colonel DJ WEBSTER; Lieutenant Colonel GR WHITEHEAD, RVM; Capt CH COX; Capt C FAGAN; Capt R HUTTON; Mrs P DOWLAND; Mr P HODGKINSON, BEM Mr S KEYWORTH, MBE.

**Chairman:** Mr A REID

**Secretary:** Mrs V REID

**Address:** 71 Wyke Avenue, Ash, Aldershot, Hants, GU12 6EA

**Telephone:** (01252) 316757

**Email:** babsग्ga@gmail.com

**Welfare Officer:** Mr C FRANCIS

**Treasurer:** Mr T TAYLOR

**Meetings:** Third Wednesday of each month apart from December, at 1930hrs at the WO's & Sgts Mess, Army Training Regiment, Pirbright, Surrey, GU24 0QQ.

Our Christmas Lunch was held on Saturday 29th November 2014 at Clandon Regis Golf Club and was attended by 91 members. For the third year running the Club put on another wonderful spread. After lunch and on behalf of the Branch one of our Vice Presidents **Mr Peter Hodgkinson BEM** presented a framed picture to the club whereupon the Catering Manager hung it immediately in pride of place.

The Branch received an invitation from the Regimental Sergeant Major of the Army Training Regiment at Pirbright for the Annual Inter Company/Squadron Pace Sticking Competition held on 8th July 2015. One of our Vice Presidents **Mr Sam Keyworth MBE** reports that the turnout of all the competitors was immaculate. Prize giving took place at 1500hrs and the Household Division were represented in the winning team by the Blues & Royals.

Our Annual Dinner this year was attended by 61 members and was held on 19th April 2015 at the Village Hotel, Farnborough. The address from our Branch President **Colonel Euan Houston OBE** included his thanks to **Andy and Babs Reid** and their committee for all that they had achieved over the last year. He welcomed **Sergeant Major John McLachlan**, his wife and **Sergeant Major Julie Simpson** and her partner, both of the Army Training Centre at Pirbright. The presence of **LSgt Nicholas Wintle** and his wife from the Battalion was also warmly acknowledged.

Our Chairman **Mr Andy Reid** presented a bouquet of flowers on behalf of the members to **Mrs Joanna Houston** and in turn our President presented a bouquet of flowers on behalf of the members to our

Secretary **Mrs Babs Reid**. The Quartermaster of the First Battalion **Major Stumpy Keeley** then gave an update on what the Battalion had been up to, and what was in store for them in the foreseeable future.



**LSgt Nicholas Wintle and his wife Vicki.**

Regimental Remembrance Day saw some of our members make their way up to Wellington Barracks for the Service and Parade and found it once again to be a most moving and poignant occasion.

The **Bob Bennet** 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 the Branch has held a Fishing Competition in his memory. Competitors included representatives of the Surrey Police, the Environment Agency and the Aldershot Garrison Angling Club all of which have to form teams of four. Fishermen assembled at 0800hrs and the match commenced at 1000hrs until 1500hrs. Everyone then moved to the Lion Brewery, Ash where the prize giving, a raffle and pools pay-out took place. The winning team was the Environment Agency with the Grenadier Team coming second. All the money raised went to the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds which was **Bob's** favourite Charity.

Our Branch had been asked to represent the Association on the Guildford Armed Forces Day Parade on Saturday 27 June. Our Entertainments Officer **Mr Alan Hughes** attended and marched to the Corp of Drums of the Scots Guards and the cheering and clapping of the spectators who were lining the route. **HRH Prince Andrew, Duke of York** took the salute. The feedback received was that the route had been lined by some 35,000 people and the general feeling was that Guildford had done the Armed Forces proud.

Having once again been invited by **Sergeant Major John McLachlan** to attend the Army Training Centre Pirbright Open Day 27 of our members along with some of their families went along. Throughout the day there were a number of things going on, one of which was the Royal Signals motorcycle display team; the very same one we had at Grenadier Day in Farnborough in 2014. One of the highlights of the day was the Instructors dressing up in various funny

outfits and having a race around the arena in teams of five in some kind of vehicle that they had made from scratch. Each vehicle had a driver and the remainder of the team provided the power behind it. It looked like Wacky Races!

On Wednesday 29 July we found ourselves back at the Army Training Centre Pirbright for a Branch organised tour of the camp. 29 members, friends and family arrived at the WOs' & Sgts' Mess at 1000hrs where we were met by **LSgt Haynes**, a Grenadier Instructor and **Capt Nico Wills** also a Grenadier and 2IC of the Training Wing.

Following tea and toast in the Mess we were given a talk by **Captain Wills** before starting our tour. Much has changed in recent years but not the Church where we had a look around and checked on the 3rd Battalion Colours just to make sure they are being looked after. There we meet a very interesting character by the name of **Peter** who just happened to be a retired Welsh Guardsman and who by chance runs the simulated firing range; our next port of call. Following a demonstration our members were given the chance to fire weapons and record the outcome. The final part of the tour took us up to the old 'D Lines' – yes it is still standing. After we said our farewells we moved for lunch to the Royal Oak in Pirbright.

On Saturday 29 August 2015 several of our members went along to support an event called The Flying Grenadier. **Mr Colin Francis** our 78 year old Branch Welfare Officer did a Wing Walk at Chiltern Park Aerodrome, Wallingford in order to help raise funds for



**Capt Wills briefing the tour members at ATC Pirbright.**



**Our Group in the Mess at Pirbright.**

The Colonels Fund and the Alzheimer's Society. **Colin** raised £2,226 for his chosen charities. We are all very proud of him and thank everyone who supported him.



**Colin Francis – the Flying Grenadier.**



**Colin Francis and the Pilot after the wing walk.**

Our Branch BBQ was held on Saturday 5th September 2015 and was attended by our Branch President **Colonel Euan Houstoun OBE**, his wife **Joanna** and 34 members and guests. It was held once again at **Andy and Babs Reid's** house and turned out to be another great day of fun and laughter with everyone enjoying themselves amongst friends and colleagues. Plenty of food, drink, sunshine, fun and Grenadier banter – 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 at 1230hrs for 1300hrs. They continue to be well attended and we have now fixed this location as it's popular with those members who normally attend. Anyone wishing to join us will be made very welcome, just contact our Secretary **Mrs Babs Reid** and let her know.

Our Entertainments Officer **Mr Alan Hughes** organised another successful Branch trip to the House of Parliament on Monday 19th October for 17 Branch members and their guests. Although the tour had to be curtailed due to some VIP visitors it was much enjoyed and

we did manage to see Westminster Hall with all its history and many other parts of the home of democracy. We had asked **Major Andy Green** in advance if he could arrange lunch for us at Wellington Barracks which he very kindly did. We all enjoyed a meal in the main cookhouse before departing for Pirbright Camp, arriving there at 1545hrs with everyone agreeing that it had been a remarkable day.



**The Branch Group at the Houses of Parliament.**

We continue to stick to last year's change of format for our meetings. Although they are still held on the third Wednesday of every month at 1900hrs for 1930hrs in the WO's & Sgts' Mess, Army Training Centre Pirbright, 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 on those nights.

This report just about sums up what our Branch has been doing since the last time we reported. However before we go we would just like to say a big thank you to our President, Committee and the members of our Branch for their support and also to everyone at Regimental Headquarters for their continued help and support.

Sadly we have to report the loss of some of our members since the publication of the 2015 Grenadier Gazette. They are: **2955176 Mike (Jake) James**, former Chairman of our Branch who died at home in the early hours of Tuesday 12th May 2015. **22213911 Robert (Bob) Redford** who died on Tuesday 19th May 2015, 9 days after his 81st Birthday following a long fight with Parkinson's. **22213951 Mr Cliff Griffiths** who died in the early hours of Saturday 15th August 2015, **Mrs Quarendon** who died in June 2015, **Mrs Elsie Beale** who passed away in the early evening of Sunday 7th December 2014 and **Mrs Anne Payne** who died on 25th June 2015 while in hospital "Lest We Forget."

On a much happier note we are very pleased to report that we have had the pleasure of welcoming new members to our Branch; **24306141 Paul Edwards**, **25169885 Mark Collins** and **24399819 Peter Futter**.



# SUSSEX

(Formed 1947)

**President:** Capt SJ 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.

Well we live to fight another day! The Sussex Branch had decided that unless we got new members we would have to close. The recruiting drive led by the Secretary ably supported by his 89 year young Treasurer **Barney Cresswell** resulted in one very important new honorary member, **Ms Jayne Peachey FMAAT** daughter of **Alfred Peachey BEM** who served with the Regiment for a number of years agreed to take over as the Honorary Treasurer. Happily, **John Norris** agreed to stay on as well.

So, what has happened since our last report? Our regular Christmas meeting was marked with extremely good food supplied by all the ladies and we had an excellent number of raffle prizes. Our President came down from London and joined us too.

The Branch Dinner took place in April at the Windsor Hotel, Worthing, West Sussex. This year we had a band and people danced which was a break from the tradition of previous years and considering the age of some of our members was a triumph for the NHS. There was an excellent raffle with some wonderful prizes including Champagne and cases of wine. The evening also saw the presentation of flowers to the three ladies; **Mrs Barbara Room**, **Mrs Carol Holland** and **Mrs Toulla Norris** who over the year have supplied and presented the refreshments for our meetings which has entailed getting up in the early morning to prepare them.

We were fortunate enough to have as our Regimental guest **Capt Charlie Williams**, Second in Command of Nijmegen Company. He was able to tell us exactly what the Regiment was up to, the many countries that had been visited in the course of training and about the hectic schedule Public Duties. His speech was very well received and there is little doubt that there was a sense of regret amongst the members that they were no longer an active part of it all.

The Branch also held a BBQ in September at the Windmill at Angmering, West Sussex for members and

families. The weather was kind and we had about 40 people including children present. That same month we were delighted to receive a cheque for £1000 from the Greenwood Trust. This is a family trust set up by the Greenwood family who have been associated with the Branch for a number of years; **Capt R J Greenwood MBE DL** was our previous President and was succeeded by his son **Capt S J Greenwood**. The money is to be used to double our pensioners Christmas Gift and also to part fund a new venture which was a Christmas lunch at the Windsor Hotel on the 20th December 2015 where all widows were invited for free. Regretfully the Branch did not take part in the Remembrance Day Parade not least because the Secretary sustained an injury playing badminton.

By the time this report is published Christmas 2015 will be just a memory but the Branch hopes the readership had a good time and has had a great start to a New Year.

The saddest part of any report is to record the passing of members. Over the past year the branch has lost one active member and two members who had not attended meetings for some time. **22451371 Michael Gammons** joined the Regiment on 18th January 1950 and was discharged on 15th January 1953. Michael served with the 2nd Bn in Germany and in Chelsea. He was a regular attendee at our meetings and for some reason was known as 'The Poacher' due to his hobby of shooting at small animals. In his business life he was a master builder so some of the work he carried out around Arundel, West Sussex will last long after we are gone.

He died in Arundel aged 82 years and his funeral took place on the 18th September. It was a lovely service which took place in Arundel Cathedral and was attended by four Branch members; **Derek Money MBE**, **Tom Holland**, **David Sneller**, and **John Norris** along with **Mrs Eileen Money**. He is survived by his wife Margaret who we hope will be a guest at our Christmas Lunch.

**23509095 Maurice Abrahams** joined the Regiment on 13th August 1957 and subsequently transferred to the Parachute Regiment. He served in the 1st and 3rd Bn and the Guards Parachute Company prior to his transfer. He left military service on 12th August 1966.

**Maurice** was killed in the Sussex Air Crash on the 22nd August aged 76 years. He was on his way to collect a bride for her wedding driving his beloved Daimler in the course of his work when he was hit by the descending aircraft. His much publicised funeral took place at St Mary's Church, Rottingdean on 9th September; the Branch provided a joint Guard of Honour with the Parachute Regiment. **Maurice** had not attended Branch meetings for a number of years but once a Grenadier always a Grenadier. He is survived by his wife **Edwina (Eddy)**.

**2628549 Tom Novis** enlisted into the Regiment on 10th December 1945 and joined The King's Company. He served in England and also as part of Middle East Land Forces in Tripoli and other parts of the Middle East, he left the Regiment on 24th April 1953. **Tom** lost touch with

the Branch and we only learned of his death from the people who had purchased his house prior to him moving to Eastbourne and so we are unable to say when he died, but believe he was 87 years of age. Rest in Peace Tom.

The Branch Dinner will take place on Saturday 23rd April 2016 at the Windsor Hotel Worthing at 7pm for 7.30pm. Our meetings take place on the second Thursday of the month at the Royal British Legion Club Lancing BN15 9AX between 11am and 2pm. Finally, our thanks to all at RHQ for their continued support and help and congratulations to **Sgt Broomes** on his promotion from LSgt.

## TAMWORTH

(Formed 1965)

**President:** Vacant

**Vice Presidents:** Mr AW WALE

**Chairman:** Mr B WATTON, Esq

**Secretary:** Mr P MAGUIRE

**Tel:** (0121) 343 2356

**Email:** tamworthbranch@grengds.com

**Meetings:** Second Sunday of each month at Aldergate Club, Aldergate, Tamworth, Staffordshire, B79 7DL 1230hrs

Several members throughout the year managed to represent the Branch at Grenadier and local events including Regimental Remembrance Day in London and a party of twelve that attended the Queen's Birthday Parade. There will be more next year if we manage to get the tickets.

We held our September meeting at Alrewas, home of the National Memorial Arboretum so we could visit the new Afghanistan display which was very good. The Arboretum is brilliant, changing all the time with the seasons and the addition of new displays. We took the opportunity to visit the local Royal British Legion to have lunch and highly recommend it to other Branches, but coach parties must book in advance.

Members also attended the 75th anniversary of the Battle of Britain parade organised by the Royal Air Force in Tamworth. Our Banner was carried by RAF cadets.



## WALSALL

(Formed 1974)

**President:** Major J COLEMAN

**Vice Presidents:** G PHILLIPS; Mr C. JONES

**Chairman:** Mr B DOYLE, Esq

**Secretary:** Mr C JONES 94 Delves Green Road, Walsall, West Mids. WS5 4NH

**Tel:** (01922) 620970

**Email:** Cliffjones94@sky.com.

**Treasurer:** Mr G PHILLIPS 58 Broadstone Avenue, Leamore, Walsall, West Midlands, WS3 1ER

**Tel:** (01922) 408531

**Email:** glynnpPhillips34@gmail.com

**Meetings:** Second Wednesday of each month at Short Heath Royal British Legion Club, Church Road, Willenhall, WV12 5PT.

The Branch AGM was held in January 2015 with all Branch officers being re-elected. In March 30 members travelled by coach to Bournemouth for a 5 day break with full board, a free bar and entertainment every evening. Due to dwindling numbers we were unable to attend Black Sunday in May. On a Wednesday evening in August a pig roast was organized at our meeting venue; Short British Legion Club. It was well attended by members and friends. All agreed that it was a fine evening.

On Friday 4 September we held our Branch Annual Dinner at a new venue. Calderfields Golf and Country Club, Walsall, with 70 members and guests in attendance. The Guest speaker was **Capt Ben Conway** from the 1st Battalion who gave us up to date news on the workings and future of the Regiment. His excellent presentation was appreciated by all present. Everyone agreed that the new venue was ideal and the food and wine excellent. A raffle was organized by **Glyn Phillips** with 17 raffle prizes to be won; our thanks to **Joan Plater** and **Janet Shepherd** for their sterling work in selling the tickets.

Remembrance Sunday was observed at the cenotaph in Walsall town centre, our wreath was laid by **Bill Bakewell**. At the time of writing we are looking forward to our 2015 Christmas Social and Buffet Lunch which is being held at 12noon on Monday 14 December at the British Legion Club.

During the winter months our general meetings will be held at lunchtime instead of in the evenings. From April onwards we will revert to the evening meetings as usual and we are looking forward, with support, to organising further events in the near future.

Unfortunately numbers on our sick parade are increasing. This is mainly due to Anno Domini catching up at last. However, we are pleased to report and give a warm welcome to four of our younger generation of Grenadiers; **Stephen Darby**, **Roy Shepherd**, **Martin Thomas** and **Elton Whitehouse**. We look forward to seeing them at our future meetings.

It is sadness that we report the deaths of the following; **23252198 Dave Sansome** who served with the 2nd and 3rd Battalions and Associate Member **Howard Luty**, formerly Royal Engineers who supported our Branch over many years.

All members of the Walsall Branch send greetings to all Grenadiers and their families everywhere. Special thanks to **Major Andy Green** and **Sgt Rob Broomes** for their help and advice over the last 12 months.

## WESSEX

(Formed 1949)

**President:** Lieutenant Colonel AC McC MATHER, CVO, OBE

**Vice Presidents:** Capt CR ACLAND; JTS BOWER, Esq; PH CORDLE, Esq; Capt CTF FAGAN, DL; Lieutenant Colonel A HEROYS; CJ HOPE, Esq; MFMO JODRELL, Esq; Lady C LINDSAY; Capt (QM) BE SHEEN; THE Rt. HON. HGW SWIRE, MP

**Chairman:** Mr 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 for February to May, July, September and October at 1930hrs for 2000hrs (No Meetings in June and August during 2016). Meetings held at The Conservative Club, 22 Christchurch Road, Ringwood, BH24 1DN. The meetings in January and November to be held at lunchtime at a venue to be determined later in the year.

In keeping with our Winter lunchtime schedule, the November 2014 meeting was held at The Man in the Wall, Wimborne. As it is so convenient for everyone to get to, this venue is proving to be very popular. There was a good turnout which made for a very pleasant get-together.

Christmas wouldn't be Christmas without the Branch Social. This was held in early December 2014 at The Conservative Club, Ringwood. **Alan Maslin** was in charge of the microphone and entertained us on the organ, ran a pub Quiz and made us laugh with cracking 'one-liners'. Nine prizes were won on the Christmas Draw with the top prize of £50 going to **Anne Sperrin**. We also had our usual Branch raffle; both were run by **Bill** and **Glenda Butt** for which we say a big thank you. The food hamper was won by **Deanne Bishop**. Congratulations to the lucky winners and thank you to those who took part. Food was plentiful, having been brought in by members and a good time was had by all.

2015 started with a lunchtime meeting at The Haskins Garden Centre, Ferndown, again a location that is proving very popular. This was held in the conservatory and with

the sun shining down, was cosy and most welcoming. We enjoyed a very pleasant lunch and held a raffle.

The Branch AGM took place in February and all Committee members were re-elected to serve for a further year with the exception of **Bill and Glenda Butt**. Unfortunately **Bill** had recently undergone surgery and felt it necessary to stand down from running the Branch raffles and Christmas Draw. In their absence the President thanked them for all their hard work and dedication to the Branch over many years and wished **Bill** a speedy recovery.

A small group of members attended Regimental Remembrance Day in May. We all found the service very moving and felt proud to be part of the ceremony at the Memorial. The weather was in our favour too which made for a fine day.



**Branch Vice-President Lieutenant Colonel Alexander Heroys leading the 1st Battalion at Regimental Remembrance Day.**

Several members went along to Salisbury in June to have a look around the Cathedral and Chapter House which coincided with the Magna Carta celebrations. We met up on the lawns beforehand and enjoyed our lunch together. When we came out of the Cathedral, events were taking place to commemorate the 800th Anniversary of the signing of the Magna Carta and a large crowd of people had gathered listening to the Salisbury Concert



**Our group at Salisbury Cathedral.**



Band and watching the Sarum Morris Dancers perform.

At our June meeting it was nice to see **Bill and Glenda Butt** return to the fold after **Bill's** surgery earlier in the year. They were presented with a Certificate and an engraved mini-decanter set by our President, **Lt Colonel Anthony Mather** as a big thank you from the Committee and Branch for all they had done for Wessex over the past 38 years in their various roles on the Committee. It is hoped that they will be able to continue to attend further meetings on a monthly basis.



**Lieutenant Colonel Anthony Mather presenting the cypher decanter and Certificate to Bill and Glenda Butt.**

The Village Hall, Awbridge was the venue for our Summer Garden Party in August and was hosted by **Capt and Mrs Jeremy Hope** for which we all say a big thank you. We always seem to be lucky with the weather and this day was no exception. We had a lovely selection of food, prepared and brought in by everyone and a great afternoon was had by all.

At our September meeting we were very pleased to have **Matthew Ellmer**, the Regimental Casualty Officer as our guest speaker. **Matthew** gave us a talk on his role with families and soldiers, bereaved and injured alike, and everyone present found it very moving. Thanks to **Matthew** for all he does and we hope he continues to do so for a long time to come.



**Matthew Ellmer flanked by Chairman Derek Baker and President Lieutenant Colonel Anthony Mather at the September Branch meeting.**

Our annual luncheon was held at The Marsham Court Hotel, Bournemouth, in October. 55 members and guests attended which made for a great turn out for one of the highlights of the Branch calendar. A very big 'well done' has to go to **Ann Crew** for selecting a lovely menu on our behalf and although there was a slight increase in the price it was well worth it. We were delighted to welcome as our guest speakers, **Major General Sir Michael Hobbs KCVO, CBE** who spoke about the highlights of his career and made us all smile with his recollections. **Major Grant Baker** the Regimental Adjutant, accompanied by his wife **Lucinda**, gave a very comprehensive report on Battalion issues and the Regiment as a whole along with Association matters. The raffle was run by **Joy & John Clowes** for which we express our thanks, and raised over £100.



**June Harvey and Deanne Bishop enjoying lunch at The Marsham Court Hotel.**

We are fortunate as a Branch to have as our President **Lieutenant Colonel Anthony Mather**, who along with his wife **Gaye**, continue to give us such support - thank you from us all at Wessex; thank you also to the Committee who are very active in their respective roles and a very big thank you to those Branch members who travel to the meetings on a regular basis. We would also like to express our appreciation for the support received from **Major Andy Green**, **Sgt Rob Broomes**, and **LSgt 'Rodders' Haughton** at Association HQ throughout the year.

With great sadness we have to report the following have passed away: **Deryk Saunders** (Associate) November 2014, **24852277 Jim Hobbins** December 2014, **2626122 Francis Kingdon** January 2015 and **2625031 Robson Mole** October 2015.

Please come and join us at one of our regular meetings - new members would be most welcome and can contact the Branch Secretary on the telephone number or email above. We look forward to seeing you.

## WIGAN, ST HELENS AND DISTRICT

(Formed 1974)

**President:** Mr B TAYLOR

**Vice Presidents:** Capt (QM) TA ROLFE

**Chairman:** Mr D WELLING

**Vice Chairman:** Mr J BARKLEY

**Secretary:** Mr B TAYLOR, 51 Holly Road, Haydock, St. Helens, WA11 0DR

**Tel:** (01744) 601663

**Email:** barrytaylor.in.retirement@hotmail.co.uk

**Meeting:** Last Tuesday of each month 1945hrs at Whelley Ex-Servicemen's Club, 180 Vauxhall Road, Wigan, WN1 3LU

We managed to see out 2014 with Grenadier gusto and enthusiasm at our Christmas Lunch; as always, a friendly and informal gathering with over 70 of us enjoying a superb festive lunch at the Village Club, Culcheth.

As 2015 broke we burst into our day to day routine. Monthly meetings continued to be well attended, possibly due to **Adel Taylor's** buffet! At the AGM in April all Branch officers stood down and were quickly re-elected, **Dave Welling** as Chairman, **Graham Young** as

Secretary and **Eric Radcliffe** as Treasurer. In addition **John Barkley** was elected as Vice Chairman. Unfortunately, **Graham** has had to relinquish his position and asked for 'leave to fall out' which was granted with reluctance, but we take this opportunity to thank **Graham** for all his hard work, loyalty and diligence as Secretary and wish him well and look forward to him returning to the fold. April found us enjoying yet another meal at the Village Club. This time we just about filled the place for our St. George's Day Lunch, again, a friendly family day enjoyed by all.

May Bank Holiday Monday saw us turning into retail magnates at Culcheth Community Day by manning the Branch second hand stall. **Barry and Adel Taylor Graham** and **Eric** spent the day selling donated items to raise funds for the Branch, our thanks to all who donated these items. This year we were supported by members of the Regimental Information Team and **LSgt MacMillan** and **LCpl Hollis** from Regimental Headquarters. It's a pity that we didn't have the facility to inflate the rifle range but all the boys got together and by improvisation managed to draw the public to our stall where we were only too willing to relieve them of their money.

Later in May we gathered, yet again, for our annual pilgrimage to London for Regimental Remembrance Day. As always we made a weekend of this and were joined this



Some of our party outside the hotel ready to leave for Regimental Remembrance Day.



**Vice Chairman and Standard Bearer John Barkley and President Barry Taylor with Councillor Susan Loudon, Mayor of Wigan pictured at the start of Armed Forces Week.**

time by members of the Manchester Branch; this meant we were able to take a full coach. We left on Saturday morning and arrived at our hotel in Gerrards Cross at around 1530hrs. After settling in and a good evening meal we boarded our coach and headed for the Grenadier Club in Windsor; our thanks to **Major Mike Holland**, the committee and all the members for a warm welcome and thoroughly enjoyable evening.

After a hearty breakfast on Sunday it was off to Wellington Barracks for the Service of Remembrance and Parade. These were followed by an enjoyable couple of hours in the Garrison Sergeants' Mess where most of us met up with old friends and, indeed, made some new ones. Once back at our hotel and after evening meal, most just relaxed but the more energetic amongst us took a walk into the village and visited the local hostelry.

After breakfast on Monday we headed for home calling in at Stratford-upon-Avon for a break. We all managed to dodge the showers – some in the shops and some in the pub! We arrived back at 1800hrs tired but happy. It was great to have the Manchester Branch with us and we all had a thoroughly enjoyable weekend.

The Branch has managed to get involved in most occasions and events within our Borough and always managed to have our Branch Banner on parade thanks to our Banner Bearer, **John Barkley**. From Remembrance Day to Armed Forces Week in Wigan to the Mayor's inaugural parade in Atherton to attending funerals, the Branch has shown a presence and members have been

proud to do so. Involvement in community and Council based events is important, keeping our Regiment and our Association to the fore. To this end, the Branch has, this past year, formed a close relationship with our local Army Cadet Force and not for the first time.

Some years ago a Grenadier, **Walter Massey**, was involved with both the Branch and the cadets and, indeed, introduced our Grenade Cap Badge forming a Grenadier Detachment. **Walter (Wally)** also instigated a competition within the Cadet Force to identify the best cadet with an award presented annually. This unfortunately fell by the wayside and it was only **Wally's** death which prompted the re-institution of this competition.

To cut a long story short, **Dave Welling** and **Barry Taylor** met with the Officer Commanding **Major Robert Macdonald** and the competition is now back up and running. In memory of our dear

friend **Wally** a trophy will be presented annually as 'The Walter Massey Award for Excellence' to the cadet who proves best overall during the academic year. On top of that, the Branch President will present an award to the most improved cadet during the same period. The presentation venue has yet to be decided but could be at annual camp or one of our Branch events.

Over the past 12 months Branch members have been busy building bridges with others. Members have attended functions in Shrewsbury, hosted jointly by the Shropshire, Wolverhampton and North Staffordshire Branches and with the Liverpool, Manchester, Northumbria, Yorkshire and North Lancashire Branches. We all offer our thanks to their committees and members for their warm and welcoming hospitality and long may it continue.

Our own Branch annual dinner was held at the Village club in October and was an outstanding success. 60 members and guests enjoyed a superb dinner where our Regimental guest speaker was **Lt Oliver Wace** of The Inkerman Company. He gave a clear and concise account of Battalion activities and other related matters. **Lt Wace** really endeared himself by managing to have a word with just about everyone present and even won a couple of raffle prizes!

Remembrance Sunday 2015 saw us on parade with our Branch Banner in Wigan. The weather wasn't kind but our determination saw us through. The Branch wreath was laid at the Cenotaph by Chairman **Dave**



**Welling.** It was for us a time of remembrance when we were able to give thanks to all those who gave so much for all our sakes.

On a note of great pride for the Branch, the French Government has decided that all surviving service personnel who took part in the liberation of France towards the end of World War 2 should be awarded their Legion d'honneur. We are delighted to announce that two of our members, **2623818 Eric Radcliffe** and **2622146 Leonard Harmer** have been named as recipients of this award. Please see the Association Focus section for more information.



**Eric Radcliffe and Leonard Harmer.**

On a sombre note it is with sadness that we have to report the deaths of two of our members. **22898465 Alan Price** was an active Branch member and served two terms as Branch Chairman. **2624438 Leonard Easton** was an avid supporter of the Branch and a stalwart member. Rest in Peace Gentlemen, you are sorely missed.

On a happier note we can report that the Branch has welcomed two new members; **LCpl Scott Howcroft** and **24430034 David Yates**, it is a pleasure to welcome them to the Branch.

Finally to our committee and Branch members for their support we say thank you, we continue to flourish because of your fantastic support. Thanks also to everyone at Regimental Headquarters who are most supportive and helpful, it is much appreciated.



## WINDSOR

(Formed 1926)

**President:** Major MB HOLLAND

**Vice Presidents:** Lieutenant Colonel SIR JOHN SMILEY, Bt; Capt DW LING; Major General SIR MICHAEL HOBBS, KCVO, CBE; JA STEEL, BEM; RA DOBSON, Esq; SR HOWELL; RC GILBERT, Esq; D BOUCHER Esq.

**Chairman:** Mr JA STEEL BEM.

**Secretary:** Mr 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 from April to September at 2000hrs. The first Sunday of each month from October to March at 1230hrs at the Grenadier Club, Maidenhead Road, Windsor, SL4 5EY.

Where have the last 12 months gone? Members attended the Service of Remembrance at the Holy Trinity Garrison Church in Windsor on Sunday 9th November 2014. Our President **Major Mike Holland**, **Alan Urvoy** and **Mick Milton** were the Branch wreath party. Branch members and other local Associations members, based in Windsor, met back at the club and over a few drinks exchanged many memories.

2014 Christmas festivities started on the first weekend in December with Branch and club members on a coach trip to Weymouth for a Turkey and Tinsel weekend organized by **Sylvia Bullion**. The next weekend we held the Branch Christmas Draw on Saturday 13th and **Sue Gilbert**, the club Secretary once again did a marvellous job collecting nearly a hundred prizes from local businesses and other sources. We had a good turnout on the night with many members hoping to win one of the very good prizes on display. Half way through we adjourned to enjoy a finger buffet prepared by **Fred and Irene Deacon**. The draw would not be successful without the continuing support of our members buying and selling tickets.

The festive events continued on the following Saturday evening when 64 members and friends sat down to enjoy a delicious traditional Christmas Dinner, washed down with a few bevs; this helped to get everyone up on the dance floor. The year ended with the chairman **Tony Steel BEM** opening the club on New Year's Eve, with members, their families and friends gathering to celebrate, and see in the New Year.

Sadly 2015 started off on the wrong foot with the death of **Major B T (Jim) Eastwood LVO, OBE** our appointed Branch President Emeritus. **Jim** retired as our Branch President in April 2013. He took over from **Major Hemsall** in 1993 and led the Branch for 20 years,

initially during his appointment as Superintendent at Windsor Castle. Throughout his Branch Presidency he was most charmingly supported by his wife **Sheila** and their family. **Jim's** funeral was held on Monday 23rd February. Many Branch members and friends travelled by coach, from the club, for the service in Horndean. A Memorial Service was held at the Guards Chapel, Wellington Barracks on Tuesday 8th September.

The Branch Annual General Meeting took place on Wednesday 1st April. The Secretary, **Bob Gilbert**, gave an over-view of the years past events. The Treasurer, **Sheila Howell**, produced the Branch and Club audited reports that were accepted. A short break was taken when Members enjoyed the buffet provide by **Fred and Irene Deacon**. The following were re-elected as Branch and Club officers. Chairman: **Tony Steel BEM**, Vice Chairman:

**Terry Booth**, Branch Secretary: **Bob Gilbert**, Treasurer: **Sheila Howell**, Vice Treasurer: **Sue Gilbert**, Club Secretary: **Sue Gilbert**, Welfare Officer and Branch Padre: **Reverend John Wasley RMR**. The President, **Major Holland** addressed the meeting and offered **David Boucher**, the position of Vice President which he accepted. This was welcomed by all members present.

On Saturday 25th April, the club held its 4th St Georges Day Dinner. 36 members enjoyed a traditional English meal of soup, roast beef with seasonal vegetables and roast potatoes, apple pie and custard. Everyone who attended agreed it had been an excellent evening.

The Saturday evening before Black Sunday we had the pleasure of the company of about 30 members from the Wigan and St Helens Branch along with members from the Manchester Branch. Everyone had a good evening catching up on old times. The next day we once again welcomed 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, 30th May, we arranged with **Andy and Babs Reid** for the Surrey and East Hampshire Branch to visit the club for social evening. We had a quiz followed by a fish and chip supper and a couple of games of Bingo. Those who attended said they had enjoyed themselves and were looking forward to the next one.

On Saturday 20th June the Branch celebrated the 200th Anniversary of the Battle of Waterloo with a cocktail party. The Chairman **Tony Steel BEM** and the Secretary **Bob**



**80th Anniversary Celebration Lunch of the Kingston & District Branch. From Left to Right: Windsor Branch Chairman Tony Steel BEM, Kingston Branch Vice President Brigadier G K Bibby CBE and Windsor Branch Secretary Bob Gilbert.**

**Gilbert** greeted 120 members and guests at the door with a cocktail. When everyone had arrived and had a cocktail in their hands the president **Major Holland** gave a short speech about the Battle of Waterloo. Drinks were served by the Committee from 1800 to 2000hrs along with canapés from Marks and Sparks. The evening continued until 2300hrs with guests enjoying the Disco.

On Saturday 6th June we had a coach of 47 members and friends going to the Derby at Epsom. The rain stayed away this year but we had a very stiff breeze sending the gents to the market stalls to bring back blankets for the ladies dressed in summer outfits. Some had a good run on the horses and came away with big smiles. Perhaps **Bob Gilbert** should have stayed at home as **Sue** his wife had a really good win at the bookies!

The Branch Annual Dinner and Dance was held at the club on Saturday 4th July. 40 members and guests once again enjoyed a four course meal. We were privileged, to have as our guest of honour **Lieutenant Colonel Richard (Skid) Dorney MBE**. Sadly his wife **Sue** was unable to join us. After the meal and speeches we continued the rest of the evening with music and dancing.

**Alan Merry** arranged another re-union at the club on Saturday 12th September. About 15 members of his intake 41 years ago gathered to reminisce about the old days and tell a few stories. **Alan** has already booked the club for their next meeting on 10th September 2016.

On the 25th October a group of 14 were privileged to attend the 80th Anniversary Celebration Lunch of the Kingston & District Branch held at Glenmore House in Surbiton. We were made very welcome by the Branch



**Branch Annual Dinner and Dance. From Left to Right: Branch Chairman Tony Steel BEM, Lieutenant Colonel Richard Dorney MBE and Branch President Major Mick Holland.**

President **Major D R Rossi MBE** and Officers of his committee. The lunch was superb and enjoyed by all.

We have also said a final farewell to three of our members **24291891 Mr J E (Joe) Rigg, 2624731 Mr C A Sleep**, Albert was our longest living member and passed away seven days before his 102nd birthday and **22213085 Mr D J (David) Lotherington**.

The Branch now holds its monthly meeting on the 1st Wednesday at 2000 hours. These timings are from April to September and the 1st Sunday at 1230hrs from October to March. The change is to enable those members who cannot, or do not wish to drive on dark Winter evenings, to attend the meetings. The AGM is still held on the 1st Wednesday in April each year.

The club still continues to hold regular Friday Night Bingo sessions and Quiz Nights with a fish and chip supper on the last Wednesday of the month. We have also been holding Line Dancing evenings on a Saturday where some of us have proved we have two left feet!

The Club is currently open on Friday nights from 1930hrs to 2300hrs and Sunday lunch times 1200hrs to 1500hrs. If any members of the Association and their families are in the area, you are more than welcome to visit us.

The Branch sends its best wishes to all our members who are unable to attend Branch meetings or functions at 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:** Mr L THOMAS

**Vice Presidents:** WSI KENYON-SLANEY, Esq, OBE, KStJ, DL; S BENNETT, Esq; F WHITE, Esq.

**Chairman:** Mr J SNEAD

**Secretary:** Mrs 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. (In March, June, September and December we will hold a Sunday lunch) Please contact the Secretary for further details.

The guest of honour at our Dinner and Dance on 29 November 2014 was **Capt Hugo Cartwright** who was just about to take over as Adjutant of the 1st Battalion. We also welcomed **Major Joe Coleman**, his partner **Joanne Hutton** and **Major Andy Green** from RHQ. The Regiment was well represented by serving Guardsmen and NCOs. Capt Cartwright gave a very informative speech on the current and future activities of the Regiment. It was a very good evening and we thank **Major Green** for his help in promoting the work of the Association at this event.

Our AGM was held on 25 February 2015 with **Jack Snead** voted in as Chairman and the other officers being returned. In May **Jack and Jenny Snead** were present at Buckingham Palace for a Garden Party and they were delighted when the Regimental Adjutant, **Major Grant Baker** arranged for them to be presented to Her Majesty the Queen.

Regimental Remembrance Day was held in London on the 17 May 2015. It was a fine day and good to see so many members of the Association taking part. We took a coach



**Our Branch Minister, Rev Jean Spragg (front right) and friends.**





From Left to Right: back row, Dennis Wood, Diane Wood, Jenny Snead, Brian Gillon, Tami Gillon, Maureen Wilson, Ken Egginton and Jack Snead. Front row, Christine Rogers, John Rogers, Maxine Ferretti, Pauline Rowe and Evelyn Egginton.

party who thoroughly enjoyed the occasion.

The Major General's Review is always well attended by our members and friends and we took an enthusiastic party by coach, who all enjoyed the high standards of this ceremonial occasion.

To celebrate the 200th anniversary of the Battle of



The canal trip. From Left to Right: John Rogers, Ken Egginton, Maureen Wilson, Elaine Johnson, Phyllis Thomas, Len Thomas, Evelyn Egginton and Christine Rogers.

Waterloo, Wolverhampton, Shropshire and North Staffordshire Branches joined together to host a lunch at The Lord Hill Hotel in Shrewsbury on 14 June 2015 with approximately 130 guests in attendance. **Major Stephen Dehnel MBE** gave an illuminating description of the action that took place that day and of the current and planned Waterloo 200 activities.

A party of our members enjoyed a narrow boat canal trip on the Staffordshire and Worcestershire Canal, collecting a fish and chip lunch en route, (from the nearest fish and chip shop we might add) which was heartily welcome!

Our Chairman **Jack Snead** represented our Branch at the Wolverhampton RAFA Battle of Britain service on 13 September 2015, at which he carried the Branch Banner.

The Sunday Lunches held every three months for our Branch members and friends at The Bell, Trysull near Wolverhampton, continue to be well attended and enjoyed by all. During late September our Treasurer, **Brian Gillon** and his wife, **Donna**, joined the Association Battlefield tour and thoroughly enjoyed the experience which was very well presented.

We report with sadness that we lost one of our stalwart Branch members this year, 22213036 Alf Simcox will be much missed.

We would like to thank **Andy Green** and **Rob Broomes** at RHQ for all their help and hard work during a busy year.

# WORCESTER & HEREFORD

(Formed 1922)

**President:** Capt HL GRAY-CHEAPE JP, DL

**Vice Presidents:** Lieutenant Colonel PR HOLCROFT, LVO, OBE; Major DJC DAVENPORT, CBE, DL; Lieutenant Colonel K EDLIN, MBE; Lieutenant Colonel LCA RANSON, TD; Major RG WOODFIELD, MBE; Colonel SIR THOMAS DUNNE, KCVO; Lieutenant Colonel TW JALLAND; D SPENCER, Esq; GJ ROSE, Esq; Capt D MORGAN; TW HEWLETT, Esq.

**Chairman:** Mr T HEWLETT

**Secretary:** Mrs P SMITH

**Email:** worcesterbranch@grengds.com

**Treasurer:** Mrs J EVANS

Our Annual Lunch on 30th November 2014 was a very special event as we were celebrating over 60 years of service by our Chairman **Ray Seale**. Ray made the decision that he would retire from post at the 2015 AGM and this Lunch was a perfect occasion to celebrate and thank Ray for his commitment to the Branch. Our President **Hamish Gray-Cheape** presented Ray with an engraved plate and his wife **Betty** received a Grenadier pendant. Ray has been a prominent figure within the Branch encouraging and supporting our members at all times and we are thankful for the years he has given to us. We know that he will continue to guide us from the 'back benches' and we look forward to his and Betty's continued attendance at meetings and functions.

Our AGM was held on 22nd February 2015 at Six Ways Rugby Club. A lot of changes this year as our Chairman, Vice Chair and Treasurer stood down from their posts, having given many years of loyal service to the Branch and for which we are most thankful. The Committee for 2015 duly elected are as follows: President **Hamish Gray-Cheape**, Chair **Terry Hewlett**, Vice Chair **Bruce Baylis**, Treasurer **Joan Evans**, Branch Secretary: **Patricia Smith**, Minutes Secretary and Luncheon Master: **Bruce Baylis**. The Secretary was unable to attend due to a recent operation but submitted her report to be read at the meeting. The meeting was followed by lunch and an opportunity for members to chat and catch up on news.

On 8th May we enjoyed a skittles match organised by **Veronica** and the Social Committee. Members and friends turned out in competitive spirit and it was a great fun evening incorporating an excellent buffet and successful raffle raising £157.00 for our funds. Another match to come next year!

Black Sunday is such an important event and an opportunity to be together remembering those from our Grenadier family who have made such huge sacrifices. Once again **Ken Allan** took charge organising the coach ensuring a comfortable journey to London. As always we were made welcome in the Sergeants' Mess – an opportunity to meet up with old friends and enjoy a beer!



**Ron Haywood with his son Clinton and Kath Hinton at Black Sunday.**

The weather was kind and we all had an enjoyable day.

The Worcester Branch was happy to support the Shropshire, Wolverhampton and North Staffordshire Branches combined lunch held at the Lord Hill Hotel in Shrewsbury. A lot of hard work had gone into making this a memorable day and it was a nice opportunity to meet with other branch members. Our own Branch would be commemorating the date later in the year.

We were approached earlier in the year by event organisers Worcester Live to help promote The Band of the Grenadier Guards at a Concert to be held at the Worcester University Arena. Of course we were happy to do so and many of our members volunteered to help. They gave out leaflets, stuck posters in shops and sold tickets to friends, neighbours and the general public. The concert took place on 19th September and the evening was a great success and was attended by many local dignitaries. It was so nice to have the Band perform in our City once again; a very big thank you must go to all our members for their support. We also thank **Chris Jaeger** from Worcester Live for donating a percentage of the profits to our Branch. It was agreed by members that we should give £100 from that donation to The Colonel's Fund.

Our Waterloo Lunch was held on 20th September at the Masonic Hall Worcester and having had a great Saturday, Sunday was to prove just as memorable. Our Luncheon Master **Bruce Baylis** and his team really pulled out all the stops. Beautiful menus and table decorations, all in the Waterloo theme were produced by **Veronica**. **Capt David Morgan** had procured a replica 18 pounder black Napoleonic Gun and this stood beside the entrance of the



**David Morgan's 18 pounder.**



**The President and Mrs Gray-Cheape.**

Masonic Hall together with our 6ft wooden Grenadiers – very impressive. Our thanks to all the members who helped to make this a great day and to our friends for coming along and giving us support. We must also record a big thank you to **Major General Sir Sebastian Roberts** who gave us an interesting and informative talk about the day of the Battle.

**Bruce Baylis** recited a moving poem that he had composed and a hearty beef lunch was enjoyed by us all. We finished with a raffle and an auction of a wooden dovecote, made and kindly donated by one of our members, **Ken Jones**. This was a really lovely piece of work and the competition was fierce but eventually secured for £120 by **Sean Hinton**. The raffle made a profit of £193 so thanks to all for donations and prizes.

Sadly we have to report following deaths: **22603330 Robert Roland Roberts** and **William Robert Masters**.

Finally we would like to record our thanks to all Branch members, ladies and friends who have supported us during the past year. The Branch continues to thrive and we plan for a few more events in the coming year. Our thanks also to **Andy Green**, **Rob Broomes** and the team at RHQ who help keep us on the straight and narrow.

## 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:** Mr A DANIEL, Esq..

**Treasurer:** Mr A DANIEL, Esq

**Secretary:** Mr M SPENCER, 52 The Grange, Woodhan Village, Newton Aycliffe, Co. Durham, DL5 4SZ

**Tel:** (01325) 321218

**Email:** michael-spencer2@sky.com

Our Annual General Meeting was held at Selby Indoor Bowling Club on Saturday 18th April 2015; ten members

attended. All those members in attendance were welcomed and thanked for showing their continued support to the Branch and our President the **Lord Hotham** gave a comprehensive report. The Executive Officers were elected for a further year and Members then joined the ladies and our guests for lunch.

Members of the Branch attended Black Sunday at Wellington Barracks, and also the Queens Birthday Parade.

Our Branch Annual Luncheon was this year held at the Waterton Park Hotel, Wakefield and enjoyed a great turn out. The Branch welcomed **Lt Christopher Wright** who gave an excellent and informative address. The luncheon also gave Branch members the opportunity to celebrate **Joe Whelan's** 90th birthday. Joe was recruited in January 1943 and served in the Westminster Garrison Battalion on Public Duties before serving overseas in 1945 in Belgium, Holland and Germany in the Guards Armoured Division. He was promoted to Lance Corporal and served until 1947. Following six years as a policeman, Joe rejoined in July 1953 and was stationed in England and Berlin before leaving in January 1955, when he did prison work in the UK, Cyprus and Kenya – his favourite posting which he likens to 'a perfect summer day in England with wildlife a plenty'. Pictured below is Joe with his family at Waterton Park with four generations celebrating this special occasion.



**Four generations of Joe Whelan's family.**

Also captured at the Annual Luncheon are the two oldest members of the Branch, Joe Whelan and Dennis Burnett with his wife Martha.

On 8th November, our 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**, Branch Chairman, followed by an excellent lunch at The Boars Head Hotel.





Our Nonagenarians.



Boars Head, Ripley 8th November 2015.

In closing this year's report it is our sad duty to report the passing of **Mrs Ethel Butterfield** aged 98yrs and **Ann Wall**, wife of **Bill Wall**. Our prayers and thoughts are with their families.

We conclude this report by thanking the **Lord Hotham** our President, **Tony Daniel**, Chairman/ Welfare, **John Fear**, Fund Raising, and also to the members and their families, who help to keep the Branch running with their continued enthusiasm, and by attendance at our functions.

Also let us not forget all the staff at Regimental Headquarters, with a special thank you to **Major Andy Green**, and **Sgt Rob Broomes** for their continued help and support.

## NORTH AMERICA

(Formed 1972)

**President:** Lieutenant JA TRIGGS

**Chairman:** Mr R BROWN, BEM

**Vice Chairman:** Mr R HAWKINS

**Secretary:** Mrs E PICKERING, 45466 Thomson Line, Belmont, Ontario, N0L 1B0, CANADA

**Email:** lon.rpickering@imag.net

**Honorary Treasurer:** Mr R BROWN, BEM

## TURKS AND CAICOS

**President:** Brigadier DH FUMBLE-POTTINGSHED-FUMBLE OBE MC.

**Chairman:** SIR HARDLY WORTHIT.

**Secretary:** F LUENT, Much Binding in the Marsh.

**Email:** Turks&urks@assnhq.com.cai.

**Meetings:** At each Full Moon or whenever hungry.

## Turks & Caicos Island' Intelligence

Generations of Grenadiers have hidden behind that monosyllabic Grenadier reply, invariably used when assisting Adjutants with their enquiries. Like reaching up on the turn, it is hard-wired into Grenadier DNA. Whilst never volunteering for anything is a principle of military life, the thoroughness and overwhelming power of properly taught Regimental History manifested itself the other day. On a visit to RHQ, the author, whilst discussing the guard mount form up in Wellington Barracks, was ambushed by the Regimental Adjutant. He, being both devious and a Latin scholar, knew how to get his way simply by posing a question expecting the answer 'Yes'. Whilst trying to comprehend the lamentable standard of turn out – the guard were not only wearing their plume on the wrong side they were also the wrong colour and their buttons were in pairs. I was beginning to convince myself I should have gone to Specsavers and was not concentrating fully when the Regimental Deity muttered something about the lack of intelligence from the Turks and Caicos. Like some previous contributors, being hard of hearing, I thought he had also mentioned Ruggles Brise. Whilst wondering what right I had to question the educational system of a tropical paradise, I found myself speedily putting two and two together and making five. With visions of palm trees and nothing to do on an unending holiday I was unable to control the instinctive reaction. Before I could stop it SIR! Had sprung from my lips. Thus began the regime change.

Although a long way from the motherland, life in the sun mirrors much of life in RHQ and the UK. The islands base their form of government on that of the UK. Hence the need for a Cabinet Reshuffle: Although F-P-F continues as our President, his appointment like our new chairman's has been downgraded to honorary virtual president and virtual Chairman status. The new Chairman is Sir Hardly Worthit and the new Secretary F Luent, both of Much Binding in the Marsh.

## YOUR LETTERS...

### Rogue Mail?

My dear Andy,

It was worrying to see the absence of Regimental Intelligence from the Turks and Caicos Branch in the last edition. I have heard tales, which I hope to be just that, of death by surfeits of Coldstreamers or the drowning in butts of Nulli wine of large numbers of the population. Please put my mind at rest that normal service will be resumed again next year.

On a totally different subject I have just read a fascinating book about the exploits of SOE personnel in Greece in the last war. It is called *Rogue Male* by Roger Field. As your readership is probably pretty broad minded I could not resist sharing the following passage from the book with you.

“OOOs’ fookin fooker’s this fooker?”

“That fooker’s my fooker’s fooker so fook off”

And thus a perfect understanding was established between two British soldiers as to the ownership of an item of officer’s equipment.

Yours ever

David

Major David Sewell

Dear Sir,

I joined the Regiment in September 1952 and became a member of LCpl Jewitt’s squad with Trained Soldier Ralph Dulson. Our Superintending Sergeant was Sgt Ray Huggins (who wore the ‘dog collar’ type Battle Dress). A fellow recruit in a squad behind us was Jim Eastwood and I believe his Squad Instructor was LCpl Gordon (Bunny) Whitehead.

The Quartermaster was Capt A.J. Spratley. Following our training at Pickering I joined the 2nd Battalion at Chelsea Barracks where DSgt ‘Scorpion’ Stewart quickly made himself known to us. I did many Public Duties with (the then) Sgt Bob Woodfield. Following the Coronation, Public Duties and various ceremonials I was (reluctantly) seconded to Caterham as a Barrack Room Trained Soldier (BRTS). After a spell of training with a fellow Trained Soldier I formed my first squad with the newly promoted LSgt Ray Barnes (not an easy man to please!). Sadly in later years we lost him just prior to him becoming Academy Sergeant Major at Sandhurst (I believe on the retirement of AcSM Ray Huggins). Our Company Sergeant Major was ‘Chick’ Hayes and our ‘Pay Bloke’ was the great Syd Dowland.

Many years ago a photograph appeared in the Gazette of LSgt Whitehead and LCpl Jim Eastwood on Barrack Guard; I took that photograph. So I can boast that I served with several ‘famous’ men during my three years.

Max Bacon  
(22545446)

Dear Sir,

Regarding the enclosed photograph which I brought into RHQ some two months ago, you suggested I write up a little bit of its history as it might be suitable for inclusion in the Gazette.

It was taken at Camp 22, Nathanya, Palestine in March 1948 and shows the Emergency Platoon, part of No4 Company of the 1st Battalion waiting for transport to take us to the trouble area. Needless to say we were between two warring factions, however on this occasion it ended without serious incident.

I am on the right of a group of 5 NCOs resting on my 303. My career was to end a few weeks later which was recorded on page 26 of ‘Once a Grenadier’, but that’s another story.

Jack Philips

**After note:** During a more recent conversation, Jack happened to tell the editor that he still remembered his rifle serial number – 11585!



Dear Sgt Broomes,

I've been watching television and reading newspapers regarding the 1st World War, 2nd World War and D-Day. I just wondered if you had seen a copy of this 'letter' from King George VI, given to me at the school I attended in London.

'God Save the King' and 'Land of Hope and Glory' were sung VERY robustly, a prayer was said by our Headmistress for our noble servicemen and women and for all those that suffered.

I have photocopied the original which I enclose herewith for you. If you haven't seen it before it may be of interest; the dates are on the reverse side.

When I got home from school with it my mother took it from me and placed it in the back of our family bible, which I was given when she died. My brothers also gave to me her 1914-1918 school mug; she attended school in Cheshire.

I've passed on the bible and I guess I must pass these other bits on soon!

All good wishes  
Joyce Becket

North Walsham, Norfolk!



## Memories

Dear Andy,

How nice it was to meet up with you again at the 2015 Essex Branch lunch at Prested Hall.

As discussed I am enclosing a copy of the telegram in regard to the way in which Loyal Greetings were exchanged in the 1940s. (It's the best copy I could get). I picked up the telegram at the end of the Surrey Branch Annual Dinner on 4th October 1946. At the time I was the NCO in charge of running the Guards Depot Officers' Mess and Major F J C Bowes-Lyon took me along as a guest.

I have no idea of what serving Guardsmen get these days in the way of passes but I have also enclosed copies of two of mine which may be of interest to others. The one from the Training Battalion is from 1943 when I served in the Castle Company and the other Caterham.

With every good wish for the future of our Association,

Ron Keeble  
Essex Branch

*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 2016

<b>APR</b>	22	Norfolk Dining Club, Dining Evening	<b>SEP</b>	4	Norfolk Branch Annual Lunch, Park Farm Hotel and Country Club, Hethersett, Norwich, Norfolk, NR9 3DL
	23	Yorkshire Branch AGM, Selby Bowling Club, Baffam Lane, Selby, YO8 9AX		9	Lincoln Branch Annual Dinner, Nightingale Rooms, 116 Nettleham Road, Lincoln, LN2 1RR
	23	Sussex Branch Annual Dinner, The Windsor Hotel, Worthing, BN11 2LX		18	Reading Branch Annual Lunch, Calcot Hotel, Bath Road, Reading, RG31 7QN
	23	Nottinghamshire Branch Annual Dinner, The Albert Hall Conference Centre, Derby Road, Nottingham, NG1 5AA		24	Northumbria Branch, Annual Dinner, Masonic Hall, Wellington Street, Stockton, TS18 1RD
	23	Manchester Branch Annual Dinner, The Britannia Country House Hotel, Didsbury, Manchester, M20 2WG	<b>OCT</b>	1	East Kent Branch Annual Dinner, Royal Temple Yacht Club, Westcliff Terrace Mansions, Pegwell Road, Ramsgate, CT11 9HY
	23	Bristol Branch St. Georges Cup Skittles Match vs. Bristol Branch Coldstream Guards, Port of Bristol Social Club, Nibley Road, Shirehampton, Bristol, BS11 9XW		8	Yorkshire Branch Annual Lunch, The Waterton Park Hotel, Bridgewalk Restaurant, Walton, Wakefield, West Yorkshire, WF2 6PW
	24	Wigan, St. Helens & District Branch, St. George's Day Lunch, The Village Club, Culcheth, Warrington, Cheshire, WA3 4LY		9	Wessex Branch Annual Lunch, Marsham Court Hotel, 3 Russell Cotes Rd, Bournemouth BH1 3AB
<b>MAY</b>	1	March Branch Annual Lunch, The Conservative Club, Creek Road, March, Cambridgeshire, PE15 8RD		15	Wigan, St. Helens & District Branch Annual Dinner, The Village Club, Culcheth, Warrington, Cheshire, WA3 4LY
	15	<b>Regimental Remembrance Day, Wellington Barracks</b>		21	Norfolk Dining Club, Dining Evening
	28	<b>The Major General's Review</b>		22	Medway Branch Annual Dinner, The Grange Moor Hotel, Maidstone, ME16 8BS
<b>JUN</b>	4	<b>The Colonel's Review</b>		23	Gloucestershire Branch Annual Lunch, Hatherley Manor, Down Hatherley Lane, Gloucester, GL2 9QA
	11	<b>The Queen's Birthday Parade – The Colour will be Trooped by No.7 Company, Coldstream Guards</b>		29	Bristol Branch Annual Dinner, Holiday Inn, Filton Road, Hambrook, Bristol, BS16 1QX
	11	Worcester Branch, The Queen's 90th Birthday Celebration Tea Party, The Pear Tree Inn, Smite Lane, Worcester, WR3 8SY	<b>NOV</b>	10	<b>Field of Remembrance, Westminster Abbey</b>
	13	<b>Garter Service, Windsor Castle</b>		12	<b>Festival of Remembrance, Royal Albert Hall</b>
	17	Norfolk Dining Club, Dining Evening		13	<b>Remembrance Day, Cenotaph Ceremony Parade</b>
	18	Northampton Branch Annual Dinner, Freemasons' Hall, Sheaf Close, Northampton, NN5 7UL		13	Yorkshire Branch, Remembrance Service and Lunch, Ripley Civic Service of Remembrance, All Saints Church, Hollybank Lane, Ripley, HG3 3AY – Lunch at The Boar's Head Ripley, Harrogate, North Yorkshire, HG3 3AY
	25	Surrey & East Hampshire Branch Annual Dinner, Mercure Farnham Bush Hotel, The Borough, Farnham, Surrey, GU9 7NN		26	Wolverhampton Branch Annual Dinner, Linden House, 211 Tettenhall Road, Wolverhampton, WV6 0DD
<b>JUL</b>	17	<b>Grenadier Day, Lille Barracks, Aldershot, GU11 2NQ</b>	<b>DEC</b>	2	Norfolk Dining Club, Dining Evening
	24	Suffolk Branch 90th Anniversary Celebration Lunch, Culford Hall and Park, Bury St. Edmunds, Suffolk, IP28 6TX		11	Wigan, St. Helens & District Branch Christmas Lunch, The Village Club, Culcheth, Warrington, Cheshire, WA3 4LY
<b>AUG</b>	19	Norfolk Dining Club, Dining Evening			

*This list covers events which have been notified to the General Secretary prior to publication.  
If you wish to add an event please email Sgt Broomes at [assnnco@grengds.com](mailto:assnnco@grengds.com)*

