

The Grenadier Gazette

THE REGIMENTAL JOURNAL OF
THE GRENADIER GUARDS



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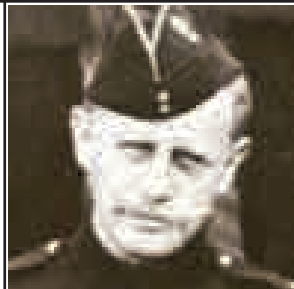
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Foreword

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

Looking back over 2016, I am struck both by the resonance of history and history in the making. Nationally this year we have marked the centenary of the Battle of the Somme and the sacrifices that are inseparable from it. So too have we celebrated The Queen's 90th birthday and the extraordinary commitment made by Her Majesty to us as a nation during over 60 years on the throne. Regimentally we have been welcomed back to Bruges to mark the 360th anniversary of the founding of the Regiment, and to Pont-à-Marcq by the people of that village who, year after year, remember a small but vital piece of our Regiment's history at war. For many, however, 2016 will be remembered as the year that the majority of the British people decided 'enough is enough' as far as the European Union was concerned, while across the Atlantic the electorate turned to Donald Trump for a fresh vision of their own. And all of this while Daesh has brought terror to Europe and a wave of migration from North Africa not experienced in our lifetimes; and while Russia continues to reassert its authority not only in the East but more widely still. Only the truly far-sighted could have put money on a combination of all of this, and only time will tell what history makes of it all.

With all of the above as background, the 1st Battalion has re-roled from State Ceremonial and Public Duties in London to join 11 Infantry Brigade as a Light Role battalion in Aldershot. So far so normal, I sense you thinking, but the Battalion's lot is more complicated than that: it has spent much of the year preparing to assume the role of Multinational Spearhead Battalion within NATO's Very High Readiness Joint Task Force Brigade, under a different Brigade Headquarters based in Germany, and with rifle companies under command from Albania, Latvia and the Netherlands. It is doing all of this as part of NATO's increased commitment to deterrence and defence following President Putin's annexation of the Crimea and parts of Eastern Ukraine, and requires the Battalion to be ready to deploy at short notice anywhere within NATO's boundaries throughout 2017. This is a challenging undertaking, requiring detailed preparation in terms of manning, training and logistics, and has seen the Battalion deploying once again to Kenya on a particularly demanding but rewarding Field Training Exercise, as well as, amongst other places, to Germany and



The resonance of some of our Regimental history at Hougoumont.

Latvia. So it has been an interesting time for the Battalion to be commanded for the first time in the Regiment's history by an officer who began his career outside the Household Division, but one who is more than living up to hopes and expectations.

Notwithstanding the Army's recruiting difficulties stemming from the out-sourcing of this responsibility to a civilian company, the Regiment is creeping back up to full manning. But we need to be, for today's manning establishments are not what they were, and even relatively minor shortfalls – exacerbated by long-term injuries – add to the pressures of a demanding role. The guardsmen continue to filter through Nijmegen Company on leaving basic training, which provides an opportunity to complete their Regimental education prior to the assumption of the hectic and operationally focused existence in the 1st Battalion that I have alluded to above. The Battalion has two more years of this nature before returning to State Ceremonial and Public Duties, which it will fulfill from Lille Barracks in Aldershot rather than a further geographic move to Windsor – a popular decision, by all accounts. 'May you live in interesting times', as the Chinese proverb said – or were we already in the age of the 'alternative fact'...

I commend this excellent edition of the Grenadier Gazette to you, and warmly thank the Editor and those who have supported him in its production, and over my 5 years as Regimental Lieutenant Colonel.

Editorial Notes

Another year has passed and when you reflect on what the Regiment has accomplished through the articles it has produced here, the scope is impressive. It has been absorbing and entertaining receiving every submission in Riyadh. Some things never change and the Editorial team remains the Regimental Treasurer, Andy Green, really concentrating on all the Association contributions in London and myself in Saudi Arabia.

Once again, this is to thank all those committing themselves to submissions this year and the serving parts of the Regiment for maintaining their annual inputs. The core team has continued to share some fascinating reflections – the Lieutenant Colonel, the Adjutant, the Battalion as well as the very loyal contributors: Philip Wright, General Evelyn Webb Carter, Alan Ogden as well as a new father-son combination of David and Alexander Budge.

I have also had some very positive feedback on last year's production which seems to have been appreciated. The Regiment has been congratulated on all your work, and the quality assessed to have been raised to a different level by

the use of colour. Do please keep your feedback coming.

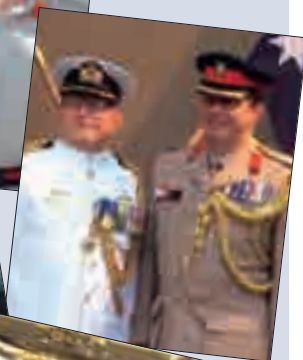
Our objectives for our Regimental journal remain as before: firstly, produce a readable review of past year, maintaining as much colour as we can, and anticipate future activities and Regimental priorities; secondly, maintain a very accurate record of all serving and past people, conscious of the potential enquiries later, and requests to Regimental archivists; lastly, to include widest selection of contributions. Hopefully everybody with an urge to write/contribute is given this opportunity.

Last year, very soon after the publication of the 2016 edition, both Major Green and myself received a number of articles to go into this year. You were obviously encouraged by an immediate desire to incorporate something having read others' good contributions. There is always room for more and we would ask for the same – we are ready to receive anything as soon as the 2017 edition is circulated, and we look forward to incorporating absolutely everything you submit. We hope you enjoy this year's collection meanwhile. Thank you to everybody for helping – I know there are many out there who have their pens and keyboards ready to follow their example.

Defence Engagement in the Middle East – being an Attaché in Riyadh

by Brigadier David Russell-Parsons OBE

The joy of being an editor while being based in Riyadh is that I stay in touch with Regimental business in every way I can. As I reflect on over a year away from the familiar environment of Wellington Barracks and Regimental Headquarters, I am very conscious that a number of Grenadiers have all chosen to be our Chief of Defence Staff's representative in various exotic parts of the world – Tel Aviv and Vienna come to mind – and it is a job which I would recommend to anybody. Working to develop a bi-lateral military relationship and working with the Foreign and Commonwealth Office at an absorbing, challenging time in the Middle East – who surely would not want a job here at this time? And it comes just as the Army prioritises the posts more to get younger officers choosing an attaché career option earlier.



by *The Regimental Adjutant*

2016 has been another whirlwind year! The team at RHQ remains unchanged: Capt Fred Moynan as Assistant Equerry to The Colonel and with responsibility for Officer Recruiting, WO2 Mark Cox as RQMS RHQ, Sgt Rod Houghton as Regimental Affairs NCO, LSgt Matt Macmillan as the Stores/Regimental Property/Visits NCO, Yomi Fowowe as our Admin Clerk, Linda Leppard as our Store-person, Alan Ogden, assisted by Nayna Shah, as our Regimental Archivist and Philip Wright our Regimental 'historian and scribe', Dmr Joshua Walker as our driver/orderly. Andy Green remains at the helm in many guises as Assistant Regimental Adjutant, Association General Secretary, Secretary to the Welfare Committee, and Regimental Treasurer, and he is assisted by Sgt Rob Broomes, the Association NCO. Matt Ellmer continues as the Regimental Casualty Officer.

On 26th February we held a 25th Anniversary Service and Reunion for those who served on Op GRANBY. We were somewhat further 'ahead of the curve' than Army HQ, who belatedly chose the same day for its Commemoration! Despite being reported by the media as being at the official GRANBY Service in St Paul's, in fact The Colonel attended our Service in the Guards' Chapel and then came to the reunion in the Garrison Sergeants' Mess where he spoke to most of the people there, as well as presenting the Meritorious Service Medal to WO1 Andrew Wood who was retiring from the Army as the Senior Band Sgt Major, having been the Band Sgt Major of the Regimental Band for 12 years. The day was attended

by over 200 of those who had been on Op GRANBY and had been attached to one of the 14 units in which the Regiment was represented. Paddy Eldershaw (who at the time of Op GRANBY was CSM No 2 Company) was the main-spring in organizing the Reunion and its success was very much due to all his painstaking hard work.

Regimental Remembrance Sunday, the Regimental Trustees' Meeting, the 1st Guards Club Dinner and the Regimental Council Meeting all took place during the period 15th–17th May. Regimental Remembrance Sunday ran very smoothly and was attended by a number of our bereaved families and wounded. The 1st Guards' Club Dinner was attended by The Colonel and about 150 members (a record number in the last few years) and, the next day, The Colonel chaired the Regimental Council Meeting at Buckingham Palace.

Most of the serving members of RHQ supported The Queen's Birthday Parade in one way or another and, as usual, the Regimental Adjutant was to be found prancing down the Mall at the tail end of the Royal Procession!

Grenadier Day, attended by around 1,500 people, took place at Lille Barracks on Sunday 17th July. The Colonel came, toured the Arena chatting to lots of people as He went, and then presented prizes at the end of the afternoon, departing to the sound of a hearty 'three cheers'. The emphasis in the Arena this year was on 'home-grown' events with the usual performances by the Regimental Band, an Inter-Company Tug of War Competition, a Pace-Sticking (on grass) demonstration by The Queen's Company and an 'It's a knockout' type event by No 2 Company; the consensus afterwards seemed to be that the 'home-grown theme was a



The Regimental Adjutant rides onto Horse Guards for The Queen's Birthday Parade.



The Regimental Adjutant 'mastering' a Segway at Grenadier Day.



Sgt Rob Broomes and LSgt Matt Macmillan in 'shop-keeper mode' on Grenadier Day.



The Colonel with his 'posse' on Grenadier Day.

good one, to say nothing of being very much less expensive to lay on!

On 21st July, on a lovely afternoon, the First Guards' Club Past Cricketers took on the Present at Burton Court. The Present won and the match was followed by a most enjoyable Cocktail Party which also took place at Burton Court.

The next big event was the 360th Anniversary of the

formation of the Regiment in Bruges over the weekend of the 2nd of September, which is covered in more detail later in this edition.

After another Regimental Council Meeting and Trustees' Meeting in October, and the Regimental Headquarters Christmas Lunch on 12th December, welcome Christmas leave followed on 16th December.



1st Guards Club Past vs Present Cricket Match at Burton Court.

Director of Welfare's Report

by The Regimental Adjutant

Introduction

For the first time in the Gazette, we have decided to include a report on the welfare support that the Regiment, Association and Colonel's Fund give to serving and past Grenadiers who are in need. The Regimental Adjutant is Director of Welfare, but the vast bulk of the welfare effort is carried out by the Secretary to the Welfare Committee (Major Andy Green), the Association NCO (Sgt Rob Broomes) and the Regimental Casualty

Officer (Mr Matt Ellmer). We are all extremely grateful for the dedicated efforts of these three.

The Regimental Association

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

The Colonel's Fund

The Colonel's Fund continues to be the source of much

needed and very welcome support to those who have suffered physical and mental injury as a result of recent operations and to the bereaved families of those killed in action.

Grants

Supplementary Benefits

This benefit is paid at £7.50/week, £97.50/quarter, £390/year. Currently 25 people are in receipt of this allowance. The spend for Supplementary Benefits in 2016 was £10,140 at the year end.

Christmas Gifts

In 2016 Christmas Gifts were paid to 241 Association Branch applicants at £25 per head. In addition, £25 is also paid to each of our 4 In-Pensioners at The Royal Hospital, Chelsea. The total spend was £6125 at the year end.

Individual Welfare Grants

Net grants, totaling £35,750 at the year end, have been made to 91 individuals in need for such things as home improvements, mobility aids, brown/white goods, debt relief and other miscellaneous items. The total amount paid for Individual Welfare Grants increased in 2016, in the main due to two large grants made during the year:

- In Jan 16 a contribution of £3755 was made to SSAFA to help a former Gdsm with a bathroom conversion; the ABF made a grant of £5000.
- In May 16 we made a contribution of £2000 for a similar reason to a former LCpl; the ABF supported this case with a grant of £7200.

The Household Division Welfare Fund

The General Secretary attends committee meeting for this Fund and applied for a grant on behalf of one serving Grenadier; this grant was approved by the Committee and has been paid.

The Colonel's Fund

The Colonel's Fund is supervised by a Steering Committee on behalf of the Regimental Trustees. The Steering Committee reviews the Fund's activities on a regular basis, whilst day to day management is carried out by the Director of Welfare and the Regimental Welfare Committee.

During 2016 donations have continued to come in with many individuals contributing and their generosity is very much appreciated. As at 31st December 2016 the fund had raised a total of £3,689,211 (this figure can go down as well as up in line with the value of investments) and had made £715,787 worth of welfare payments. The net value of the fund currently stands at £2,329,041.

The majority of individual welfare grants are made for:

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

- Career/family loss of earnings.
- Bereaved family & injured personnel holidays.
- Financial advice.
- Counseling.

While our policy is based on assisting individuals as soon as is practically possible, we also provide support in the longer term. This year, there have been one or two of those injured in 2007 on Op HERRICK 6, who have required further support. In one case, a LCpl who lost a leg, has been suffering from such severe back pain, caused by difficulties with his stump and prosthetic leg, that he now has to spend much of his time in a wheelchair. As a result, The Colonel's Fund has given him support to adapting his garden and buying him a new wheelchair.

The Fund also continues to support the crucial work carried out by the Regimental Casualty Officer, Mr Matthew Ellmer, who not only is at the forefront of the delivery of the support outlined above but is also instrumental in forging close links with other Service charities and Government Agencies so that we know where to turn when help is needed. The employment of our Regimental Casualty Officer continues to provide excellent value for money.

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

Applying for Grants

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

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

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

SERGEANTS' (PAST AND PRESENT) CLUB

*by Malc Mayoh,
President of The Grenadier Guards
Past and Present Club 2016*

This year Sergeants Mess Past and Present was held in the fantastic surroundings of The Sergeants Mess in Lille Barracks on Saturday 19th November 2016. It was quite significant that the original gathering of old and bold and serving members of this fantastic club were huddled together in the freezing wastelands of Crimea some 160 years earlier in a tent and here we were a considerable time later back in a tent. Although this time the tent was the amazing marquee that the Sergeants mess own and a generous proportion of blow heaters made it far more comfortable than the occasion in Inkerman.

When asked about a guest speaker I was very happy to offer the opportunity to my first Platoon Commander who went on to have a glorious and event filled career, Brigadier Greville Bibby CBE. Well what a good move that was, Brigadier Bibby had the whole audience in fits of laughter reminiscing about the verbal abuse he suffered from Colonel David Webster when he was the Piquet Officer pulling his feet in to the Quartermaster in Hounslow in the late 80s. Brigadier Bibby went on to eloquently speak about how impressive the Grenadiers were when he was the Deputy Brigade Commander in Afghanistan and how our Regiment shone in the most testing of conditions. It was also a privilege to welcome Gillian, Brigadier Bibby's wife to share our evening. The Sergeant Major also spoke at the Dinner

of all the challenges facing the Battalion over the next 12 months and it was great as a non-serving Grenadier to see how the Grenadiers remain in the thick of all Army activity.

I was really impressed with the fact that the function was so relaxed from how it used to be back in the days when I attended in a Red Jacket.

The food and wine laid on was nothing short of superb and sincere thanks must go to Sarah from Sodexo and her fantastic team who worked tirelessly on our behalf. Another massive thank you goes to the Regimental Quartermaster Sergeant, WO2 Mark Cox who yet again was vital in ensuring every detail was executed to the highest of standards. Thanks also to the Sergeant Major for his hospitality in allowing us to have our Annual Dinner in The Sergeants Mess.

Once all the formalities of the dinner were over we proceeded to the Sergeants Mess to swing lanterns and get on the dance floor. Reminiscing with fellow Black Jackets about our antics in years gone by.

Finally I would like to take this opportunity to publicly thank the attendees and their partners at this year's dinner, it was my fantastic honour to be your President, I felt privileged to welcome all our members and thank you all sincerely for the efforts you took to make this occasion so superb. If you didn't attend it would not happen and that would be a tragedy for something that has gone on for the last 160 plus years.

I would also like to this opportunity to thank all the members of the committee for their help and support not only for the dinner but also for personally assisting myself during my presidency.

I wish my good friend, the Regimental Sergeant Major all the success in his tenure ship as the new President and I hope my successor on the committee Mr Nigel Crowdy has as good a time as I had whilst being a committee member.



From Left to Right: Mr Dave Adkins, Mr Malc Mayoh (President), Brigadier Greville Bibby CBE and Mr Bob King.

THE REGIMENTAL BAND

A Year in Review

2016 has been a busy year for the Band of the Grenadier Guards with plenty of celebrations. Following the Adjutants' and Major General's inspections and brushing up on spring drills, the band were declared fit for parade. The Band bid farewell to the Senior Band Sergeant Major, WO1 Wood as he departed after a distinguished career for retirement. He was presented with his Meritorious Service Medal by the Duke of Cambridge. WO2 Buckley then took up the reins as the new Band Sergeant Major after serving many years in the Band of the Irish Guards.



The Colonel presents the Meritorious Service Medal to WO1 Andrew Wood.

One of the concert highlights was the '*Classical Spectacular*' in March which took place at the Royal Albert Hall featuring the Band and the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra. A month later, the band joined forced with the Coldstream Guards Band in the St. George's Day Concert which took place at Cadogan Hall to raise funds for ABF, The Soldiers Charity.

The Brass Quintet headed off to Pakistan in April which they claimed was really hard work but they had big smiles on their faces on their return and seemed eager to facilitate a repeat visit annually. They performed at the British Embassy, a reception in Lahore and a live radio broadcast and interview on Radio Pakistan.

Summer season saw the celebration of the Queen's 90th Birthday in June, with the Beating Retreat and Trooping of the Colour, a tradition which personnel throughout the Household Division thrive upon. It was an event that the



The Brass Quintet in Pakistan for the celebration of the Queen's 90th Birthday hosted by the British High Commissioner.

band were proud to take part on given it's particular significance this year with the Queen's 90th birthday.

Once the dust settled on Horse Guards Parade, the Band continued with musical training and Public Duties to be undertaken, as well as a huge variety of engagements using anything from a solo trumpeter, a quartet, quintet or the whole band. In July the band supported the traditional Grenadier Day – an annual event supporting the Regiment and their families held in Aldershot.



LCpl Nixon began the Musical Direction Course in 2016 which she has now completed and will soon be appointed Bandmaster of the Queen's Division Band.

After a well earned rest, the band returned in August to a busy schedule that took them abroad to both Germany and Belgium. The Parade in Germany on the 25th of August was to celebrate the role of British Forces Germany and the 70th



The Brass Quintet performing in Germany at the Fahnenband Presentation reception. August 2016.



The Band performing in Germany as the Duke of Cambridge and German Chancellor, Angela Merkel arrive for a reception. August 2016.

anniversary of the State of North Rhine-Westphalia and was attended by HRH The Duke of Cambridge. At this point the band welcomed the new Bandmaster as she swapped jobs with the former Bandmaster who took up post as Training Design Warrant Officer at the Royal Military School of Music. The new Bandmaster began her career in the Band of the Irish Guards so was familiar with the State Ceremonial environment. Sadly, uniform had not arrived in time for this particular tasking at the end of her first week but she dusted off her German skills to act as interpreter and media liaison.

The following week the Band travelled to Belgium to provide musical support to the commemoration of the 360th year anniversary of the formation of the Grenadier

Guards at the Royal Guild of St Sebastian and for the annual memorial parade at the Menin Gate in Ypres.

Team building has been part of the Band ethos this year. An opportunity to try a new sport known as Foot Golf presented itself at the end of July. The Band were split into teams with the aim being to try and score the lowest points in kicking a football to a target over a golf course. The day was a success in promoting team cohesion, as well as being physically demanding. There was a surprising amount of competitive spirit that emerged from all teams but only one team could end up as victors. It ended without any sour grapes followed by a prize giving and barbecue.

Many of the band went on an Adventure Training exercise in September. They took part in a one week sailing course around the Solent. Many of them were complete novices and it certainly tested their sea legs – some found out they didn't actually have any sea legs as such but soldiered on anyway to avoid a long, cold swim back to shore. Those who were particularly keen (or perhaps preferred the ocean to the Band Practice Room, took part in a second week of sailing. The crews set off from the Joint Forces Sailing Centre in Gosport and visited places such as Cowes, Lymington and Bucklers Yard in Beaulieu to name but a few. Congratulations are in order to the members of the band that received their Competent Crew Qualifications on this trip while others look forward to gaining their Day Skipper Qualifications during 2017.

In November, many of the band performed in the Festival of Remembrance at the Royal Albert Hall and the Cenotaph Parade. On Poppy Day, the band performed throughout the day raising money for the Royal British Legion at Waterloo

Station on the 3rd of November along with other bands from the Corps of Army Music, who were entertaining commuters in London's busiest stations that day.

Shortly afterward the band performed a Concert at Marlborough College, also in support of service charities on the 6th of November. The concert featured some of the most talented musicians in solo performances as well as the 18th Century ensemble, who had first featured in the St. Georges day concert earlier in the year.



The 18th Century Ensemble (performing in the 21st Century).

The Band rounded off the year with the annual concert of Scarlet and Gold in two performances at Cadogan Hall, featuring solo performances from our principle clarinetist Musn Wong and our ever-talented euphonium player CSgt Altree and principal cornet, LCpl Beavis. The nights were both a huge success with a full audience.

Sadly, the band has had to say goodbye to a number of



LCpl Hicks sounds the Last Post in the Guards Chapel to remember the fallen during the Somme 100 commemorations.

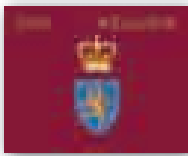
musicians due to a variety of reasons this year. Best wishes go to those who have moved on and the hope that they remember the saying 'Once a Grenadier, Always a Grenadier'. Sgt Lorimer, LSgt Nixon, LCpl Riley, Musn Clavering, Musn Lewis and Musn Scowen. However, the band welcomed new musicians; LCpl Hicks, Musn Bowering, Musn Flynn, Musn Higginson, Musn Jolly, Musn Pearson, Musn Salmon and Sgt Scott. The Band has seen several changes in management this year and as the Director of Music, Major Stredwick retires to civilian life, the Band look forward to the return of Major Smith as Director of Music in 2017.



WO1 (Bandmaster) Taylor-Smith was assigned to the Royal Military School of Music in August 2016 having swapped jobs with...



WO1 (Bandmaster) Marinescu, who was assigned to the Band in August 2016, seen here in Marlborough Court.

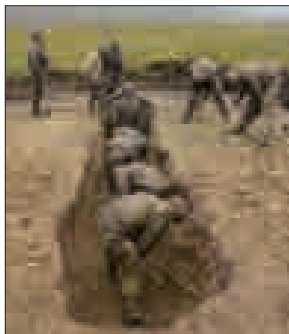


14TH COMPANY Infantry Training Regiment, Catterick

by *Lt R D S Laing*

Following the Army's latest drive on recruiting and retention, with the focus of ensuring that the correct numbers of trained Guardsmen arrive at their respective regiments ready for operational tours or ceremonial duties, Guards Company finds itself very busy at the time of writing. Within Guards Company the Grenadier contingent are fully involved and stuck into life at the training establishment, leading, as ever, from the front.

There are currently five platoons in training with a further two set to start in the coming few weeks. With new platoons now starting training just a couple of weeks after



Future Grenadier practice digging in on Tac Ex 3.

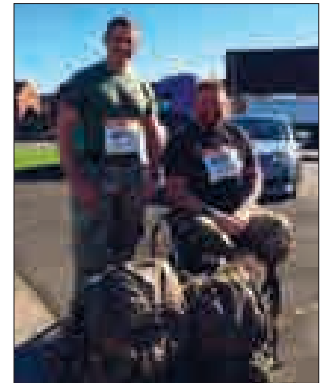
their predecessors have marched off the square, following a fast and furious 28 week training program, Grenadier section commanders, platoon sergeants and platoon commanders alike are going from one commitment to another to ensure that all the required training take place. The training program that future Grenadier Guardsmen are undergoing has also undergone a recent change, now in the form of the Combat Infantrymen Course 16. This focuses on developing recruits at a more considered pace in order to get the best out of them, with the tempo picking up towards the end of the course. One of the biggest differences to the old training program is the physical training, with much more emphasis placed on building strength and stamina before progressing onto loaded marches. Whilst some of the older and bolder



Sgt Perry (centre) and LSgt Davis (2nd in from right) on Final Exercise with Guards 21 Platoon.

may complain that things have turned soft, the upside is that Guards Company has seen a dramatic fall in the number of injuries to recruits, resulting in a higher number of people passing out and thus more Grenadiers joining 1st Battalion of Nijmegen Company.

The majority of those that passed out and joined the Grenadier Family will follow their Regimental forbears and start their career at Nijmegen Company for a period of three to 12 months, before being posted to a Rifle Company at 1 Battalion in Lille Barracks, Aldershot. The Grenadier Guards continue to be the best recruited of the Foot Guard regiments, along with the Coldstream Guards.



Sgt Dunk and LSgt Cumberland.



Sgt Perry and LSgt Kotze in the World Pace Sticking Championships.

Whilst the training schedule is busy members of the Company have still found the time to attend courses, take (some) leave, and participate in adventure training and sport. For example, Sgt Dunk completed the Lincoln 10k carrying 100lbs, along with LSgt Cumberland, whilst Sgt Perry and LSgt Kotze represented Guards Company at the World Pace Sticking Championships at the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst, with LSgt Kotze winning the best individual award.

All in all it has been a fantastic year for both Guards Company and the Grenadier contingent within. Next year the Company can look forward to nurturing and developing the skills of future Grenadiers, helping to maintain the health of the Regiment as a whole.

Battalion News

A Look Forward to 2017

by Capt Hamish Hardy

Another year has disappeared rapidly for the Battalion, this article being one of the principle reminders of how fast it has raced by. The 'stand-up' year for the Very High Readiness Joint Task Force Land (VJTf (L)) has taken the battalion to some challenging and, at times, horribly contrasting places around the world. A second stint in the Kenyan heat quickly changed to the rolling German plains before we found ourselves in the freezing forests of northern Latvia. A second turn in Germany looms at the time of writing as aid the Brigade headquarters in their preparation for the VJTf (L) readiness year commencing in January.

Having moved away from public duties at the beginning of the year and with No 2 Company having returned from a successful deployment to the Falklands, the Battalion launched itself into a series of preparatory exercises. An LFTT package in Kent set the battalion on a good footing for the live firing to come in Kenya. The Headquarters also used this protected time as a chance to begin practicing some planning cycles, conscious of our trip to the Command and Staff Trainer (CAST) in late April. A further training exercise was completed in Thetford, encompassing build up LFTT training as well as company level manoeuvre prior to a planned Battlegroup attack. This would be the last chance the Battalion had to practice prior to deploying on Ex ASKARI STORM.

The Battlegroup headquarters deployed to Catterick in order for the planning elements to be tested at CAST, with the 11 Brigade Commander overseeing our training and evaluating the rather hectic planning and execution cycles undertaken. The Headquarters performed well, allowing the Battlegroup to deploy to Kenya with a measure of confidence in their abilities as a team. Ex ASKARI STORM followed much the same format as the last iteration the Battlegroup undertook in 2015. The principle difference being that the British Army Training Unit Kenya (BATUK) had leased a new area of land for us to train on. This new area was completely untamed, and whereas most exercise areas are known to at least a few of the more veteran Grenadiers, this area was not. Thick bush, deep rivers, steep ravines and gorges, as well as the genuine threat from wild animals, served to really put all on their toes. The hugely challenging environment allowed for tough training, especially given that the Battalion now prides itself on its ability to fight at night. Indeed, for many of the Battlegroup it would prove to be the toughest exercise they had deployed on. The BATUK staff gratifyingly admitted to it being one of the hardest they had run, and the Battlegroup managed again to perform well, further spurring us towards

the coming VJTf (L) readiness year. Following the exercise the chance to take part in some adventurous training as well as enjoy being in Kenya, allowed the Battlegroup to wind down prior to the flight home, everyone now looking forward to a stretch of leave.

Returning to work in the middle of August, the Battalion now had an incredibly busy period to contend with up until Christmas. The first was

an interoperability exercise in Germany, focussed on showing the Troop Contributing Nations (TCNs) the capabilities that would form the VJTf (L) Brigade. Danish, Polish and British armoured infantry showed off their infantry fighting vehicles, the Spanish light role Battlegroup demonstrated their urban fighting prowess, amassed British and Spanish artillery enabled an impressive fire power demonstration as the Queen's Royal Hussars rolled over the plains in their main battle tanks. Czech CBRN units, Danish and British engineering and medical assets all provided a deeper insight into the huge capability contained within the force, and left us in little doubt of the commitment to our task within the wider NATO family. The trip also allowed time for a cold war battlefield study, looking at the defensive areas of the British Corps. Additionally trips were arranged to Bergen-Belsen and to the Waffen-SS museum at Wewelsburg castle. As Germany was happening, No 2 Company deployed to Albania in order to support firstly an Albanian exercise and then a United States Marine Corps exercise. The mountainous and sparse landscape provided an excellent training area, with closer cooperation between the USMC, the Albanians and the British Army being the ultimate aim. The Grenadier detachment was also graced with the presence of the Assistant Equerry to the Duke of Edinburgh, Capt Fred Moynan. Despite only bringing a jungle sleeping bag to the cold mountains of Albania, he still managed to not miss his London office too much.

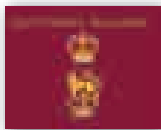
The return to the Aldershot saw a lot of company level training as the Quartermaster's team began preparing for the mammoth task of moving the Battalion's vehicle, kit and weapons stocks out to Latvia in preparation for Exercise Silver Arrow. Silver Arrow is the national certification exercise for the Latvian Army, and it provided the Battalion with the opportunity to train in a Brigade context with our TCN companies for the first time. The Commanding Officer, Lieutenant Colonel Alex McKay had already been out to visit



LCpl Williams dug in and ready to defend.

the Albanian, Dutch and Latvian companies, but it would be a first for many working with them. The key issue would be communication, and this was solved in the case of the Albanians and Latvians by the formation of radio detachments to sit at company headquarters level, controlled by a Grenadier liaison officer. Luckily, the Dutch Royal Marine Raider Squadron uses the same radios as the British Army, and has trained extensively with the Royal Marines. The exercise was broken down into two phases, the first allowing the Battlegroup time to conduct our own interoperability training. Working through the key Battlegroup actions such as deliberate attack, obstacle crossing and defence many lessons were identified, but crucially the key components of communication and command

and control worked well. Following this phase, the Battlegroup returned to the immaculate tented camp that the Quartermaster's department had so impressively erected within the confines of Adazi camp, east of Riga. After some battle preparation time, the second phase of the exercise commenced with the Battlegroup deploying into the cold to establish defensive positions. By this time the temperature had dropped with the wind beginning to pick up and the rain setting in. This testing environment really gave all a chance to practice the key tactical actions of defensive position preparation, camouflage and concealment, as well as administration in cold weather – a training objective not so well practiced, after two summers in Kenya.



THE QUEEN'S COMPANY

by Lt T Bolitho

There is little doubt that The Queen's Company has enjoyed one of its busier training years this year with deployments to Cinque Ports, Thetford, Albania, Kenya, Latvia, Germany and, for certain individuals, Thailand. Notwithstanding a dose of ceremonial commitments it has, all together, been a productive training 'season'. January saw the handover of public duties and the arrival of a new machine gun platoon commander, Lt Bolitho, fresh from Brecon and the machine gun platoon commander's course. February began in earnest with the arrival of the new Commanding Officer and the commencement of Tuesday night training sessions, culminating in our two week deployment to Thetford. In preparation, the Company conducted a wash up of the Company's Live Firing with a dynamic week's range package in Lydd, followed by a week-long deployment to Cinque Ports training area. With the addition of several potential officers, it proved quite a week with the new 'Guardsmen' certainly being put through their paces!

Supported by our new night fighting prowess and the Commanding Officer's commitment to the First Battalion becoming the Brigade 'showpiece' night-fighting battalion, our ability to conduct ourselves in the hours of darkness continued to improve in the run up to Kenya. Proved through another week of Live Firing Tactical Training in Thetford, the Company's basic infantry skills were further honed with the expansive vistas of Norfolk enabling a good week's training. For the duration of our Very High Readiness Joint Task Force (VJTF) year, No 10 Platoon of the Inkerman Company are to be attached, proving a welcome boost to the Company's manpower (albeit not to the average height), with their eagerness nevertheless welcomed by the remainder of The Queen's Company. With Kenya stretching out before us the

Company was given a much-appreciated week's stand down prior to deployment, allowing individuals time to negotiate the newly introduced 'Virtus' body armour system and its various accoutrements.

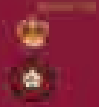
Departing at the height of the English sporting season, our deployment to Kenya was met with some admonishment by those members of the Company committed to invoking their competitive rights at Ascot, Henley and Wimbledon. Nevertheless, with proxy votes for the EU referendum cast and betting slips recovered, the main body of the Company deployed at the beginning of June into what would be a beneficial and very testing 6 weeks. Split into three phases the Company was tested at all levels by the British Army Training Unit Kenya (BATUK) over the harsh terrain of Ol Doiyo Lombero, Archer's Post, and Loisaba training areas. The latter, being used for the first time in eight years, proved a hotbed of emotions and big game. Highlights included stampeding elephant and Giraffe with numerous lion and hyena sighted, while less appreciative members of the Company were constantly reminded of the going rate civilians would pay for the same experience...

Completing the exercise and receiving our Collective Training Four (CT4) 'tick' as a battalion meant that we were fully deployable and served as a welcome relief to those who had worked so hard over that period. Equally sustaining, four weeks leave on return enabled those with injuries to recover while allowing families to reunite after what had been a busy half of the year. After saying goodbye to three of four Platoon Commanders in Messrs Laing, Thompson and Phillips, as well as Capt Dobson, the former Second Captain; the Company welcomed two new and one returning member with Messrs Wood and Palmer-Tomkinson assuming 2 and 10 Platoon respectively, and Capt Hargreaves returning in the role of The Second Captain. Fresh from leave we hit the ground running with

Company Headquarter deploying to Germany on Exercise VENERABLE GAUNTLET while the remainder of the Company further refined their low level CBRN and infantry skills ensuring we would be set for our subsequent deployment to Latvia on Exercise SILVER ARROW.

From one to the other, the harsh savannah of Kenya contrasted with the freezing expanse of the Baltic as we worked alongside our NATO and VJTF colleagues in Latvia. Serving as a reminder of what we had accomplished thus far, the exercise allowed the Company to adjust itself in order to

cooperate with the Dutch, Albanians and Latvians alongside whom we will serve come 2017 and the handover of VJTF. Our return to the UK in November provided limited respite as we are now on to final 'readiness' preparation for 1st January whereupon our role as the Spearhead Battlegroup of the VJTF is assumed. With a week of adventure training planned in Cornwall and numerous courses going on concurrently, the final few weeks of 2016 will serve to cap what has been a busy, but ultimately very productive year for The Queen's Company.

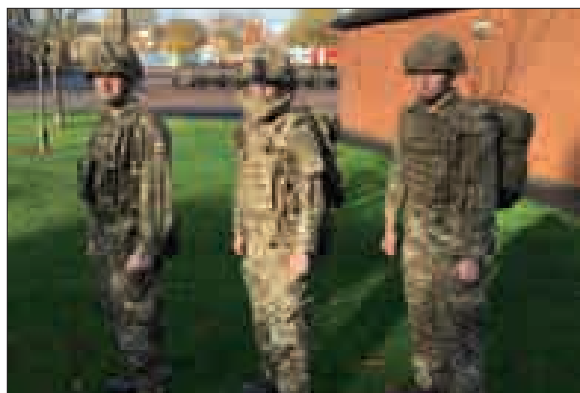


NO 2 COMPANY

by Lt E Harmer

No 2 Company spent Christmas 2015 and New Year in the Falkland Islands; this was excellent preparation for the Battalion's preparation year for VJTF in 2016. This was a highly successful trip with many of the junior members of the Company gaining a huge amount of 'green' experience. The Company returned to the UK, with the Battalion off the line, in February. Captain Henry Waterfield left as Company Second-in-Command, for a straight swap to Nijmegen Company with Capt Charlie Williams.

The second quarter of the year saw a busy period of build-up training to Kenya. The company deployed on exercise and LFTT to Thetford. This period also saw a large amount of night training in camp and on the local training areas with the VJTF up-lift of NVDs. 11 Platoon, The Inkerman Company, was welcomed into the No 2 Company group for the remainder of the year and 2017. The Company was able to deploy in good order to Kenya on Askari Storm. Following a week of sub-unit led training, the company was able to achieve excellent results during the BATUK led assessments and final exercise.



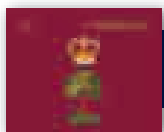
No 2 Company Guardsmen in various dress states of the new VIRTUS body armour.

The return from Kenya and start of Summer Leave saw a major shake-up in Company Headquarters. Major Jim Green was replaced by Rupert King-Evans. CSM Hughes moved onto a job as Chief Instructor at the Urban Operations School, Brecon; he was replaced by CSM Dacey. In early September PSgt Bennison handed over to PSgt Walton, who returned to the Battalion from instructing at Sandhurst.

With all these changes the Company still had to manage a platoon plus deployment to Albania as part of Ex Joint Effort in September. This saw the 4 Platoon, under Lt Ed Harmer and Sgt Harper, deploy into the Albanian mountains as part of Cobra Company, 2nd Battalion of the Albania Army (who are part of the 1GG Battle Group for VJTF). This was the first Albanian run Battle Group exercise. The second half of the exercise saw 4 Platoon doing unarmed combat, LFTT, urban training and vertical assault lessons with members of K Company, 42 Commando. Finally they played enemy for 42 Commando's amphibious assault of Sazan Island. Apart from a rouge trip flare nearly causing a major forest fire on the island, it was an interesting and rewarding exercise, providing a good introduction to inter-operability for all those who took part.

Ten days after 4 platoon's return from Albania, the Company complete deployed to Latvia on Exercise Silver Arrow. There the company was able to put into practice the night fighting lessons learnt in Kenya and inter-operability lessons from Albania. Whilst a long way from the heat of central Africa, this proved to be a great opportunity to conduct the final major training before readiness in 2017.

At the time of writing the Company is about to deploy on a range package in Lydd and conduct public order training under the Drill Sergeant. 2016 has been a challenging but thoroughly enjoyable year; a significant number having deployed on four overseas exercises during the last 12 months. This has all been combined with AT and a great deal of sport, the 'backbone' of the battalion football team coming from within the Company. No 2 Company is in a great place going into a well-earned Christmas Leave before readiness as of 1st January 2017 and looking forward to the potentially exciting year ahead.



THE INKERMAN COMPANY

by *Capt K Varmuza*

2016 has been an unusual, varied and interesting year for The Inkerman Company. Preparation for the Battalion's role as the Spearhead Battle Group in 2017 (see separate article) required some changes to the ORBAT. 10 and 11 Platoons were attached to The Queen's and No 2 Companies respectively to bring those companies up to the manpower required. The splitting of the Company inevitably caused some distress to proud 'Ribs' but they managed the transition magnificently and have maintained their special character.

Aside from the important contribution that 10 and 11 Platoons are making to strengthening The Queen's and No 2 Companies, the Company Headquarters is providing liaison teams to the Latvian and Albanian rifle companies. The liaison teams provide BOWMAN communications to enable Command and Control. In addition, this vital role is a combination of the standard Second in Command reports and returns while being a diplomat, interpreter and adviser for the partner nation commanders.

Meanwhile the Company Headquarters took under command, in 12 Platoon, all the downgraded soldiers with muscular-skeletal injuries from across the Battalion. By giving them a dedicated support network, access to specialists and protection from some of the pressures of in barracks and exercise soldiering it is hoped that they will recover more quickly and effectively than before. Initial responses from the Guardsmen have been positive.

The Company Headquarters also has the task of maintain the ability to take under command attached or Grenadier platoons as required. For Ex ASKARI STORM this summer we were joined by platoons from the Welsh Guards, the Royal Irish and the Royal Anglians. This multinational experiment resulted in a company of a unique and distinctly unGrenadier character. In spite of that we quickly formed an effective team and found strength through diversity.

Another task that the Company has taken on is to lead the Battalion's Defence Engagement activity. As part of 11 Infantry Brigade we have responsibility for relationships with Thailand and Burma. During the course of the year we have hosted a visit from the Thai Royal Guard, and sent a return visit to Bangkok. We have hosted both military and defence attachés in the Officers' Mess and we look forward to continuing to develop the relationship through 2017 and beyond.

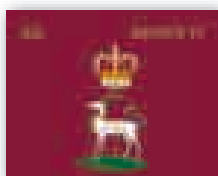
Inkerman Day this year was celebrated

down at Portsmouth where we were kindly hosted by the Historic Dockyard and the crew of HMS Victory. After an enjoyable treasure hunt around Portsmouth to stretch the legs the company split into three groups for tours of HMS Victory, HMS Warrior and the Mary Rose. The descriptions of naval discipline made the company realise that things could, on balance, be worse. We rounded off the day with dinner at Tiger Tiger before departing on well-earned stand down. A great day was had by all and those who have joined the company since the split learned a bit more about what makes The Inkerman Company special.

Over the last year there has been some churn of personnel. Major Jesty and CSM Bennett remain in post. Capt Welham has moved on to HQ ARRC, via the Middle East, and then out of the Army. He was replaced as Second-in-Command by Lt Varmuza who returns after a brief sojourn with Nijmegen Company. Lts Phillips and Wace have moved on to ITC Catterick and the Mortar Platoon respectively. CSgt Wiseman has moved on to be CSM Support Company, his replacement CSgt Dacey has also moved on to be CSM No 2 Company. The current incumbent, CSgt Archer, has returned to us from RMA. Sgt Lockley has transferred to the RLC and Sgt Hepburn has been posted to HDPRCC. Sgt Mercer provides some much needed Ribs continuity. Inevitably some have left the Army and while they are too numerous to mention here they go with our best wishes for the future and the assurance that 'Once a Rib, always a Rib!'



Three Grenadiers dressed rather strangely in Wales. They are: S/Sgt Wearn 1st Battalion 1991–1996; Major General Sir Evelyn Webb Carter 1st Battalion 1985–1988; Lance Ranson 1st Battalion from the 80s.



NIJMEGEN COMPANY Wellington Barracks, London

by Lt George Barnes

It has, as ever, been a busy period for Nijmegen Company. After manning Number Five Guard at the Queen's Birthday Parade in June, the next big event on the Company calendar was a series of parades in Belgium and France to mark the 360th anniversary of the Regiment's formation. In early September Nijmegen Company travelled to Bruges, the very place where, under the auspices of the exiled King Charles II, the Grenadier Guards were formed. The city provided a fantastic setting to celebrate both the Regiment and the British Army's enduring ties with its NATO and European allies. For the parade itself, Nijmegen Company formed a Guard of Honour, and was joined by detachments from the Belgian Grenadiers, the Honourable Artillery Company, and the Household Cavalry. Although the Company had to endure a lengthy stand, it was worth the wait as Princess Astrid of Belgium then inspected the Company, accompanied by General Sir George Norton, the Regiment's Lieutenant Colonel.

The following day Nijmegen Company marched through Bruges with colours flying, drums beating, and bayonets fixed. Trumping its association with the city to an even greater extent, the Company marched through many parts



The Lieutenant Colonel and the Mayor inspect the Company.

of the picturesque and bustling town before ending at the Regiment's birthplace, the Royal Guild of St Sebastian. With the combined heat of a thick tunic and an Indian summer, the reception of guild members armed with copious amounts of Belgian beer was thoroughly appreciated by all! With some inevitable sore heads the following day, the Company then travelled to Pont-a-Marq in Northern France, passing through the Belgian countryside on the way. This gave every man a moment to reflect on Belgium's proud yet sombre place in the long tapestry of the Regiment's history – from Oudernade, to Waterloo, to the fields of Ypres...

The Company travelled to Pont-a-Marq to commemorate its liberation by the Regiment in 1944. Once again the Company was met by a welcoming reception of local dignitaries, and humbled as it was made clear the extent to which they still clearly cherish their link with the Regiment. After a church service, and conversations in stumbling sub-par French by several of the Company officers, the Company marched to various points where the battle for the town was particularly fierce, taking a moment at each to remember the Grenadiers and French Resistance fighters who made the ultimate sacrifice. After this poignant parade, the Company was again taken under the wing of its French hosts and given a delicious lunch, providing the Guardsmen not only with some much needed nourishment, but also a fantastic opportunity to socialise with the locals, and a chance for some to meet a Grenadier veteran from the 1944 battle itself – Albert Green.

On its return to the UK, bearskins were soon replaced with helmets for a two week exercise to Dartmoor. Immersed in breath-taking scenery, the Company spent the first week conducting a blank phase aimed at keeping the men's basic warfighting skills and tactics up to scratch. The Guardsmen did not disappoint. Operating at both day at night, they threw themselves into each and every attack with vigour and determination, with the results to prove it, taking several



The Officers and Sergeants of the Company pose next to an iconic windmill.



Albert Green meets serving Grenadiers in Pont – E Marq in France.

ambushes and advance to contacts in testing conditions. This phase concluded with carefully planned sequential platoon attacks that called for a high level of battle discipline and professionalism. Again, the men delivered. 4 Platoon manoeuvred carefully through the night to approach the enemy from an unexpected angle, taking them by surprise just before sunrise. 5 Platoon then took over, maximising the moor's natural cover to get as close to the enemy as possible before delivering their own equally decisive and forceful blow. The following week the Company entered the live firing phase, completing a package of shoots at both day and night. This culminated with a very demanding (and wet!) section attack range that tested all ranks, and allowed some of the more junior soliders to seize the chance to step up and be the section commander. It was a fitting end to a very successful exercise, and epitomised the learning experience all had taken from the exercise.

Throughout this whole period, Nijmegen has continued to perform its ceremonial obligations to the high standards that the Regiment has come to embody, and expect. The Company has also undertaken a plethora of other taskings however. Whilst some Guardsmen have gone climbing in Wales on Adventurous Training for example, others have deployed to Belize to play enemy for the Platoon Commander's Battle Course. A Section under LSgt Loftus played enemy for the duration of the exercise in December, helping teach the men the basics of jungle warfare. They also took the time to welcome the new 5 Platoon Commander, Mr Ide, one of the young officers on the course, to the Company over a few drinks on the beach!

A team from Nijmegen Company also entered Cambrian patrol under the leadership of Lt Silver and LSgt Ellis.

Overcoming a plethora of testing circumstances, they did the Company proud, especially as they had to battle through what could only be described as 'weather that only Wales could provide!', and had been on exercise for the ten days leading up to the competition. Guardsmen also deployed on a RAAT tasking in Wales to help test Special Forces observation teams from around the world, whilst others were sent to St Mawgan's in Cornwall to help hunt down trainee RAF pilots who were practicing their escape and evasion skills.

The year did not just end with the routine set of Christmas services. The comfort of a heart-warming carol service had to be earned, and earned they were on a chilly week long exercise in Sennybridge in early December! Although deliberately designed to really test and develop the robustness of the Company, every man grew to meet the challenge. This was no mean feat, as 10 minutes after stepping off the coaches, the platoons set off on a 6km Advance to Contact over the infamous bogs that plague the training area – one of a series of challenging serials. One of the biggest hurdles was the weather, as according to the BBC the weather plummeted one night to -9.6°C , making the harbour area slightly more uncomfortable than anticipated, and especially for those on sentry. The exercise concluded with a successful Company attack; 5 platoon clearing initial enemy positions to allow 4 Platoon to echelon through to secure the objective. Nijmegen had now proved they had the grit and skills to operate effectively in whatever the condition. With the men back in London the Company began Christmas leave in style with a trip to HMS Belfast. The warship on the Thames was a terrific venue for the men to enjoy a party before some well-earned rest.

To the uninitiated who claim that life in an incremental company entails an endless and monotonous set of guard duties – for the men of Nijmegen Company, the last six months have proved quite the opposite!



The Christmas party on HMS Belfast.

The Grenadiers Return to Bruges to Celebrate Their 360th Anniversary

by *The Regimental Adjutant*

Nijmegen Company (commanded by Major Alexander Bayliss), the Regimental Band (commanded by the Director of Music, Major Philip Stredwick), a few 1st Guards' Club members and about 40 members of the Association congregated in Bruges during the afternoon of 2nd September for the celebrations to commemorate the 360th Anniversary of the creation of the Regiment. The weekend started with celebrations in Bruges on the Friday and Saturday, followed, on Sunday, by a commemoration of the Battle of Pont-à-Marcq (3rd Sep 44 – 'The day on which Brussels was liberated but which Grenadiers will remember as the one where The King's Company and No 2 Squadron fought and won one of the most difficult actions in which the 3 battalions of the Regiment were involved during the campaign'). After Pont-à-Marcq, the Grenadier multitude descended on Ypres where the Regimental Band took part in the Last Post Ceremony at the Menin Gate.

The celebrations began with the Crown Princess of the Belgians unveiling a Bust of King Charles II on the wall of the house where he lived (now a rather smart hotel!).



The Mayor of Bruges inspects the Association Contingent watched by the Lieutenant Colonel and Regimental Adjutant.

There was a moment of high comedy when, as the Princess was arriving, the shroud covering the bust fell to the ground; a ladder was quickly procured, but not quickly enough for the Princess to see what was going on as she came around the corner! Thereafter there was a Parade on the Burg Square with Nijmegen Company, the Regimental Band, a company of Belgian Grenadiers and the Company of Pikemen and Musketeers of the Honourable Artillery Company. The Crown Princess attended the parade and the Reception afterwards. attended the Parade and a Reception afterwards.

On the Saturday morning, there was another Parade in the Market Square, where the Mayor inspected the assembled troops who then marched through Bruges to the Guild of St Sebastian (where the Regiment was actually formed); this was followed by a further Parade in the gardens of the Guild, a marching display by the Regimental Band, and a spectacular display of 17th Century drill by the Pikemen and Musketeers. After a speech by the Headman of The Guild and a reply by the Regimental Lieutenant Colonel, everyone was lavishly entertained by members of the Guild.

On Sunday morning, we all decamped to Pont-à-Marcq in Northern France (SE of Lille) to commemorate the Battle of Pont-à-Marcq which took place on 3rd September 1944. (The King's Company/No 2 Squadron Group of the Grenadier Group of the Guards Armoured Division had been left behind to deal with a determined enemy in Pont-à-Marcq whilst the remainder of the Division sped on to

liberate Brussels). It was a wet and windy morning, but the day started with a Church Service, conducted in English and French, during which the Regimental Adjutant read out the names of the 23 Grenadiers killed in the battle. After the service, with the weather having improved slightly, the Grenadiers and French civic dignitaries, veterans, and townsfolk marched through the streets stopping and laying wreaths at various memorials along the way. There followed a Reception and a lunch at which 250 people were seated. The Mayor of Pont-à-Marcq made a lengthy speech, to which the President of the Association made a somewhat less lengthy reply, partially in French! A 1st Guards' Club member was heard to comment, jokingly, that the



The Regimental Band marches to the Menin Gate in Ypres.

President's speech 'contained all the right words but none of the right accents!' Others, hugely impressed, confessed that they were unaware that he was bi-lingual!

After the celebrations in Pont-à-Marcq, the Grenadiers moved to Ypres to take part in the Last Post Ceremony at the Menin Gate. The Regimental Band gave a marching display in the Market Square before marching to the Menin Gate, where during the Last Post Ceremony, Major Stephen Dehnel read the Exhortation.



The Mayor of Pont-a-Marcq begins a very long speech, watched by the President of the Association.

It must be said that the success of the weekend was entirely due to the determination, efficiency and hard work of Stephen Dehnel who, as Project Officer, worked tirelessly to confound the best efforts of the MoD to make the whole weekend as difficult as possible to organize!

Lingering thoughts on a successful weekend:

- The generosity and warmth of the people of Bruges and in particular, the Guild of St Sebastian.
- The welcome and lasting gratitude of the townsfolk of Pont-à-Marcq.
- The fact that the weekend served to inform the current generation of serving Grenadiers (and remind past Grenadiers) of the Regiment's heritage over the years.



Major Stephen Dehnel accompanied by Major Andy Butcher 'getting a grip' in Bruges.

Battalion Cresta Team

by 2Lt Jonny Palmer-Tomkinson

During January this year, the Grenadier Guards sent out a team of four to tackle The Cresta Run in St Moritz, Switzerland. Our illustrious and soon-to-become fearless leader, Capt Tom Hargreaves (The Queen's Company), arranged for Capt Jamie Garton (Adjt London District), Gdsm Glover (The Inkerman Company) and myself to embark on a highly rewarding but steep learning curve that culminated in the Army Cresta Championships on the 20th January.

To the untrained eye, The Cresta Run may seem like any other bobsleigh or skeleton run, essentially a downhill curved ice run that seemingly cuts through the mountain. However unlike conventional courses, The Cresta Run is a natural ice run, built from scratch every year by the hard working and ever knowledgeable 'Arbeiter', who know the intricacies of each bend and each straight better than anyone. For three quarters of a mile, the run winds its way down from St Moritz to the village of Celerina, and has been in existence for sportsmen and thrill seekers for over 130 years. The very nature of its rebirth each year means that, although similar, it is never entirely predictable, and it is as much a race with oneself, as it is with others. It does not come without its dangers and the infamous Shuttlecock Corner takes no prisoners. Those who find themselves intoxicated by speed or lacking in the necessary skill are ejected into the prepared piles of hay to the side, frequented by every member of the team.

The Second Captain and I were fortunate enough to arrive early and secure some invaluable time on the ice before the bulk of the army teams arrived. It is certainly a progressive sport with the first few runs spent aggressively trying to dig the metal rakes on your boots into the ice, in an effort to shed both speed and fear, white knuckles gripping to the toboggan as you hurtle head first down to Celerina. As confidence grew we both started to manage the art of turning, which saw the

Second Captain visit the Shuttlecock straw slightly less often, aided by his newer and longer army toboggan that had been provided to him on account of his height. We were managing to secure about three rides a day on the run, with very early starts allowing us a good place in the queue so we could be high up on the list of riders and get onto the ice at its hardest. Personally I got off to a good start, I felt like I had found my calling and dreams of becoming an Olympic athlete started to spark. I imagine I felt like Susan Boyle did when she sang for the first time on X Factor. However, it was soon to become apparent that unlike the Second Captain and probably anyone who has ever ridden The Cresta Run, I was to hardly improve and reality soon hit home.

Nevertheless with chins still up we were joined by Gdsm Glover and the Cresta Veteran Capt Garton, who jumped straight back into the saddle having done it the previous year. Our minds were now focussed on the impending Army Championships with much friendly hot talk being thrown between us and our Cavalry peers. Underneath the good humour, however, we all knew just how intensely competitive and hard fought it was going to be. The Army Championship worked on the aggregate times of two runs for each team, which consisted of two people from the same regiment. Team A was Capt Garton and I, Team B was Capt Hargreaves and Gdsm Glover. The catch was that if anyone fell, they would be disqualified and therefore the team would not place. It was therefore a fairly critical dilemma of whether to go all out and pray that Shuttlecock took mercy on you, or whether to take a more gentle approach and ensure you reached Celerina in one piece. Indeed very few people, albeit one, actually came out during the Championships so the race was well fought and it was not a familiar Grand National scenario where riders who manage to stay the course might well end up placing. I am pleased to say that we did ourselves proud, with Capt Garton and I securing Bronze in the Army Open Championship, but moreover The Second Captain coming 5th in the 17th Lancers' Handicap Race and winning Silver in the Army Novice Cup.

Unfortunately Gdsm Glover, in hearty Inkerman spirit, decided to practice a running start during the actual Championships and broke his toboggan. However hats off to him for finishing the course on essentially a piece of wood.

It is in all seriousness a hugely rewarding and fun event, which epitomises great sportsmanship and courage throughout the regiments that take part. It is a tradition that holds its origins within the Army, hence why it is so important that we make an effort to ensure our presence there remains alive and successful. I hope that every year the Grenadier Guards is able to send people out to represent the Regiment and I cannot recommend it more highly if you are thinking of having a go.



Army Open Championship Winners (Seated far left 2Lt P-T and Jamie Garton).



Maj Andy Seddon (Senior Major) and Major Girts Rasa (Latvia) discuss a BG Killing Area.

Latvia – A Platoon Commander's Perspective

by *Lt T A Bolitho*

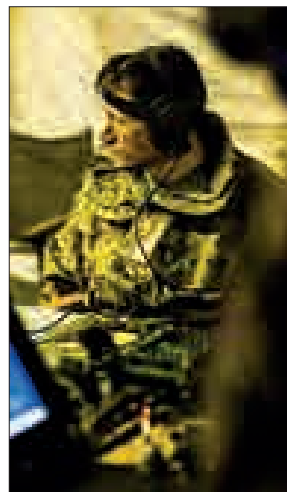
On Saturday 15th November the Battalion deployed East on Exercise SILVER ARROW taking place on Adazi Training area located 45 minutes north east of Riga. The ensuing two weeks were designed to test both the Battalion and the Battlegroup as a whole. Operating alongside our Albania's 'Cobra' company, 11 Dutch Raider Squadron and the Latvian 'Wolf' company the exercise was divided into two phases. The first week provided an opportunity to rehearse mission specific tasks including an advance to contact, deliberate attacks both day and night and an obstacle crossing. The second phase, heralded by dwindling temperatures and fortifying 'Brecon' conditions included the Final Test Exercise, designed to put into practice all that had been conducted previously.

The aim of the exercise was to put into context the various elements of our battlegroup which, in turn, is to form the spearhead of NATO's Very High Readiness Joint Task Force (VJTF) from 1st January 2017. Having previously discussed interoperability and the functions of each unit during Exercise VENERABLE GAUNTLET it was a chance to put into practice the various mechanisms which enable the battlegroup, while also confirming the ability of the front line units to cooperate and work alongside one another.

Thrust into the East European sunshine, the battlegroup deployed onto the first phase – a formidable collection of

conifer-masked vehicles and equipment, advancing through the expansive Baltic terrain. Both infantry and armoured fighting vehicle friendly, the landscape encouraged broad frontages and depth, affording quick forward passages of lines and good communications. A fitting start, the advance to contact set the tone for the remainder of the first week. Buoyed by good conditions deliberate attacks were conducted swiftly, both day and night, with the battalion's recent night fighting experience both in Kenya and during Tuesday night training sessions, affording us a confidence that was apparent throughout the exercise. Sharing our experience with the Latvian and Albanian companies, their methods of Fighting in Woods and Forests were effective, albeit slightly more traditional than ours.

The conclusion of the first phase saw the Battlegroup replenish itself before commencing battle procedure for the final exercise. Enhancing the training value, our deployment into sheets of rain was met with states of hypo-euphoria as we dismounted into our defensive positions. Sponsored by the piercing



Watchkeeping in BG Main.

cry of non-commissioned officers, the formation of our trenches ensured that the warmth soon returned with the sandy ground acting as both a blessing and a burden. The ground enabled the rapid construction of good positions and the rifle companies took full advantage of the terrain as we prepared our broad main defensive area. Support company, deployed into a slightly less hospitable marsh were able to conduct reconnaissance and a delay battle alongside 11 Dutch Raider squadron to their west. Providing a considerable deterrent throughout the exercise, their actions saw a swift initial rebuttal of the enemy, setting themselves up for the subsequent handover of the battle to the companies, located in overwatch of the main defensive area.

Matched by a sizeable, free-play enemy in the form of the US Airborne and US Marine Corps, accompanied by attachments from the Latvian and Romanians, the enemy's initial actions included a rapid deployment of CVRT to our rear that tested both the response times and contingency plans of our battlegroup support echelons. The remainder of the exercise focussed on operating offensively from our defensive position while also working alongside the Estonian led Baltic Battlegroup to our North West. The phase culminated in a battlegroup deliberate attack, before we were then recovered to our tented camp before being allowed a brief respite into Riga, to sample some of the local delights. The exercise was successful as it confirmed not only the efficacy of our training in Kenya, and throughout the course of year, but also the ability of the Battlegroup to operate flexibly and effectively in conjunction with our NATO allies, putting us in the best possible position for our role as the VJTF's spearhead battlegroup next year.



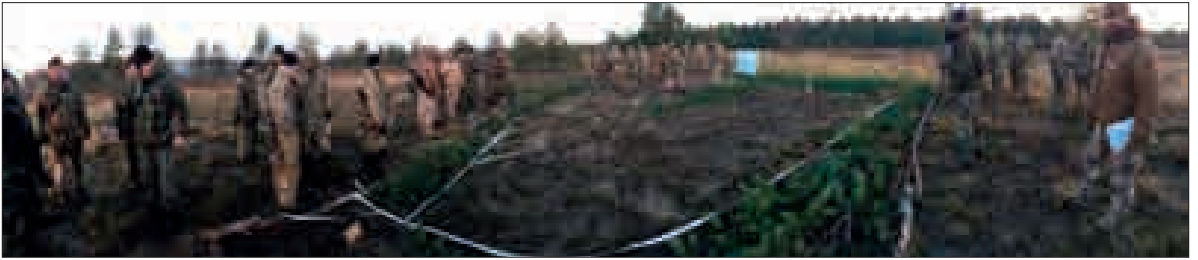
A No 2 Company Fire Team organise arcs of fire.



Commanding Officer Lieutenant Colonel Alex McKay MBE.



A Heavy Weapons Humvee from Wolf Company (Latvia) .



Commanders assemble for another BG Rehearsal of Concept (ROC Drill) upon a hard frost. ROC Drills proved essential for mutual understanding with four nations under command.



In September No 2 Company deployed a platoon to Albania to work with the Battalion's VJTF affiliated Albanian Company prior to Exercise Silver Arrow.



The Senior Major and Major Samiri Germanji expand on a detail of the BG plan.



BG Tac prepare to step off prior to a BG operation during Exercise SILVER ARROW in Latvia. Captain Oly Wace (Mor PI Comd) stands on the right and the Commanding Officer sits on his Quad.

The Very High Readiness Joint Task Force (Land) 2017

by Major B J R Jesty

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

The VJTF(L) refers to the Land Component of the VJTF, which is the lead element of NATO's Response Force (NRF). Its creation was announced at the Cardiff NATO Summit in August 2014. The VJTF would be the first element to deploy in the event of a crisis response or an Article 5 operation. It would be reinforced by an Initial Follow on Force Group (IFFG) and then by a Follow on Force Group (FFG).

The mission of the VJTF is to 'assure, deter and contribute to countering threats against Alliance territory and populations, with a priority to Article 5 in order to demonstrate a collective Alliance response throughout SACEUR's AO and potentially beyond.' Within that the Land element is to provide a rapid demonstration of force and early establishment of a NATO military presence.

While the command and control of these various forces

is a complicated process at the highest levels, it has been practiced and tested at the BG level on exercises in Germany, Albania and Latvia. The Battalion has started to form strong relationships with our attached arms and partner nations. We have begun to understand and overcome the inevitable frictions of operating with very different armies. While the explanation of The Captain's title still provokes wrinkled foreheads we have achieved a great deal of integration short of this nirvana.

Throughout 2017 the battalion will maintain elements on 48 hours' notice to move (R1), with the remainder on five days' notice to move (R2). These elements will consist of the Battalion Headquarters, one of the rifle companies and elements of Support and Headquarter Companies. The Queen's Company and No 2 Company, both augmented by a platoon from The Inkerman Company, will alternate being on R1. This will allow some periods of training and stand down without exhausting one company by keeping it on R1 for twelve months. The Inkerman Company Headquarters will provide liaison to the partner nation companies and the brigade headquarters.

At the end of a busy 2016 the battalion looks forward to the challenge of 2017 with confidence high from an excellent performance on ASKARI STORM in the summer. Successful exercises with our partner nations and the VJTF(L) Headquarters during the autumn have prepared us well to fulfil whatever tasks are set us next year. We expect a deployment somewhere, some time in 2017 that will prove that the force is competent and credible. Watch this space...

Equipment Article

by Lt R Harding

This year has seen the arrival of an array of new equipment at Battalion, which has become one of the Army's main funding priorities. The Battalion has benefitted from this with an uplift of night vision equipment, vehicles and the new VIRTUS body armour system. This priority uplift is due to the role that the Battalion will undertake in 2017, as the Spearhead Light Role Infantry Battalion for NATO's Very High Readiness Joint Task Force (VJTF). This role will see with Battalion come under the command of the Germany based 20th Armoured Infantry Brigade, ready to deploy within a 48 hour period in cooperation with 14 different NATO countries.

The Battalion has now had over six months of testing and trialling the new equipment that his role has brought. The new VIRTUS system was used in Kenya over the summer, and more recently on a major NATO exercise in Latvia. The availability of new night vision devices has

been jumped upon with particular enthusiasm by all. Night training is conducted weekly and this has allowed confidence in the use of night vision equipment to grow. Whilst in Kenya itself the Battalion had the proficiency to conduct almost all of its major operations at night, including company level live ranges with no illumination. The training achievements made by all should be congratulated and recent exposure of how other NATO partners operate at night has shown how advanced our level of competency really is.

The issuing of new equipment to the Army is a constant process of engagement, research and development. The new VIRTUS body armour system intends to unify all equipment that a soldier needs into one interchangeable system. The design aims to reduce load carrying, through advanced weight distribution systems, and to give soldiers the flexibility to conduct a wide variety of tasks, from public order and patrolling to more conventional infantry tasks, with one set of equipment.

While the initial versions of new equipment often have issues and deficiencies, these problems are fed back into the development process and are rectified in future

designs. As one of the first units to be issued with the VIRTUS system, all ranks from Guardsman up have been providing feedback to the Ministry of Defence and their contractors. This has come in the form of written feedbacks all the way up to discussion sessions with the developers themselves. Guardsmen have recently been shown new and improved versions of the equipment which will shortly come into service. They were impressed that many of the concerns raised have been acted upon

and were given confidence that it will support them in doing their job to the best of their ability.

The next year will see the Battalion continue to benefit from new cutting edge equipment. The effort that has been put into making this equipment work will go on and, as the Battalion takes on the challenge of going into high readiness for NATO in January, even higher levels of effectiveness and proficiency will no doubt be made.

2016 Fagan Awards

by *Lt Rufus Harding*

The Regiment's 2016 Fagan Awards have been awarded to Gdsm Enderby and LSgt Perriera. Christopher Fagan and his wife Dame Mary present the Fagan Award each year to the most deserving soldier from the 1st and Nijmegen Company to support their extra-curricular sporting interests. The Award is in memory of their son (also called Christopher) who was a platoon commander in the Second Battalion when he was killed in a car crash. Christopher had a passion for field sports and in particular fishing. Christopher and Dame Mary thought it appropriate that an award for sport be made in his honour to both Battalions of the Regiment. Christopher served in the Regiment as did their second Son, Jamie.

The 2016 winner from the 1st Battalion was Gdsm Enderby for his success in swimming. Gdsm Enderby only began swimming upon joining the Regiment, however, his obvious talent was soon recognised and he went on to represent the Battalion at the London District Swimming Gala. Here he was a medal winner in breast stroke and helped the 1st Battalion to its overall team victory. This strong performance won Enderby a place at Infantry swimming trials in Germany. The Infantry's top 50 swimmers attended, and only 20 were selected for the squad. Enderby convincingly made the cut and in December 2014 went on to represent the Infantry team, earning another team victory and personally placing 3rd in the Army for breast stroke.



Gdsm Enderby.

In addition to swimming on Wednesday Battalion sports afternoons, Enderby also swims on Thursdays, Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays with Farnham Swimming Club, at his own expense. He has proved to be an excellent ambassador for the Regiment within the local swimming community, has



LSgt Perriera.

improved his performance in the pool without any Army swimming coaching for 12 months, and has achieved Service-level sporting standard as a member of the Army squad entirely on his own.

The 2016 winner from Nijmegen Company was LSgt Perriera. During the autumn of 2015 a team from Nijmegen Company took time out of the busy training schedule and public duties cycle to take part in the Cambrian Patrol Competition which is run annually in the Brecon Beacons, Wales. The Cambrian Patrol Competition is a long range reconnaissance patrol designed to test the basic soldiering skills of team work, fitness, determination and military knowledge to the ultimate limit. The teams cover 60km of rugged terrain carrying loads of up to 40kg.

With minimal direction he set about creating a testing and demanding training package to turn 10 junior guardsmen into a group of 8 fighting men who eventually took part in the competition. During all this training LSgt Perriera set the standard; he read all of the doctrine required, from donning a gas mask to mastering weapons recognition. Under LSgt Perriera's leadership the team returned with a Silver medal.

Both recipients are most deserving of their awards and with nominations currently underway for the 2017 award we will look forward to the results with great anticipation.

Exploits of a Captain at BATUK

by Capt A H McC Budge

Nanyuki seems to be a one-horse town if you take it at face value, but if you scratch beneath the surface it actually has quite a lot to say for itself. Founded by British settlers in 1907 (who on their arrival introduced the wheel to the Samburu Tribe who inhabit the area), it lies directly on the equator at the foot of Mount Kenya. Located at approximately 1900m above sea level, it boasts 10 hours of sunshine per day and 800mm of rainfall per year, making its terrain hugely fertile. Scores of farms line the surrounding countryside, growing vegetables and flowers that are mostly exported to Europe. As well as being the centre of commerce for Laikipia County, Nanyuki is a tourist/expat hotspot thanks to the many opulent safari lodges that lie in the surrounding area. It's also a magnet for more adventurous types who come to climb one of the three named peaks of Mount Kenya, each progressively more difficult than the other.

Military personnel are posted to attend one of the four military camps that are situated in the town: one is British, the other three Kenyan. Thankfully my reason was to assume my posting as SO3 G3/G5 at the British Army Training Unit Kenya (BATUK).



BATUK HQ.

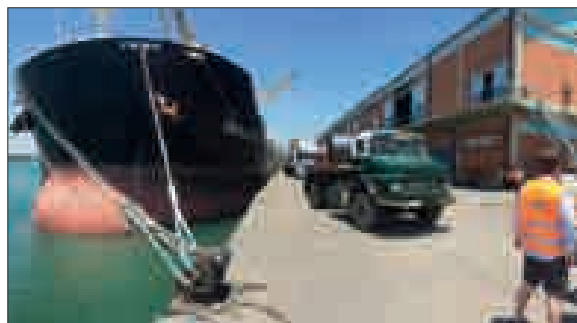
BATUK, as the majority of readers will know, is one of the British Army's overseas training centres. Its core business is to put Light Role Infantry Battalions through their paces in an arduous environment in order to confirm their readiness for subsequent roles and tasks. Battalions have been sent here to be exercised since 1963 and it felt strange

knowing that my father and his cohort, in their youth, had been tested over the same terrain. BATUK is now broken down into three parts: BATUK Rear at Kifura Barracks (KIF), located in Kahawa Barracks (Kenyan Army) in Nairobi, the old headquarters which now serves as the logistic hub and staging post for all incoming personnel and Battlegroups; BATUK Main in the Nanyuki Showground (NSG), the HQ location serving as a showground for the local agriculture market which takes place once a year (curiously, BATUK staff and their associated kit are either locked away or moved out to allow the local show to take place); Laikipia Airbase East (LAB(E)) in Nanyuki, the new camp currently under construction and home to Battlegroups' austere accommodation and the BATUK Signals Wing.

The end of 2015 and the beginning of 2016 were an interesting time to be at BATUK. The memorandum of understanding between the Kenyan and British governments was up for renewal, resulting in much diplomatic jostling. This put increased pressure on the BATUK HQ as many of the projects and funding were put on hold, due to a question mark over the permanence of our presence. The Prime Minister threatened to make a visit to smooth over relations but in the end we welcomed the Minister for the Armed Forces. Down the road in the neighbouring town of Isolo, where the British Army transit through on a very regular basis, the Kenyan Army had just conducted an operation on a group of radicalised Muslims, killing nine. Security concerns were at the forefront of people's minds.

My position within BATUK, as I soon discovered, was firmly behind a desk in BATUK Main. Although I was initially rather disappointed at the prognosis of six months in Kenya stuck behind a desk, it soon became clear that not being shackled to the continual churn of the exercises would allow me greater freedom of movement and a more diverse work timetable. Furthermore, each weekend was now open to explore and enjoy all that Kenya had to offer. When going about my business in camp, there were plenty of friendly faces: Major Hathaway-White was working in the Training Wing, and The Queen's Company had been volunteered to provide the new Force Protection Platoon and additional safety staff for 2PARA exercise. This made my first few months in BATUK a whole lot more enjoyable, seeing Grenadiers humming about the place with their usual panache, and watching bemused Corps and Line Regiment personnel witnessing a tall Guardsman asking 'Leave to fall in, Sir, please!'

My first realisation that my job would take me further afield was when I assumed the title of MaintSail 2ic. G4 had never really crossed my desk in such a major fashion but now in the plans role it was firmly in my remit. The MaintSail would involve the co-ordination of the re-supply of 40 ISO containers full of kit, equipment and ammunition to BATUK by ship from the UK to Nanyuki via Mombasa port, the busiest port on the east coast of Africa. A recce to Mombasa was required and I relished



Mombasa Port recce.



Clearing the ranges.



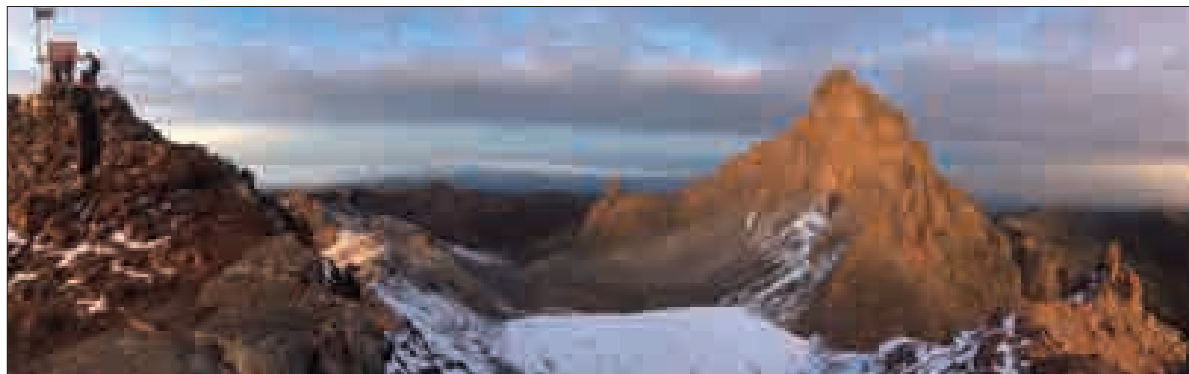
Monthly maintenance checks with Tropic Air.

the opportunity to see a little more of the country. A month later I went to Mombasa. After a day liaising with a port official – about as interested in us as he was in the pile of fish guts that had been festering in the midday sun outside his office – I found myself in the Tamarind Hotel overlooking the city's main island. Looking west towards the Indian Ocean a fisherman toiled for his daily catch on the outgoing tide as the sun set over the hazy skyline of Mombasa. The evening birdsong was joined by clerics singing the call to prayer from the mosques that could be identified between the palm trees and scrambled apartment blocks of the island. The architecture of the houses and the animated faces of this city is a strong reminder of the city's Muslim, Portuguese and British influence. It was, as I call it, a pinch yourself moment and what I believe all army officers live for during their career. I never thought I'd find myself in such a fortunate position but thanks to the varied nature of my job, it had me counting weapons in the Armoury in Aldershot on one day and trawling around Mombasa port the next. I had no idea what the job would entail when I was bound for Kenya, but here I sat, looking out onto a city that I would never have visited had the Army not made it possible.

Another highlight was what Capt England (an RGR officer also working in BATUK HQ) and I called our 'monthly maintenance checks.' This involved meeting the owner of Tropic Air, the civilian helicopter company contracted to assist the exercises in terms of casualty evacuation and clearing game/people off the ranges.

We would meet at the Nanyuki airfield early in the morning to supervise the range clearance of live fire ranges on the private ranches. The private ranches to the West of Nanyuki are contracted to allow the Battlegroups to exercises on their land; they are teeming with game and we would regularly see multiple herds of elephant, giraffe, buffalo, all kinds of antelope, and, on the odd occasion, a cat or two. This can only be described as the best helicopter safari that you could experience, and was one of the little perks we were able to enjoy.

Outside of work, Nanyuki and the surrounding area



View from the top of Mount Kenya at sunrise.



BATUK v Masai Warriors team photo.

was an African playground. The first weekend of my posting I was in Meru National Park, spotting game and camping in the bush. The following weekend I joined a small team of BATUK Captains to tackle Mount Kenya. Leaving on Friday at midday, we managed to make it up and down by Sunday afternoon, albeit a little sore. Not recommended but very achievable.

The following month the Masai Cricket Warriors called BATUK and asked us to help them out with a publicity stunt for CNN. This involved a team from BATUK playing cricket against the Warriors in full tribal dress on a pitch

in the middle of Sweetwater's ranch. As the convoy drove through the ranch en route to the pitch we saw four of the 'big five' and eventually pulled up at a barren piece of grassland. In the centre a rough wicket as hard as concrete was surrounded by open bush. Luckily neither side had any really potent bowlers or they could have done some real damage. The impressive views more than made up from the quality of the cricket and the buzzing drone filming behind the bowler's arm! In the end diplomacy won the day resulting in a

Masai/BATUK celebratory jump. As the cars drove away the clouds closed in for the scheduled afternoon showers.

Subsequent weekends were spent fishing for brown trout on the southern slopes of Mount Kenya at a ranch owned by a former RGR officer, exploring the Kenyan coast and visiting local lodges.

So for any young officers keen to see a bit of the world and broaden their horizon, or simply to travel and see another culture, there are still postings that give that opportunity. I would highly recommend starting with BATUK as I can guarantee you will not be disappointed.

Felix Arabia

by Major D L Budge, formerly Grenadier Guards

Introduction.

I am grateful to Brigadier David Russell-Parsons, who suggested that after surviving nearly quarter of a century working and living in the Middle East, I should write this article about another character-building period in my life, describing my business career post military service. Arabia has long held a fascination for the British and especially members of the Armed Forces, given the history of our involvement in Egypt, the Levant, Hejaz and the Gulf.

1993–2001

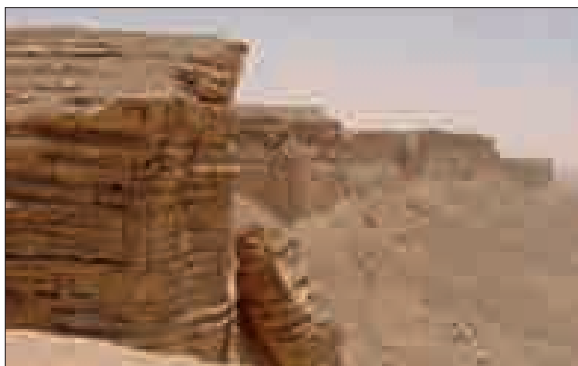
Leaving the Army is never an easy matter and in July 1993 I found myself looking for a job, following the Options-for-Change. In the latter part of my time in the Army I attended the Long Armour and Infantry Course at RAC Bovington and RMCS Shrivenham, which gave me a good foundation for a second career. I was fortunate to have done limited work experience with GKN Sankey (manufacturer of AFV 423 & WARRIOR) under the Armed Forces resettlement initiative and on the day of my demobilisation from RAC Bovington, I was invited for an interview. I was offered the job of lead training consultant for the Kuwait Land Forces (KLF) Contract,



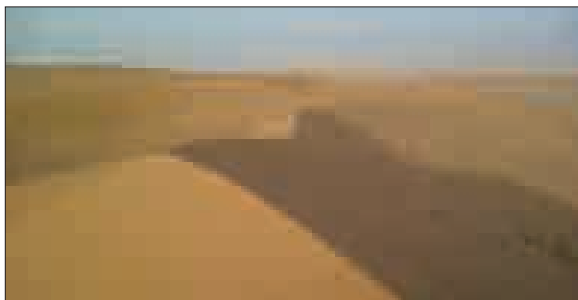
With my wife Sarah on the Tuwayq Escarpment.

becoming the Customer Training Manager, which allowed me to form a training team of ex-military experts to train and commission Kuwaiti AFV.

'Options for Change' meant that there were a large number of ex-military people looking for suitable employment, and I was able to put together a multi-skilled team of 25 trainers and mechanics, who were responsible for designing and delivering a comprehensive training and reconstruction package for the KLF. Over the next five years, my team of designers and trainers delivered a full training



The 'edge of the world' just north-west of Riyadh.



Sand dunes just south-west of Riyadh.

package to reconstruct the Kuwaiti Armoured Brigades.

During my time at GKN Defence/Alvis (BAES), we won other contracts to supply AFV such as PIRANHA 8X8 wheeled APCs to the Royal Army of Oman (RAO) for the conversion of the Desert Regiment into mechanised Infantry with mobile support weapons platforms versions. We were also involved in the supply of PIRANHA 8X8 with 90mm Cockerel turret to the Qatari Amiri Guard.

Over this period with GKN Sankey I managed to fit in an executive Master's Degree at Cranfield University, graduating with an MSc in Corporate Management, which I felt would help with further employment.



The devastation of the Al Hamra Bombing at 'Ground Zero' on 11 May 2003.

2001–2004

In 2001, I was invited to join Marconi Communications to become their Programme Director for the Government-to-Government (G2G) Saudi National Guard Communications programme (SANGCOM) as the General Manager of GPT SPM Ltd., which delivered a modernisation from analogue to digital strategic network; the contract required the creation of a secure mobile network in Makkah and Madinah the two Islamic holy sites. Special permission had to be granted to enter an area forbidden to non-Muslims, to build communication towers over the jebels and wadis. This was an uncertain time in Saudi Arabia, after 9/11 and the invasion of Iraq.

On 11th May 2003 Al-Qaida attacked three 'western' compounds in Riyadh, including our compound, Al Hamra, which meant that my wife (Sarah) and I had a frightening experience hiding in our severely damaged villa from gunmen, who were roaming the compound, after they had detonated a 500kg bomb car bomb 120 yards away. This left us without doors, windows, electricity or water.

My wife, Sarah, a Nightingale and Senior Nurse at The British International School, set up a temporary triage centre in our villa, coping with many casualties overnight. She was relieved to have had a comprehensive First Aid Pack, having just returned from a five day trip through the Empty Quarter. The attack claimed 35 deaths, including a British couple.

The event was documented by Frank Gardner (BBC Security Correspondent) in his book 'Blood & Sand'. A very unsettled period followed with a number of random terrorist incidents, including the murder of my technical training manager on 14th September 2004. His repatriation wasn't an easy matter, as even dead bodies require an 'Exit Visa' from Saudi Arabia.

Due to this very unsettled period and on completion of the G2G contract, and the impending demise of Marconi, (although GPT SPM Ltd continues to operate), I decided to leave Saudi Arabia and to pick up the reins of my independent consultancy company, Training Systems Design (TSD) Ltd., formed in 2000, to advise Small Medium Enterprises (SME) on business development in the Middle East, in association with a Saudi business partner, whom I had known from our school days at Millfield.

2004–2007

As a business mentor for the Middle East Association and the Arab-British Chamber of Commerce, I made numerous trade missions to Saudi Arabia and the Gulf. These missions gave me an insight into the Oil & Gas business with Conoco Phillips and the vocational training initiatives for the Saudisation and Emiratisation with Northumbria University and Riverside College. I was involved in Road Shows in the UK and Trade Forums promoting Saudi Arabia to local business councils.

2008–2012

In June 2008 I returned to Riyadh in Saudi Arabia, to set up a branch office for SELEX Systems Integration



Author with HE Sheikh Maamoun Zahid and alumni graduates during an outward Trade Mission (2007).

(Sistemi Integrati), part of the Finmeccanica Group, who manufacture military and civil air traffic control radar. The business enterprise was to capture the growing market for the digital 'approach and detection' of radars for the Royal Saudi Air Force, the Royal Saudi Navy Force and the Civil Aviation Authority.

This meant setting up a foreign investment company in KSA through the SAGIA from scratch; the amount of bureaucracy was horrendous; it actually took 18 months to become a fully registered company and to establish legal trading. Throughout this time in the Middle East, there was a growing market for sophisticated Border Control Systems, especially along the Border with Iraq and Yemen, to control smuggling and terrorist movement.

2013-2017

I left SELEX, as I was approached by the Ministry of the Interior (MOI) to join their Agency for Security Planning & Development (Wakkalah) working for the Director General Training; this meant a complete reversal of roles from 'seller' to 'buyer'. The MOI had launched a Modernisation programme under the direction of the Crown Prince Mohammed bin Naif; this programme was to revolutionise the way that training contracts were awarded and managed. It was a huge undertaking and needed a serious amount of project management and training expertise. In spite of recruiting a large Expat team, the project proved to be too large for the Agency to manage and control, and the whole venture was curtailed. The training advisory team was disbanded and sent home. I was fortunate to have been recruited as a direct hire and was invited to move to Al Elm Information Security Company, after a Royal Decree had given Al Elm total responsibility for the delivery of the training contracts for the MOI.

During my time in Al Elm I have worked on a number of projects, from the modernisation of the security sectors from Public Security to Special Forces to Passport Control to Prisons and Intelligence Agencies.

Over the past four years I have worked on a myriad of

projects and evaluated numerous commercial proposals. Working for Al Elm has given me an insight into new training projects with the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Labour, but being immersed in Saudi business culture has been challenging at times!

1993 to 2017

My 16 years in the Middle East has been an interesting and enriching experience, travelling extensively and meeting many like-minded people. My years at Millfield and 23 years in the Army prepared me well for a career in a complex & difficult world, with the skills and confidence gained over my time with the Regiment during the Northern Ireland campaign and the Cold War. These have been invaluable in coping with the trials and tribulations of working in the Middle East. During a period of asymmetric warfare and insurgency, it led to enormous opportunities to pass on leadership, honesty and transparency and due diligence in a business arena which is not known for its best practices.

2001 to 2017

On reflection the past 16 years in the Middle East working in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has given my wife and I and my family a privileged insight into a beautiful and fascinating country, with a harsh culture. Working in a unique society has had many positive benefits, but at the same time it has illustrated how difficult it is to close the social gap between cultures. The religious intolerance is acute, although within



One of Lawrence's de-railed trains on the Hejaz Railway at Hadiyah (2003).



An oasis at Al Ula (Hejaz) 2003.

society, Islam, evolving from the same roots as Christianity, has characteristics similar to our beliefs and family relationships and friendships are sacrosanct.

We travelled extensively within the Kingdom, always in a convoy of three to four vehicles to the North of Hail, across to Medain Saleh and along the Hejaz Railway to Madinah and five day trip into the Empty Quarter, with spectacular landscape wherever we went.

We also had fascinating trips overland, to Jordan, Bahrain, Qatar, the Emirates & Oman and we were very fortunate to visit Syria in 2004, a wonderful country with kind compassionate people, of many creeds – Muslims & Christians living in harmony, which was an example then to the rest of the Middle East.

I have been privileged to meet many good, kind, helpful and interesting people, who have enriched our lives during our time in Saudi Arabia and all over the Middle East. I



Author with the Elm/MOI Range Commissioning Team (2016).

can honestly say that the overall experience has been very positive, even though institutional anarchy and terrorism have played their part in it. After leaving the Army, I have had a portfolio career, which has resulted in my role being a 'poacher turned gamekeeper' over the last 23 years.

Dunkirk – Wakefield's link with the Grenadier Guards

by Gerald Southworth

On 10th May 1940, the Germans launched their blitzkrieg attacks on neutral Holland and Belgium and 3rd Battalion Grenadier Guards took part in the long taxing withdrawal to Dunkirk commanded by Major Allan Adair. It got to grips with the enemy in fierce fighting over the River Escaut and a week later on the Ypres-Commines Canal, before the remnants of the Battalion were evacuated from the Dunkirk mole by the SS Newhaven, arriving at Dover on 2nd June. Two days later they travelled by train to Wakefield. Their arrival is recalled by Gerald Southworth, who was 11 years old at the time, in this moving account:

'The Summer of 1940 was unusually hot. Temperatures in May were above 20 degrees and had reached 30 by the first week in June. But the sweltering weather was the last thing people were talking about: the country was pre-occupied with the retreat of the Army in France, and whether a miracle was going to happen and the Army would get home across the Channel. Not least was there to be an enemy invasion and where and when would this happen.

On June 4th late at night a special train arrived at Wakefield Kirkgate Station carrying the survivors of 3rd Battalion Grenadier Guards, who were quickly dispersed to civilian billets which had been hastily arranged. The people of Sandal, Portobello and Walton were delighted to welcome them. What a joy it must have been, after all the horrors of the previous few weeks to have a hot bath, and

sit down to a square meal in a Yorkshire home.

The morning of Saturday June 8th was strangely quiet. The only traffic on the Barnsley Road into Wakefield was the half hourly bus service to Leeds, the terminus of which was near the Castle Inn. Most people were at home listening to news bulletins on the situation at Dunkirk. There was a universal sigh of relief when General Dill reported to the War Cabinet that over 300,000 men had been brought home. Sadly 20,700 were unaccounted for.

3rd Battalion Grenadier Guards was yet to lick its wounds. At 10.30am on that same Saturday morning small groups of soldiers, in twos and threes, slowly made their way towards the Parish Church in Sandal Magna, St Helens, where they began to congregate in the large field behind the Church. Many of them were limping, some supporting others, and bandages were much in evidence.

By 11am a large number had gathered. A few Officers stood to the rear, but it was the Regimental Sergeant Major who took charge. 'Stop the chat and put out your cigarettes' he called loudly. 'I'm not getting you to fall in, but answer when your name is read'. 'Adams', silence. 'Andrews', silence. 'Baker', present sir. 'Adams', silence. 'Andrews', silence. 'Baker', present sir. 'Bewers', present sir. And so it went on until the nominal roll of the entire



Gerald Southworth aged 11.



St Helen's Sandal Magna.

The Capture of Gauche Wood – 1st December 1917

by Major P A J Wright OBE
formerly Grenadier Guards

After the initial assault by the Allies in the Battle of Cambrai, when 381 tanks were used en masse for the first time, the Germans counter attacked and overwhelmed the village of Gouzeaucourt on 30th November 1917. It was recaptured on the same day by 1st Guards Brigade consisting of 2nd Battalion Grenadier Guards and 2nd and 3rd Battalions Coldstream Guards. 1st Guards Brigade, commanded by Brigadier General Claude Champion de Crespigny, was next ordered to recapture the Quentin Ridge, which included Gauche Wood. 2nd Battalion Grenadier Guards, commanded by Lieutenant Colonel G E Rasch DSO, was to be the right assault battalion of the brigade with the dismounted 18th Bengal Lancers on its right.



Lieutenant Colonel G E Rasch DSO.

Rasch was directed to take Gauche Wood at dawn on Saturday 1st December. The objective was the eastern end of the wood, which measured approximately 700 by 300 yards with tall trees and undergrowth. It commanded the whole area including the village of Villers Guislain. The German strength in the wood was thought to be about a company. Orders were issued for 1 and 3 Companies to lead the attack with 2 and 4 Companies in support. Rasch went forward with the company commanders to

Battalion was completed. The atmosphere was profoundly silent as the casualty list became evident. It was established that the Battalion had lost 48 Officers and men killed, 104 wounded, 3 missing and 20 were known to have been taken prisoners of war. How sombre and sad that must have been and it is sobering to think that similar ceremonies were taking place throughout the land.

'Now tomorrow there's a Church Parade here at St Helens, promptly at 11am, and you know me well enough to know that eleven means ten to eleven. So by then, smarten yourselves up, and show the good citizens of Wakefield that you're in the finest Regiment in the British Army'. And so a memorable day ended. It should not be forgotten.'



Map of the attack on Gonnelleu and Gauche Wood.

reconnoitre a sunken road about 1,200 yards from the objective, from where the assault would be launched. The battalion marched off at 4.30am after breakfast and all companies were in position by 6.00am. A dozen tanks were to precede the attack by 400 yards and provide support, but their arrival was delayed.

At 6.30am the artillery fire plan began, and, having waited 15 minutes with no sign of the tanks, Rasch ordered the companies to advance. At this stage in the war, large numbers of all ranks were left behind whenever offensive operations were undertaken and the companies' average strength was 32

other ranks per platoon and three officers per company, none above the rank of lieutenant. Lt F A M Browning, commanding 2 Company and Lt G R Westmacott, commanding 4 Company on his right, watched the leading companies advance in extended order, each in two lines of two platoons. They moved at a great pace across the intervening grassland, which rose in a gentle slope up to the wood. It was misty, the light was poor and initially things went well. Although the men came under heavy machine gun fire from the edge of the wood, few were hit at this stage.

Lieutenant J C Cornforth MC was commanding 1 Company on the left and 3 Company on the right was commanded by Lt A W Acland MC. As they came within 300 yards of the fringe of the wood casualties became heavier from a concealed line of ten machine guns. At 7.00am, Cornforth was shot in the leg and lost both his platoon commanders. 2Lt S H Pearson was



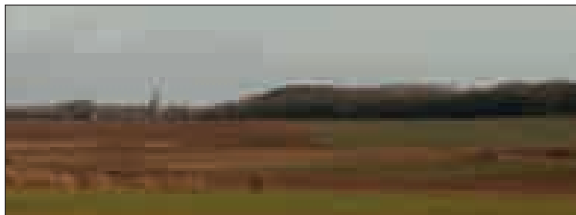
2Lt S A Pearson.

shot through the head by a sniper leading his platoon into the wood. 2Lt P A A Harbord MC, was wounded while rushing a machine gun, and died later in the day. Acland and both his platoon commanders, Lieutenant F A Magnay and Lt R Y T Kendal were also wounded. In the wood the Germans were forced back in hand to hand bayonet fighting. However, casualties began to mount from snipers amongst the trees. LSgt H Ward MM was shot in the head as he entered the wood.



2Lt P A A Harbord MC.

By the time the objective was reached, Browning was in command of the remaining men of the leading two companies as well as his own.



Looking towards Gauche Wood and Villers Guislain from Gouzeaucourt.

The men had not been trained in close country fighting; however the discipline in the battalion and skill and resourcefulness of the NCOs meant that each platoon could be relied upon to act intelligently despite the loss of its commander. When his platoon commander was wounded, Sgt A Spowage, took charge and led the platoon forward under heavy fire, capturing several machine guns and killing their crews. Seeing the flank of the battalion was vulnerable, he led his platoon on his own initiative to fill the gap. He was killed in action three months later. Sgt J Bosworth MM commanded a platoon when all the officers in 3 Company became casualties. He succeeded in reaching the objective, but died shortly afterwards from his wounds.

LSgt C Lamplugh captured a machine gun and its crew during the attack and, with the officers in his company all casualties, led half the company to the objective and organised the consolidation under heavy fire. LCpl A E McCaffery commanded a leading platoon during the attack, and when the objective had been captured, he found there was a gap of 400 yards on his left. He deployed his men to cover the gap by fire and, using his Lewis gunners, put out of action and captured three enemy field guns.

On reaching the wood, Westmacott swung his company round to cover the exposed right flank and was able to repel a counter attack of about 70 enemy, killing all but five, who were taken prisoner. Private H Gladders rushed his Lewis gun over to the threatened flank and inflicted heavy casualties on the enemy single handed. At about 7.45am a further 60 Germans attacked and were defeated in hand to hand fighting. Westmacott found himself and Lt F P Loftus to be the only officers on the flank. He contacted Browning and between them they reorganised the battalion in a defensive position, dug-in beyond the forward edge of the wood, shortly before the Germans shelled it intensively.

About this time, the 18th Lancers appeared advancing up the hill under fire, together with the long awaited tanks. A Grenadier officer later wrote: *"Everyone admired your advance as you came up that ridge, because the Hun was throwing a great deal of stuff at you, but your fellows came on without turning a hair."* During the fighting in the wood, the two regiments became intertwined with guardsmen being commanded by Lancer officers. The tanks were attracting heavy shelling directed from a German aeroplane. Tank A25, on leaving the wood, was hit in the turret by a shell and the commander, 2Lt E F de Fay, and driver, Private Voice, were killed and two gunners wounded. Other crews, whose tanks had been knocked out, detached their Lewis guns and assisted on the exposed flank.

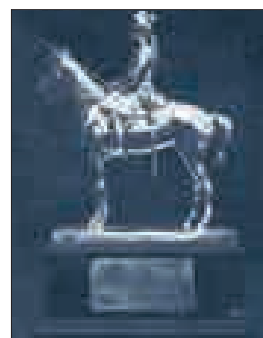
By now, Lieutenants F H J Drummond MC and W H S Dent had been wounded and Westmacott encountered Lt F H G Layland-Barrett MC of 2 Company with a shrapnel splinter in the face. He dressed the wound and asked him to report the disposition of the companies to Battalion Headquarters. At 10.00am, Rasch arrived and went round the line. He asked Lieutenant Colonel E C Corbyn, commanding the 18th Lancers to form a reserve in the centre of the wood. Corbyn was killed

by shellfire that afternoon. Rasch later wrote: *"The dash and fighting spirit of all ranks of this Regiment and help and experience which Colonel Corbyn gave at that critical moment made the greatest impression on the Battalion."* On Rasch's return, Capt G C F Harcourt-Vernon, his Second in Command, went forward with ammunition and a company of 2nd Battalion Coldstream Guards under Capt H Brierly.

At 9.00pm that evening the battalion handed over and withdrew to Gouzeaucourt Wood. In total, 25 NCOs and other ranks were killed, 115 wounded and 11 missing. Among twelve Company Officers, one was killed, one died of wounds, and seven were wounded. Three field guns and twelve machine guns in addition to many prisoners were captured. Westmacott and Browning were both awarded the DSO and Spowage, Lamplugh, McCaffery and Gladders were each awarded the DCM. One officer in the 18th Lancers was awarded a DSO and another an MC. Browning was profoundly affected by the confusion and carnage of Gauche Wood. For the rest of his life he would have recurrent nightmares and awake shouting.

Describing the battle, an officer of the 18th Lancers wrote: "I

have now seen His Majesty's Guards in action and fought alongside them. They can die like gentlemen without a groan. Four of our men were carrying a Guardsman who appeared to be suffering considerably. I asked him who he was, and he instinctively straightened himself as best he could and said, 'A Grenadier' his tone implying how proud he was to be one." The link between the two regiments was marked by an exchange of gifts. The battalion was presented with the silver figure of a lancer and in return they gave the 18th Lancers a silver bugle which remains in the Officers Mess of the Pakistani Regiment, the 19th Lancers, and the inheritors of the Indian Army regiment. The link continues to this day with an exchange of greetings on 1st December; the day Gauche Wood was captured.



The silver figure of a mounted 18th Lancer.

Lieutenant Colonel Maxwell Earle DSO Grenadier Guards A Grenadier Internee in Switzerland

by Peter Martin

On 31st May 1916, at a time when the horrors of war were very much in the minds of its readers, *The Times* published an article that must have given hope to the families of many wounded British, French, Belgian, Russian and German prisoners-of-war (POWs). Already from early 1915 seriously injured military and naval personnel had been repatriated to their home countries under arrangements set up and managed by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC).

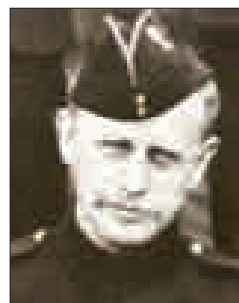
Now, it was announced that as a result of humanitarian agreements made by the British and other national governments with the ICRC and the Swiss authorities, thousands of wounded prisoners of war who were not sufficiently injured to be repatriated, but who might be capable of work away from the front line, were to be welcomed in Switzerland as internees. They had been selected during visits to POW camps by travelling commissions of Swiss doctors, and subsequent articles in *The Times* described the very warm welcome given to these servicemen on their arrival in Switzerland.

Rather surprisingly, the ICRC and Swiss archives contain no nominal rolls and little other information about these lucky men, but we do know that among the first British internees was Lieutenant Colonel Maxwell Earle DSO, Grenadier Guards. Born in 1871, he had joined the Army

in 1891 and had taken part in the war in Matabeleland in 1893. He was awarded the DSO during the Boer War.

In the early days of The Great War, Earle commanded 1st Battalion Grenadier Guards and was shot through the head and then the leg at Gheluvelt on 29th October 1914. Lieutenant Butt, the Medical Officer, was killed while dressing his wounds. Earle was reported lying in a house two hundred yards to the rear of the Battalion HQ dug-out. Several men volunteered to carry him back, but as the Germans were within a couple of hundred yards of the house this would have meant certain death for the stretcher bearers and for Earle himself. It was therefore decided to leave him where he was and in his words: 'I was left with Venton of the Coldstream to whom I owe my life. I came under Schwend's care that night and he too contributed to my survival'.

Extracts from a letter to Butt's parents from Earle on 5th December 1914 read: 'the Germans were rushing over where I lay with your son and his orderly and we were not touched. I regained consciousness and found your son bandaging my head. His man knelt at my feet. I spoke to your son. I said 'Look out, we are well in front, we shall get taken'. He told me we were alright and begged me to keep quiet. Shortly afterwards two or three Germans came up to us. I heard a shot quite close to my head and I felt your son collapse. I distinctly saw a German fire down on the back of the orderly



Lieutenant Colonel Maxwell Earle DSO.



Capt John Butt, RAMC, Medical Officer to 1st Battalion Grenadier Guards. He was last seen alive in 29th October 1914, attending to Lieutenant Colonel Earle who had been wounded. Despite searches on prisoner of war or casualties lists, John Butt had disappeared without trace. In 1916 it was finally accepted that he had been killed.

at my feet, the bullet having passed through the man entered my leg and the man fell on me. I don't think it was very long after my second wound that I again lost consciousness and when I came to I found myself in a hut in the hands of the Germans... I am sorry to say that I feel convinced that your son was killed. I am sure that he was killed instantaneously for he never spoke to me or moved. I am never quite clear how I got to the hut in question. Private Venton, Coldstream Guards, was there tending me. He told me that he saw the doctor at my head and that he was

dead. I sincerely wish I could hold out to you any hope of it being otherwise. I consider that he was murdered in cold blood contrary to all the laws and customs of civilised warfare. I shall always think that he gave his life to save me and I have every reason to believe that his prompt action saved my life'.

Earle was captured soon afterwards and taken slowly to the rear, reaching an attic in Brussels on 11th November. From there he was taken to a German hospital at Frankfurt where he remained until June, and later to a POW camp at Friedburg, where he applied to be repatriated. Despite being graded as unfit, his request was unsuccessful. He then sought to be included among those who were to be interned in Switzerland and this application was approved at the end of May 1916. He wrote: 'I don't want to review those eight months in hospital and 12 months in prison before I was sent to Switzerland.' Colonel Sir Henry Streatfeild, the Lieutenant Colonel Commanding Grenadier Guards wrote to a friend: 'I hope that now his troubles and suffering are over, that his wife goes out, almost immediately, to be with him'.

Maxwell Earle had married the Honourable Edith Elizabeth Loch, elder daughter of 1st Baron Loch, a soldier and colonial administrator, in September 1899, and the couple had a son, Charles, and two daughters, Margaret and Evelyn. Charles, the youngest, was born in 1913, joined the Grenadier Guards in 1934 and had a distinguished career, commanding 2nd Battalion from 1952 until 1954.

Married officers who could afford to have their families join them in internment were permitted to do so, provided they remained in the direct internment area. The Earles rented a chalet at Château D'Oeux, the Villa Myosotis ('Forget-me-not'), which they shared with their children, Nanny Dromey, and Mary Anne Philpot, the cook. The



An enthusiastic welcome for the British internees.

cantonal records show that Mrs Earle and Miss Philpot were granted residence permits in November 1916.

Earle was busy as Senior British Officer at Château D'Oeux. In particular, as one way of helping to avoid boredom and drunkenness among the interned troops, he was instrumental in the planning, building and staffing of the Grey Hut, a Red Cross Recreational Hut, opened in January 1917. There was some controversy over its use but eventually it was agreed it should be non-denominational and available to all. Two months after the hut was opened crime showed a decrease of 90% and drunkenness was practically nil.



British and Indian internees enjoying their warm reception.



British internees head home from Berne after the Armistice.

In September 1917, Earle was repatriated. The family went off first and he saw them onto the train from Geneva. Sadly, it was to be the last he saw his youngest daughter Evelyn, who died shortly after arriving home. Earle later journeyed from Switzerland via Paris and Southampton, and on arrival at Waterloo was taken to Millbank for a medical board. In 1918 he was re-boarded and told he was entitled to 100% for his eye, 50% for his ear and 25% for his leg. He was

awarded a CB and CMG and left the War Office in November 1922 on half-pay. He was invalided out of the Army in April 1923 and died in February 1953 at the age of 81.

By the end of 1918, 27,453 German, British, French, and Belgian POWs, all badly wounded or seriously ill, had been interned in Switzerland. Of these, 10,077 were from the Central Powers and 16,776 from the Allies. Some of these internees, like Arthur Whitten Browne, who was to make the first Trans-Atlantic crossing by air in 1919, were certified as being unfit for further military service and were repatriated during the final stages of the war. Some internees had been captive for over 18 months and were classified as suffering from 'barbed wire disease', because their mental health had been damaged by the experience. Almost all the remaining POWs were repatriated at the end of the war.

At the end of May 2016, a moving commemorative event took place at Château D'Oex, where the internees and generosity of their Swiss hosts were remembered 100 years after the arrival of Maxwell Earle and his comrades.

With kind permission of the Guards Magazine

Major Arthur Williams Dr Mus, MVO Director of Music Grenadier Guards 1896–1921

by Philip Wright

Major Williams had already passed the exam of Bachelor of Music when he took over the position of Director of Music Grenadier Guards from the previous incumbent, Lt Dan Godfrey MVO in 1896. He was later awarded a Doctorate of Music. On this occasion in 1906, the entire Band travelled to Oxford at their own expense to witness the ceremony of conferring of the degree and to hear the Vice Chancellor comment: 'I understand that you are a pioneer in the Army in regard to the Degree of Doctor of Music. I hope it will bear the fruit it deserves.' Williams arranged for the musicians part of the score of *Electra* by Richard Strauss. It took them many months to learn and they performed it in public for the first time during the long interval in the Changing of the Guard at Buckingham Palace. They were enjoying a sense of elation at their own audacity and the success that crowned it, when a scarlet-coated page came out of the Palace with a personal note for Williams from King George V. It read: 'His Majesty does not know what the Band has just played, but it is *never* to be played again.'



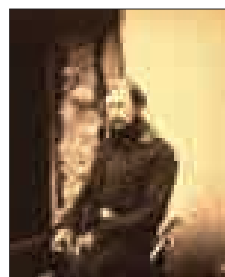
Dr Arthur Williams.

Refusing to Budge Sitting or Standing

by Philip Wright

Prince Edward of Saxe-Weimer was a very good soldier who had fought gallantly in the Crimea with 3rd Battalion Grenadier Guards. In 1854, he commanded the outposts at the battle of Inkerman and was heavily attacked by the Russians. He sent word for reinforcements but none arrived and he was ordered to remain where he was. Afterwards, he recalled: 'And, by God, I did stay where I was; and in no time found myself sitting in the middle of the whole Russian Army. But budge I didn't, by God!'

After the war, official banquets were held on the Queen's birthday for members of the Household. At one of them, Prince Edward had recently been appointed Colonel of one of the Life Guards Regiments and Gold Stick. He arrived rather early and was informed by the host, the Master of the Horse that the other guests had not yet arrived and was invited to sit down. 'Sit down? Sit down? Certainly not,' said Prince Edward. I shall only sit down once, and that will be at dinner. I'm very proud of my appointment and my new uniform. I saw myself in the glass just now, and by God! I thought I looked damn handsome. Sit down? Certainly not! I want everybody to see me.'



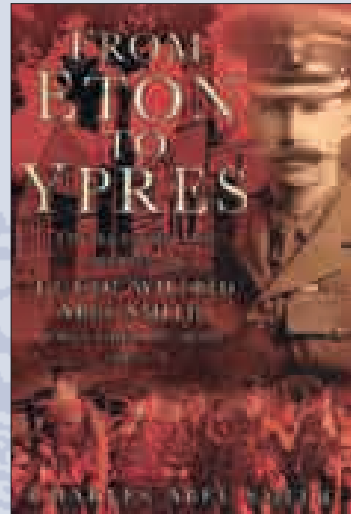
BOOK REVIEW

From Eton to Ypres

The Letters and Diaries of
Lieutenant Colonel Wilfrid Abel
Smith, Grenadier Guards 1914–15

by *Philip Wright*

Lieutenant Colonel Wilfrid Abel Smith was Commanding Officer of 2nd Battalion Grenadier Guards, one of the finest battalions of the original British Expeditionary Force that crossed over to France in August 1914. The battalion war diary recorded 14 officers and 375 NCOs and men killed or wounded in the first 19 days of September. German shelling was taking its toll when Wilfrid took over command on 19th September in trenches at La Cour de Soupir Farm in the Aisne Valley. Using his letters home and diaries woven into a background narrative, accompanied by numerous excellent photographs and maps, his great-grandson, Charles Abel Smith, has written a vivid and deeply moving account of his eight months in command. His book, **From Eton to Ypres – The Letters and Diaries of Lt Col Wilfrid Abel Smith, Grenadier Guards 1914–15** (History Press £20.00), covers the dark desperate days of First Ypres. By the end of the battle the Battalion had lost 959 men killed, wounded and missing, practically its entire strength. On 10th November, Wilfrid noted in a letter to his wife, Violet, ‘One of the saddest days of my life. I have lost over 300 men in this wood and we have been at it for ten days, day and night.’ Major Lord Bernard Gordon Lennox was one of five officers killed. There is nothing more heartrending than the summary of the four ‘rest days’ given to the battalion between the 11th to 15th November. It was meant to have been a quiet time, but, under four Generals with different orders from each, in reality they spent three of the nights marching about and each day were moved up to different parts of the line under heavy shelling. The narrative continues describing the horrors of trench warfare in the first winter on the Western Front, with bitter cold, rain and snow in water-logged trenches. Christmas brought its own problems for Wilfrid who wrote in a letter to his wife: ‘I am told the rations of the Army are to be held up for twenty-four hours to allow Princess Mary’s presents to come up, and I have reams of orders as to their distribution.’ On Christmas Day, Princess Mary’s present of a box containing a pipe, tobacco and cigarettes was distributed to every man and Wilfrid wrote: ‘I am sending home my Christmas present from Princess Mary. Bless her – she



has been a nuisance.’ The penultimate chapter describes how Wilfrid was mortally wounded in the head at the battle of Festubert on 18th May 1915. In his Foreword, Lord Carrington, who was a cousin of Wilfrid, writes: ‘He must have been an outstanding commanding officer and a very brave man, as manifested by the moving tributes to him from his colleagues and battalion.’ These tributes in the last chapter of the book begin with this description in the Regiment’s official history of Wilfrid’s exceptional qualities: ‘Never was a Commanding Officer more mourned by his men; he had endeared himself to them by his soldier-like qualities and constant care for their welfare. He was a gallant and distinguished soldier, imperturbable in action, never flurried or disconcerted in perilous situations, a strict disciplinarian, but the kindest and best of friends and his loss is keenly felt by all ranks of the Regiment.’ A fly leaf note about the author mentions his hope that, as his generation of the family is the first to have failed to serve in the Grenadiers in over 100 years, his book will provide some amends to the Regiment by reminding readers of the role it played in defending the nation during the Great War. He can rest assured that he has done a singular service to the Household Division and in particular to the Grenadier Guards by his painstaking research and comprehensive account of his great-grandfather. It will serve as a permanent record of Wilfrid’s distinguished service and be keenly read by previous Commanding Officers and all those still aspiring to the post, as well as with great pleasure by everyone with an interest in the history of those turbulent times.



Where are they now?

by Major Ed Paintin

(written as at Jan 2017)

It has been an exceptionally busy year since last I sat in front of a computer and ruminated over the many movements of Grenadier officers around the world. My time here in Glasgow as the Foot Guards Career Manager draws to a close and I look forward to returning to the green and pleasant land, south of the Ice Wall and the Battalion in the near future as the Senior Major. I am happy to report that Grenadier Officers are still spread far and wide across the globe from the bustling streets of Nairobi to the chilly centre of Bucharest, to the familiar haunts of London, the Welsh hills, the glorious county of Yorkshire and the ancient, civilised and busy conurbations of Europe.

Lieutenant General Sir George Norton KCVO CBE is now safely installed as the United Kingdom's Military Representative to NATO and the EU and has added Grenadier charm and rigour to the machinations of those two convoluted organisations. No doubt BREXIT has only added complication to the good General's workload. **Brigadier Roly Walker DSO** is still hard at work in the Strategy Directorate wrestling with the many tentacles of the Army's future strategy and crafting a divine path to structural Nirvana. **General George** retires from his appointment as Regimental Lieutenant Colonel in June and **Brigadier Roly** has been appointed in his place. **Brigadier David Russell-Parsons OBE** is still winning friends and influencing people in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia as the United Kingdom's Defence Attaché whilst **Brigadier James Bowder OBE** has taken over as the Commander of 1 ISR Brigade.

Lieutenant Colonel Richard Maundrell MVO is still hard at work in the MOD beaver away in the halls of power as the DOC SO1 Land. **Lieutenant Colonel Andrew James MBE** is still safely ensconced in Vienna where he is purported to be a master of the Waltz and a connoisseur of hot chocolate, little cakes and diplomatic conversation. **Lieutenant Colonel Simon Soskin** is still fighting the good fight in the Directorate of Army Manning wrestling with the Army's manning statistics and conjuring solutions to difficult problems. **Lieutenant Colonel Guy Denison-Smith** is a member of the ICSC Directing Staff at Shrivenham whilst **Lieutenant Colonel Martin David MC** has been fulfilling an Acting Colonels appointment in Paris. He is shortly set to head to the wilds of Africa as the SO1 J2 on

Op TURUS in Chad. **Lieutenant Colonel Richard Green** is commanding the HQ Regt at ATC Pirbright whilst **Lieutenant Colonel Alex MacKay MBE** has been whipping the 1st Battalion into shape for their role as the VJTF and has been shoring up the defences of the Eastern borders of Europe. Last but by no means least, **Lieutenant Colonel Piers Ashfield DSO** has been heavily involved in the Force Generation cycle in the Operations Directorate after successfully completing the Advanced Command and Staff Course.

At the SO2 level, **Major Dom Alkin** will shortly be taking to the saddle in preparation for Her Majesty the Queen's Birthday Parade in his final few months as the Irish Guards Second in Command, prior to moving to the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst to take over from **Major Peter Middlemiss SG** as the Academy Adjutant. **Major James Greaves** has recently returned from a 6 month operational tour as the Deputy Director J3/5 CJIATF based in Qatar, and has taken up his new post as one of the Military Assistants to Commander Joint Operations. This is literally a case of out of the frying pan and into the fire but no doubt he is making a positive impact. **Major Andrew Seddon** is set to complete his tour as the Senior Major this summer and is busy looking for his next appointment as a staff officer. **Major James Green** has now moved on from Commanding No 2 Company and is now frenetically busy on the Chief of the General Staff's Army Strategy team. **Major Simon Gordon-Lennox** remains in post as The Captain with the 1st Battalion alongside **Major King-Evans** who has taken over as No 2 Company Commander. **Major Ben Jesty** is shortly due to finish as the Company Commander of the Inkerman Company and is headed North over the ice wall to take over from me as the Career Manager for the Foot Guards in Glasgow. I have sent him the updated dictionary of colloquial Glaswegian terms and phrases so that he may converse with the friendly local population on arrival. **Major Andrew Tiernan** is still heavily involved in flat-packing enemies of the State from the realm of the Marcher Lords whilst **Major James Shaw's** time as SO2 Ops and Commitments is drawing to a close and he is awaiting his next appointment. **Major William Harries** is now safely ensconced in Nairobi as our man in Kenya and the SO2 Ops BPST, no doubt sipping Gin and Tonics at the Muthaiga Country Club on a regular basis. **Major Alex Bayliss** is now fully into the life of a Public Duties and State Ceremonial Company Commander at Nijmegen Company and will be departing at the end of the year to attend staff college for an imbibition of knowledge, having been successful on this year's Beige List. **Major Neil**

Strachan is still wandering the Welsh Hills at the Infantry Battle School in Brecon honing his infantry prowess prior to returning to Regimental Duty in the near future. **Major Mike Dobbin** is safely back from foreign climes and is enduring some intellectual rigour at Shrivenham as he undergoes the Intermediate Staff Course alongside **Major Paddy Rice** who will shortly be moving to 11 Brigade to take over as the SO2 Operations and Commitments from **Major James Shaw**. **Major Johnny Hathaway-White** is due to hand over Support Company this summer and head off to staff to earn his spurs prior to the Beige List and Staff College.

Capt James Brown will shortly be leaving the land of the Marcher Lords to attend the Intermediate Command and Staff Course at Shrivenham after also successfully promoting on this year's Beige List. He will be joined by our other successful 'Beige Listers', **Captains Richard Da-Gama, Tom Hendriksen, James Taylor and Adam Wellesley-Wood**. As I write, **Capt Adam Wellesley-Wood** is currently undertaking a short tour in Bucharest as the MA to the Deputy Commanding General of the Multi National Division in Romania. Currently the Support Weapons School is being ably kept in good order by their Adjutant, **Capt Alex Budge** whilst **Capt Hugo Cartwright** is receiving a well-rounded and frenzied introduction to staff work in 16 Air Assault Brigade as their SO3 J3 Ops. **Capt Will Harris** is coming to the end of his tenure as the Ops Officer for the Irish Guards and is set to head off into the world of staff for a period prior to attending Staff College. **Capt Chris Stevenson** is shortly due to hand over the Operations Officer role before heading off hopefully on an OCE tour of some foreign clime. **Capt Mike Dobson** is now firmly in the seat as the Adjutant of the 1st Battalion. **Capt Hamish Hardy** is shortly due to deploy as the J3 Advisor on Op BLANCA (Kabul, Afghanistan) whilst **Capt Ben Conway** who is currently the Anti-Tank Platoon Commander will be off to Selection shortly. **Capt Alex Shirreff** has led the charge on this front and is once again on the hills phase of selection where he will undoubtedly do very well. **Capt Chris Wright** is also preparing for Selection. **Capt Tom Hargreaves** has assumed the role of Second Captain whilst **Capt Ben Tracey** is ably looking after **Lieutenant General Sir George Norton KCVO CBE** as his Aide de Camp, and will shortly return to RHQ as the Assistant Equerry to The Colonel; his replacement as ADC will be **Lt Tom Bolitho**. **Capt Kaspar Varmuza** will shortly be relinquishing his post as second in command of the Inkerman Company to take over from **Capt Stevenson** as the Operations Officer and **Capt Olly Wace** has assumed command of the Mortar Platoon. **Lt Kit Naughton** has stepped into the breach following the untimely departure of a Royal Signals officer, and has taken over as the Regimental

Signals Officer. **Lieutenants Richard Phillips and Robbie Laing** are sampling the delights of Catterick as the Regiment's contribution to Guards Training Company whilst **Lt Robert Thompson** is training the junior leaders of tomorrow at AFC Harrogate. **Lts Jonathan Silver, George Barnes and Tom Bolitho** are impressing the tourists in London with their drill prowess as Platoon Commanders in Nijmegen Company whilst **Lieutenants Oliver Staunton, Rufus Harding, Edmund Harmer, Jonny Palmer-Tomkinson, Alex Wilson, Chris Wood and Fred Ide** have the honour of commanding the rifle platoons of the 1st Battalion. **Captains Nico Wills, Alex Stonor, Jamie Garton, Fred Moynan, Kit Sanford and David Welham** are all retiring and heading off into the civilian world; we wish them all the best of luck in their future careers.

Of our Late Entry Officer brethren **Major Andy Butcher MBE** has finished being educated at Staff College and is now safely tucked away in HQ 11 Inf Bde as the SO2 G1 Ops. **Major Neil England MBE** has returned to the happy hills of Pirbright as the Regimental 2ic of the 1st Battalion ATC Pirbright and is no doubt instilling the traditions of the long walk into the recruits. **Major Faz Farrell** is now the Quartermaster of the 1st Battalion ably assisted by **Capt Steve Munro** as the Technical Quartermaster in keeping the Battalions G4 chain on track and ahead of the game. **Major Gordon Gask** is commanding Headquarter Company overseeing the sterling work of the new MTO, **Capt Tylee Bearder** and the RCMO, **Capt Darren Westlake**. **Capt John Frith** has moved to his new appointment as Command Sgt Major, 3 UK Div. **Major Stumpy Keeley MBE** is now happily back to his old haunts at the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst as the SO2 J4 whilst **Captain Glen Haughton** is still wrestling with the challenges of being the Chief of the General Staffs right hand man. Last but by no means least, **Lieutenant Colonel Vince Gaunt OBE** who is still keeping London Central Garrison running efficiently and ridding Wellington Barracks of all manner of pestilence, be that the invasive species looking for an office in London from which to run things, or the random assortment of people looking for a room in the Officers Mess to rest their weary head, or manic helicopter pilots who mistake the hallowed drill square as their own personal landing site despite the regular presence of personnel and horses.

As I look forward to returning to the old haunts of Aldershot and departing the bonnie shores of the Clyde and my privileged vantage point at the centre of the Military Secretariats universe, I am satisfied that Grenadiers are well placed to maintain the reputation of our fine Regiment, enhance the capabilities and provide horsepower to the constant struggles and machinations of the Army and all with style and an air of decorum.

Capt Michael Dobson



Capt Michael Dobson became the Adjutant in August 2016 upon the Battalion's return from Ex ASKARI STORM and a well-deserved summer leave. Commissioning in August 2011 he was posted to Nijmegen Company for six months upon completion of the Platoon Commanders Battle Course in Brecon. After a short stint on State

Ceremonial Public Duties he deployed to Afghanistan on Op HERRICK 16 attached to the Welsh Guards as a Police Advisory Team Commander in Nahr e Saraj, south of Ghereshk. On his return he was posted to the Queen's Company in Aldershot where he completed a 6 week deployment to the Falkland Islands as part of the Roulement Infantry Company. Upon completion of the Op FIRIC tour he took over as the Temporary Equerry to HRH The Colonel, as well as handling the Officer Recruiting for the Regiment on behalf of the Lieutenant Colonel. His time in London finished in mid-2015 in time to take over as the Second Captain for the Battalion's trip to Kenya on Exercise ASKARI STORM 3/15. Once the role of the Second Captain was handed over in June 2016 he attended the 2 month long Captains Warfare Course and on completing this he took over as the Adjutant. A keen cricketer he has represented the Guards CC on many occasion and toured with them to South Africa in January 2016.

Capt Christopher Stevenson



Capt Christopher Stevenson has been the Operations Officer since December 2015. He Commissioned in December 2009 and upon completion of the Platoon Commander's Battle Course in Brecon, was posted into No 2 Company. His arrival into the Battalion coincided with the Presentation of New Colours and

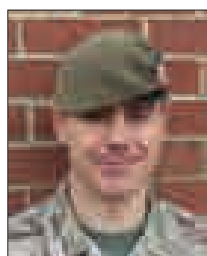
Trooping the Colour in 2010, immediately after Operation HERRICK 11. Post the Ceremonial season he was attached to No 12 Company, 1st Battalion Irish Guards and deployed on Operation HERRICK 13 as an Afghan National Army Advisor. Upon returning back to the UK he was posted to Nijmegen Company where he completed 19 months in London, initially as a Platoon Commander and latterly as the Company Second in Command. During this time he, along with 14 other members of the Company, cycled from Lands' End to John O'Groats, raising money for The Colonel's Fund.

After Nijmegen Company he was posted to 14th (Guards Training) Company at the Infantry Training Centre, Catterick as a Platoon Commander. After successfully seeing

two platoons of 40+ new Guardsmen pass out of Catterick he was posted back to the 1st Battalion in Aldershot as the Intelligence Officer. During this time he deployed to Saudi Arabia, The Falkland Islands and Kenya as well as planning and leading a kayak expedition to New Zealand which saw 12 novice kayaks paddle 100 miles, unsupported around the New Zealand coastline. Since assuming the role of Operations Officer the Battalion has redeployed to Kenya as well as Germany, Latvia and Albania, all in preparation for assuming the Spearhead role within the NATO Very High Readiness Force throughout 2017.

He is married to Jennifer and they have a young daughter, Beatrice. He is a keen sportsman who enjoys most sports as well as alpine skiing and sailing. He has represented the Infantry at Cricket, Hockey and Squash and was part of the successful 1st Battalion cricket team which triumphed in the Major Unit Cup in 2014 and last year was in South Africa on the Guards Cricket Tour.

LSgt Gareth Harper



LSgt Gareth Harper joined the Army in December 2006 and was posted to Nijmegen Company in London upon completion of his training, where he finished as the best performing recruit. He completed six months of state ceremonial duties before being posted to No 2 Company in the 1st Battalion.

He deployed on Op FIRIC in summer 2008 as a Guardsman before attending his selection course for promotion LCpl. Upon promotion for LCpl he began pre-deployment training for OP HERRICK 11, which included EX GRAND PRIX in Kenya and even a spell of street lining for the Queen's Birthday Parade.

During HERRICK 11 he was part of the newly formed 6 Platoon as a multiple second in command but was unfortunately involved in an IED blast one month into the tour, in the Wahid district of Nad-e Ali, Helmand Province. As a result of his injuries he returned home for the remainder of the tour before being sent back to Nijmegen Company to continue his assimilation back into the Regiment. In this same period his son Leighton was born April 2010.

Whilst back in Nijmegen, over the course of 2011, he took part in a number of physical challenges including the Regiment's charity cycle ride from Land's End to John o' Groats and the Three Peaks Challenge. In August of 2011 he married his wife Becki, taking on responsibilities for Becki's daughter Abbi.

The end of 2011 marked his return back to the Battalion and pre-deployment training for OP HERRICK 16, where he served again as a multiple second in command. At the end of the tour he successfully completed the Section Commanders' Battle Course in Brecon and was promoted to LSgt in July

2013; just a short time before his third child Lenny was born in October. He then saw a string of public ceremonial duties with Battalion and a jungle warfare exercise in Brunei, where he completed his Ground Sign Awareness Instructors Course.

He was posted to the Infantry Training Centre, Catterick, as an instructor, in April 2015 where he oversaw the training of the next generation of Guardsmen to enter the Regiment. He re-joined No 2 Company as a Section Commander in December 2016.

He is a keen family man and avid supporter of Stoke City FC. He ran the Great North Run in September 2016.

Gdsm Connor Austin

Gdsm Connor Austin joined the Army in October 2013 at the Army Foundation College, Harrogate. He went to the Infantry Training Centre, Catterick, from where he passed out in December 2014. In January 2015 he joined Nijmegen Company in London for a nine month spell of state ceremonial duties, a highlight of which was acting



as Number Four Guard on the Queen's Birthday Parade.

From there Gdsm Austin moved to the 1st Battalion where he joined the ranks of The Inkerman Company in time to deploy on OP FIRIC, in the Falkland Islands, for a two month period, attached to the Machine Guns Platoon of No 2 Company.

After returning from the Falklands, Gdsm Austin resumed his role as a rifleman in 11 Platoon, The Inkerman Company, and deployed with the rest of the Battalion to Kenya on EX ASKARI STORM in the summer of 2016 and to Latvia, on EX SILVER ARROW, in October.

Gdsm Austin is keen singer and prior to joining the Army he worked for an entertainment show in his home town of Skegness, where he still occasionally takes part on his weekends. In the spring of 2016 he made it through to the third round of popular TV show, The X Factor. He has also represented the Battalion Football Team and Swifts Football Club when he is home.

It's unusual that two brothers are in The Regiment at the same time, same rank and in the same role. This is not the case for the Dexter brothers who are both employed within the Battalion as Regimental Duties Staff.

LCpl James Dexter (Deputy No.1)



LCpl James Dexter joined the Grenadier guards in the winter of 2008, LCpl Dexter passed out of the Infantry Training Centre Catterick in May 2009 before posting to Nijmegen Company at Woolwich. At the end of 2009 LCpl Dexter joined The Queen's Company and deployed on Herrick 11 as a Battlefield Casualty

Replacement, after Operation Herrick 11 LCpl Dexter participated in The Queen's Birthday Parade. At the start of 2011 LCpl Dexter completed his Corporals Course at HDPCC and was promoted, deploying to Canada as a section commander and on Herrick 16 as a LCpl. After Op Herrick 16 LCpl Dexter attended the Long Language Pashto Course and was posted to the Defence Cultural Support Unit. After a short stint with DCSU he returned to the Battalion as the demand for Pashtu speakers diminished with the cessation of British deployments to Helmand. He has since completed overseas exercises in Cyprus and Kenya with The Queen's Company before moving over to the Regimental Duty Staff where he is now working alongside his brother. LCpl Dexter is soon to be attending his All Arms Physical Training Instructor Course.

LCpl Joshua Dexter (Deputy No.2)



LCpl Joshua Dexter joined the Grenadier Guards in January 2012, LCpl Dexter attended Army Foundation College in Harrogate for the year before moving up to the Infantry Training Centre Catterick, passing out of the Infantry Training Centre in March 2013. He was then posted to Nijmegen Company who were in

Wellington Barracks at the time whilst in Nijmegen Company he partook in the Queen's Birthday Parade as well as being a member of the company when they received their new Colours.

LCpl Dexter joined The Inkerman Company in December 2013 and during his time with The Inkerman Company has completed overseas exercises in the Falklands, Brunei and Kenya. LCpl Dexter has attended adventurous training in France, Skiing. LCpl Dexter joined the Regimental Duty Staff in May 2015, working alongside his brother LCpl Dexter.

The FIRST or GRENADIER REGIMENT of FOOT GUARDS

at December 2016

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

Lieutenant General Sir GPR Norton KCVO, CBE

Regimental Adjutant

Assistant Equerry

Director of Music

Regimental Quartermaster Sergeant

Regimental Treasurer and General Secretary Grenadier Guards Association

Honorary Regimental Archivists

Major GVA Baker

Capt F Moynan

Major P Streadwick

WO2 (RQMS) MJ 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)	S	Marinescu
Wo2 (BSM)	M	Buckley
Csgt	M	Hamilton
Csgt	K	Miles
Csgt	M	Altree
Csgt	D	Hull
Csgt	J	Smout
Sgt	A	Starbuck
Sgt	J	Burton
Sgt	J	Rowles
Sgt	L	Henaghan
Sgt	P	Scott
Sgt	S	Hall
Sgt	G	Hall

LSgt	F	Shakspeare
LSgt	M	Sinclair
LSgt	O	Duffield
LSgt	P	Matthews
Lcpl	D	Byrne
Lcpl	D	Venter
Lcpl	P	Batai
Lcpl	B	Beavis
Lcpl	I	Shepherd
Lcpl	R	Ellard
Lcpl	T	Greenhalf
Lcpl	B	Jackson
Lcpl	S	Hicks
Lcpl	P	Cowley
Lcpl	D	Wong
Musn	C	Barber
Musn	R	Bowering
Musn	V	Carter-graham
Musn	G	Flynn
Musn	D	Griffiths
Musn	A	Higginson
Musn	S	Jolly
Musn	J	Pearson
Musn	N	Rushforth
Musn	K	Salmon
Musn	M	Thomas

14th Company INFANTRY TRAINING CENTRE CATTERICK

Sgt	K	Davis
Sgt	S	Perry
LSgt	S	Beekman
LSgt	M	Bunyan
LSgt	L	Davis
LSgt	R	Elliott
LSgt	G	Harper
LSgt	C	Kotze
LSgt	J	Mccormack

LSgt	J	Moore
LSgt	M	Ogden
LSgt	H	Samuel
LSgt	M	Shaw
LSgt	W	Slater
LSgt	K	Ellis
LSgt	C	Lopez moreno
LSgt	N	Thompson

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

1st Battalion

Battalion HQ

Lt Col A McKay
Major A Seddon
Capt H Hardy
Capt MWS Dobson
Capt C Stevenson
Capt D Westlake
WO1 M Howlin
WO2 D Moore
Sgt C Fiddy
Sgt D Sullivan
LSgt B Gunning
LSgt D Norris

The Queens Company

Major SC Gordon Lennox
Capt T Hargreaves
Lt T Bolitho
2Lt J Palmer-Tomkinson
2Lt R Wood
WO2 D Roper
CSgt V McLean
Sgt T Mercer
Sgt M Mooney
Sgt K Richards
Sgt M Wilson
LSgt D Clarke
LSgt M Davison
LSgt S Emmett
LSgt S Galvin
LSgt A Hendy
LSgt A Matthews
LSgt M Ogen
LSgt K Rodda
LCpl J Andrews
LCpl HD Aspinshaw
LCpl J Austin
LCpl G Barry
LCpl JW Brunt
LCpl R Griffiths
LCpl N Handford
LCpl SM Kelly
LCpl JGJ Mullarky
LCpl G Parker
LCpl ST Poynter
LCpl K Tracey
LCpl A Turay
LCpl A Whitehouse
LCpl J Williams
Gdsm C Aldridge
Gdsm C Bird
Gdsm E Brunt
Gdsm J Buck
Gdsm SA Charman
Gdsm DA Coghlan
Gdsm B Cornish
Gdsm M Curzon
Gdsm P Dixon
Gdsm K Durose
Gdsm P Effah
Gdsm J Elder
Gdsm J Fowkes
Gdsm D Garrett
Gdsm D Glover
Gdsm N Green
Gdsm C Hammond
Gdsm N Hands
Gdsm P Hayes
Gdsm JA Hayward
Gdsm J Holdsworth
Gdsm S Holmes
Gdsm J Hunter
Gdsm BL Jackson
Gdsm M Johnson
Gdsm J Lloyd
Gdsm S Mabbott-Day

Gdsm MS Massey
Gdsm JA McCulloch
Gdsm JS McDonald
Gdsm K McKenzie-Healy
Gdsm KN Mortiboy
Gdsm ED Munro
Gdsm R Nightingale
Gdsm R Perry
Gdsm K Purdy
Gdsm S Ray
Gdsm L Reynolds
Gdsm J Robinson
Gdsm J Robinson
Gdsm F Russell
Gdsm J Sentance
Gdsm L Taylor
Gdsm A Turner
Gdsm O White
Gdsm A Wilson
Gdsm C Worsey

No 2 Company

Major R King-Evans
Capt CAG Williams
Lt E Harmer
Lt O Staunton
2Lt AJK Wilson
WO2 R Dacey
CSgt D Walton
Sgt A Harper
Sgt B Middleton
Sgt R Tracey
LSgt LN Coulbert
LSgt L Dawson
LSgt H Foxcroft
LSgt G Harper
LSgt SM Howcroft
LSgt P Kirk
LSgt B Moffatt
LSgt J Tuicicia
LSgt G Wint
LCpl JF Fairley
LCpl L Furnell
LCpl S Hubball
LCpl M Meakin
LCpl K Peters
LCpl J Porter
LCpl M Ramsdale
Cpl F Smalley
LCpl D Smith
LCpl CG Smith
LCpl T Smith
Gdsm OA Bibby
Gdsm DJ Bearder
Gdsm M Belomarkovic
Gdsm RP Bobey
Gdsm S Bond
Gdsm AJ Carley
Gdsm Chipchase
Gdsm J Clark
Gdsm J Clarke
Gdsm AE Cox
Gdsm S Crook-Rumsey
Gdsm G Davison
Gdsm L Debattista
Gdsm TM Dell
Pte N Eamer
Gdsm JT Funnell
Gdsm CS Fletcher
Gdsm S Gardner
Gdsm L Gaunt
Gdsm F Goodege
Gdsm R Halliburton
Gdsm S Hicklin
Gdsm SE Howells
Gdsm C Horridge

Gdsm LDL Hughes
Gdsm JT Hyatt
Gdsm L Jallow
Gdsm M James
Gdsm M Kerr
Gdsm C Key
Gdsm M Livesey
Gdsm R Lyon
Gdsm R McGeoch
Gdsm JM Miles
Gdsm E Mottershead
Gdsm DC Nash
Gdsm J Oliver
Gdsm E Oyengo
Gdsm J Price
Gdsm J Redwood
Gdsm AR Robinson
Gdsm JR Roberts
Gdsm J Seal
Gdsm M Shah
Gdsm R Smart
Gdsm A Szyszko
Gdsm MK Siver- Yorke
Gdsm S Wilkes
Gdsm CD Willis
Gdsm C Wright
Gdsm J Woolls
Gdsm H Wykes
Gdsm LR Yare

The Inkerman Company

Major B Jesty
Capt C Gilmore
Capt D Varmuza
Lt R Harding
2Lt J Palmer-Tomkinson
WO2 J Bennett
CSgt R Archer
Sgt D Jones
Sgt D Langridge
Sgt T Mercer
Sgt L Swan
LSgt R Blakeney
LSgt M Bunyan
LSgt M Davison
LSgt S Galvin
LSgt G Harper
LSgt S Harvey
LSgt S Hubball
Cpl C Copland
LCpl B Berry
LCpl G Barry
LCpl N Handford
LCpl J Hubbard
LCpl F McGowan-Hayes
LCpl J Porter
LCpl A Pugh
LCpl RWH Punter
LCpl K Rowlatt
LCpl J Williams
Gdsm JT Addison
Gdsm CR Austin
Gdsm DJ Bearder
Gdsm S Bond
Gdsm A Boulton
Gdsm K Bowen
Gdsm DC Brown
Gdsm E Brunt
Gdsm J Buck
Gdsm AJ Carley
Gdsm AO Cham
Gdsm D Charters
Gdsm LC Chater
Gdsm H Clews
Gdsm L Connor
Gdsm GM Cook
Gdsm B Cornish
Gdsm H Cross
Gdsm L Durose
Gdsm P Effah
Gdsm J Elmalem-Watson

Gdsm CS Fletcher
Gdsm R Fowler
Gdsm D Glover
Gdsm PJ Gray
Gdsm R Halliburton
Gdsm JL Heslop
Gdsm JH Hickey
Gdsm RGA Hollis
Gdsm C Horridge
Gdsm T Hunter
Gdsm J Hyatt
Pte R James
Gdsm M Johnson
Gdsm GM Jones
Gdsm CJB Judd
Gdsm K Keegan
Gdsm S Keane
Gdsm N Luker
Gdsm M Lyon
Gdsm S Maybet day
Gdsm E Mensah
Gdsm E Morris
Gdsm K Mortiboy
Gdsm J Nield
Gdsm R Nightingale
Gdsm M Neary
Gdsm K Odei-Ansong
Gdsm JO Owusu-Appiah
Gdsm R Perry
Gdsm M Pittaway
Gdsm T Pinsent
Gdsm K Purdy
Gdsm F Russell
Gdsm M Shah
Gdsm R Shaw
Gdsm D Waddingham
Gdsm O White
Gdsm J Williamson
Gdsm C Worsey
Gdsm LR Yare

Support Company

Major JJ Hatherway-White
Capt B Conway
Capt T Parkes
Capt O Wase
Woll R Wiseman
Woll D Lawrenson
CSgt J Lalley
CSgt M Lloyd
CSgt P Money
CSgt G Mann
Dmaj H Sutton
CSgt A Stott
Sgt S Cathcart
Sgt S Friess
Sgt M Oldham
Sgt D Harrison
Sgt B Hall
Sgt A Pitters
LSgt N Atanga
LSgt M Bailey
LSgt AC Bone
LSgt S Dent
LSgt M Baker
LSgt M Beasley
LSgt PM Brady (Mor)
LSgt D Farrell
LSgt MC Frame
LSgt J Howard
LSgt CD James
LSgt O Lee
LSgt D Jones
LSgt C Maloney
LSgt MR Morris
LSgt C McClendon
LSgt J Poole
LSgt K Partridge
LSgt J Plant
LSgt C Price
LSgt O Rosser

LSgt NM Truman
 LSgt S Wells
 LSgt A Wingate
 LSgt N Wintle
 LCpl J Adom
 LCpl A Blatchley
 LCpl LA Bowers
 LCpl NM Brady (RECCE)
 LCpl NC Caiger
 LCpl J Childs
 LCpl M Cooper
 LCpl L Coughlan
 LCpl C Doak
 LCpl C Dovey
 LCpl EJ Fairley
 LCpl NA Fray
 LCpl N Lynch
 LCpl J Heal
 LCpl W Hurst
 LCpl A May
 LCpl F Mabasa
 LCpl M Moorewood
 LCpl C Moss
 LCpl T Pugh
 LCpl J Ramsbottom
 LCpl S Rose
 LCpl M Rosser
 LCpl L Seer-Boylan
 LCpl N Simmons
 LCpl D Talbot
 LCpl A Wates
 LCpl L Whittaker
 Gdsm KL Angel
 Dmr R Barratt
 Gdsm J Bailey
 Gdsm J Bell
 Gdsm J Blaney
 Gdsm GR Boulton
 Gdsm D Carroll
 Gdsm W Chappell
 Gdsm M Compuzano
 Gdsm C Constatine
 Gdsm M Culloty
 Gdsm H Clews
 Gdsm E Davies
 Gdsm T Deans
 Gdsm N Dexter
 Gdsm C Dunphy
 Gdsm J Durham
 Gdsm J Enderby
 Gdsm GT Fielding
 Gdsm W Farmer
 Dmr I Galt
 Gdsm M Grove
 Gdsm AM Hardman-Haworth
 Gdsm D Hartop
 Gdsm AD Harris
 Gdsm B Henworth
 Gdsm A Hinton
 Gdsm JI Hobbins
 Gdsm H Holding
 Gdsm W Howitt
 Gdsm J Hudson
 Gdsm J Hunter
 Gdsm L Inskip
 Gdsm L Jones
 Gdsm A Keers
 Dmr A Kenny
 Gdsm W Langford
 Gdsm P Leason
 Dmr T Lester
 Gdsm A Lloyd
 Gdsm T Lyons
 Gdsm A MacDonald
 Dmr A McKenna
 Gdsm C McKenzie
 Gdsm L McTaggart
 Gdsm J Meredith
 Gdsm D Mitchell
 Dmr C Nation
 Gdsm G Nicholls

Dmr S Norris
 Dmr J O'Connor
 Gdsm L Owen
 Gdsm Z Parkhurst
 Gdsm J Patterson
 Gdsm Z Pincott
 Gdsm T Preston
 Gdsm C Poole
 Gdsm O Raybould
 Gdsm N Reilly
 Gdsm A Samateh
 Gdsm S Sambells
 Gdsm M Samwell
 Dmr DJ Smith
 Gdsm D Sharpe
 Gdsm D Wallace
 Gdsm R Wolfe
 Gdsm L Waive
 Gdsm AW Warst
 Gdsm L Widdup
 Gdsm G Westwood
 Gdsm JAS Wilson Fraser

The Corps of Drums

DMaj H Sutton
 LSgt M Beasley
 LSgt A Bone
 LSgt S Wells
 LCpl J Childs
 LCpl L Seer-Boylan
 LCpl C Doak
 LCpl J Ramsbottom
 Dmr T Lester
 Dmr A McKenna
 Dmr C Nation
 Dmr I Galt
 Dmr A Kenny
 Dmr S Norris
 Dmr J O'Connor
 Dmr D Smith
 Dmr R Barrett

HQ Company

Major G Gask
 WO2 R Shepherd
 CSgt DP Thomas
 LSgt L Richards
 LCpl M Ceesay Jnr

Quartermasters Platoon

Major IM Farrell
 Capt S Munro
 WO2 S Brooks
 WO2 G Davis
 Sgt M Green
 Sgt R Loder
 Sgt M Parker
 LSgt L Heatley
 LSgt T Timmins
 Gdsm G Cordell
 Gdsm O Few
 Gdsm R Martindale

Signals Platoon

CSgt P Easters
 CSgt P Rackley
 Sgt B Cobb
 Sgt P Lyons
 Sgt A Saxton
 LSgt C Davis
 LSgt M Jallow
 LSgt DJ Parkes
 LSgt S Richardson
 LSgt S Scott
 LCpl M Morris
 LCpl B O'Hanlon
 Gdsm J Alexander
 Gdsm H Cross
 Gdsm R Fowler
 Gdsm G Filer
 Gdsm D Harvey

Gdsm G Jones
 Gdsm A Mabert

MT Platoon

Capt T Bearder
 CSgt J Thompson
 Sgt KJ Oldfield
 Sgt PA Trussler
 LSgt M Bent
 LSgt A Bush
 LSgt K Elasi
 LSgt TM Hayward
 LSgt L McLoughlan
 LCpl J Cox
 LCpl B Freeman
 LCpl D Jones
 LCpl G Stocker
 Gdsm UJ Atuanya
 Gdsm D Barton
 Gdsm SM Bayameyame
 Gdsm R Cornell

Gdsm J Marsay
 Gdsm S Martinez
 Gdsm L Rigler
 Gdsm L Saho
 Gdsm B Sonko
 Gdsm A Wiggins

Training Wing

CSgt J Stenton
 Sgt S Cathcart

Gymnasium

LSgt M Haynes

Welfare

CSgt S Harrell

Regimental Police Staff

Sgt D Jones
 LCpl J Dexter
 LCpl J Dexter

Nijmegen Company

Major AWE Bayliss
 Capt K Naughton
 Capt Sanford
 Lt GWJ Barnes
 Lt JMB Silver
 WO2 MP Betts
 CSgt D Oliver
 Sgt SP Warwick
 Sgt M Parker
 Sgt A Martin
 LSgt JJW Dicastiglione
 LSgt J Garcia
 LSgt S Harvey
 LSgt B Hollis
 LSgt A Jones
 LSgt B Marchant
 LSgt J Perreira
 LSgt J Ranim
 LSgt CJ Mitchell
 LSgt AP Skinner
 LSgt J Loftus
 LCpl BT Cordwell
 LCpl C Drew
 LCpl G Davis
 LCpl P Ellis
 LCpl J Granger
 LCpl MD Hadfield
 LCpl D Hankey
 LCpl DJ Meyers
 LCpl L Scanlon
 LCpl N Walker
 LCpl LB Whybrow
 Dmr D Durie
 Gdsm JA Bennett
 Gdsm C Bepatt
 Gdsm CJ Bird
 Gdsm K Bottomer
 Gdsm J Brice
 Gdsm C Burgess
 Gdsm T Carr
 Gdsm A Coe
 Gdsm TC Coles
 Gdsm WFG Dickerson
 Gdsm PD Dixon
 Gdsm R Edwards
 Gdsm SE Edwards
 Gdsm D Elliot
 Gdsm NE Everett

Gdsm S Frith
 Gdsm BC Fanning
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 Gdsm L Reynolds
 Gdsm NP Richardson
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 Gdsm GW Sales
 Gdsm EGC Sargent
 Gdsm TS Small
 Gdsm C Smith
 Gdsm A Smith
 Gdsm I Stark
 Gdsm J Swales
 Gdsm DJ Taylor
 Gdsm H Tomkins
 Gdsm N Vella
 Gdsm O White
 Gdsm G Whyte
 Gdsm MT Wilding

Nijmegen Company PIDS (posted out of the Company)

LSgt MA Macmillan
 Gdsm JML Walker

Officers

SENIOR OFFICERS

Lieutenant General Sir George Norton KCVO, CBE	UK MILREP to NATO and the EU
Brigadier CRV Walker DSO	Head Strategy, Army HQ
Brigadier DJC Russell-Parsons OBE	Defence Attache Saudi Arabia
Brigadier JMH Bowder MBE	Brigade Commander 1st ISR Brigade
Colonel MP David MC	British Defence Staff, British Embassy, Paris

REGIMENTAL OFFICERS

Lieutenant Colonels

RT	Maundrell MVO	DOC-SO1 Land
AR	McKay MBE	Commanding Officer 1st Battalion
AFR	James MBE	DA Vienna
SG	Soskin	SO1 Infantry Manning Pers Plans, DMA
GR	Denison-Smith	ICSC(L), Army Division, JSCSC
PL	Ashfield DSO	Ops Directorate SO1 Force Generation Land
RJH	Green	Commanding Officer HQ Regiment ATC Pirbright

Majors

EJ	Paintin	SO2 Ft Gds, APC Glasgow
DJ	Alkin	Second in Command, 1st Battalion Irish Guards
JCM	Greaves	MA2 to CJO
JA	Seddon	Senior Major
SC	Gordon Lennox	The Captain of The Queen's Company
JR	Green	SO2 Plans ACGS
RE	King-Evans	OC No 2 Company
JENB	Shaw	SO2 J3, HQ 11X
BJR	Jesty	OC The Inkerman Company
AJ	Tiernan	MoD A Block
WHL	Harries	SO2 OPS BPST East Africa
NA	Strachan*	OC SCBC, School of Infantry, Brecon
PJ	Rice	ICSC
MOC	Dobbin DSO MC	ICSC

Captains

*DENOTES ACTING MAJOR		
*AWE	Bayliss	OC Nijmegen Company
RC	Da Gama	SO3 Tactics, MTMC
*TR	Hendriksen	SO2 DCC Army HQ
JD	Brown	MoD A Block
*AA	Wellesley-Wood	MA to Dep Comd NATO Multi-national Division South East
*JR	Taylor	SO2 G3 UK Ops HQ SW
CJD	Stevenson	Ops Officer, 1st Battalion
N	Wills	2IC Training Wing, ATC Pirbright
AHMC	Budge	Adjutant Support Weapons School
HC	Cartwright	SO3 J3 Ops Tac 16 Air Assault Brigade
A	Stonor	Adjutant London Regiment
WLR	Harris	Operations Officer Irish Guards
*JJ	Hathaway-White	OC Support Company
MWS	Dobson	Adjutant, 1st Battalion
JAL	Garton	Adjutant, London Central Garrison
FCB	Moynan	Assistant Equerry to The Colonel
DR	Welham	2IC, The Inkerman Company
HRW	Hardy	J3 Adviser, Op BLANCA
CAG	Williams	Intelligence Officer
CHP	Sanford	Nijmegen Company
AJP	Shirreff	Detached
BG	Conway	PI Comd, Anti-Tank Platoon

THR	Hargreaves	The Second Captain of The Queen's Company
BRN	Tracey	ADC to UK MILREP to NATO and The EU
CLI	Wright	ITC (C)
TR	Parkes	OC Recce Platoon
KMD	Varmuza	2IC, The Inkerman Company
OM	Wace	PI Comd, Mortar Platoon

Lieutenants

*DENOTES ACTING CAPTAIN		
*JMB	Silver	2IC Nijmegen Company
*CJ	Naughton	Regimental Signals Officer
REL	Phillips	ITC (C)
RDS	Laing	ITC (C)
GWJ	Barnes	PI Comd, Nijmegen Company
TA	Bolitho	PI Comd, Nijmegen Company
RJH	Harding	PI Comd, The Inkerman Company
ER	Harmer	PI Comd, No2 Company
OSB	Staunton	2IC No2 Company
RE	Thompson	AFC Harrogate

Second Lieutenants

CA	Wood	PI Comd, The Queen's Company
JCP	Palmer Tomkinson	PI Comd, The Inkerman Company
AJK	Wilson	PI Comd, No2 Company
FCN	Ide	PI Comd, Nijmegen Company
TC	Holmes	Platoon Commanders Course
DJ	Thorne	Platoon Commanders Course

Late Entry Commissions

Lieutenant Colonels

M	Gaunt OBE	Garison Comander, London Central Garrison
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Majors

G	Gask	OC HQ Company
NA	England MBE	2IC 1ATR Pirbright
JA	Keeley MBE	SO2 G4 RMAS
A	Butcher	SO2 G11 Bde

Captains

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

Retired Officers still in Military Employment or Occupation

Majors

GVA	Baker	Regimental Adjutant
DNW	Sewell	HQ Foot Guards
PAJ	Wright MBE	Regimental Historian
AJ	Green	Regimental Treasurer

Captains

A	Ogden	Regt Archivist
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Grenadiers at Extra-Regimental Employment

Sgt	E	Barnett	JFIG DHU
CSgt	M	James	HQ 77 Bde
Sgt	J	Hill	Guards Para
CSgt	D	Bennison	BATUK
CSgt	D	Claxton	22 MI COY

RMAS

WO2	C	Dougherty	RMAS
CSgt	G	Hudson	RMAS
CSgt	A	Obrien	RMAS
Gdsm	J	Hall	RMAS

All Arms Drill Wing

CSgt	S	Castel-Nuovo	All Arms Drill Wing
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Recruiting Offices

Sgt	L	Findler	Wolverhampton
Sgt	N	Smith	Birmingham
LSgt	J	Browning	London
LSgt	G	Casburn	Stoke on trent
LSgt	D	Lyons	South east and south
LCpl	B	Sonko	London
Gdsm	S	Bah	London
Gdsm	J	Bestwick	West milands
Gdsm	R	Grey	East chilwell
Gdsm	B	Kumadey	London
Gdsm	B	O'hara	Preston
Gdsm	I	Shahry	Leicester
Gdsm	B	Shingler	West milands

IBS Brecon

LSgt	P	Duffett	IBS Brecon
Sgt	D	Bonsell	IBS Brecon

Oxford UOTC

CSgt	R	Owen	Oxford UOTC
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ATC (Pirbright)

LSgt	B	Hayden	ATC (Pirbright)
LSgt	J	Brown	ATC (Pirbright)
Gdsm	D	Sherwin	ATC (Pirbright)

LWC Warminster

LCpl	S	Lawa	LWC Warminster
Sgt	P	Struczynski	LWC Warminster

Search Wing

LSgt	V	Goodman	Search Wing
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London Central Garrison

CSgt	D	Johnston	London Central Garrison
Sgt	D	Fry	London Central Garrison
Sgt	R	Bainbridge	London Central Garrison
LSgt	S	Hayes	London Central Garrison
LSgt	T	Mcqueen	London Central Garrison
Gdsm	W	Flint	London Central Garrison
Gdsm	B	Lord	London Central Garrison
Gdsm	J	Pallister	London Central Garrison

Detached

LSgt	S	Bentley
LSgt	A	Finlan
LSgt	J	Healey
LSgt	D	Kidd
LCpl	R	Booth
LCpl	A	Robinson
Gdsm	E	Appiah
Gdsm	S	Benn
Gdsm	J	Boardman
Gdsm	L	Doyle
Gdsm	D	Marshall
Gdsm	A	Payne
Gdsm	G	Reece-evans
Gdsm	C	Wylie

Warrant Officers

Warrant Officer Class 1

WO1	J	Frith	HQ 3 UK DIV
WO1	G	Haughton	ARMY SGT MAJ
WO1	H	Lawn	HAC

Regimental Quartermaster Sergeant (WO2)

WO2	S	Brooks	RQMS(T)
WO2	M	Cox	RHQ
WO2	G	Davis	RQMS(T)

Drill Sergeants (WO2)

WO2	D	Moore	Drill Sergeant
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Company Sergeant Majors (WO2)

1st Battalion

WO2	G	Roper	The Queens Company
WO2	J	Bennett	The Inkerman Company
WO2	R	Shepherd	Headquarter Company
WO2	M	Betts	Nijmegen Company

ERE

WO2	S	Ross MC	CSM Search Wing
WO2	C	Dougherty	CSM RMAS
WO2	JP	Summerscales	HQ Aldershot Garrison
WO2	D	Bailey	Dems Trg Regt Search Wing
WO2	S	Ross	HQ 77 Bde
WO2	S	Roughley	HQ Brunei Gar
WO2	M	Cox	HQ Londist
WO2	J	Byrne	HQ Londist LCG
WO2	R	Day	HQ RC PERS OPS
WO2	M	Hughes	Infantry Battle School Urban Ops



Marriages

LSgt Holdcroft to Rebecca
 LCpl Andrews to Kirsty
 Gdsm Robinson 13 to Chelsea
 Gdsm Sentence to Donna

Births

Sgt Mooney and wife Lorna a girl, Esmé Victoria
 LSgt M Bailey and his wife Lauren on the birth of their daughter Bella
 LSgt Matthew Davison and wife Sarah on the birth of their daughter (Katie)
 LSgt Michael Ogden and his wife Dannii on the birth of their son Haiden
 LSgt Wint and partner Jessica on the birth of their son Jack
 LCpl Barry and wife Jainaba Sowe a girl, Aminta
 LCpl Hubble and partner Kathrine on the birth of their daughter Thea
 LCpl Kelly a boy, Thomas
 Gdsm Hayward and girlfriend Anouska Hemingway a son,
 Rosco Antony David
 Gdsm Sivyler-Yorke and wife Amy on the birth of their son Finley

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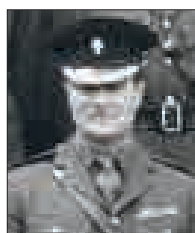
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Mr	DG Money MBE, West Sussex	Mr	J Regan, Burton-on- Trent	Mr	AO Spencer, Scotland	Mr	WJH Whitebread, Carmarthenshire
Mr	BR Moores, Hampshire	Mr	GE Reincke BEM, Suffolk	Mr	LW Spencer, Surrey	Mr	CM Whitebrook, Cambridgeshire
Mr	J Moores, Shropshire	Mr	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
Mr	CD Morgan, Cheshire	Mr	A Richardson, Cheshire	Mr	L Starks, Hertfordshire	Mr	DE Wilkinson BEM, Swansea
Mr	P Morgan, Essex	Mr	PF Richardson, Surrey	Mr	A Steed, Nottingham	Mr	MM Wilkinson, East Sussex
Mr	W Mottershead, Macclesfield	Capt	DJ Riddler, Peterborough	Mr	H Stern, Essex	Mr	CJ Wills, West Midlands
Mr	A Mould	Mr	GNH Rimell, Gloucester	Mr	J Stevens, East Sussex	Mr	SS Wilson, Middlesex
Mr	JF Mundy, Lincoln	Mr	DF Roalfe, Slough	Mr	G Stevenson, Spalding	Mr	WE Wilson, Essex
Mr	M Munro, Surrey	Mr	KT Roberts, Surrey	Mr	S Stringer, West Midlands	Mr	J Winterbottom, Lancashire
Mr	PJ Munro, Lancashire	Mr	P Roberts	Mr	S Swanwick, Nottingham	Mr	AE Wood, Lincolnshire
Mr	J Murrey, Leicester	Mr	BN Robinson, Staffs	Mr	BW Sylester, Llanrhos	Major	RG Woodfield MBE, Warwickshire
Mr	IJ Nash, Berks	Mr	A Robinson	Mr	RJ Szymczak, Kent	Mr	MG Woodgate, Hertfordshire
Mr	N Nash, Swindon	Mr	PT Robinson DCM, Essex	Mr	D Tanner, Middlesex	Mr	J Woodhouse, Northumberland
Mr	C Newens, Kent	Mr	JH Rogers, Avon	Mr	Tate-Williams, Milton Keynes	MR	DJ Worsfold BEM, Surrey
Mr	D Newton, Walsall	Mr	TA Rolfe, Hampshire	Mr	BAM Taylor, West Yorkshire	Mr	Wotherspoon, Lincoln
Mr	RS Nightingale, Nottingham	Capt	JH Rooney, North Yorkshire	Mr	J Taylor, Hants	Mr	A Wright, Gwynedd
Mr	JA Noakes, Bedford	Major	DR Rossi MBE, Isle of Wight	Mr	RB Taylor, Hants	Mr	K Wright, Staffordshire
Mr	B Oakley-Watson, Berks	Mr	MR Rowe, Shropshire	Mr	AJ Thomas, Ammanford	Mr	RA Wyatt, Wiltshire
Mr	DH O'Coffey, Berkshire	Mr	P Salt, London	Capt	BE Thompson BEM, Lancashire	Mr	VJ Young, Berkshire
Mr	J O'Connor, Middlesex	Mr	R Sargeant BEM, Stafford	Capt	RHL Thompson, Berkshire		
Mr	MP O'Hara, Lancashire	Mr	RF Saunders, Milton Keynes	Mr	RJ Thompson, Essex		
Mr	W Orton, Surrey	Mr	CC Savage, Bristol	Mr	KL Thomson, Wiltshire		
Major	VJ Overton, Windsor	Mr	L Scholes, Bolton	Mr	C Till, Somerset		
Mr	BJ Owen	Mr	M Scott, Gwynedd	Capt	CJO Tilly, Essex		
Mr	JE Page, Hertfordshire	Mr	W Scully, Devon	Mr	Tomlinson, East Yorkshire		
Mr	RC Page BEM, Lincoln	Mr	REG Seale DL, Worcester	Lt Col	S Tuck BEM, Norfolk		
Mr	D Paine, Kent	Mr	A Sehrman	Mr	J Upton, Surrey		
Mr	CM Parker, Wiltshire	Mr	RS Senior, Hampshire	Mr	JMN Upton, London		
Mr	N Parr, Milton Keynes	Mr	T Sentence, Kenya	Mr	A Urvoy, Berkshire		
Mr	RJ Patrick, Leighton Buzzard	Mr	J Seymour, Northants	Mr	S Vaughn, Kent		
Mr	L Paynes, Surrey	Mr	P Sharman, Surrey	Capt	D Vernon, East sussex		
Mr	W Paynes, Hampshire	Mr	M Sharples, Lancashire	Mr	P Wakelin, Cheshire		
Mr	AD Peachey BEM, West Sussex	Capt	BE Sheen, Isle of Wight	Mr	J Walker, North Lincolnshire		
Mr	MM Pearce, Essex	Mr	P Shelbourn, Mid Glamorgan	Mr	W Wall, Halifax		
Mr	M Peaty, West Sussex	Mr	J Sheldon, Derby	Mr	GR Wallace, Cambridge		
Mr	LFH Perkins BEM RVM, Kent	Mr	AN Sherratt, Surrey	Mr	T Walmesly, Ontario		
Lt Col	RAJ Phasey BEM, West Midlands	Mr	C Short, Lincoln	Mr	JG Walmsley, Middlesex		
Mr	J Pimlott, Canada			Mr	AVE Warner, Lancashire		
Mr	C Plant, Berkshire			Mr	G Warner BEM, London		
Mr	HN Plater, Walsall			Capt	RJ Warwick, Berkshire		
				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.

2624033	A Baker	2015	22638200	JW Jones	Worcester and Hereford
2627109	G Baker	Medway	24278946	PA Kelly	
2629213	GH Baker, RVM	Nottinghamshire	22213304	SJ Kenward	
23252102	FJ Ball	Walsall	2626469	EJ King	Gloucestershire
22955739	D Banks	London	14674497	JP Kirrane	Manchester
22545747	AS Barrow	Worcester and Hereford	23688443	BW Knight	
24125347	RF Bates	North Staffordshire	2628485	AC Knight	2015
Brigadier	MS Bayley, MBE		24125206	ST Lamb	Medway
23688785	R Bearpark		23632018	DT Leighton	Gloucestershire
23193472	R Benbow	Shropshire	22955841	D Lievesley	Nottinghamshire
Major	JC Blakesley, MBE		24239531	H Line	Manchester
2615331	RAJ Burton	Wessex	22545903	RW Litchfield	Derby
24141661	J Butler	Derby	Capt	G Lyster	
23736944	JH Campbell	Surrey & E. Hants	2628293	HJL Mansell	London
Reverend	TM Carter, Esq, DL, JP	North Staffordshire	23252726	JM Marshall	Lincoln
2622834	HT Chaffer, MM	2015	2628092	DM McMahon, RVM	Reading
22955530	JF Clark	Nottinghamshire	22607802	N Metcalfe	2015
23252158	RG Coggins	Bristol	22955706	G Mills	Manchester
23879733	S Coombes	North American	2627887	DW Mole	Wessex
2628450	RLD Cox	Bristol	Major	M Nesbitt	
2623124	VR Craske	Windsor	2627168	WC Nield	
2619229	AJ Crawley	Northamptonshire	2628783	CB Norcliffe	
2615427	R Curtis	East Kent	2628917	JL Norton	2015
2624938	WJ Dean	Sussex	21006124	JE Page	2015
22955438	CA Dearing	Suffolk	2628713	R Page BEM	Surrey & E. Hants
Capt	GA Devereux	Worcester and Hereford	Capt	GB Palau	
2254143	JS Dawkins	Suffolk	22731195	R Palmer	
2621827	R Evans	Shropshire	23630871	WF Pennington	Liverpool
22467635	C Eyles	Bristol	23509438	PL Penny	Windsor
23252436	N Farrington	Manchester	23509594	JS Piercy	
Capt	JA Fergusson-Cuninghame, MC		23663785	A Pierrpoint	Wolverhampton
22545685	RA Fletcher	Leicestershire	21006071	GJ Pitman	Bristol
2627204	EJ Ford	Bristol	22213728	R Pointon	Tamworth
22213140	AH Ford	Norfolk	24935548	P Poole	
2625061	H Furness		22213662	E Powis	North American
2621922	HG Gardner	Manchester	882636	EW Presland	Gloucestershire
22078734	LJ Gillham	Oxfordshire	2618242	R Prince	Yorkshire
2623626	JJ Griffiths	Liverpool	2622931	RG Puddle	Wessex
23278689	DT Griffiths	Bristol	Major	RMT Reames	
2627255	J Grindley	Nottinghamshire	22170525	KR Redfern	Nottinghamshire
23509601	RK Hall	North American	22545415	AJ Reynolds	Nottinghamshire
23457358	MW Hall	Bristol	Major	TC Richardson	
22545159	RE Harding	East Kent	23296475	B Rogers	Worcester and Hereford
2622146	L Harmer	Wigan, St. Helens & District	24283045	A Rogerson	
22712094	DE Harrington	East Kent	2625077	D Rollins	2015
2626592	B Haylett	March	23252484	C Rooke	
2628871	GRB Herring	Norfolk	23252242	DT Rose	Nottinghamshire
24185989	AG		Capt	AJ Savill, MC	
	Hetherington-Cleverley	Sussex	2628610	LJ Scorey	
23688391	RM Hewson	Sussex	22750369	T Sellers	Derby
23184452	C Hickey	Manchester	2616217	AG Smith	Worcester and Hereford
23848327	AH Higgins	North Staffordshire	23312648	R Stocker	Spalding
2618542	JR Hill	Gloucestershire	2623593	S Stringer	Wolverhampton
2624839	AH Hilling	Windsor	2626683	PL Sunley	Nottinghamshire
2629008	RA Hills	Essex	23509967	B Taylor	Surrey & E. Hants
25068388	S Hogan		22545869	PRG Taylor	Windsor
22955150	CE Holmes		22477830	J Terry	Windsor
2628625	GS Holmes	Norfolk	24185991	A Thomson	Gloucestershire
23688503	A Holmes		2621112	KB Timmis	
24021172	J Holten	Manchester	2627952	P Turner	Manchester
22213624	CT Hoy	London	23403074	BL Wall	Matlock
23969814	G Hughes	North Staffordshire	2627713	WFA Webster	East Kent
23383115	G Humphreys	2015	22213006	A Wilkin	East Kent
23058244	BT Humphries	Oxfordshire	24164937	M Williams	Wolverhampton
22213831	RJ Jackson	Nottinghamshire	23180616	F Wood	Nottinghamshire
23252030	WJ Jackson		2622278	H Wright	London



Brigadier Michael S Bayley MBE

*by Major General
Sir Michael Hobbs
KCVO CBE*

Michael Bayley, who has died aged 93, was born in Kensington on 13th July 1923. He was educated at Eton where he excelled at rugby and was Captain of the First XV. He won an Exhibition to King's College Cambridge. After 161 OCTU at Sandhurst, he was commissioned in the Grenadier Guards in 1942 and posted to the Training Battalion. As a Platoon Commander in the King's Company, he was wounded in his right arm and both legs while in action with 1st (Motor) Battalion at Aalten in Holland on 30th March 1945.

He was granted a Regular Commission in 1946 and rejoined 1st Battalion in Palestine. During the withdrawal, he was with his Company Commander in an isolated position above the docks when the Jews started shooting at them with machine guns. Their vehicle's tyres were shot out so they drove to the docks on flat ones.

In 1949, he was appointed Adjutant of 1st Battalion in Tripoli and passed the Staff College exam in 1951. With the Battalion back in Wellington Barracks in 1953, he was promoted to Captain of the Queen's Company. Two staff appointments followed. First as DAA and QMG in HQ 4th Guards Brigade in Germany, followed by MA to the Commander in Chief, HQ Far East Land Forces. In 1960, he was appointed Senior Major 2nd Battalion and MBE from his previous job. On being congratulated, Michael, who had a slight stammer, would reply 'G - G - Goes with the job.' A disrespectful officer began to mimic him until stopped by a threatening look and clenched fist. He attended the Joint Services Staff College in 1961, and became GSO 1 on the Staff of the Chief of Staff followed by GSO 1 at HQ London District.

Michael was appointed Commanding Officer, 1st Battalion, in Wuppertal. Early in 1965, the Battalion was selected for a six month operational tour with the United Nations in Cyprus. It was an interesting, enjoyable and worthwhile experience in glorious summer weather. The Battalion was recognised by Brigadier A J Wilson, UNFICYP Chief of Staff, as first class.

The Commander of Greek Cypriot forces in Limassol had an argument with Colonel Bayley about UN night patrols. Progress seemed impossible until Michael's charming smile unexpectedly broke the ice. The Greek Colonel immediately apologised. Under Michael's leadership, the Battalion won the confidence of both communities in Cyprus, developed a close affinity with UNFICYP and wore the blue beret and white and blue medal ribbon with pride. He was an outstanding Commanding Officer who raised the morale and

fighting efficiency of the Battalion to a very high standard.

In 1966, Michael was promoted to Colonel GS SEATO Exercise Planning Team and the following year to Secretary Defence Planning Staff in the MOD. He was promoted to Brigadier in 1969 and appointed BGS Intelligence in 1972. An appointment at HQ UKLF as Brigadier Overseas Detachments followed, until his retirement from the Army in 1978.

In retirement he became a Director of Help the Hospices (Hospice UK) in 1992 and succeeded me as President of the Grenadier Guards Association from 1992 to 1996. In an article 'The Way Ahead', published in the Grenadier Gazette 1995, he outlined proposals to sustain and strengthen for the future the active support which the Association enjoys and on which its aims will always depend. His other interests were conservation of church monuments and picture framing. Michael never wore his heart on his sleeve and, despite his natural humility and horror of shallow chatter, was hugely liked and admired throughout the Regiment. He was unmarried.



Robin Mark Timothy Reames

by Colonel Richard Winstanley OBE

To the many who knew Robin, this photograph, taken of him whilst on exercise in Kenya in the 90s, sums up the fun-loving, generous character we all remember so fondly.

Born in Breconshire in 1961 he remained an avid Welsh rugby fan. From Chafyn Grove prep school in Salisbury he went on to be head boy at Monkton Coombe near Bath, revelling in the challenges the steep surrounding hills presented to his emerging athleticism.

Winning an English speaking scholarship to Harvard, he returned a year later to go to Hull University. Upon graduation, he completed his PGCE qualification at Swansea University before naturally joining the Army

OBITUARY

Education Corps on commissioning from Sandhurst.

Robin had an acute sense of the ridiculous but such caustic humour was more often than not aimed at no one but himself. Such mimicry and self-effacing jollity won us over the minute he arrived in the 2nd Battalion, in Ballkelly Northern Ireland, in 1987. He was just one of those rare people who brightened every room he entered, making you feel that little bit warmer for it. He was always more interested in others. Quickly persuaded to join the Regiment he spent the next 15 years of his military service both in command of Grenadiers and away on the staff.

Robin was an enthusiastic adventurer, be it heading off to be Chief of Staff in Brunei, having completed the Italian Staff College (of course....!) or organising extraordinary exercises for the 1st Battalion in Norway, when Senior Major in 2001. He had a great zest for life which those around him found infectious. A natural leader, he was no slouch and worked tirelessly to get things done, always leading by example. Thus he got the very best out of people, never failing to motivate the occasionally work shy! Friendships forged were everlasting and one tribute from such a friend sums it up: 'he was respected and loved by the lads.'

His sporting achievements were impressive, playing for Northern Ireland and Cyprus Combined Services as well as being capped for Brunei vs Singapore. He rowed in the Army VIII in the inter services race and for Army Veterans in the World Championships in Vienna. He also played in his local rugby club's Veterans' XIV at the same time that his son played for the club.

Leaving the Army in 2002, he was scooped up by Churchill Insurance who were quickly impressed by his industrious work ethic and mischievous sense of humour. Numerous sorties on the No 12 bus to Croydon to assess the competition, Direct Line, swiftly enabled Churchill to improve its strategic competitive position. His ingenuity persuaded Churchill to recruit the competition but, as is sometimes the case in the world of business, Direct Line in turn bought out Churchill Insurance through acquisition. Along with other colleagues, Robin then moved on to develop Swiftcover Insurance from a start-up venture. Following the sale of Swiftcover to AXA, he remained a claims director champion, continuing his association with the insurance industry as an independent consultant, advising organisations and helping with business development.

His loss, was a tremendous shock to us all; a vibrant life cut short far too soon. It is testament to this genuinely gregarious, warm-hearted and much loved Grenadier that so many came to his funeral in early December 2016. The orders of service ran out long before the Service began.

I know Robin was enormously proud to know that his son Tristram will shortly be joining the Grenadier family when he commissions from Sandhurst in the Spring.

Robin will be greatly missed by the many people who were fortunate enough to know him. We all send our warmest wishes to his wife and three children.



Major (QM) Barrie T (Jim) Eastwood LVO MBE

*by Lieutenant Colonel
A Héroys*

Barrie (Jim) Eastwood, who has died aged 80, was born in Beeston, Nottingham in 1935. He followed his brother Alec into the Grenadier Guards in 1952 and a year later was on parade at the Coronation in 1953. In 1955 he left the Regiment to join the Police, but he rejoined in 1956 and served over the next 28 years in both battalions in London, Northern Ireland, Munster, Berlin, the Cameroons, British Honduras, Cyprus, and Hong Kong. He served as Company Sergeant Major RMA Sandhurst (1968–69) and Regimental Sergeant Major 1st Battalion (1972–74). He was commissioned in 1974 and granted a Regular Quartermaster commission in 1977. He was the Quartermaster 1st Battalion from 1980–83. In 1984 he was selected by Her Majesty to be the Superintendent at Windsor Castle.

Jim was a true gentleman; tough, yet compassionate. Described as 'kind, charming, wise and a gentleman in every sense of the word', he earned equal respect from superiors and subordinates alike and merited their gratitude and admiration. He was recognised for achieving results through common sense and logic, rather than by shouting and bullying. He was always approachable and when presented with a problem would produce a solution. A colleague writes: 'Fearless and morally strong as a Soldier, the epitome of excellence and integrity as a Warrant Officer, kind and supportive as a Quartermaster, trusted and magnificent as the Superintendent of Windsor Castle, and generous with time and attention as the President of the Windsor Branch of the Association, Major 'Jim' Eastwood was a true Grenadier of the highest order.'

When fire broke out at Windsor Castle in 1992, Jim immediately recognised the seriousness of the situation. He telephoned the barracks in Windsor and demanded every soldier and lorry be sent to the castle – **now**. He then supervised the evacuation of all the precious *objects d'art*, often at considerable personal risk. His achievement in saving so many precious historical items was formidable. After the fire the rebuilding and restoration began. Jim supported His Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh in coordinating the multitude of contractors and sub-contractors who brought their many skills and experience to execute the fabulous restoration that can be seen today. Adam Nicholson, author of 'Restoration: The Rebuilding of Windsor Castle', inscribed on the flyleaf of Jim's copy: 'To the real hero of the fire'.

Jim was appointed MBE in 1984, on relinquishing his

appointment as Quartermaster 1st Battalion and LVO on retirement from Windsor Castle in 1995, when he was also appointed a Serjeant at Arms in the Royal Household. Whilst at Windsor Castle he was awarded Order of the Lion (Malawi), Order of Isabel (Spain), Royal Order of Merit (Norway), and Ordre du Wissam (Morocco). On retirement in 1995 he became the President of the Windsor Branch of the Grenadier Guards Association for 20 years. On his final retirement in 2014, he was appointed 'President Emeritus of the Windsor Branch'.

Jim was married to his beloved wife Sheila for 56 years who travelled the world with him, supporting him in all his many postings. His was a 'rags to riches' story having started their married life in a barrack room tin hut at Perham Down and ending up in Garter House Windsor Castle. Jim was a great family man and is survived by Sheila, their two daughters, Janice and Carolyne, four grandchildren and four great grandchildren, whom he loved dearly.



Major Mick Nesbitt

by Major General Sir Evelyn Webb-Carter

Mick Nesbitt, a legendary Sergeant Major died tragically young on 5th October aged 65. I was the Commanding Officer of the 1st

Battalion in Munster in 1987 and Mick Nesbitt had been the Sergeant Major for just a year. The telephone rings and the Regimental Lieutenant Colonel says 'I have some good news and some bad news, which do you want to hear first?' It was all bad news to me as my comparatively new Sergeant Major had been appointed to be the Academy Sergeant Major. What a wonderful and well merited accolade that was for Mick but for me and the battalion we were going to lose one of our star players. He had been an instant success in the Battalion taking over albeit from a very popular and competent predecessor. But Mick was a very modern warrant officer and he was just the right type when we were preparing to be the first Warrior battalion. His wife, Lesley was a modern thinker too and soon established a thriving wives club: they made a formidable pair.

Mick's military career began as a Junior Leader in 1967 and although he was tempted to join The Royal Military Police he was influenced Sergeant Bill Grimley and David Fanshawe then commanding the Guards Company at Oswestry to join the Grenadiers, a happy change of heart for us all. He joined the 1st Battalion just as we had returned from Sharjah. He was soon identified as a talented soldier and leapt up the promotion ladder taking in two tours at the Guards Depot and two at the Academy, where he met Lesley his wife.

What many people do not know is that Mick, when a young Gold Sergeant, aged just 26, took part in a four month expedition to the Himalayas. He was a great outdoor sport man and had taken part in skiing and canoeing expeditions so he was an obvious choice for this special assignment. The 1st Battalion had been selected from numerous Army Units to become an integral part of the 'Nanda Devi Expedition, 1977' – an expedition with Major General E V Strickland CMG, DSO, OBE, MM, as its Patron. The Grenadiers' primary task was to transport overland the Expedition equipment and food to an assembly point in the Indian Himalayas. In addition, they were to both assist the climbers follow the 1934 route pioneered by Eric Shipton and Bill Tilman (the first men to ever set foot in the Nanda Devi Sanctuary or Basin) and, where feasible, help with the logistics of the attempt on the summit of Nanda Devi itself (25,645 feet).

Although working in pairs most of the time, all six Grenadiers did manage to meet up for two full days together whilst in the Sanctuary. Four (two British and two Americans) of the climbers were to reach the summit. The Grenadier team drove over 13,000 miles from the UK (Elizabeth Barracks, Pirbright) to the Himalayas and back. Their routes, impossible today for a host of reasons, went through Europe and Turkey, then Iran, Afghanistan and Pakistan to their assembly point at Josimath in the upper reaches of the Ganges. From the road-head, some 17 miles further on, the Expedition followed the line of the Rishiganga River to its source and their Nanda Devi objectives. It was a most marvellous adventure for a young Sergeant. His main task was to be the Quartermaster and driver. One of the party members later described Mick as 'absolutely first rate, quiet and thoroughly competent. He was a delightful man to have as part of a small team'; 'steady, capable and sensible.' He was on Queen's Guard two days after they got back and he would have been completely up for it!

He was an outstanding Academy Sergeant Major for six years and amongst the things he was particularly proud of was formally addressing the Army Staff College on three consecutive occasions. He also established the Warrant Officer One's Convention which although started as an experiment became a very useful forum for views outside the chain of command to be aired and is continued to this day. Commandant commented 'he was known to be interested in the people he met whether they were cadets or staff. He was thus respected throughout Sandhurst for his personality and his determination to ensure that all Cadets lived up to the standards necessary for young officers.' He struck up a fine relationship with the Commandants with whom he worked and in 1993 he was the first Academy Sergeant Major to be commissioned. He then went to Pirbright to command Headquarter Company and 14th Company until he left the Army to run

his own security business.

So we mourn a Great Grenadier who I admired as an outstanding Warrant Officer. He was bright, immaculate and very straightforward with his approach to the Sergeants Mess who both loved and respected him. He will be much missed by many who knew him both in the Regiment and outside. The funeral at The Royal Memorial Chapel at Sandhurst was very well attended by many from across The Army including three Commandants of the RMAS. He leaves behind Lesley, his widow, and two fine looking sons, Lance and Grant, who both looked like 'chips off the old block'.



Major Tom C Richardson

by Major G V A Baker

Tom Richardson died aged 87 following a fall on the 11th March 2016, although he had been suffering ill health from cancer for some time.

He was born in 1929, brought up in Alresford and was educated at Wellington College. He was commissioned into the Regiment on 29th May 1948 and served in all three Battalions, which included operations in Malaya, the Canal Zone and Cyprus. In 1953, he flew back from Egypt with a detachment to represent 3rd Battalion at the Coronation. He also served as Adjutant of the Honourable Artillery Company, at Regimental Headquarters and on the Staff of Headquarters, 4th Guards Armoured Brigade. He retired from the Army in 1967. He had served mainly at regimental duty, which was not good for his career, but the fact that he did so was largely at his own behest.

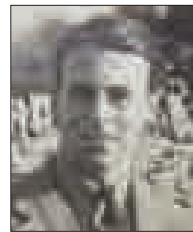
Tom was a complex character: a lively, amusing and witty companion, a good friend, an excellent raconteur of a seemingly endless repertoire of funny tales and jokes and yet, a rather private man who revealed little about himself. He wrote for the *Guards Magazine*. His confidential reports throughout his career bore testimony to a charming, intelligent, quick-witted, efficient and unflappable officer who was courageous on operations, but one who was essentially lazy in mind and did not push himself to fulfill his undoubted potential. He was an excellent racquets player who represented the Regiment. He was also something of a 'bon viveur' who enjoyed his food and drink as well as gambling and partying; the example that he set to younger officers did not always endear him to his superiors.

After retiring from the Army, Tom never found a job that he thought would suit him, in spite of many attempts to help by his friends, perhaps most notably, Dickie Birch Reynardson. He was fortunate to have his elder brother Billy and Sister-in-Law Sarah, and his twin brother John

to look after him; in later years, his niece, Emma, of whom he was particularly fond, also fulfilled that role. He lived at 100 Gloucester Road and right up to the end of his life could frequently be found lunching or dining at Whites, one of his favourite haunts.

As he became increasingly unwell and the 92 steps up to his flat became increasingly challenging, he found it hard to cope and for the last few months of his life lived in a Care Home near Winchester; I saw him there before Christmas and he was cheerful and amusing as ever, but clearly beginning to fade.

Tom was a loyal friend to many, and in return they were loyal to him; he outlived many of them, but nevertheless at his Thanksgiving Service in Old Alresford, the Church was filled with friends of all ages, all of them with happy memories of a delightful, entertaining and courteous Grenadier and gentleman.



Capt Johnny Fergusson-Cuninghame

by Charles Owen

Capt Johnny Fergusson-Cuninghame, who has died aged 94, was awarded an MC in Normandy in 1944.

On August 4th 1944, Fergusson-Cuninghame, a lieutenant in the Grenadier Guards, was the liaison officer attached to 29 Armoured Brigade. 2nd Armoured Bn Irish Guards were under heavy attack from German Tiger tanks south-west of Caen and had become cut off. Vehicles were unable to reach or leave the area and it was impossible to evacuate the wounded or to obtain ammunition and other vital supplies.

Fergusson-Cuninghame arrived in a scout car from Brigade HQ and offered to find a new route for these vehicles if he was given 30 minutes to reconnoitre the road. While running through relentless fire from enemy tanks covering the road he was, in the words of a regimental history 'slightly winged.' In fact he was hit by a spent bullet but refused to have it attended to.

Later in the day, he helped an ambulance convoy to reach safety. After six lorries had been marked with red crosses and loaded with wounded men, he led the column out of the area to a Casualty Clearing Post where, in answer to a wireless appeal, beds were ready. They had to move very slowly along the road which was pot-holed and cratered by shelling but the Germans fired only at the last vehicle and all the casualties got through unscathed. The citation for the award to him of an MC paid tribute to his courage and total disregard for his own safety.

John Alfred Fergusson-Cuninghame was born in London on December 16 1921. His father, Major Wallace Smith Cuninghame, was awarded a DSO in the First World War while serving with the 2nd Life Guards. Johnny, as his son

was called, played in all the teams at his preparatory school as well as winning the cup for shooting and singing.

After Eton, he went up to Trinity College, Cambridge, to read Classics but his studies were curtailed by the outbreak of war. In 1940, he joined the Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry and, after Sandhurst, where he was awarded the Belt of Honour, he was commissioned into the Grenadier Guards.

He was posted to the 2nd Armoured Bn and served with 5th Guards Armoured Brigade in the Normandy landings in June 1944. Later that month, he and his troop had been refreshing themselves with some of the powerful local calvados when he had to answer an urgent call of nature.

He hurried to a potato shed and was wholly preoccupied when, in the darkness, he made out the shadowy figures of four German soldiers who had also sought sanctuary there. With his trousers still around his ankles, he managed to get out his pistol and shouted to them to surrender. To his great relief, they did so.

After the Battle of the Ardennes, he was due for some leave. There was only one place left on the next draft and he and a brother officer tossed a coin to decide which of them should go. Fergusson-Cuninghame lost. The draft set off without him but a few miles along the road, they were ambushed by a group of Hitler Youth. There were no survivors.

In 1949, he resigned from the Army and farmed in Gloucestershire before moving to Hertfordshire. In 1966, he returned to Caprington, his childhood home in Ayrshire, where his brother lived. He leased a sporting estate on the Isle of Harris and, during his last week, he broke the lodge record by catching nine salmon in three hours.

He subsequently returned to Gloucestershire where he took part in a variety of local activities as well as building up The Dudgrove Fishing Syndicate on the River Coln which provided a great deal of fun to many over the years.

Johnny Fergusson-Cuninghame died on September 12. He married, in 1946, Prue Blake. She predeceased him and he is survived by their two sons and two daughters.



Capt Geoffrey B Palau

by Major P A J Wright
OBE

Geoffrey Palau, who has died aged 94, was born on 30th March 1921, the only son of Archie Palau, a Director of Furness Withy Shipping, and his wife Marjorie. He was educated at St Edward's School, Oxford, where he excelled at athletics and rugby. After Sandhurst, he was commissioned in the Grenadier Guards in May 1941 and was posted to the Training Battalion at Windsor. He became Signals Officer of the 1st (Motor) Battalion,

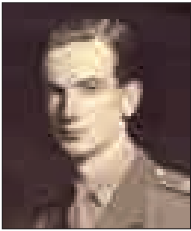
which entailed sending a pigeon each day to Whitehall to let them know all was well with the Royal Household. He was on the parade on 21st April 1942, which marked Princess Elizabeth's appointment as Colonel of the Regiment. Ahead of the forthcoming invasion of France in 1944, he was responsible for composing codes to last a month and fought in North West Europe from June to September 1944.

After the battle of Nijmegen, he was promoted and became Second Captain of the King's Company. In late March 1945, the Battalion was billeted near Genep in the Rhineland which had been part of the front line and anti personnel mines still lay around. During a training exercise Geoffrey trod on a mine and his left foot was blown off. His life was saved by the prompt actions of Major Nigel Baker and Major Brian Warren, the Medical Officer. He wore a prosthetic limb for the rest of his life which most people were completely unaware of. He retired from the Regiment in September 1946. In 1939, he had been selected to play for the English Schools XV against Scotland and his one regret was that his very promising rugby career had been curtailed as a result of his injury.

After the war, he had a distinguished career in the wine trade, initially working for the Seagram Company, involved in building the Chivas Regal and Captain Morgan brands. In the early 1970s, he was invited to join IDV, the wine and spirit arm of Grand Metropolitan, becoming Chairman of IDV Export. Geoffrey had a reputation as a direct and effective team leader, who made things happen and encouraged others not to be afraid to fail because the real failure is the failure to try. He travelled to different parts of the world including the last ever Concorde flight to Singapore. He retired in 1981, acting as a consultant until 1986. He was Chairman of the Governors of his old school St Edward's, from 1985 until 1992 and continued to travel to Portugal and Sweden. He celebrated his 85th birthday with his family in Cannes.

A Grenadier of stature, courage and style with a great sense of humour, he is remembered with affection by his many friends. Geoffrey was recently awarded the Légion d'Honneur by the French Government for his service in the liberation of France in the Second World War. In 1943 he married Lulu Gower Williams. It was a wonderful marriage and in 1993 they celebrated their Golden Wedding and were married for over 60 years. She predeceased him in 2004 and he is survived and greatly missed by their son Michael, daughter Julia and their four grandchildren.





Capt A J Savill MC

by Nicky Grant
(née Savill)

My father, Jonathan Savill, died at home on 17th December 2016, aged 92. He was born on 20th March 1924 and educated at Eton where, under the tutelage of William Blunt, he developed his love of painting. In 1942, he left school at 18 and was commissioned into the Grenadier Guards. His initial posting was to the Castle Company at Windsor Castle, responsible at that time for the immediate protection of the Royal Family. He then served with 6th Battalion in Italy. In January 1944, at Minturno, near the mouth of the River Garigliano, he was shot through the knee during unceasing shell and mortar fire.

Jonathan returned to active service with 5th Battalion and in June 1945, at the end of the war, was awarded an MC. His citation reads:

'This young officer has now led more than 30 Patrols against the enemy. He has never failed to carry out the task allotted to him and has often obtained most valuable information of enemy dispositions, and intentions. In particular, during the battalion's operations in the Monte Sole area in October 1944, Lieutenant Savill led two most successful patrols across the River Setta and up extremely steep and difficult country into the enemy positions. His skill and pertinacity enabled him bring back very accurate information of the positions of enemy posts in the area of Pt 501. Throughout the whole of the period of covered by this citation Lieutenant Savill has shown outstanding courage, determination and powers of leadership and his example has proved a most marked encouragement to his Company and brother officers.'

In 1946, my father married his childhood sweetheart, Audrey Morshead. Two years later my sister Angela was born followed by myself in 1951, my brother Owen in 1962 and my sister Quita in 1963. After spells in both the family brewery and various estate agents, he became a junior partner in Reid Pye and Campbell, independent wine shippers. His charm and expertise made him a naturally good salesman and he travelled all over the country visiting independent wine merchants, pubs, hotels and other customers. He always took his easel and paints with him and his fishing tackle. He said he never had any difficulty finding places to paint and frequently rivers full of trout.

In 1963, the wine trade was changing. Supermarkets began selling wine and Reid Pye and Campbell was about to be taken over by Allied Breweries. In 1969 my father turned down the offer of joining the board of Allied and he and his friend, Jack Rutherford, bought the Rowley

Gallery, the well established picture framers in Kensington Church Street. Both he and his partner had been customers of the gallery for many years and were determined to save the business.

On 25th June last year my father, step-mother, all his children and some of his many grandchildren made a memorable visit to Windsor Castle to see the mural he had painted in the duty officer's bedroom in 1943. It was a truly unforgettable day, described in an article in the last issue of *The Guards Magazine*. It culminated in a lovely lunch at the Savill Gardens designed by my father's uncle Sir Eric Savill where a posthumous portrait of him, painted by my father, hangs in the restaurant.

My mother died in 1992. My father is survived and much missed by my step-mother Jenny, Angela, myself, Owen, Quita, his step-children Emma and Jason, his many grandchildren and six great grandchildren. My father said himself that he had a lot of luck in his life. But we too are the lucky ones to have had him with us for so many years. Although he achieved many amazing things, he was a man of simple tastes epitomised in the words of Jerome K. Jerome in 'Three Men in a Boat' which he hugely enjoyed:

'Let the boat of life be light, packed with only what you need – a homely home and simple pleasures, and one or two friends, worth the name, someone to love and someone to love you, a cat, a dog and a pipe or two, enough to eat and enough to wear, and a little more than enough to drink; for thirst is a dangerous thing.'

Company Sergeant Major Reginald (Reg) Page BEM

by Major Philip Wright

Company Sergeant Major Reginald (Reg) Page BEM, who has died aged 88, was born on 4th July 1928. As a plumber's mate aged 17 he enlisted in the Grenadier Guards at Maidstone, Kent, on 11th March 1946. He served with 1st Battalion on internal security operations in Palestine in 1948, followed by a tour in Tripoli in Libya. In 1949, he married Elizabeth Gray in the Church of St Andrew, Tripoli and transferred to 3rd Battalion at Chelsea just before the start of a further tour in Tripoli in 1951, and the Canal Zone in Egypt until 1953.

By now a Corporal, Reg served in Wellington Barracks followed by a tour in BAOR with 1st Battalion, earning promotion to Sergeant and CQMS in 1957. The same year he transferred to 2nd Battalion before flying to Cyprus during the emergency. In 1959 he was promoted to Company Sergeant Major for the Battalion's tour with 4th Guards Brigade in Hublerath, BAOR. His Company Commander recognised Reg's enormous enthusiasm and



CQMS Reg Page (ringed) with Support Company, 2nd Battalion, in the Kyrenia Mountains during the Cyprus emergency in 1958.

zest for life and wrote that he was quick to eye up the feelings and mood of the Company.

In 1960 he was selected as an instructor to control, command and get the best out of potential officers at Sandhurst. The relationship between the NCOs at Sandhurst and the young men and women they train is a complex one. Contempt, affection, pity and pride all play a part. It works and is remembered with affection by serving and retired military officers in Britain and around the World. Reg's ability, great character, charm and personality were soon recognised and his sympathetic and understanding approach to the cadets won their understanding to a remarkable extent.

In 1964, at the end of his tour, his Company had won the Inter-Company Sovereign's competition and he was awarded the British Empire Medal in the New Years Honours List. His final report read: 'He sets, demands and obtains the highest standards and is respected by juniors and seniors alike. He has been outstandingly successful at Sandhurst in every respect.'

Reg returned to 2nd Battalion in time to take part in a training exercise in Libya followed by two years at Windsor and a year in Wuppertal, BAOR, before his final appointment at Mons Officer Cadet School. He left the Army on 8th July 1968 and an extract from his testimonial reads: 'He is without doubt one of the finest examples of all that is best in a man who has devoted himself to others. I count myself fortunate to have had the privilege of serving with such a man. He has leadership and organisational ability in large measure. To these are coupled loyalty, devotion to duty and industry far above the average.'

His wife, Elizabeth and their daughter, Maureen predeceased him and he is survived by their son, Leslie.



Mr Reg Curtis

*Late Grenadier Guards
and the Parachute
Regiment*

Mr Reg Curtis has died at Chestfield House care home in Kent aged 95. He joined the Army aged 17 as a Grenadier Guardsman in 1937. He was serving in 3rd Battalion when war was declared on 3rd September 1939. Before the end of the month, the Battalion was on the Franco-Belgium frontier as part of the British Expeditionary Force. On 10th May 1940, the Germans launched blitzkrieg on neutral Holland and Belgium and the Battalion took part in the long taxing withdrawal to Dunkirk. It got to grips with the enemy in fierce fighting on the River Escaut, and a week later on the Ypres-Commines Canal, before the remnants of the Battalion were evacuated from the Dunkirk mole and returned to England.

In August 1941, Reg transferred to U Company, 1st Battalion Parachute Regiment. He was one of only 80 men of 1st Battalion who fought all the way through North Africa, Sicily and Italy to Arnhem. He was shot and badly wounded at Arnhem in 1944. He lay injured for six days on the battlefield before having his leg amputated and being taken to the notorious Stalag XI B prison camp in Saxony.

After the war he returned home, married Betty Kirkness and started a landscape gardening business, as well as building his own house in Chestfield. He was an active member of the East Kent Parachute Regimental Association and also wrote three books about his wartime experiences – Churchill's Volunteer, Tafelberg and, most recently, The Memory Endures.

In the preface to his last book he wrote: 'I took part in the Parachute Regiment's most remembered battle at Arnhem in September 1944 and share deeply in our bond with the good people of that city. This is an unbreakable bond that grows ever stronger and now truly spans generations. I must have returned to Arnhem 30 times since 1944 and I doubt there is any place on earth where friendship is more profound. I'm sure I can speak for every Para when I say thank you to the citizens of Arnhem, especially to the wonderful children. There is no sight more moving than your annual laying of flowers at the Airborne Cemetery. You are our bridge to the future.'

He died two years after his beloved wife Betty. They had no children.



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
Major General Sir Evelyn Webb-Carter, KCVO, OBE

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

Executive Committee:

The President (Chairman)

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

Captain B.D. Double (Life Vice President)

Lieutenant General Sir George Norton, KCVO, 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 A.W.E. Bayliss (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)

Mrs T Day (Southern Area Representative)

Mr S. Vaughan (South Eastern Area Representative)

Mr R. Donaldson (Eastern Area Representative)

Mr K. Smith (Western Area Representative)

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

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

OBJECTS OF THE ASSOCIATION

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

QUALIFICATIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP

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

DONATIONS AND SUBSCRIPTIONS

19. Subscriptions shall be as follows:

- a. Officers of the Regiment.
 - (1) Serving Members. All serving members shall be required to make an annual donation of £3 to the funds of the Association. This money shall be paid through Regimental Funds from the Officers Day's Pay Scheme contributions.
 - (2) Past Members. All past officers shall be deemed to be Life Members and are invited to make an annual donation to the funds of the Association.
- b. Warrant Officers, Non-Commissioned Officers and Guardsmen.
 - (1) Annual membership subscription: 50p per annum. For serving members this will be paid through Regimental Funds from the Day's Pay Scheme.

(2) Life membership subscription:

- (a) Up to age 55 years: £5.00.
 - (b) 55 years of age or over: £3.00.
20. All members shall be actively encouraged to donate an annual sum to the Association and where applicable, by way of a Gift Aided Donation. This enables the Association to claim a refund of income tax on all such donations; thereby helping to further the objects of the Association.
 21. All donations to the Central Fund of the Association (including Gift Aided donations) and legacies will be transacted through the Association Office. Member's donations/subscriptions of a routine nature should be sent to the Branch Secretary concerned, for retention by the Branch.

LIFE MEMBERS

22. All past Officers shall be deemed to be Life Members. Warrant Officers, Non Commissioned Officers and Guardsmen, on completion of their Colour Service, may become Life Members in accordance with Rules 12.b. and 15.a. and b.
23. Associate and Honorary Members are not eligible to become Life Members.
24. Free Life Membership may be granted at the discretion of Branches to those discharged soldiers who qualify under Rule 12.b. (3), and whose circumstances preclude them from paying annual subscriptions.

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
LCpl Scanlon	ACO Portsmouth (OP INTENSIFY)
Gdsm Shahry	ACO Leicester (OP INTENSIFY)

Army Recruiting Team

LCpl Sonko	ART Woolwich
Gdsm Bah	ART Woolwich
Gdsm Grey	ART Chilwell
Gdsm O'Hara	ART Preston
Gdsm Bestwick	ART Stafford
Gdsm Shingler	ART Stafford
LSgt Lyons	ART Aldershot

Regimental Support Team

Capt Bearder	Regimental Recruiting Officer
Sgt Langdown	RST Comd
Gdsm Silver	RST Member
Gdsm Poffley	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 assnco@grengds.com or on the Regimental Website www.grengds.com

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

Overseas: North America.

BRANCHES OF THE HOUSEHOLD DIVISION ASSOCIATION

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

Further details can be obtained from Association HQ on 020 7414 3285 or email assnco@grengds.com

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

Well, we thought 2015 was quiet but 2016 has been even quieter for the Dining Club, at least as far as 'other' activities have been concerned. Dinners have been well supported and the Thetford Lunches have become a fixture for several who prefer to meet during the day to avoid an evening drive to Norwich. We very much want to get to know more of the younger Grenadiers who we know live in our area but obviously it is difficult with family commitments, working hours and so on. If anyone reading this has any bright idea about what we could do to make such a gathering happen – such as a different location, different day, or different menu – do please let us know; providing it's food related! We are a Dining Club after all.

Sadly we lost two of our Diners during the year. **Ron Fletcher** had been a regular, travelling down from Leicestershire and hardly ever missing a dinner and **Alec 'Henry' Ford**, who had not missed a dinner since we 'found' him living here five years ago. **Ken Wheal** has moved away to Milton Keynes to live with family so it is unlikely that he will be able to get to Lunches. Both Henry and Ken had sadly lived in Norfolk for many years

without discovering the friendship Grenadiers can offer. On the recruiting side we have welcomed **Steve Hayes** and **Patrick Nisbett** and hope they will become regulars.

Our regulars from Suffolk, Cambridgeshire and Oxfordshire are always welcome and we were very pleased that **Major Andy Green** was able to join us on two occasions this year. We do hope that any Grenadier reading this who lives within reach of either Norwich or Thetford will seriously think of joining us for an hour or two of convivial Grenadier company.

The highlight of the year was persuading the President, **Colonel Richard Aubrey-Fletcher** to dine with us in August. Attendance was very good that evening, no doubt because he was with us, but it is also interesting to note that attendance always goes up when I let it be known that a photograph for the Gazette is planned!

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 2017 are: **April 21st, June 16th, August 18th, October 13th and December 1st**. The provisional dates for lunches at Thetford will be **May 9th and November 7th**, both Tuesdays. Just give the Club organiser, Ross Donaldson, a call on 01328 838469 or e-mail norfolkclub@grengds.com for all details. We really hope to hear from you.



The President, Colonel Richard Aubrey Fletcher with members of the Dining Club.

Back Row Left to Right: Mick Ayres, Roy Ibson, Bill Goffin, Mick Draper, Rob Cooper, Peter Brooks, Frank Green, Terry McClenahan, Andy Green, Bernie Taylor, Bill Willsher, Brian Taylor, Patrick Nisbett, Patrick Allen, Darrell Beckett, Chris Harrison, John Elliott, John Pearce, Terry Smith, Brian Bartholomew, Geoff Waters.

Seated Left to Right: John Feakins, Tom Cook, Colonel Martin Smith, The President, Ross Donaldson, Russell Barwick, Ray Holland, David Beckett, John Crowley, Alan Smith.

The Grenadier Guards Commemorative Kneeler Appeal

by Ross Donaldson

As a final report on the results of the Kneeler Appeal, I am pleased to present the scroll of names of all the donors whose generosity enabled us to have 46 kneelers produced and placed in the Guards Chapel.

It was our hope that both this list of donors and the list of men commemorated could be displayed in the Chapel, but unfortunately the Guards Chapel Committee have very strict rules on what can and cannot be displayed. Consequently any list we wanted to display could only be in very plain form and probably in the Vestry. I am pleased to say however, that our General Secretary has agreed to display both lists, suitably printed and framed, in Regimental Headquarters. In the Chapel of course, the kneelers speak for themselves.



Old Comrades Brought Together

by Peter Green

On Saturday 3rd September 2016, the 72nd anniversary of the Grenadier Guards liberation of Pont-A-Marcq, a ceremony was held in the town to formalise its Old Comrades twinning with those from Lessines, in Belgium. My Father, **Albert Green's** attendance meant that the Grenadier Guards had a role to play in this ceremony.

On 3rd September 1944, The King's Company and No 2 Squadron engaged and defeated a German force and liberated the town of Pont-a-Marcq located near Lille in Northern France. 22 Grenadiers were killed in the battle and for the past 30 years their deaths have been commemorated in the town.

By September 4th 1944 the Guards Armoured Division was pushing on to Brussels and their rear, comprising the Light Aid Detachment and Technical Department, had reached the town of Lessines in Belgium. A large group of

Germans advanced on the town towards the LAD/ Technical teams and a fight ensued. Moving on from Pont-a-Marcq, The King's Company and No 2 Squadron entered the town and supported the LAD/ Technical teams in defeating the Germans and liberating the town which is 20 miles south of Brussels.

In 2015 a party from Pont-a-Marcq, including a Grenadier Guards detachment led by 2Lt Robbie Laing and King's Company Grenadier **Albert Green** were invited to Lessines. There, both Town Mayors laid wreaths and attended a reception to celebrate the 71st anniversary



Albert Green giving his signature.

of the town's liberation. Twinning of the Old Comrades Associations in the two towns was suggested and discussions continued over the next few months leading to an agreement in 2016. Both Mayors were aware that Albert Green was the sole representative of The King's Company able to attend the ceremonies and asked that he take on a senior role during the twinning ceremonies.

On Saturday 3rd September 2016 a ceremony held in Pont-a-Marcq was attended by Mayoral officials and French and Belgian Anciens Combattants (AC) representatives of both towns. Mayor Daniel Cambier and AC President Michel Crohen were present for Pont-a-Marcq and Deputy Mayor Dimitri Wittenberg and AC President Luc Delhove represented Lessines. After some speeches, formal scrolls and papers were signed by all present including **Albert Green**.

The key role played in France and Belgium by the Grenadier Guards in 1944 and subsequent years which



The signed Scroll.

were referred to in both Mayoral speeches, continues to be reinforced by such events and shows how grateful the towns of Northern France and neighbouring Belgium are for the effect that these efforts had on the future of their communities.

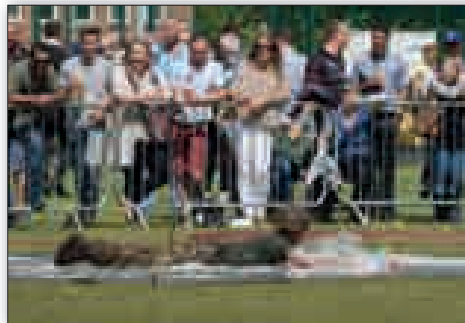


The official party comprising from the left: Daniel Cambier (Mayor of Pont-a-Marcq), Michel Crohen (President of Pont-a-Marcq Anciens Combattants), Albert Green, Dimitri Wittenberg (Deputy Mayor of Lessines) and Luc Delhove (President of Lessines Anciens Combattants).

GRENADIER DAY 2016



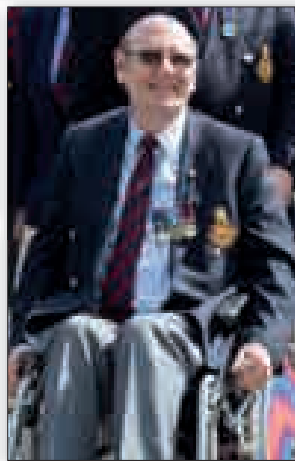
Clockwise from the top: The Band gets us off to a fine start; LSgt Mark Smith; The Colonel enjoying Grenadier company; Ninja Guardsmen; Pronto and Mrs Anne McKinnon; Tea and Beer.



REGIMENTAL REMEMBRANCE DAY 2016



Clockwise from the top: Leaving for Horse Guards; Families gathered by the Guards Memorial; Dave Welling and Richard Grocott; Pacing the Minutes; Joe Marshall; Anita Latham with Norman Mitchell; Major and Mrs Baker.



The Patron's Lunch

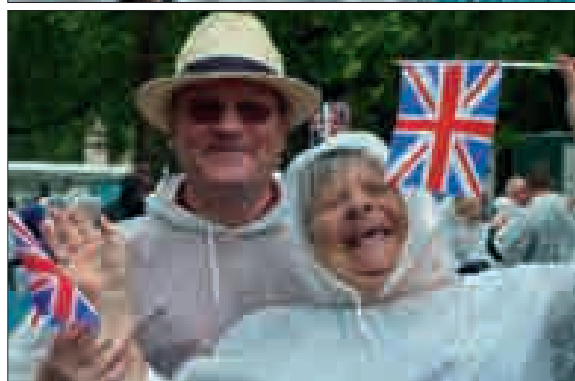
by Bob Goodson

On Sunday 12 June 2016 at the invitation of Regimental Headquarters, **Janice and Alan Maslin** (Wessex), **Bob and Sue Goodson** (East Kent), **Bob and Pamela Fallon** (Manchester), **Colin and Elaine Knight** (Gloucestershire), **Anne and Joe Marshall** (Lincoln) and **David and Helen Robins** (North Staffordshire) attended The Patron's Lunch on The Mall.

The Patron's Lunch was the first of its kind and was the biggest street party ever seen on the Mall. It was held in honour of Her Majesty's 90th birthday and was staged to celebrate her patronage of more than 600 charities and organisations around the world; the Grenadier Guards Association being one of those charities.

The day commenced somewhat overcast and just as the entry gates opened at 10am, so too did the heavens and it poured down. This made the security checks a little more difficult as printed tickets and proof of address very soon turned to papier mâché.

None the less, we all made it to our table, donned the issued Patron's Lunch ponchos, or wore our waterproof clothing. Seats were then upturned in an effort to dry them off a little and hampers and 'goodie' bags were collected from our allocated collection point 9. For some inexplicable reason, this was some 300 metres away from our table despite collection point 12 being very close by, but at least the additional exercise built up our appetites, burnt some calories and boosted our metabolism. Cups of tea and coffee were collected and, in an



Top: Joe Marshall and above: Bob and Pam Fallon all in party mood.

effort to keep things a little drier, we stowed our accumulated goods underneath our table, all the time trying to keep them clear of the 'river' that, because of the heavy rain, now flowed beneath the table and seemed to get wider by the minute.



The Association Group together on the Mall.

The carnival-style procession along the centre of the Mall commenced at midday, but due to the persistent rain, the majority of participants were also wearing ponchos or capes. None the less, everyone entered into the spirit of the day and clapped and cheered the parade participants as they passed by. Then came the time to rescue our Marks & Spencer supplied hampers from our 'river' and we were impressed that none of the contents had got wet. This was not due to our superior field skills, but to the cleverness of M&S who had designed their hampers with an insulated and zipped lining. The contents of the hamper were delicious, and there was a lot to eat in each one – well done M&S.

By 2pm the rain had eased



and just as members of the Royal Family left Buckingham Palace to join us on the Mall, the sun came out and ponchos were able to be removed. His Royal Highness Prince Andrew came along our side of the Mall, whilst their Royal Highnesses Princess Eugenie and Princess Beatrice took the other side. They shook hands and spoke with a great number of people, including those representing our Association.



Prince Andrew near the Grenadier Guards Association table on the Mall.

Her Majesty and The Colonel left Buckingham Palace a while later and drove along the Mall in an open top Range Rover; it was lovely to see them looking so well. Their guests waved flags, cheered and clapped as they passed by and they returned the compliment by waving back and smiling.



Her Majesty and The Colonel in their open top Range Rover.

From a podium near Horse Guards Road, His Royal Highness Prince William gave a speech and the National Anthem was sung. Her Majesty and The Colonel were then driven back along the Mall to more waving, cheering and flag waving. They then took their places at a VIP seating area in front of the Victoria Memorial and it was then time for the parade to begin again. Now blessed by bright sunshine, ponchos and capes were no more and the parade was more colourful and the participants were freer to move and be seen. Once again, the guests cheered and clapped as they passed by and we even spotted some Grenadier Guardsmen that were taking part.

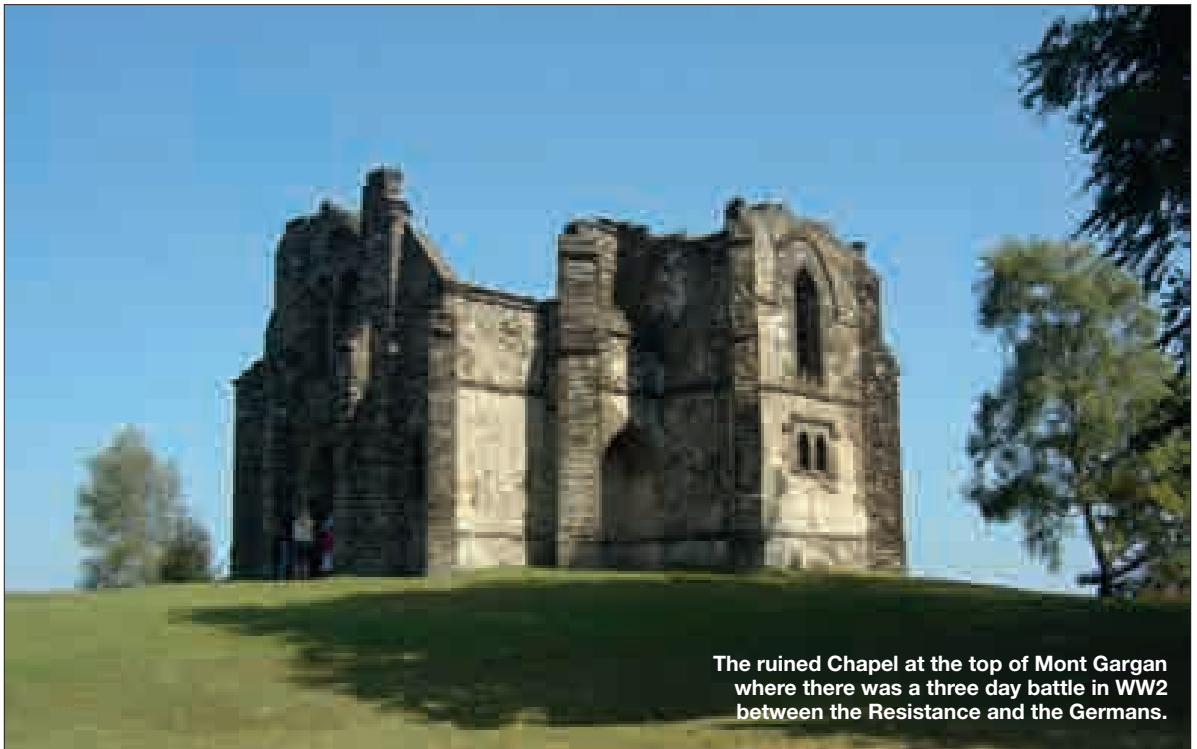


Grenadiers on parade.

Once Her Majesty and the other members of the Royal Family had returned to Buckingham Palace it was then time for everyone to leave and we gathered together our mostly empty hampers, the contents from our sodden 'freebie' bags and our other belongings and made our way homeward or back to our hotels; most of us in footwear still squelching from the deluge.

We may have been a trifle wet throughout the day, but our spirits were not dampened. We had a wonderful day at an historic occasion that we will never see again and we are all very grateful to Regimental Headquarters for extending the invitation to us to attend.

We hope that Her Majesty also enjoyed the day and trust that she had a wonderful 90th birthday. We wish her many Happy Returns.

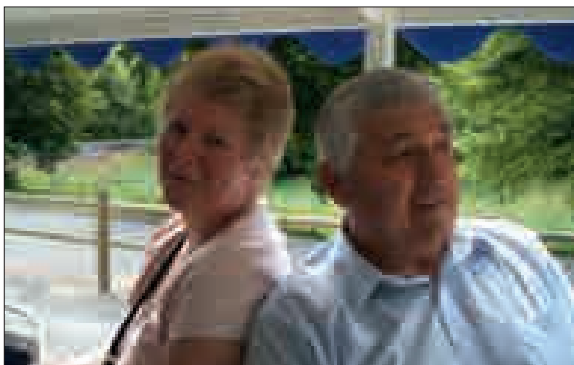


The ruined Chapel at the top of Mont Gargan where there was a three day battle in WW2 between the Resistance and the Germans.

Life in a Small French Village

by Mary and Trevor Rolfe

We're beginning our story in March when, after the quiet and shutdown of Winter, everything suddenly springs to life. The village gite is occupied and the gardens begin to bloom with spring flowers and vegetables. A carrier bag appears on the terrace overnight and we open it to find a plethora of cabbages, onions and potatoes. We



Mary and Trevor in the Summer of 2016.

are home in France.

The tiny village is 800 metres away across the fields but a tractor has passed by and seen the car, so everyone knows that we are back from a visit to England. Also, we have a standing agreement that we go to our neighbour for lunch on the day we return, so we hasten to complete the unloading of the car, before donning a suitable outfit for a celebratory meal. There, we are greeted by everyone, young and old, with four kisses, a mark of close family or friendship and we in turn, greet other friends as they arrive. We are fortunate to be their adopted English family.

The house is dusty but we 'bottom' it before tackling our extensive garden. Thank God for ride-on tractors, as I tackle the lawns and Mary starts on the flowerbeds. Over the years, we have planted hundreds of cuttings, bulbs and plants. Some have thrived but others have been eaten or are just not suited to the dry, stony soil. Its beef country here and the herds are back in the fields, gorging on the fresh grass and giving us an idyllic feeling of wellbeing.

We walk Charlie, meeting the local farmers en route. They sound their horns and give us a wave or stop, not to discuss the weather, as in England, but to ask have we found any mushrooms this year. Mushrooming is a national pastime and woe betide anyone who finds and takes one from your area. Cepes are the most prolific and Roberte proudly tells us that he found one of 800 grammes last week. Also, that there are two by our back gate and

we should pick them now before they become too old. We hasten to do this before we are told again. Hosting a soirée one evening, we are given a carrier of the more elusive and expensive girolles. We share a guilty grin with Rene, as everyone bemoans the lack of mushrooms this year.

We live here, in the heart of France, the Massif Central; Resistance Country. Our elderly neighbours all had family members in the Resistance, who lived with The Occupation and worked with such people as Violet Szabo and incidentally, Lillian Rolfe (no relation). The local history fascinates us but the stories do not come easily and it is only now that we are trusted friends and family, do we get to hear of the victims of the Nazis and the background to the Battle of Mont Gargan or the extermination of the village of Oradour sur Glane.

In Summer, everyone works together cutting and harvesting the grass, which is turned, gathered into half ton balls and left to dry, before being wrapped in plastic. Having shown interest, I am invited to drive the huge John Deere bailing machine and find a new experience, looking forward at the line of dry 'hay' and towards where I am driving, whilst concentrating on the ball which is forming behind me and must drop exactly in line with the others. It makes collecting them so much quicker, I am told. My first and second attempts are slightly lopsided and are greeted with a grunt but my third elicits a 'Bon'. Praise indeed!

Lunch is served 'en famille', everyone who works together, eats together. We gather for aperitifs! Then fourteen to twenty two sit and enjoy the local cuisine. My French has improved immensely but when several rapid conversations are taking place across and around the table, it is an effort to focus on and understand what my closest neighbours are saying.

Barbeques are held after hay-making and a cow or pig is generally slaughtered for the event. The Limousan Boeuf is world famous and it is certainly the most delicious and tender meat we have ever enjoyed. At one event, the farmer was slicing fine pieces of uncooked fillet and serving them with olive oil. Absolutely mouthwatering carpaccio! We are asked do we want any meat – a cow is to be butchered the following week, on Thursday. We arrive as requested at 6pm to find the local butcher carving a side of beef. His wife weighs the pieces and divides them fairly into boxes, so that everyone receives a piece of fillet, a couple of joints, entrecôte steaks, pieces for the grill, pieces for a pot au feu and some mince. The room fills as we stand and chat, no one is in a hurry to leave and boxes are passed from hand to hand to be stored in the butcher's refrigerated truck, for those unable to come until later.

August, and the cherries are ready for picking. The neighbouring village holds a cherry festival each year and because ours are small and therefore, difficult to de-stone,



A festive John Deere – this one was for a wedding.

we buy several kilos. No one visits emptied handed, so home made jams, chutneys and cakes are our way of saying thank you, for the multitude of jobs for which we have received helping hands.

Having decided to put drainage in the bottom garden, I hired 'the man with the bulldozer' to dig the trenches but, once my nearest neighbor had discovered what we were up to, along came several of the local farmers, with their sons, to help lay the pipes and anchor them in the ground, before the bulldozer could push the earth back on top of them. We host a barbeque the following week to profess our thanks and to offer our help in return, should they need it.

September sees the grapes ready to be harvested (we do this before the wasps can suck them dry) and the walnuts falling, so that they are easy to collect and we take bags with us each time we venture out. We picked the young walnuts in early June, to pickle in readiness for Christmas. Then in October, the Marrons (Chestnuts) are in full season. We are told that the young ones, the Chataignes, are the tastiest but we do not have the fine palate that tells the difference. This life is self-sufficiency, with a difference!

As the leaves fall and our vista changes from the vibrant greens to the reds and oranges of Autumn, we stand on the terrace, smelling the wood smoke and looking out over the countryside. The cranes are passing overhead, off to their Winter quarters, hundreds of them in their V-formations, calling to the stragglers to keep them in line. A tractor passes along the skyline and we think how lucky we are to be here, before closing the shutters and going indoors to the warmth of our own wood fire.

Assistant Editor's Note: Readers will be aware that Capt Trevor Rolfe was General Secretary of the Association from 2003 to 2011. Trevor and Mary now spend much of their retirement in France and were asked to write this article by the current incumbent at the suggestion of George Turton.

The Staffordshire & West Midlands Army Cadet Force

by *2Lt Simon Protano –
County Public Relations Officer*

The Army Cadets from Staffordshire & West Midlands (NS) ACF, who proudly wear the Cap Badge of the Grenadier Guards have once again had a truly fantastic year representing 11th Signal & West Midlands Brigade at a number of high profile events across the UK.

Instantly recognisable in their bright red tunics and bearskins, the cadets are the show piece of the county as they constantly show off both their military skills and musical talents. For one outstanding cadet the year started with the recognition of her abilities as **Cadet Drum Major Megan Pugh** was appointed the National Cadet Senior Drum Major. Senior cadets from all over the UK were brought together in what was a fiercely fought competition, judged by serving members of the Army School of Ceremonial during a week-long national Music Camp.

The time and commitment required by cadets that join the County's Corps of Drums goes well above what is normally expected from other cadets. With a busy schedule of performances the cadets have outdone themselves performing at such events as the Stoke Military Tattoo in support of the ABF, The Soldiers' Charity where the audience was treated to a spectacular evening's entertainment with the cadets clearly stealing the show from the moment they marched on. Due to their national reputation, the Corps of Drums also perform



National Cadet Senior Drum Major Megan Pugh.

outside their own county on a regular basis which this year included playing at Altcar Training Camp on behalf of the North West Reverse Forces' and Cadets' Association as they thanked the local community for supporting four accommodation 'PODS' for the use of injured servicemen and women during their recovery.

The Commandant, **Colonel Ric Logan**, has been extremely keen to promote music across the county due to the original success of C Company and consequently a strong expansion plan this year has witnessed a further three additional Corps of Drums being established including another Grenadier Detachment in B Company.

This year's annual camp was held at Longmoor Training Camp witnessed over 600 cadets and Cadet Force



Cadets at the National Memorial Arboretum.

Adult Volunteers attend one of the most action packed weeks in recent years. Cadets from the Corps of Drums replaced their tunics with MTP and camouflage cream as they occupied the Urban Training Area and set up camp.

During camp the cadets received a very special visitor, as **Major General R J A Stanford MBE**, General Officer Commanding Regional Command visited the cadets to gain a better understanding of how so much training is fitted in to just one week. Major General Stanford said 'It is great to see what the ACF provides, the many opportunities for young adults male and female, clearly helps them to develop life skills, which is truly fantastic'.

The motto of the ACF is 'inspire to achieve' and so it has been important that the cadets were rewarded for their hard work with visits to the Colonel's Review of the Queen's Birthday Parade and the Edinburgh Tattoo. **Capt Carina Spence**, the County Music Officer said 'It is important that we give back to the cadets for their hard work and letting them see, what for many will be a once in a lifetime opportunity, is our way of thanking them'



Cadets from B and C Company in London for the Colonel's Review.

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A Trip Down Memory Lane

by Ron Keeble

I thought perhaps some of our readership might be interested to hear about a recent event in my life.

My eldest Granddaughter wanted to take me, with her family, to Windsor Castle and show them where I had once stood on Guard. So, on the 27th October 2016 during the half-term holidays eight of us including three of my Great

Grandchildren went along to this wonderful historic place which was rather busy to say the least.

Unbeknown to me my Granddaughter had been in touch with the authorities at Windsor Castle explaining that I was a 94 year old Grenadier who had stood Guard on the Royal Family during 1943 as a member of the Castle Company and asked if they could make it a special day for me.

We arrived at 1030am and were met by a



Ron with his Granddaughter Sarah and their very special guide Capt Ben Everist.



Ron Keeble on Guard again after 73 years.

Grenadier – **Capt H M (Ben) Everist** in his capacity as a Castle Warden. Ben Guided and stayed with us for the whole visit gaining pride of place wherever we went and we were afforded a special place away from the crowds to watch the Changing of the Guard.

When I found out about what had been done for me I became a rather emotional 94 year old – a truly memorable day.

A Very Special Birthday Surprise for Barrie Fleming

1992 marked the 50th Anniversary of the then Princess Elizabeth being appointed Colonel of the Regiment by her late father, King George VI. The Grenadier Guards Association was asked to forward suggestions as to an appropriate gift to mark the occasion. **Barrie Fleming**, then Chairman of The Wessex Branch, suggested an avenue of 50 Hornbeam Trees. His idea was accepted and on St George's Day 1992, an invitation was extended to him to attend the planting ceremony in the private grounds at Windsor Castle.

It was a splendid occasion and since then thoughts had often wandered as to how the avenue of trees had survived. Unbeknown to **Barrie**, his 10 year old granddaughter **Alicia**, wrote to Her Majesty in April

2016 wishing Her 'A Happy 90th Birthday', and asked whether it would be possible for her Granddad, as an 80th Birthday surprise, to view the trees (now known as Grenadier Avenue).

Alicia was so excited to receive a reply from a Lady-in-Waiting saying yes to a lovely idea and that arrangements would be made. How does a 10 year old keep a secret? But she did and

Barrie, Alicia, Chloe and June Fleming with the Hornbeam trees.

sprung the surprise on Granddad the day prior to the family meeting in London. There was great excitement the night before when they went along to see 'Charlie and the Chocolate Factory'. The following day, **Alicia**, accompanied by her Granddad, Grandma and elder sister, **Chloe**, went along to the Castle and spent two wonderful hours in the private grounds and Windsor Great Park being driven around by one of the Queen's Head Rangers. What stories to tell her school friends – and Granddad was quite happy too!

As a footnote **Alicia** wrote a special thank you letter to Her Majesty expressing her thanks for a marvellous and memorable day for the whole family. Two letters from Her Majesty's Lady-in-Waiting and a photograph of Her Majesty are now in **Alicia's** Treasure Box.



Above: Her Majesty planting one of the 50 Hornbeam trees. Below: Her Majesty The Queen, Brigadier Michael Bayley, Major General Bernard Gordon-Lennox, The Colonel, Capt Barry Double, Major Sam Weaver and Barrie Fleming at Windsor.



The Gold Sergeant and The Russian Defector

by 'Old Cyril'

Her Majesty Queen Victoria regularly attended The Royal Opera during her long and distinguished reign. On one particular occasion she was '**not amused**' by the performance of male actors portraying soldiers in a particular Opera. It seems that she felt that they were too effeminate – 'mincing' when they were supposed to be marching!

Accordingly, the Monarch ordered that the part of soldiers in future productions at The Royal Opera House would be restricted to the Household Brigade stationed in London, to ensure that an element of military smartness and bearing would grace future performances. A Battalion of Scots Guards was stationed in Wellington Barracks at that time and that Regiment was tasked with finding smart Guardsmen whenever the role of soldiers was to form part of the Royal Opera. The Scots Guards Regimental Headquarters faithfully continued with this task for several generations, well into the 20th century.

Over the ensuing years, the Royal Opera House in Covent Garden also maintained this tradition. Indeed, the Royal Command was misinterpreted to include other 'extras' when actors were in short supply – or even when numbers became financially prohibitive – and – eventually, certain 'non-dancing' roles were even added to the Royal Ballet.

In the early 1970s, several factors came together to form a volatile mixture.

Trade Unions were becoming increasingly powerful, Soldiers' Pay was far from generous, Arts subsidies were reduced in each Budget and the funding for Covent Garden was at a very low point. In particular, Stage Hands and ancillary staff throughout the West End were becoming increasingly militant in their demands for improved pay and conditions.

Cyril was a Grenadier serving in Wellington Barracks in the early 1970s and family finances were a constant concern, particularly after the birth of a second child. So, when offered additional money to appear as an 'extra' at Covent Garden, he accepted with alacrity.

There followed numerous roles – in particular the Grand March from Aida, when a large group of extras (mainly Guardsmen) marched across the stage from Left to Right – then (quietly!) doubled around behind the scenery – and appeared again (perhaps wearing a different headdress) and going around yet again to create a spectacular victory march.

The 'crunch' came at a truly fabulous production of *Romeo and Juliet* by the Royal Ballet.

The nation's Prima Ballerina, *Dame Margot Fonteyn* (well into her fifties but still at the peak of her dancing skills) was brilliantly playing the part of the fourteen year old Juliet. She was partnered with the spectacularly

athletic but highly temperamental Russian defector, *Rudolf Nureyev*.

With such great international stars, the production was an absolute 'sell out' – and it was hoped it would bring in much needed revenue for The Royal Opera House.

Cyril was cast in several crowd scenes as a humble (non-dancing) extra.

In the 'fight scene' Nureyev entered from the Left strumming a Lute – which he would place on a chair just inside the opposite wing before returning to centre stage to engage in a frantic and extremely acrobatic sword duel.

After killing his opponent – he would collect his stringed instrument and exit back across the stage, once again strumming the Lute, to a huge ovation each night.

In this scene, Cyril was mingling with several other extras, uttering 'ooh and agh' sounds and reacting suitably with flapping arms, as the fight progressed.

On the fatal night, Nureyev placed his Lute on the chair, as directed BUT when he returned to collect it – **CALAMITY!** – The Lute and chair had vanished! In their place, lounging in the wings was a scruffy young Stage Hand, innocently watching the performance.

The emotionally volatile star completely 'lost it' and physically attacked the Stage Hand, wildly punching and kicking him.

The young Cyril, anticipating whole-scale Industrial Action by the Unions and possibly a damaging Strike, swiftly left the stage – grabbed Rudolph Nureyev by the throat and forcibly pulled him off the lad. Using traditional NCO skills Cyril gave him a whispered 'fortune telling' and physically threw him back on the stage for his exit.

Fortunately, the audience were completely unaware of this mini-drama and Nureyev received his customary applause as he stomped off stage – sans Lute!

Cyril was mortified. He returned to the Performers' Bar for a fortifying pint.

Hardly had he taken a swig of his beer when the Scots Guards NCO i/c extras instructed Cyril, in no uncertain terms, that he was required to report immediately to Stella, the much respected Stage Manager.

Stella (despite being a short slim lady) terrified Opera Divas, Prima Ballerinas and Guardsmen alike. She had the verbal dexterity and authority of a Garrison Sergeant Major! 'Come with me' she spat!

Cyril, (expecting to be arrested for assaulting the star of the show), grimly plodded behind her in disgrace. The route was unfamiliar and involved numerous corridors and several flights of stairs. The 'prisoner and escort' finally halted at a large door. Stella rapped on the door commandingly and to Cyril's horror it was opened by the great Rudolph Nureyev himself.

Stella said sharply, 'Haven't you anything to say?' – to Cyril's stunned amazement this demanding question was addressed NOT to him, but to Rudolph Nureyev!

Mr Nureyev – the most famous international male dancer – offered his hand and profusely thanked Cyril (in

broken English) for his prompt action in saving the scene! Furthermore, he invited Cyril into his Dressing Room and gave him a drink (Champagne). After a brief and embarrassing conversation, Nureyev scurried off to 'see Madam' in her Dressing Room, returning with an ornate Royal Opera House 'Romeo and Juliet' Programme duly signed by both stars, which he promptly presented to Cyril as a memento.

The stunned and speechless Cyril was also formally congratulated by Stella and – to total amazement of his fellow Guardsmen in the Performers Bar – was publically

bought a drink by the formidable Stage Manager, a previously unheard of accolade!

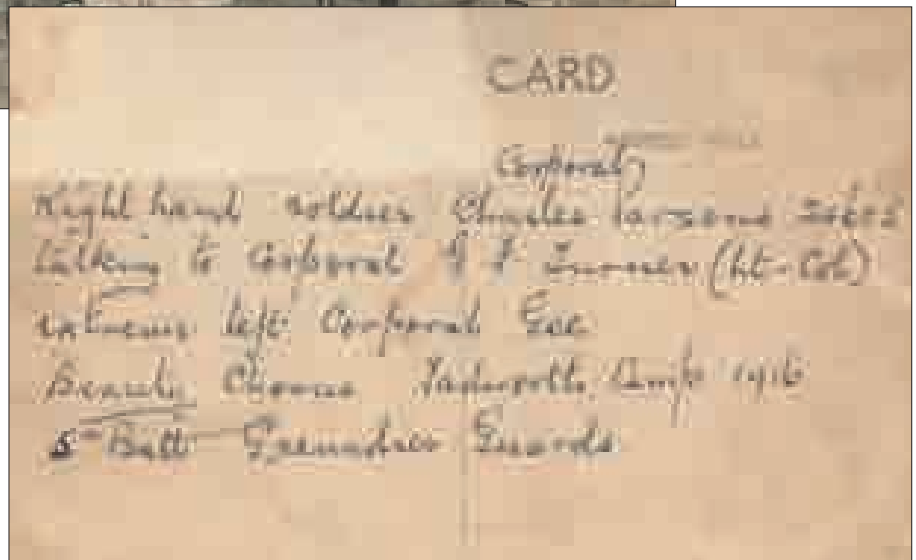
Sadly, like all good things, the days of Guardsmen performing as extras at Covent Garden are long gone. The Actors' Union Equity eventually threatened a strike throughout the West End unless the practice ceased.

Never the less, one or two 'old and bold' still have golden memories of appearing on stage with International Stars of both Opera and Ballet, even if no one ever believes us!

Tidworth Beauty Chorus 5th Battalion 1916



Submitted to the Assistant Editor by Major Philip Wright and Capt Alan Ogden for the interest and amusement of our readership.



Khayat Beach War Cemetery

by *Barry Forsdike*

I am a former Grenadier and a member of the Suffolk Branch. My brother Arthur and I promised our Mother before she passed away three years ago, that we would one day visit the grave of her brother Reg near Haifa who was killed in Israel in 1948. Reg was not a Grenadier but served with the Royal Artillery.

Haifa was of great strategic importance during the Second World War because of its deep water harbour and airfield. It was also the terminus of the railway line from Egypt and of the Kirkuk-Haifa oil pipeline. Haifa became one of the main supply bases and arms depots serving the Middle East forces and a large naval depot was established at Haifa Bay.

The cemetery was prepared in 1941 for the burial of service war dead in northern Palestine (now Israel) but graves were also brought in from Haifa (Sharon) British Civil Cemetery, from Mafrog Cemetery in the former Trans-Jordan and from Dafna Cemetery in Syria. Among the Merchant Navy seamen buried in the cemetery are those who lost their lives when the SS 'Zealand' was torpedoed off the coast of Palestine on 28 June 1942.

The cemetery now contains 691 Commonwealth burials of the Second World War, and 91 war graves of other nationalities.

Among the 95 non-war burials in the cemetery are some men of the Merchant Navy who died during the war, but whose deaths were not due to war service. However, the majority of the non-war graves are of soldiers who died during disturbances preceding the end of the British Mandate in Palestine in May 1948.

As I understood there were a number of Grenadiers buried in the cemetery I advertised details of our visit on the

internet promising to take photos for anyone who might be interested; two old Grenadiers who served out in Palestine replied and they now have their pictures.

All the photographs I took of the graves of Grenadiers are shown here and if there is anyone reading this that would like a copy I would be very glad to help. Please drop me a line at: barryforsdike49@gmail.com Thank you.



Barry Forsdike pictured with two local men who help maintain the Cemetery.



Khayat Beach War Cemetery.

Regimental Athletics Part 1: 1949–1985

by WO2 Alan Hughes

With WW2 behind them, military forces were able to settle down to life in a peace time role. Commanders (at all levels) were faced with the difficult task of occupying the men under their command and sport was a major factor in their planning.

The Regiment would rise to the challenge and, over the next 60 years, they would go on to produce a wide range of sporting champions. In the Bobsleigh, Capt Robin Dixon (3rd Battalion) became Olympic Champion at the 1964 Winter Olympic Games in Innsbruck, Austria. In boxing, Jack Gardner would go on to become the Heavyweight Champion of Great Britain, the British Empire, and Europe, and the 1st Battalion would excel in basketball, swimming and shooting. However the sport the Regiment would have the most success in was Athletics. The 2nd Battalion led the way and would go on to become a major force in Army Athletics for over 35 years.

The Regiment would produce 15 Army Individual Champions (AIC) more than any other Major unit, set Army records in both the Army Major Inter-Unit Championships (AMI-UC) and the AIC, some of which are still held to the present day.

Members of the Regiment would go on to represent the Combined Services (CS), their own counties and also Hong Kong in the Asian games, setting national records throughout. They reached the AMI-UC no fewer than 19 times, this is a record for any Major Unit and one the Regiment should be extremely proud of. This notable success began in 1949.

The 2nd Battalion would produce many outstanding field event athletes; the first of which was LCpl Peter Jones (later CSM). He won the Discus AIC in 1949 with a throw of 37.18m and was the first member of the Regiment to become Army Champion. He then served as Field Coach for the next 15 years with his legacy lasting well into the Eighties. He would become the only athlete in Regimental history to win the Outstanding Field Event Athlete at the AIC which he achieved in 1949.

From 1950 through to 1952, the 2nd Battalion were stationed in West Germany. In that time they won the British Army Of the Rhine (BAOR) Championships every year and in the 1952 Championships they broke no fewer than 5 BAOR records and finished second three times in the AMI-UC. This was a big disappointment to all team members; however there were outstanding individual performances during this period. In particular from LCpl Ron Marsh (later Sgt) who was a first class sprinter. He would become the Regiment's second Army Champion when winning the Army 100 yard and 220 yard races in

1951 with very respectable times of 10.1secs and 22.0 secs respectively. He then won the 220 yard race again in 1951 in a time of 22.1secs and would go on to represent the Army and Combined Services (CS) in 1952. In 1973 LCpl Marsh was honoured by the Army Athletes Association when they invited him to present the winning medals to the winners of the 100m and 200m at the AIC.

Another outstanding field event athlete was Gdsm P Horn (later LSgt) who became the Regiment's third Army champion when he won the Shot Put at the AIC in 1951, 1952 and 1953. He is one of only 3 members of the Regiment to win the AIC for 3 successive years and his best distance was 13.71m. The fourth member of the Regiment to become Army Champion during this period was LCpl Dixon. He ran a time of 28.1sec in the 220 yard Hurdles in 1952. It was the only time in Regimental athletic history that the 2nd Battalion would have 4 Army Champions in the team at the same time.

In 1959 the Battalion would once again be posted to Germany, this time at Wuppertal. With two outstanding coaches; Sgt John Dyke who himself was a first class Sprinter and responsible for the track team and Sgt Peter Jones who was still at the helm of the Field Team. They immediately began to assemble the Athletic Team.

Not for the first time in the Regiment's sporting history, the Commanding Officer struck off the entire Athletics Team from all duties. This led to the Master Cook of the day, Bernard Pycroft christening the Athletics Team 'the Jock Strappers'.

The team strived for athletic success which they achieved by repeating the success of the 1950, 1951 and 1952 teams by winning the BAOR Championships in 1959, 1960 and 1961. The 1960 AMI-UC was the closest fought final for many years between 1st Battalion Parachute Regiment and the 2nd Battalion. It went down to the last event; the 4x440 yards which the Paratroopers won by inches and, in doing so, set a new Army record. Another Army record set that day was the Hammer record when Sgt Des Hart and I threw 86.16m.

The 1961 BAOR final was a historic athletic event because the Championships were held on the warm-up track which lay in the shadow of the 1936 Olympic Stadium in Berlin. To get there the teams had to travel by train through the Russian controlled part of (the then) East Germany. At the Border checkpoints, members of the Battalion team exchanged their Parade Magazines (the girly magazine of the day) for the Russian Guards' cap badges which delayed the train by hours.

The Battalion would reach the AMI-UC in all those years (1959–1961) however, once again, they finished second in all 3 years. The finals of the 1961 Championships will be remembered for two completely different reasons; for the first time in the history of the Championships, three Guards Battalions competed in the final (the 2nd Battalion, 1st Battalion Welsh Guards and 1st Battalion Scots Guards) and there had never been

more than two previously. 1961 saw the disbandment of 3 Training Regiment Royal Engineers who, for many years, had been proficient winners in Army athletics. They decided to try and win every event which they almost did; winning 13 events and coming second in 4 others. There were a lot of internal transfers made by the RE that year. The second reason is by finishing 2nd it was the Battalion's worst ever defeat at the AMI-UC losing by 44 points.

Once again it was not all bad news. There were some outstanding performances by individuals in the team. In 1960 I would set a new BAOR Hammer record with a throw of 48.01m. In 1961 and 1962 I won the AIC Hammer event with a best throw of 50.18m and so became the Regiment's fifth Army Champion. I would go on to represent the Army, the CS, Surrey County and the Amateur Athletic Association (AAA).

During the next ten years the Hammer, Discus and Long Jump Teams would all dominate the AMI-UC. The Hammer Team in the Sixties was never beaten at any Command level. They won the Team Event 6 times at the AMI-UC and set the Army record no fewer than 4 times. In 1966 they set the record with a distance of 90.35m however that would only last until 1969, when the Guards Depot Hammer Team (made up of 2 Grenadiers; myself and LCpl Geoff Tancred) won with a distance of 98.65m; a record that still stands today. The Discus Teams won at 4 of the Championships, setting a new Army record of 80.06m 1967. The Long Jump teams also won the Championships on 4 occasions.

In September 1967 a team of 31 of the Army's top athletes flew to Germany to take part in a historic athletic meeting between the British Army and the German Army. The event was held in Sennelager and it was a blazing hot day with temperatures well into the eighties.

Both Armies put out their strongest team; the British Team having 5 GB internationals and the German Team having 7. The Regiment were the only Infantry Regiment to have more than one representative in the team. They were Lt (later Colonel) Euan Houstoun and I. Lt Houstoun had competed in 3 Olympic Games (sailing) and was once a reserve for the GB Team in the 60m Hurdles. He finished second in the 120 yard Hurdles and I finished a poor third in the Hammer (with a throw of 49.80m). The German Army won by 6 points and the event has never been repeated.

In 1969, the Battalion had the first Sprinter to win a Track Event at the AIC for 16 years and, in doing so, became the Regiment's sixth Army Champion. His name was LCpl Mel Ford and he won the 400m Hurdles with a time of 54.4sec. That time would only ever be beaten twice in the Championships in the next 47 years. In 1970 he moved up to the 800m Hurdles and won the Championships with a time of 1m 54sec. He would also represent both the Army and CS.

1970 saw the arrival of one of the Regiment's most

outstanding Athletes; Gdsm (later Sgt) Glyn Ratcliff. He would dominate Regimental and Army Discus throwing for the next 10 years. When winning the AIC in 1970, he became the Regiment's seventh Army Champion and would go on to win the AIC from 1971-75 and 1977-79. He came 2nd in the CS championships in 1975 with what for him was a poor throw of 48.86m (He was a 50m thrower); he was ranked in the top 15 UK Discus throwers for that year.

1971 and 1972 saw the 2nd Battalion in British Honduras. Athletic success continued when the Battalion took on the Belize Athletic Association team and won. Major John O'Connell (later Col) a 5000m runner had the responsibility for the Track Team and I looked after the Field Events Team.

1974 was eventful in many ways. It was the first time the 2nd Battalion won the Field Event Cup at the AMI-UC and finishing overall 2nd scoring 262 points. This score would not be beaten by any winning team in the championships until 2000. The team also went on to win the Field Event Cup in 1977.

In the same year the Army Athletic Committee made the decision to reduce the number of AMI-UC competitors from 4 to 2 for each event. They hoped it would make it easier for Major Units to enter the Championships. That year also illustrated that being 'struck off' from all duties was alive and well, as remembered by Lt R E H Aubrey-Fletcher (later Colonel). He was an excellent 400m runner himself and, upon arrival at the 2nd Battalion from Sandhurst, was told by the then Commanding Officer Lieutenant Colonel David Fanshawe that, until the Battalion had won the AMI-UC, he did not expect to see him in any order of dress other than tracksuit! The Battalion would have to wait 11 years to achieve that aim. Gdsm C Jeffers won the Shot at the Army Junior Championships with a throw of 14.32m which is still the record and he was awarded the Field Event Cup.

In 1976, the 2nd Battalion found itself in Hong Kong and athletic success continued both for the Team and individuals. The Battalion took on (and beat) a strong Hong Kong representative Team. I set a new Hong Kong All-comers Hammer record with a throw of 49.82m but not for the first time the star of the meeting was LCpl John Taylor (later LSgt) winning the 110m Hurdles, Long Jump, Triple Jump, and the High Jump. As a result of this meeting, Sgt Glyn Ratcliffe was selected to represent Hong Kong in the Asian games, held in the Philippines. He collected a Gold medal in the Discus, Silver in the Shot and a remarkable Bronze in the Hammer.

1977 was a memorable year in many ways because, in early May, a friendly Athletics Meeting between the 1st and 2nd Battalion took place for the first time ever. It was held at Pirbright and, with the help of Grenadier staff from the Depot, was made into a Regimental occasion. The 2nd Battalion won the day by a few points.

The Battalions would meet once again that month, this

time in the Lawson Cup. They were joined by the Guards Depot and the 1st Battalion Scots Guards. A great day of athletics saw the 2nd Battalion win, with the Guards Depot finishing second. I broke the Lawson Cup record for the Hammer (with a 47.82m throw) as did Sgt Glyn Ratcliffe in the Discus, throwing 45.55m. Not to be outdone, the 4 x 100m Sprint Relay Team set a new record of 45.5sec.

The next meeting was at the AMI-UC in Aldershot, meeting the 'big guns' of Army Athletics; 21 Sigs Regiment, The 1st Battalion Cheshire Regiment, The 1st Battalion, The Royal Anglian Regiment and 7 Sig Regiment who, between them, had won the ATC no fewer than 17 times. It was not to be our year however as we finished outside the top two.

In 1982, the Regimental Band had their own outstanding Athlete; Musn Jean-Paul Wright. He came to the attention of the 2nd Battalion when he completed the New York Marathon in the excellent time of 2 hours and 54 minutes. He would be in the victorious 1984 winning team, running in the 10,000m.

1983 proved a successful year for LSgt John Taylor when he set the new Army record for the 110m Hurdles in a time of 14.3sec. In doing so, he became the Regiments eighth Army Champion. To date, that time remains the Army record but not for the CS (an investigation as to why not continues). His Army Long Jump record set in 1984 (of 7.43m) would not be beaten until 2012, and his 7.25m jump (to win the AIC in 1985) has never been beaten by any of the Championship winners to date.

1982 would also see the start of 4 of the most exciting years in the 2nd Battalion's athletic history. They involved the 2nd Battalion, Irish Guards and 50 MSLE Regt RA who, like the 2nd Battalion had a very good athletics record. The 2nd Battalion finished 3rd in 1982, 2nd in 1983, 1st in 1984 and 2nd again in 1985. In recent contact with the Irish Gds they still believe that, when the Battalion beat them in 1984, the 2nd Battalion had imported a Sprinter from the 1st Battalion, but after investigation this was found to be untrue. The last event of the day; was the 4 x 100m relay which the 2nd Battalion had to win to win the championships, which they did, the Micks finished 2nd which meant the Battalion beat them by 8 points. This was one of the smallest margins of victory ever recorded in the history of the ATC. The 2nd Battalion was involved in both the smallest margin of victory and also one of the largest in defeat. The Battalion at this time was commanded by Lieutenant Colonel John O'Connell (later Colonel) who himself had previously been a prominent member of the 5,000m team. He knew therefore what was required if the Battalion was going to achieve their ultimate aim of winning the AMI-UC.

In January 1984, training for the AMI-UC began. The team went to one of the most modern sports complexes in Europe (Paderborn, Germany), where they undertook

intensive team training. Upon their return, the Battalion teamed up with the Belgrave Harriers. The idea behind this was to give the Team valuable experience against first class civilian opposition. This proved successful because, at the Lawson Cup, the Battalion scored 228 points from a possible 234 – a record to this day. The Battalion then took on Sandhurst and a team from Colchester Garrison and, in June, the team moved to Pirbright to escape all forms of distractions, so on the 26th of June the team travelled to the championships full of confidence knowing that their training and preparation had been of the highest order and the majority of the team now had championship experience behind them.

Three members of the successful 1984 team would go on to win their events at the AIC. The first one being Musn Wright who showed his class as a long distance runner when, in 1988, he won the 10,000m and so became the Regiments ninth Army Champion. His time of 28.32min was the second fastest time ever recorded for the event and became the new Army record. It would take a G.B. international athlete to beat his time.

Musn Wright was followed by Gdsm Armstrong who won the 100m in the time of 10.6sec, making him the Regiment's tenth Army champion. He would also represent both the Army and CS that year and go on to represent Team GB in the 2 and 4 man Bobsleigh Teams at the 1988 Winter Olympic Games in Calgary.

Members of the Track Team do not have it all their own way. LCpl Wilkinson would become the eleventh Army Champion when he won the Shotgun with a throw of 12.98m.

No one who took part or attended the 1984 Army Championships that warm, July day realised they were witnessing the end of a sporting era. Although the Battalion qualified for the Final of the 1985 AMI-UC, they once again finished 2nd. This would be the last time the Regiment would ever reach the finals; their record being that they reached the finals 19 times, winning once, finishing 2nd 10 times and unplaced 8 times. This was the end of a glorious era during which talented individuals and teams all trained hard for, and were fully committed to, fulfilling the unique honour of representing sport with celebrated moments and lasting proud memories!

Part 2 will cover the period 1986–2017 and the complete set of Regimental Athletic records.

I would like say thank you to the following for their help and support in the production of this article: Army Athletics Association, Colonel Richard Aubrey-Fletcher, Capt Brain Carney, Master Thomas Duff, Colonel Andrew Duncan, Colonel Euan Houstoun, Colonel John O'Connell, Major Andy Green Secretary of the Association, Mr John Gowers, Lieutenant Colonel Henry Hanning and his book 'The British Grenadiers', the late Major Oliver Lindsey and his book 'Once a Grenadier', Mr Keith Smith, Mr Don Simpson, Mr Andy Clarkson of the Soldier Magazine, Mr Andy Reid for the loan of his copies of all the Grenadier Magazines and Mr John Taylor.

BRANCH NOTES

AYLESBURY & DISTRICT

(Formed 1929)

President: Mr L JEFFREY

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

Chairman: Mr D DOVER, Esq

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

Tel: (01296) 426506

Email: rgbakker@aol.com

Treasurer: Mr D HIBBLE, Esq

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

The Battle of the Somme began at 0730hrs on the 1st July 1916, here in Aylesbury the British Legion held it's Remembrance Service at the war memorial in Market Square, the Aylesbury & Distract Branch attended and laid a wreath. We would like to thank **Bob Litchfield** one of our stalwart Coldstream members for being with us, it was certainly an early roll call for our members to be on parade at, sadly it was spoilt by a security alarm from one of the shops that started just after 0735hrs and continued for 20 minutes drowning out voices and piercing our ears. Our Chairman **Don Dover** decided to do his duty and lay a wreath at Tring, that being the home town of **Edward Barber VC**.



Brian (Ned) Kelly with Chris Cook.

Grenadier Day was another success with a brilliant turn out on a warm and muggy afternoon. Our secretary **George Baker** travelled to Lille Barracks with a new member that had recently joined the Branch; **24636216 Chris Cook** who served with the 2nd Battalion and while walking around the grounds he spotted an old comrade **Sgt Brian Kelly** who served with both Battalions from 1982-2005. They were

delighted to see each other after 27 years and shared a few drinks at one of the beer tents whilst catching up on old times. As an added bonus both **Chris and George** were privileged to meet and shake hands with The Colonel.

Remembrance Day in November in Aylesbury town was well attended by the locals, servicemen and women young and old, from all different branches of the community who proudly respected all those who served our country during the First and Second World Wars; wreaths were placed and saluted. Aylesbury has a long history of servicemen that left their country to defend the Empire during the Boer War in Queen Victoria's reign. A monument still stands on Wendover Hill with the 3rd Battalion mentioned among others.

We mustered for Lunch at Pendley Manor in Tring where we enjoyed a small reunion with three tables laid out in one of the rooms. We sat down at 1300hrs and later our Chairman **Don Dover** proposed toasts to Her Majesty the Queen, The Royal Family and Grenadiers past and present. We were pleased to have **Douglas Miller Esq.** sitting with us and he was delighted to be able to attend.

Our Secretary **George Baker** was surprised to see himself on the front cover of the 'Best of British' April 2016 issue. George wrote to the editor and enclosed a photo of himself standing in the same position 44 years later at St James's Palace.



"Always a Grenadier"

After 44 years in uniform, it is a privilege to be featured in the 'Best of British' magazine. The article highlights the Grenadier Guards' role in the Queen's 90th birthday celebrations and the Grenadier Guards' contribution to the nation's heritage. The article also mentions the Grenadier Guards' role in the Queen's 90th birthday celebrations and the Grenadier Guards' contribution to the nation's heritage.



We reported the passing of **22445019 Geoffrey Brian Lee** back in 2015. We received letters from his solicitor advising us that his property was on the market to be sold and in his will he left money to nine charities one of which was our Branch. We learnt that Brian passed away on the 6th April 2015 at Luton and Dunstable Hospital, Luton.

Mr Laurie Jeffery informed our Secretary that **2624839 Arthur H Hilling** passed away at 0730hrs on 31st October 2016, he will be sadly missed; Lest We Forget.

BATH

(Formed 1952)

President: Major HA BAILLIE

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

Chairman: Mr V DUNNE

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

Tel: (01985) 219872

Email: vince.dunne3@sky.com

Treasurer: Mr A BILLETT

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

2016 was a busy year for the Branch with changes in most of the Committee posts taking place at our AGM on 15th April 2016. We then had the Branch traditional spring lunch on the 8th May which was held at Cumberwell Park Golf

Course, Bradford On Avon; a great lunch was enjoyed by over 65 members, friends and guests on a lovely spring day. The feedback was nothing but positive and we have booked in again for 2017 on 23rd April which falls on St George's Day, where we are hoping to have a 'themed event'.

Branch members attended Regimental Remembrance Sunday & Grenadier Day and both events were thoroughly enjoyed by them all. We then introduced a skittles & quiz evening with buffet at Coombe Down RFC Bath, where we took on BUSA and then again on another occasion; BUSA won both events, but we are looking to correct this in 2017. We introduced the highest pin trophy and on its inauguration it was won by **Roger Bell's** daughter **Sue**.

The Nijmegen March has been completed 50 times by **22545982 Donald Cowan** formerly 1st Battalion. Don, who completed the Nijmegen March three times whilst serving in Germany and is a stalwart member of the Branch, decided to continue for many years after leaving the Regiment. Unfortunately his health took a turn for the worse and he had to undergo a Triple Bypass which put his plans on hold. We are glad to say the operation was successful and upon his recovery he took to the roads again in Nijmegen and completed his 50th march doing 30 kilometres per day for 4 days. Upon finishing he was presented with a Gold Medal for completing the Nijmegen March 50 times.

Don was told on achieving his 50th March that he was the first Englishman and also only the 2nd international walker to have achieved a Gold Medal for completing 50 Marches. Although as Don always reminds us, there are many Dutch walkers to have done this. On behalf of the Branch we give our heartiest congratulations to Don and to his wife **Janet** who continue to support not only he Branch, but the Regiment as well in their activities.



The 2016 Branch Christmas Lunch; Sitting from Left to Right: Rodger Bell, Lieutenant Colonel Johnny Wrench, Brigadier Roly Walker, Major Hubert Baillie, Major Grant Baker, and Lieutenant Colonel Sir Andrew Ford. Standing from Left to Right: Paul Cooper, Ken Greenham, Don Cowan, Ray Hawking, Dennis White, Colonel Richard Aubrey Fletcher, Andy Billett, Sean Edwards, Andy Davey, Les Hardwick, Lieutenant Colonel Jeremy Levine, Aubrey Dudley, Malcolm Jackson, Ernie Smith, Glenn Shattock, and Vince Dunne.

Sadly we report that two members of the Branch passed away during the year, they were **Arthur Pulham** who served with Regiment in the War and was 95 and **Paul Nowicki** who was 90 and was an honorary member of the Branch. We will not forget them.

As we moved into the second half of the year Remembrance Sunday was held at Coombe Down, the Branch was on parade with our Banner and our Chairman **Vince Dunne** was Parade Marshal, this was followed by a light lunch at the Hadley Arms Coombe Down.

Christmas saw the Branch Christmas lunch held at Cumberwell Park Golf Club on 11th December, we were delighted to have as our guest speaker **Brigadier Roly Walker DSO**, and the event was greatly supported with 95 members, their families and guests attending

A delightful four course lunch with wine was enjoyed in a lovely setting which was dressed in Regimental Colours. This was followed by a most impressive after lunch speech by **Brigadier Walker** who updated everyone on the Regiment, its current activities and plans for the future. Once all speeches were complete we went into the Raffle, where 65 prizes were won by individual members and guests.

Also at our lunch **Major Hubert Baillie** our President, made a presentation on behalf of the Branch of an engraved Grenadier Grenade, and Grenadier Figurine to **Malcolm Jackson** our outgoing Secretary in appreciation of all his hard work during his years as Treasurer and Secretary, we also thanked his good lady **Janet** for all her support to the Branch and presented her with a bouquet of flowers.

As our Branch Annual report draws to a close we recognise the challenges that lay ahead for us, in particular the younger Grenadier and how we can encourage membership and attendance at our meetings and events. In line with this we are going to have a 'Brain Storming' session at our February 2017 meeting and then feedback our ideas. It goes without saying that the Bath Branch still continues to flourish, support and promote our Branch and the Regiment and would welcome all visitors, friends and families to any of our meetings or functions.

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



Donald Cowan wearing his Gold Medal with pride after being presented with it by the Burgermeister of Nijmegen on completion of his 50th Nijmegen March.

BRISTOL

(Formed 1919)

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

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

Chairman: Mr **M O'GORMAN**

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

Tel: 07891238866

Email: bristolbranch@grenlds.com

Treasurer: Mr **AF LOCK**

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

Website: www.bristolgrenadiers.org

Facebook: Bristol Grenadiers

Twitter: @GrenGdsBristol

As 2015 drew to a close some two dozen Bristol Branch Members attended the Bristol Branch of the Coldstream Guards Association's Traditional Christmas Lunch, this was quite a poignant event for them as their Branch was to disband in the summer of 2016. As always, they made us most welcome and despite the rather sombre mood concerning the closure it proved to be a thoroughly enjoyable afternoon.

2016 proved to be another successful year for the Branch, apart from the crushing defeat inflicted upon us at the St George's Cup Skittles match which was held on St George's Day at the Port of Bristol Social Club in Shirehampton, Bristol. This year we were delighted to welcome a team from the Monmouth Branch of the Welsh Guards Association who turned up in numbers to support their team. At the end of the day the Coldstreamers walked away with the trophy for a third consecutive year and the Welsh contingent finished very worthy runners up, this regrettably left the Grenadiers languishing in third place, a lamentable result for our Team Captain **Roy Godwin** who, by his own admission must 'pull his socks up' next year. In spite of the result we had an extremely congenial afternoon socialising with our counterparts from the Coldstream and Welsh Guards Associations and the complimentary buffet laid on by the venue was second to none. We look forward to the 2017 competition and would encourage all Grenadiers, whether Branch members or not to come and support this important event.

In May we had a good number of Branch members on the



Vice President Lieutenant Colonel Martin Somervell MBE (left) holding the St George's Cup with Nick Hawkins (CG).

coach to attend Regimental Remembrance Day. We stopped at the Beefeater Grill in Swindon en route to enjoy a hearty breakfast and to embark Branch members from that area. On the return journey we were once again made extremely welcome by the Windsor Branch for a Fish and Chip Supper at their clubhouse just off the M4; our grateful thanks go to **Bob Gilbert** and the Committee of the Windsor Branch for again allowing us the use of their excellent facilities.

Towards the end of May we invited **Shaun McCormack** a Yeoman Warder of the Queen's Bodyguard to talk to the Branch, Shaun turned up with various items of interest including his uniform and gave us a fascinating insight into the world of Her Majesty's Yeoman Warders. Shaun also informed us that our Vice President and former Chairman, **Chris Savage**, former RSM 1st Battalion and serving Yeoman Warder had been appointed to Messenger Sergeant Major, a post that he will take over at the end of 2017. The Bristol Branch was delighted to learn of this appointment and wish Chris every success in his new role.

At the beginning of July we were invited by the Bristol Branch of the Coldstream Guards Association to attend their farewell party at The Port of Bristol Social Club. We had a very good afternoon in their company and very much enjoyed a complimentary buffet. Our Branch Secretary, **Matthew Allen** made a short speech expressing the disappointment of the Grenadiers at their disbandment and invited those of them that were so inclined to join our Branch as Associate members, an offer that was taken up by some two dozen of them including their Branch President **Lieutenant Colonel Martin Somervell MBE**, who has since been invited by our Branch President **Major General Sir Evelyn Webb-Carter KCVO OBE DL** to become a Vice President of the Bristol Branch, an offer that we are delighted he accepted. We were equally delighted to learn that they will still be entering a team in the St George's Cup skittles match each year, as they pointed out, they have to continue with the tradition of beating the Grenadiers.

Shortly after this event we attended Grenadier Day in

Aldershot. We were blessed with glorious weather which helped our Cider sales enormously, also a huge benefit to sales was the fact that the Battalion were in attendance, much to the delight of our Branch treasurer **Tony Lock** the younger members of the Regiment seem to have a particular taste for our cider and we sold all the stock that we had taken with us.



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

We took a nearly full coach to this event and had a very enjoyable day. The hard work by **WO2 (RQMS) Mark Cox** and the team at RHQ certainly paid off as this was one of the best Grenadier Days of recent years. In October a small detachment from the Bristol Branch made the short journey north to Gloucester to attend the Gloucestershire Branch Annual President's Lunch, as always **Colin Knight** and their Committee had done a fantastic job in organising the Lunch and we had a thoroughly enjoyable afternoon in their company.

A week after the Gloucestershire Branch Lunch we held our own Annual Dinner, for which we returned to the Holiday Inn in Hambrook, Bristol. The Dinner was once again a huge success and we seated over 100 Branch members and their guests. We were delighted to welcome **Sgt Rob Broomes** from RHQ who is fast becoming a regular fixture at our dinners. We would also like to thank **Sgt Broomes** for picking up our Guest Speaker, **Dr Stephen Weiss PhD, MA** from his home in London and transporting him safely to the venue. We were equally delighted to welcome from the Regiment **LSgt Matt Shaw** and our Regimental Speaker **WO2 (CSM) James Bennett**, all of whom looked resplendent in their Mess Dress and certainly added a splash of colour to the evening. We were also delighted to see **Chris and Hilary Savage** who had travelled from their home in Essex to attend and once again it was a pleasure to see **Lieutenant Colonel Philip Hills FLCM, psm** and his wife **Patricia** who had made the arduous journey north from their home in Cornwall.

After an excellent dinner which certainly lived up to the high standards that the Hotel had set in previous years, the formalities of the evening began with the Branch President proposing the Loyal Toasts and then addressing those present, he thanked everyone for attending the Dinner

especially **Squadron Leader George (Johnny) Johnson DFM**, the last surviving member of the Dambusters Squadron from WW2 who was our Guest Speaker at last year's dinner. **General Sir Evelyn** commented on the numbers present by saying that yet again the Committee of the Bristol Branch had done a fantastic job in organising the event and this was reflected in the high turnout, **General Sir Evelyn** then introduced our Guest Speaker, **Dr Stephen Weiss** and invited him to address us. It was a huge coup for the Bristol Branch to obtain the services of **Dr Weiss** and full credit for this goes to our Vice President **Lieutenant Colonel (Skid) Dorney MBE**.

Dr Weiss, an American citizen served in the Second World War with the 36th (Texas) Infantry Brigade who landed at Salerno during the assault on Southern Italy and later were redeployed to France for D Day. Although he survived the War relatively unscathed physically it had taken a terrible toll upon him mentally and he suffered hugely from what we now know as PTSD. This led to him deserting the US Army for which a US Courts Martial sentenced him to life imprisonment with hard labour. This sentence was overturned as the psychological effects of warfare became more widely recognised and he went on to study these effects in greater detail and now holds two doctorates in this field. For his military service he has been awarded the US Bronze Star, the French Resistance Medal, two Croix de Guerre and in 1999 President Jacques Chirac presented him with The Legion d'Honneur. In 2007 he was made Officier d'Legion by Francois Hollande and in 2013 was appointed to Commandeur in the Order de Legion d'Honneur, this Order is the highest award in France. At 91 years old **Dr Weiss** is widely regarded as a leading authority in his field and he continues to travel the world lecturing at universities.



Nick Hayman takes the opportunity of a photograph with Dr Weiss.



Major General Sir Evelyn Webb-Carter KCVO OBE DL and our guest of honour Dr Stephen Weiss PhD, MA at the Branch dinner.



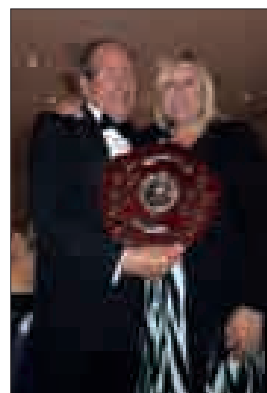
Branch Members at the Annual Dinner 2016.



Squadron Leader 'Johnny' Johnson DFM, the last of the Dambusters.

The unfortunate task of following **Dr Weiss** fell to **WO2 James Bennett**, Company Sergeant Major of the Inkerman Company, who stoically updated us on Regimental affairs. After the speeches a presentation of a framed print by **Sean Bolan** was made to our new Vice President **Lieutenant Colonel Martin Somervell MBE (CG)** as a welcome gift from the Branch.

John Rogers was presented with the Cambridge Memorial Shield by **Beverly Spriggs**, daughter of the late **Lance Cambridge** for his highest individual Branch score at the St Georges Cup competition earlier in the year and the Branch Secretary produced a new trophy in the form of a wooden spoon which, to the amusement of all he presented to **Keith Sperring** for attaining the lowest score in the competition.



John Rogers receives the Cambridge Memorial Shield from Beverley Spriggs.



The London Military Band.

We were entertained throughout the evening by a wind quartet from the Regimental Band who certainly added to the ambiance of the occasion, our thanks go to **Alan Shellard** and his colleagues for helping to make it such a memorable.

In the Summer of 2016 the Branch President, bestowed a Vice Presidency upon our Branch Treasurer and long serving stalwart of the Branch, **Tony Lock**. This award is widely regarded within the Branch as very well deserved as Tony has served the Bristol Branch in numerous capacities over many years and we are delighted that this has now been recognised.

2016 has been judged by all to have been a successful year for the Bristol Branch and we are certainly holding our own within the Association. Sadly, as with all Branches we have lost some of our number and it is with great sadness that we report the passing of **2627204 EJ Ford**, **21006071 G Pitman**, **23252158 RG (Bob) Coggins**, **23457358 MW Hall**, **22467635 C Eyles** and **2628450 RLD (Roy) Cox** who, for many years administered the Bristol Branch Website. We also report the passing of **Roy Stokes** a long standing Associate member of the Branch and formerly Blues and Royals, along with two of our Widows **Mrs Jean Nunn** and **Mrs Eileen George** both of whom were fantastic supporters of the Bristol Branch and regular attendees at Branch events.

As 2016 drew to a close our Vice President and long standing stalwart of the Branch **23278689 Dennis Griffiths** passed away, **Dennis**, a former 3rd Battalion man, had been a fantastic supporter of the Branch for a great number of years and had served as both Secretary and Chairman on a number of occasions, he had sat on the Branch Committee for over half a century and will be greatly missed.



CAMBRIDGE

(Formed 1932)

President: Capt CNR BROWN.

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

Chairman: Mr T FOREMAN

Secretary: Mr MICHAEL DRAPER, 48 Jopling Way, Hauxton, Cambridgeshire, CB22 5HY

Tel: (01480) 413175

Email: mickdraper725@btinternet.com

Treasurer: Mr P SANDERSON

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

It has been a very quiet year for the Branch apart from our lunches, which are well supported by the few members we have. We also had a great Annual Dinner with **Major James Taylor** as our guest from the Regiment who gave an interesting update on Regimental and Battalion activities and also took the time to speak personally to members of the Branch.

14028487 W H Clarke and his wife **Sally** are both being well looked after in a Residential Home, Bill was the Chairman of the Branch for a great many years. Our Welfare officer **Harry Gelsthorpe** keeps an eye on the rest of the members that are not in good health.

So apart from the aches and pains and the waiting to go into hospital for some, we are not doing too badly and hope to keep going for at least another year.

CHESTERFIELD

(Formed 1952)

President: VACANT

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

Chairman: Mr D LEECH.

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

Tel: (01246) 206054

Email: d.brignull@yahoo.co.uk

Treasurer: Mr D BRIGNULL

Meetings: Held on the second Monday of each month at the Welbeck Inn, 18-20 Soresby Street, Chesterfield, S40 1JN.

2016 has been another quiet year for us but we are delighted to report that our strength has remained constant.

Unfortunately we have several members who are unable to attend meetings due to ill health; however we maintain regular contact with past chairmen, **Charles Limb** and **John Metcalfe** and with **Fred Neal** and **Dennis**

Thompson. We wish them the best of health in 2017 and look forward to meeting with them in the future. The number of active members has diminished somewhat, due to our increasing age profile and, as such, it was decided that, in future, our meetings would be held bi-monthly.

We are happy to report that we keep in regular contact with our two widows, **Mrs Betty Digby** and **Mrs Penny Osborn**. Both of these ladies are in exceptionally good health at present.

The Branch was represented at Black Sunday, the Garter Ceremony at Windsor and at the Queen's Birthday Parade. We decided to make **Mick Garrett** a Branch Vice-President in recognition of his outstanding work as Branch fundraiser. We also extend our thanks to Mick's wife **Maureen**, for her help in this respect.

For the first time in many years we were unable to attend the local Remembrance parades. We hope to rectify this in 2017. It hardly needs to be said that though we were unable to attend in person, our thoughts were with those who have made the greatest sacrifice.

It remains for us to thank our Chairman and Vice-President, **David Leech**, Vice-Presidents **Mick Garrett** and **Mick Carnall** together with **Major Green** and **Sgt Broomes** for their support during the year.

DERBY

(Formed 1914)

President: VACANT

Vice-Presidents: VACANT

Chairman: Mr G GADSBY

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

Tel: (01332) 755156

Email: ian.sutton80@ntlworld.com

Treasurer: Mrs H SUTTON

Meetings: Held on the third Wednesday of each month at The Alexandra Hotel, 203 Siddals Road, Derby, DE1 2QE, at 2000hrs.

The Branch this year has remained on an even keel in terms of membership. We remain small but with a strong attendance at meetings. The most memorable event of the year was on Regimental Remembrance Sunday when we had a private service for the interment of the ashes of our late Chairman **22955716 Trevor Savage** in the garden at the Guards Chapel. The burial service was a poignant tribute and sombre event prior to the main service. The family were very proud and appreciated **LSgt Seer-Boylan** sounding Last Post and **Drum Major Sutton** who both attended in Home Service Clothing.

Later in the year we purchased a pop up banner to promote the Branch. Its first use was in October when we held a fund raising coffee morning at Derby City Council House. An annual event attended by the Mayor of the City **Councillor Linda Winter**. We will also be

displaying it at our Annual Dinner in November when we hope to have some members of the Battalion attending.



The Branch Coffee Morning on October 14th 2016 with Chairman and Banner Bearer Geoffrey Gadsby, Secretary Ian Sutton, Welfare Officer Iain Stewart and Association member James Heaslip.

Finally it is with great sadness that we report the passing of **22545455 Douglas Steeples**; Lest we forget.

We end by wishing all past, present and future Grenadiers and their families the best for 2017.

EAST KENT

(Formed 1948)

President: Major D BRADLEY, BEM, DL

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

Chairman: Major D BRADLEY, BEM, DL

Secretary: RC GOODSON, Esq

Tel: (01303) 263958

Email: eastkentbranch@grengds.com

Treasurer: RC GOODSON, Esq

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

Branch website: www.ekb.org.uk

Yet another good year for the Branch and its activities although we sadly had to bid farewell to **Alan Arthur Warman**, a Deal based Grenadier, albeit not a member of our Branch, who passed away on 29th November 2015 aged 75, to **22545159 Robert Evan Harding** who passed away on 29th February 2016 aged 82, to **22213006 Albert Wilkin**, a St Marys Bay based Grenadier, albeit not a member of our Branch, who passed away peacefully on Thursday 21st April 2016 aged 91 and to **267713 William F A (Bill) Webster** who passed away peacefully on the morning of 19th August 2016 aged 89.

It is always difficult to locate all Grenadiers, or

Grenadier widows, in our catchment area. With the closure of the West Kent Branch, our catchment area is potentially even further afield and we encourage any Grenadier, or Grenadier widow, living in Hythe, Folkestone, Dover, Deal, Margate, Ramsgate, Whitstable, Canterbury, Romney Marsh and the remaining areas of East and West Kent who are not in touch with us at present to make contact and provide their contact details. You would also be made welcome on the trips and at the events we hold and attend throughout the year.



Armistice Day Parade Marchers from Left to Right: Norman Silvester, Trevor Jones MBE, Bob Goodson, Bob Barron and George Pritchard.

In November 2015, members were on parade for the Armistice Day Parade in Hythe. The parade started with a Church Service at the Hythe War Memorial and, for those amongst us still able to march the distance, concluded with a march from the War Memorial and along the High Street with a salute being taken at the Town Hall. Our Deputy Chairman, **Trevor Jones MBE**, carried the Branch Banner.

December 2015 was the month for our Christmas Social which was held at the Hythe Royal British Legion Club. By very popular demand, the superb 'Swingtime Sweethearts' entertained us once again. Comments from attendees were that it was 'probably the best one yet'. Good show, credit **Major Bradley**.

2016 started with our January meeting where, pleasingly, we had 21 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 our meeting was completed.

We are very grateful to **Joe Moran (COLDM GDS)** who organises the Sunday lunch at the Hythe Royal British Legion Club we enjoy after our Branch meetings. This luncheon allows many of our members the opportunity to regularly socialise and dine together in a relaxed environment. It also ensures that the long journeys many of them make to attend our meetings is even more worthwhile and affordable as they get so much more from the events.

At our Annual General Meeting in March 2016 we had another good attendance from our loyal membership and

members re-elected the existing committee and Branch Officers for another year. The Treasurer reported that the Branch finances were still in very good order and that we had only a £6 excess of expenditure over income for the last financial year. Given the number of things that were organised for Branch members, that was an excellent achievement and demonstrated that the Branch committee were budgeting appropriately for the events they organise and subsidise for members.

Thankfully, Regimental Headquarters were able to supply us with more than just the standard two tickets per Branch for the Queen's Birthday Parade held on Saturday 11th June 2016. This allowed **Colin McKeown** the opportunity to take his partner to savour the parade as, despite being allocated the two Branch tickets last year, they couldn't attend as **Grace** had an accident that prevented them travelling. They reported that they thoroughly enjoyed the day. Our Secretary, **Bob Goodson** and his wife, **Sue**, were privileged to be invited to attend the Patron's Lunch that was held on The Mall on Sunday 12th June 2016 and as they were also able to obtain tickets for the Birthday Parade, they were able to take in a rare, but full weekend of excellent events in London.

From Wednesday 29th June until Sunday 3rd July 2016, a number of Branch members, their wives and a couple of friends of the Branch, along with members of the Ramsgate branch of the Royal British Legion and others, travelled to France with **Clive** and **Caroline Richards** of Albion Tours for the 100th anniversary of the Battle of the Somme. This trip kept us busy each day and took in visits to Vimy Ridge, Souchez, the Guards Cemetery at Lesboeufs, Ginchy, Albert, Arras, Thiepval, Passschendale museum, Tyne Cot Cemetery and the Menin Gate ceremony along with numerous other very interesting places and memorials.

Early July saw the Hythe Festival Week and the Branch were invited to attend two parades that had military involvement. The parade on Saturday 2nd July 2016 had only three members marching, but this was as expected as a number of our members were away on the Somme 100 trip. Other members are no longer able to march the distances involved, but some did parade in the High Street or at the Undercroft of Hythe Town Hall where the salute was taken.

Our Deputy Chairman, **Trevor Jones MBE**, carried the spare Branch Banner. This is a much heavier banner than our usual one and has heavier banner poles, but Trevor's muscular body, honed to perfection through years of extensive military training, ensured he had little difficulty with the additional weights involved.

The 2nd parade on Saturday 9th July 2016 was the Hythe Armed Forces Day Parade where we had a much better attendance and had a number of members marching. Our Banner Bearer, **John Morris**, was back from the Somme 100 trip for this parade and therefore was able to attend. We also had **Gdsm Thomas Goodwin**, Nijmegen Company, on parade and his father,



'This way to our table' says Sue Goodson – still smiling despite the rain at the Patron's Lunch.



The Queen's Birthday Parade 2016.

Kevin Goodwin, was time beater for the Maidstone Salvation Army Band that we marched behind on our way to Hythe Town Hall where a service took place.

Over the weekend of 2nd to 4th September 2016, a few of our members and their ladies travelled to Bruges and took part in the 360th anniversary celebrations of the forming of our great Regiment.

Our Annual Dinner was held at the Royal Temple Yacht Club, Ramsgate, on Saturday 1st October 2016. Attendance was the largest we have had for many a year and we received many positive comments on what an excellent evening it was. We organised a free coach from Hythe to Ramsgate and that enabled the majority of those on the coach to have a drink, or two, and not have to worry about driving.

Our guest speaker for the evening was **Lt Thomas (Tom) Parkes** who is the 1st Battalion, Recce Platoon Commander. He gave an excellent brief on the activities of the Battalion, Nijmegen Company and the Band of the Grenadier Guards. Back by popular demand was the very popular **Gavin Bull**; a very talented singer and keyboard player who performs under the name 'One for the Road'.

Gdsm Thomas Goodwin, Nijmegen Company, attended the dinner in uniform and that was great to see. His evening was made even better by winning the cash prize that **Algy Cluff DL**, one of our Branch Vice Presidents, very kindly gave. We don't think **Tom** ever thought his Regimental history knowledge would have stood him in such good stead as he was the one quickest with the answer to the question posed; 'Who is the Company Sergeant Major of Nijmegen Company'? If he had got that wrong, he would have been in big trouble. We were also privileged to have in attendance **WO1 (SBM) Ben Mason** and his wife, **Debbie**. It was great to see them again. We now look forward to all that 2017 holds for us.



Participants on the Somme 100 trip.

ESSEX

(Formed 1946)

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

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

Chairman: Mr RC 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: Mr M LAND

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

The last year has been a lively, exciting and active time for the Branch. In December 2015 a number of changes took place to our committee. **Ron Keeble**, at the then young age of 93, took over as Chairman, **Stephen Norsworthy**, at a much younger age, became our Secretary and at that time **Linda Land** continued as Treasurer. However, in early 2016, her husband, **Mark Land**, took over these duties, although Linda remains as an important member of the Committee. We have seen many new ideas; including an increase in our membership and increasing attendance with members bringing more family and friends to our functions. We have also welcomed **Capt Steve Munro**, who is QM (T) of the 1st Battalion to the Branch. Our Branch funds are in excellent order and we are confident of a secure future for the Essex Branch.

We started 2016 with a lunch in March at Prested Hall in Feering, which over the years has become our normal venue for events. We were fortunate to have **Major Ben Jesty**, Officer Commanding The Inkerman Company as

our guest speaker, who gave a thoroughly enjoyable and entertaining talk. He stayed after lunch and spoke to many of the members. We had an excellent turnout for this event; in fact it was a record for one of our normal lunches.

In April we held our Annual General Meeting at the Royal British Legion Club, Witham, courtesy of their President, **2620936 Ron Sanders**, also one of our members, again aged 93. Unfortunately we had to abandon lunch at a local public house after the meeting due to a mix-up over the arrangements. We hope for better fortune in 2017.

2016 marked three very high profile Regimental events. Firstly; our Colonel-in-Chief's 90th Birthday, the visit to Bruges, where the Regiment was formed in 1656 and the 70th Anniversary of the formation of our Branch in 1946.

To mark the first, we held our Summer Garden Party at the Secret Garden Centre in Chelmsford. We had a record turnout of 47 for this event and enjoyed a splendid day, in perfect weather, excellent food and drink and with first class service. There were displays of a tunic, bearskin, the latest 24 hour ration pack, photographs and other items. A most enjoyable day.

On Saturday 3rd September, **26222452 Albert Green**, King's Company, 1st Battalion Grenadier Guards 1941-46, at the age of 95, took part in the 72nd anniversary of the liberation of Pont-A-Marcq, where, on the 4th September 1944, the company fought off a large force of Germans, thus liberating the town and surrounding area. This followed the visit to Bruges by the Regiment.

The highlight of our year was the 70th Anniversary of the formation of the Branch in 1946 which was celebrated with a special lunch at Prested Hall on Sunday 4th December, which we combined with a Christmas lunch. Our special guest was **Lieutenant Colonel Guy Denison-Smith**, who is the son of our President and still serving in the Regiment. Our Secretary once again arranged a display of regimental uniforms, various items of kit, photographs, books and other items belonging to our members and a seasonal raffle. We are pleased to

report that we had an excellent turnout of 71 members and guests. We raised £425 in a raffle, which we were pleased to donate to the Colonels fund as our legacy in our 70th year. We look forward to an excellent 2017.

Sadly we must record the passing of **2629008 Ron Hills**, **22886368 Roy Norris** and **Mrs Iris Snow**, the widow of **22633548 Ray Snow**, a former stalwart member of the Branch. Also sadly, **Capt Guy Lyster**; Guy was very proud of his time in the regiment, a proud and regular supporter of both the Branch and the Association.

Finally, we would like to thank all those at Regimental Headquarters for all their help to a new Secretary and committee, in their first year in office.



Gentlemen of the Essex Branch at Prested Hall for their 70th Anniversary Lunch.

GLOUCESTERSHIRE

(Formed 1949)

President: Colonel LCA RANSON, TD.

Vice Presidents: Lieutenant General SIR JOHN KISZELY, KCB, MC, DL; Major General SIR EVEYLYN WEBB-CARTER, KCVO, OBE, DL; THE LORD VESTEY, KCVO, DL; 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 AW FERGUSON-CUNNINGHAME; Major SA MARCHAM, MBE; NJ SIMMS, Esq; PD GWILLIAM, Esq; Lieutenant Colonel CJE SEYMOUR, LVO; DAE GEORGE, Esq; Capt EC GORDON-LENNOX; Colonel GW TUFNELL, CVO, DL; Capt GL BANKS; SIR HENRY WG ELWES, KCVO.

Chairman: Mr D ERRINGTON

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

Tel: (01594) 530154

Email: grenadiersglos@tiscali.co.uk

Treasurer: Mrs E KNIGHT

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

Website: www.gloucestershiregrenadiers.co.uk

Facebook: Grenadier Guards Association Gloucestershire

This report reflects upon a busy and active period for the Branch and will be the 30th whilst **Colin Knight** has been our Branch Secretary.

Unfortunately we begin by reporting the loss of three of our number; **Capt John Fergusson-Cunninghame MC**, one of our long serving Vice Presidents, **James Hill**, known to one and all as Ron, a long serving Branch stalwart who was a former POW in WW2 and **Edward King**. All funerals were well attended with a Guard of Honour being formed on each occasion.

The Nominal Roll holds well and happily with several new editions; the advent of communications via the internet is credited for this as the Branch makes full use of technology. We are 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 around 2145hrs. During the interval it has now become customary to serve complimentary hot pies, which has proved to be very popular. From time to time and to make meetings more interesting we get a guest speaker. The Branch is indeed fortunate to have the Victory Club in Cheltenham at which to hold our gatherings; large comfortable rooms with excellent bar facilities at affordable prices; car parking is also no problem. The formula appears to be working well as attendance at meetings has held steady.

The Branch takes pride for yet another year in its welfare effort. The Welfare Officer, **David Leighton**, in his eighth year in office is very committed and does an excellent job making many visits, telephone calls and undertaking various tasks for those with a problem. **Jeanette**, his good lady, supports him well with his duties. Christmas cheques were personally given to twenty of the more senior members including some of those, who for whatever reason have not enjoyed good times of late.

Almost all the allocation of tickets received was taken for the Muster for the Remembrance Sunday Service at Cheltenham Town Hall in 2015. Then in early December and for the tenth consecutive year we saw a 'full house' attend at Dumbleton Hall for a Christmas Lunch, **Derek Knott** takes it upon himself to organise this event. Guests sit down to a first class traditional Christmas Dinner in lovely surroundings with a warm seasonal atmosphere. On these occasions, children and grandchildren attend to make it a real Grenadier family occasion. The Winchcombe Silver Band made an appearance entertaining everyone with carols and seasonal music. Oh and yes, Father Christmas paid a visit too however, suffice to say that for yet another year, 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 the Christmas Lottery. **Alice** his good lady, ably assists **Alan** who we know would be really lost without her help and guidance. No one escapes our **Alan** in his enthusiasm to promote the draw and to sell tickets. Fingers are crossed every year that sales might not fall, however it is pleasing to report that sales from the draw hold steady ensuring it still makes funds for the Branch, as does the separate 100 Club which holds four draws per year. **Alan** is the administrator for this scheme as well. We believe that he may have a regret or two when many years ago he volunteered to undertake these tasks.

The attendance at the Branch Christmas Social, a little down on previous years, concluded the calendar for 2015. A hot two course lunch was served together with a host of interests to keep the audience on their toes. At the time of writing we are looking to discuss perhaps a change of the long honoured programme we have run. The existing format has been in place for at least 23 years, so it might be time for a change.

Moving forward to 2016 and March was the month of the well-attended Annual General Meeting at which all officers retained their posts with the exception of the election of a new Chairman **David Errington**. In the absence of a Grenadier Chairman, **John Welch** (Coldstream Guards) had filled the post for the past couple of years. **John** is a very professional, well experienced chairman and notable public speaker. We thank **John** for his attention to detail and we are pleased to report that he is going to remain an active Branch member. Members were informed that their Branch was financially sound and in good form from the



The Gloucestershire Branch at the final rehearsal of the Sovereign's Parade. The Branch was delighted to be briefed by two Grenadier Officer Cadets, Jake Sayers and Tristram Reames who spoke about their training. The Branch was also welcomed by WO2 (CSM) Chris Dougherty who is currently on the staff.

point of view of both activities and interest shown.

Members attended Regimental Remembrance Day in May and on both the outward and return journey the coach stopped at the Grenadier Club, Windsor, where on the return trip everyone was well looked after with a fish & chip supper; our thanks to the Windsor team, especially their Secretary **Bob Gilbert** and his wife **Sue**, who together ensure that everyone is always made most welcome. Unfortunately numbers attending from the Branch are falling, next year support will have to increase to ensure the viability of running a coach.

Yet again **David Leighton** achieved an excellent gathering for two separate occasions at a Gurkha Restaurant. Something different always has an appeal; we again thank **David** for the idea and taking on the responsibility once more.

It is sad to report that, for the third year in a row the Branch did not run a coach to Grenadier Day due to declining interest. We can recall that not too long ago two coaches were run to satisfy demand. This was followed a few weeks later by a walk in the Tewkesbury area. A lovely fine day was a bonus for those attending. At the conclusion they visited a Weatherspoon's where everyone enjoyed a fine meal. Several additional members, who were not up to walking, joined just for the meal and added to the occasion.

The Annual Garden Party at the home of **Colonel John Peel** was held on what turned out to be a perfect sunny Summers day; not many such days were experienced during the year. A good turn out for a first class barbecue followed by a concert in the garden by the Chedworth Silver Band; our thanks go to all the helpers who assisted on the day.

Three days after the Garden Party the Branch was off on its travels, this time to the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst. If it had not been for a couple of last minute cancellations due to health reasons we would have had a full coach. The weather was fine and we were privileged

to witness an excellent final rehearsal for the Sovereign's Parade. Two Grenadier Officer Cadets were introduced to us and appear in the picture (left). Our gratitude is recorded to our President **Colonel Lance Ranson** for arranging this visit.

The President's Annual Formal Luncheon was held at the Hatherley Manor Hotel near Gloucester with an excellent attendance of 107 guests. The attendees were privileged to have as their guest from the regiment **Colonel Richard Maundrell**, who gave an interesting and up to date account of regimental activities. Also present was **General Sir John Kiszeley KCB, MC, DL** (late Scots Guards), who is now one of our Branch Vice Presidents and who gave an excellent address on the Guards Division at the Battle of the Somme. **Capt Andrew Fergusson-Cunninghame** addressed the

luncheon giving an account of his family's involvement in the Somme including displaying the actual flag carried by the 2nd Battalion during the battle.

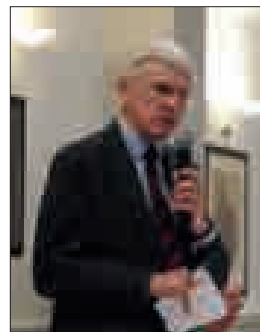
To conclude 2016 members still have to look forward to the annual Christmas function which, as has been the case now for many years, will be held at the Victory Club, Cheltenham.

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

This Branch has embraced modern technology, with 159 members who can now be communicated with by e-mail which represents just over two thirds of the membership. Seldom does a week go by without members on line receiving some form of Branch communication. Those without e-mail had five newsletters sent to them by snail mail during the past 12 months. Keeping in regular touch with the entire membership is believed to be one of the main ingredients of the continued success of the Branch.

We now have a presence on Facebook which is being monitored by our Chairman **David Errington**, ably assisted by **Mark Evans** (Welsh Guards) and **Yvonne**



General Sir John Kiszeley delivering his address at the Branch President's Formal Luncheon.

Beasley, wife of Sergeant **Mick Beasley**. This has to be one of the more positive ways forward. Any member wishing to gain access to the site just has to follow the usual procedure.

On the subject of Branch membership it may be of interest to take a look at the composition of our Branch. We have 158 Grenadiers, 12 Coldstreamers, 5 Royal Horse Guards, 2 Life Guards, 3 Scots Guards, 3 Welsh Guards, 1 Irish Guard, 1 RAMC, 1 Honourable Artillery Company, 1 Gloucester, 1 REME, 1 RAPC, 1 Royal Military Police, 1 RAF, 1 Gurkha, 2 Royal Navy, 20 Widows and 17 Honorary members – a total of 231.

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

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

Our report concludes 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 the Gloucestershire Branch continually endeavour to do. We can assure everyone that we are looking forward to the challenges ahead and confident that we can meet them all.

For up to date branch information including newsletters – visit our website www.gloucestershiregrenadiers.co.uk

Sadly since receipt of this report we have been notified of the death on New Year's Eve of **Mr David Leighton**.

KINGSTON & DISTRICT

(Formed 1935)

President: Brigadier GK BIBBY, CBE

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

Chairman: Mr FS HOLLAWAY

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

Tel: (0208) 336 1884

Email: grenjohn.jk@gmail.com

Treasurer: Mrs L EDWARDS

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

Following the great success of our 80th Anniversary Lunch in October 2015 members might have been forgiven for assuming that the remainder of that year would be a quiet affair. That was not to be the case.

On Sunday 6th December 2015 ten members met for lunch at The Aversa Italian Restaurant in East Molesey. One

of the menu options was a delicious traditional Sunday lunch and with an Italian influence in the choice of vegetables. On the day following the lunch, members assembled for the December Branch meeting. Traditionally the format of the meeting is changed to accommodate an annual bring and buy sale. The origin for that tradition is lost in the dim and distant past but we enjoy prolonging it. Perhaps sale is something of a misnomer since each of the donated items is auctioned, again traditionally, by the President. The evening is the source of some fun and of benefit to Branch funds.

At the Branch Annual General Meeting in February 2016 **Major Derek Rossi** MBE informed members that he would retire from office with immediate effect. He had enjoyed his tenure but thought that the time was right to hand over to **Brigadier Greville Bibby** CBE who would be appointed in his stead. **Mark Worsfold** went on to propose that **Major Rossi** be elected a Life Vice President, a proposal that was carried unanimously.

Members continue their attendance at Black Sunday and despite our reduced membership base we still manage to muster several who form up with their battalions and complete the march.

Our new President joined the BBC's **Huw Edwards** for commentary on Trooping the Colour in Her Majesty's 90th year. **Brigadier Bibby** follows in the footsteps of his Grandfather, **Major Ken Bibby**, and his Father, **Captain Derek Bibby**, as our President thereby extending a long family tradition. Once a Grenadier.....

The Branch was fortunate in obtaining tickets for four of our number to be present at The Queen's Birthday Parade. **John Edwards** and for the first time, his wife **Linda** attended along with **Vi Friend** who also went for the first time and was accompanied by her Minister. **Vi** was the sister-in-law of the late **Douggy Huxley** MBE MM. At 94 she is our senior lady who still maintains her association with the Branch and can remember doing so during the time of five different Presidents.

On Grenadier Day the Branch stall was multi-themed. **Liz Howell** and **Maureen Spencer** set up and opened the tombola with the help of relatives and friends.

A substantial proportion of the prizes on offer were resourced and provided by **Maureen Spencer** and **Liz Howell** with the help of donations from the wider membership. **Luke Spencer** had also manufactured some Grenadier Door stops which were on sale separately.

Custom came thick and fast once trading started and the stall was cleared in double quick time. **John Knight** was the promoter of a prize draw; **Crawley Audi** had donated several prizes including toys for the children, a watch, a travel adaptor and a sleeping bag all branded items from their online shop. In addition, there were to be two money prizes. The draw was to take place at the Branch lunch on 30th October. Tickets were on sale on Grenadier Day and thanks to super sales lady **Debbie Evers** tickets sold well.

Our association with Reed's School was continued with **Mark Worsfold** attending the C.C.F Sergeants' Mess

Dinner. The highlight of the year was our 81st Annual Luncheon held at Glenmore House in Surbiton. The whole event had been organised by the Branch Honorary Social Secretary, **Mark Worsfold**. The Elizabethan suite which we occupied boasts a spacious dining hall, a private bar and even two faux minstrel galleries overlooking the dining area. A large portrait of Her Majesty surveys the diners.



Guests find their places.

During the meal, a quintet of Musicians from The Regimental Band played for the enjoyment of guests.



The Musicians.

After lunch the President asked for all to stand for the Loyal Toast. He continued by referring to **Lieutenant Colonel Webster** who he'd first encountered as a junior officer and **Major Derek Rossi** at about the same time. He thanked members of Surrey, Windsor and Medway branches for attending in support. The guest from the Regiment was **WO2 (RQMS) Mark Cox**, and from The Association **Major Andy Green**. **RQMS Cox** gave a comprehensive summary of the Regiment's activities and its future role. In conclusion, he proposed the toast to The Regimental Association. In reply **Mark Worsfold** gave a short address and finished by proposing the toast The Regiment.

As a penultimate act for the day **John Knight** paid

tribute to the Branch service of **Major Rossi** as President and **Jenny** as 'First Lady' which had ended on retirement earlier in the year. He confirmed that there had been much discussion as to what might constitute a suitable commemorative gift. Engraved glassware and tankards had been considered but instead they were presented with a cushion for their garden bench. Since members didn't know whether there was a Rossi garden bench they presented one of those too!

The final act of the day was to draw the prize winners in the prize draw. Winners were spread from Essex, through Surrey to Littlehampton. We now look forward to the start of a new, hopefully prosperous and peaceful New 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: J COWLEY Esq.

Secretary: Ms K LOWE

Tel: (0116) 229 9004

Email: kitty_lowe_788@hotmail.com

Treasurer: Mrs T MUCKLOW

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

LINCOLN

(Formed 1923)

President: Major D BRADLEY, BEM, DL

Vice Presidents: Mr A HILL, Major I FARRELL

Chairman: Mr JD MARSHALL

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

Tel: (01522) 871184

Email: marshall84@ntlworld.com

Treasurer: Mr N CROWTHER

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

Our Branch remains active mostly due to the hard work of the committee and our loyal members who attend both meetings and Sunday lunches. Branch meetings continue to

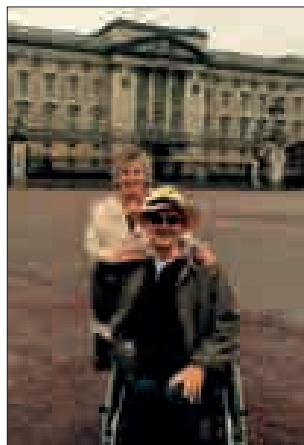
be held bimonthly with a Sunday lunch in the intervening months. Our meetings are always at the same venue but the Sunday lunch venue changes each time, travelling to different parts of the county to try and encourage others to attend who cannot make it to our meetings. Unfortunately we lose a few members each year, but also seem to be gaining a few new ones which keep our numbers steady.

A bright but cool November 2015 morning and Branch members gathered together to attend the Remembrance Day Service in Lincoln Cathedral. As always our thanks go to **Keith Harvey** for parading the Branch banner and **Pat Houldridge** for laying the poppy wreath during the service. This was followed by lunch at the Woodcocks Pub, where we were also joined by other Branch members who had attended other services in their towns and villages.

As is our usual custom for our December meeting we invited the local Army Cadets for a Christmas Social and Games Night. This year we had mixed teams of our Branch members and Cadets, which for some reason seemed to spark a bit more rivalry, even though most of the prizes on offer were only chocolate bars! The games and quiz were organised by **Charlie Short** and **Anne Marshall**. This was followed by supper and a large Christmas raffle.

On Friday 15th April 2016 the Branch held its AGM, all officers were re-elected with no opposition. **Charlie Short** was also re-elected as the Branch Welfare Officer. For Regimental Remembrance Day, numbers were very low and those attending chose to travel by train and stay overnight, meeting with friends from other branches.

The Branch Chairman and Secretary **Joe and Anne Marshall** were very honoured to have been invited to The Patron's Lunch on The Mall in June. The photograph shows them outside Buckingham Palace with a completely empty frontage; not often that this happens. Although getting absolutely soaked through, they had a thoroughly memorable and enjoyable day.



Joe and Anne Marshall outside Buckingham Palace on the day of The Patron's Lunch.

For Grenadier Day our committee decided not to sell any goods or run any games on the stall, but to take the opportunity to relax and enjoy the day. **Mr and Mrs Short** ran a small game with all proceeds going to stem cell research at Cambridge Hospital. We did however have to dodge one or two showers but the photograph of **Pam Singleton and Sarah Feher** (the Chairman's Granddaughter) shows that it was still a very enjoyable day.



Pam Singleton and Sarah Feher.

Our Annual Dinner and Dance was held in September and this time we had a change of venue to The Nightingale Rooms in Lincoln. We were very pleased to welcome **Colonel Richard Aubrey-Fletcher** as our regimental guest who brought us up to date with all the regimental news. Following the meal we welcomed back 'Ryan' who provided excellent entertainment and filled the dance floor which made for a very enjoyable and entertaining evening. We were also very pleased to welcome **Gdsm Arthur Wilson** (The Queen's Company) and **Gdsm James Alexander** (Signals Platoon) and their guests. Thanks must go once more to our Treasurer **Neil Crowther** and his wife **Sheila** for organising the splendid raffle.

Sadly during the last year we have lost **23252726 J M Marshall** and **24278946 PA Kelly**. Our condolences go to their families.

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

LIVERPOOL

(Formed 1920)

President: THE EARL OF DERBY

Vice Presidents: Mr C YATES; Mr G HUGHES; Mr GH NORRIS.

Chairman: Mr G HUGHES

Secretary: Mrs J CHAMPION, 11 Oulton Close, Prenton, Wirral, CH43 0XD

Tel: (0151) 652 4029

Email: julie.champion@me.com

Treasurer: Mrs B PENNINGTON

Meetings: Held on the last Thursday of each month, except August and December, at 2000hrs, at the Premier Inn, Vernon Street, Liverpool, L2 2AY

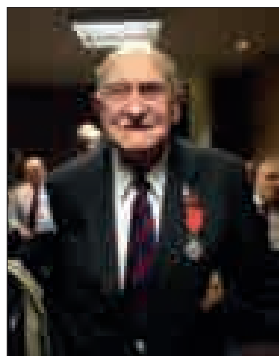
It's been a momentous year for the Liverpool Branch and started with the celebration of our 95th year at our Annual Dinner Dance at The Thistle Atlantic Tower

Hotel in Liverpool City Centre on Saturday 21st November 2015, 84 attended including **Lord Derby** and **WO1 (RSM) T Bearder** from the 1st Battalion.

Again, a great evening was had by all; the highlight was a presentation to our war veterans **Les Edge**, **Charles Yates**, **George Norris** & **John Edwards**. **RSM Bearder** proudly presented them with the Citizen of Honour Civic Award in recognition of the part they played in World War 2 in ensuring our freedom. **Lord Derby** then presented Branch members with a whisky tumbler specially engraved from the Branch to commemorate our 95th anniversary.



From Left to Right: Alice Champion, George Hughes, Bob Thomson, Aimi Champion Frank Pennington and Julie Champion.



Les Edge proudly wearing his Légion d'honneur.

A further highlight for us was the news that **Les Edge** was also to be honoured by the people of France with the award of The Ordre National de la Légion d'honneur (National Order of the Legion of Honour.) It is presented to honour and thank those who fought and risked their lives to secure France's liberation during the Second World War. The French Ambassador herself presented **Les** with

this on 19th February 2016 in Liverpool Town Hall. He even got a spot on our local TV News. At our next meeting on Thursday 25th February **Les** proudly walked in showing off his medal; all Branch members stood to attention to add their recognition and respect for his award.

This sadly brings us to the part of our year, where regrettably we must talk about the loss of our much-loved Secretary 23630871 **Frank Pennington**. What he thought was a chest infection over the Christmas period



Frank Pennington doing what he did so well.

rapidly turned into something a lot more serious and after a very short illness we sadly lost him on 10 April 2016. His loss left us all shocked and devastated, as Branch members and friends our love and respect for him was and will always remain immense.

Frank's wife **Barbara** and son **Paul** were extremely proud and overwhelmed by the turnout at his funeral, the volume of friends, family, other Branch members and the attendees from Regimental Headquarters including **Sgt Rob Broomes** and Regimental Musicians in Home Service Clothing was huge. Last Post and Reveille were sounded and the Grenadiers March played during which a wreath was laid by **Sgt Broomes**; a fitting and very appropriate tribute to all of **Frank's** service to the Regiment.

On Saturday 14th May 2016, a full coach of members, friends and family set off for London bound for Regimental Remembrance Sunday staying for 2 nights at The London Brentwood Hotel. After a superb dinner in the hotel, we were invited that evening to the club premises of the Royal Hospital Chelsea where we were warmly welcomed by the secretary. The entertainment was as always great and we all had a very special night. We departed the club at 11.15pm to make our way back to the Hotel.

On Sunday morning after breakfast we made our way across London to spend a leisurely few hours shopping and taking in the sights. After dropping a few off at Buckingham Palace, the rest of us headed on to Covent Garden. Our coach then took us over to Wellington Barracks for the Chapel Service and the march to Horse Guards with the Regimental Band to lay the wreath at The Guards Memorial. As in previous years it was a very big parade with an excellent turnout from Association Branches. At the end of the day our coach returned us to our hotel for a very welcoming three course meal and a leisurely evening in the bar.

On Monday morning after breakfast, we had a meeting with the reservation manger where she secured our rates for next year and then commenced our journey up north to our next stop at Stratford upon Avon, again the weather

was beautiful and we all had a lovely afternoon shopping & sightseeing before arriving home around 6.30pm.

The successful bid for the Birthday Parade tickets on Saturday 11th June was won by Linda & Colin Jones. On Sunday 12th June 2016, our Branch Members were also invited by **Dame Lorna Muirhead MBE**, Her Majesty's Lord Lieutenant of Merseyside and The British Legion, to a Service, to celebrate The 90th Birthday of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth at Liverpool Anglican Cathedral. Churches and Cathedrals across the land took part in the nation's celebrations of Her 90th Birthday. The Cathedral choir was joined by the Liverpool Philharmonic choir and they sang some much-loved hymns from Her Majesty's Coronation in June 1953. A lovely afternoon was enjoyed by all and topped off by a chance meeting with **Lord Derby!**

It is with great sadness that we must report the loss of **2623626 Ivor Griffiths** who served in Italy during WW2 in the Battle of Monte Cassino. **Ivor** served as our Branch Chairman for several years and was a very dear and loyal friend to **Frank** with whom he worked very closely showing an abundance of commitment, loyalty and support. He was a huge part of our Branch and is sadly missed by all the Branch members; our thoughts and condolences go to his family. We also said farewell to **2627583 John Banks**; a long serving member who will be very sadly missed by us all and our thoughts go to his family.

Although **Frank's** loss was huge, as a Branch we must continue on as a legacy to honour his hard work and devotion. We are strong and very close and would want **Frank** to be proud that we are able to keep his beloved Branch together, so with the continued support from **Frank's** wife **Barbara** and with his son **Paul's** blessing, we quickly formed our new Committee. **Barbara Pennington** kindly agreed to stay on as our treasurer for the benefit of our Assistant Treasurer **Linda Jones**. Our Chairman **George Hughes** and new Secretary **Julie Champion** continue to drive us forward.

Finally we would like to thank **Barbara Pennington** and **George Hughes** for all the help and support they have offered to **Julie** over the past few months. We also record our thanks to **Major Green** and **Sgt Rob Broomes** at Regimental Headquarters for the help, support and confidence they have shown to **Julie** since her appointment.



LONDON

(Formed 1920)

President: Lieutenant Colonel RG CARTWRIGHT, LVO

Vice Presidents: 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; Mr B SMITH

Chairman: Mr PA LANES

Secretary: 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

Treasurer: Mr F Hooley

Meetings: Held on the third Wednesday each month at the London District Sergeants' Mess, Wellington Barracks, SW1E 6HQ, at 1900hrs, unless advised otherwise.

Website: Londonbranch-Grenadierguards-Association.com

The Branch's social calendar has again been well supported with visits to HM Tower of London to watch the Ceremony of the Keys and enjoy a buffet and drink by kind permission of the Yeoman Warders' Mess. Members also had a chance to watch the Garter Service parade at Windsor Castle. This year it was so wet that the Garter Knights had to use cars instead of open top carriages, but still the faithful stood in the rain to watch – well done all.

25 of our members had a guided tour around the Houses of Parliament arranged for us by **Andrew Selous MP**, the Branch Secretary's local Member of Parliament. A number of members also attended the Queen's Birthday Parade. Grenadier Day was held at Aldershot and hosted by the 1st Battalion. The sun gods must have been looking down on us as the queue for the ice-cream van came right past the Branch stall. If they did not know we were there at first, they did while they were in the queue – happy days!





In December we held our Branch Christmas Draw at the Victory Services Club (pictured above) it was a great night with good food and was well attended, for our entertainment we had a live band called the Dynamic Duo. It was a great pleasure to have as our guest of honour the Association President **Colonel R E H Aubrey-Fetcher**.

It is with great sadness we have to report the passing of the following in the past year: **Brigadier M S Bayley**, Mrs C Keeling, 2622278 Mr H Wright, Mrs M Hammer, Mrs P Longdon and 2628293 H J L 'Harry' Mansell; we will miss and remember them all.

Finally we would like to thank **Major Andy Green**, **Sgt Rob Broomes** and **Sgt Robert Haughton** at RHQ for all the help and guidance they have given us. Thanks also go to the Branch committee and our loyal members for all their hard work and support.

Harry Mansell

by Colonel A T W Duncan LVO, OBE

Harry Mansell a legend in the London Branch, died at his home in Beckenham aged 88 on the 8th June 2016. He had suffered for a long time from cancer, and in later years had been greatly distressed by losing his dear wife **Jean**. His funeral service was held at Beckenham Crematorium on Friday 1st July 2016 and was attended by family and representatives of the London Branch.

Harry joined the Regiment in 1945 and served until 1952, reaching the rank of Gold Sergeant. Had he served on he would have undoubtedly risen further in rank, but he fell under the spell of the future Mrs Mansell and decided to leave rather than face separation due to a forthcoming tour abroad. Harry therefore transferred his allegiance to the Metropolitan Police with which he served for 30 years.

He married Jean to whom he was absolutely devoted in 1950; they had three sons one of whom sadly died of cancer aged 59. On leaving the Regiment Harry immediately joined the London Branch of the Association and through his

enthusiasm and ability soon became the Branch Secretary, an appointment he held for many years. He then became a Vice President and Chairman. His time at the Branch was legendary and, ably assisted by Jean, he produced a monthly Newsletter which he wrote and duplicated on a Gestetner copier. Each issue had a different distinctive cover of Regimental interest which he designed and drew.

Within the Association he served on a number of committees, some of which he chaired, he represented the London Branch on every possible occasion and he was well known throughout the Association and indeed the Regiment. With all of this combined with his police work it is surprising that he had any spare time, but his relaxation was spent producing and immaculately painting a collection of lead soldiers in 1/32 scale, representing examples of almost every order of dress worn by the Regiment throughout its 360 year history. This unique collection he bequeathed to the Guards Museum at Wellington Barracks where it will shortly be on display.

Whatever the circumstances Harry seldom if ever lost his sense of humour, he was a true Grenadier and a great character; he will be well and truly missed by all who knew him.

MANCHESTER

(Formed 1913)

President: Lieutenant Colonel CE KITCHEN, MBE

Vice Presidents: Mr F GREEN

Chairman: Mr MJ COTTRELL

Secretary: Mr RA FALLON, 58 Newhouse Road, Heywood, Lancashire, OL10 2NU

Tel: (01706) 360818

Email: robert.fallon@talktalk.net

Treasurer: Mr J PARRY

Meetings: Held on the first Wednesday of each month, except August at Longsight Sports and Social Club, 140 Kirkmanshulme Lane, Longsight, M12 4WB.

Facebook: Manchester Grenadier Guards Association

The Branch saw out 2015 with our Christmas Dinner and Dance at the Britannia Country House Hotel, our favourite venue and a good turn out by our members, guests and friends made it a very enjoyable evening.

We start every New Year by distributing Grand National sweepstake tickets to all our members in the hope that they will sell them and raise much needed revenue for the Branch. This year, however, the returns were so poor that we have, reluctantly, made the decision to stop running the sweepstake. After paying out the prize money the amount of money left did not justify the amount of work and effort put in by the secretary and treasurer, and the rising costs of postage, paper and ink meant that the Branch would soon have to start subsidising the event.

On Saturday 23rd April, St. George's Day, we held our annual Dinner and Dance at the Britannia with the Battalion Corps of Drums Beating Retreat and the Association President **Colonel R E H Aubrey-Fletcher** taking the salute. This was followed by a Bucks Fizz reception and 95 members and their guests sitting down to a five course meal.



The Colonel Aubrey-Fletcher with the General Secretary and the Branch Committee.



The Corps of Drums.

For Regimental Remembrance Day the Branch joined forces with the Wigan & St Helens Branch for their three day, two night trip. On the Saturday evening we paid a visit to the Royal Hospital Chelsea joining up with the Liverpool Branch, this made it a very crowded Clubroom but a very entertaining evening.

On the way back we stopped off at Stratford-upon-Avon for a two hour break by the river; our thanks to **Barry Taylor** and his members for their hospitality and friendship. On Sunday 12th June our secretary and his



The Chelsea Pensioners Club.

wife **Pam** attended the Patron's Lunch on the Mall and although the day started off very wet, the sun came out just in time for members of the Royal Family to emerge from Buckingham Palace.



Our Patron's Lunch Group.



From Left to Right: Pam Fallon, Joe and Ann Marshall.

Her Majesty the Queen and the Colonel passed slowly by in an open top vehicle while other members of the Royal

Family were dropped off at various points to meet members of all the charitable organisations lined up along the full length of the Mall. Despite the Rain it was a fabulous day.

At the Association AGM in March the secretaries were informed that elements of the Regiment would be attending a weekend of ceremonies in Bruges, Pont-a-Marcq and Ypres. On returning to Manchester the secretary, **Bob**



Pam Fallon with Drum Major Harry Sutton.

Fallon, informed the members of this intended trip and asked if anyone would be interested in going along. The response was very positive and so the secretary made enquiries about a coach and hotels. Within days the trip was organised for the weekend of 1st to 5th September. At the end of April we had 28 names, but things are never that simple and by the end of May we were down to 14

and the whole trip was in jeopardy of falling apart. After a phone call to **Major Green**, some tough negotiations with the travel agents and help from the Kingston branch, it was back on.



From Left to Right: Bob Fallon, Dave Race, George Smith, Mick Cottrell, Mike Tarkenter and Dennis Waby.



Veterans on Parade at Pont-a-Marc, France.

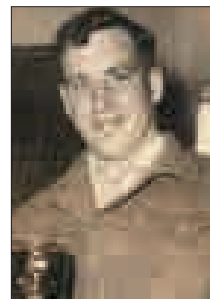
The trip was a resounding success made even more special by the warmth, friendliness and generosity of the people of Bruges, Pont-a-Marcq and Ypres.

The committee are now wondering how we can follow this past year and produce some exciting trips and functions.

On a more sombre note we have recently lost the following members: **23688076 Dyson J**, **23252436 Farrington N**, **22545462 Astle R**, **24711963 Birkett G**, **23188027 Smith J**, **2627952 Turner P**, **22955706 Mills G**, **14674497 Kirrane J P**, **24239531 Line H**, and **2624704 Feltham B**.

2624704 Birt Feltham

The King's Company 1st Battalion Grenadier Guards



Birt Feltham was born on 1st February 1926 and his father, Bertram, insisted on his son being called plain Birt, unfortunately, he miss-spelt the name with an i and not an e; Birt was forever telling people how to spell his name! In 1938, aged 12 his family moved into 20, Aldwych Avenue, Rusholme and that is where he stayed for the rest of his life, his wife Jean is still there.

Birt enlisted in December 1943 before his 18th birthday and the only way he could join the Grenadier Guards was as a regular for 12 years – he signed for four years and eight on reserve. He was in Khaki on 14th January 1944 and trained at Caterham and Windsor. He had fond memories of Windsor, but experiences at Caterham would fill a book (which he was in the process of writing when he was taken ill). He met King George VI and Queen Elizabeth and the then Princess Elizabeth at Windsor, and often regaled us with stories about them.

In a letter he wrote to Her Majesty in June 2013 he recalls the time he spent on sentry duty in gym shoes and the young princess throwing chocolates down from her room above whilst enjoying listening to the music she was playing in the background. One Saturday morning when he was not on duty he went for a run in the Royal Park, it had been snowing and coming towards him was the King and members of his family. He said 'I didn't slacken my pace but gave an eyes left, at which point I slipped over and crimson with embarrassment I sped off with my embarrassment giving me some extra speed.

'In the afternoon I went to the converted state room to watch a film, after it was over we all stood up while the Royal Family left. As they passed the row where I was seated Princess Elizabeth spotted me and told her father, causing me to 'crimson-up' again. King George said he was most impressed with my running and suggested 'I ought to enter the Olympics'.

Birt joined the Kings Company in 1944 and said he landed at Normandy on D-Day +4. Somewhere along the subsequent advance he was shot in the left eye which knocked him out and the guys coming along behind, thinking he was dead, pushed him into a ditch. When he came to he got to his feet and returned to base and re-joined the fight.

He helped liberate Sandbostel Concentration camp in 1945 and because he was fluent in German, he was transferred to the Military Government as an interpreter. After some time he became bored with this and applied to the Grenadiers to be an Officer; he was turned down but having persisted he was given a commission in the Royal Artillery as a 2nd Lieutenant in 1945. He spent the next two years in India and Hong Kong with the Artillery and was discharged in 1947.

He tried his hand at many occupations, but could not settle, so around 1948 he joined the Police and spent 18 months patrolling the streets around what is now Chinatown. His father died in 1950 so he began painting and decorating in his spare time. Eventually this became his full time occupation and later developed into a large successful decorating and building maintenance company.

He married Jean in 1957 and they had five children between 1958 and 72. Birt finally retired aged 82 due to progressive blindness bought on by diabetes. The last 12 months of his life were spent in hospital and a nursing home and he died on 6th October 2016 with his family by his bedside.

MARCH

(Formed 1968)

President: Major AJ GREEN

Vice Presidents: Capt (QM) TA ROLFE; Mr W GIBBS

Chairman: Mr E SALMON

Secretary: Mr C M WHITEBROOK, 21 Davie Lane, Whittlesey, Cambridgeshire, PE7 1YZ

Tel: (01733) 350059

Email: whitebrook9834@hotmail.co.uk

Treasurer: Mrs M WHITEBROOK

Meetings: Held at The Conservative Club, 14 Creek Road, March PE15 8RD on the second Wednesday each month, with their AGM held in March.

As we all age so it becomes harder to maintain the youthful vigour and zeal that marked our path. Aches and pains take their toll, our steps slow and we tend to stoop that little more. Our days appear to become seemingly busier, or is that just our imagination? Certainly we tire more easily and routine tasks become slightly more burdensome. But then... it is time for a Branch or Regimental function, the Blazer and Slacks, Regimental Tie, Polished Shoes, all lead to us feeling young again; those heady service days, the pride and the passion of belonging. The inter Battalion rivalry the realisation that God didn't rest on the Seventh Day, He made Grenadiers.



Battledress?.



Graham Gillmore's display.

The year started, as always with a tremendous Branch turnout at Remembrance Day Parades. Members on Parade at Peterborough and most of the Fenland Towns were **Chris Whitebrook, Des Pritchard, John Porter, and Neville Patter.**

Unfortunately, due to varying circumstances, the numbers for the Christmas Lunch were lower than usual. That said there was still a good turnout of members and friends of the Branch. Once again the caterer produced a most excellent meal for us all. The newly appointed stewards at our host venue, the Conservative Club in March, entered into the spirit and worked hard to ensure that the support given to us was of the usual high standard. **Graham Gillmore** put on an excellent display for us. Tremendous interest was shown in his collection of uniform and artefacts from the Crimea Campaign and led to a lot of discussion.

The Christmas Raffle, organised by our Treasurer, **Morag Whitebrook**, assisted by Chairman **Edward Salmon** and his wife, **Caroline**, rounded off a most enjoyable day.

The Branch Secretary **Chris Whitebrook** was in attendance at the AGM at Wellington Barracks enjoying the opportunity of meeting with so many other Branch officials and hearing the news first hand rather than reading of events at a later stage.

The Annual Lunch was extremely well attended this year and as a Branch we welcomed many new faces as friends attending their first, and hopefully not their one and only Grenadier Branch function. Our Guest of Honour was The Captain of The Queen's Company, **Major Simon Gordon Lennox** who was warmly welcomed and who made himself at home very quickly. He impressed not only those Grenadiers present but also the friends of the Branch and particularly those ex members of other Services. He was particularly pleased to meet a Royal Anglian as he had previously had 'Anglians' under command. Mention must also be made of the journey undertaken by Branch members **Mrs Pat Mason**, travelling from her new home in Lichfield, and **Gerry Graham**, from his new abode in Bishop Auckland; two

examples of the dedication shown to the Branch.

Black Sunday, the rehearsals for the Birthday Parade and the Birthday Parade itself, together with Grenadier Day were supported in the usual manner by the Branch. Our thanks go to **Major Andy Green** and **Sgt Rob Broomes** for their support and hard work in making all of this possible.

The last social event of the Branch year, the Sausage & Mash Lunch was, as usual another happy event. A superb meal, successful raffle and on-going conversation, with those attending reluctant to depart. Particularly **Malcolm** and **Pam Clifford** gave assistance throughout the day to the Branch Officers; our thanks to them.

The major change for the Branch, this year, has been the departure of our Branch President, **Capt Nigel Brown**, and we thank him for all that he, and his wife, **Maria**, did for the Branch over the years of his appointment. In his place we will welcome, as our Branch President **Major Andy Green**, feeling assured that he will quickly establish himself as part of the Branch family.

As a Branch we look forward to another year of happy memories, well-attended functions, and looking after each other as our bones creak and we get progressively older.

MATLOCK

(Formed 1955)

President: Mr DW RAWSON, BEM

Chairman: Mr JD KILLINGSLEY-SMITH, FInstLM

Secretary: Mr FA KNIGHT, 9 Croft Avenue, Parwich, Nr Ashbourne, Derby, DE6 1QG

Tel: (01335) 390109

Email: wrightjohn4@sky.com

Treasurer: Mr D BRIGNULL

Meetings: Held at 1200hrs on the last Friday of each month, except in August and December at The Grouse Inn, Dale Road North, Darley Dale, Derbyshire, DE4 2FT

On the 8th November 2015 various Members of our Branch attended their local Remembrance Sunday Memorial Services. Our Chairman **Mr Derek Killingsley-Smith** together with his wife **Kate** attended the Remembrance Day Parade at St. Mary's Church, Crich. **Mr Bill Pickford**, his wife **Vera**, together with Branch Administrator **Mr John Wright** attended St. Peter's Church, Edensor Village on the Duke of Devonshire's Chatsworth Estate.

15 members attended our Christmas Luncheon on 17th December 2015 at Branch HQ – The Grouse Inn, Darley Dale which was organised by our Chairman's wife **Mrs Kate Killingsley-Smith** ably assisted by our Lady members. It proved to be a most enjoyable event with excellent food at an excellent venue; thank you and well done Ladies.

A combined celebration commemorating our Patron



Christmas Luncheon Group 2015.

Her Majesty the Queen's 90th Birthday together with The Matlock Branch Spring Luncheon was held at the Bakewell Golf Club on 20th April 2016; a total of 33 Guests attended. This function was organised by our President **Mr David Rawson BEM** and **Mr John Wright**, ably assisted by their wives **Tina** and **Margaret**. The Branch had sent a congratulatory letter to Her Majesty through her Personal Secretary. Her Majesty's reply was read out by our Chairman as an integral part of his much appreciated and interesting speech. £200 raised at the Luncheon was immediately forwarded as a donation to The Colonel's Fund.

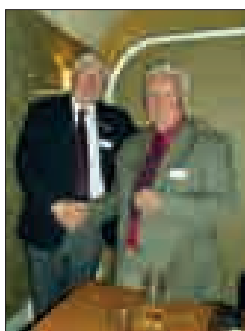


Spring Luncheon 2016.

The unveiling of a Cyprus War Veterans Memorial Stone at the National Memorial Arboretum on the 21st August 2016 was attended by our President **Mr David Rawson BEM** and his wife **Tina**. Sadly, our senior member **Mr Brian Wall** who also served in Cyprus was unable to attend through ill-health.

A Cameroons 55 Year Reunion was held on Saturday 10th September 2016 at the Ramada Jarvis Hotel, Loughborough, Leicestershire, arranged for former

members of the 1st Battalion who served in the British Cameroons in 1960/61. This was a well-attended and extremely well organised occasion. **John Wright** particularly remembers this campaign as it compelled him to forego his Honeymoon. Still together after 56 years, **John** and his wife **Margaret** attended this reunion where **John** met up with an old MT Platoon buddy **Mr Shaun O'Connor** and his wife **Marie**. **John** and **Shaun** had not seen each other for 55 years; grateful thanks to the organiser **Mr John Gibson**.



Shaun O'Connor and John Wright.

On Wednesday 12th October 2016 our Branch held its Autumn Luncheon at the Bakewell Golf Club. It was organised by our President **David Rawson** and Branch Administrator **John Wright**, aided yet again by their respective wives **Tina** and **Margaret**.

The event also embraced **Derek Killingsley-Smith's** 60th Anniversary (to the actual day) of his enlistment into the Regiment in 1956. From that date until the present time **Derek** has maintained his proud and continuous link with the Association during which time he served as Honorary Secretary to the Chesterfield Branch. Then following a career move he subsequently became the Assistant Secretary to the Derby Branch. Finally, two years ago he took up his current position as Chairman of our Branch where he has served us so well.

Our distinguished Guest of Honour on this occasion was **Capt Ty Bearder** accompanied by his charming wife **Paula** who was presented with a well-deserved bouquet of flowers by our Chairman's wife **Kate**. **Capt Bearder**, as always did us proud, not only with his informative update on current and future Regimental commitments, but also at the end of his speech by carrying out presentations to **Fred Knight** and **John Wright**. A Branch cheque for £300 was handed over and gratefully received by **Capt Bearder** with the express wish of the Branch that upon his return to HQ it be handed over and credited to **Capt Alex Stonor's** recent Marathon run in aid of The Colonel's Fund.

On Friday 28th October, 2016 our Branch held its AGM and we are pleased to report that the existing Committee were all re-elected to their current positions unopposed. On behalf of all our members we would like to record our thanks to our President who works tirelessly for us all, to our Chairman for his leadership and to our Vice Chairman and Honorary Secretary **Fred Knight** and his wife **Ann** for their contribution; a massive thank you as well to our Treasurer **Mr David Brignull**. Last but not least we thank our Regimental Treasurer & General Secretary **Major A J Green**, **Sgt Rob Broomes** and all the staff at RHQ for their continued support.

MEDWAY

(Formed 1976)

President: Lieutenant Colonel P HARRIS, MBE.

Vice Presidents: Lieutenant Colonel S TUCK, BEM; Capt CD LEIGH-PEMBERTON; Capt AJH HOLLOWAY, MP; Mr AJ West, BEM; Capt RC WORTHINGTON.

Chairman: Mr PA FRANKS

Secretary: Mr S VAUGHAN, Franwynne, Scarborough Drive, Minster, Isle of Sheppey, Kent, ME12 2LX

Tel: (01795) 876935

Email: stephen.vaughan@aol.co.uk

Treasurer: Mr AJ WEST BEM

Meetings: Held on the first Wednesday of each month, at 2000hrs at the Warren Wood Social Club, 99B Warren Wood Road, Rochester, Kent, ME1 2XA.

Website: www.medwaygrenadiers.co.uk

It's that time of year again when we look back at what we have achieved since the last Gazette report. **Chris Warden** drove our mini-bus to take us to Black Sunday in May, where we had a good time meeting friends of old. Our next outing started out in good weather for Armed Forces Day in June with our Golf Challenge at the Great Line, Gillingham, with crowds of an estimated 20,000 passing by. But at 1400hrs big black clouds put in an appearance and proceeded to soak everyone and everything. After an hour the organisers cancelled the event and we spent the next hour trying to fold all of the soggy bits away. At one time we had about 200 people sheltering under the Branch gazebos. It took three days to dry everything out, which was fun.

At Grenadier Day in July we had less numbers from the Branch attend and we set up the stall as a wine raffle which took less people to man than our normal Golf Challenge. It allowed members to have more time to visit other Branch stalls and socialize than in previous years. Most members took turns running the raffle which was a great success and we thank **Dean Hammond** for donating the wine. The Branch managed to retain the Boyton Cup again when the team of **Des Flynn**, **Alan Edmonds**, his son **Alan Edmonds** and **Steve Vaughan** beat the rest of the field and were pleased when the Colonel presented them with their tankards.



The Colonel congratulates the Boyton Cup winners.



The team: Des Flynn, Alan Edmonds, Alan Edmonds Jnr and Steve Vaughan.



Des Flynn and Steve Vaughan with the Cup.

The whole day was very enjoyable with the Farnborough Airshow going on in the background. Thanks have to go to **RQMS Mark Cox, Major Andy Green** the RHQ Team and the 1st Battalion who had only just arrived back from Kenya and were about to go on leave. Everyone enjoyed it – thank you. In September we spent a lovely Sunday

afternoon having a garden party at **Betty Merton's** (widow of **Bill Merton**) playing lawn darts, petanque and other daft games. We all took our own picnics and mixed and matched. Betty has a beautiful garden and we had a lovely day.

Tony West after 27 years and **John Chapman** after 23 years both stood down from the committee and the whole Branch said thank you for the work they had done for so long.



John Chapman.



Tony West.

In October our Annual Dinner at the Grange Moor Hotel in Maidstone was attended by 54 who all seemed to enjoy the evening. Attendance was down this year with several regulars off sick with various ailments, but the food was good and afterwards our guest speaker **Lieutenant Colonel Simon Soskin** updated us with the latest news and what is expected to happen in the near future. We then danced till midnight to the music from Julia West. We were very pleased to be joined by our President **Lieutenant Colonel Paul Harris** and his wife **Pauline** who were over from Spain, **Joe and Anne Marshall** and **Neil and Sheila Crowther** from Lincoln and **Andy and Babs Reid** from Surrey and East Hants. At the time of writing we are all looking forward to our 2016 Christmas Draw in December; more to follow.

Since the last edition and with great regret we have to announce that we have lost **24164851 John Cross** and **22955304 John Tassell**.

NORFOLK

(Formed 1938)

President: Capt PJS ALLEN.

Vice Presidents: Capt TRE COOK; Major JFQ FENWICK, QC; Capt DJT LENG; Capt JM STRATTON; R DONALDSON, Esq; JM BATTEN, Esq.; CH MITCHELL, Esq.; Lieutenant Colonel HML SMITH; BL BARBER, Esq.; RF BARWICK, Esq.

Chairman: Capt PJS ALLEN

Secretary: Mr TA McCLENAHAN, 10 Barrett Lennard Road, Horsford, Norwich, NR10 3EQ

Tel: 07917 605859

Email: terry.mcclenahan@btinternet.com

Treasurer: Mr CR WARREN

Meetings: Held in March and September at The White Horse Public House, The Street, Trowse, Norwich, NR14 8ST, at 1930hrs.

2016 was a good year for the Branch. We started off in March with our Annual General Meeting which took

place at the new venue of The White Horse public house in Trowse, Norwich.

Our first commitment in May was Regimental Remembrance Sunday. Once again a small coach took our members and some from the Suffolk Branch, in a combined effort, to London. It is hoped that due to the small number that travel from Suffolk and Norfolk, that we continue to use the one coach which will make it, for those who are able to go and remember our comrades, that much easier.



The Gentlemen at Sandringham.

June was a special month for us this year as we managed to gather 44 guests to celebrate Her Majesty's 90th Birthday at Sandringham with afternoon tea and the opportunity to watch the world championship Coach and Horse trials; we were allocated a marquee alongside Championship course where The Duke of Edinburgh holds these trials each year.

After tea **Capt Allen** read out a letter from Her Majesty and then proposed the loyal toast after which he called for a hearty three cheers. Our eldest member, **Alan Phillips** who is 93 years old attended to give his support to the occasion. **Alan** is a veteran of the battle of Monte Camino during which he was wounded; he remains a very active member of the Branch and the Association. The weather was kind and we all enjoyed the day.



Alan Phillips at Sandringham.

In July the Branch was invited by the Suffolk Branch to take part in their 90th Anniversary celebrations at Culford Hall in Suffolk. 11 guests from the Norfolk Branch attended and we thanked them for a great day.

As usual the summer was quiet; all were eagerly waiting for our Annual Lunch at Park Farm Hotel and Spa, Norwich which took place on the 4th of September. A glass of Bucks Fizz or orange juice greeted our 48 guests on their arrival as we find this gives everyone time to have a chat to old friends, some we haven't seen for a year, before being seated for lunch at 1300hrs. **John Crowley** said grace and lunch was served. The food and the service provided by the staff at the hotel was first class.

After lunch **Capt Allen** welcomed everyone and thanked them for their support; he then introduced our guest speaker **Capt Budge** and his wife **Kiki**. **Capt Budge's** speech covered all the news from the Regiment which we found most enlightening. Mrs Budge, who was heavily pregnant, was presented with a gift by the Branch secretary to remember her visit to the Norfolk branch. We take this opportunity to congratulate **Capt and Mrs Budge** on the birth of **Matilda** who arrived a few days later.

In line with tradition our raffle went without a hitch, this year the lucky winners picked their prize, with the prize number out of a hat. Thanks to those who helped out and to all the generous people who brought the prizes for the raffle.

Sadly we have to report the death of **Tanya Green** the wife of **Frank Green** our entertainments secretary; **Tanya** was a lovely, bubbly and joyful lady. We have also lost **2628871 Bob Herring**, **22213140 Albert (Henry) Ford** and **2628625 Gordon Holmes** – they will all be missed by the Branch and our sympathy goes to their families. We wish all the Branch's, friends and families a very happy 2017.

NORTH LANCASHIRE

(Formed 1953)

President: Major M OWEN

Vice Presidents: R PACKER, Esq; J WHITE, Esq

Chairman: R PACKER, Esq

Secretary: Lady R EMMONDS Westview 57 Aspen Drive, Brunshaw Park, Burnley, BB10 3FB

Tel: (01282) 451208 / 07738562357

Email: rosemary.emmonds@nhs.net

Treasurer: Lady R EMMONDS

Meetings: Held on the first Thursday of each month, except January and August at The Hapton Inn, Accington Road, Hapton, Lancashire, BB11 5QL, at 1900hrs.

The North Lancashire Branch would like to present a two year report. Omitted from our last report was Maundy Thursday on 17th April 2014 when Her Majesty the Queen handed out Maundy coins in a traditional royal service at Blackburn Cathedral. 88 men and 88 women aged over 70

were presented with the coins in recognition of their work in the church and the community. A Branch member, **Harry Briggs** at the age of 94 was nominated by Blackburn Cathedral for his services as a Verger and his long standing support. Hundreds of people lined the streets for the Queen's first visit to the cathedral. Each of the 176 recipients of the Maundy coin, one man and one woman for each year of the Queen's life, received a red purse of silver Maundy money and a white coin. The Maundy money recipients went to a lunch at Blackburn's King George's Hall.

The Branch Annual Dinner in 2014 was held on 6th November to commemorate 100 years since WW1 and was held at The Sparth House Hotel in Clayton-le-Moors near Blackburn. An enjoyable evening with approximately 40 guests attending. Our Regimental Representative **Barry Taylor** of the Wigan Branch gave an up to date report on the Regiment's activities. We had many guests from the Coldstream Guards, The Royal Navy, Sea Cadets, British Legion and RAF. Notice boards with a history of WW1 including the Accrington Pals and local soldiers were provided. A DVD of the Great War was shown throughout the dinner for everyone to appreciate the true reality of what went on. Everyone later joined in singing to old Vera Lynn songs with singer **Emily Butterfield**. We are sure everyone had an enjoyable time catching up with old friends and comrades and would like to thank **Ricky Reed** and **Peter Emmonds** for helping our Secretary with the event on the night.

Richard Packer represented the North Lancashire Branch carrying the Banner on Remembrance Day in Burnley. **Margaret Packer** represented Lady Emmonds laying the wreath on the cenotaph. The weather was cold and wet with many in attendance.

The Branch members gathered for a year end Christmas dinner held at the Walton Arms in Hapton with a lovely choice of Christmas Fare on the menu. We all gathered around the fire keeping ourselves warm with mulled wine!

In March 2015 the Branch held a meeting with everyone retaining their posts: **Major Michael Owen** as the Branch President; **Richard Packer** as Chairman and Vice President with **Lady R Emmonds** as Branch Secretary.

The Branch held their 63rd Annual Dinner on Saturday 12th September 2015 at The Masonic Hall, Mill House Corn Mill Yard, Off Whalley Road, Clayton le Moors near Accrington. The entertainment for the evening was provided by a Country and Western four piece band. We had the pleasure of Grenadier guest **Mick Brown** and his lovely lady **Debbie** who really struggles to attend our events due to his work commitments. A large representation from many organisations and members gathered together. Guests included **Barry Taylor**, President of the Wigan & St Helens Branch, **Ricky Reed BEM** from the British Legion and members from the Coldstream Guards. The meal was especially superb this year with magnificent company.

Richard Packer represented the North Lancashire



The Branch 2015 Dinner.



Remembrance Day Burnley 2015.

Branch carrying the Banner on Remembrance Day 2015 in Burnley; regardless of how poorly he was he stood strong; **Lady Emmonds** laying the wreath on the cenotaph. The weather was freezing cold and raining with many feeling the chill.

Branch members gathered for Christmas dinner in 2015 at the Hapton Inn in Hapton enjoying the company remembering absent friends over traditional Christmas turkey.

It was soon March 2016 and the Branch held a meeting to discuss everyone's responsibilities and positions: **Major Michael Owen** as the Branch President; **Richard Packer** as Chairman and Vice President, **Lady R Emmonds** as Branch Secretary and **Peter Emmonds** as Welfare Officer.

The Branch wanted to encourage as many Grenadier Branch members to attend an event for those who had mobility problems. The event took place on Sunday 2nd October 2016. Unfortunately, many members had to give back word due to ill health including our Vice President and chairman **Richard Packer**. We were delighted to see **Wayne Muir** a member who really struggles to attend any event due to his work commitments. It was lovely to see him and we hope he will be able to join us again in the future.

Welfare Officer **Peter Emmonds** and Branch Secretary **Rosemary Emmonds** travel regularly to see one of our pensioners **Mrs Jean Fisher** who lives alone in Lancaster



Sunday Lunch October 2016.

but has a daughter Andrea living in a street nearby. She looks forward to the visits and wishes to convey her gratitude for the allowance she receives from the Association.

For the past two years several members of the Branch have still attended meetings regardless of their poor health. Two members having endured long term admissions, a further two members having experienced road traffic accidents in the same month and another sadly lost his wife to natural causes. It really shows the strength and power of the Grenadier stamina; nothing will beat them!

Our Branch Secretary would like to record a big thank you to all our Branch members and supporters.



Mrs Jean Fisher.

NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE

(Formed 1933)

President: SIR ALGY EH HEBER-PERCY, KCVO, JP, LL

Vice President: Major RG WOODFIELD, MBE

Chairman: Mr K WRIGHT

Secretary: Mr DG ROBINS, Nabb Cottage, Nabb Lane, Alton, Staffordshire. ST10 4AY

Tel: (01538) 702 974 / 07968 037082

Email: david.robins@hotmail.co.uk

Treasurer: Mr DG ROBINS

Meetings: Please contact the Branch Secretary for details.

On Remembrance Day, 2015, Branch members visited the site of the school that **John Rhodes VC**

attended. 25 years ago the Branch arranged for a memorial to be erected on the site in memory of this much decorated Lance Sergeant. Along with pupils from the 'new' school the Branch chairman **Keith Wright**, placed a wreath on the memorial and a short service was held. During 2017, the 100th anniversary of the award of his VC, the Branch and school plan to hold a commemorative event in memory of **John Rhodes VC**.

During December Christmas gifts were distributed around North Staffordshire. These were well received along with copious offers of mince pies and cups of tea and, on one or two occasions, the offer of something from Scotland. The Christmas lunch was again held at The Miller and Carter, north of Stoke on Trent, geographically well situated in the Branch's largish territory.

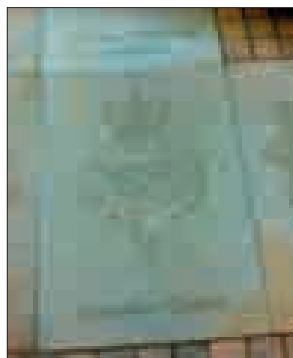
The New Year arrived and it didn't turn out to be a good one for the Branch. During the year members had the sad privilege of attending five Grenadier funerals. In January Branch Vice President **Reverend Mr Mark Carter** sadly passed away. **Mr Carter** had been Padre and a loyal supporter and friend for many years. February saw the sad passing of **Alan Higgins** a former WO1 and RSM. **Alan** joined the army in 1959 as a Junior Leader at Oswestry joining the 1st Battalion at Tidworth in 1961. After 22 years in the Regiment he left and joined the Prison Service, working at Stafford Prison until he retired; a life time of public service.

The sudden death of **Alan's** great friend and fellow prison officer and governor **George Hughes** in July, came as a great shock to the Branch; he had also given his working life to the Crown. **George's** great knowledge of military history and wealth of anecdotes is a great loss. **Alan** and **George** were both office holders and played a key role in Branch activities. Towards the end of the year we sadly lost two younger former Grenadiers **Paul Poole** and **Bob Bates**. The Branch's sincere condolences go to the partners and families of all of them.

Welfare continues to be an important part of Branch activities, a number of hospital and nursing home visits being made on a regular basis. The Branch has also been able to offer some help in a couple of urgent and difficult situations.

Members visited London for Regimental Remembrance Day and The Birthday Parade. The Branch Secretary, **David Robins**, with his wife **Helen** was fortunate to be invited to join the Grenadier group at the (aquatic) party in The Mall to celebrate Her Majesty's 90th birthday. It was a truly magnificent day and despite the rain, much enjoyed by everyone who attended.

Early in September the Branch visited the National Memorial Arboretum at Alrewas. The purpose of the visit being to view the tree and bench that the Branch had arranged to be installed, mainly thanks to the generosity of **Keith Wright** and **David Wooders**. Later in the month the Branch Secretary was invited to The NMA for a preview of the splendid new entrance building, restaurant, conference facilities and museum that were due to be officially opened the following day.



The Grenadier Paving Slab on Heroes Square at the NMA.

During his visit he attended the opening and blessing of the new Heroes Square. This is an area with the new build on one side and the Chapel on the opposite side. The square is paved with slabs illustrating the badges of most of the units currently serving today and to which the Regiment made a handsome donation.

Branch meetings are now a lunch time event, usually at The Wagon and Carter referred to above. This arrangement suits the limited number of the more 'mature' members who now attend meetings. Some years ago it was reported in this excellent journal that The North Staffordshire Branch was turning into a twig. With the bereavements referred to above and the passage of time it is rapidly, becoming a twiglet.

There are numbers of younger Grenadiers in the area as, thankfully, witnessed at some of the above funerals. Perhaps it is time for The Caterham Cadre to hang up its ledgers and brief cases to leave space for a younger regime to move in and bring the Branch into the 20 somethings – any offers? But, as the Chairman says, 'as long as there is a brace of us, to prop up a bar, we will carry on'. The Branch is very grateful for and appreciative of the support and help it receives from the Dynamic Duo at Association HQ.

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

(Formed 1929)

President: 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 WILMOTT, DL; Colonel REH AUBREY-FLETCHER; P GOUDIME, JP; Brigadier DJC RUSSELL-PARSONS, OBE; Mr A CRAWLEY

Chairman: Mr G STANGER

Secretary: Mr MA BRITTON, 2 Lowlands Close, Rectory Farm, Northampton, NN3 5EP

Tel: (01604) 416101

Email: nhantsgrenadier@aol.com

Treasurer: Ms T CLARK

Meetings: Held on the first Thursday of each month, except January, at 2000hrs at the Royal Naval and Royal Marines Club, Lorne Road, off Barrack Road, Northampton, NN1 3RN

Association, with the Branch yet again growing in membership from all generations of Grenadiers.

Black Sunday was well attended and a coach was hired to take our party to London so that former members of the Regiment could pay their respects to, and remember, comrades from their time with the Regiment.

Following our arrival to waving crowds, we de-bussed and looked for familiar faces. Many members met up with former comrades, with a number spending time outside the Chapel and inside the Sergeants' Mess reminiscing of days past and long missed friends and remembering both fun and sad days during their service period. A special moment was taken to remember **2619229 CSM Arthur Crawley**, a former treasurer of the Branch who had sadly passed away in January 2016.

Our social calendar kicked off in April with river boat trips on the good ship Titanic on the river Nene for 24 of our members and their families, which included a ride along the river, lunch at a public house, then a fairly safe return journey under the helmsman-ship of one of our most senior members directed by the drunken navigation of several self-professed experts in water-born assault tactics. Note to Arthur: Never turn right when the river goes left despite what anyone tells you!

In June, we held the third Waterloo Ball and Annual Association Dinner. Over 120 members of the branch and their families attended the new Northamptonshire Masonic Hall to celebrate the victory at the Battle of Waterloo and the naming of the Regiment. Our guest of honour for the evening was **Kerry Ashworth**, the mother of **LCpl Ashworth VC**.

The evening commenced with the traditional speeches and toast by our new President **Mr Charles Manners**, dinner was then served accompanied by light music from members of the Household Division Band (Retired). A raffle was held to raise funds for a memorial bench at the National Arboretum, The Royal British Legion and The Colonel's Fund which raised over £1,500 and when put with the profits from the dinner, a healthy amount was donated to these noble causes. Bookings for the 2017 ball are now being taken.



2016 has proved to be another benchmark year for Northamptonshire Branch, Grenadier Guards

Following the formal part of the evening, entertainment was available which included more music by the band and dancing, with carriages at midnight. With the last members leaving by 1245am, the evening was deemed a success and the rear guard retired for the night.

July 2016 saw our first garden party at our new President's house where **Charles and Nic Manners** and family invited us to view their garden and to stomp through their roses, (a tradition started in our former President's garden at Flore). At this event we partook of the President's special reserve wine to wash down the delicious nibbles prepared by Nic, whilst Household Cavalry members of the Branch were happily clustering in the garden and feeding the birds with sausage rolls. Next year, they may even be allowed in to the hall. We look forward to 2017 and the re-enactment of the Battle of Waterloo we are planning to hold in the garden this coming year.

During the summer months further boat trips were organised and, despite 'Captain' Craddock attempting to put a 40ft narrow boat sideways through a 13ft lock entrance and nearly pulling it off, the 'Titanic' proved it was good for more than one trip. In late October members of the Branch visited the National Memorial Arboretum to lay a wreath at the Household Division Memorial and to inspect the bench that the Northamptonshire Branch had sponsored.



Former Household Division personnel formed up with the Branch Banner and bearer party, were called to order and marched down and halted at the Memorial site. A minutes' silence was held, a wreath laid and the Exhortation was recited by **23970862 Dave Robinson**. Pictures were taken before the parade was dismissed and reformed at the memorial bench, where further pictures were taken.

Our final social event of the year was our traditional Christmas raffle, held at the Royal Naval and Royal Marine Club, where over 40 members and guests joined together to chat, buy raffle tickets, win prizes, drink drinks and eat buffet. With over 40 prizes available most, if not all, came away with a prize or two, excluding our President whose tickets we forgot to put in the hat. Thanks to **Jean and Sue Elvy** for the excellent catering.

Overall, with eleven Branch meetings and numerous social events held throughout the year, Northamptonshire Branch, Grenadier Guards Association is alive and well.

Branch meetings are held at 8:00pm on the first Thursday of each month, excluding January, with social event information available on request. If you live near Northamptonshire, and it has been a while since you saw old comrades, or just fancy getting into a lively social network, why not pop down to one of our monthly meetings and meet a few of the members. All members of the Household Division are welcome.

NORTHUMBRIA

(Formed 1926)

President: Colonel JM CRASTER, MA

Vice Presidents: THE DUKE OF ABERCORN (Lord Lieutenant of County Tyrone); Major JHN PORTER; SIR HEW HAMILTON-DALRYMPLE, Bt, GCVO; Capt SIR CHARLES FERGUSON, Bt;

Chairman: Mr A DANIEL

Secretary: Mr J KEEGAN, 12 Oaklea Close, Norton, Stockton-On-Tees, TS20 1HN

Tel: (01642) 556534

Email: johnkeegan1@virginmedia.com

Treasurer: Capt DE GARDNER

Meetings: Contact the Branch Secretary for further Details

Another year has flown by and we are pleased to report all our activities have been well supported albeit with the help of our local Household Division Association.

Our Annual General Meeting was held on Sunday 8th May 2016 and was attended by 55 members and guests. As in previous years, the Masonic Hall Stockton on Tees provided a reasonably priced, first class three course lunch. We were pleased to see our President **Colonel J M Craster** and his wife **Fiona** and we appreciate the distance they travel to be with us. We were also pleased to be able to offer them our best wishes for their then imminent Golden Wedding Anniversary. Our President, Officials and Committee all agreed to stay on in office for a further year.

The usual discussions took place about what to organise for the coming year, we had already at a committee meeting in January, agreed to celebrate St Patrick's Day by going to a matinee performance of the Bachelors (Popular Irish group from the 60's) at the Billingham Forum and had lunch at the local Half Moon Inn. We also tried to organise a Charabanc trip to the lovely Yorkshire fishing village of Whitby to celebrate St George's Day on Saturday 23rd April, unfortunately we had no takers and had to cancel.

The members agreed once again to support our local Help for Heroes Family Fun Day at Redcar Races on Sunday 17th July and 22 of us enjoyed a lovely lunch and some good racing

whilst supporting a worthwhile cause. Our first 4 social events have all been during the day as the membership seems to prefer socialising during the daylight hours.

September 24th 2016 saw our Annual Dinner take place at our favourite Masonic Hall, Stockton on Tees. The Annual Dinner this year was dedicated to HM The Queen, celebrating her 90th Birthday. Over 77 members and guests enjoyed a first class dinner and superb entertainment from International Vocalist Lynne Barrie. Our guest of honour was **Lt REL Phillips** Grenadier Guards from ITC Catterick who did the Regiment proud with a first class briefing of current Regimental affairs.

Unfortunately we did not travel down to London this year for Remembrance Weekend; however we did remember our fallen comrades at our local parades.

On Sunday 11th December 2016 at the Marton Hotel and Country Club, we sat down to a traditional Christmas Lunch with entertainment provided by musicians from the Billingham Silver Band playing Christmas Carols and getting into the swing of Christmas with **Capt Dave Gardner** organising the tables to join in with The Twelve Days of Christmas, with each table having to stand and sing their verse of the Christmas carol.

During the year the Branch financially supported The Not Forgotten Association and made a donation towards the Memorial Stone for The Guards Training Company at Pickering, North Yorkshire and members attended the unveiling of the Stone on Saturday 12th November 2016.

It is with deep regret that we report the sad loss of **Major J D Magill Crichton Maitland**, a Branch Vice President. We conclude this report by thanking all the staff at Regimental Headquarters for their continued support.

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

(Formed 1914)

President: VACANT

Vice Presidents: SIR ANDREW BUCHANAN, Bt, KCVO;
Mr G SEVERN; Mr RL SHARPE; Mr GE HALLAM

Chairman: Mr SH DAVIS

Secretary: Mr GE HALLAM 14 The Lawns, Whatton-in-the-Vale,
Nottinghamshire, NG13 9EZ

Email: nottinghambranch@grengds.com

Treasurer: Mrs MJ GREENBERRY

Website: www.grenadierguardsnotts.org.uk

Facebook: Grenadier Guards Association (Notts) Branch

Meetings: Held on the second Friday of each month at The Victory Club, Church Drive, Daybrook, Nottingham, NG5 6JG, at 1900hrs.

Since our last report we have been pleased to welcome the following new members; 23688298 **John William Gibson**, 24306802 **Mark John Poulson**, 25134154

Matthew David Eagle and 24908294 **Warren Brown** (Life Guards).

The 2015 Christmas Luncheon at the Albert Hall, Nottingham was, once again, a success in every way with an attendance of 57. The number of Branch members present was low which was rather disheartening and the Committee therefore decided to cancel a similar event planned for 2016 which was unfortunate for the enthusiastic few. The Branch Social on 11th December 2015 at the Victory Club Arnold was equally successful with the food being prepared by **Malcolm and Michelle Greenberry**, **Larry and Mandy Straw**. The music was provided by **Nigel Turner** and 'Carlita', organizers of the Tombola were **Arthur Dutton** and **Chris Dunne**.

The Branch has not been as active this year, whether it is due to the age of some of the members or just a lack of enthusiasm. However, **Graham Worrall** is the new Social Secretary so there are big hopes for the future.



Members at the December 2015 Christmas Social at the Victory Club, Arnold.

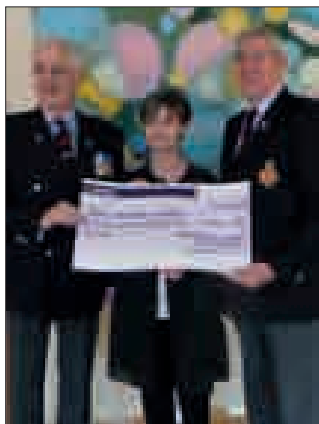


WO2 (RQMS) Gareth Davis with Mr Chris Dunne at the Regimental Dinner.

The Regimental Dinner and Dance on 23rd April 2016 was held at the Albert Hall Nottingham. The attendance was 60 or so; under par for a Branch the size of Nottinghamshire. A variety of dishes were available enabling the individual to select a three course meal of their own choice. The quality was excellent as was the premises and service of the staff. Music was provided by **Nigel Turner** with the **Ashby Big Band**, a splendid group of musicians. The Guest of Honour was **Capt C H P Sanford** who came with **WO2 (RQMS) G Davis** and his wife **Nicola**. It was a superb evening with plenty of 'chat', dancing and camaraderie.

Also in April the Branch Chairman **Mr S Davis** and the Assistant Secretary **Mr J Smith** presented a cheque for £150.00 to the Manager of the John Eastwood Hospice, Sutton in Ashfield, as part of the Branch's commitment to supporting local Charities.

At Black Sunday 2016 the Branch was honoured by having one of its members, **Richard Grocott** assisting in the carriage of the Regimental Wreath from Wellington Barracks to the Guards Memorial at Horse Guards Parade. Once again the numbers attending this annual event were not too good. Nevertheless those who did attend enjoyed the day.



Presentation of our cheque to the Manager of the John Eastwood Hospice 2016.

Armed Forces Weekend took place on 25th and 26th June 2016 at Wollaton Park, Nottingham and once again the Branch was represented. The new Branch Gazebo was on display and in use for the first time. It looked even more impressive when adorned with the exhibition of pictures, memorabilia and suchlike. The Branch name in gold lettering also enhanced the appearance of the structure. The tables therein were fully stocked on both days, with items for sale, for both the younger generation and the old and bold. The Tombola was a great attraction, and made a good profit, as were the Woolly dolls. There were many visitors on both days and a great deal of interest was shown in our exhibits. The weather was reasonable and both days went well. The usual members of the Branch worked hard to 'sell' the Regiment and attract recruits. Several Branch Membership Forms were issued and one was returned in the name of **M D Eagle** whose name appears above.



The Gazebo erection team, Front Row from Left to Right: J Smith, S H Davis, R Grocott (Richard and Larry Straw secured the Gazebo by living in a mobile home on site). Rear Row from Left to Right: G Brough, G Worrall, M Greenberry and G E Hallam.



Dave Welling (Wigan) and Richard Grocott (Nottinghamshire) carrying the Regimental Wreath to the Guards Memorial.



The Nottinghamshire Branch Gazebo.

On 1st of July 2016 the Secretary and his lady represented the Branch at the Nottinghamshire County Council 100 Years Commemoration Ceremony of the Battle of the Somme which was held at The County Hall, West Bridgford, Nottinghamshire. The County Council Choir led the singing of the hymns and songs associated

with the First World War. Councillor I Campbell read extracts from the Diary of Private William Roberts who was killed at Etrun, Pas-de-Calais on 15th June 1917 aged 23 years. The Venerable Robin Turner CB DL RAF (Retd), conducted the service. The appropriate military musical salutes were given and the poem 'The Soldier' by Rupert Brooke was read. It was an extremely moving ceremony.

The 24th July saw some of our members attending the Dedication Ceremony to the Junior Guardsmen's Company of the Household Division 1958–1988 which took place at the National Memorial Arboretum, Alrewas, Staffordshire.

Grenadier Day at Aldershot was another event at which the Gazebo was in use. It was stocked up, as previously, with various items for sale. From the feedback received the Gazebo created a favourable impression amongst other branches who attended. On this occasion the following made the long journey down south to man the display and ensure this Branch was properly noticed. They were **Larry Straw, Richard Grocott, Jeff and Edna Smith, Stuart and Pat Davis.**



Members at the Graveside of Harry Nicholls VC.

Respects were paid by 20 members, family and friends of the late Harry Nicholls VC at a ceremony which took place at 11am 11th November 2016 at Wilford Hill Cemetery, Loughborough Road, West Bridgford, Nottingham. Wreaths were laid on behalf of the Family, Regimental Association and Local Authority. Mr Gerald R Varney sounded Last Post and Reveille.

Thanks are warranted by the following members and friends of the Branch, including those named in bold type above, for all their hard work and contribution to the activities of this



Standard Bearer Mr Steve Hill.

Branch over the past twelve months. They are, in no particular order, **Barry and Anne Twigger, Alan Ping, Sonia and Ray Sharpe, Ray Ridgard, John Hadley, Mick Roberts and Tony Cookson**, so too are the countless ladies who prepare the buffet at our monthly meeting, the people who supply the prizes for the Tombola and our Branch Banner Bearers.

The condolences of members go to the families of the following Grenadiers who have passed away since our last report; **2629213 Baker G H RVM, 23688443 Knight B W, 22545415 Reynolds A J, 2213831 Jackson R J, 2627255 Grindley J, 22955841 Lievesley D, 2626683 Sunley P L, 23252242 Rose D T and 22955530 Clarke J F.**

OXFORDSHIRE

(Formed 1936)

President: Colonel ET HUDSON, CBE

Vice Presidents: THE HONOURABLE 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

Secretary: Mr D WRIGHT, 31 Blenheim Way, Horspath, Oxford, OX33 1SB

Tel: (01865) 874819

Email: wright.dcw@btopenworld.com

Treasurer: Mrs J SHAYLER

Meetings: Contact the Branch Secretary for further details.

Another year has passed us by, too quickly to be of comfort to some of us. Unfortunately we have had no new members to add to our Branch roll but as usual the few boiler house men seem to stoke up enough enthusiasm and ideas to keep all our functions well supported and on behalf of the committee we wish to thank all of our membership and friends for their support and generosity in providing raffle prizes for our events. As usual the 2015 Carol Service at The Guards Chapel was well supported by our members and the socialising afterwards much enjoyed.

The 2016 Branch AGM was held at The Plough Inn, Wolvercote where the usual faithful members attended. Afterwards 35 people sat down to an excellent lunch organised by **Peter Brooks.**

To celebrate Her Majesty's 90th birthday the Branch joined The Reading Branch and the Oxford and Reading Coldstream Guards Branches in organising a garden party at the home of **The Hon Mrs Monson**, all preparation was achieved 'in house' with the White Waltham Silver Band, an Ex Queen's Piper and the '2 Flunkies' in attendance. Special thanks must go to the

ladies of the Branches who provided over 90 people with an excellent tea and also to **John Southern** whose untiring efforts made it a great day for all.

The Branch held its own celebration to mark the Her Majesty's 90th birthday. In July we organised a celebration lunch which was held at The Masonic Hall, Woodstock **Peter Brooks** and **David Wright** decorated the hall and tables in a Union theme. 66 people sat down and enjoyed an excellent four course lunch with wine. Our thanks to **Cliff** and **Lorraine Ward** for the catering and service provided.

The Branch supported Grenadier Day and a table top sale of various second hand goods raised over £100.00 for Branch funds; thanks go to those members who donated goods, those who manned the tables and those who organised the events inside and outside the arena.

No report of ours can be complete without mentioning The Henley Guards Association of which 10 Grenadiers are members and in particular the secretary **Barry Padwick** who in his untiring efforts organised for members a Cheese and Wine party at **Mr Herbert's** house at Bradenham, a lunch and a separate social get-together at The Springs Golf Club Wallingford, a coach party to the Christmas Carol service at The Guards Chapel, two lunchtime Skittles events in memory of former Grenadier **Bill May** at The Hungerford Royal British Legion Club which raised over £300 for the Lung Foundation Charity, and finally members filled a coach and had a very enjoyable evening at The Birmingham Military Tattoo.

On 1st September members joined up with The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers and made our usual trip to France to commemorate the 102nd Anniversary of the 1st Battle of The Marne. Our first ceremony was held at La Ferte to honour our own fallen at the magnificent memorial to all those men of the BEF who lost their lives during the retreat from Mons and have no known graves. **Peter Brooks** laid a wreath on behalf of the Association to honour the memory of the many Grenadiers whose names appear on it. We then visited the Sezane military cemetery where we honoured the French fallen and afterwards we all attended a dinner put on by our hosts at our hotel.

On the Sunday we attended the multi-national commemoration at the Mondement National War Memorial and afterwards a champagne reception and a

lunch of Friendship at La Ferte. This time we stayed at The hotel Auberge Champenoise in the delightful village of Moussy, the hotel is family run, the husband is blind and his wife partly sighted but the service that they provided was second to none; the husband could pull a pint and serve any drink without spilling a drop and could take your money and give change with no problem, and if anyone is ever in this area and needs accommodation we would have no hesitation in recommending the hotel to them. Once more our thanks go to **Richard Adams** for all the hard work that he puts in to make the trip a success.



Members and their wives at the Hotel Auberge, Champenoise.

During the year **Peter Brooks** our Dining Club secretary organised 3 lunches including our AGM. We held two further lunches at the Four Pillars Hotel. The first in September was an excellent help yourself carvery where everyone went home after eating four courses and perhaps more. The final lunch of the year was the Christmas lunch where everyone joined in to enjoy the festive offerings and all went home with a raffle prize.

The Branch held its Annual lunch on the 30th October at the Banbury Cricket Club when 86 members and friends sat down to an excellent four course meal provided by **Nicky and Jo**. **Peter Brooks** welcomed the guests and thanked the Branch Officers for all the hard work they put into the organisation of the Association during the year to ensure that all runs smoothly. **Lieutenant Colonel Piers Ashfield** gave us an insight to what had been happened in the Regiment during the past year and the role that it is playing in the NATO Very High Readiness Joint Task Force. Afterwards, **Matthew Ellmer** the Regimental Casualty Officer gave us a very interesting and detailed insight into his work assuring us that bereaved Grenadier families and Grenadiers in his care are



The Marne Touring Group with their Hotel Auberge host.

receiving the best possible level of regimental support.

Sadly we have to report the deaths of **23058244 Brian Humphreys, 22078734 Les Gillham**; both in their time were staunch committee members, and widows **Mrs Lloyd, Mrs Bowen and Mrs Long**.

To conclude, our thanks go to our President **Colonel E T Hudson CBE**, all Vice Presidents who donated money and items for auction at the Annual lunch, **Mr Colin Hessey** our auditor who oversees our finance's and all other members of the Household Division whose unfailing support help to make all our functions worthwhile.

READING

(Formed 1913)

President: Lieutenant Colonel HS HANNING.

Vice Presidents: Major General BC GORDON LENNOX, CB, MBE; THE HONOURABLE Mrs JEREMY MONSON; JG SOUTHERN, Esq

Chairman: Mr P FLOWERDEW

Secretary: Mrs T DAY, 1 Harness Close, Reading, Berkshire, RG2 8PF. Tel: (0118) 986 8328

Email: t.day661@btinternet.com

Treasurer: Mr J Veary

Meetings: No Monthly Meetings

Facebook: Guards-Association-Reading-and-District-Branch

We held our AGM in March 2016 which was attended by our President Lieutenant Colonel Henry Hanning and 18 members. We had a discussion on events for the year which would be a Garden Party at the home of The Hon Mrs Jeremy Monson to celebrate the Queen's 90th Birthday, Grenadier Day in July and the Branch Lunch in September. Our President and committee of seven all agreed to stay on for a further year.



From Left to Right: Our Chairman Philip Flowerdew, Treasurer Jim Veary, Member Bob Wood and our Welfare Officer Robin Kellow.

Our Garden Party to celebrate the Queen's 90th Birthday held together with the Coldstream Guards and our Oxford Branch took place on Sunday 19th June. The Hon Mrs Jeremy Monson kindly offered her lovely home and gardens for this event and we were more than pleased to accept. John Southern organised a wonderful day



Top row from Left to Right: Ian King RVM, Roger Coppock and the Newbury Town Crier Brian Sylvester; John Southern, Roger Coppock, Barrie Padwick; The Hon Mrs Monson and the Newbury Town Crier Brian Sylvester; Inset: Our Celebration Cake. Bottom row from Left to Right: Lieutenant Colonel Henry Hanning, Theresa Day, The Hon Mrs Monson; Our organiser of the day John Southern and The White Waltham Silver Jubilee Band; Christine Southern, Patricia Padwick, Pauline Coppock.

together with **Barrie Padwick** secretary of the Reading and Oxford Coldstream Guards Branch and **David Wright** secretary of the Oxford Branch. These pictures are a reminder of a day to remember.

Grenadier Day on Sunday 17th July was a lovely Summer day. The Branch had a stall which did well. Richard and Derren displayed their model soldiers showing the journey to Horse Guards with the Queen riding on horseback. The Colonel arrived and on his way to present trophies and prizes in the arena stopped to admire their fantastic models. The arena displays were excellent and the children had a great time on the climbing wall, segway and bouncy castles. The very good part about all this is that it was completely free (apart from food) – even the ice creams. Many thanks to the Regiment for this and all the hard work put in by the Battalion and RHQ. Well done everybody.



Some of our model soldiers – Her Majesty on the way to Horse Guards.



The Colonel and Lieutenant Colonel with Richard and Derren White.

The Reading Branch held a very successful Annual Branch Lunch on Sunday 18th September at The Calcot Hotel where we always receive excellent service. **Sean Bolan** a very well known artist to Grenadiers was our Guest Speaker and he brought some of his paintings for his talk which was excellent. **Major Tom Hendriksen**

brought us up to date with all the news of the Regiment. We welcomed **Lady Hill-Wood** and **The Hon Mrs Monson** both widows of past presidents of the Reading Branch. We were delighted that four Chelsea Pensioners came to our Lunch again and said they would like to come again. We thank Mark, John Southern's son-in-law for being their chauffeur for the day. The Branch is very pleased that so many of our guests were from other Household Division Regiments and other Regiments of the wider Army, the Navy and the Royal Air Force; we could not hold this event without their support. The afternoon ended with a marvellous raffle and many of us went home with a prize. It was a most wonderful occasion.



From Left to Right: Norman Mitchell, Alan Goddard, Godfrey Young, David Coote.



Diana Wheatley and Sean Bolan.



Paintings by Sean Bolan.



Branch Chairman Philip Flowerdew and Mrs Pamela Flowerdew.

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 one of our Vice-Presidents and long serving committee member **Don McMahon** died in February this year. An Ex RSM Don served in the Regiment for many years and then became the RSM at The Army Apprentice School at Arborfield; Rest in Peace Don. Finally we send good wishes to **Andy Green** and to all at RHQ and to all Branches for a successful 2017.



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: HW SPENCER, Esq.

Secretary: Mr C BECK, 133 Victoria Road, Bridgnorth, Shropshire, WV16 4LL

Tel: (01746) 761501

Email: christiebeck@btinternet.com

Treasurer: Mr F DAWE

Meetings: Contact the Branch Secretary for further details.

We began 2016 by holding the Branch AGM at the Lord Hill Hotel in Shrewsbury on Sunday 10th April with 19 members attending and three apologies. It was good to see our President, **Major Giles Inglis-Jones** looking fit and well having been given the all clear after two and a half years ill health. He is a great President for the Branch and along with his wife **Arabella** and family are all very supportive of the Branch and our members.

Once again the subject of how to attract more members to the Branch was discussed and we were informed by **Bruce Baylis** that the Worcester Branch had the same problem and had sent out forms to all their members to return if interested in Branch activities, he said it had helped their Branch especially in saving on postage. At this point we must thank **Bruce** and **Veronica**, his wife for doing the minutes of the AGM and letting our Secretary have a copy of the form they sent to their members. Having done the same we have one or two new members showing interest.



From Left to Right: Gdsm N Reilly, Gdsm W Langford, LCpl N Simmonds and Gdsm O Raybould at the Branch Christmas lunch.

We held our Christmas Lunch on Sunday 27th November, once again at the Lord Hill. It was a great success and was well attended with 49 members and

guests. The guest speaker was **Major Neil Strachan** and we were also honoured to have as our guests **Mrs Kerry Ashworth**, mother of **LCpl James Ashworth VC** along with four serving members from the 1st Battalion; **LCpl N Simmonds**, **Gdsm O Raybould**, **Gdsm W Langford** and **Gdsm N Reilly** together with their ladies. They told us that they enjoyed the day, their lunch and especially talking to the older members of the Branch. It was great to see them with the Branch as they are all Shropshire men. We also welcomed **Paul Churm** and his wife to the lunch and **Paul** has indicated that he will be coming to Branch events whenever he can.

We would like to thank those members of the Branch who at all our lunches organise the raffles by selling tickets etc. they are **Mrs Avis Tudor**, **Fred and Diana Dawe** and **Dan Powell** who helps with the draw; they all make the Secretary's life so much easier.

It is with great sadness that we report the death of **Mrs Audrey Gamble**, the widow of **Fred Gamble**. **Audrey** was a lovely lady who attended all our lunches and helped with the raffles. The Branch was represented at her funeral and our condolences go to her family, she will be missed.

We now look forward to our AGM in April 2017 and at the same time we must record our thanks to **Major Bob Woodfield MBE** who has been our Treasurer over the last year but will be standing down having done a marvellous job and who can proudly add this to his previous appointments as Secretary and President.

Bert Spencer our Branch Chairman is recovering from an operation and could not attend our Christmas lunch; we wish him and his wife **Beryl** all the best and hope to see them soon. Finally we would like to thank all at RHQ for their help during 2016 and to wish them and all Grenadiers, wherever you may be, good health and a prosperous 2017.

SPALDING

(Formed 1954)

President: Major SJE TURNER (Scots Guards).

Chairman: D Higgs, Esq.

Secretary: Mr M STEVENSON, 30 Crown Drive, Spalding, PE11 2HU.

Tel: (01775) 725 535

Email: josiemalcolm50@talktalk.net

Treasurer: Mrs J STEVENSON

A very warm Sunday at the Beginning of August saw Branch members enjoying a luncheon in the garden of our President and his wife, **Major and Mrs Simon Turner**. We were graced with the presence of the Association President, **Colonel Richard Aubrey-Fletcher**, his wife **Caroline** and the General Secretary **Major Andy Green**. It was a very happy occasion with, as always good food, good company and wonderful Grenadier weather.



Malcolm Stevenson, Major Simon Turner and Colonel Richard Aubrey-Fletcher.

During the afternoon several presentations were made; a Grenadier statuette was given to **Major Turner** with the thanks of members for his work on behalf of the Branch and his great support over many years, it is still our proud boast that we have uniquely had a Scots Guards President for so long. **Mrs Turner** received a bouquet of flowers. **Colonel Aubrey-Fletcher** then presented the Branch secretary with a certificate signed by The Colonel in recognition of his 36 years' service as Branch secretary and a gift was also given to his wife **Josie** for her outstanding support over all that time. Back in 1980 when **Malcolm** was first appointed, **Capt Barry Double** the then General Secretary advised him that ideally five years would be a reasonable tenure; it didn't quite work out that way!



The Branch Secretary proudly displays his Colonel's Certificate.



Malcolm Stevenson, Mrs Turner, Major Turner, Josie Stevenson and Colonel Aubrey-Fletcher.



The gentlemen together at the home of the Branch President, Sunday 7th August 2016.

Unfortunately the pleasure people were enjoying during this event was tinged with sadness as we knew the Spalding Branch, formed in 1954 was to cease to exist at the end of the year. Falling numbers and an ageing membership had finally caught up with us making the Branch no longer viable. We have always been a small Branch that punched well above its weight and will carry wonderful memories to our inevitable end and beyond.

In order to keep in touch we have decided to meet once a month for lunch and **Harold Harris** has kindly agreed to arrange this, after all we are still Grenadiers. Finally we must now thank all our members who have worked so hard for the Branch over many years and also RHQ, for without their help we would not have existed for so long. The Spalding Branch has been proud to have been part of the Grenadier Guards Association.

SUFFOLK

(Formed 1926)

President: Colonel DHC GORDON-LENNOX

Vice Presidents: Major CXS FENWICK, LVO; Major FAO CLARK; FA WALLACE, Esq

Chairman: PGD T del C NISBETT, Esq

Secretary: Mr DC BEAUMONT, 6 Wareham Avenue, Ipswich, IP3 8QD

Tel: (01473) 729524

Email: ggassuffolk@gmail.com

Treasurer: Mr DC BEAUMONT

Meetings: Contact the Branch Secretary for further details.

Planning for our 90th anniversary lunch had started well over a year ago, when a sub-committee comprising **Bernard Taylor**, **Kingsley Minns** and **Barry Lovelace** began the task of finding a special location for the event. After diligently checking several locations they advised the Branch Chairman that Culford School appeared to be the ideal place. Ideas were

percolating as to what the format should be. Unfortunately the 1st Battalion Corps of Drums was quickly discounted as they were due for leave prior to training in foreign parts. The original date, Sunday 17th July 2016, had to be cancelled due to a clash with Grenadier Day at Aldershot and with much good will on the part of the Staff at Culford School we were still able to meet near the actual date of formation, a week later. The Branch President, **Colonel David Gordon Lennnox** had invited the Regimental Lieutenant Colonel to the lunch as Guest of Honour, which he graciously accepted.

So the stage was set for Sunday 24th July, even the weather behaved. There must be some truth in the fact that the 'sun always shines on Grenadiers' (or should it be the righteous?). The grounds had been groomed to perfection.

The Ixworth Grenadier 'A' Company Detachment, Suffolk Army Cadet Force and the Chantry (Ipswich) Guards 'C' Company Detachment Suffolk Army Cadet Force, who were well turned out and disciplined were on hand, assisting with car parking and escorting guests to the Red Room for pre-lunch canapés and wine; a blessing in disguise as unbeknown to the catering staff a triathlon event was taking place in the grounds and the car parking spaces which had been allocated to us were taken by would be athletes; well we were only days away from the Olympics. There was no strong smell of embrocation in the Red Room, obviously all guests had survived (or avoided) the course to get to the liquid refreshment.



Our Lunch guests assembled on the terrace at Culford School.

Following the photo call The Regimental Lieutenant Colonel, **Lieutenant General Sir George Norton KCVO, CBE**, accompanied by the Branch Chairman **Mr P G D T del C. Nisbett, Esq.**, inspected the contingent of Army Cadets; each Cadet in turn being personally spoken to by the Regimental Lieutenant Colonel.

After lunch the Branch President proposed Loyal Toasts to her Majesty the Queen and His Royal Highness The Prince Philip. The Lieutenant Colonel then gave a résumé of the activities of the Regiment during the past year and



The Cadet Inspection.

what their likely role would be in the near future. He also updated guests on the important role of welfare and how injured soldiers and bereaved families were being assisted by both the Regiment and the Association. He stressed the importance of dealing with the less obvious injuries caused by stress and the after effects of conflict, which could result in the need for assistance in years to come. **General George** then proposed a toast to the Regiment.

The Branch Chairman went on to speak of the achievements of the Branch since its inception 90 years ago previously, suggesting that it was in good shape to face the future. He then proposed a toast to the Suffolk Branch.

There was a good turnout for the annual Christmas lunch which was held at Hintlesham Golf Club on 11th December 2016.

It is with deep regret that we have to inform readers that since last year's Branch Report three of our members have passed away. **Arthur Mills MM** died on 3rd December 2015. **Arthur** served in the 4th Battalion during World War 2 and it was at the battle for the Recklingen Bridge in Holland that he was awarded the Military Medal. Over the years he was a keen Branch member and a pillar of society in his home town of Halesworth. He was as one of the wreath carriers at a past Regimental Remembrance Day Parade. **John Dawkins** passed away on 18th December 2015; **John** served with the 2nd Battalion during the early 1950's mainly in London.

Cliff Dearing died on 11th May 2016 at Ipswich Hospital. **Cliff** was a staunch Branch member and for many years worked unstintingly as our Branch Secretary. Without doubt his drive in those days made the Branch second to none and financially secure. His upright bearing and no nonsense attitude was testament to his service in the Regiment and his duty as Recruiting Sergeant at Ipswich. As a result of his service to the Branch he was made a Branch Vice President.

SURREY & EAST HAMPSHIRE

(Formed 1925) as Caterham Branch then in 1931 it changed names to Surrey Branch, then again in 1986 to Surrey & East Hampshire Branch.

President: Colonel EH HOUSTOUN, OBE

Vice Presidents: Lieutenant Colonel RM DORNEY, MBE, MStJ; Lieutenant Colonel HMP de LISLE; Lieutenant Colonel SIR JOHN SMILEY, Bt.; Lieutenant Colonel TJ TEDDER; Lieutenant Colonel DJ WEBSTER; Lieutenant Colonel GR WHITEHEAD, RVM; Capt CH COX; Capt C FAGAN, MBE, DL; Capt R HUTTON; Mr P HODGKINSON, BEM Mr S KEYWORTH, MBE.

Chairman: Mr A REID

Secretary: Mrs B REID

Address: 71 Wyke Avenue, Ash, Aldershot, Hants, GU12 6EA

Telephone: (01252) 316757

Email: babsग्ga@gmail.com

Treasurer: Mr T TAYLOR

Meetings: Held on the third Wednesday of each month, except December, at 1930hrs at the Warrant Officers' & Sergeants' Mess, Army Training Regiment, Pirbright, Surrey, GU24 0QQ.

Sadly we start by having to report the loss of members since the publication of the last Grenadier Gazette. They are **23736944 John (Vasser) Campbell** who died of Pneumonia on 4th June 2016 in his care home surrounded by his family, **2628713 Reg Page BEM** who died on 4th July 2016 (the day of his 88 birthday) in a nursing home in Lincoln. **Mrs Pat Dowland** (Branch Vice President) who died in Hospital on Monday 15th August 2016, **Mrs Beryl Kelly** who died on 4th February 2016 and **Mrs Joyce Boarer** who died in February 2016; Lest We Forget.

On a much happier note we are very pleased to report that we had the pleasure of welcoming nine new members to our Branch; **23509898 Mr Frank Brown**, **23633643 Mr Brian Cox**, **24763419 Mr Philip Grindell**, **22955612 Mr David Hughes**, **22955241 Mr Patrick (Paddy) Leonard**, **24263621 Mr Peter Marsh**, **23252579 Mr Austin (Mitch) Mitchell**, **25100347 Mr Robert Pointon**, and finally a serving Grenadier Officer **Major James Green**.

Our Christmas Lunch was held on Saturday 28th November 2015 at Clandon Regis Golf Club, Epsom Road, West Clandon and was attended by 97 members. For the fourth year running the Clandon Regis Golf Club put on another wonderful spread for us and again went the extra mile to give us a memorable Christmas Lunch. Our Branch president stood and welcomed everyone, especially members from the Kingston, London and Windsor Branches, members of the Scots Guards Association, Surrey Branch and also our guests; the Army Training Centre HQ Sergeant Major **WO1 (RSM) Billy Bigger** his wife **Sian** and **Mrs Wendy Mosley**.

Our Sunday Lunches are still held on the last Sunday of every month at the Lakeside International Hotel, Wharf Rd, Frimley

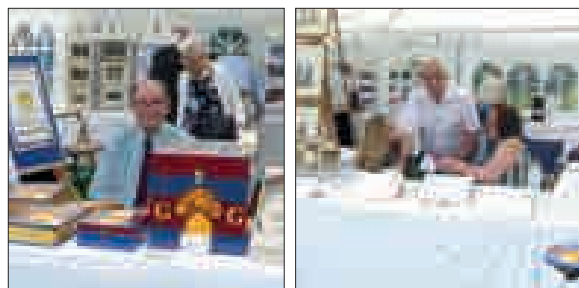
Green, Surrey GU16 6JR at 1230hrs, these continue to be well attended and we have now fixed this location as it's popular with those members who normally attend. Should anyone wish to join us, you would be made very welcome by us all.

Branch Meetings are still held on the third Wednesday of every month at 1930hrs in the WO's & Sgt's Mess, Army Training Centre Pirbright. We now alternate them with one as a meeting and the next as a social where we invite someone to give a talk, or we have a games night with bingo and a quiz. At the socials we also have a buffet and the normal raffle. This has proved to be very successful and we continue to find that we have more members turn up on those nights.

A few of our members attended the 2016 Regimental Remembrance Day and enjoyed a good service in the Guards Chapel. We also managed to catch up with some of our friends in the Garrison Sgts' Mess following the wreath laying on Horse Guards Parade.

Our Branch Annual Dinner was held on Saturday 25 June 2016 at the Bramley Suite, Mercure Farnham Bush Hotel, Farnham, Surrey and attended by 65 members. This was a wonderful evening enjoyed by all. Our Branch President **Colonel Euan Houstoun OBE** gave a great speech and welcomed the support of members from the Kingston, Lincoln and Windsor Branches along with members of the Scots Guards Association Surrey Branch. Our Guest Speaker from the Regiment was **Major James Keeley MBE** who gave us a thorough update on the Regiment.

At Grenadier Day on Sunday 17 July 2016 at Lille Barracks Aldershot we are pleased to report that our Branch stall generated a lot of interest. We had lots of things going on; the Company, Platoon and Squad photos run by our Chairman **Mr Andy Reid** had a lot of people looking through and commenting on them. **Mr Colin Francis** sold all of his Grenadier related items that he had spent a lot of time painting during the lead up to the Day. The children's lucky dip went well with every child winning a prize. We had a painted Grenadier Guardsman Waiter that was made by our Chairman **Mr Andy Reid**, painted by our Branch Welfare Officer **Mr Colin Francis** and was won by the person who guessed his army number correctly. Three raffles, as well as the items for sale helped



Left: Mr Colin Francis Selling his painted items.
Right: Standing Mr Andy Reid, to the left his granddaughter Maisie Ward, to the right his Daughter Mrs Tina Ward engaged in a bit of selling.

raise some money for our Branch. It was great to have so many visitors and be able to chat to them.



Our Entertainers.



Our members enjoying the Entertainment.

The Queens 90th Birthday Tea Party on Saturday 6th August 2016 was organised by our Secretary **Mrs Babs Reid** and held at the Lord Pirbright's Village Hall, The Green, Pirbright. The afternoon started at 2pm where we were once again entertained by **Mickey Driver** and his team of professional entertainers in song and dance entitled **Happy & Glorious**; a thoroughly enjoyable couple of hours was had by all and it was not long before **Mickey** had all those attending singing along and waving their Union flags. At the interval everyone was served with afternoon tea, coffee, sandwiches and sticky cakes. After which the second half of the act followed. We finished off the afternoon with a raffle and lots of very nice prizes were won.

Our Branch BBQ was held on Saturday 17th September 2016 at the house of our Chairman and Secretary **Andy & Babs Reid**. We had a good turnout of members and although it was a little cold everyone had turned up in warm clothing determined not to let it ruin our day. A very pleasant afternoon with good food, plenty of drink and in good company amongst old and new friends, what more could we ask for?

The Branch Tour of D Lines (Brunswick Camp) at the old Guards Depot, Pirbright took place on Friday 21 October 2016. As most of you will know the old Guards Depot is now the Army Training Centre. A lot of people think that the old D Lines have been knocked down to make room for new buildings but in fact it still remains much the same as you would remember it even Sandes is still going strong.

We were very privileged to have ATC HQ Sergeant Major

Billy Bigger to act as our guide for the morning. **Billy** has been a very good friend to our Branch over the last two years he has been Sergeant Major and has bent over backwards to accommodate us in anyway possible, we feel very privileged and are extremely grateful to him. Our tour started with coffee and pastries in the Mess, followed by a walk around to the church where **Billy** told us of the big changes that are going to happen to the ATC in the near future.

We then went up to D Lines for our tour. Just as we started off our crowd was spotted by an old friend and he came running out to greet us – **Capt Ray Warwick** a Grenadier who had gone up through the ranks. **Ray** remembered most of us by name and said that if any Grenadiers happened to be in the Brookwood area they should go in and see him and have a chat over a coffee, just ask for him at the Guardroom and he will arrange for you to enter the camp. **Ray** took us over to one of the blocks so we could take a look inside.

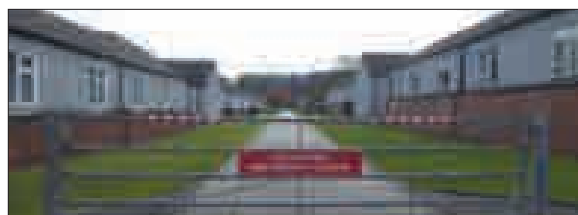


Sandes.

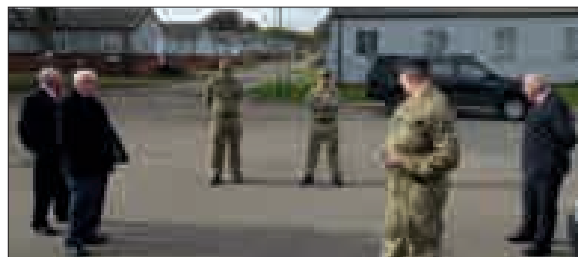
had lunch with the Sergeant Major, the Drill Sergeant (Welsh Guards) and the President of the Mess Committee (Coldstream Guards); a great morning that brought back lots of fond and not so fond memories.



Our Group outside the Church at ATC Pirbright.



D Lines, Brunswick Camp.



From Left to Right: Brian Cox, Patrick Leonard, Sgt's Mess PMC, Drill Sgt, Sergeant Major Billy Bigger and one of our members guests.

Following this little surprise, **Billy** continued to take us on our tour and all to soon we found ourselves making our way back to the Mess where we finished our tour and

SUSSEX

(Formed 1947)

President: Capt JS GREENWOOD

Vice Presidents: Lieutenant Colonel TEM DONE; Capt SG WITHERIDGE; AD MAYHEW, Esq; Colonel JC RICHARDSON, MA (RAMC)

Chairman: MW BRACKSTON

Secretary: Mr J NORRIS, 1a Sea Lane Close, East Preston, West Sussex, BN16 1NQ

Tel: (01903) 786247

Treasurer: Mrs J PEACHEY

Meetings: Formal meetings are held on the second Thursday of each month at 1100hrs to 1400hrs except in April, August and December when other functions take place. Meetings are held at the Royal British Legion, Lancing, BN15 9AX. Contact the Branch Secretary for further details.

The Sussex Branch continues to hold meetings but with a slight change; we now have three months – April, August and December during which our normal meetings are replaced by Events. Our annual dinner is held in April, a Barbecue in August and a Christmas Lunch in December. This enables the Branch to entertain not only the families of members but friends as well.

The first Christmas Lunch which took place on 20th December 2015 at the Windsor Hotel was attended by 35 members friends and family members, the food was excellent and a good time was enjoyed by all; we were lucky enough to have the hotel to ourselves. We also had a very good raffle due to the generosity of our members. It was a great start to Christmas and it will be repeated again later this year.

The Branch Annual Dinner took place on the 24th April again at the Windsor Hotel. The music was provided this year by a DJ; he had been given strict instructions that on the entrance of the President and Vice Presidents he was

to play our Regimental Quick March – The British Grenadiers. The president **Captain Greenwood** duly marched in leading the Vice Presidents and Guests. The music started but due to a technical hitch (The DJ did not realise he was playing The German Grenadiers) they almost came to a halt but then carried on. Our Branch has now got the distinction of being the first to play German military music to start off such an evening. An investigation into the incident revealed that the DJ was short sighted and had recognised Grenadiers on the tape he was downloading but did not know there was more than one Regiment!

The evening was a great success and a number of people danced to a variety of music, there was a presentation of bottles of malt whiskey to two of our members; **Mr Roy Prior** and **Mr Barney Cresswell** for achieving the age of 90 yrs. Mr Cresswell was also congratulated on becoming a member of the French Legion of Honour awarded for his service in France in World War 2. Our Regimental guest **Major Johnny Hathaway-White**, the company commander of Support Company of the 1st Battalion gave an entertaining update of Regimental activity and made us all feel very proud to still belong to the Grenadier family.

The Barbecue took place on 22nd August at the Windmill Inn, Angmering. The weather was fine, the food was good, the company was excellent and the children enjoyed themselves in the play area but unfortunately the slide was too small for the members to use! It was the best attended event we have had for three years with over 50 members, their families and friends turning out. At the time of writing we are looking forward to our next event which is the Christmas meal at the Windsor Hotel once again.

The Branch was represented by our secretary and Toulla his wife in Brugge for the 360th anniversary of the raising of the Regiment. It was a wonderful experience which they will never forget.

We are presently in the early stages of preparation for a Regimental Band Concert to take place at the Regis Centre, Bognor, Sussex on the 4th November 2017 in aid of the Colonel's Fund and Help for Heroes Charity.

The sad part of any review is to report the passing of members. **Gdsm 24185989 Gallop** was born on 13th March 1955 and enlisted on 28th April 1971 as a boy soldier. He was discharged in March 1977 having served with the 1st and 2nd Battalions in Hong Kong and the UK. He later changed his name by deed poll to **Heatherington-Cleverley** and died on 2nd August 2016 aged 61 years. His funeral took place in Brighton on the 22nd August 2016; the Branch was represented by the Secretary.

Gdsm 22213135 Henry Wadey was born on 28th November 1930, enlisted in July 1948 and was discharged in July 1953. He served with 1st Battalion in Tripoli, the UK and 1st Guards Brigade HQ in Egypt. Henry died on 12th September 2016 aged 85 years. His funeral took place on 23rd September 2016 at Petworth and was attended by four Branch members; Mike Brackston, Tom Holland,

David Sneller, and John Norris who provided a Guard of Honour. Henry was a regular at our meetings until sickness prevented his attendance. May they both Rest in Peace.

Our meetings take place at The Royal British Legion Club, 6 Culver Rd, Lancing, Sussex, BN15 9AX every second Thursday of the month from 11am–2pm except April, August and December due to other functions as previously mentioned.

The Branch wishes to thank all those at RHQ for their help and support over the past year and wish all other Branches good luck for the year ahead.

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

Treasurer: Mr P MAGUIRE

Meetings: Held on the second Sunday of each month at Aldergate Club, Aldergate, Tamworth, Staffordshire, B79 7DL, at 1230hrs.

The Branch produced a good showing at Regimental Remembrance Sunday in May followed, of course, by the Queen's Birthday Parade in June. The following day members and their wives celebrated Her Majesty's birthday at a local restaurant with a meal and wine. Grenadier Day at Lille Barracks in July was much enjoyed by the members, particularly a conversation with the Colonel of the Regiment, HRH Prince Philip, who referred to our members as mere youngsters at 70 plus years of age.

Members attended the Cyprus Memorial inauguration at the National Memorial Arboretum, including our Chairman, who served with the 3rd Battalion during the emergency. Later in the year we undertook a comprehensive tour of the Arboretum led by **Dennis Ward**, of the Cyprus Veterans and 3rd Battalion who has expert knowledge of the site. We followed this with our monthly meeting and lunch at a local hostelry in Alrewas. The year was finally rounded off with a Christmas lunch at a well-known Tamworth hotel.



WALSALL

(Formed 1974)

President: Major J COLEMAN

Vice Presidents: Mr G PHILLIPS; Mr CS JONES

Chairman: Mr B DOYLE, Esq

Secretary: Mr CS JONES 94 Delves Green Road, Walsall, West Midland, WS5 4NH

Tel: (01922) 620970

Email: Cliffjones94@sky.com.

Treasurer: Mr G PHILLIPS

Meetings: Held on the second Wednesday of each month at Short Heath Royal British Legion Club, Church Road, Willenhall, WV12 5PT.

The Branch AGM was held in January 2016 with all officers being re-elected.

Due to dwindling numbers we were unable to organise our annual trip of five days at a seaside resort, however 30 members attended a lovely Lunch in the beautiful town of Bewdley in Worcestershire. All agreed that they had a very nice time.

On Friday 16 September we held our Branch Annual Dinner at Calderfields Golf and Country Club, Walsall, with 65 members and guests in attendance. The Guest speaker was **Major J A Keeley MBE** who gave us up to date news on the workings and future of the Regiment. His excellent presentation was appreciated by all present.

We were also very pleased to entertain as our guests many serving members of the Regiment: **WO2 M Betts, WO2 R Shepherd, LSgt Haywood, LCpl Freeman, LCpl Ramsbottom, Gdsm Fowkes and Gdsm Kellie.**



Remembrance Sunday was observed at the Cenotaph in Walsall town centre, our wreath being laid by **Bill Bakewell**. A wreath was also laid at Willenhall by our representatives **Glyn Phillips, Peter Smith and Ray Smout**. At the time of writing we are looking forward to our Christmas Social and Buffet Lunch which is being held on Monday 12 December 2016 at the British Legion Club.

Unfortunately numbers on our sick parade are increasing. This is mainly due to Anno Domini fast catching up. It is sad to report the deaths of the following: Our previous Secretary **23252102 Fred Ball, 2624444 Horace Cope, 23252503 Gerald Powis and Joan Plater wife of 23252108 Harry**

Plater who not only supported our Branch but also did sterling work for the Branch over many years.

All members of 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, MBE, DL; Lieutenant Colonel A HEROYS; CJ HOPE, Esq; MFMO JODRELL, Esq; Lady CLAIRE LINDSAY; Capt (QM) BE SHEEN; THE RT. HONOURABLE SIR HUGO SWIRE, KCMG, MP

Chairman: Mr D BAKER

Secretary: Mrs J MASLIN, 16 Nightingale Drive, Broadway, Weymouth, Dorset, DT3 5SU

Tel: (01305) 814555

Email: janmaslin@gmail.com

Treasurer: Mrs A CREW

Meetings: Meetings in January and November will be held around lunchtime. Contact the Branch Secretary for further details. Other meetings are held on the third Monday of the month from February to July, and also September, at 1930hrs. Meetings are held at The Conservative Club, 22 Christchurch Road, Ringwood, BH24 1DN.

As in previous years, our November 2015 lunchtime meeting was held in Wimborne. We were pleased to be joined by the Chairman, the Secretary and his wife of the local Branch of the Coldstream Guards Association, which made for a very pleasant luncheon.

It was nice to see so many members at our Christmas Social held in early December. **Alan Maslin** was the MC for the evening and entertained us with a Quiz and a variety of jokes! Plenty of food was brought in for us to enjoy which added to this special evening. We held a Christmas Draw as well as a raffle with an assortment of prizes to be won. **Ann Crew** very kindly put together a food hamper which was won by **Dennis Bellamy**.

The first get-together in January 2016 was held at Haskins Garden Centre, Ferndown. There was a good turn out and we all enjoyed lunch in the Cedar Room, followed by a raffle.

The Branch held its AGM in February and all Committee members were re-elected to serve for a further term. The meeting was followed by light refreshments and the Branch raffle.

As in previous years a group of members made the journey up to London to attend Regimental Remembrance Day in May. We were delighted to be greeted by a smiling **Norman Mitchell** formerly 6th Battalion and now residing at The Royal Hospital, Chelsea. We all found the occasion and service very moving.



Lovely for us to meet up with Normal Mitchell at Regimental Remembrance Day.

June was a special month when a BBQ was held in celebration of Her Majesty's 90th Birthday. Our thanks go to our President, **Lieutenant Colonel Anthony Mather** and his wife **Gaye**, for welcoming so many members to their home. In recognition of the day we had a special 'Union Jack' cake made for us which went down a treat with everyone. We were entertained by **Rebeckah & Ellie Maslin** (two Grenadier Majorettes for the day), who performed their own choreographed dance routine. Their most ardent fan was **Jak**, the dog, who was transfixed throughout the whole performance, which brought a smile to one and all. We held a raffle of two bottles of Champagne which were won by our Chairman's wife **Marie Baker**, who very kindly presented one of the bottles to our Masterchef for the day, **Edward Mather**.



'Let them eat cake' – so they did.



Jak the dog stealing the limelight in front of the crowd.

Our Branch Secretary, **Janice Maslin**, and five other secretaries and their 'better halves', were delighted to be

afforded the opportunity to attend The Patron's Lunch in London on 12th June. It was a wonderful occasion and even the rain during the morning did not put a dampener on this special event.

What a lovely day we had for Grenadier Day. We were pleased to say that the Stall raffle of wines, chocolates and fruit, raised £177.70 on the day and was won by **Capt Christopher Fagan**. Thank you to everyone who supported us and bought tickets, it was much appreciated. We were delighted to be visited by His Royal Highness, The Colonel, who stopped and chatted to members as he walked around the various stalls.



His Royal Highness, The Colonel, visiting the Wessex Branch Stall.

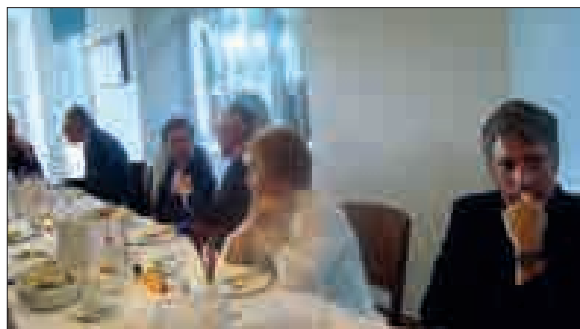
We had the delightful setting of the New Forest for our get-together for afternoon tea in August. There was a group of around 30 of us who enjoyed a selection of cakes and scones and full afternoon tea at The Old Station Tea Rooms near Burley. The visit was certainly enjoyed by all and is a place, hopefully, we will visit again in the future.



A lovely setting for afternoon tea in The New Forest.

As always for our annual luncheon in October there was a great turn out and we were all were treated to a lovely meal at The Marsham Court Hotel, Bournemouth. Thanks to **Ann Crew** for putting so much work into organising this on our behalf, which was so much appreciated. We were delighted to have as our special guests, **Colonel Robin Buchanan-Dunlop CBE**,

formerly Scots Guards, who gave us a talk on his exploits whilst in his Regiment. **Brigadier James Bowder OBE**, formerly Grenadier Guards and currently Commander 1st Intelligence, Surveillance & Reconnaissance Brigade, accompanied by his wife **Katherine**, gave us a really absorbing insight into Regimental matters and his role in the Army. Thank you goes to **John & Joy Clowes** for running the raffle which raised £165 on the day. We auctioned a 'Grenadier' doorstep which was kindly donated by **Luke Spencer**, this raised £35 and the bid went to **Deanne Bishop**.



Brigadier James Bowder, extreme right, with other guests at the President's Table for our Branch Luncheon.

We as a Branch are lucky to have the total support of our President **Lieutenant Colonel Anthony Mather** along with his wife **Gaye**, and this is much appreciated by us all. We have a very active Committee and would like to thank them for everything they do on our behalf; the same goes for the help and support given by **Major Andy Green**, **Sgt Rob Broomes** and other staff members at RHQ – always there at the end of the phone – Thank you.

It is with sadness that we have to report the passing of the following: **Mrs E Messenger** (wife of **J Messenger** – Associate member) – February 2016, **Mrs P Mole** (wife of **2625031 R Mole**) – March 2016, **2622931 R Puddle** – May 2016, **2615331 R Burton** – September 2016, **2627887 DW Mole** – September 2016; Lest we Forget.

Please come along to one of our Branch meetings if you live in the Wessex Area of Dorset, Hampshire and Wiltshire we would be delighted to see you and you would be most welcome. Meetings take place as stated in the header above. If you would like further information, please do not hesitate to contact the Branch Secretary; we look forward to seeing you.



WIGAN, ST HELENS AND DISTRICT

(Formed 1974)

President: Mr B TAYLOR

Vice Presidents: Captain (QM) TA ROLFE

Chairman: Mr D WELLING

Secretary: Mr B TAYLOR, 51 Holly Road, Haydock, St. Helens, WA11 0DR

Tel: (01744) 601663

Email: barrytaylor.in.retirement@hotmail.co.uk

Treasurer: Mr E RADCLIFFE

Meetings: Held on the last Tuesday of each month, at 1945hrs at Whelley Ex-Servicemens' Club, 180 Vauxhall Road, Wigan, WN1 3LU.

We saw out 2015 in the usual way with our Christmas lunch in December. 82 members, families and friends sat down to a wonderful three course lunch in casual and informal mood. A great raffle was held thanks to the generosity of those who donated prizes. It's also thanks to everyone who bought tickets making it possible for the Branch to subsidise the lunch at no great cost. We must make special mention of and thank **Mike and Christine Thompson** for the hard work they put in to ensure the raffle was a success. They run all the raffles at our various functions throughout the year with tremendous results.

January 2016 was a quiet month but we did see movement among our members. **Jack and Hilda Dutton** moved to Yorkshire to be near their daughter and, coincidentally, **Margaret Price** did the same. We wish them well.

Both our recipients of the Legion of Honour were invited to Manchester Town Hall in February to formerly receive their awards. Unfortunately **Leonard Harmer** wasn't fit enough to travel but **Eric Radcliffe** attended and had a good day. We are sorry to report that **Leonard** passed away shortly afterwards aged 94 years. He will be missed; he was a wonderful man and a proud Grenadier.

There is always something going on in the Borough of Wigan and March saw us attending a new initiative; a new Veterans' hub to be built at Trencherfield Mill and we paraded with our Branch Banner. St. George's Day lunch is our main April event with 73 of us attending. It's important to stress that all our lunches revolve around members, families and friends. They are informal and designed to give everyone a relaxed atmosphere to enjoy. Our Annual General Meeting was also held in April – with the committee standing down and then re-elected en bloc.

May Day is a busy date for the Branch as we usually have a second hand stall at Culcheth community day, but, due to weeks of bad weather, the day was postponed until July. What a day that turned out to be. **Adel & Barry Taylor** turned up on the morning with their car overloaded with all the

donated goods to sell to the great Culcheth public. It was a bit damp but they found their pitch and started to set out the stall. They struggled to erect the gazebo in the wind and rain that ensued and some very kind people came to help them.

After some time they all gave up and the day was cancelled until 2017. The gazebo was ripped, they were soaked to the skin and standing in 3" of mud and all the donated goods are now in Barry's loft ready for another day. As an aside to this story, they had arranged to meet **Eric Radcliffe** who was to help man the stall but couldn't see him anywhere. He was eventually found sitting in his car, reading the newspaper and very, very dry – the only one with any sense!

Regimental Remembrance Day was a huge success for us. Branch members and members of Manchester Branch boarded the coach on Saturday morning and proceeded to our hotel in Gerrards Cross. After dinner we got back on our coach for an evening at The Royal Hospital Chelsea where we were made most welcome and had a thoroughly good time. Sunday was, of course, spent at Wellington Barracks and we were especially proud that our Branch Chairman, **Dave Welling**, laid the Association wreath along with **Richard Grocott** of Nottingham branch.

The Branch was very well represented at Armed Forces week in June with our Vice Chairman **John Barkley** attending the flag raising ceremony in Wigan and our Secretary doing the same in St. Helens. We marched in Wigan on the 25th (Armed Forces Day) and it threw it down – again.

July and August can be a quiet time due to holidays but this year we had something to keep us busy. We presented awards to our local Cadets. As previously reported, we have resurrected the competition to find the best cadet. This competition runs over the academic year and a shield is presented to the Cadet Detachment with an individual award to the winner. The award is named **The Walter Massey Award for Excellence** after a fine Grenadier who was very involved with both the Association and the cadets.



The five finalists.

In addition, an award was made to the Most Improved Cadet. This is the Branch President's award and is judged in the same way. The Cadets are judged on turnout, drill, weapon handling, marksmanship, field craft and

Regimental history. In addition, five finalists gave a visual and oral presentation to the judges and marks awarded were added to their overall score. The judges consisted of their own OC **Major Robert Macdonald**, their CSM **WO2 Chris Sumner**, **Barry Taylor**, **Dave Welling**, **Eric Radcliffe**, **Sgt Liam Humphries** our Grenadier recruiter in Manchester and **Cpl Nick Woods (REME)** also from Manchester.

We are proud to announce that the winner of **The Walter Massey Award for Excellence** was **Cadet LSgt Jack Heaton** a member of the Grenadier Detachment and the most improved cadet was **Cadet Ashley Jarvis** of The King's Royal Hussars detachment. It was a pleasure for us to be involved with such fine young people.



Sgt Humphries with Cadet LSgt Heaton.



Barry Taylor with Cadet LSgt Heaton.



Dave Welling with Cadet LSgt Heaton.

There have been many WW1 commemorations over the past few months and **Barry Taylor** was proud to attend Pennington Park, Leigh in August along with **John Barkley** who paraded with the Branch Banner. At our September meeting we were delighted to welcome **David Logan** to the Branch and hope to see him more often. During the same month several of us attended a 90th birthday party for **2626380 Norman Ball** and had a great evening of celebration.

The final function of the past 12 months was our annual Dinner and Dance held at The Village Club, Culcheth. A marvellous four course dinner was enjoyed by 65 members and guests along with the Regimental Guest Speaker **Major Will Harries** who gave an amusing but very comprehensive insight to Regimental business; it was a pleasure to have him with us. Our entertainment was provided by the brilliant **Andrew Dunn** who managed to get us all onto the dance floor at some time during the evening. The raffle and draws were a huge success with prizes evenly distributed.

As reported earlier we sadly lost our oldest member

2622126 Leonard Harmer.

And so another 12 months, another report. But we know that everything which goes on does so because of the support of the Branch members. A big thankyou to everyone with special thanks to **Major Andy Green** and **Sgt Rob Broomes** who provide much needed assistance, advice and support. This year we also offer thanks to **Sgt Robert Houghton** for doing such sterling work on the Regimental Headquarters Facebook page.

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; Mr JA STEEL, BEM; RA DOBSON, Esq; Mrs SR HOWELL; RC GILBERT, 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 JS GILBERT

Meetings: Held on the first Wednesday of each month from April to September, at 2000hrs. The first Sunday of each month from October to March, at 1230hrs. All meetings are held at the Grenadier Club, Maidenhead Road, Windsor, SL4 5EY.

Website: windsorbranch@grengds.com

On Sunday 8th November 2015 a small number of Branch members attended the Service of Remembrance at the Holy Trinity Garrison Church in Windsor. The wreath party consisted of **Major Mike Holland**, **Alan Urvoy** and **Mick Milton**. After the service members met at the Club with members from other local Associations based in Windsor.

The Branch Secretary **Bob Gilbert** had the privilege to attend a lunch with HM The Queen and HRH the Colonel on 11th November, to mark the 40th Anniversary of Prince Philip's Colonelcy of the Regiment. Lunch took place at the Cavalry and Guards Club, Piccadilly, London.

In December the Branch held its Christmas Draw on Saturday 12th. Those who purchased tickets had a chance of winning any of the large number of prizes on display that **Sue Gilbert** collected from many local businesses. We would like to thank all those who supported the draw by buying and selling tickets and donating prizes. Half way through the draw we paused and enjoyed a finger buffet that was prepared by **Fred and Irene Deacon** two of our Club members.

On Wednesday 16th **Peter Geary**, one of our Club members provided the last quiz of the year. It was well attended with about 60 to 70 members and friends being tested on their knowledge about Christmas; a great start

to the Festive Season. The following Saturday 19th was the Club Christmas Dinner. 63 members and friends enjoyed a traditional Christmas meal which was followed by a disco. With the Chairman **Tony Steel BEM** away on holiday **Herbie Morgan**, another of our Club members, opened the bar on New Years Eve. Approximately 40 members and guests gathered to celebrate, and see in the New Year.

After a busy December we started 2016 at a slow pace with no major events. **Terry** and **Ruth Booth's** daughter **Emma** and her husband **Chris** continued to teach Line Dancing on one Saturday of each month. These have now become a regular event and one or two of us no longer have two left feet! For those who do not wish to dance, they can still enjoy the music and the fish and chip supper.

Our AGM was held on Wednesday 6th April. **Bob Gilbert** gave an over-view of the past year's events. The Chairman **Tony Steel BEM** read out the Branch and Club audited reports that were accepted by members present. The President, **Major M B Holland** addressed the meeting and thanked our beloved Treasurer **Sheila Howell** who has gracefully retired from that onerous task after about 23 years of immensely loyal and devoted service to both the Branch and Club. We will always be grateful to her for stepping into the role following the untimely death of her late husband, **Douglas**. He also thanked the Chairman and all the committee for the hard work and loyalty in keeping the Branch and Club functioning. During a short interval, a finger buffet was provided by the Branch.

The following members were re-elected as Officers to manage the Branch and Club; Chairman **Tony Steel BEM**, Vice Chairman **Terry Booth**, Secretary **Bob Gilbert**, Treasurer **Sue Gilbert**, Welfare Officer **Mick Milton** and **Sue Gilbert** as Club Secretary. Other members to help manage the club are **David Boucher**, **Sheila Howell**, **Mick** and **Sylvia Bullion**, **Ruth Booth**, **Herbie Morgan**, **Peter Geary**, **Fred** and **Irene Deacon**.

We celebrated St Georges Day on Saturday 23rd April with a social evening and invited members from other branches within the area. It was an enjoyable evening with many getting on their feet to dance to the Disco.

The club was open on the Saturday 14th May, the evening before Regimental Remembrance Day. The following lunch time the Gloucestershire Branch called in for a refreshment break. As their coach was not full members from our Branch were able to travel with them to the Parade in London. The Bristol Branch and The Gloucestershire Branch once again called in for a fish and chip tea before continuing on their way home.

On Saturday 4th June **Bob Gilbert** arranged a coach for 49 members and friends to travel to Epsom, for the Derby. We all enjoyed the good weather and the racing but sadly only a few of us came away winning. On the second Saturday in July we tried something different. **Sue Gilbert** arranged a Beetle Drive evening. For those who had not played before or had forgotten how to play **Sue** explained the rules. About 20 turned up and we all had a

good laugh at some of the efforts of drawing the beetles. After several games we relaxed and ate our fish and chips.

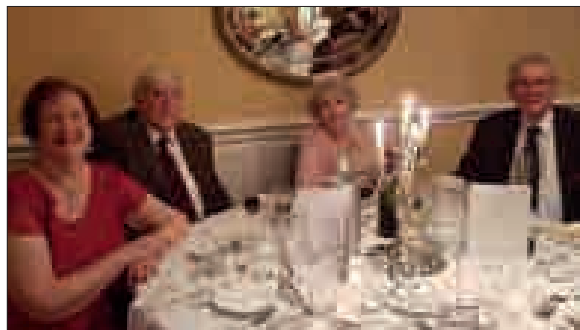
The following Sunday was Grenadier Day. **Bob and Sue Gilbert** arrived mid-morning at Lillie Barracks to erect the gazebo, ready for Branch members travelling by coach from the club. Travelling on the coach was an old friend of **Tony's** – **Paddy Tinnion (REME)** who served with the 1st Battalion at Pirbright in the late 1970's. The Branch stall had on display a number of old Grenadier Gazettes and other Guards Magazines that had been given to the Branch. Anyone who wished to take any away made a donation to the Branch funds. Later in the day one of our senior members **Robin Russell** and Vice President, **Sheila Howell** had the privilege to be introduced to **Prince Philip**. When he visited the Branch stall he spoke to **Bob and Sue Gilbert** who showed him a picture of his visit to the club in 1981. All who attended said it had been a great day and are looking forward to the next one.

In September **Alan Merry** held another re-union at the club on Saturday 10th for members of his intake 42 years ago. The club held a social evening on Saturday 17th with music from the 60's 70's and 80's played by **Rob** our local DJ.

The last major event of this reporting year is the Branch Annual Dinner and Dance on Saturday 22nd October, at the Royal Adelaide Hotel, Windsor. This was a big change for the Branch going to an outside venue after many years of holding it at the club. Members had a choice of menu and dessert was followed by a cheese board on each table and a glass of port. We were privileged, to have as our guest of honour **Colonel Richard Winstanley OBE** and wife **Caroline**, who updated us on the Regiment. Those who attended said it



From Left to Right: Paul Oatway in deep discussion with our Guest of Honour Colonel Richard Winstanley OBE.



Branch Annual Dinner and Dance. From Left to Right: Joyce Robertson, Gordon Robertson, Anne Foreman and Alan Jones.



Branch Annual Dinner and Dance. From Left to Right: Paddy Tinnion (REME), Connie Tinnion, Branch Chairman Tony Steel BEM, Fely Steel and Heather Wasley.

had been a very good evening, the food was well presented and hot, the speeches short and all finished by 2130hrs ready to dance until the end of the night.

It is with deep regret that we report the sad loss of some members during the last year:

2623124 Mr V R Craske, 23509438 Mr P L Penny, Peter had served the Branch as Welfare Officer before being taken ill, **22477830 Mr J Terry** and **2624839 Mr A H Hilling**. They had all been great supporters of the Branch and Club but sadly, over time, they have not been able to attend due to failing health.

The Branch now holds its monthly meeting on the 1st Wednesday at 2000hrs. These timings are from April to September, and the 1st Sunday at 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 of each year.

The club still continues to hold regular Friday Night Bingo sessions and Quiz Nights with a fish and chip supper the last Wednesday of the month. We have also been holding Line Dancing evenings on a Saturday. The Club is currently open on Friday nights 1930hrs to 2300hrs and Sunday Lunch times 1200hrs to 1500hrs. If any members of the association, and their families, are in the area, they are more than welcome to visit the club.

Our thanks go to our loyal Branch and Club supporters who keep our Branch alive and to **Major Andy Green**, **Sgt Rob Broomes** and all the staff at RHQ for their continued support.



WOLVERHAMPTON

(Formed 1917)

President: Mr L THOMAS

Vice Presidents: WSI KENYON-SLANEY, OBE, KStJ, DL;
D ROBINSON, Esq

Chairman: Mr J SNEAD

Secretary: Mrs J SNEAD, 92 Van Diemens Road, Wombourne,
Wolverhampton, WV5 0DE

Tel: (01902) 896547

Email: wolverhamptonbranch@grengds.com

Treasurer: Mr B GILLON

Meetings: Held on the last Wednesday of each month, at RAFA Club, Goldthorn Road, Penn, Wolverhampton, WV2 4PN. In March, June, September and December we will hold a Sunday lunch. Please contact the Secretary for further details.

The guest of honour at our Dinner and Dance on 28th November 2015 was **WO2 (CSM) Matt Betts**, and he gave an interesting speech detailing the activities of the Regiment, he said it was a pleasure to be speaking on home turf. It was a very good evening with entertainment and good food.

Our AGM was held on 24th February 2016 and all officers were returned. Regimental Remembrance Day was held in London on 15th May 2016, our members enjoyed meeting up with comrades and colleagues on a lovely fine day. The Branch also took a coach party to the Major General's Review on 28th May; this event is always enthusiastically received by our members.



Our 2015 Guest of Honour CSM Betts with Chris Townsend, Chairman of the local Royal Marines branch.



From Left to Right: Maureen Wilson, Mavis Bailey, Phyllis Thomas, Elaine Johnson, Len Thomas, Don Robinson, John Rogers and Christine Rogers.

A party of our members enjoyed a narrow boat trip on the Staffordshire and Worcestershire Canal on 1st June, with refreshments and a fish and chip lunch, which was very welcome.

Jack Snead our Chairman attended Armed Forces Day on Saturday 25th June in Wolverhampton with our Banner. Following the ceremony The Mayor of Wolverhampton welcomed all those who took part for refreshments. We took a coach party to Grenadier Day on 17th July and this event was enjoyed by us all. Our Sunday lunches held every three months at The Bell, Trysull are well attended, and enjoyed by all!



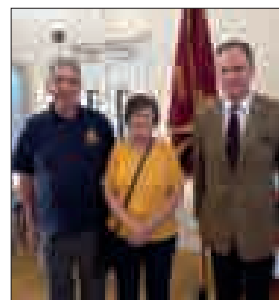
Sunday Lunch, from Left to Right: Olivia Ferretti, Isobel Ferretti, Donna Gillon, Jack Snead, Ken Egginton, Evelyn Egginton, Maureen Wilson, Maxine Ferretti, Daniel Ferretti.

On Thursday 14th April 2016 **Jenny Snead, Jack Snead** and **Sgt Lyndon Findler** gave a talk to our local Methodist wives group on the Regiment and a Buckingham Palace garden party, this was very well received.

Jenny Snead and **Jack Snead** were welcomed to the Walsall Branch annual dinner on 16th September renewing acquaintances of old friends. **Jenny Snead, Jack Snead** and **Daniel Ferretti** were invited to attend the Perton Village Show held on Saturday 17th September by **Lord Clifton Wrottesley**, (a former Grenadier) the patron of this event. We provided information about the activities in our Branch which Lord Wrottesley was extremely interested to hear of.

We have also said sad farewells this year to **22430008 John Payne**; he had a well-attended funeral and he was a great friend to our Branch. In January we lost **23252167 Jim Guy** and **23663785 Alan Pierrpoint**. **24164937 Michael Williams** passed away in October 2016.

We would like to thank **Andy Green** and **Rob Broomes** at RHQ for their continuing support and hard work during a busy year.



From Left to Right: Jack Snead, Jenny Snead and Lord Clifton Wrottesley.

WORCESTER & HEREFORD

(Formed 1922)

President: Capt HL GRAY-CHEAPE, JP, DL

Vice Presidents: Lieutenant Colonel PR HOLCROFT, LVO, OBE; Major DJC DAVENPORT, CBE, DL; Lieutenant Colonel K EDLIN, MBE; Lieutenant Colonel LCA RANSON, TD; Major RG WOODFIELD, MBE; Colonel SIR THOMAS DUNNE, KG, KCVO; Lieutenant Colonel TW JALLAND; Captain D MORGAN; D SPENCER, Esq; REG SEALE, Esq; GJ ROSE, Esq; JA BARTLETT, Esq; TW HEWLETT, Esq; D TURNEY, Esq

Chairman: Mr T HEWLETT

Secretary: Mrs P SMITH 41 Belmont Road, Malvern, Worcestershire, WR14 1PN

Tel: (01684) 891259

Email: grenguardsworcs@gmail.com

Treasurer: Mrs J EVANS

Meetings: Held on the first Tuesday of each month at Sixways Rugby Stadium, Warriors Way, Worcester, WR3 8ZE, at 1930hrs.

With 2015 drawing to a close our social calendar ended with our Christmas Lunch held at the Chateau Impney on Sunday 13th December. We were delighted to welcome as our Guest of Honour **Colonel Richard Aubrey-Fletcher** accompanied by his wife **Caroline**; once again a very enjoyable occasion and an opportunity to meet up with fellow Branch members and entertain family and friends.



Christmas 2015 at the Chateau Impney.

Our AGM was held on Sunday 14th February 2016. All Executive Officers retained their posts. The Branch continues to thrive and attendance at meetings is good and social events are organised throughout the year. Financially we are stable with funds being raised from raffles, social events and much appreciated donations from friends and members; our thanks to our Treasurer **Joan Evans** for keeping our finances in order.

Our Skittles Evening on Friday 18th March organised by the Social committee was well supported by friends and we all enjoyed the generous buffet provided. On Sunday 15th May we boarded the coach to London for Regimental Remembrance Day. Attendance was low this year but **Ken Allen** managed to recruit around 25 people for the trip. We

had a comfortable journey into London and were blessed with fine weather. Members were able to enjoy drinks in the mess beforehand and an opportunity to catch up with old friends. As usual the chapel was packed and the service very moving. A big thank you to **Ken** for organising the Coach; this is not an easy job but he always manages to keep smiling. Thank you also to those members and friends who came and represented the Branch.



Ken Jones, Les Grey, Bruce Baylis, Terry Barrett and Steve Marriott.



Patricia Smith with Sean Hinton.

On Saturday 11th June we celebrated the Queen's 90th Birthday. This was definitely our big event of the year. Such a lot of hard work went into organising this from initial planning to leaflet design, printing and distribution, lobbying local shops for raffle contributions and organising entertainment to the final programme of events. The numbers attending just grew and grew with a final total of 126. Such a memorable occasion; the men turned out in smart suits and the ladies having the opportunity to wear lovely dresses and show of hats.

In spite of a few hiccups on the way – dare we mention cake – it all came together on the day. Many, many thanks to **Veronica** and her team for pulling off a fantastic fun afternoon with all tastes catered for. The room looked great with flags, banners and lovely table decorations. **Bruce** produced two boards with photographs of the Queen ranging from her as a baby to present day. The entertainment provided was really enjoyable and included singers **Mike Blissett** and **Margaret Peters**. **Ruth Hinsley** played keyboard and roving Magician **John Milner** intrigued and amused us with his tricks.

We had a total of 44 wonderful raffle prizes, some donated by local shops, others by Branch members and guests. We also received donations of money from members and friends; a heartfelt thanks to all who made contributions. A thoroughly enjoyable afternoon for us all – it was just brilliant, and was rounded off by a visit from **Lieutenant Colonel Patrick Holcroft** in his capacity as Lord Lieutenant, dressed accordingly and accompanied by his wife **Annie**. It was such a lovely surprise as we knew he had quite a few official functions to attend that day. It was so nice of him to take the time to come and share our day and much appreciated by the Branch members.



Lieutenant Colonel Patrick Holcroft with Hamish Gray-Cheape and Bob Woodfield.

We were also delighted to welcome **Ray Norris** who served in the Regiment between 1972 and 1985. Sadly a serious accident has left Ray disabled and in a wheelchair; he also suffers from memory loss and needs full time care. We were to be seeing **Ray** again in December when he joined us for our Christmas lunch. A substantial amount of money was raised for our funds and a special thank you goes to **Joan** for taking responsibility for the finances and making sure all was in order. As a Branch we can be very proud to have celebrated in such a grand way, we have many loyal members and thank you all for the support given by you and your friends. It's great to have fun and raise money at the same time.



Raymond Norris with Ray Seale.



Party Guests.

Our next social get together was a Skittles and Quiz night held at the Portobello Pub on 21st October, this proved to be a good combination and was a lot of fun. These events are a good way of meeting up and we plan to have some other interesting socials next year. Our last social event of the year was the Christmas Lunch held on 4th December 2016 at The Pear Tree Inn, Smite.

Sadly we have to report the following deaths: **22545747 AS Barrow, 2622656 J Devereux, 22638200 J Jones, 22955380 M Slater, 2616217 AG Smith and K B Timmis.**

Finally we would like to record our thanks to all Branch members, ladies and friends who have supported us during the past year without their help and support we could not continue to progress and thrive; our thanks also to **Major Andy Green, Sgt Rob Broomes** and the team at RHQ who are always willing to help and advise us.

YORKSHIRE

(Formed 1948)

President: THE LORD HOTHAM, DL

Vice Presidents: THE MOST HON THE MARQUESS OF ZETLAND; D BURNETT, Esq; Brigadier DJH MADDAN; W WALL, Esq.

Chairman: A DANIEL, Esq..

Secretary: Mr M SPENCER, 52 The Grange, Woodhan Village, Newton Aycliffe, Co. Durham, DL5 4SZ

Tel: (01325) 321218

Email: michael-spencer2@sky.com

Treasurer: A DANIEL, Esq

Meetings: Contact the Branch Secretary for further details.

The Yorkshire Branch continues to 'mark time' with the support of our faithful members. Our ever-increasing age profile means that ill health plays its part in reducing our support with **Jim Hunt** and **George Kent** not being so well at present.

We have had one addition to the fold – **Brian Matless** a former CSM 1st Battalion Grenadier Guards who has been one of the country's top coaches at both foil and epee for many years and is a British Academy of Fencing coach, coaching

several fencers to Olympic and international standards.

Our Annual General Meeting was held at Selby Indoor Bowling Club on Saturday 23rd April 2016. The turnout was good and the Chairman **Tony Daniel** gave thanks for their continued support and throughout the past year. The Secretary **Michael Spencer** gave a detailed account of the year and emphasised the importance of the Colonel's Fund. Our President **The Lord Hotham** gives the Branch tremendous support throughout the year. The Executive Officers were elected for a further year and we adjourned to meet the ladies and guests for lunch.

In May, Members enjoyed a very good Regimental Remembrance weekend. Several Branch Members attended The Queen's Birthday Parade, in a very special year.



At the Queen's Birthday Parade.

All branches were encouraged to hold a local celebration for the Queens 90th birthday and Swinton Park Hotel, Masham was an ideal location. This was the highlight of the year on Saturday 3rd July 2016 when the Branch celebrated Her Majesty the Queen's 90th birthday and we were certainly treated like royalty.



A right Royal do.

Our Branch Annual Luncheon was once again held at the Waterton Park Hotel, Wakefield which had a great turn out. The Branch welcomed **Lt Robbie Laing** who gave an informative update on Regimental affairs.

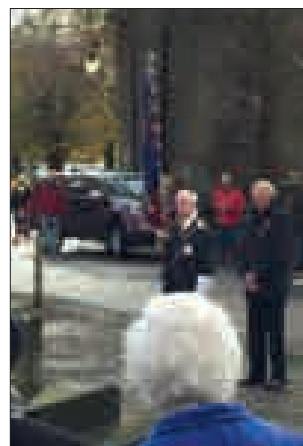
On Sunday 13th November 2016 Branch members attended the Remembrance Service at All Saints Church, Ripley. Our Chairman **Tony Daniel** acted as Banner Bearer, and **Geoff Wren** laid a wreath on behalf of the Yorkshire Branch. We all enjoyed lunch afterwards at the Boars Head Hotel, Ripley

We are deeply saddened to report the passing of **2618242 Reginald Prince** on 6th March who was in his 100th year and **Mrs Anne Flanagan** who was living in Gambia.

In November we recorded the passing of **2625061 Harry Furness** aged 90, and a retired Police Superintendent of North Yorkshire. He joined the Regiment in 1944 and served in Germany with the 1st Battalion Grenadier Guards between 1945 and 1947. His father **John Furness** served in France between 1915 and 1919 with the 4th Battalion Grenadier Guards and was on the Somme for several months, as was his brother, who won the Military Medal at Lesboeufs.

Thanks go our President, **The Lord Hotham**, our Chairman **Tony Daniel** and **John Fear** for fundraising as well as to the active members of the Branch and their friends and families, who help keep the Branch alive with their attendance at our functions.

Thanks also for the advice and support afforded to us by **Major Andy Green** and **Sgt Rob Broomes**.



Remembrance Service, Ripley.

NORTH AMERICA

(Formed 1972)

President: Lieutenant JA TRIGGS

Vice-President: Mr D MACKINTOSH

Chairman: Mr R BROWN, BEM

Secretary: Mrs E PICKERING, 45466 Thomson Line, Belmont, Ontario, N0L 1B0, CANADA

Email: lon.rpickering@imag.net

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.

My bosom swelled with pride as I marched up the Old College steps at the end of the Sandhurst Commissioning parade. The inspecting officer's words were etched on my memory. I'm a somebody and my men will look up to me for advice. Things could hardly be better as I had been posted to the First battalion serving in paradise. Weeks later whilst assisting the Adjutant with his enquiries I was told to see the Quartermaster and get some extra picquets (sic) with which to entertain the young officers.

Eager to impress after my apparently successful discussion with the Adjutant (no, with hindsight discussion is a misleading description). Discussion suggests an exchange of views between two or more people reaching a reasoned conclusion. This was definitely a set of orders interspersed with the Regimental trigram repeated whenever the Adjutant drew breath. Thankfully Sir is such a useful riposte.

Perhaps like sirloin, sircoconut might become a delicacy? The attendant royalties could be used to mitigate my mess bills?

Outside the Bamboo Palace bearing the QM's coat of Arms on a large blue red blue sign, I gingerly peered into the gloomy interior. Sandhurst had not prepared me for operations in the Quartermaster's department. Whilst debating whether to lead to the left or right the decision was made for me with a stentorian bellow from the bowels of the cavern 'Who are you?' 'Whaddya want?'

Pi pi pi, pic I stammered nervously. Before I could even complete the order, from within came an unhelpful growl 'The answer's no!'

I had just learnt my first lesson without the sheltered environs of Sandhurst. When the enthusiasm of juvenile ambition meets the reality of MOLAR experience tempered by a surfeit of rum the day before and an unreliable air conditioning system the result is a foregone conclusion. But, in our tropical Utopia the sun does strange things to people. Stores are for issuing not for storing is a prevalent ailment. Thankfully the unhelpful voice's owner did as thousands of his predecessors have done before – Bailing out wannabe CGSs on their way to the top.

As I left to greet the Adjutant with not just a picquet or two but several weeks' worth I ruminated to myself about how deceptive first impressions can be. Thank goodness for friendly Quartermasters.

YOUR LETTERS...

Can You Help Identify This Man?

Dear Sir,

My cousin has recently uncovered correspondence and photographs from our late Uncle, 2614962 Sergeant Walter Gower who served in the 3rd Battalion Grenadier Guards from 1936 to 1940.

From his bed in a Sheffield hospital Sergeant Gower penned a letter (part of a copy attached) to his brother Bart detailing his condition, his recovery and the events that led to his medical discharge.

The letter recalls what is likely to have been the battle of the River Escaut (21–23 May 1940) stating that his company attempted a bayonet charge against 'four machine



gun nests'. Unfortunately it appears that the company was almost completely wiped out, leaving as few as 12 survivors. Subsequently the 3rd Battalion withdrew and Sergeant Gower was wounded during the withdrawal to Dunkirk after encountering a German patrol.

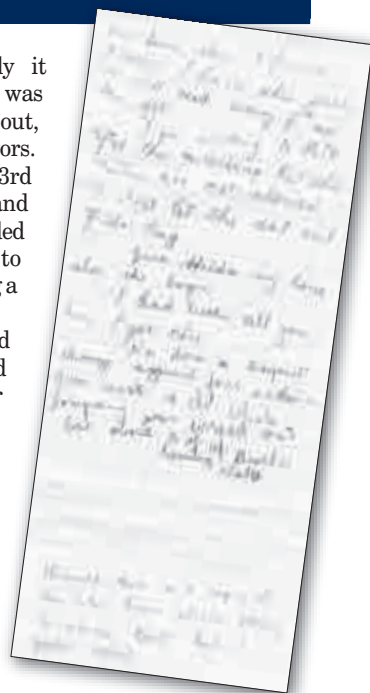
I hope that you have found this story of interest and could I perhaps request your help in identifying the man in the photo standing next to my uncle?

Thank you for your time and I would love to hear from anyone that might be able to help.

Yours faithfully,

Michael Sperrin

1st Battalion Grenadier Guards 1958–1964



Dear Andy,

Having read your editorial comments in the Gazette regarding stories etc., I thought you might like to hear of three incidents I was involved in:

No 1 – Not a Sharp Eyed Sergeant.

Serving in the Castle Company during 1943 we wore gym shoes and were posted in pairs during the night. One night I was with a pre-war time served member on the high terrace between the Waterloo Chamber and Ornamental Gardens with gates at both ends. He decided he was going to take it easy so off came his webbing which he placed in the sentry box together with his rifle and then snuggled himself in the box leaving me to keep a lookout with my .45 Thompson Sub-Machine Gun. Much to my horror the newly made up Sergeant of the Guard decided to do the rounds on his own in gym shoes and the first we knew was when he appeared at the gate at the Ornamental Garden end. No time for my fellow sentry to put his gear on so I stepped towards the oncoming Sergeant away from the sentry box. His first words were 'Where is your mate' to which I said 'He is around', after a short pause (which seemed like hours) he went on his way. When the Corporal came around with our relief he wanted to know what we had been up to as the Sergeant wanted to see us. Luckily a huge heap of coke for heating the Castle was kept on the terrace and my mate simply said he was behind that keeping an eye on things. Whether or not that Sergeant obtained further promotion I don't know but thank goodness he wasn't very observant that night.

No 2 – Gratitude.

During November 1943 I was the Guardroom sentry at

St James's Palace – midnight to 2am. 2am arrived and there wasn't a sound from the Guardroom. I wanted to get to bed as well as my fellow sentries and with the Officer of the Guard asleep in a room above my head – what should I do? In the end I decided to creep into the Guardroom, wake up the Corporal and get back to my post quickly. Not a word was said until later that morning when, getting ready for the dismount, the Corporal came across and whispered in my ear 'If any of this gets out I will have you for deserting your post' So much for gratitude!

No 3 – Must Find Fault.

Whilst I was the NCO in charge of running the Guards Depot Officers' Mess at Caterham during 1946 there was a Commandant's Inspection. As you can imagine all the stops were pulled out to get everything spic and span. All was going well with no faults until he went into my bunk which was within the Mess and seeing my open window rubbed his white gloved hand around the frame and without showing me his glove he said 'Dirty window', All I could say was 'Sir' – he had found fault.

I now look back at these incidents and have a good laugh at them and other stories I hear from other Association members. It is now nearly 70 years since I left the Regiment and at the age of 94 I still have great pride in telling people I served in the Grenadier Guards.

Yours,

Ron Keeble

Essex Branch

Don't Turn Round!

Dear Sir,

Re your request in the 2016 edition of the Grenadier Gazette for material to be included in the magazine, I wondered if you would be interested in the enclosed photograph of a Gurkha and I taken whilst serving with the 3rd Bn in Malaya in 1948?

Yours faithfully,

R. JAVENS

Formerly No 1 Company,

3rd Battalion Grenadier Guards



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 2017

APR	8	Yorkshire Branch, Annual General Meeting (AGM), The Black Bull, Main Street, Escrick, York, YO19 6JP	AUG	18	Norfolk Dining Club, Dining Evening
	8	Sussex Branch Annual Dinner, The Windsor Hotel, Worthing, 12–20 Windsor Rd, Worthing, BN11 2LX		20	Sussex Branch Barbeque, The Windmill Inn, Rustington, 42 Mill Lane, Littlehampton, BN16 3JN
	21	Her Majesty's Birthday	OCT	13	Norfolk Dining Club, Dining Evening
	21	Norfolk Dining Club, Dining Evening		14	Wigan, St. Helens & District Annual Dinner, The Village, Culcheth, Warrington, Cheshire, WA3 4LY
	23	Wigan, St. Helens & District Branch, St. Georges Day Lunch, The Village Culcheth, Warrington, Cheshire, WA3 4LY		14	Yorkshire Branch Annual Lunch, Waterton Park Hotel, Bridgeway Restaurant, Wakefield, WF2 6FW
	29	Manchester Branch Annual Dinner, Britannia Country House Hotel, Palatine Road, Didsbury, Manchester, M20 2WG		15	Wessex Branch Annual Lunch, Marsham Court Hotel, 3 Russell Cotes Rd, Bournemouth BH1 3AB
	29	Surrey & East Hampshire Branch Annual Dinner, Double Tree by Hilton Hotel, Victoria Way, Woking, GU21 8EW		21	Windsor Branch Annual Dinner, Royal Adelaide Hotel, 46 King's Road, Windsor, Berkshire, SL4 2AG
MAY	9	Norfolk Dining Club, Lunch	NOV	7	Norfolk Dining Club, Lunch
	21	Regimental Remembrance Day, Wellington Barracks		9	Field of Remembrance, Westminster
JUN	2	Coronation Day		11	Festival of Remembrance, Royal Albert Hall
	3	Major General's Review, Horse Guards Parade		12	National Act of Remembrance – Cenotaph Parade
	10	HRH The Duke of Edinburgh's Birthday The Colonel's Review, Horse Guards Parade		12	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
	14	Beating Retreat 1, Horse Guards Parade	DEC	1	Norfolk Dining Club, Dining Evening
	15	Beating Retreat 2, Horse Guards Parade		3	Wigan, St. Helens & District Christmas Lunch, The Village, Culcheth, Warrington, Cheshire, WA3 4LY
	16	Norfolk Dining Club, Dining Evening		6	Scarlet and Gold 1, Cadogan Hall
	17	The Queen's Birthday Parade, Horse Guards Parade		7	Scarlet and Gold 2, Cadogan Hall
	17	Northampton Branch Annual Dinner, Freemasons' Hall, Sheaf Close, Lodge Farm, Northampton, NN5 7UL		9	Manchester Branch Christmas Dinner, Britannia Country House Hotel, Palatine Road, Didsbury, Manchester, M20 2WG
	18	Yorkshire Branch, Battle of Waterloo Lunch, Swinton Park Hotel, Masham, Ripon, North Yorkshire, HG4 4JH		10	Household Division Carol Services (am and pm)
	19	The Garter Service, Windsor Castle		17	Sussex Branch Christmas Lunch, The Windsor Hotel, Worthing, 12-20 Windsor Rd, Worthing, BN11 2LX
JUL	9	Grenadier Day, Lille Barracks, Aldershot, GU11 2NQ			

*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*

