



# The Colonel's Fund Grenadier Guards

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April 2009

Dear Grenadiers and Friends of the Regiment

## THE COLONEL'S FUND

### Introduction

This letter provides a report on the progress achieved by the Colonel's Fund since we last reported in May 2008, when the Fund stood at c. £450,000. Since then, there has been a great deal of hard work, much enthusiasm and considerable dedication by the Regimental family and its friends up and down the country and indeed abroad.

We are delighted to report that, as we reached the first anniversary of the opening event (18 February 2009), funds raised had reached the impressive figure of £1m before costs, and that number is still growing. This represents a significant success and we were indeed fortunate to have started when we did. The global recession is now affecting all charitable giving.

### Fundraising

Fundraising activities in 2008 were deliberately aimed solely at the Regimental family in order to avoid treading on the toes of major national military charities, such as Help for Heroes and the Army Benevolent Fund.

The principle fundraising events during 2008 were:

- The opening event at the Guildhall in February, attended by HRH The Colonel.
- A Clay Pigeon Shoot at Bisley, in June.
- The Regimental Band Tour of 14 cities in August.
- An evening at the Hippodrome theatre, Leicester Square, in November, also attended by The Colonel.

In addition, there were a large number of smaller events, arranged by the 1st Battalion, First Guards Club members or members of the Regimental Association; or simply by well wishers up and down the country. This activity was augmented by the specific targeting of individuals and private charities where there were clear Regimental connections.

26 Association Branches raised money for the Fund, of which Nottingham, Worcester and Hereford, and Bristol were outstanding. Although over 2800 individuals donated money, some 300 individuals did so on more than one occasion. Consequently, only about 2,500 thank you letters have been despatched. Happily, the vast majority of these were sent to the correct address!

The principal Fund raising events cost c. £130,000 to put on, which equates to around 13% of the money raised – an inevitable but, we think, a commendably low level of expenditure.

### The Fund

As you know, the Fund has been raised to help all those Grenadiers and, where appropriate, their immediate families, who have been killed or seriously injured as a result of operational service.

We can report, in these difficult economic times, that the money raised is safe and is still in cash (or near cash). It is currently on deposit with Adam & Co (owned by RBS and thus by HMG). It will be invested by Thornhill Investment Management when market conditions begin to improve.

Fundraising activity, directed by the Committee, has now all but ceased, apart from a few carefully targeted letters to charitable trusts. Accordingly, the Fundraising Committee will now stand down and a smaller Steering Committee will take its place, principally to act as an advisory body. Regimental Headquarters and the Trustees will manage the Fund in future.

(cont'd)

Once a Grenadier, Always a Grenadier



The Fund itself will remain open and the intention is to conduct one fundraising event annually to help maintain some degree of growth. For 2009, a clay pigeon shoot and lunch will take place at Bisley Shooting Ground on Friday, 11 September 2009. It will be similar to last year's event.

### **Grants and Disbursements**

A number of grants were made to members of the 1st Battalion during 2008. All were assessed by the Regimental Welfare Committee.

It is interesting to note that the number of claims submitted to the Welfare Committee has not been as high as we had anticipated at the outset. A major factor has been the long term development nature of Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) recently highlighted in a report by the charity Combat Stress. This means that the majority of disbursements are more likely to be made at some point in the future rather than immediately, and we must husband our resources accordingly.

The Battalion deploys to Afghanistan again in September and the Fund will be ready to play its part should the need arise.

### **Future Contact**

In future, all correspondence about the Fund, should now be addressed to the Regimental Adjutant, Major Grant Baker, regtladjt@grengds.com or 0207 414 3280.

The new Steering Committee will meet quarterly and will consist of:

The Chairman of the Appeal	The President of the Association
The Regimental Adjutant	The Battalion Welfare Officer
Lord Valentine Cecil	A G H Ogden Esq

The website will remain in place and will be updated once decisions have been made about its future. In order to help all Grenadiers stay in touch more easily, we are currently examining ways of developing the website along the lines of Facebook /LinkedIn social networking models, using the theme of "Once a Grenadier, always a Grenadier".

Fundraising ideas, providing that they are self-sufficient in organisational terms, are still most welcome and should be cleared with the Regimental Adjutant.

### **Finally**

We are enormously grateful to HRH The Colonel, for agreeing to be Patron of the Fund and for being so active and generous in his support. Very little of what we have achieved would have been possible without his patronage.

Our thanks must also go to the Fundraising Committee, to the Project Officer, Captain Jeremy Quarrie, to his assistants - Mrs Sarah Travis and Miss Jessica Abel-Smith, and of course, to everyone else who has helped in whatever capacity.

Lastly, to those of you whose extraordinary generosity has contributed to this splendid sum, we can only offer our warmest thanks on behalf of all members of the Regiment.

Brigadier David Maddan  
*Regimental Lieutenant-Colonel*

Patrick Holcroft Esq  
*Appeal Chairman*

Colonel Euan Houstoun  
*President Regimental Association*