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THE REGIMENTAL JOURNAL OF THE GRENADIER GUARDS



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Foreword

*by The Lieutenant Colonel
Major General Roly Walker DSO*

All credit to the Editor and his editorial team for a bumper Gazette this year, to the many varied and new contributors who have taken time to put pen to paper and fingers to keyboards for the first time, and to the redoubtable stalwarts upon whom we have long relied to keep the story going.

I think this reflects bountiful material from a busy year at home and at large across the world, in uniform and out, with our many friends and supporters. There is some sadness, in marking the passing of some big names either into history or in recalling them as anniversaries align. There is also a remarkable breadth to what we get up to as a matter of routine. Above all, it's reassuring that we all take a deep interest in the fortunes of the Regiment.

It's hard to pick out one thing from amongst it all, but I would like to wish the Association well for their centenary year. Every little helps, as they say, and we can all be very grateful for the diligence and commitment of the Association's officers, trustees, branch staff and volunteers towards our veterans. The Association is a network, adapting to the 21st century, and is therefore only as good as the people

who fight to keep it active, aware and alive. 100 years old, we owe it to Grenadiers yet born to keep it that way for the next 100.

Many thanks indeed to all, contributors, readers, and the unsung heroes who have helped fellow Grenadiers in need of support and friendship. I hope the tales herein inspire even more Grenadiers to tell a story which captures the present in prose, enriches our understanding of a shared history, and informs the future success of our great Regiment.



Major General Roly Walker DSO.

Editorial Notes

*by Brigadier David Russell-Parsons OBE
formerly Grenadiers Guards*

Our 2019 edition already seems like another decade ago. By the time readers will have caught up on the news in this year's journal, and everything in it, it will feel like another year has gone past. Andy Green and I welcome Alan Ogden into the Editorial fold as Assistant, a role which has increased our reach, benchmark for quality and ambition. Our standing Committee

for editorial meetings feels exceptionally strong, enjoying terrific representation from the Battalion, Nijmegen Company and Regimental Headquarters, reinforced by the Association and Philip Wright, our rock in historical knowledge and maintaining our step with the Guards Magazine. You will be pleased to see that we will keep developing both format and content of the Gazette. You will see the differences, starting with the front cover, whilst remaining true to the journal's origins, its purpose as an Association journal and handy size. This year is full of colour again reflecting the variety and opportunity on offer for all those serving, much of



2nd Battalion Officers in 1860s - Whatever happened to Mutton Chops?

it written by more junior members of the Regiment to their enormous credit. You will see from a full Battalion report and personal article from the Commanding Officer how much there is to do in a reduced Army which is rewarding, different and absorbing. We are grateful to Simon Soskin, as the current SO1 Foot Guards, for putting Regimental activities in a Household Division context. Plans for the capability and geography of the Division are being looked at again as we approach the next Integrated Defence and Security Review.

We think we have a journal which reflects the spark of the serving Regiment with the enthusiasm and exceptional efforts and activities of the Association. Please keep your contributions coming year on year, and tell us what you think. It remains your journal. Finally, as we go to print, I would want to reflect on two former stalwarts of the Gazette who are no longer with us - firstly Henry Hanning, our previous editor, as well as Conway Seymour as former Regimental

Adjutant, and share our sympathy with Elizabeth and Diana and their families as they remain very much in our memory.

The Editor accepts photographs for publication on the understanding that those submitting them have, where required by data protection legislation, obtained consent to publication from those depicted. Anyone who believes this is not the case or has a DPA related concern should contact the Editor.

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Lieutenant Colonel Henry Hanning – our ‘Gentleman’ Editor 1976–2007

by Brigadier David Russell-Parsons OBE

Having been one of the hundreds who attended Henry’s funeral in a church which the vicar declared had never been so full, I was fortunate enough to hear the memorable eulogy given by Colonel Richard Aubrey Fletcher on behalf of The Regiment. The aim of this tribute is to remember Henry as the founder and drive behind our Regimental journal. As Senior Major of the 1st Battalion in 1976, and in advance of other Foot Guard and wider Regiments, he produced the first edition of what was to become our Gazette. He continued as Editor, both as a serving and then as a retired Grenadier until 2006, a period of 30 years. He is the embodiment of everything it has become today.

I knew Henry well, both from early Captain days when I was first tasked with input to the Gazette, then as a company commander and as Senior Major myself, responsible for ensuring the Battalion submitted annual contributions, and as an editorial consultant and friend. Henry was always passionate about the quality of the input and the standard of writing. He set the bar high, even if he had to be forgiving occasionally when all his highly developed printing deadlines were missed in a world of wider priorities. In the days before easy printer-Editor internet connectivity, and our ability to adjust format and photos online, he bore an extraordinary load on producing the design of the journal himself. He was master of the detail on how much each printing space contribution needed, how both halves of the magazine needed to be balanced, how every Regimental record and roll needed to be 100% accurate, how letters to the Editor needed to be answered promptly and actioned when they included ideas or corrections and how the journal needed to work for both the serving Regiment and the whole Association. He was innovative and ‘his’ magazine reflected his wonderful sense of humour.



He designed and continued the Turks and Caicos section of the Association reports personally, each year producing an amusing and original report. He was generous in spirit and advice. It was such a pleasure to take on his Editorial role in 2006, and yet I remained very conscious of the reputation Henry had ensured for the journal within the Regiment, Household Division and the wider Army. After 2006, he was always generous with his feedback on each subsequent edition, quietly coaching from the sides, and remaining supportive as the journal changed. He will remain an inspiration for me, and everyone involved in the journal and we will miss him very much. We owe him, Elizabeth and his family a huge debt of gratitude as we will remember him, his standards and his style to maintain the Gazette as the journal he created.



THINKING OF LEAVING A LEGACY TO THE REGIMENT?

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

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

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

There are three types of legacy you can leave.

- A fixed sum of money [Pecuniary]
This is the simplest option.
- A percentage of the net value of your estate [Residuary]
A residuary legacy means you can leave a set proportion of your estate to the Regiment after all the other beneficiaries are taken care of.
- Individual possessions [Specific]
This could be typically land, property or shares.

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

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

Tax benefits

If you leave a legacy to the Regiment, its value will be deducted from your estate before inheritance tax (IHT) is worked out. In some cases leaving a legacy may help bring the total value of your estate below the taxable threshold (£325,000 for 2018-19). Gifts to the Regiment made up to seven years before your death may also qualify for exemption.

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

Beneficiary details

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

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HOUSEHOLD DIVISION UPDATE

*by Lieutenant Colonel Simon Soskin,
Lieutenant Colonel Foot Guards*

The start of the 2020 see the Household Division at the forefront of Army activity, capability and development with our people continuing to contribute to all elements of our Nation's defence whether serving within one of our units or posted as individuals right across the Army and the other services. Household Division personnel occupy some of the most senior posts, responsible for setting the future strategy and shape of the Army for years to come, they serve as commanders, trainers and administrators on almost every continent, and 'on the ground' our soldiers continue to excel whether at the Royal Palaces in London or on the exercise areas of Belize or Kenya or on operations in Iraq, Afghanistan, Ukraine or South Sudan.

The Household Cavalry Regiment moved to Powle Lines, Bulford, last summer and is deep into conversion training for its new role as an Armoured Cavalry Regiment equipped with the new Ajax and Ares armoured vehicles. The vehicles should arrive this spring in time for final development of the tactics and procedures required to provide the armoured support to 1st Mechanised Brigade – our first 'Strike' brigade. Meanwhile the Regiment continue to find its share of short-term training teams to Ukraine and East Africa. In Knightsbridge the Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment are starting to work up for the Spring ceremonial season and a full State Visit in Windsor for the first time in some years.

1st Battalion Grenadier Guards remain firm in Lille Barracks, Aldershot, and half way through their two years in support of London District. Last year's fantastic Queens Birthday Parade, training in Belize and a Falkland Island Resident Infantry Company deployment are already a distant memory as the companies start to rotate through basic battle craft skills training and skiing trips. Then to spring drills and the Major General's inspection before Easter and spring public duties season, this time providing the street liners for the Troop.

1st Battalion Coldstream Guards also remain in place in Victoria Barracks, Windsor. Still under 11 Infantry Brigade and recently returned from Kenya and Ex ASKARI THUNDER, the battalion has been on UK standby over the festive season and will be again in February. Then training will start in earnest for their deployment to Iraq in June on Op



SHADER 11 where they will take over from 1st Battalion Irish Guards.

1st Battalion Scots Guards, now transferred to 1 Mechanised Brigade, is still based in Mons Barracks, Aldershot but is preparing to move back to Catterick this summer. Still technically a Heavy Mechanised battalion equipped with the Mastiff vehicle, it is nominated to become a STRIKE battalion equipped with the new Boxer vehicles which will



arrive in 2022. In preparation for this new role they are participating in constant experimentation which has included company exercise in Latvia and Texas. Next, they face Exercise Wessex Storm on Salisbury Plain in June as the start of their preparation to take over from the Coldstream in Iraq on Op SHADER 12 at the end of the year.

1st Battalion Irish Guards still based in Cavalry Barracks Hounslow are currently deployed in Iraq on Op SHADER 11 and in South Sudan on Op TRENTON. They return in June in time to takeover Mons Barracks in Aldershot from the Scots Guards.

1st Battalion Welsh Guards have already moved – to Combermere Barracks in Windsor, taking over from the Household Cavalry Regiment. Also, in their second year of support to London District, they have sent companies to the Falklands and now prepare to troop their colour on the Queen's Birthday Parade in June.

1st Battalion the London Regiment, now settled into its role as the reserve battalion of the Foot Guards, continues to seize all opportunities to train alongside the regular battalions and provide valuable reinforcement on operations.

In Wellington Barracks, within London Central Garrison, the three Public Duties Incremental Companies continue to be the mainstay of Public Duties while fulfilling the essential role of developing our new guardsmen from the Guards Training Company at Infantry Training Centre (Catterick) to more skilled, fit and mature soldiers ready to take their place in the rifle sections and

support platoons of their parent battalions. The size of each company has been increased slightly to give them the ability to find large guard of honours and to conduct both London and Windsor duties simultaneously – but they are still very busy. Battalions and PDICS need variation from Guards in the form of 'green training' and trips from London but to every man or group who leave London to support someone else's exercise leaves their 'share' of the Guards to be done by someone else - it is a hard balance to strike.

The Band of the Household Cavalry and five Regimental Bands of the Foot Guards continue to provide world class military music in support of state ceremonial and public duties as well as perform nationally and internationally to great acclaim.

Household Division sports continues to thrive with the saddle, polo, golf, yachting, skiing and cricket clubs and teams all providing opportunities for our guardsmen to excel away from barracks and the Lawson Cup athletics competition is now firmly re-established for each summer. Most notably a team of intrepid Scots Guardsmen have just completed the Talisker Atlantic Rowing Race – a challenge which will take some beating.

Spiritual support from the Guards Chapel remains unwavering as does the level of effort being made to raise the £1.5m required to replace the organ. With well over £1m already in the bank or pledged by generous donors it looks as if the new instrument will be in place for 2022 as planned



which will be a wonderful achievement.

The Guards Museum is conducting its annual January refresh with refurbished exhibits and improved lighting and facilities. A new section on the history of the London Regiment has been installed and there are great plans to renew the East Picquet Guardroom shop as a smart café. This all underpinned by the success of Andrew Wallis, the director, in providing tailored tours and spreading the word through two short lecture tours in the USA.

What is changing this year?

Recruiting has improved – from the catastrophically low levels of the last four years we are now filling every bed space that the Guards Training Company can make available, so much so that the 10th platoon training team is about to be reinstated. This is a huge turn around and will have a demonstrable effect on the capabilities of each battalion and the quality of life for each guardsman. Most of the recovery has been due to hard work by the Recruiting Group/CAPITA partnership and the variety of changes made to the recruiting ‘pipeline’. Improved marketing, improved processes, improved administration and

finally fixing the computer system which manages and tracks applications have all contributed. But the most significant change for us has been to how we communicate our ‘offer’ and how the word is being spread – now our teams recruit as ‘the Guards’ a family of five regiments with a range of locations, a range of unit roles and very many jobs available for individuals who join us rather than individual regiments. This is proving attractive to young people. Furthermore, we have re-established Foot Guards representatives in as many recruiting offices as we can get access to and have a network of captains and seniors who rove the offices reminding the recruiters of exactly what the Guards are and who we need. Needless to say, as soon as individuals have signed up to the Guards as a whole, they very quickly commit to an individual Regiment – either because of a family connection or, more often, because of where they come from or where they want to serve.

We are delighted that the first female guardsmen will pass out into the Welsh Guards in February, catching the Foot Guards up with the Household Cavalry who have had female officers and troopers serving in their regiments for over a year.

Our improved recruiting is so important as it is the most powerful way to mitigate the under manning that has made it so difficult for each battalion, to varying extents, to perform to its best over the last couple of years. Our 'retention' – our ability to keep our soldiers soldiering – is strong, better than in most units across the Army, but it should improve even further when our soldiers no longer feel that they are doing their own job and that of someone that hasn't joined. It will take a while for the gaps created by the low inflow of the last four years to work through the ranks but the effects of this are being managed by in many ways. We are adjusting the work required from each battalion, extending soldiers contracts wherever appropriate, inviting Reservists to serve in the battalions and inviting those who have left to re-join. In coming months we should see the re-instatement of a bonus to some who commit to serve on and the re-introduction of a bounty to those who introduce and mentor a successful recruit.

We are re-investing in the Guards Parachute Platoon. No 6 Pl, B Coy 3 PARA has been the Guards Parachute Platoon for some years providing an exciting career opportunity for our guardsman as well as carrying the legacy of the Independent Guards Parachute Company. Numbers have dropped over the last couple of years as battalions face so many other calls on their manpower but a drive for volunteers has produced 30 who are attempting P Coy now. Those who pass will attach to the platoon for two years with Exercise Askari



Storm in the spring and a deployment later in the year. The battalions are working to revitalise the pathway so that guardsmen with enthusiasm and potential are identified immediately on arrival from Catterick and then developed in terms of fitness and physical resilience for an attempt at P Coy within their first year or so of regimental duty. Success will lead to two years with the platoon and then straight to the JNCOs course or support company.

Staying on the theme of close relationships with the Paras, our joint training establishment: Household Division and Parachute Regiment Centralised Courses (H DPRCC) at Pirbright is finally being put on a firmer footing. The flagship divisional training wing has run 'best practice' JNCO and sniper courses as well as preparation courses for the many career courses for a generation but always by scrounging instructors and resources from the battalions as required. Now the establishment will be formally aligned to one of our Aldershot battalions – the Grenadiers at first – so that the instructors and resources can be properly managed. This will ensure that future generations of guardsmen will have the opportunity to make a heart and soul connection to 'the sandhills of Pirbright' as their predecessors.

The new Major General, Chris Ghika, is now at the helm in Horse Guards as Major General Sir Ben Bathurst moves on and up to be our representative at NATO. General Chris has, in his time, served with the Grenadiers and the Scots Guards as well as, of course, with his own Irish Guards and so is particularly well known within the Division. He is already looking forward to his inspection of the 1st Battalion in March! He has returned to a Household Division that continues to ride the waves of change with its usual confidence and enthusiasm while delivering the highest levels of output whether abroad on operations or back in London. Working through the last of the Army 2020 barrack plot moves, maintaining our operational cycles and taking on the two new roles of Armoured Cavalry and Mechanised Infantry within the Strike Brigade gives us plenty to be getting on with but have no doubt that we will meet any new challenges that arise from the next Integrated Defence and Security Review with our usual panache and style.

Septem Juncto in Uno.

Regimental Adjutant's Report

by Major James Gatehouse,
Regimental Adjutant

2019 was another busy year for the Regiment and the Headquarters has been a hive of activity throughout. In early March, the 1st Battalion re-subordinated from 11 Infantry Brigade to London District which necessitated the re-issue of Home Service Clothing to well over 400 Grenadiers and the inevitable frustration of shuttling men, tunics and bearskins between Wellington Barracks and Aldershot. Nevertheless, the turnaround was miraculous and, on 22nd March, the Battalion (including attached personnel) took part in the highly regarded Medals Parade in the Quadrangle at Windsor Castle. It was striking to note that, for many on parade, this was their first medal and it is a salutary reminder of the high turnover that there is in the Battalion, particularly within the junior ranks and how important retention will be over the next three years of Public Duties.

The parade was followed immediately afterwards by a photograph of the Regiment on the East Lawn, less those employed Extra Regimentally. It was an intimate gathering and Her Majesty and The Colonel joined us. Afterwards, the Sergeant Major led the Regiment in giving three cheers to our Colonel-

in-Chief. The noise was deafening, reminding all present of the bond between Her Majesty and the Regiment that has existed since she was appointed Colonel on her 16th birthday in April 1942.

On 3rd June, Nijmegen Company, which is co-located with Regimental Headquarters in Wellington Barracks, found a large Guard of Honour in the gardens of Buckingham Palace, at the start of the State Visit of President Trump. Again, this was a notable success and, with Her Majesty present, the Royal Standard of the Regiment made a rare appearance, impressing even the most hardened, square-jawed American observers.

For many, the Queen's Birthday Parade was the highlight of the year, with the 1st Battalion providing an immaculate Escort, Two and Four Guard (the latter found by The Inkerman Company), and Nijmegen Company slotting in at Three Guard. On the previous day, Her Majesty held a luncheon in Buckingham Palace, attended by the Lieutenant Colonel and the 18 officers who have been Ensign during Her reign. The most senior, Algy Cluff, had carried the 3rd Battalion's Colour on its last Birthday Parade in 1960.

Throughout the Spring and early Summer, Regimental Headquarters remained busy with the planning and preparation for Regimental Remembrance Day and the First Guards Club Dinner and arranging meetings for the Regimental Trustees,



Band of the Grenadier Guards at the Menin Gate.

the Regimental Council and The Colonel's Fund as well as sorting out ticketing for Beating The Retreat, the Birthday Parade and the two Reviews.

Throughout the year, we have assisted families with the planning and organization of memorial services and the dedication of memorial plaques, all in the Guards Chapel. The Regiment is, at its heart, a large family and these events, as much as any other, are a reminder of the strong bonds that exist between all Grenadiers.

With the 1st Battalion away in Belize from mid-August, our attention switched to a series of events to commemorate and celebrate the 75th Anniversary of the Liberation of France and parts of Belgium and Holland by the Grenadier elements of the Guards Armoured Division in 1944. Apart from separate visits to Pont à Marcq, Nijmegen and the British Embassy in Paris, the high point was a week in Belgium in early September. The Regimental Adjutant and Band led the way, taking part in band concerts and commemorative events in Aarschot, Ypres and at the Menin Gate.

They were then joined by Nijmegen Company in Bruges to celebrate the Liberation of the City (by the Canadians) and the Regiment's close ties with the Guild of St Sebastian. A Guard of Honour in the Market Square was inspected by The Colonel, accompanied by members of the Belgian Royal Family, before they marched off over cobbles and alongside canals to the ancient and picturesque Hall and Gardens of the Guild who, after several long speeches and presentations, hosted all to an equally long lunch. The Band went on to play in the Belgian National Commemoration Parade in Antwerp the next day.

Over the year there have been visits to and from the Ironmongers Company, who continue to very generously support The Colonel's Fund and some of them joined the Battalion for a week in Belize. We have also been active with visits to HMS Queen



Ms Nayna Shah retires.

Elizabeth and the Canadian Grenadier Guards.

Finally, on 10th December, the Lieutenant Colonel hosted a 25th Anniversary dinner to celebrate the formation of Nijmegen Company, following the placing into suspended animation of the 2nd Battalion in 1994. Held at the Cavalry & Guards Club, this was attended by former Commanding Officers and Adjutants of the Battalion and former company commanders and company sergeant majors of Nijmegen Company. It was a very jolly and memorable evening.

Aside from the events covered above, Regimental Headquarters looks after all the more mundane issues that come in on a daily basis. Captain Robbie Thompson is the Temporary Equerry and manages the pipeline of potential officers before and during the Commissioning Course at Sandhurst. WO2 James Thompson is the RQMS and keeps a beady eye on everyone and everything, assisted by LSgts Haughton and MacMillan in the General Office who have specific responsibilities for regimental affairs and property. Linda Leppard continues to manage the Clothing Store. Major Andy Green is the Regimental Treasurer and General Secretary of the Association, ably assisted by Sgt Broomes who also runs the Shop. The Regimental Casualty Officer, Matt Ellmer, is as busy as ever, regularly visiting bereaved families and the wounded who are under the care of The Colonel's Fund and dotted around the country. After 35 years of loyal service to the Regiment, Ms Nayna Shah, who had worked both in the general office and the archives, retired with a well-deserved Imperial Service Medal as well as a Grenadier brooch as a token of our appreciation.

Looking forwards, 2020 marks a number of significant milestones, particularly the 75th Anniversary of the Liberation of Europe and the end of hostilities in 1945. It also marks the 60th Anniversary of the farewell parade of the 3rd Battalion held in the garden of Buckingham Palace. The next Grenadier Day on 19th July at Lille Barracks in Aldershot will focus on both these anniversaries and it's hoped that many former members of the 3rd Battalion and its successor, the Inkerman Company, will gather there on the day. There will be a special exhibition marking the history and achievements of the 3rd Battalion over 300 years. I hope to see many of you there.



Bermuda 1891.



Cooper and Loftus.



Lt Reginald Lord Arlee.



Capt Archer Crawley.



Lt Noel Corry.



Officers mess.



Lt Godfrey Heneage.

Sketches by Captain Edward Ellice of the 2nd Battalion in Bermuda 1890-91. (Presented to the Regiment by the family in January 2020).

Director of Welfare's Report

For Year ending 31 December 2019

*by Major James Gatehouse,
Regimental Adjutant*

Organisation

The Regimental Adjutant is Director of Welfare. He is supported by the Secretary to the Welfare Committee (Major Andy Green), the Association NCO (Sgt Rob Broomes) and the Regimental Casualty Officer (Mr Matt Ellmer) who are responsible for implementation of charitable activities.

The Regimental Association

The Association budget continues to support Grenadiers (and their families) in need in a variety of ways.

1. Supplementary Benefits

This benefit is paid at £107.50/quarter, £430/year; at the end of 2019, 15 people were in receipt of this allowance. The spend for Supplementary Benefits in 2019 was £5,723.

2. Christmas Gifts

In 2019 Christmas Gifts were paid to 172 Association Branch applicants at £30 per head. In addition, £25 was also paid to each of our three In-Pensioners at The Royal Hospital, Chelsea. The total spend was £5,235.

3. Individual Welfare Grants

Net grants, totaling £32,448, have been made to support 79 requests for assistance for such things as home improvements, mobility aids, brown/white goods, debt relief and other miscellaneous items.

The Colonel's Fund

The Colonel's Fund is supervised by a Steering Committee on behalf of the Regimental Trustees.

Chairman: Lieutenant Colonel Patrick Holcroft
LVO, OBE

Members: Colonel Euan Houstoun OBE
Major The Lord Valentine Cecil
Captain (ret'd) Alan Ogden

Secretary: Major James Gatehouse, Regimental
Adjutant

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. It continues to be the source of much needed and very welcome support to the bereaved families of those killed on recent operations and to those who have suffered physical and mental injury.

The Steering Committee always expected 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 a continual increase in such problems emerging, in some part due to the fact that the symptoms of such issues are now more widely recognised. The Fund is providing healthcare support to a number of Grenadiers suffering from very complex mental health difficulties, as well as continuing to engage with the Government and NHS to provide sustainable nationwide support.

During 2019 donations have continued to come in with many individuals contributing and their generosity is very much appreciated. As at 31 Dec 2019 the fund has raised a total of £4,374,694 and has made £1,114,555 worth of welfare related payments since its inception.

In 2019, the Fund made individual welfare grants to the value of £81,826. The majority of made were for:

- Mobility aids/improvement
- Home modifications
- Employment Training
- Career/family loss of earnings
- Bereaved family & injured personnel holidays

- Financial advice
- Counseling

The Fund also continues to support the invaluable work carried out by the Regimental Casualty Officer, Mr Matthew Ellmer, who is at the forefront of the delivery of the support outlined above. At the year end, his case load was 68 of which 42 were under active management. As well as being the ‘fixer’, mentor, counselor and friend to our seriously wounded and bereaved, he continues to forge links with other Service charities and Government Agencies so that we know where to turn when help is needed.

The Household Division Welfare Fund

There have been no requests for grants from the fund this year.

The Major General, after discussions with the Chairman, Brigade Major and Treasurer Household Division has decided to place the Household Division Welfare Committee (HDWC) into suspended animation with immediate effect.

Welfare assurance for the Household Division Trustees is very important but the Major General is content that the current, prevailing circumstances provide the opportunity to forego the 6 monthly HDWC meetings for the foreseeable future as the HDWC’s objectives will be addressed sufficiently during the 6 monthly Household Division Trustees meetings.

He is content that welfare support from the Household Division Charity is fulfilled primarily through provision of the annual Bereaved Weekend. Other demands for Household Division Charity welfare support have diminished to a

negligible level.

For monitoring the state of welfare across the Regiments, he is satisfied that the chain of command manages this without the additional imposition of the HDWC.

When Regiments, by exception, need to apply for welfare support from the Household Division Charity, their submissions will go to Headquarters Household Division. The Brigade Major and Treasurer will jointly process such individual applications.

The Major General naturally reserves the right to revive the HDWC as he sees fit.

APPLYING FOR GRANTS

Grenadiers, or their families, who are in need of support as a result of recent active service, can be supported by The Colonel’s Fund. They are directed, in the first instance, to contact the Regimental Casualty Officer (Mr Matt Ellmer) who will advise on the best way forward.

All other Grenadiers or their dependents, in need of support, 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); SSAFA then assigns a case-worker who prepares the case and then submits it to Association Headquarters. Through this process, we are able to access support from the Army Benevolent Fund and Royal British Legion in addition to our own.

Letter from The Commanding Officer

by *Lieutenant Colonel Piers Ashfield DSO*

The Battalion has achieved a huge amount during the last year; proving itself on a plethora of operational deployments to Iraq, South Sudan and Afghanistan and building an enviable reputation across the Army in 2019. The reflections from the experiences of Operations were particularly positive from a tactical perspective with every Company deriving as much as possible from their deployments and several members of Battalion receiving Joint Commanders Commendations for their contributions. However, as recent world events suggest, I think our tendency to view military support through a narrow operational prism, rather than one that encompasses a wider

concept of UK national interest, may denude the leverage and influence we can derive from our operational efforts.

As the Battalion returned to State Ceremonial and Public Duties, I reflected on the wisdom of Field Marshal Slim who commented that *'the best fighting units, in the long run, were not necessarily those with the most advertised reputations, but those who, when they came out of battle at once resumed a more formal discipline and appearance'*. This guided an approach to returning to LONDIST that sought to build, and in many cases begin relationships, across a plethora of stakeholders that governed the great institutions of the Kingdom, from Windsor Castle to the Tower of London. In resuming a more formal appearance, we sought to attain the highest standards but in so doing recognise that the young men and women that comprise the Battalion are human and consequently the need to aspire to these



The Commanding Officer and Adjutant join the Deputy Commander on the range in Belize.



Field Officer in Brigade Waiting mid flourish.

standards will be a perpetual demand, delivered through attention to detail with consistent and constant application. This was also assisted through a junior leadership development initiative aimed at Lance Corporals, who are so crucial to the effective management of the Battalion yet receive little investment in training and education beyond their promotional course. The early reflections were positive following the medals parade at Windsor Castle and improved upon for the Birthday Parade but this is an evolution rather than revolution and will continue to develop. The experiences of the Battalion are detailed in the articles which follow but 2019 will be remembered for the opportunity to display our ceremonial credentials on the Birthday Parade and the once in a generation opportunity to deploy to the jungles of Belize perfectly proving that the latest generation are the embodiment of *'Twice the Man...'*

This will be my last entry as Commanding Officer of the First Battalion and I hope that the readership will indulge me in a brief reflection of my time in the Regiment. The great gift that I think every Grenadier inherits is fellowship. My Regimental experience is one of happiness, trust and friendship and I am eternally grateful for everyone, past and present, who has played a part in my experience. This has been the happiness of shared experience, the trust of shared loyalties and inevitable friendship forged from shared deprivations. It inevitably takes time for the more junior members of the Battalion to fully enter into this inheritance, for the more emotional and physical investment one makes, the more inextricably tied to our organisation's fortunes one becomes, but with a plethora of fulfilling opportunities in 2020 I expect nearly everyone in the Battalion will be brought into this fellowship and we will continue to prosper.



The Queen's Company

by Lieutenant Robin Mackworth Young

2019 was welcomed in by The Queen's Company enjoying some well-deserved Post Operational Tour Leave. Having spent the latter half of 2018 in Afghanistan on Op TORAL 6 the opportunity given to spend time with families and loved ones was appreciated by all.

The Company reformed in February when we went to Val Thorens for a week on the Battalion skiing trip. Organised by the then Second Captain, Captain Thompson, it saw the entire Battalion enjoy a week skiing, staggered over three weeks in Company groups. Skiers of all abilities attended – many had never put a pair of ski boots on. Not only did the week give everyone a chance to gain Army skiing qualifications but it was also an opportunity to relax together and enjoy the bonds of friendship that had been developed over the intense period of training and deployment that 2018 had seen. Fun was had by all, particularly when we were able to celebrate the Sergeant Major's birthday with him.

Returning to Lille Barracks after this saw us swap ski suits for tunics and helmets for bearskins. Having not performed State Ceremonial Public Duties for quite some time, the Battalion began the three-week process known as 'Spring Drills'. Familiar to some readers, this process involved us demonstrating our capability to perform the duties expected of us when 'on the Blue Line'. Considering that later the same year we were providing the Escort to the Colour for The Company Commander's Birthday Parade the eyes of the Drill Sergeants (Drill Sergeants Dacey and Shepherd) were firmly fixed upon us. However, under the instruction of Company Sergeant Major Archer, the Company, and the Battalion, performed so well at its medal ceremony in Windsor Castle, the Major General Commanding The Household Division decided no final inspection of drill was needed and the First Battalion could start taking on the State Ceremonial Public Duties required of it. Preparation for the Troop could finally begin.



Gdsm McKlendon skiing with The Queen's Company.

An article on the Troop is found elsewhere in this publication and so words need not be wasted here on the minutiae. However, it should be said that The Queen's Company took everything in its stride and performed its duties as the Escort to the Colour with aplomb, precision and panache. Worked harder than any of the other companies, in terms of time on rehearsals and parade, there was little grumbling from anyone. Every man worked tirelessly to maintain the highest standards, and this was evident when, on June 8th, The Queen's Company escorted The Queen's Colour to mark her official birthday. Praise was heaped on the Company by Her Majesty, Royal Colonels and Generals alike and it was with content and a feeling of a job well done that Company Sergeant Major Archer handed over to Company Sergeant Major McLean.

What happened over the next few months is proof to the adage that Grenadiers are 'Twice the Man'. The Company turned its attention from the Drill Square to an altogether different environment; the jungles of Belize. Whilst most of the Company had been preparing for the Troop, Sgt Beekman and LSgt Aspinshaw had been in Brunei and had gained the Jungle Warfare Instructor (JWI) qualification, along with other members of the Battalion. This enabled them to train the Company in jungle warfare and prepare us for our two-month deployment to Belize. In August we found ourselves in the humid heat of Central America. For some it was the first time they had left the UK. Attached to The Queen's Company throughout was a platoon



The Escort march past in slow time.

from C Company, The First Battalion Scots Guards. They not only swelled our numbers but added value continuously – be it their constant good humour or in the battle.

The Company spent 29 days straight on exercise in the jungle. Lessons at the beginning started at the lowest level - that of the individual soldier. The progression, under the watchful eyes of the JWI's, continued up through fire-team, to section, platoon and company. The climax of the exercise was a Battle Group phase which lasted three days. The Inkerman Company provided the enemy and it was



The Queen's Company on the zeroing range.

with satisfaction that The Queen's Company and Number 2 Company saw to their defeat.

Working in such an environment provided a plethora of challenges. The weather, with flash thunderstorms on a monstrous level, the incessant and unrelenting heat, the flora and fauna (which seemed determined to bite or sting at every point) and the sheer density of the jungle meant that the skills learned on the open hills of Brecon or Catterick were thoroughly tested and developed.

After two months away, arriving back in the UK was something that was awaited for eagerly by the Company. We rounded off our time in Belize with an Adventurous Training and R&R package in Mexico before heading home. Needless to say, the delights of Cancun, with its beaches, coral reefs, bars and clubs was a welcome change from the oppressing jungle.

Looking forward, the next year promises to be just as busy. With a State Opening of Parliament, another Battalion ski trip, deployments to The Falkland Islands, whilst continuing to mount guard at the Royal Palaces and keeping up our green soldiering skills, we shall certainly not find ourselves bored. In such a fashion, it looks like life in The Sovereign's Company will carry on as normal.



No 2 Company

by Major Will Harries

No 2 Company has thrown itself into the last 12 months, exploiting every opportunity presented by an exceptional battalion programme. Along with elements from Support Company, we formed the majority of the Op SHADER medal recipients during the presentation of medals to the battalion by the Colonel at Windsor Castle. It was a special moment, shared with families, in which to reflect on the experiences of Northern Iraq before looking ahead to 2019 and all its challenges. Recent operations had provided a good foundation and established esprit de corps but the Company would now have to make sure it performed in two very different tests: The Queen's Birthday Parade and then the jungle. Both required careful preparation in order to ensure the Company retained its high reputation.

Before the hard work started in earnest, nearly the entire company travelled to the ski resort of Val Thorens for Adventurous Training. The guardsmen learnt fast and were soon in their element – on and off the slopes. One highlight of the week was the smoker, dress theme 'something beginning with 'P'. Cue pirates, pussycats, popes and pigeons joining in for a rousing singalong watched by a bemused DJ and slightly concerned bar owner (probably wondering if the 100 Euro deposit was wise). Skiing was followed by three weeks of Spring Drills, before ceremonial duties began in earnest. Meanwhile, a detachment headed up to Brecon for two weeks, lending support on the final exercise of the Platoon Commanders' Battle Course. The exercise provided an opportunity



No 2 Company winning the Manchester Cup.

to develop junior commanders in a challenging environment and above the level expected at their rank; a theme that the Company would continue to build on while out in Belize.

The spring months saw the beginning of Troop training, with the Company preparing to provide No 2 Guard as the Battalion trooped its Colour. During this time three members of the Company deployed to Brunei on the Jungle Warfare Instructors Course, while Gdsm Szyszko headed to Canada on Ex GRENADIER YUKON, successfully canoeing the length of the Yukon river. Further company adventure training this year included Ex GRENADIER COMPASS, which saw nine members of the Company take part in a week of navigation and hind stalking in the Scottish Highlands -



Sgt Davis teaching a lesson in the jungle.

an article about the exercise can be found in this Gazette.

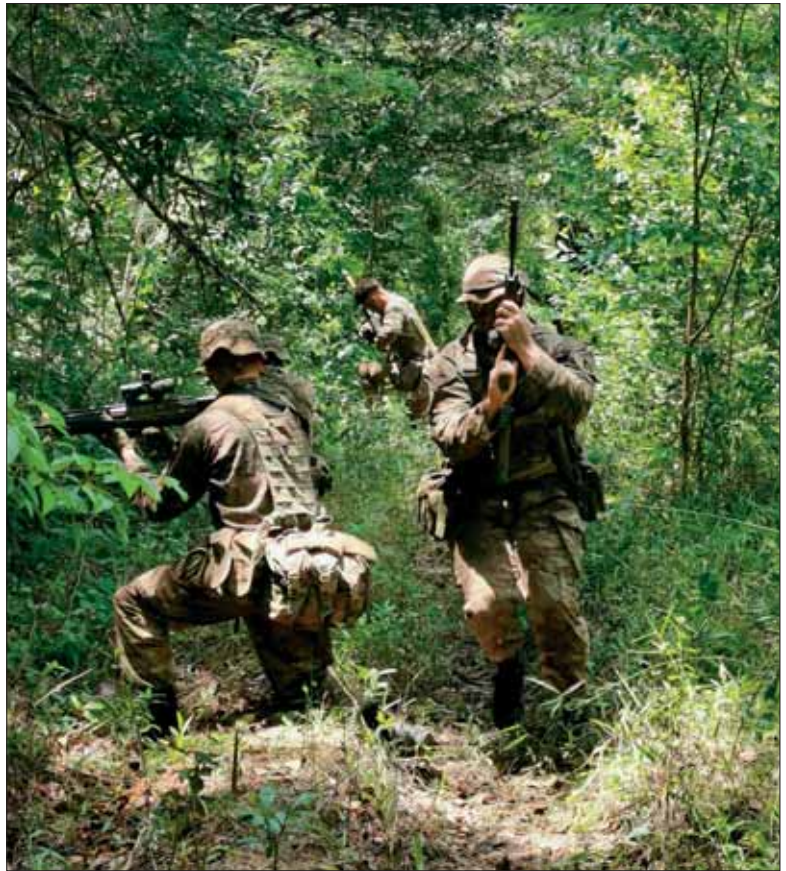
After a highly successful Troop, the Company was straight back to public duties, all the while continuing its preparation to deploy to Belize on Ex MAYAN STORM. A notable achievement during this time was on the Battalion football field, as No 2 Company took home the Manchester Cup. A hard-fought match against The Inkerman Company went to extra time and finally penalties; experience was on the side of No 2 Company and some seasoned veterans held their nerve and delivered the goods.

Landing in Belize in late August, the Company had just two days to sharpen machetes and untangle hammocks before heading under the canopy for a month. Beginning with basic fieldcraft and survival, the Company worked through section and platoon level skills, before finally operating as a company within a battalion context on the final exercise.

This was followed by a week's live fire package, culminating in an exciting company dawn attack. The junior command development that had begun in Brecon was continued in Belize, with the many Lance Corporals, some only recently promoted, commanding sections for much of the exercise. Returning to camp it was straight into an adventure training package of snorkelling, zip-lining and abseiling. The Company then headed to the island of San Pedro for four days well-earned R&R, while seven members of the Company flew to Texas for a successful Battalion football tour.

Back in the UK the Company found itself in a good position physically; a month of rations, no alcohol and jungle living proving an exceptional diet plan. This was evident in the Company's performance on the new fitness test which has replaced the PFA and AFT; and then on the Battalion Christmas steeplechase

- the final event before the Battalion departed for Christmas leave. 2019 has been a busy and successful year for No 2 Company, with its members deploying across four different continents for courses, expeditions, training exercises and training teams. It is worth emphasising that the guardsmen have consistently delivered to the high standard that is now expected from the Company; whether in their turnout for Queen's Guard or their work-rate during attacks in Belize. This performance is also reflected in individual performances: Sergeant Moffatt's Joint Commander's Commendation for Op SHADER; along with excellent performances on the Platoon Sergeant's Battle Course by Sergeant Moore, Sergeant Davies and Lance Sergeant Slater. With a short term training team in Malawi, a deployment to the Falklands and a wealth of ambitious adventure training being planned, 2020 promises to be another exciting and rewarding year.



Two Company Rehearse Contact Drills.



Support Company

by Lieutenant Mark Osmond

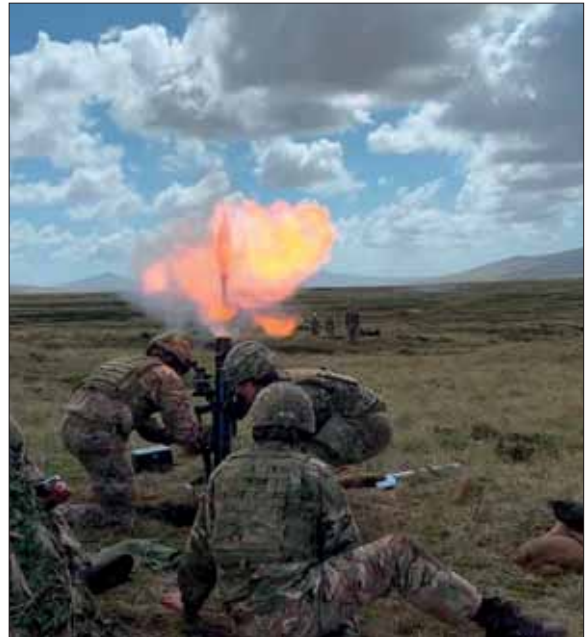
The Falklands Islands Roulement Infantry Company (FIRIC), is a long-standing commitment the British Army has made since the conflict in 1982. Its immediate function is to deter potential adversaries from chancing their arm, and to reassure the Falkland Islanders, who enjoy British Overseas Territory status. Looking slightly further into the future there is a realisation that the Antarctic Treaty, which governs international relations there, expires in the middle of this century and there may be a 'scramble' for the region as the ice subsides and its mineral wealth is exposed. In that situation the Falklands would provide an enviable strategic gateway.

Aside from our geopolitical purpose, the nitty-gritty of the deployment is like all good things in the Army a three-way rotation.

- 1) Quick Reaction Force - a platoon on standby to respond to military and civil emergencies in the South Atlantic. In this role the Mortar Platoon were at the forefront of the British assistance to the Chilean government's efforts to recover wreckage from a tragic plane crash off the Southern tip of Chile.



Memoranda at Bertha's beach.



The Mortar Platoon in action.

- 2) Training - as I'm sure many of the readers will testify, the ground in the Falklands is 'gopping'! Large tufts of earth and grass, peat bogs, and rock pools are a few of the notable obstacles that make travelling by brown taxi relatively challenging! However, this austere landscape has proved to be the perfect canvas for Support Company to conduct their cadres, a process by which the different platoons (Snipers, Reconnaissance, Anti-Tanks, and Mortars) train-up and validate their new Guardsmen.
- 3) Patrols - perhaps the most enjoyable round of the rotation. These vital reassurance visits to farmsteads across the Islands provide a rare interaction between the locals and the Army. Hospitality and tasks vary from slap-up suppers and sheep shearing, to four nights under a poncho with barely a word from the landowner. Regardless, it is a wonderful insight into how many of the folk in remote areas live and a chance to see areas of the Falklands that very few get access to.

Alongside Support Company, a platoon from Nijmegen Company has also deployed for the

whole tour. These Guardsmen, who are the 18 most senior in the Company, are being led by a Section Commander and Section second-in command from each of the three rifle companies in battalion. Rather neatly, the Guardsmen in these sections will then head to their respective Section Commander's companies once we have recovered to the UK.

In late-January the rest of Nijmegen Company will head to the South Atlantic to take part in Ex CAPE BAYONET, a company-level live firing exercise that will incorporate the use of Support Company assets such as mortars and snipers, fast jets, and boat moves with the Royal Navy. This robust and realistic exercise promises to be an exciting occasion for many of the young Guardsmen, many of whom haven't been long out of training. A number of Gunners (Royal Artillery) are due to take part in the live firing following some excellent defence engagement work by Captain Wright with the Resident Rapier Battery.

There's also been plenty of opportunities to explore the Falklands and take the obligatory photo with a penguin or sea-lion, although Captain Phillips' quest for sea trout is proving less fruitful. On a more sobering note, battlefield studies, as well as providing conceptual development, have helped to highlight the realities of high intensity conflict. Walking in the footsteps of our Scots Guards forebears up Mount

Tumbledown was particularly poignant.

In early-December Bertha's beach, a stunning white-sand stretch of coastline near Mount Pleasant Camp where we are housed, was the venue for Major Conway's memoranda. Five Lance-Corporals were promoted to Lance Sergeant whilst a 40mph wind whipped across them, testing both Company Sergeant Major Lloyd's drill voice and the conduct of personal drill in soft sand - needless to say, both were exemplary!

I am also pleased to report that the Globe Tavern and Deano's Bar in Port Stanley are still doing a fine impression of the 1970s - both have proved immensely popular and form part of an essential pub crawl in the Island's capital. Stanley was also host of the Boxing Day races, a totemic event in the South Atlantic calendar, where horses of dubious provenance and build compete for an array of silverware - Major Conway rode in the Military Cup and placed in a very respectable second place.

In summary, despite being away for the Christmas period the Falklands has provided an excellent chance to deploy on an operational footing, conduct Support Weapons cadres, and exploit training opportunities with the RAF and Navy. Teething problems encountered and lessons learnt should ensure that The Inkerman and No 2 Company are set up for successful tours in the back-end of 2020.



The Support Company raft ready to launch in the New Years race.



The Inkerman Company

by Major Paddy Rice

The start of 2019 found The Ribs in South Sudan preparing for their final few weeks of Op TRENTON 5, which proved particularly busy as they juggled a visit from the Secretary of State for Defence with force protection, daily routine and preparing to handover to The Royal Anglian Regiment. As the numbers of Grenadiers in theatre reduced, the hours in the sangars of Bentiu and Malakal seemed to grow longer and longer, but eventually in the last few days of January, the final elements of The Inkerman Company departed South Sudan and returned to the UK.

The majority of February was spent on well-deserved post-tour leave, catching up with family and friends and making up for a missed Christmas and New Year. Return to work saw The Ribs join the other Companies in rotating through the Battalion skiing trip to Val Thorens, exchanging UN berets for ski helmets. A week of skiing gave many soldiers their first taste of winter sports, and the opportunity to learn a new sport and enjoy the slopes (and nightlife) of a ski resort. Most importantly, it allowed the Company to regroup (having been spread across a number of locations in South Sudan), and to reflect on the exertions and challenges of the last six months. Having fully rested and recovered, the Company returned to Lille Barracks in March ready to entirely switch focus and begin preparation for The Queen's Birthday Parade 2019.

Spring Drills quickly served to shake out the ceremonial cobwebs (although the Corps of Drums presence in South Sudan had ensured drill



Lt Bennett briefs LCpl Roberts on the position ahead.

remained an ever-present even whilst deployed), and The Ribs soon found themselves forming Number 5 Guard for 'Troop Training'. Company Sergeant Major Mann took over on the very first day of training, having returned from instructing at the Infantry Battle School in Brecon. Early morning journeys to Pirbright for rehearsals were interspersed with a variety Royal Guards. The hard work put in by all involved was evident on Horse Guards Parade in June when the Company took part in an outstanding Birthday Parade.



The Ribs after a successful final exercise in Belize.

Throughout all of this bulling, Brasso and drill, some members of the Company (and wider Battalion) were contending with entirely different challenges, as they undertook the Jungle Warfare Instructors' Course in Brunei, in preparation for the Battalion's exercise in Belize later in the year. Spiders, snakes, torrential rain and tropical heat proved to be the background to learning how to survive and fight in the jungle environment, and most importantly, how to pass instruction to others in the skills. The success of those who attended this course proved crucial to the success of the Battalion on Exercise Mayan Storm.

On return from summer leave, Major Patrick Rice took over The Ribs from Major Tim Rogers, just in time to deploy straight to Belize. After a few hot days of acclimatising in Price Barracks in Belize City, the Company sorted themselves in convoy heading towards the jungle on the Guatemalan border, not to see running water, showers or fresh food again for over a month! Having occupied a jungle base camp (consisting of three linked Platoon harbours, a company headquarters and a 'school house' *atap*) the Guardsmen went straight into lessons to find water, food and shelter in the heat of the jungle. The sounds of machetes hacking living spaces out of the trees were soon drowned out by the heaviest rainstorm anybody had seen - that this was the first night was not a promising omen. However, having made adjustments to hammocks and waterproof shelters (and the storm seeming to have passed), the following days soon turned into weeks as the Company progressed from individual skills and drills, through fire team and section activity, up to Platoon-level offensive operations.

The blank firing phase of the exercise culminated in a battalion-level advance to contact through the jungle. Having led the Battalion for the first day and secured our objective, The Ribs covertly broke out of the trees and promptly switched sides, ready to occupy defensive positions and be the force-on-force enemy for the Battalion's final attack. This



The Ribs celebrating Inkerman Day.

presented all ranks in the Company a degree of autonomy not usually enjoyed on a conventional exercise, with small raiding parties given total mission command to find and disrupt the Battalion efforts to locate the camp, and Platoons given the freedom to implement the defence of their respective sectors as they deemed fit, which proved a real highlight of the exercise for many.

Having progressed through individual to Company level live firing, The Ribs finally emerged from the jungle over a month later sporting some dubious facial hair and threadbare combats. These were quickly cast aside for the prospect of a few days of adventurous training in the hills and by the sea (including ziplining through the canopy, snorkelling, sea kayaking and abseiling), followed by five days exploring the sights and sounds of Cancun - an experience that will live long in the memory.

The final few months of 2019 saw a return to Public Duties, as well as marking Inkerman Day with a visit to the Cutty Sark and a boat trip around London along the Thames. The Company now looks forward to a busy 2020, which will include training in Cornwall, Street Lining for the Welsh Guards Troop, and a deployment to the Falklands Islands, all whilst celebrating sixty years of The Inkerman Company.



Nijmegen Company

Wellington Barracks, London

by Major Charlie Williams

In its 25th year, Nijmegen Company remains the ‘gatekeeper’ of the Regiment; receiving our most junior Guardsmen from ITC Catterick and preparing them for life in the 1st Battalion. The Company has had another hugely busy year in 2019. Whether it has been on the Horse Guards Parade, Buckingham Palace Forecourt, on Salisbury Plain or overseas, our feet have barely touched the ground.

In the build up to the Birthday Parade, the

Company provided a Guard of Honour for President Trump. It was an immaculate guard and all the more impressive given the condensed preparation time due to Troop Training. The President was visibly delighted during the inspection and clearly enjoyed talking to the Company Sergeant Major Bailey and Gdsm Spilling, who grew up in Missouri. Later that week Nijmegen Company provided Number Three Guard for the Battalion’s Trooping of the Colour. It was a great Grenadier day and a proud occasion for all the young Guardsmen who had worked so hard in the build up.

July saw the company deploying on a summer exercise to Longmoor and Salisbury Plain. These exercises focused on back to basics soldiering for the Guardsmen. Blessed with superb weather and with a group of high-quality NCOs, the Guardsmen made



President Trump Guard of Honour.



Company swim in The North Sea.

the most of good this training opportunity. The challenging time in the field saw a large amount of development from the Guardsmen and culminated with some high quality platoon attacks.

During a very busy period of public duties in the summer, the Company still managed to get twelve

away to complete the Nijmegen Marches, a four-day 100-mile march in the Netherlands. In a gargantuan effort all members of the team completed the event, with Gdsm Ralph and Whiston leading the entire British Military contingent through the town of Nijmegen in bearskins and tunics, despite some very sore feet. On 24th July the Company completed the hottest Queen's Guard mount on record – 38.7 degrees! A statistic that will give some consolation to those that sweated their way through the mount, especially Gdsm Pharaoh who ended up on the front page of three national newspapers.

September saw members of the Company turn out in tunics across the Channel in three different countries in a matter of weeks. 2019 marking 75 years since the Allied liberation of France and the Low Countries, Nijmegen played their part in commemorating the key role Grenadiers played in





that campaign. Lt Macdonald-Smith and Sgt Thorne took a detachment to Pont-a-Marcq in France, a town liberated by the The King's Company. The young Guardsmen received a warm welcome from the Mayor and the citizens as they took part in a whirlwind weekend of parades and overwhelming hospitality. In Holland, a team visited the site of our battle honour namesake for a sunset service of remembrance for the 75th anniversary at Nijmegen Bridge.

The next destination was Paris, where Gdsm Lear and Hunt provided a stair party for an event to commemorate the liberation of the British Embassy by Grenadier officers. There was time for a trip to the top of the Eiffel Tower and a scooter tour around the city.

A highlight of the autumn was a Guard of Honour in front of the Colonel and Prince Laurent of Belgium in Bruges. This was followed by another immaculate parade at the Guild of San Sebastian and an afternoon of their legendary 'liquid hospitality' in their grounds. A company level swim in the North Sea was required to blast out the cobwebs before getting on ferry back to the UK the following morning.

Soon enough the Company got a chance to get back in the sea at the Army Sailing Centre. Surprisingly there weren't many other people

making the most of the balmy October waters, but everyone got stuck into learning some new skills. Despite the sailing, windsurfing and paddle boarding; the highlights of the week for most was the last man standing wrestling competition on a platform of paddleboards (Sgt Coulbert taking the glory) and karaoke in Portsmouth.

Whilst the majority of the Company was providing a Guard of Honor for the Polish Chief of Defence Staff and street lining the route for the



Company exercise on Salisbury Plain.

State Opening of Parliament, 8 intrepid men were competing in the Cambrian Patrol. The team, led by Lt Reames and LSgt Smith, earned a prestigious gold medal; one of only a handful awarded at this year's event. This achievement is made all the more impressive by having to squeeze training exercises in between public duties and the fact that half of the team were only a few months out of training.

The final few months of 2019 provided an opportunity for some green training in Hythe and Pirbright, in preparation for the Company's deployment to the Falklands. This included a visit to the Regiment's most junior members from the Grenadier Senior Enlisted Advisor to CDS, WO1 Haughton. This was all in preparation for our deployment to the Falklands in January 2020 with Support Company. December saw most former company commanders and company sergeant majors coming together to former commanding officers of the 2nd Battalion and the Regimental Lieutenant Colonel on a memorable evening to commemorate the 75th Anniversary of the taking of Nijmegen Bridge and 25th Anniversary of the formation of Nijmegen Company.



President Trump talking to CSM Bailey.



The successful Nijmegen Marches Team.



14th Company

Infantry Training Centre,
Catterick

by Lieutenant Jake Sayers

This last year at the Infantry Training Centre, and most certainly at Guards Training Company, has brought a lot of change. The new Combat Infantryman's Course (CIC18) is firmly established; there has been another turnover of Grenadier Guards permanent staff; the new physical training programme is now in place; and the number of Trainee Guardsmen in training is at an all time high. For the first time in history we have 2 female recruits due to pass off to the Guards in February.

Guards Training Company headquarters has welcomed its new second-in-command Captain R

Kilvington (Coldstream Guards) and Company Sergeant Major, Warrant Officer 2nd Class K Tomlinson (Irish Guards). Following the 1st Battalion's deployments at the end of 2018 and early 2019, Lieutenants Sayers and Odlum have arrived as platoon commanders, Sergeants Hendy and Pearce as platoon sergeants and Lance Sergeants Blatchly, Dexter, Hewson, Hubbard and Wint as section commanders. Being posted to Guards Company post-operations has been a fantastic opportunity for the instructors to impart their newly gained knowledge and experience to the recruits, essential in the current peacetime era.

There is a healthy atmosphere in the Company: the modular course breaks the course down in such a way that the recruits are able to progress through at a manageable pace, allowing the instructors to ensure that all knowledge gaps are bridged and deficits in skills are covered. Due to the huge increase in recruit manning, platoon



Guards 17 Platoon visiting the Chelsea Pensioners during their London visit.



Sergeant J Pearce (centre left) and Lt J Sayers (centre right) on Ex FROSTED BLADE.

form-ups are very close to each other, providing trainee guardsmen with the opportunity to retrain in a subsequent platoon only one or two months behind if needed. This substantially removes the stigma that is historically attached to being 'back-squadded'. There is a shared feeling throughout the Company that all soldiers are arriving at their battalions with the right knowledge and skills that they need to begin their exciting futures as guardsmen. The new course has brought with it a number of new training opportunities based around modern infanteering, for example integrating the Dismounted Tactical Engagement System (DTES) into exercises as well as the Whinny Hill 'Urban Sprawl', where the recruits can watch step by step video feedback of their urban operations training. The new Army Physical Employment Standards (PES) has introduced a more physical and more practical approach to physical training. This has not only reduced the injury rate, but has increased the average level of fitness within the platoon.

For the first time in several years 7 out of 9 platoons are at full capacity, with the remaining 2 only a few short. Up until April 2019,

guardsmen were recruited into a specific battalion: now they are recruited as 'Foot Guards'. In week 7 they fill in a Preference Proforma before being assigned to individual regiments in week 9. To ensure that guardsmen go to the right regiment, a number of factors are taken into consideration, based primarily on their interests but also taking into account the regiments' operational requirements and manning states. The Grenadier Guards along with the Coldstream Guards are still the best recruited of the Foot Guards regiments. On 21st February Guards Training Company will see the first 2 female guardsmen pass off and join 1st Battalion Welsh Guards.

Fully manned platoons result in fully employed training teams with little time to spare. The Christmas leave period, however, created a big enough gap in the programme for some of the Grenadier Guards permanent staff to get away on a spot of adventurous training. Lieutenant J Sayers and Sergeant J Pearce went to Val d'Isere on Ex FROSTED BLADE, taking part in the Infantry Alpine Skiing Championships, while Lance Sergeant A Blatchly sailed in the Caribbean for two weeks on Ex CARIBBEAN EXPRESS.

Overall it has been a successful year for Guards Training Company: the number of trainee guardsmen in the Company is at a historic high, our instructors are unrivalled in their abilities and we are producing a high standard of guardsman.



Guards 16 Platoon on their final exercise in Thetford.

Band of the Grenadier Guards

The Band of the Grenadier Guards has fulfilled a varied and exciting programme of events over the last year. The diversity of the ensemble is impressive, able to perform at a spectrum of occasions alongside supporting the regiment in its ceremonial duties. 2019 was an array of highlights for both band and regimental occasions, celebrating success, remembering and building towards an exciting future.

Early in 2019 the band supported 1st Battalion Grenadier Guards in their spectacular medal parade at Windsor Castle, the regiment having completed three concurrent tours in Iraq, Afghanistan and South Sudan. This parade was particularly memorable due to it being the first time the entire regiment had come together since 1956, the day culminated with a photograph of the Grenadier Guards in their entirety with Her Majesty The Queen. Later in the year the band made a short tour of Belgium, marking the 75th Anniversary of the country's liberation during the Second World

War. The trip included battlefield and memorial tours making the occasion particularly poignant. There were various memorable moments, most notably a moving ceremony at the Menin Gate in Ypres and a parade through Bruges concluding at the Guild of Saint Sebastian, the birth place of the regiment. Another occasion alongside the regiment was Tynwald Day, the national day of the Isle of Man and the day in which the Manx Parliament meets. Tynwald Day has taken place for over a thousand years, making it the oldest continuous parliament in the world, a direct legacy from the Viking ancestry of the Isle of Man.

Back on home turf, the band was honoured to be involved in a guard of honour for President Trump, held in the gardens of Buckingham Palace. The highlight of 2019 for many was The Queen's Birthday Parade as it was the turn for The Grenadier Guards to troop their colour. 2019 was particularly special for The Band of the Grenadier Guards as the 'Quick Troop' was a new composition by the band's principal tuba player, LSgt Ian Shepherd. The 'Quick Troop' is traditionally a gift from the Massed Bands of the Household Division to the Monarch, this year being the first time in history a serving 'rank and file' musician has composed such a piece – a huge privilege! LSgt Shepherd dedicated the work to previous longstanding Drum Major, Steve Staite.

A highlight of 2019 specific to the Band of the Grenadier Guards was the spectacular international concert tour of Japan. The band enjoyed an extensive tour of the country including performances in Osaka, Kanazawa, Yokohama, Kitakami and Tokyo all whilst avoiding the fearsome Typhoon Hagibis! The tour began with a stay in central Osaka, where the band took centre stage in a British festival at the



CSgt Bandmaster, Mattias Andersson, leading a performance at the Hankyu department store in Japan.



Snr DMaj Damien Thomas leading the band after the service at Menin Gate in Ypres.

impressive Hankyu department store, performing a concert alongside a number of short spotlight parades for a very appreciative audience. Following this after travelling in style on the renowned Shinkansen ‘Bullet’ train, the band took part in several concerts that included workshops and massed ensembles with local youth bands before arriving in Tokyo for the final leg of the tour. Tokyo was a feast for the senses and proved to be a fascinating experience, added to the sold-out concerts and fantastic response from all audiences. The band will remember the tour for a long time to come.

There were other events during 2019 where one might not expect to see The Band of the Grenadier Guards, particularly during the first few days of the year. The band took part in a brief tour in Murcia, Spain for their widely celebrated Festival of the Three Kings (Fiesta de los Reyes). The festival is the largest in the region and celebrates the arrival of the three wise men in Bethlehem after the birth of Jesus. Religious effigies, costumed participants, free sweets and of course The Band of the Grenadier

Guards made for an exciting display, all with national media coverage. Another success of media coverage was a performance of Bohemian Rhapsody performed on the forecourt of Buckingham Palace, a performance that followed the huge award success of the film Bohemian Rhapsody leading to the band’s recording going viral in the world’s media.



The Director of Music, Maj Mike Smith, leading a performance in Aarschot, marking the 75th anniversary of the liberation of Belgium during WWII.



Letter from the Ironmongers

*Colonel Charlie Knaggs, OBE
Clerk to the Worshipful Company
of Ironmongers*

The Worshipful Company of Ironmongers is one of the Great Twelve Livery Companies of the City of London. The Grenadier Guards became affiliated with The Ironmongers in 2013 and is the only Regiment in the regular Army to be affiliated with the Company. This affiliation is one of which both parties can be truly proud.

With ancient roots in the iron trade, dating back to 1493 when we received our Royal Charter, today the Worshipful Company of Ironmongers is a corporate company which helps the young and old by administering six charities, as well as providing a community for its members to take part in a wide range of social and sporting activities. The Company's home is Ironmongers' Hall in Aldersgate Street in the City of London which has been described as being similar to a country house in the middle of the City.

The Ironmongers Company contribute to The Colonel's Fund each year, and the Regiment have hosted our members at Wellington Barracks, on



The Master and Wardens from left to right: The Senior Warden - Mr Andrew Wauchope, The Master - Mr John Biles, The Junior Warden - Mr Julian Verden.

the ranges at Hythe and on exercise in Belize. Grenadiers have attended events, including the First Guards' Club dinner in Ironmongers Hall, and some have become members of the Company.

We recently hosted Guardsmen from Nijmegen Company at Ironmongers' Hall for a talk on the City and Livery Companies followed by dinner where the Master of the Ironmongers spoke about the Company's history and the importance of the affiliation with the Regiment.

The Ironmongers' Company greatly values its affiliation with the Grenadier Guards and we all look forward to strengthening our ties through mutually useful and productive activity.



The Worshipful Company of Ironmongers.

REGIMENTAL EVENTS

Medals Parade

by *Lieutenant Sam Macdonald-Smith*

There can be few sights that evoke quintessential British-ness than a battalion of tunic clad Guardsman in the quadrangle of Windsor Castle. This was precisely the sight that many of the families of those Grenadiers who had served on operations in 2018 were lucky enough to see on 22nd March 2019.

The 1st Battalion had been deployed to three separate theatres from March 2018 to January 2019. Battalion Headquarters, No 2 Company and half of Support Company were in Iraq instructing and empowering national and local security forces in the fight against Islamic State. The Queen's Company with elements of Support Company had been in Kabul, Afghanistan providing security for

the mentors at the military colleges in the capital and The Inkerman Company with the Corps of Drums had been in South Sudan as part of a UN peace keeping force.

After a period of well-earned leave, the Battalion came back together for an event that will live long in the memories of all in attendance. For the parade, each of the operational groups formed up as marching detachments along with a detachment of the attached arms who were so crucial to the success of the deployments. The massed ranks of over 350 Grenadiers marched through the George IV Gateway into the quadrangle accompanied by the Corps of Drums, watched by hundreds of their family and friends and the approving eye of The Colonel, The Duke of York.

The medals themselves were presented by The Regimental Lieutenant Colonel, Major General Roly Walker, The Major General Commanding the



CSM Stenton dressing the front rank.



The Colonel presenting medals with the Commanding Officer and Regimental Adjutant.

Household Division, Major General Ben Bathurst and the Commander of 11 Brigade, Brigadier Tom Bateman. The Colonel himself presented medals to a supernumerary detachment of soldiers who had particularly excelled on tour.

Once the medals had been presented, The Colonel made a stirring speech lauding the unprecedented achievements of the Regiment being deployed in three theatres at once. He gave credit to the families of those deployed for their support over the long separations and congratulated those who deployed on making a positive impression on all who they worked with overseas. His Royal Highness' speech showed his deep personal pride and affection for the Grenadiers and The Sergeant Major showed the Regiment's gratitude in kind with a rousing three cheers for the Colonel.

The parade concluded with a display of immaculate massed drill, all coordinated by the Commanding Officer's emotive preparatory word of command; 'Grenadiers!' The Colonel took the salute as the parade marched out of the quadrangle, having made an indelible impression

on all who were present. The entire Regiment was then arrayed for a photograph in front of the castle to mark the occasion. Her Majesty joined her son at the front of the picture and was also on the receiving end of a thunderous three cheers (and of an additional cheer, prompted by The Colonel, for the Sergeant Major as he was getting married the next day!). The Regiment were then kindly allowed by the Coldstream Guards to host their guests in Victoria Barracks, to enjoy a glass of champagne and celebrate a job well done.



The parade stood easy.

Grenadiers win Silver Bugle Awards

*by WO2 Thomas, Grenadier Guards,
Senior Drum Major Household Division*

Major General's Silver Bugle competition is ran annually to seek the best Bugler from the massed Corp of Drums to represent the Household Division whenever a requirement is made for the instrument to be sounded; be that a Royal salute for members of the Royal Family, Last Post at a remembrance ceremony or wreath laying anywhere in the world. The winner of the competition is presented with the Major General's bugle which is plated in silver and also awarded £500. He has the privilege to carry the bugle on any parade including the Queen's Birthday parade in recognition of being selected as the best. When not in use, the Major General's Silver Bugle is securely displayed within the winner's Battalion HQ and serves as a badge of honour for the whole Regiment.

The competition is fierce with up to 17 participants from the Grenadier Guards, Coldstream Guards, Scots Guards, Irish Guards, Welsh Guards and Honourable Artillery Company.

All have to be qualified to Class 2 Drummer, be below the rank of Sergeant and be available to be called upon to represent the Division throughout the year that he holds the title. Contestants have to play a series of calls which are scrutinised by a judging panel made up of the Major General, Brigade Major, Commanding Officer of the Household Division Bands and the Garrison Sergeant Major.

2019 saw the Grenadier Guards as clear winners with candidates achieving first, second, fourth and fifth place. LCpl, now LSgt, McKenna sounded note perfect bugle calls which placed him head and shoulders in front to be the Major General's Silver Bugler whilst Dmr Barton came in a close second securing £250 prize money.

LSgt McKenna has represented the Division all over the UK sounding Last Post ceremonies and also went with the Senior Drum Major Household Division in August 2019 to the Indonesian capital of Jakarta to represent the Division at the UK embassy's Queens Birthday Party.

The next Major General's Silver Bugle Competition 2020 will take place in the Guards Chapel, Wellington Barracks on the 31st March. Good luck to all those competing.



LCpl McKenna receives the Silver Bugle from Major General Ben Bathurst.

The Queen's Birthday Parade

by Second Lieutenant Robin Macworth-young

For The First Battalion June 2019 brought the honour, yet again, of Trooping its Colour before Her Majesty to mark Her official birthday. The Troop will not be an unknown entity to the readers of the Grenadier Gazette and so you'll be pleased to know that intricate re-tellings of drill formations will be omitted from this account.

As 2018 turned to 2019 the Battalion found itself spread across the globe. Operations in Afghanistan, Iraq and South Sudan kept us operationally

focussed and so thoughts of left-forms, spin-wheels and marking time were far from our minds. However, with the passing months Lille Barracks soon found itself filling back up. There was time for celebration and the telling of stories from our various adventures, sharing of photos and catching up. However, few were idle for long. Before we knew it drill boots were being dusted off, bearskins found, and rifles that, just a few weeks before were being used for force protection, were now being fitted with sight covers. Furthermore, few found themselves to be the same shape that they were two years prior and so inevitably the Tailor's Shop was overflowing with tunics that needed taking in,



letting out or fitted with new rank insignia.

Prior to the start of Troop training came three weeks of Spring Drills. Under the watchful eyes of the two Drill Sergeants (WO2 Dacey and WO2 Shepherd) the Battalion was marched up and down the Drill Square every day, going over the various drill procedures for mounting and dismounting Queen's Guard and Windsor Castle Guard. Always entertaining to watch, the Junior Officers were out first thing every morning and put through their paces with a barrage of 'about turns', 'change steps' and 'mark times' by the Drill Sergeants who, in doing so, firmly and fairly reminded us exactly who was in charge of the Drill Square.

Spring Drills culminated in the Major General's Inspection. The Major General Commanding The Household Division, having been so impressed by our performance at our Medals Parade at Windsor the week before, only wanted to see the Corps of Drums perform and the Junior Officers' Drill Test. And so, as Friday of the third week came to an end it was announced that The First Battalion, The Grenadier Guards were fit to go back on the line and once more carry on the state ceremonial work of The Household Division. The Troop preparation could finally begin.

The Grenadiers found four of the six guards for the Troop (The Queen's Company for The Escort, No 2 Company for Number 2 Guard, Nijmegen Company for Number 3 Guard and The Inkerman Company for Number 4 Guard) and as such it truly was a whole Battalion effort. Every day we were found in Pirbright going over the minutiae of the parade or on Horse Guards Parade doing run-throughs or mounting guard from Horse Guards. It must also be noted that every day the Commanding Officer, Senior Major and Adjutant were up at around 0430 in order to get to know the horses they would be riding and practice and hone their riding skills.

Had you asked me before it all began what I imagined Troop training to be like I would have described a mass of shouting Non-Commissioned-Officers, repeating run-throughs for the sake of it and troops weary on their feet. However, I would not have been more wrong. The rehearsals were taken with maturity, with a realisation that exhausting everyone would get nothing achieved

and with the attitude that the more enjoyable it could be, the better the final product. And so, whilst the days were full, there were smiles and laughter in abundance.

Before we knew it the first parade was upon us. The Major General's Review went without drama and set us up well for The Colonel's Review the following week. Our Regimental Colonel, HRH The Duke of York, took the parade for the first time and, in the baking summer sun, the Regiment excelled. Fighting against the heat every man showed off the discipline, teamwork and excellence expected of a Grenadier and The Colonel expressed his pride and congratulations. The conditions were set for the big day.

On the 7th July I, as the Ensign, was treated to a rather special event. Her Majesty The Queen held a luncheon in Buckingham Palace for all past and present Grenadiers who had been Ensigns on the Troop. Every one still alive was in attendance and, alongside Her Majesty, The Colonel, The Regimental Lieutenant Colonel and The Commanding Officer this group with a remarkable unifying theme had a truly wonderful experience.

It was with slight disappointment that, on the morning of the 8th July raindrops were falling over London. High winds were also blowing through the capital; could it be that, after six weeks of glorious weather it would change on the one day that we wished it wouldn't? As the Captains and Ensigns marched down to Horse Guards the old adage that God is a Grenadier was proven yet again; the bad weather ceased and the sun came out from behind the clouds.

It is with credit to those that rehearsed us (The Garrison Sergeant Major, The Sergeant Major and the two Drill Sergeants) that on the day itself, when the world was watching, we were able to relax and enjoy it. Elements that had worried us all went without a hitch and, on the world's stage, The Grenadier Guards displayed the excellence to which we have all become accustomed. To say that we were proud would be the understatement of the century.

Looking forward to Trooping the Colour 2020, we wish The Welsh Guards the best of luck. However, deep down, we know that the Troop in 2019 will live long in the memory and be a hard one to beat.

The Fagan Award

by *Lieutenant Colonel Piers Ashfield*

Second Lieutenant Christopher Fagan died on 31 August 1987 after a car crash on the previous day at Creetown, Dumfries. He was 23, a serving Grenadier Officer in the 2nd Battalion and was returning from Ballykelly to go on a course. He was the son of Captain Christopher Fagan, who served in 3rd Battalion, and his wife Lady Mary, and brother of Captain James Fagan who served in 2nd Battalion. His zest for life included a love of adventurous training and the outdoors and it is in his memory that his family and friends instituted a fund to help serving Grenadiers of any rank to take part and excel in the activities that he loved or would have approved of. The fund has also helped young people in Hampshire. The family, jointly with the Regiment, allocate an amount each year to be awarded to a worthy recipient from the 1st Bn and Nijmegen Company chosen by the respective Commanding Officers. This forms the basis of the Christopher Fagan Award. Each award is in the form of a grant that is used to enable the recipient to develop his experience or expertise in a chosen pursuit to become a more experienced, technically skilled or purposeful person. Provided that it satisfies these categories, the award may be used for suitable activities at the discretion of the Commanding Officer.

Through this benevolence 48 keen Grenadier sportsmen have so far been inspired to pursue a course that may have previously been unattainable to them. In many cases, not only has this immeasurably developed the individual both personally and professionally, but has provided an inspiration to so many in the Regiment to pursue their

sporting interests. Two Grenadiers in particular personify this approach and have benefitted from the Christopher Fagan Memorial Fund and were once winners of the Fagan Award; Lance Sergeant Lamin Deen and Lance Sergeant Natty Ngwenya.

Lance Sergeant Deen won the Fagan award in 2007 using the funds to purchase ice spikes and a helmet at the outset of his fledgling interest in bobsleigh. Such was Deen's determination and drive in his chosen sport that his early endeavour combined with a natural talent and powerful running were recognised by the service team scouts. Several seasons later and their faith in Deen was well founded. Deen has subsequently been crowned Army champion eight times and interservice champion on six occasions. Such was his pre-eminence in the sport that he made it through the arduous selection process to be selected for the 2014 Olympic squad for the Sochi games competing in both the two- and four-man bobsleigh. Since then Deen has accumulated numerous top-level honours across the sport



From Grenadier to GB Athlete.



LSgt Deen in action.

including; two World Championship medals, 9 World Cup podiums, 25 European Cup Podiums, 18 America's Cup podiums and another appearance in the Olympic team in 2018 at Pyeongchang in the four-man bobsleigh. Deen found a moment whilst competing in the World Cup in Austria to say 'I am very grateful for what the Fagan award has offered me over my career and I hope it continues to give soldiers the chance to achieve their full potential.' Lance Sergeant Deen is still serving and at the time of writing is competing in the World Cup bobsleigh.

In a similar vein Guardsman Ngwenya won the Fagan award in 2012 purchasing his first pair of boxing gloves and head guard which were instrumental in the early years of his training and development. Only a few years after competing in inter-Battalion competitions, now Lance Corporal Nwgenya's talent was recognised and he was posted to the Army Elite Sportsman's programme. Whilst on the programme he completed the Section Commanders' Battle Course and was promoted to Lance Sergeant. Ngwenya then became the UK Armed Forces boxing champion five times, the under 20 Novice Amateur Boxing Association Gold Medallist progressing to the elite category winning one bronze and three silver medals before being crowned Amateur Boxing Association Elite champion in 2019 and the Great Britain Amateur Boxing Association champion 3 times. In recognition of his outstanding performance and contribution to

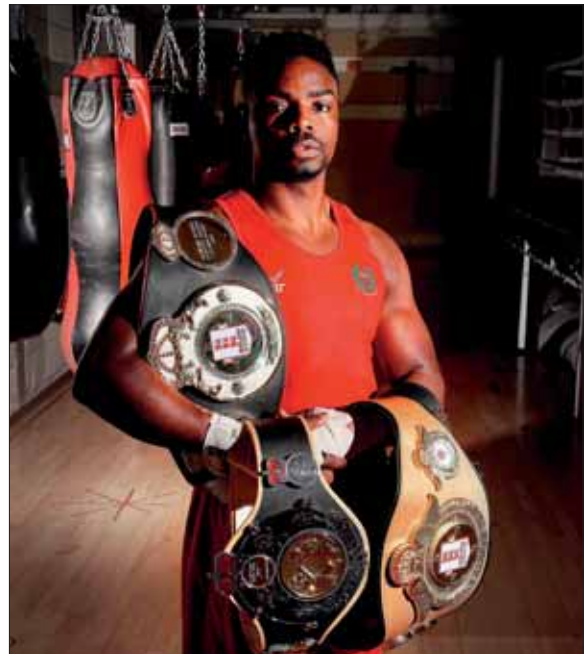
Army Sport, Lance Sergeant Ngwenya was the 2019 Army Sportsman of the year and continues to prosper as a key member of the Army Elite Sportman's programme.

The winners of the 2019 Fagan Award were Gdsm Heywood and Gdsm Daines, the following citations were written by their Companies:

Gdsm Heywood - The Inkerman Company

'Upon his return from OP TRENTON in January 2019, Guardsman Heywood threw himself back into the rhythm of Battalion life.

Capable, enthusiastic and intelligent Heywood has consistently sought to make the most of his time in Aldershot. A keen sevens player, Guardsman Heywood was selected to represent the regimental sevens team on its tour to Las Vegas, where his skill and focus were commented by the team's captain throughout. Not content with one trip across the Atlantic, Heywood volunteered to take



LSgt Ngwenya with his belts.

part in the Yukon Grenadier world record attempt. After a rigorous selection process held over a busy period of Troop training, Heywood was selected from an extensive list of volunteers to form part of the four man team, departing within 24 hrs of the Queen's Birthday parade. Assuming the role of CQMS over the course of the canoe expedition, his responsibilities were multiple. Whether it was sourcing sponsors, collating and accurately plotting the course of the 1,860 miles, managing the flow of rations or navigating the actual river itself Heywood's participation was complete. A constant source of good humour and reliable decision making, his thoroughness was critical to the success of the expedition and one for which he was entirely suited. Aside from his sporting ability, Heywood is an exceptional soldier. Committed and self-disciplined, Heywood's potential was recognised early as he volunteered to attend the Army Officer Selection Board, which he recently passed, and will be commencing Sandhurst in January 2020. Heywood's self-awareness coupled with the hard work and determination he applies to any endeavour have made him an outstanding and entirely deserving Guardsman who has an exceptionally bright future.'

Gdsm Daines – Nijmegen Company

'Guardsman Daines arrived in Nijmegen Company in March 2019. Since then he has thrown himself at everything, all underwritten with infectious enthusiasm and a humble manner. Daines is an outstanding sportsman; he has represented the Regiment at a number of Rugby 7s events including the Army South Units Championship where he was awarded 'player of the tournament'. He also proved himself to be a more than capable footballer, performing well when representing Nijmegen Company in the Manchester Cup. Coupled with his sporting excellence is a deep professional interest in soldiering, this manifested itself on exercise in Salisbury Plain this summer where Daines was noted to be at standard well above most of his peers. In July, Daines, having volunteered himself, formed part of Nijmegen Company's entry into the Nijmegen Marches in the Netherlands – four days of marching 25 miles per day carrying close to 30lbs – the Officer taking part noted Daines'

'exceptional levels of physical robustness and cheerful spirit'. Only last month, Daines, who once again volunteered himself, was part of a team that entered the Cambrian Patrol, an extremely arduous two-day exercise that requires entrants to cover long distances, carrying heavy bergens, and then perform complex military skills challenges with very little sleep. Despite being relatively junior, Guardsman Daines has packed a great deal into his first eight months with the Regiment and is already showing significant leadership potential, he is certainly 'one to watch' going forward.'

The support the Fagan Award has played in galvanising the Regiment's sporting talent has been significant. The important role it has played in two of our most successful sporting talents has been crucial and is representative of the wider support that every Grenadier feels acutely from the wider Regimental family. This generous provision is an encouraging reminder of the breadth of wider Regimental support that is available in various guises to all Grenadiers. The support typifies our continued commitment to the development of our people. On behalf of all the previous winners of the Fagan Award I would like to thank the Fagan family for their support and for helping us make a positive difference to the life experience of our Guardsmen.



The Commanding Officer with LSgt Ngwenya when he won the Army Sportsman of the year award.

The Penn Award

Lt Col Sir Eric Penn OBE, GCVO, MC, was an Outstanding Grenadier and Comptroller of the Lord Chamberlain's Office of the Royal Household who died in 1993. His widow, Pru, gave a sum to the Regiment for a prize to be awarded on an annual basis. The Regiment now funds the Penn Award because Lady Penn is now very elderly. The award of £200 and an engraved tankard is made to the Guardsman who on his Corporal's Course performed to the highest standard, fulfilling the following criteria:

- i. A high level of self-discipline and determination.
- ii. A thorough knowledge of low level tactics.
- iii. An ability to instruct and show leadership skills.
- iv. A high standard of fitness, appearance, and bearing.

The 2019 winner of the award was LCpl McKnight. The citation below was written by his Platoon Commander, Captain Alex Wilson.

LCpl McKnight passed out of ITC Catterick on 3rd November 2017 having been awarded prizes for the Best Recruit and Fittest Recruit. He was sent to Nijmegen Company, to undertake ceremonial duties. After a short period including a week of skiing, he attended HDPRCC where he was awarded Top Student, with another Grenadier coming second.

On returning to Nijmegen Company he was promoted to Lance Corporal.

In the autumn he was given the opportunity to go to Kenya on Ex ASKARI STORM as a Section Commander of a Nijmegen section. Along with other sections from Number Seven Company Coldstream Guards and F Company Scots Guards, his section formed a platoon attached to the 1st Battalion Irish Guards.

The New Year began with yet another opportunity for LCpl McKnight, this time a sporting one. The Battalion sent a team to the Las Vegas 7's tournament for eight days, with LCpl McKnight playing a key role as a stalwart flyhalf. The rest of 2019 consisted of more ceremonial duties with the highlight being the state visit by the US President

Donald Trump, and the opportunity for the 1st Battalion to troop their colour.

After troop leave, McKnight was sent to Aldershot and joined the Sniper Platoon. In August he attended the 11 week HDPRCC Sniper course, after which he joined Support Company on Op FIRIC in the Falklands. During the three month deployment, he helped the Sniper Platoon run a three week course for those hoping to attend HDPRCC in 2020, and took part in both blank and live-firing exercises, including providing precision fires for Nijmegen Company on Ex CAPE BAYONET.

LCpl McKnight is an active member of the Shropshire Branch, and has performed admirably during his short career to date. He is a worthy recipient of the Penn Award.



LCpl McKnight (right) in the Falklands

75th Anniversary of the liberation of Pont à Marcq

by *Lieutenant Sam Macdonald-Smith*

On 3rd September 1944, men of the King's Company and Number 2 Squadron, 2nd Battalion Grenadier Guards liberated the French town of Pont à Marcq. 75 years later the connection between the town and the Regiment is still treasured. This year, 7 members of Nijmegen Company travelled to France to commemorate the 23 Grenadiers who gave their lives and to celebrate the liberation of the town. The detachment arrived in Pont à Marcq on Friday 30th August and the guardsmen had to wait mere seconds before they had a beer in their hands - a sign of the superb hospitality to come.

On Friday evening we were treated to a drinks reception in the Town Hall to welcome us to the town. To mark the 75th anniversary, Regimental

Headquarters presented the Mayor of Pont à Marcq with a stunningly detailed diorama of the battle, made in 1956 for the Tercentenary of the Regiment. The locals were thrilled, and this presentation set the tone for a highly enjoyable weekend of Anglo-French commemorations. Although we lacked any French speakers, the Guardsmen still got stuck in to overcome the language barrier and engage with our hosts.

On the Saturday morning we arrived in Home Service Clothing for a commemoration at the principal memorial in the centre of town. We were joined by Col Martin David who had been instrumental in coordinating the planning of the weekend and brought much needed linguistic skill to the Grenadier contingent. Also in attendance were an enthusiastic troop of reenactors dressed as World War Two soldiers. Although most wore American paratroopers' uniforms, we were delighted to chat to a 1944 Grenadier sporting Guards Armoured Division insignia on his overalls.



Grenadiers with Brian Bennett.

After a dignified service in the centre of Pont à Marcq, we moved to Lille cemetery to pay our respects to those who fell in the battle. Each of the Guardsmen were given crosses to place at the graves of their forebears. We were struck with how many of them were the same age or even younger than our own junior Guardsmen and by the moving messages on many of the immaculately maintained gravestones. We were particularly honoured to take a photograph with Brian Bennett at the grave of his father and to lay a wreath at the memorial for themembers of French resistance who died alongside the Grenadiers.

The contingent was again plied with delicious food and beers by the unwaveringly friendly townsfolk at a delicious lunch hosted by the mayor. Afterwards we made our way to Lessines in Belgium to attend a service in another town which the Grenadiers had helped to liberate and then into the town for another parade. This last event of the day was one of the more unusual occasions any of us had attended. The town of Lessines was having a Renaissance fair with hundreds of people dressed in medieval costumes and enjoying a festival atmosphere in the sunshine. Adding to this a group of Grenadiers resplendent in tunic and bearskins and a fleet of Willys jeeps disgorging our 1944 paratrooper friends it made for a memorable, if incongruous, scene! Mercifully we made a brief appearance before changing into more comfortable clothes. By this point it had been several hours since the Guardsmen had last been offered a beer but luckily our hosts did not take long to correct this most minor lapse.

On the final morning we, along with most of the town, attended a church service. LCpl McCullough gave a reading and LCpl Whyte helped Brian Bennett to deliver the Roll of Honour. Following the service, we joined the local marching band for a parade around the town,

stopping off at various significant locations to lay wreaths. Our final stop was a large reception where the Grenadiers invited onto the stage. This gave the author a chance to publicly thank our hosts in his very rusty schoolboy French. After another delicious lunch, plus bagpipe music and dancing; we finally dragged ourselves away to catch the Eurostar at the end of what had been a hugely enjoyable experience.

The people of Pont à Marcq could not have been more welcoming to the serving Grenadiers and to the families of veterans who attended a bonanza of different events throughout the weekend. The goodwill experienced on both sides will ensure that this special link to our Regiment's history will be maintained with enthusiasm for the foreseeable future.



The 75th Anniversary of the Liberation of Paris

by Captain Jamie Fraser
formerly Grenadier Guards

On 13th September 1944, Duff Cooper arrived in Paris as the newly appointed British Ambassador to France. De Gaulle's Free French army supported by the American 4th Infantry Division had entered the city of Paris between 19th and 25th August. On 12th September 2019, as part of a wide-ranging series of events commemorating the liberation of Paris, the current Ambassador, Lord Llewellyn, hosted a talk by Artemis Cooper, Duff's granddaughter, and her husband Sir Anthony Beevor, the joint authors of *Paris after the Liberation 1944 -1949*.

Anthony Beevor covered the political and military backdrop to De Gaulle's presidency and the evolving relations with both Russia and the UK. De Gaulle needed to contain the pressure from the French communists, which he did by liaising closely with Stalin; he also wanted to rebuild the French economy and to re-establish French pride. Churchill's offers of support and aid, communicated through Cooper, were therefore subtly rebuffed.

Artemis Cooper brought her grandparents time at the embassy to life. After four years of German oppression, Paris had lost its sense of fun and gaiety. Diana Cooper was determined to establish the British Embassy as key to bringing it back and the Coopers became famous for achieving this. With wit and colourful stories Artemis portrayed an embassy that was fizzing with activity, purposeful and became a centre of Parisian social life.

On their arrival on 13th September 1944 the Coopers had been unable to access the splendid Residence on the

Rue Fauborg St Honore because the hall was piled high with furniture: they spent their first week in a hotel nearby, whilst the furniture was removed and repatriated to the United Kingdom. The furniture, which belonged to 37 or so senior embassy staff, had been abandoned in 1940. Needing to evacuate Paris promptly these diplomats had been allowed to bring the contents of their respective apartments to the embassy for safe-keeping. The military attaché at the time was my grandfather, Brigadier The Hon Willie Fraser DSO MC, by then a Grenadier but whose decorations came from his time as a Gordon Highlander serving throughout the First World War.

In August 1944, the Guards Armoured Division had been pushing through Normandy for many weeks as part of Operation Goodwood. The Germany army had been pushed back through the Falaise Gap and the opportunity arose to give everyone a couple of days leave. Four Grenadier officers, Peter Carrington, David Fraser, Neville Berry and Teddy Denny grouped together, borrowed a spare staff car and set off notionally for the coast.

Shortly after leaving the Battalion area the plan changed. Rumours abounded that Paris was falling, with a sense that history was being made they decided to visit Paris instead. With a Union



From Left to Right: Gdsm Ryan Hunt, Lord Llewellyn the British Ambassador, Gdsm James Lear.

Jack fluttering from the vehicle they set off pushing their way past convoys of American troops heading towards Paris and others heading away. Good progress was made and they reached the city perimeter at which point their lack of a plan became apparent. David Fraser, my father, who had visited his parents during their time at the embassy, had the most up to date knowledge of Paris and became the expedition leader. He decided that they should aim for the Ritz as he could remember his way there.

With the Free French Army itself only reaching the city centre that day these four Grenadiers in their staff car were among the first Allied soldiers to have been seen. They reached the Ritz to discover the last German officers had only left 24 hours earlier, and booked a suite of rooms on the basis that the bill would be settled by Neville Berry's family business, Kemsley Newspapers. They dined better that first night than they had in months and exchanged news with Ernest Hemingway in the bar afterwards: It is said that he with other journalists vouched for Kemsley Newspapers' as guarantor of the bill.

The following day, they went to investigate the fate of the family furniture and made their way the former palace that had been home to Napoleon's favoured sister, Princess Pauline Borghese, before being acquired by Wellington on behalf of the United Kingdom in 1815. It has been our embassy ever since. Their knock on the door was greeted with astonishment by Mr Christie, an expatriate embassy porter who had guarded the building and its contents for four years. The date is thought to be somewhere between 26th and 29th August, 1944. Unofficially this is the date of the liberation of the British embassy in Paris!

Having read the story in Lord Carrington's



From Left to Right: Lord Kemsley, Jamie Fraser, Lord Carrington, Robin Denny.

autobiography *'Reflect on Things Past'*, Lord Llewellyn invited descendants of these four Grenadiers to join the celebration. And so, Rupert Carrington, Richard Kemsley, Robin Denny, myself and our wives were invited to stay at the Embassy and listen to the talk. The dinner afterwards included Colonel Martin David MC, Senior British Liaison Officer, Major Lord Valentine Cecil and Lieutenant General Sir George Norton, who had made the round trip from Brussels to represent the Regiment. Grenadier involvement was reinforced by the presence of Lieutenant Tristram Reames, Guardsman Ryan Hunt and Guardsman James Lear from the Nijmegen Company in tunic order.

Dinner was followed by a late-night drink in the bar of the Ritz hotel and despite reaching our beds at 1.30am we all paraded at 7.30am the next morning to attend a brief wreath laying ceremony on the tomb of the unknown soldier at the Arc de Triomphe. Lord Llewellyn laid the wreath, whilst his military attaché read the Regimental Collect. It was splendid that the unofficial 'liberation' of the British Embassy by four Grenadier officers found its way into the formal 75th Anniversary commemoration ceremony. Lord Llewellyn wrote 'A huge thank you to the serving Grenadier Guards who joined us yesterday and who made a special commemoration even more memorable.' Our thanks go to him for his imagination and generosity.

It's all downhill from here – Alpine Racing as Adventurous Training

by *Lieutenant Alex Wilson*

I was asked on a number of occasions why we were skiing, why it should be funded by the taxpayer, and what relevance it has. The stock answer is that sports and adventurous training are force multipliers and increase operational effectiveness, enhancing team cohesion and providing relief from the 'normal' business of soldiering. These are all true, and yet alpine racing goes further than other activities.

We all work in an environment where we make decisions that are influenced by an understanding of risks. Often decisions are made for us on the nature of the risk and the appropriate action to take. When alpine skiing, and racing in particular, the relationship with risk is dramatically altered.

Standing in a start gate, looking around and drinking in the view in an attempt to settle oneself, there is an awareness that it could be over in ten seconds with a season-ending injury or in two minutes crossing the finish. From the outset it is a battle to remember the course, to put into practice what has been taught, to master the urge to slow down. Sensing the gates and terrain rushing past, feeling the skis chattering over ruts, constantly asking: 'How do I go faster?'



This question illustrates the relationship that ski racers have with risk. They understand that the more ways you find to answer it, the better you will do, but the more risks you will take. The margin for error, already razor thin, is further pared away in the pursuit of hundredths of a second. In the course of day-to-day soldiering, it is rare to have the opportunity to exercise such control over one's short-term safety and outcomes. The feeling of total control – even when skiing at the edge of being in control – is incredibly refreshing, and is the reason that soldiers often develop a passion for ski racing, even if they are not totally convinced that they enjoy skiing.

This is the key benefit of skiing, and ski racing in particular. The dangers are inherent and are frequently hinted at, if not graphically illustrated – the 'blood wagon' is always held at the start of the course in full view of the racers. It is entirely within the control of the individual how far they are willing to push themselves, how many risks they are willing to take. It empowers the individual in a way that we are usually unable to.

This empowerment is equivalent to mission command. The racer knows the task – to complete the course as fast as possible – and from the moment



they push out of the gate, everything is up to them. Some find coping with this responsibility difficult, as they are unused to being responsible, especially where their safety is concerned. This, if anything, is the purpose of adventurous training. To extract the individual from their comfort zone, to make them responsible for themselves and their safety, and to give them a sense of achievement.



Household Division Alpine Racing Report 2018–19

by *Lieutenant Alex Wilson*

The Foot Guards had a strong showing at EX FROSTED BLADE this year, with teams from the Grenadiers, Irish and Welsh Guards taking full advantage of all the exercise had to offer. Each team of eight had two Officers, with the remaining slots open for Guardsmen and Non-Commissioned Officers. There were five individuals from other teams – two from the Infantry Team and three from the Infantry Training Centre – taking the Foot Guards to 29, with representatives from each Regiment.

A mixture of novices and experienced skiers, there was early success as a combined Grenadier and Welsh Guards team stormed to victory in the night parallel slalom. The teams performed remarkably well considering their paucity of race experience. The Welsh Guards finished fourth, with the Grenadiers seventh and the Irish Guards twelfth of 27 teams, results which bode well for future championships. Operational requirements prevented any teams from going on to the Divisional and Army Championships, however Lieutenants Wilson and Macdonald-Smith Gren Gds, Windsor-Clive Coldm Gds, Calder-Smith SG and Davidson WG were able to progress as individuals – perhaps indicative

of the necessity of young officers?

At the Army Championships in Serre Chevalier, the Foot Guards were joined by Lt Hugo Hunter HCav, who skied very well in spite of the minimal training on offer in Verbier. After a string of strong results, where the Infantry team were often the fastest on the hill, Lts Wilson and Calder-Smith were selected to represent the Army at the Inter-Services Championships, Lt Wilson as team captain.

Household Division skiing is going from strength to strength. The next step is to enable continuity in teams, especially in Guardsmen and Non-Commissioned Officers, and for Commanding Officers to continue sending teams if possible – skiing is an excellent recruiting and retention tool, and participation is critical.



Yukon Grenadier – A Summary

by Captain Jon Frith

10th June 2019 –

Whitehorse, YT, Canada:

Captain Jon Frith, Grenadier Guards: ‘Hi Peter, we’re here; happy to grab the canoes off you when you’re ready’

Peter (British, eccentric, expat Canoe seller): ‘Canoes?! You mean you want more than one?!’

Jon: ‘Yes Peter, as discussed, there are four of us....’

Peter: ‘Oh cripes, this could be interesting’

And so it began, with a little under two thousand miles to go, Yukon Grenadier, an attempt to establish a World Record for canoeing the Yukon River was almost scuttled on Day zero in the small town of Whitehorse, Canada. But, with the spirit of the ‘Yukon Men’ and our forebears from the 1994

Roof of the Americas expedition coursing through us, the vessels were successfully acquired. And so, ‘Big Red’ and ‘Little Blue’, two old Canadian open top canoes, formed the basis of our attempt to take on the mighty Yukon. Were this to be the only drama that befell the team, made up of Captains Jon Frith, Tom Bolitho, Guardsmen Joe Heywood and Alisdair Szysko, we would have been lucky but as it happened this was just an inkling of what was to occur over the next few weeks.

As we trundled towards the tip of Lake Bennett, canoes and 250kgs of ration, spares, personal effects and a Grenadier Duck loaded onto the White Pass and Yukon Route railway, the views from the windows were breathtaking. Gazing onto to the frosted summits of the mountains which guarded the source of the river at the tip of Lake Bennett, we were carefully insulated from the realities of the mighty river.

And at 1645hrs on Wednesday 10th June we pushed off to begin our journey, hoping to become the four fastest people in the world to have canoed the Yukon River from source to sea. Divided into



Start point Lake Bennett - the source. Left to right Maj Jon Frith, Capt Tom Bolitho, Gdsm Al Szysko, Gdsm Joe Heywood.



Midnight Sun in Alaska.

five major stages, each man would paddle 417,800 strokes over the next 1,856 miles, each canoe travelling at an average of 4mph while taking in the territory that had claimed so many of the gold rush pioneers a century before.

Stage 1 & 2 Lake Bennett to Dawson City

With fresh arms and the warnings of a local canoe shop owner that our expected miles (we had to average, minimum 66 per day) were ridiculous ('The River's too low/too windy/too many bears/it'll take ten days to paddle from Lake Bennett to Whitehorse') we pressed on and, 2 days later, we waved at that somewhat bemused shop owner as we glided gently past. What we didn't know undoubtedly helped, and while the more risk averse may have quietly pulled in at points, the eagerness we possessed to get to the start of the river drove us on.

Crossing four lakes in three days certainly allowed some pause for thought and, with our inexperienced eyes turning every rock, log and pine tree into a bear, we were certainly not short of scenery. Nevertheless, arriving at the tip of Lake Laberge was a thrill, suddenly we felt we were at the top of the Yukon proper, no more slogging through the lakes where the lack of flow felt like treacle, suddenly we had current as those millions of gallons of glacial water funnelled between the meanders and high banks of the

river ushered us on.

Dropping considerably in elevation before it reached Dawson City (Population 1,410), our canoe skills were honed as the eddies, boils and sudden rapids of the river would rear their heads quickly forcing each canoe to think far ahead to enable the inevitable evasive turns. At points it felt as though we were trying to turn an oil tanker with a tooth pick - the combination of weight and current creating some interesting scenarios! Following a brief 4 hour respite and re-stock in Dawson we moved on, knowing full well that any human interaction would be a bonus over the subsequent 1200 miles.

Stage 3,4 and 5 Dawson City to Emmonak

Crossing into Alaska, the only sign of our arrival were two flags hastily erected on the bank held up by a stripped spruce trunk. Less a brief telephone conversation in the town of Eagle (Population 83) with a customs official whose chief concerns were firearms and undoing whatever travesty he had committed to find himself posted there, the only indication we had crossed borders was the broadening of the river and the arrival of the haze and smoke from southern forest fires.

Accompanied now by beavers, coyote, wolves, moose and bald eagles (and having avoided the bears), as we progressed over the 66 degree latitude and into the Arctic Circle our choice of campsite



On the river a 1000 miles in and 1000 miles left...



Emmonak - 1986 miles 28 days 20 hrs 15 minutes and a new World Record.

became more important as the wildlife became more curious. The river at points previously flowing up to 7 mph now slowed to a sluggish 3. With 24 hour sunlight, however, we were never short of decent conditions to paddle and, with the weather changing round every corner there was added incentive for us to make progress while the weather was good. At up to 1.5 miles wide at points, a headwind of only 3mph could quickly churn the water into waves which tended to swamp the boats and make life rather more precarious than needs be.

Coming through the Arctic Circle and turning south into the last 400 miles the scenery was now monopolised by the edges of the Kusokwim and

Kigluaik mountains which swiftly flattened as the delta approached. A haven for fishing, we suddenly became aware that we weren't, in fact, the only humans on the Yukon as dozens of skiffs began zipping past on their way to collect what they could from the salmon run, churning the water and curious as to why there were four British soldiers apparently so lost on the Yukon.

Cries of 'You've got a long way to go' were now replaced by 'You've come a long way' and, on reaching the fishing town of Emmonak and the end to our epic adventure the Yukon had certainly made this felt. Exhaustion paralleled only by our pride: 1,856 miles in 28 days and 21 hours were complete and so was a new world record.

Battalion 'Soccer' Tour to the USA

by Captain Tom Parkes

Given the proximity of the United States to the Battalion's exercise in Belize and in the spirit of one-upmanship, with the Rugby Team having been to Las Vegas, the Football team devised a tour to Texas and Oklahoma in October.



Mr Fetherston-Godley and Sgt Harper keep Capt Sharquano at bay in Oklahoma.

On Thursday morning, No 2 Company completed the last live attack of Ex MAYAN STORM through the caverns of Camp Charlie in Belize. The following afternoon, having spent over a month in the jungle, the battalion soccer team gathered to play the first game of the tour.



Mike Bassett and Capt Parkes watch OU Women vs Kansas.

The opposition was the Belize Defence Force (BDF); a lithe, quick, well-rested side with a couple of internationals amongst them. Our side, after weeks of cigarettes and rations under the canopy, were rather jaded and bitten with an average age nearer 40 than



Gdsm Mortley with OU supporters.

20. Mercifully the pitch was in equally poor nick. A stout defensive effort, with tactics reminiscent of Big Sam's Bolton, reduced the Belizeans to our level, and the Grenadiers managed to grind out a one all draw, thanks to a 25 yard strike from LCpl Mottershead just before the final whistle. After all, you cannot win anything with kids.

Our first match in America was against Fort Hood, the largest military base in the US, with 36,000 serviceman to select a 11 man side from. An ambitious fixture choice. Fortunately we had the presence of mind, in preparing for this game, to ensure we trained on the pitch we were to play on the day before. Unlike Belize however the pitch was pristine and enormous with a 5000 seater stand. We played in the evening under the lights. The Fort Hood side had similar qualities to that of the BDF but were not hindered by their groundsman. They



LSgt Williams, Gdsm McClendon and LCpl Price in Dallas.



The Team in the Hot tub.

played with width, moving the ball quickly, exposing us down the wings. The Grenadiers played valiantly throughout but were beaten by a better team, 5-1, with Gdsm Mortley awarded man of the match for his goalkeeping including saving a penalty.

Before the game the team visited the Fort Hood



The BDF Commanding Officer and captain with the Commanding Officer and Sgt Morris, team captain.

simulators. These are virtual trainers replicating complex scenarios for soldiers to practice on, from vehicles and through rooms, with a variety of weaponry. The team spent a couple of hours preparing for the match, making best use of this extensive, excellent facility for a protracted game of Time Crisis.

After our ignominious defeat against Fort Hood we headed north to Norman, Oklahoma where the team was hosted by our next opponents, the University's Army Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) We were

privileged to stay on campus, a beautiful and immaculate university. Whilst the Senior NCOs in the team joined the cadets morning training, Gdsm Hayton and Mortley appeared in Home Service on KOCO5 State TV with Capt Parkes, carefully fielding the presenter's questions on why we were there and the nature of public duties. Fortunately, our tunics, bearskins and accents completely masked the abstractness of our answers.

That afternoon, a tornado warning meant that the afternoon's match was moved inside, becoming a 6 aside fixture. We had chosen our opponents well



Capt Parkes, Gdsm Hayton and Mortley on TV.



Sgt Price on the Fort Hood Simulators.

and on a small pitch the team won a glorious victory against OU Army ROTC scoring 7. Following our tremendous victory, the team watched the OU Women's Soccer Team play Kansas University that evening in the bitter cold with Gdsm Hayton and Mortley performing a pre-game Colour Guard with our hosts. Clearly neither tornados nor frostbite concerned either of these teams.

Before departing our hosts organised a breakfast for the team with local Oklahoman veterans, with a fleeting appearance from the state governor, Kevin Stitt. Talking with an array of American servicemen, who had served from Vietnam up to the present day, was a humbling experience for all. Before we left, the Governor ensured we knew who to support in the weekend's college football derby game between OU and Texas State, known as the Red River Showdown. The hospitality of the OU Army ROTC meant our

support was never in doubt; plus the team had already been showered with plenty of free OU kit.

The final few days of the tour saw the team head to Dallas to experience the atmosphere of the Red River Showdown. The city was packed for the weekend with Oklahomans and Texans pouring into the city to support their respective sides. The game was watched outside the stadium with swathes of OU fans who were unfathomably enamoured with many of the team. The day was a tremendous finish to what was a remarkable 10 days in Belize, Texas and Oklahoma.

The Soccer Tour provided for all of us a wonderfully amusing and unique experience that will live long in our memories. Its success was due to the generosity, hard work and kindness of many; including the Household Division Funds, Army Sports Lottery and Berlin Infantry Brigade Memorial Trust Fund. The hospitality and welcome we received throughout the tour was completely humbling, especially from Fort Hood and OU Army ROTC. The team all recognise their luck in being a part of it, would like to thank all those who made it possible and hope that others continue to have similar opportunities for adventures like this in future. It has set the conditions for a successful season in Aldershot in 2020.



The teams together after the game at Fort Hood.

Ex IRON TIGER MANASLU

30 Sep – 21 Oct

by Major Andrew Butcher MBE

Ex IRON TIGER MANASLU was a 3XX planned expedition to Nepal, I was one of the 14 lucky enough to attend. The group varied in rank, cap badge and experience. The Manaslu Circuit Trek over the Larka Pass is one of Nepal's best kept secrets, following remote trails which are little touched by the modern world and which see relatively few visitors throughout the year. It offers beautiful views of the Himalayan range, with the magnificent Manaslu (8163m), the eighth highest mountain in the world almost in the palm of your hand.

The trek begins in a small stone paved village called Araghat Bazar on the banks of the river Budhi Gandhaki and continues following the river upstream, through small villages and settlements



The beautiful valley landscape between Lapubesi and Dobhan.



Mt Manaslu the eighth highest mountain in the world at 8163 meters, It's name means 'mountain of the spirit'.

of different Himalayan ethnic groups, from Brahmin, Chhetri, Tamang, Magar, Gurung and Tibetan. Each night we stayed in local teahouses run by the local communities along the trek. Most teahouses are quite basic but comfortable, with two single beds in each room. There is a common area for meals and relaxing, which is a great place to stay warm around the fire at night.

Heading northwards the Valley opens up to reveal delightful alpine meadows, lush rhododendron and bamboo jungle and small, typical Tibetan villages in the Nubri Valley, which cluster beneath Manaslu's sweeping North Face. The trek passes small villages with rows of prayer wheels and spectacular mani stones and prayer flags, which mark the passes and religiously important sites. After a few days trekking, the trail reaches Samagaon, the largest and most important village in the region. From there we headed west and cross the Larka Pass at 5106m, one of the most dramatic pass crossings in the Himalayas.

Walking along a classic but tough trail linking the Buri Gandaki with the Marsyangdi Valley, where we reached the old salt routes, which still operate as the main trading routes between the Tibetan plateau and little settlements on Nepal's side of the great mountain range.

The descent from Larka pass, passes through beautiful alpine meadows at Bimtang, before joining the main Annapurna Circuit route and heading to the trailhead at Besi Sahar. The region shelters endangered animals such as snow leopard, red panda and blue sheep – especially in the northern reaches, as Buddhist Tibetans prohibit the killing of animals. The Manaslu Conservation Area was closed to foreign trekkers until 1991.

The mountain's name comes from the Sanskrit word *manasa*, meaning 'wisdom' or 'soul', which leads to the most common translation of the name as 'The Mountain of the Spirit'. On the eastern side we get occasional glimpses of Ganesh Himal, the mountain named after the

elephant-headed Hindu God of Good Fortune.

Without doubt The Manaslu Circuit is one of the best treks in Nepal for those looking for an alternative to the more popular Everest Base Camp or Annapurna Circuit treks. An experience that will live long in the memory.



The team reach the Larke Pass at 5106 meters.

Stalking Trip to Scotland

by Lt Alex Fetherston-Godley

Exercise GRENADIER MARKSMAN saw 13 members of the 1st Battalion make their way up to the Scottish Highlands in Achfary, Sutherland, to enjoy a testing week stalking Red deer and Sika hind amongst beautiful scenery. Apprehensions were high pre-deployment, with the trip departing in late November, the weather in Scotland was on the mind of many, with one Guardsman asking me if we would be sleeping in shell scrapes for the week. His fears were allayed when we arrived at the brilliant Old Laundry cottage that would be our home for the week, perfectly catering for stalking parties. The cottage overlooked Loch Nan Ealachan a stunning backdrop that would

provide us with views onto the ground we would enjoy stalking over in the coming days. Lieutenant Felix Tracey and I were accompanied with Lance Sergeant Davis (Number 2 Company), Lance Corporal Fanning, Lance Corporal Fielding (both Number 2 Company), Lance Corporal Wilson (The Queen's Company), Guardsman Lyon (HQ Company), Guardsman Hammond (The Queen's Company) and Guardsman Yorke, Guardsman Miles, Guardsman Duck, Guardsman Wilkinson and Guardsman Edwards (Number 2 Company).

Upon a late arrival on Saturday night in Achfary, the party headed to bed early in preparation for a busy day on Sunday. Given our first full day was the Sabbath, when typically shooting is prohibited, we decided to walk up Arkle Mountain. A challenging hike that had a few Gdsm asking if we were in fact on exercise in the Brecon Beacons. Needless to say,

we were rewarded with amazing panoramic views and it gave the party a good recce opportunity on the enemy hind that we saw sporadically during the hike.

The plan for the week was to split everyone into pairs, who would then be joined by a stalker and a ghillie. The estate boasted seven potential beats (areas of land to stalk) which complimented our party's numbers perfectly. Each pair would start with one stalker for the day and then rotate throughout the week to experience walking up different ground and the variety of terrain it had to offer. Two pairs would travel as far as Ullapool each morning which was a 45-minute drive from the cottage. This would be the first of several vehicle moves as they would get into an argocat (Small off road, six wheel drive vehicle) to tackle some tricky tracks before disembarking onto a boat and travelling across a loch to finally get to the beat they would launch an amphibious stalking assault on.

On Monday morning, we were briefed by the Head Stalker, David Alisson over the dos and don'ts whilst out on the ground. He referenced previous regiments had shot around 40 hind in total over the course of a week with similar party numbers, so we set this as our arbitrary target. We were then split into pairs and all headed off to various ranges to test and adjust the brilliant stalker rifles we would be using for the day. Experience amongst the party was limited, less LCpl Wilson, who had worked briefly as a stalking guide. He selflessly allowed his partner Gdsm Hammond to shoot first having never stalked before. Gdsm Hammond was well



Loch Nan Ealachan.

rewarded, having crawled no less than 300metres on all fours for his first stalk he found himself in a position to take a shot, and he did with aplomb, killing his first hind and chalking up the first kill for the party. LSgt Davis, having made the epic journey towards Ullapool the first morning, found himself the first member of the party with consecutive kills from considerable range after more hard work getting into position.

Throughout the week, the Gdsm really bought into the sporting side of the stalk. Neglecting easy opportunities to shoot deer that presented themselves and were perhaps more accustomed to human activity. This was especially gratifying for Gdsm Edwards, who showed restraint in such cases and endured a frustratingly unlucky week sighting deer, until his final day where he shot two hinds after a long stalk. Praise must also go to the more fruitful members of the party; Gdsm Wilkinson, Gdsm Duck, Gdsm Miles and LCpl Fanning finished with 5 kills each, LSgt Davis 6 and LCpl Fielding 7. Particularly special mention must go to Gdsm Yorke who was rumored to have watched and read several Rambo films and books on Vasily Zaytsev in the run up to the week, he finished with no fewer than 8! It was no coincidence that for much of the week he operated with the German rifle aptly name 'the blaser professional success', which bolt action did not need pushing down when pulled back, allowing for rapid reloading on multiple targets.

When successful on the hills, the Gdsm would throw themselves into the bleeding and gralloching of the beasts. Keen to learn how to preserve the meat once shot they would then assist in getting the hind down the hill, whether that be through carriage or loaded onto the back of an argo cat, it was all part of the experience. Finally, once back in the larder, they would partake in the butchering of the deer and were all kindly given some great venison cuts at the end of the week. Just rewards for their hard work.

In terms of the week itself, the party finished with a staggering 58 hind shot. The stalkers were most complimentary, saying in terms of regiments that had visited, it was the best marksmanship they had witnessed. It was a hugely successful week that will live long in the memory of the Gdsm who took part.

Where are they now?

by Major Simon Gordon Lennox

(as at January 2020)

What a busy six months it has been since taking over the role of Desk Officer, but what a varied time indeed. Popping back and forth between Glasgow, London and Wales, I bump into Grenadiers far and wide, and I'm delighted to report that we maintain a sophisticated and highly regarded presence throughout the Army.

Lieutenant General Sir George Norton KCVO CBE is finishing as the United Kingdom's Military Representative to NATO. He will hand over to Lieutenant General Ben Bathurst in time for the immediate post-BREXIT activities and, whilst retiring, does so to be the new Commandant of the Royal College of Defence Studies in Belgravia. **Major General Roly Walker DSO** keeps a cool hand on the tiller directing a wide portfolio in London as well as continuing as our Regimental Lieutenant Colonel, and **Major General James Bowder OBE** has taken up the reins as General Officer Commanding 6th Division (formerly Force Troops Command) in Upavon. **Colonel Richard Maundrell MVO** is the Assistant Head (International) at the Joint Services Command and Staff Centre in Shrivenham, whilst **Colonel Martin David MC** maintains an elegant position in France as the British Liaison Officer at the Embassy in Paris. Closer to home, **Colonel Alex McKay MBE** maintains a firm grip as Chief of Staff of 3rd Division in Tidworth.

Lieutenant Colonel Andrew James MBE is SO1 British Liaison Officer Collective Training at the French equivalent of the Land Warfare Centre, balancing international relations with plentiful Grand Cru Champagne at €14 a bottle. **Lieutenant Colonel Simon Soskin** has handed over his second 'hat' in the Directorate of Army Manning to focus on being Lt Col Foot Guards in Warminster and London (and alongside **Lieutenant Colonel (Retd) Jerry Levine**). **Lieutenant Colonel Richard Green** is weathering the storm as

SO1 Infrastructure Strategy at Army Basing. **Lieutenant Colonel Piers Ashfield DSO** is well established as Commanding Officer 1st Bn, having brought the Bn back from Iraq in good order, and re-set the bar (as we do) for Public Duties. He will hand over in due course to **Lieutenant Colonel James Greaves**, who is currently SO1 Strategic Advisor to the 4* General (US) Austin S. Miller, in Kabul. **Lieutenant Colonel James Green** has taken up the reins as Commanding Officer Wales University Officer Training Corps, and **Lieutenant Colonel Andrew Seddon** will do likewise in the Autumn at Oxford – his *alma mater* (Brookes College) – following the Advanced Command and Staff Course. Nearer town, **Lieutenant Colonel Dom Alkin** has returned to Northwood to be the SO1 C4ISR in UK Strategic Command, and further away from town **Lieutenant Colonel Ed Paintin** is keeping order in Iraq as Chief of Staff Op SHADER.

Major Simon Gordon Lennox, your author, is requiring Vitamin D supplements as the Desk Officer at the Army Personnel Centre in Glasgow. **Major Rupert King-Evans** is SO2 Plans A at Headquarters Home Command hoping to keep us all on the straight and narrow. The ever-stalwart **Major James Shaw** is the Senior Major of our own 1st Battalion, with **Major Ben Jesty** showing off his new Kilt as second-in-command 1st Bn Scots Guards. **Major Andrew Tiernan** continues the 'Grenadiers as Chiefs of Staff' theme at 12th Armoured Infantry Brigade, and **Major Ben Powell** is navigating the structural trysts in Army Headquarters as SO2 Plans in the Land Operations Centre. **Major Neil Strachan** will head off to be a syndicate leader at the Intermediate Command and Staff Course (Land) – ICSC(L) – after handing over The Captaincy. In a similar vein, **Major Will Harries** will head off to be a Plans Officer in Permanent Joint Headquarters in Northwood once he relinquishes Number Two Company. **Major Mike Dobbin DSO MC** does exciting things in hot places, whilst **Major Paddy Rice** is commanding the Ribs. Returning to the Battalion will be **Major James Taylor** who will be The Captain after

handing over Executive Officer at The London Regiment, **Major Tom Hendriksen** as Number Two Company Commander vice Executive Officer in Headquarters Regional Command, and **Major Alex Bayliss**, who will relinquish SO2 Force Design in the Capability Directorate and assume command of Support Company. Meanwhile, **Major James Brown MBE** has his nose to the staff grindstone in London, and **Major Richard Da Gama** is extending in Cyprus as SO2 Plans whilst toying with a 6-month sojourn somewhere exotic. Hot on all their heels follow **Major Hugo Cartwright**, Military Assistant 2 to the Chief of the General Staff, **Major Jonny Hathaway-White**, Military Assistant to Director Support in Army Headquarters, and **Major Chris Stevenson**, Military Assistant to Chief of Staff Policy and Finance (Senior Civil Servant) at the Permanent Joint Headquarters in Northwood. **Major Adam Wellesley-Wood** is finishing as SO2 Defence Engagement at Headquarters 4th Brigade before heading off to civilian life, whereas **Major Mike Dobson** currently cuts his staff teeth at ICSC(L) before heading up to Glasgow to be Military Assistant to the Military Secretary.

Major Alex Budge will finish his stint as SO2 Infantry at the Command and Staff Trainer (South) and head off to ICSC(L) later this year. Staff College also beckons **Major Hamish Hardy**, who is settled as the SO2 J5 on Op SHADER, likewise **Major Charlie Williams**, who took over Nijmegen Company from Hardy late last summer. **Major Ben Conway**, commanding Support Company in the Falklands, is taking the leap of faith and is University bound in the Autumn as a civilian.

Captain Will Harris has been the key Staff Officer in Izmir and is returning to join the others at ICSC(L). Also on this august Staff College list is **Captain Alex Shirreff**, currently also on secondment in warmer climes, and **Captain Charlie Gilmore** who is the sole Captain in Headquarters Regional Command. **Captain Chris Wright**, the indomitable Training Officer, is also taking the leap into civilian life. **Captain Tom Hargreaves** is getting a sound thrashing as the SO3 J3 Commitments in Headquarters 16 Air Assault Brigade (along with three other Foot Guards

Captains). **Captain Ben Tracey** holds the fort as the Adjutant of the 1st Bn, shortly to hand over to **Captain Robbie Thompson**, with **Captain Tom Parkes** keeping Support Company on track as the second in command before also leaving the Army for pastures new. **Captain Kaspar Varmuza** is the SO3 Policy for Director Engagement and Communications in Main Building, just across the road from **Captain Ollie Wace** who is SO3 Ops & Deployments in Headquarters London District. Back in Battalion, **Captain Kit Naughton** is the Operations Officer, **Captain Oliver Staunton** the Intelligence Officer, **Captain Rich Phillips** the Mortar Officer and **Capt Edmund Harmer** the Signals Officer. Other senior Captains outside Regimental Duty are **Captain Chris Pollard**, who is returning to his roots as SO3 G2 at 7th Infantry Brigade, **Captain George Barnes** who is Detached, but keeping an eye on everything, **Captain Robbie Laing** who hands over Assistant Military Advisor for General Roly and will try his hand as a civilian, and **Captain Jonny Silver** who, on return from being ADC to General George will take over as Operations Officer. **Captain Tom Bolitho** will swap second-in-command of The Inkerman Company for civilian life later in the year, with **Captain Jonny Palmer-Tomkinson** swapping being The Second Captain for Assistant Equerry to The Colonel, vice Robbie Thompson, and **Captain Duncan Thorne** remaining Second-in-command of Number Two Company. Back in town, **Captain Rufus Harding** does likewise for Nijmegen Company. **Captain Fred Ide** is the Anti-Tanks Platoon Commander, **Captain Alex Wilson** is fresh in as the new Recce Platoon Commander, and **Captain Chris Wood** has remained as a Company Second in Command with 3rd Bn Parachute Regiment after a successful tour as Guards Parachute Platoon Commander. **Captain Tom Holmes** rounds things off as a senior Platoon Commander at the Army Foundation College Harrogate.

Platoon Commanders abound. **Lieutenants Jake Sayers** and **Laurence Odlum** represent the Regiment at the Infantry Training Centre in Catterick, with **Lieutenants Tris Reames**, **Mark Osmond** and **Sam MacDonald-Smith** strutting their stuff as Platoon Commanders in Nijmegen

Company. **Lieutenant Robin Mackworth-Young** maintains standards in The Queen's Company, with **Lieutenants Felix Tracey** and **Alex Featherston-Godley** in Number Two Company, and **Lieutenants Edward Bennett** and **Tom Sinclair** in the Inkerman Company. More recently in, we have **Ensigns Sean Marren** and **Alec Heywood** to The Queen's Company, **Ralph Maddan** to Number Two Coy (sporting a set of shiny new Binoculars), and **Harry Winstanley** and **Will Martin** to the Inkerman Company.

In our Late Entry fraternity, we are just as versatile. **Lieutenant Colonel Neil England MBE** presides as the SO1 Combat Training in Army Headquarters. **Lieutenant Colonel Gordon Gask** no doubt grips all in the British Embassy in Riga as the J3/5/7 Branch Head. **Major Stumpy Keeley MBE** guides future Late Entry Officers as Chief Instructor at Sandhurst before promoting into Staff Quartermaster at the School of Infantry. **Major Andy Butcher** is Support Company Commander for the Irish Guards, and **Major Ian Farrell** will finish Company Command at the Army Foundation College in Harrogate to be the first Late Entry Executive Officer of the London Regiment. **Major Glenn Haughton OBE** remains busy as the Senior Enlisted Advisor to Chiefs of Staff Committee, and **Major Darren Westlake** is off to be the SO2 G4 Infra at Sandhurst following being the Quartermaster at 1st Bn Scots Guards. **Major Jon Frith** joins other Grenadiers at ICSC(L), whilst **Major Ty Bearder** has several hats at the Military Training and Mobilisation Centre, including most notably that of Chief of Staff.

Captain Martin Howlin seems to be everywhere as SO3 Recruiting (South), based in Headquarters London District. **Capt Howard Lawn** has just started as the Ft Gds Divisional Careers Management Officer up in Glasgow. **Captain Dan Moore** is no doubt doing a formidable job as the Welfare Officer in the 1st Bn, alongside the new Mechanical Transport Officer in the shape of **Captain Scott Roughley**. **Captain Sam Brooks** sets the tone well and the bar high as Officer Commanding Household Division and Parachute Regiment Centralised Courses. **Captain Mark Cox** is the Regimental Careers Management

Officer in the 1st Bn, and **Capt John Byrne** is doing likewise in the Welsh Guards. I round things off by mentioning that the 1st Battalion is joined by Ft Gds Officers from outside the Regiment. **Major Cammie Proudfoot SG** commands Headquarter Company (having extended – and we are delighted), and the Micks have a tight hold over our logistics and infra in the forms of **Major Kev Fletcher** as Quartermaster, and **Captain Shaun Nelson** as Quartermaster (Technical).

A most satisfactory list indeed and, as you will see, extremely numerous. Whilst there may be a few who are deciding the time has come to move on, they do so with our best wishes, confident as we all are in the health of the Regiment.



Major Will Harries



Major Will Harries commissioned in 2006, joining the Queen's Company for Op HERRICK 6. During this tour, he commanded an Operational Mentoring and Liaison Team – attached to a company of Afghan National Army deployed throughout Helmand Province.

After a stint commanding a platoon from the Inkerman Company in the Falkland Islands, he was posted to the Infantry Training Centre (Catterick) from 2008–9. He returned to the 1st Battalion and Afghanistan during Op HERRICK 11, acting as Battle Captain for Grenadier Guards Nad-e-Ali Battlegroup and then an Influence Officer. In 2010, he took command of the battalion's Fire Support Group (Heavy Weapons and Javelin Anti-Tank), taking part in two Ex PRARIE STORM in Canada.

Between 2011–14 he was attached to a variety of units. He was a Defence Intelligence liaison officer for the 2012 London Olympics, assisting establish threat reporting mechanisms and engaging with police and other government departments. From 2012–13, he was Operations Officer for the Queen's Dragoon Guards' Brigade Reconnaissance Force Squadron, based in Germany and deploying to Kenya on Ex ASKARI STORM. Having thoroughly enjoyed Germany, he then deployed to Afghanistan as an SO3 with a UK Task Force for Op LANSBURY in October 2013. As the task force worked with Afghan national mission units, this role provided an opportunity to travel throughout Afghanistan.

He took command of Support Company as acting major from 2014–15. He was subsequently posted to the Joint Counter-Terrorism Training and Advisory Team (JCTTAT) based in Kent. At JCTTAT, he managed a Capacity Building project in Pakistan – delivering pre-deployment training and subsequently deploying with a training team

to Pakistan for four months (Op HALLEX).

Promoted to major in 2015 and after completing staff college in 2016, he joined the British Peace Support Team (Africa). Based out of Nairobi, he supported regional forces in their preparations for deployment to Somalia. He returned from Africa in 2018 and took command of the UK Training Team, based in the Kurdish region of Iraq during Op SHADER 6. Since Op SHADER, he has taken part in the Queen's Birthday Parade and jungle training in Belize. Will is married to Alice; they have two-year old twin boys, Idris and Arthur; and an Airedale Terrier - Johnny.

Captain Tom Hargreaves



Captain Tom Hargreaves has been the Operations and Commitments Officer at 16 Air Assault Brigade in Colchester since September 2018.

He commissioned in August 2013 and after attending the Platoon Commanders' Battle Course in Brecon he took command of 2 Platoon, the Queen's Company. During this time the Battalion were in to London District conducting State Ceremonial Public Duties. He was the Ensign for the first ever State Visit of the President of the Republic of Ireland, as well as the State Opening of Parliament in 2014. In December 2014 the Company deployed to Denmark attached to the Danish 1st Guard Hussars Brigade on Ex WHITE KNIGHT in Jutland. In March 2015 the Queen's Company went to Cyprus with No 2 Company on Ex LION SUN, conducting live firing and Company level training.

In April 2015 he moved to the Infantry Training Centre in Catterick as Officer Commanding 18 Platoon where he passed out two Platoons of Trainee Guardsmen. While based in Catterick he passed

All-Arms Pre-Parachute Selection (P Company), earning his Maroon Beret and becoming eligible to serve with Airborne forces.

He returned to the Queen's Company as the Second Captain in September 2016 in time for the Battalion to form the Spearhead Light Role Battlegroup in 20 Armoured Brigade's Very High Readiness Joint Task Force for NATO. During this period The Company deployed to Latvia on Ex SILVER ARROW. From November 2017 to March 2018 he stepped up as acting or 'Shadow' Captain of The Queen's Company, and oversaw their individual mission-specific training for Op TORAL in Afghanistan.

In March 2018 he was posted to Istanbul in support of Op SHADER for six months, before taking up his role at 16 Air Assault Brigade in September. Since joining the Brigade he has deployed as the Battlecaptain for the Airborne Combined Joint Expeditionary Force on Ex FALCONS AMARANTE with 11eme Brigade Parachutiste in Toulouse, proving interoperability with our sister French Airborne Brigade. In June 2019 he deployed to Croatia on Ex SWIFT RESPONSE with the US 82nd Airborne Division as part of a US 3rd Corps Joint Theatre Entry in the Balkans and Eastern Europe. In November he parachuted into Estonia with B Company, 3rd Battalion the Parachute Regiment as part of Op TRACTABLE to reinforce the UK Enhanced Forward Presence in the Baltic. The highlight of the year was jumping onto Sannerville Drop Zone in Normandy for the 75th Anniversary of D-Day on 6th June. The Brigade then took part in the commemorations across Normandy, meeting Veterans from the invasion. Capt Hargreaves' Arabic skills have seen him take on 16 Air Assault Brigade's Defence Engagement tasks; running Exercises and Short-Term Training Teams in Jordan, Lebanon, and Bahrain.

Tom married Susanna in 2018, and they have moved to Colchester in anticipation of their first child in January 2020. They are both keen motorcyclists, skiers, and travellers and are trying to get as much of all three in before the due date.

Warrant Officer Class Two RQMS(T) Dean Bailey



Warrant Officer Class Two RQMS(T) **Dean Bailey** has been the Technical Quartermaster Sergeant since November 2019. Taking up the post after a busy period in London District as the Company Sergeant Major of Nijmegen Company during which time he delivered Number 3

Guard on the Queen's Birthday Parade, a Guard of Honour for the President of the United States, oversaw a Guard of honour in Bruges and also had the privilege of presenting a Grenadier war Veteran of the 6th Guards Tank Brigade the Valeur de Honour.

During his time with the Battalion, he has deployed on Operations to Northern Ireland, Bosnia, Iraq and Afghanistan as well as deploying on numerous exercises across the world. He was promoted to Lance Corporal in 2003 and Lance Sergeant 2005, during which time he completed a tour of Al-Amarah in Iraq. As a Platoon Sergeant in No 2 Company he went on to take his platoon to Afghanistan on Op HERRICK 11.

He has also been an instructor at Household Division Parachute Regiment Centralised Courses (HDPRCC) teaching the future Non-Commissioned officers across the Foot Guards and Parachute Regiment. As a Colour Sergeant he was posted to The All Arms Drill Wing (AADW) in Catterick where he instructed the Non-Commissioned officers from various training establishments. On returning from Catterick he took over as the Pay Sergeant of the Queen's Company, ensuring the Company was always expertly administrated in camp and on numerous overseas exercises.

After his time as Pay Sergeant, he was posted to the MODs Search School as a Company Sergeant

Major where he passed on his hard-earned skills in search and ground sign awareness to British and NATO troops across Europe.

He has recently been mentioned in the Queen's honours list for receiving a commendation from the Chief of the General Staff for services to the Army.

Living in Mansfield Nottinghamshire with his wife Donna and son Jared, Dean is a keen motorsport fan and he currently is assisting in running and organising the Regiment's Enduro motorcycle team.

Warrant Officer Class Two Gregory Mann



Warrant Officer Class Two **Gregory Mann** has been the Company Sergeant Major of The Inkerman Company since April 2019, taking up the post after successful promotion at the Infantry Battle School, Brecon. In the short time he has been in role, he has already conducted

a Queen's Birthday Parade and an expeditionary deployment to Belize with the Company. He has been a Grenadier for eighteen years, and has served with The Inkerman Company, Nijmegen Company, Support Company and No 2 Company.

During his time with the Battalion, he has been deployed on Op OCULUS in Bosnia 2004/05, where he learnt his trade as a Guardsman and Infanteer. He was later promoted to Lance Corporal in 2005 after successfully passing the Junior Non-Commissioned Officers Course at The Household Division and Parachute Regiment Combined Courses. As a young Lance Corporal, he quickly learned the value of low level leadership within his section on Op TELIC 8 in Iraq 2006 and Op

HERRICK 6 in Afghanistan 2007. After Passing the Section Commanders Battle Course he promoted to Lance Sergeant and completed a further tour of Afghanistan on Op HERRICK 11 in 2009–2010.

He enjoyed passing on his experience through the training environment, fulfilling roles as a Section Commander instructor at the Infantry Training Centre Catterick and Colour Sergeant instructor on Senior Division at the Infantry Battle School. He has also passed on his knowledge to a wider global audience deploying on short term training teams in Albania, Estonia, Jordan and Kenya.

His soldiering experience is mirrored on the Parade square and has taken part in numerous state ceremonial and public duties, including both the US and China State visits, Her Majesty the Queen's Diamond Jubilee and five Queen's Birthday Parades. The most memorable of these being 2014 where he was chosen to carry the Colour on to Horse Guards Parade.

Residing in South Wales with his wife Rachel and son Lewin, Gregory finds himself enjoying the Welsh coast and country side in his free time. A keen sportsman and fund raiser he's taken part in a number of charity events such as the Great North Run and Wellington to Waterloo charity bike ride, raising money for the Colonel's Fund.



Remembering WO1 (RSM) Darren Chant

by *Lieutenant Colonel Joseph Brown RLC*

The Sovereign's platoon from Commissioning Course 023 were lucky enough to have Darren Chant as their Colour Sergeant. Nearly 17 years since we commissioned, we remain in regular contact but had not held a formal reunion since 2013. It was time to catch up properly and share our memories - which so often feature Darren, who had an incredibly positive impact on us all.

Conscious that we were approaching the tenth anniversary of his tragic passing in Helmand, we set the date for the 2019 reunion for the weekend of 3 November and it felt fitting hold it at RMAS - for many, a first return since we walked up the steps in August 2003. We wanted to establish a memorial at RMAS for Darren who, after leading us through the Commissioning Course in 2003, returned in 2005 as a company Sergeant Major. By happy coincidence, autumn 2019 saw the opening of a memorial wall at RMAS and therefore



opportunity met with aspiration and the very first memorial plaque on the new memorial wall is for Darren.

We were thrilled to welcome Sheenie and George Chant, along with Matthew Ellmer the Regimental Casualty Officer, to the unveiling, and very grateful to RHQ Grenadier Guards for their kind contribution to the cost of the memorial. We all knew that Darren would take much pride in knowing that, as the first name on the memorial wall, all future plaques would be taking their dressing from him.



The Sovereign's Platoon and Directing Staff from commissioning Course 023, along with George Chant, gather to dedicate a memorial stone for WO1 (RSM) Darren Chant Grenadier Guards. From Left to Right: Chris Palmer, Pete Lane, George Chant, John Hodge, Simon Foster, Gary Allen, Adrian Thorpe, Stuart Hunt, Tom Bennett, Mark Carnaghan, Stephen Johnson, Joe Brown, Peter Howgego.

A Year with The Grenadiers as a Gap Year Officer

by *Second Lieutenant Daniel Hoole*

Most people when you say you have had a gap year, think of the trips to South East Asia, the bars and the parties. So it comes as a shock to my fellow students at Newcastle University when I tell them that I spent mine serving with the Grenadier Guards as an Ensign in The Queen's Company.

When the recruiting officer informed me that I would be joining The Grenadiers, I never imagined that I would do so much in such a short space of time, from going skiing to testing myself in the jungles of Belize, mixed with some Public Duties as well but most importantly having the opportunity to lead men.

One of my main highlights was the battalion ski trip. As a novice on the skis, you can imagine the sight of me falling over continuously down the mountain. Thankfully, I took to the sport better than I hoped and was able to ski without seriously harming myself or anyone else on the mountain. This ski trip was more than just learning how to ski for it was my first real opportunity to speak to the Guardsmen and form a bond with the junior officers in a relaxed informal setting.



Having only completed the reserve commissioning course, the opportunity to live fire in a realistic environment with Nijmegen Company on Dartmoor could not have been better. Running through a river, throwing a live grenade and then onto a bayonet range - there is nothing quite like the deep end to make you learn.

Later in the year, the Battalion left for jungle warfare training in Belize. Having had little experience on exercise, this was an amazing opportunity to test myself in the harshest of conditions, the jungle being notorious for its extreme heat and unrelenting downpours. Coming to the jungle to advance the basic platoon skills I had already be taught and learning new ones made me realise that being in the infantry is where I wanted to end up post university.

Joining a regiment whose history goes all the way back to its creation in 1656 by King Charles II in Bruges, it was only natural that I would want to take part in one of the ceremonial roles the regiment undertakes. As I marched onto the forecourt of Buckingham Palace carrying the colour to the sound of band playing The British Grenadiers, I was incredibly proud of such an honour as my family stood in the forecourt looking on.



This past year has taught me a lot about who I am as a person and what it means to be a leader of men. The army has shown me that the world isn't all about passing exams for happiness comes from making a difference to someone's life.. Seeing it happen day to day in the army and being in the position where you can make that difference is the most rewarding thing anyone can achieve.

Serving with the Grenadiers was more than mounting Queen's Guard and going on adventurous and jungle warfare training. It was being made to feel a member of a family and that is the lasting impression I will always cherish.

The 'Key Terrain' of Social Media for the Regiment

by Major Charlie Williams

Despite the time spent in the public eye outside Buckingham Palace or on Horse Guards Parade, showing off does not come naturally to a Guardsman. However, in the digital age that we now live and operate in, the self-promotion that comes with social media is something that we as a regiment are having to engage with more and more. I took over the reins of our small social media team, which had already done some tremendous work, as we deployed to Iraq in 2018. Efforts of expanding the Grenadier online presence had been brought into sharp focus by the opportunity of our three separate operational deployments to Iraq, South Sudan and Afghanistan.

There are some key lessons I have taken from running with the Grenadier Social Media and watching as LSgt Galvin has expanded our online influence from London in 2019. I caveat this article by saying that I have no formal media training and there are many who are far more 'tech savvy' than I. The online channels we nurture now will become more and more crucial as a tool to aid retention for the current generation of Guardsmen and those that are yet to join as well as fostering regimental pride. These virtual opportunities should and are being given a great deal of attention by all commanders, combined with the superb work that the media team in Horse Guards does.

What I quickly learnt from our followers and comments on uploads is that the main purpose and output of social media is not recruitment, although this is often a happy side effect, but internal communication. This is particularly pertinent not only for our regimental family but also across the Army. In the palm of my hand, I was able to observe from just outside Baghdad the Queen's Company in Kabul, No 2 Company in Kurdistan, Nijmegen Company providing a Guard of Honour in London, the Inkerman Company on the White Nile in South Sudan and members of the Guards Parachute Platoon jumping out of what appeared to be perfectly serviceable aircraft! Our online platforms

have become the easiest and most effective way of letting the wider Grenadier family know what we are up to whilst deployed and at home. Social media provides a fantastic link to the families and gatekeepers of our soldiers.

In recent years there has been a great deal of work by Army social media in Andover, but there needs to be a greater thought as to what these platforms provide and what effects we want to achieve. Having had to learn, often with the help of a junior Guardsman, how to use a variety of platforms, it is clear that there needs to be wider understanding within the Armed Forces. Whether it be the Birthday Parade, Belize or the Falklands in 2019, we have informed the regimental family through Facebook, educated and attracted the young through Instagram and Tik Tok and provided external comms using Twitter. Analysis of this should be undertaken to tailor efforts for desired outcomes as we go forward. Requiring an operational approach to social media, looking at who is following and looking at our posts, and why, rather than just simply judging success by the number of followers each regiment has.

In early 2018 LSgt Galvin and I visited the Army and PJHQ media cells. These visits proved invaluable for it meant that we were able to build the trust of these departments and get our images and videos cleared quickly e.g. the ability to release simultaneously photographs of parades in Kabul, Kurdistan, Iraq and South Sudan, with a little help from international time zones, by lunchtime on Remembrance Sunday in the UK. The freedoms we gained gave the Army and the Household Division ('Army in London') social media teams the ability to gain access to our products in a timely manner. The relationships we built with those in Andover and Northwood gave us access to further openings, such as taking control of the Army's SnapChat for 48 hours. This gave us the opportunity to assist the team's focus on recruitment into the Army.

We must allow Horse Guards and 'The Army in London' to continue its fantastic recruiting work through social media. This will enable the Association and other stakeholders to be kept informed as to what the Grenadiers are doing through our own social media. Household Division and Army media should continue to give the clear

direction and long-term goals, including closer ties to the Brigades outside of London that Guards battalions are subordinate to in order to spread and share resources.

I firmly believe that our regimental social media team must continue to be manned by soldiers because they know what former, serving and potential Guardsmen want to see and read about on their phones. Whilst this could cause issues with promotion and reporting if not managed carefully, I consider it key to the continued progress of our social media channels. There is also an important secondary safety and security role for the team to educate all of us on the pitfalls and issues that social media can cause.

Despite the share prices of some of the larger social media outlets dropping over the past year or so, there will be replacement platforms and it would foolish not to have the personnel and tools in place to exploit these. It is critically important that we continue to build on the hard work and achievements of LSgt Galvin. As we become more digitally integrated, it will be important to remember that social media will be the key way to communicate with many of our stakeholders.

Finally, I would urge all readers, who are not already doing so, to follow the Regiment on:

Facebook - @thegrenadierguards

Twitter - @GrenadierGds

Instagram - @grenadier.guards

Tiktok - @theguard

Social media – a Cautionary Note

*by Lance Sergeant Shane Galvin,
Household Division & Grenadier Guards
Social Media Manager*

As we move forward into a digital future we have to be vigilant to privacy concerns and the dangers of Social Media. In an age where anything

we say and do can be put online for anyone to see, we open ourselves up to investigative journalism. The British Army and its employees should always try to remain neutral to contentious issues. If personal social media is not secured, remarks about

matters such as Brexit, Elections, and political movements jeopardise the very foundation of military's neutrality. This exploitation of information can be solved by a few clicks to maintain privacy.

These issues are illustrated in a new Armed Forces directive called 'The Digital Playbook', a publication on the use of personal social media by military personnel. This in-depth pamphlet gives soldiers guidelines on the use of personal social media and ways to ensure their information stays private. It is strongly recommended read for anyone thinking of using social media. The key lessons from the playbook that are applicable to all are:

- Nothing posted online or uploaded should be considered private.
- Only post and share something you would happily show someone in person.
- Show respect and pride in you colleagues.

However, even a secure fully private social media page is still open to espionage for the honey pot tactics of the Cold War era have not gone away and it is easy to be hoodwinked by an attractive person offering to 'befriend' you. Care must be given to ensure you know the people who you meet online and ensure that they are genuine, when trying to befriend or join groups.

Likewise, the companies behind these social networks have their own interests. All the information you provide is harvested for online statistics and then stored and sold to the highest bidder. The scale of these operations was revealed by the Cambridge Analytica scandal that occurred in 2018 where millions of user profiles was used without consent. So your online profile is not as free as it may appear, the cost of it being access to your personal information.



The Life and Times of Thomas, Lord Wentworth 1612-1665

By *LSgt Paul Thomas*
Headquarter Company, 1st Battalion Grenadier Guards

*'Ay, spare us not. Say we read lectures to you.
How youngly he began to serve his country,
how long continued, and what stock he
springs from'*

Shakespeare, *Coriolanus*. Act II, Scene 3¹

During the first half of the Eighteenth Century, the exiled Jacobite Court located initially in Paris, and later on in Rome, was able to draw strength from the memory of an earlier Royal Court in exile, namely that of the exiled King Charles II which lasted from his escape following the disastrous Battle of Worcester in 1651 to his restoration following the eventual collapse of the Commonwealth in 1660. However, in spite of later Jacobite romanticization, this Court was relatively small in number and politically far from secure. In 1652 the Royal Household of Charles II only contained 76² people, many of who had varying motives for being there and were often in conflict with each other, which in turn led to a climate of distrust and the pursuit of different personal agendas, which were often not in the interests of the exiled King³. This, combined with the seeming political and military successes of the Cromwellian Commonwealth, arguably meant that the future was far from certain.

However, there were two sources of security on which Charles could rely. Namely financial security,

in the form of an annual pension of 192,000 livres from his cousin King Louis XIV of France⁴, and physical security in the form of a Corps of Gentlemen at Arms. In 1656 in the Flemish City of Bruges, some five years after Charles had arrived on the Continent, a new regiment was raised in order to fight for, as well as protect the exiled Monarch. This new force was initially known as the Royal Regiment of Guards, and was comprised of existing courtiers and loyal volunteers. Amongst those courtiers was a 44 year old soldier and former politician who would become its first Colonel and in turn, give his name to the new Regiment. His name was Thomas Wentworth, the Fifth Baron Wentworth.

Thomas Wentworth was born possibly sometime in January 1612. We cannot be certain of his exact date of birth, however, we do know that he was baptised on the 2nd of February 1612⁵. He was born into a family that held a venerable pedigree of service to the Crown. His great, great grandfather, Thomas, the First Lord Wentworth (1501-1551) was a soldier and courtier. He was a first cousin of Henry VIII's third wife Jane Seymour and was also a grandson of Sir James Tyrell, who is still considered to be one of the prime suspects involved in the disappearance and murder of the Princes in the Tower. Thomas saw action in France in 1523 and in 1529 King Henry VIII created him Baron Wentworth. As both a courtier and a lay jurist, he was present at the trials of both Anne Boleyn and her brother Lord Rochford. Lord Wentworth went on to serve King Edward VI and was created Lord Chamberlain in 1550. His great grandfather, the Second Lord Wentworth (1525-1584, and who was also called Thomas) was a trusted counsellor and confidant of Queen Mary I, who subsequently appointed him to be Governor of Calais, which he surrendered to the French in 1558, and was in turn

1 William Shakespeare, *Coriolanus*. Act II, Scene 3

2 P5 Edward Corp. *A Court in Exile*.

3 P 103 Nicole Greenspan. Charles II, *Exile and the problem of allegiance*.

4 P4 Edward Corp, *A Court in Exile*.

5 This is quite a common occurrence. Before the proper cataloging of Births Marriages and Deaths, the earliest reference regarding a person is the recording of their Baptism. Notable examples of this include William Shakespeare and Guy Fawkes.



Battle of the Dunes.

incarcerated in the Tower of London on his return to England on grounds of treason. His grandfather Henry, the Third Lord Wentworth (1558-1593) was one of the Peers who presided over the trial of Mary Queen of Scots in 1586. His father, the Fourth Lord Wentworth (1591-1667) was already 'on the make' by the time his son was born. He was a confidant of the Duke of Buckingham, and a courtier to King James I, and subsequently King Charles I, who in turn created him the Earl of Cleveland in 1626⁶.

His early years were spent at his father's estate in Toddington in Bedfordshire, which his father had inherited sometime in 1614. Little is known of these formative years, however, we can speculate that he was privately tutored at home, mostly in grammar and Latin. Following his father's elevation to the Earldom of Cleveland, Thomas became known by his father's former title, as the Barony of Wentworth had now become the courtesy title of the Earldom. In 1628, at the age of 16, he went up to Oxford to study for a degree at Trinity College⁷, where Philosophy, Rhetoric and the Liberal Arts were very much on the curriculum. On the completion of his studies, Thomas followed in his family's footsteps and embarked on a career

as a courtier. In the autumn of 1631 he travelled to The Hague in order to take up a position at the court of the recently widowed Elizabeth, Queen of Bohemia⁸, who was the elder sister of King Charles I (and also the mother of Prince Rupert of the Rhine, and the grandmother of King George I).

However, during his sojourn in The Hague, events back home across the North Sea were unfolding which were to change the very nature of Britain. The widely unpopular absolutist policies of Charles I, such as attempting to raise taxation without the consent of Parliament⁹ and his belief in the Divine Right of Kings, had served to alienate many sectors of society, especially English Puritans and Scottish Calvinists. Things came to a head in 1637 when the King's policy of establishing religious uniformity across his three Kingdoms backfired spectacularly. An attempt to impose a version of the Anglican Book of Common Prayer on the largely Calvinist Church of Scotland led to riots in Edinburgh and the establishment of a 'National Covenant' which pledged to uphold the Reformation in Scotland. The following year the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland officially rejected Charles' new prayer book and abolished the positions of Bishops

6 It should also be noted that Lord Wentworth was not directly related to Thomas Wentworth, The Earl of Strafford, who was Charles I's Lord Deputy in Ireland, and who was subsequently impeached by Parliament and executed for treason in May 1641.

7 Wentworth, Thomas (1612-1665). *Dictionary of National Biography* 1885-1900, volume 60.

8 Ibid.

9 In fact, King Charles I had Parliament suspended for eleven years from 1629 to 1640. During this time he effectively ruled by 'divine right', resulting in this period becoming known as the 'Eleven Years Tyranny'.



Henrietta Wentworth.

and replaced them with the Presbyterian method of church governance by elders and deacons. King Charles viewed these developments in Scotland as a personal slight against him, and more importantly, as a rebellion against his Royal authority, which had to be crushed at all costs. Charles began to raise an army to march on Scotland. What became known as the Bishops' Wars, the precursor to the Civil War, had begun.

One of King Charles' commanders on his way to Scotland was Thomas' father, the Earl of Cleveland. Thomas left to join his father in the autumn of 1639, and by the beginning of 1640 he was with his father just outside of the border town of Berwick upon Tweed¹⁰. The Bishops' Wars were an unmitigated humiliation for Charles. The Royalist Army was poorly organised and achieved little other than depleting the national coffers. Charles now had only one recourse to raising funds, namely to recall Parliament. This provided Thomas Wentworth with another opportunity to serve the country, namely entering public life. In the first General Election since 1628, Thomas stood for election

as one of the two Members of Parliament for the County of Bedfordshire and was duly returned.¹¹ Some notable figures that were returned to the House of Commons in 1640 included John Pym, John Hampden, and a then little known barrister and farmer who was returned to represent the City of Cambridge called Oliver Cromwell. This sitting of Parliament would be known to history as 'The Short Parliament' as it only sat for a mere three weeks. Instead of voting to ratify new levels of taxation, as Charles had hoped, the House of Commons decided to table motions that criticized the King and sought to bring legal redress to the King's autocratic rule. Having failed to get his way with Westminster, Charles shut down Parliament. The King's problems were compounded by the humiliating conditions laid down by the Scots as a condition for peace at the Treaty of Ripon that followed his attempted invasion. These conditions included the annexation of both Northumberland and County Durham, and a daily sum of £850 a day to pay for the upkeep of the Scottish forces of occupation.¹² In order to meet these demands, Charles had little alternative other than to reconvene Parliament. New elections were held, and Thomas Wentworth found himself once again re-elected to the House of Commons.

However, Thomas Wentworth's membership of the House of Commons was to be short lived. On the 25th November he was summoned to the House of Lords by means of a writ of acceleration¹³. Meanwhile the country was moving ever closer to Civil War. Following the outbreak of hostilities in 1642 Thomas Wentworth rallied to the Royalist cause. He initially served alongside his father who went on to become a prominent Royalist commander, but it is unknown if he saw action during the opening stages of the War. Wentworth went on to command a force of Cavalry under the command of Lord Wilmot, who dismissed him, and then later served under the command of the

10 Wentworth, Thomas (1612-1665). *Dictionary of National Biography* 1885-1900, volume 60.

11 The MP who was returned alongside Lord Wentworth was Sir Roger Burgoyne, a future Parliamentarian sympathizer. Until 1885 the County of Bedfordshire returned two members of Parliament to Westminster.

12 This would equate to just under £100,000 per day in modern money.

13 This occurred when the eldest son of a Hereditary Peer is enabled to become a Member of The House of Lords by using one of his father's courtesy titles. It was last used in 1992 by the former Prime Minister, Sir John Major, to enable Viscount Cranbourne, the Eldest Son of the Marquis of Salisbury, to sit in the Upper House.

Royalist Commander Lord Goring. In June 1644 he saw action at the Battle of Tipton Green¹⁴, which was a Royalist victory, and also at the Battle of Cropredy Bridge¹⁵, which was technically a stalemate. On the 27th October He took part in the bloody but indecisive Second Battle of Newbury¹⁶. The following year Wentworth was present at the Battle of Langport, which was a decisive victory for the Parliamentarians and resulted in the destruction of the last effective Royalist field army.

Following this defeat, Lord Goring resigned his command and went into exile in France, and later in Spain. As a result of his resignation, the command subsequently passed to Lord Wentworth¹⁷. He began the campaign against the Parliamentarians in earnest in the New Year. On the 9th January 1646, he commanded the Royalist forces at the Battle of Bovey, which was a Royalist defeat, and resulted in him being replaced by Lord Hopton. On the 16th February, Wentworth, now relegated to the post of Commander of the Cavalry, was present at the Battle of Torrington, which was a decisive victory for the Parliamentarians and marked the end of the West Country as a base of Royalist support. It soon became evident that the Royalist position was hopeless, and by the end of May King Charles I had surrendered and was in custody. It was agreed

upon that Charles, Prince of Wales, needed to be evacuated out of the country on the grounds of his own safety. Lord Wentworth, alongside Lord Hopton, accompanied the Prince from Falmouth and sailed firstly to the Isles of Scilly and then on to Jersey and finally on to France where they escorted the Prince all the way to Paris where he was reunited with his mother.

Wentworth would remain in exile with the Prince for the next four years. During this period witnessed a period of monumental change. Due to his attempts in December 1647 to negotiate a treaty with the Scots in order to invade England, combined with a few minor uprisings throughout England in 1648, King Charles I was put on trial for treason, and was subsequently executed in January 1649. Parliament announced that the office of King was henceforth abolished and the country was now a Republic. In spite of this there was still a sizable element of Royalist sympathy throughout the three Kingdoms. When news reached Edinburgh of the King's execution, the Scottish Parliament proclaimed Charles, Prince of Wales, as King Charles II¹⁸ on the 23rd June 1650, with Lord Wentworth (and interesting enough, Wentworth's father the Earl of Cleveland, who had joined the exiled Royal Court) in attendance, King Charles II landed in the North East of Scotland. On arrival the King signed both the National Covenant and the Solemn League and Covenant, which committed him to upholding the Presbyterian Faith, Meanwhile much further to the South, a Scottish army had assembled, alarming close to the English border. To counter this Cromwell moved north to invade Scotland and on the 3rd September he decisively defeated the Scots Army at the Battle of Dunbar. Although Cromwell was able to occupy much of Southern Scotland, however he was unable to prevent Charles being crowned at Scone Palace on the 1st January 1651. He was equally unable to prevent Charles from marching south into England where the King hoped to rally support for his cause in the West Midlands, where the population was



Thomas Lord Wentworth.

14 Wentworth, Thomas (1612-1665). *Dictionary of National Biography* 1885-1900, volume 60.

15 Ibid.

16 Ibid.

17 Ibid.

18 Similar proclamations were made in Ireland and also in the Channel Islands.

still deemed to be sympathetic to his cause.

Charles, with Thomas Wentworth in attendance, landed on the coast of Normandy in the October of 1651, and made their way back to Paris. From this date on, until the Restoration, and indeed, for the rest of his life, Thomas Wentworth would be a trusted member of the exiled King's inner circle. Charles appointed him as a member of the Privy Council, and also appointed him as his Master of Ceremonies. In 1653 Charles appointed Wentworth to lead a diplomatic mission, on behalf of the exiled Monarch, to initially the German City of Cologne (where Charles was to reside until 1656), and then onwards to the Royal Court of Denmark. However, while Wentworth was fulfilling his duties as a diplomat, events both back in England and on the Continent were unfolding which were to have a direct impact on both the exiled King and his loyal servant. In 1654 The Commonwealth, now feeling politically secure, made treaties with both The Dutch Republic and the Kingdom of France, offering peace in return for political recognition. In 1655, a further treaty was signed which served to consolidated relations between France and the Commonwealth. This only served to draw the exiled Charles towards the one last European nation that was sympathetic towards his plight, the Kingdom of Spain.

1656 was a momentous year for both the exiled Charles and Thomas Wentworth. The exiled Court had found refuge in City of Bruges in the Spanish Netherlands¹⁹. On the 2nd April, representatives of both Charles, and also of King Philip IV of Spain, signed what became known as The Treaty of Brussels. This treaty promised Spanish naval and military support for any potential restoration of the Exiled King, in return for Charles to provide an army to fight with Spain in their ongoing war against the French. The Spanish also agreed to provide necessary financial support that would be needed to raise such a force. However, the Spanish failed to provide the full amount, and subsequently there was only enough money to equip five regiments of Infantry. One of these Regiments was comprised of the King's most loyal supporters,

and included volunteers from the Honourable Artillery Company of the City of London. It was approximately 400 strong and was known as called The Royal Regiment of Guards, and would be under the command of Lord Wentworth. Two years later the Regiment would see action for the first time on the 14th June at the Battle of the Dunes, fighting alongside the Spanish against a joint French and British Commonwealth army. The Spanish were defeated, however, Wentworth's Regiment held their ground, and eventually were able to retreat in good order.

1658 also saw another development in the life of Thomas Wentworth. It was the year in which he married Philadelphia Carey. She was the granddaughter of the eminent Elizabethan soldier and politician Sir Edmund Carey (1558-1637), who was the great nephew of Anne Boleyn and therefore a cousin of Queen Elizabeth I. In August 1660 Philadelphia gave birth to their only child, a daughter called Henrietta Maria, named after the Dowager Queen. 1660 was also the year of the Restoration. A grateful King reward Wentworth by appointing him his 'Gentleman of the Chamber', one the most important positions within the Court. Also in August 1660 the King confirmed the establishment of the Royal Regiment of Guards, with Wentworth as its Colonel. Wentworth remained at Court until his death on the 28th February 1665. After his death Wentworth's Regiment was amalgamated with Colonel John Russell's Regiment of Guards to become the First Regiment of Foot Guards. His Father the Earl died two years later. The young Henrietta, who was her grandfather's heiress, was able to inherit the Wentworth Barony (but not the Earldom of Cleveland) in her own right. She became the mistress of Charles II's illegitimate son the Duke of Monmouth, and followed him into exile in the Netherlands when Monmouth was implicated in the Rye House Plot in 1683. She also help to finance Monthmouth's attempted rebellion in 1685 by selling off most of her jewellery. Henrietta returned to England after Monmouth's execution and died on the 23rd of April 1686, aged just 25.

19 The Spanish Netherlands were the Hapsburg Territories that covered most of modern day Belgium, and also parts of France, The Netherlands and Germany.

Our First Colonel – Henry Lord Wilmot, The Earl of Rochester

*By Major Paul Cordle
formerly Grenadier Guards*

There are today many retired and serving Grenadiers who, in 36 years time, will have the privilege of celebrating the Regiment's 400th anniversary. Whoever is appointed to run the celebrations will be well served by referring to the records of the 300th Anniversary organised by the then Regiment Adjutant, Major David Fraser, later General Sir David Fraser, and to the catalogue of a substantial exhibition which displayed many artefacts belonging to the Regiment, Grenadier families and to HM The Queen. Those who remember the anniversary speak highly of it.

Yet, unapologetically, the author of this piece, having himself been Regimental Adjutant in the mid-70s, asks if the Regiment knew exactly 'what and who' they were celebrating; evidence shows that historians and former Grenadiers interpreted

historical sources differently. To say that Sir Frederick Hamilton's acclaimed Regimental History is wrong would be going too far but it is known to contain errors and omissions in its account of the Regiment's early years. Since publication in 1874, it has given rise to confusion as to who was the First Colonel of the Regiment; a recent example of this is found in two publications both titled 'The Grenadier Guards' and both written by Grenadier Generals during the 1970s.; in 1974 Major General Rex Whitworth credited Lord Wilmot with the honour while General Sir David Fraser in 1978 gave the credit, as did Hamilton, to Lord Wentworth. Who was right?

The issue is if we claim the Regiment was raised in 1656, we have to rewrite our history and recognize Henry, Lord Wilmot, created the Earl of Rochester in 1652, as our first Colonel. This article examines this claim. Those who believe Lord Wentworth to have been the first Colonel are, in effect, denying that the regiment was raised in 1656 and should accept that it was not formally established until 1657 or more likely 1658. The latter is the year in which Lord Wentworth is thought to have taken command and also the year in which the King's



Dr William Juxon, Bishop of London, holds King Charles I's badge of the Order of Garter as the King is executed on 30th January 1649.



Henry, Lord Wilmot, the King's constant companion during his escape after the Battle of Worcester. Later created Earl of Rochester and appointed the first Colonel of the Regiment.

mounted Life Guard was established as the regiment known today as The Life Guards. We cannot have it both ways; it is either 1656 and Wilmot or 1658 and Wentworth. The author stands for the former; readers will form their own view.

Following his father's execution by Parliament in 1649, King Charles II, aged 21 and in exile on the Continent, was determined to regain his rightful throne.

Against advice he sailed to Scotland, was crowned King of Scotland on 1st January 1651 and, again against advice, decided to march into England at the head of a Scottish Army; this ended with his defeat at the Battle of Worcester and his dramatic escape. Fleeing North from the city, he was accompanied by a mounted party of about 60 several of whom were later to become officers in the Regiment – notable amongst them Lord Wilmot, Lord Wentworth and Colonel Thomas Blague.

It was in the early hours of 4th September, the morning after the battle and 30 miles north of Worcester in the Forest of Brewood, that the exhausted King dismissed all but two of his 60 mounted companions and chose Lord Wilmot, with his servant Swan, to stay with him. As the King changed his fine clothing for that of a humble woodsman he gave Colonel Thomas Blague his Lesser George (badge of the Order of the Garter) and distributed his gold amongst others before sending them off to fend for themselves. Colonel Blague, after many adventures, returned the 'George' to the King in exile; he was commissioned into the Regiment and held temporary command of it as we shall see.

Wilmot was to be the King's only constant companion and guide, one could say 'his fixer', either accompanying him or travelling ahead networking with loyal Royalists and planning the

next stage of their hair-raising escape across eight counties to the South Coast, across the English Channel to France and freedom. Throughout those tortuous weeks the King was at his best and proved himself to be resilient under continuous pressure, physically strong and mentally tough. That he was amenable to plans made by others and lucky is well known, that he was personally cool and clear thinking, courageous, courteous to those helping him and aware of the risks others were taking on his behalf is less well known. Today we can be as proud of him as our first Colonel-in-Chief* as we can also be of Lord Wilmot who shared all the King's dangers; for both of them it was a matter of escape or die. A reward of £1000, a huge sum at the time, had been put on the King's head and his execution would have been inevitable if caught; imprisonment and execution waited for anyone found helping him. By staying with King, Wilmot was committing an act of suicidal loyalty; sadly he



Colonel Thomas Blague. After the Battle of Worcester King Charles II gave Blague his badge of the Order of the Garter for safe keeping. Blague escaped to France and returned the badge to the King in exile. On Wilmot's illness in October 1657 he took temporary operational command of the Regiment before Lord Wentworth took over as second Colonel of the Regiment.



King Charles II in his coronation robes. At the Restoration the King returned to London on his birthday, 29th May 1660 and was crowned a year later on 29th May 1661. He founded the Royal Hospital Chelsea where 29th May is celebrated as Founder's Day; the date used to be observed throughout the country as 'Oak Apple Day'.

died in 1658, before the Restoration, and thus was unable to speak of this time and defend his service as Colonel.

Space does not allow for family details, suffice to say that Wilmot, aged 39 and 18 years older than the King, had been a successful cavalry commander as Lieutenant General of Horse in the Army of King Charles I during the first and second Civil Wars. Battle hardened, experienced and courageous, probably to the point of recklessness, twice wounded in battle and once in a duel, he stood side by side with any senior commander of the day. A big, jovial and popular man he was widely known in the Army as a great leader; he was also known for not always the best of reasons; he took rash decisions which often centred on his liking for comfort, good

food and wine. The King's chief adviser in exile, Lord Clarendon, waspishly described him thus 'He was a man proud and ambitious, and incapable of being contented; an orderly officer in marches and governing his troops. He drank hard, and had a great power over all who did so which was a great people'. More wittily Clarendon also wrote that he was 'a mixture of courage, enterprise and boozy affability'. Historian Richard Ollard describes the questionable aspects of Wilmot's character '... that the King's preservation can only be explained on the hypothesis of divine intervention. He was stupid, he was careless, he was forgetful, he was indiscreet'. Others, perhaps enviously, suggested that the King got away in spite of Wilmot; the King however trusted him as the right man to have in his dire predicament.

Now in disguise dressed in dirty working clothes provided by the redoubtable Penderell family, local recusant Roman Catholic tenants of the Giffards, we see a destitute and all but helpless King, deprived of status and power, dependent on strangers and on chance. Yet he had chosen Wilmot well; he served the King unwaveringly until they silently clambered aboard the coaling brig 'Surprise' on the Sussex Coast near Shoreham in the early hours of 15th October.

In exile the King and his small impoverished court moved between France, parts of Germany and the Low Countries; derided as an exiled monarch, often referred to as 'Charles Lackland', he had no ships nor Army with which to return to England and worse still he had no money. This was to change dramatically in 1656 when Parliament sided with the French by signing the Treaty of Paris in 1656; besides other arrangements, Cromwell agreed to send 6,000 men of the New Model Army to strengthen the French Army opposing Spain and her continental allies in the Low Countries. This dramatic shift in foreign policy enabled the King to make an alliance with Spain; the Treaty of Brussels was signed on his behalf on 2nd April 1656 by Lord Ormond and Lord Wilmot (he had been created the Earl of Rochester by the King four years earlier in 1652). By the treaty, Spain would give the King £20,000 (a huge sum in those days) to raise a small army, initially of four and later of six regiments, and the 'promise' to provide ships to



Inkerman Company Camp Colour (pre- 1952) depicting King Charles II hiding in the oak tree at Boscobel in the Forest of Brewood, Shropshire. A descendant oak tree still grows at the same spot. The King was accompanied in the tree by Colonel William Carless who was given the command of a company in the Regiment in 1656.

carry the King's Army to England if and when the time was right. The deal was that the King's Army would meanwhile join the Spanish order of battle against the French in the Low Countries.

With the news of the Treaty, exiled Royalists, living on the Continent and in Scandinavia, and many veterans (mostly officers) from England started to arrive in Bruges intent on enlisting in the King's Army; their reasons varied between loyalty to the monarchy and money. It was now that men began enlisting in what we consider to have been the Regiment, they continued to join over several months and, unexciting though it may sound, it is likely that the Regiment mustered no more than 400 men until it was eventually ordered to England after the Restoration. Small though it was, it was the King's own regiment and thus the appointment of its Colonel was of great significance and would have been kept for the King's closest, most trusted and deserving friend. Thus, with his proven duty to his Sovereign and impressive experience as a commander, Lord Wilmot (the Earl of Rochester) was appointed Colonel. This is verified by Hamilton

'October 1656 - 'King Charles had, by permission raised three regiments, one English under Lord Wilmot (subsequently Earl of Rochester) and which was shortly afterwards, as will be seen, given to Lord Wentworth'. Military historian John Barratt endorses this 'the first (regiment) to be raised seems to have been the Kings' Regiment of Foot, under the colonelcy of that vastly experienced Royalist veteran, Henry Wilmot, Earl of Rochester, with Sir William Throgmorton as Lieutenant Colonel'. Unhelpfully Hamilton, a few paragraphs later and out of date order, creates the lack of clarity which this piece is intended to expose, he records for 'September - He (the King) gave the command of it to Lord Wentworth, and appointed Sir William Throckmorton its Lieutenant Colonel'.

We are left to wonder why Hamilton appeared to think that Wilmot/Rochester had been removed from command in 1656, so soon after being given it only a few months earlier. Or had he derailed himself over dates or misread his notes? Instead of 1656 he should have written 1657 which would have been correct in view of several undeniable facts amongst which are :-

- i. Hamilton himself records that Wilmot was still playing an active role in affairs during 1657, for March that year 'Lord Wilmot was despatched to Middleburg to purchase 1000 muskets and other weapons'.
- ii. Clarendon records that one of Cromwell's spies had reported that Wilmot was still in command on 17th June 1657.
- iii. Wilmot fell ill at some point during 1657, Clarendon records for '27th October 1657 - (there is) no confidence in Wilmot's recovery'.
- iv. Barratt states 'Wilmot died in February 1658 and command was then exercised by another experienced veteran of the First Civil War, Lieutenant Colonel Thomas Blague. The unit formed the nucleus of the King's Regiment of Guards, formed in about November 1657....'

Some readers may now be confronted by the possibility that the regiment commanded by Wilmot is not our antecedent regiment; this confusion is understandable and in part caused by Clarendon who made two similar statements which are, as

highlighted by acclaimed historian Sir Charles Firth in 1902, on examination quite different; the first 'Rochester's (*English*) regiment was one of the first regiments raised' which is correct although they may not have been called Guards, the other statement, 'the Guards were one of the original regiments' is confusing. This may lead one to imagine a real possibility that another regiment was raised as also suggested by a report, based on Royalist gossip in Bruges, from a Parliamentary spy on 20th April 1657 (*note the date*) which says 'They are very high in discourse about raising some other regiments, especially one of horse, and another of foot, which they say shall be as guards to their titular King. The Lord Wentworth feeds himself with hopes of commanding the foot, and the Lord Gerard the horse, when they can get them; for very few English come near them, and those fugitives of England which are abroad have not many of them appeared here, as seen by the Lord Wilmot's regiment which consists all of English, yet make not above 300 men, being quartered at Leerce, he hath Sir William Trogmorton for his Lieutenant Colonel'. The spy's report throws critical light on the overarching confusion about Wilmot and Wentworth, it is perhaps the key to understanding what actually happened. The weight of evidence shows that we should accept Clarendon's 'The King is resolved to raise one regiment of Guards, the command of whereof he gave to the Lord Wentworth', Firth's 'Clarendon's correspondence shows that the Guards were not established till October or November 1657' and Barratt's 'the unit (Wilmot's) formed the nucleus of the King's Regiment of Guards, formed in about November 1657....'.

We must not be confused by the various titles given to the Regiment by different historians, the author has noted seven, they do not change the fact that the English regiment commanded by Wilmot, and later Blague, came under command of Lord Wentworth and became known as the First Guards¹.

Firth reinforces much of the above, whilst not mentioning 1656, and agrees with other sources about Blague taking over, he writes 'one of the

first regiments to be formed was that known as the King's Own Regiment, which was first commanded by Henry Wilmot, Earl of Rochester, with Sir William Throckmorton as his Lieutenant Colonel. Rochester fell ill in October 1657 and died in the following February. His regiment seems to have formed the nucleus of that known as the King's Guards which was established about November 1657 under the command of Colonel Blague'.

These accounts suggest that there were three distinct stages in the formation of the Regiment which was eventually summoned to England by the Restored King.

- i. Soon after the signing of the Treaty of Brussels the King was attracted by the idea of having his own English regiment (probably not called Guards), the Colonelcy of which he had no hesitation in giving to Wilmot.
- ii. Colonel Thomas Blague took temporary command on Wilmot's illness in October/November 1657. He was not sufficiently senior to be appointed Colonel and Wentworth was probably by then under consideration for the Colonelcy.
- iii. With the approach of 1658, and probably during Colonel Blague's temporary command, there appears to have been a shake-up leading to the men of Wilmot's regiment being moved to create the nucleus of an enlarged regiment under Lord Wentworth which was to be called 'Guards'.

This piece is a summary of a longer paper which provides reference to sources and is available to Grenadiers if they wish to be in touch with the author. Whilst not taking anything away from the Regiment's history and proud heritage, he hopes that the paper will encourage the Regiment to put the Earl of Rochester (Lord Wilmot) back in his rightful place as our first Colonel, Colonel that is of a body of men, whatever its name, which has given continuous service to the Sovereign since 1656. Much remains to be clarified, hopefully by another Grenadier, so that the Regiment's early history will be better understood by its 400th anniversary.

1 Wilmot died in Sluys on 19th February 1658. His body was buried in Bruges and later exhumed and re-interred at Spelsbury in Oxfordshire. Curiously Hamilton makes no mention of Wilmot's death.

The Comondale Shepherds War Memorial

by Major Philip Wright OBE
formerly Grenadier Guards

The aftermath of the First World War saw the biggest single wave of public commemoration with tens of thousands of memorials erected across England. This was the result of both the huge impact on communities of the loss of threequarters of a million British lives, and also the official policy of not repatriating the dead: therefore, the memorials provided the main focus of the grief felt at this great loss.

The Comondale Shepherds War Memorial is one such memorial raised on Comondale Moor in North Yorkshire as a permanent testament to the sacrifice of two young shepherds who lost their lives in the First World War. Robert Leggott and Alfred Cockerill were boyhood friends and shepherds working on the Gisborough Estate and the place on the moorland above the village of Comondale where their memorial stands was reputedly their favourite spot. They went to London together to join the Grenadier Guards and their regimental numbers are only two digits apart. After training at Caterham and in the Reserve Battalion both were transferred to 4th Battalion, which sailed for France on 15th August 1915.

Alfred Cockerill, aged 26, was wounded in the head



Robert Henry Leggott.

in July 1916 when the Battalion was holding trenches near Ypres. There were attacks on both sides of their position resulting in close quarter fighting and shelling and also sniper activity. Returned to Britain, he was declared unfit for any further duty. Now an epileptic. He was sent to the Chalfont Colony, Chalfont St Peter



Shepherds War Memorial.

Photograph © Copyright Christopher Hall

(Bucks), which had been opened in 1894 by the National Society for the Employment of Epileptics. He died there on 11th August 1920 of epilepsy and meningitis.

Robert Henry Leggott, who was 17, lied about his age in order to enlist. By now a Lance Corporal, he was killed on 25th September 1916 on the Somme in the assault on the German lines in front of Lesboeufs village. His Battalion suffered 452 casualties in this attack, approximately half its strength. Leggott was aged 19, his body was never found and his name is on the Thiepval Memorial to the missing. Both men are also remembered on the Comondale village war memorial.

The memorial stone on Comondale Moor was commissioned by the Hon Margaret Chalenor, the daughter of Lord Gisborough whose estate included most moorland farms around the village of Comondale. It was erected shortly after Cockerill's death in 1920; his ashes are thought to have been scattered nearby. Standing on open moorland, the memorial comprises a narrow gritstone pillar with at the top a Grenade carved in relief in a small panel. A panel on the centre of the pillar's face carries the inscription FOR REMEMBRANCE. GUARDSMEN ROBBIE LEGGOTT KILLED IN ACTION 1916. ALF COCKERILL DIED OF WOUNDS 1920. LEST WE FORGET.

A Birley Triptych of Grenadier Clives

*by Captain Alan Ogden,
formerly Grenadier Guards*

The Clive family have been distinguished Grenadiers since the late 18th century. Edward Bolton Clive transferred to the Regiment from the Horse Grenadiers in 1788; his eldest son, Colonel Edward Clive, fought with 2nd Battalion at Waterloo and later in Canada before becoming Regimental Lieutenant Colonel in 1844; his grandson, General Edward Clive, transferred from the Rifle Brigade and served in the Crimea and became Lieutenant Colonel in 1880; his eldest son, Lieutenant General Sir Sidney Clive, served in the Sudan, South Africa and on the Western Front and his younger son, Lieutenant Henry Clive, was invalidated out in 1915; Sidney's son, Brigadier Archer Clive, commanded the 6th

Bn in North Africa and Italy. Archer's brother, Major Edward Buxton Clive, although initially commissioned into the Grenadiers, spent part of the war with the irregulars and was later in intelligence.

Other Clive 'Grenadiers' including Sidney's second cousin – Lt Col Percy Archer Clive who was killed in action in April 1918 when commanding the Lancashire Fusiliers and his son, Major Meysey Clive, who was killed in action with the 5th battalion in North Africa in 1943.

Sidney's younger brother, as well as various of his wife's relations, had been contemporaries of Oswald Birley at Harrow – which may be how they knew the aspiring young artist and why they commissioned him in 1911 to paint Edward Henry and Sidney. Birley went on to become one of England's most fashionable society painters and it was apposite that his last painting for the family was that of Archer in 1944, followed not long after by his famous picture of FM Earl Alexander.



From Left to Right: Edward Henry, Sidney, Archer.

The medals of Major General Sir Charles Corkran, KCVO, CB, CMG

by Major Philip Wright OBE
formerly Grenadier Guards



Sir Charles Corkran.

Regiments take pride in displaying the medals of their distinguished forebears and recently a notable collection was presented to Regimental Headquarters Grenadier Guards. These are the Orders, Decorations and Medals of Major General Sir Charles Corkran, KCVO, CB, CMG together with the medals of his

brother, Second Lieutenant Richard Corkran, who was killed on 11th June 1915 serving with 2nd Battalion. They have been presented on permanent loan at the request of his descendants, Colonel and Mrs Richard Corkran.

Charles Corkran was born on 29th August 1872, the son of Colonel Charles Corkran, Commanding Officer 1st Battalion Grenadier Guards. He was educated at Eton, where he rowed in the Eight, and at Sandhurst was commissioned into the Grenadier Guards in 1893. He went with 1st Battalion on the Nile Expeditionary Force to Khartoum and was present at the Battle of Omdurman in September 1898. He was awarded the Queen's Sudan Medal and the Khedive's Sudan Medal.

He was promoted to captain in November 1899, and the following year left with 2nd Battalion for

South Africa to serve as adjutant throughout the Second Boer War. He was mentioned in despatches and was wounded in the thigh at the Battle of Biddlesberg on 29th May 1900. For his service in the war he received a brevet promotion as major in June 1902, and was awarded the Queen's South African Medal with three clasps and the King's medal with two clasps. In 1904 he married Winifred Ricardo, daughter of Colonel Horace Ricardo, also a commanding officer in the Regiment. They had one daughter and two sons.

He served in the First World War and was Commanding Officer 1st Battalion at Festubert and was wounded at Givenchy. He was promoted to Brigadier General and commanded 5 Infantry Brigade and then 3 Guards Brigade in 1916 at the Battle of the Somme. The next year he went as head of a military mission to the Serbian Army where he proved his worth as a diplomat and was awarded the Serbian Gold Medal for Valour. On return from the Balkans he commanded 173rd Brigade in the final advance on the Western Front. In addition to being mentioned in despatches six times, he was awarded the 1914-1915 Star, British War Medal and Victory Medal. He was appointed Companion of the Order of St Michael and St George in 1915 and Companion of the Order of the Bath in 1919.

After the war he Commanded the Regiment and



The Orders, Decorations and Medals.

then went on to be Commandant of the Senior Officers' School followed by Commandant of the Royal Military College Sandhurst from 1923 to 1927. The following year he was appointed Major General Commanding the Brigade of Guards and General Officer Commanding London District at Horse Guards where he was as popular as he was efficient. He was made a Knight Commander of the Royal Victorian Order in 1932 and retired that year.

In retirement he became Serjeant at Arms of the House of Lords. He died aged 66 as a result of a shooting accident on 9th January 1939, when out shooting pigeons alone, he slipped and fell off a single plank bridge. His medals at Regimental Headquarters help tell the story of his illustrious career in war and peace and the Trustees of the Regiment are most grateful to his descendants for making this possible.



Captain Charles Corkran in South Africa.

A Grenadier Colonel in the Ottoman Gendamerie

by Captain Alan Ogden
formerly Grenadier Guards
and Sgt 'Rodders' Haughton

Frank Kidston Esq has generously donated to the Regiment a folio of family letters written from South Africa in 1900 by his maternal great-uncle, Lionel Bonham. The son of Sir George Francis Bonham, 2nd Bt., and Louisa Buchanan, Lionel was born in August 1873. He was commissioned Second Lieutenant Grenadier Guards in March 1892. Two years after promotion to Lieutenant, in 1898 he married Amy Gaskell, a pre-Raphaelite beauty whose father Captain Henry Gaskell lived at Kiddington Hall near Woodstock. Her mother May Gaskell resided at 3 Marble Arch and had a close relationship with the artist Edward Burne-Jones.

In her book *A Profound Secret*, Josceline Dimbleby describes Lionel as having 'fresh faced good looks and the perfect figure for a guardsman: tall, slim and erect. He looked immaculate in his uniform. When I showed a photograph of Lionel in his casual clothes - a straw boater and flannel trousers - to the oldest living member of his family, Sir Anthony Bonham, he said, 'How debonair,' which was exactly the right description. His wavy fair hair, blue eyes and rosy skin were unmistakably English... There is hardly a photograph of Lionel without a cigar between his rather full lips. But he was not a Philistine; he was a sensitive man who loved reading, and May was later to remark that he wrote some of the best letters of anyone she knew, which, considering her other correspondents, and her own talent for writing, was high praise indeed.'

In 1900, by now a Captain, Lionel went with the 2nd Battalion to South Africa as a half-company commander (No.5) where he was wounded by a Boer bullet during the Battle of Biddulphsberg on 25th May. The Grenadiers lost 148 men that day, including 50 killed or died of wounds, more than in any other battle during the entire war. He writes from hospital in Senekal about the incident in a long letter (dated 9th June) to Amy and, judging by his description, he was lucky to have emerged alive



From Left to Right: Lt Bonham, Amy Gaskell , Letter Folio, Maj Bonham, Macedonian Gendarmerie.

from the ferocious firefight and the bush fires that simultaneously engulfed the battlefield.

Lionel was invalided home, and after a period of leave returned to South Africa in August 1901. Amy followed him out, travelling with Burne-Jones's nephew Rudyard Kipling and his family, and briefly stayed with them at their residence in Cape Town where she managed to see her husband on the odd occasion. On the conclusion of hostilities, she returned to England in the summer of 1902, followed by Lionel that autumn. In April 1904, he was appointed acting Major and Second in Command of the School of Instruction for the Macedonian Gendarmerie, Salonika¹.

To protect Christians living in the Macedonian



Staff officer British Section Ottoman Gendarmerie, Drama 1908.

area of the Ottoman Empire and to counter the activities of the terrorist Internal Macedonian Revolutionary Organization which threatened to destabilize the entire region, Russia and Austria-Hungary had signed the Mürzsteg Agreement in 1903 which divided Ottoman-ruled Macedonia into sectors with each Great Power appointing an advisor to the Ottoman official in charge of reforming the gendarmerie in each province². In the next three years, over 3,000 recruits passed through the British-run School of Instruction.

After three years in Salonika, Lionel was made up to temporary Lieutenant-Colonel Grenadier Guards and posted as British Staff Officer to the Ottoman Gendarmerie in Drama in August 1907. He was promoted to Major the following year and then employed as a Colonel to reorganize the Ottoman Gendarmerie Force in Smyrna (modern day Izmir). Amy had understandably not accompanied her husband to Salonika or Smyrna and soon began travelling on her own, first to the continent and then to Ceylon, Japan, China and Hong Kong.

In January 1910, Lionel contracted typhoid fever and was moved from Smyrna to the British Seaman's Hospital in Constantinople where he died on 23rd January 1910, aged 36. Although there was talk of nefarious causes, no evidence ever came to light. His body in a lead coffin was taken by sea

1 OC Lt Col Gore Ashley, instructors Capt Stanley Clarke, Capt Smyly, Capt Hamilton (Hansard 8 June 1904).

2 Austria-Hungary appointed an advisor to the sanjak of Üsküp, Russia to the sanjak of Thessaloniki, France to the sanjak of Siroz and Britain to the sanjak of Drama.

back to England and buried in the churchyard of St. Nicholas's at Cranleigh, near his father's estate.

Amy had been travelling back via Ceylon when she received the news and arrived in England some three weeks after his death. Three days later she was found dead in Holdsworth Manor, the Bonham family house that she had shared with Lionel. Her

death was recorded as 'heart failure', and it is possible that she died of a broken heart although others have cited an overdose of laudanum, a tincture of opium, saffron, cinnamon and alcohol popular with artists of the time. Whatever the cause of her sudden death, the two of them lie at peace, buried side by side in St. Nicholas's Churchyard.



With the Gendarmes in Smyrna.

A Cruel Twist of Fate

by Captain Alan Ogden,
formerly Grenadier Guards

In late October 1915, the steam ship SS *Anglia* which had been refitted for use as a hospital ship, sailed from Dover to Boulogne on what to all appearances was a routine voyage. In fact, she had been made ready to pick up a VIP patient in Boulogne. It was none other than King George V who while inspecting troops near Bethune had been

thrown from his horse which then rolled on him. Severely bruised and suffering from a fractured pelvis, he was rushed by car to the channel port and evacuated back to England.

Some two weeks later, on the morning of 17th November, *Anglia* again sailed from Boulogne heading for Dover, this time with a manifest of wounded soldiers. Taking the route reserved solely for hospital ships marked by special buoys, her skipper Captain Manning was expecting a smooth crossing for the 13 officers and 372 other ranks on board. Two Grenadiers, L/Cpl Harry Fletcher (4th



SS Anglia 1905.

Bn) and Pte William Bird (1st Bn), were among the 166 'cot cases' accommodated on beds or stretchers.

Just after midday, about a mile east of the Folkestone Gate, *Anglia* struck a mine laid by UC-5, a German minelaying submarine. The ship was holed on the forward port side and immediately began to list heavily. The bridge had been blown to pieces and Manning thrown from the bridge to the deck below by the force of the explosion. He managed to pick himself up and went straight to the wireless room to send an SOS only to find the operator injured and the equipment wrecked.

All now depended on the *Anglia's* escort, the destroyer HMS *Ure*, and other vessels in the vicinity. The *Anglia* had begun to settle so quickly that two of its hospital wards were flooded almost immediately; other wards soon became awash and crew, nurses and the less badly wounded patients attempted to get the more serious cases to safety. Due to the severity of the angle of the list only one lifeboat could be lowered – this was on the port side and took no more than 50 people.

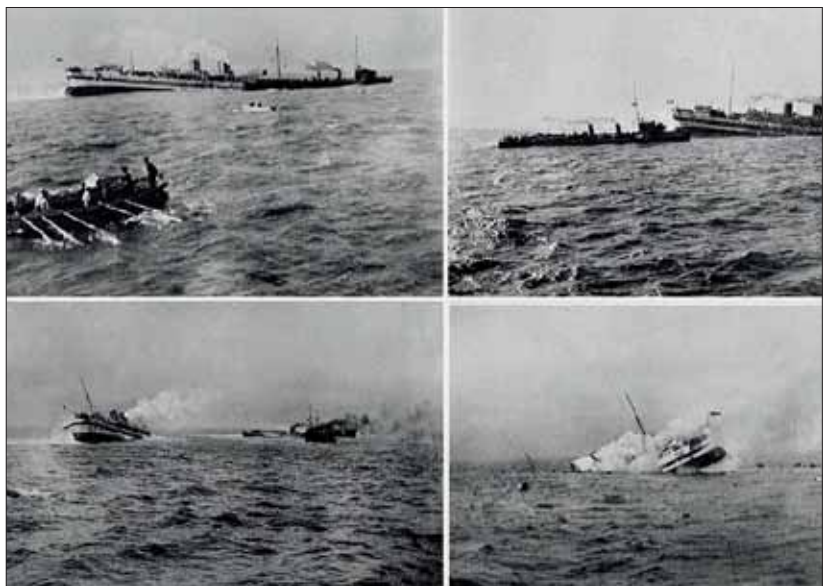
The *Ure* drew close to take off as many as she could, transferring them to a nearby collier, the SS *Lusitania*, and to HMS *Hazard*, a torpedo-gunboat that had been converted into a submarine depot ship. By now the *Anglia's* stern had risen so high that her propellers

were uncovered, still rotating. Despite this, the escort boats pulled in under the *Anglia's* stern and allowed some 40 men to jump into them. As the *Anglia's* dipped further, the *Ure's* captain placed his destroyer across the sunken bows and managed to get yet more survivors away.

The *Anglia* finally went down some twenty minutes after the explosion, and settled on the shallow seabed, her masts still visible on the surface. The *Lusitania* had just drawn alongside her when she too touched off a mine. As she settled and rolled over, her lifeboats managed to get her crew off. By now other ships had arrived on the scene and the survivors were quickly transferred to them.

Despite the closeness to shore and the speed that the rescue vessels managed to reach the scene, some 164 people are thought to have died. One of the survivors, Pte Edwards, later wrote: 'It was a terrible experience. There was no panic on board, but the cries of the bed patients below were terrible. Those within reach were saved. The matron was very brave indeed, trying to calm those who could not swim, and she refused to leave the ship until almost the last. Many of the patients jumped overboard and were drowned.'

Neither Fletcher nor Bird survived, and their names are commemorated on the Hollybrook Memorial in Southampton CWGC cemetery.



The destruction of SS Anglia.

GRENADIERS 'AT LARGE'

'May you never die a Yeoman Warder'

by *Yeoman Warder Kevin Kitcher*

Halt...Who comes there? At 2153 daily a Ceremony takes place at the Tower of London as you all very well know, the earliest records for the Ceremony of the Keys date back to 15th July 1336 when Edward III orders at court the Tower be secured from the setting of the sun to the rising of the same. Legend tells us that the King made his way to the Tower by Royal Barge on the River Thames by dead of night, when he made his way in to the Tower all gates and doors were open and no sentries were posted. The King's Armourer John of London was given the King's Keys for the Tower and a military Escort to make sure the Tower was locked up at last light and opened at first light making the Tower proof against hostiles or intrigue.

In 1485 King Richard III was slain and King Henry VII won his crown on the battlefield at Bosworth Field. As was the custom the night before a coronation, the future monarch would bathe at the top of the White Tower to make himself pure for the Coronation; he would only have his most loyal Knights in attendance to protect him whilst he bathed, which is how the Order of the Bath came to be. When the King left the Tower, he needed to have his loyal men waiting and guarding the castle for him. This is how the Yeoman Warders first



Grenadiers of the Royal Household at Windsor for the Diamond Jubilee parade including three from the Tower on day release!

came to be, many of the first Warders being retired members of the sovereign's court including Yeoman of the Guard.

In 1826 the Iron Duke, the Victor of Waterloo, Duke of Wellington became the Constable of the Tower until his death in 1852, during that time he also held office twice as the Prime Minister and also Secretary of State for War. He was unhappy with the system of changeover between Warders and ordered that from that day forward only meritorious and discharged Sergeants from the Army could be Warders at the Tower.

The first Warder from the Army was Serjeant Major John May, Grenadier Guards, who had served in the 3rd Battalion at Waterloo. He became a Yeoman Warder in 1827, and was followed shortly afterwards by Corporal Joseph Jackson, Grenadier Guards, in 1830-1841. Only weeks before being appointed a Warder at the Tower, Private Jackson was on sentry duty at Downing Street when an angry mob marched down Whitehall. Quite alone, with rifle and bayonet, he stopped and turned the angry mob away, saving the day. His reward was promotion, discharge and appointment within weeks as a Yeoman Warder and the only Corporal appointed since 1826 to the position.

In 1916 Sergeant Major Daniel Fear, Grenadier Guards, a veteran of many famous Grenadier campaigns of the late 19th and early 20th Centuries joined the Tower albeit briefly as he was recalled to service and found himself a Captain in the Royal Flying Corps as a Training Officer. He came back to the Tower, finally leaving in 1926. His son Ray joined the Regiment and served in the 4th Battalion in WW2. Ray wrote a book called 'Pawnshop Dick'... read it, you will enjoy it.

In 1964 Regimental Sergeant Major George Armstrong DCM, Grenadier Guards, joined the Tower. He won his DCM fighting alongside Viscount De Lisle when he won the VC at Anzio. Between them, they saved the beachhead from being breached by overwhelming enemy numbers. Armstrong was quite a shot and his fine display of medals not only included his DCM but also the

King's and the Queen's medals awarded at Bisley for the Army's champion shot.

Let's rewind and go back to the Duke of Wellington. He didn't like the system of changeovers between Yeoman Warders because at the time to become a Warder you had to be over 5'8" tall, loyal to the Sovereign and have 250 Guineas to pay the Warder you were taking over from, the money being his retirement fund. If you died in post, the Constable would sell the Wardership and keep the 250 Guineas for himself, so when Yeoman Warders even to this very day are sworn in outside the

Queen's House, the first port of call after this is the Yeoman Warder's Club where a toast is then made to the newly sworn in Yeoman Warder - 'May you never die a Yeoman Warder'.

These are just a few of the stories from the Tower and I could go on all day long. If you are a Warrant Officer leaving the Regiment on completion of 22 years and hold an LSGC or have left and are in civilian employment and you are looking for a change, then keep an eye out on Historic Royal Palaces Website for the positions as they are advertised. The rest will then be history.

The Queen's Body Guard of the Yeomen of the Guard

by Messenger Sergeant Major Chris Savage

The Body Guard is the most ancient Royal Guard and Military Corps in the world. Henry Tudor, Earl of Richmond, was attended by a band of followers when in exile in France; they came with him to England as part of an army of 2,000 men and defeated Richard III at Bosworth in August 1485. Richard wore his crown in battle, and when he was killed it rolled under a hawthorn bush. A member of Henry's Body Guard retrieved it and Henry was crowned Henry VII three months later. The King established the Body Guard with the name 'Valecti Garde (Corporis) Domini Regis', meaning 'Yeomen of the Guard (of the body) of our Lord the King'. This title was retained until the beginning of the 20th century. It is said that the King chose the Guard from the yeomen of England not only because he believed they were the true heart of the nation, but also because many in the nobility became so involved in plots and tricks to advance themselves that they were not altogether to be trusted.

The duties of the Body Guard during its first three centuries were onerous, because the Body Guard was absolutely responsible for the personal safety of the Sovereign. Guarding the interior of the Royal palaces was entirely in the hands of the Yeomen of the Guard. They brought up the Sovereign's meals, tasted the food before it was placed on the Royal



Messenger Sergeant Chris Savage.

table and carried out every evening an elaborate ceremonial known as 'Making the King's bed'. An officer of the Guard slept on a truckle bed outside the Sovereign's bedroom. The present-day retention in the Body Guard of the ranks of Yeoman Bed Goer and Yeoman Bed Hanger is an

acknowledgement of these 'bed duties'.

Currently the Body Guard consists of the Captain, 5 Officers and 59 Yeomen. It should be noted that the Captain is a political appointment and therefore dependent upon which political party is in office; the current Captain is the Earl of Courtown. The Commanding Officer, as we would understand, is the Lieutenant. The Lieutenant's Second-in Command has the title of the Clerk of the Cheque and Adjutant. There is also an Ensign and 2 Exons to complete the complement of officers. All these officers retired in varying ranks and it is far from uncommon for a junior officer in the Body Guard to have been a far senior rank when retiring from the Regular Army.

There are 5 Sergeant Majors consisting of the Messenger Sergeant Major and Wardrobe Keeper (my appointment), a 2nd Messenger Sergeant

Major and 3 Divisional Sergeant Majors. I am the only full-time appointee, living and working in St James' Palace and being employed by the Royal Household. The remaining Yeomen are volunteers who attend for duties when required and may be either fully retired or still following second careers across the length and breadth of the British Isles. The Yeomen are recruited from all 3 services and must have served for 22 years. Essentially, they must all have been awarded the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal (LS&GC), which causes the Body Guard to be referred to by some as the 'Corps of those who were never caught'! Late entry commissioning does not disbar applications and there are consequently a fair number of the Body Guard who were commissioned, as well as a great spread of awards and decorations. The Yeomen are organised into 3 Divisions, each lead by a Divisional Sergeant Major (DSM) with a Yeoman Bed Goer (YBG) and a Yeoman Bed Hanger (YBH) also in each Division.

The Body Guard's duties are in the personal service of the Sovereign and include State Arrivals and Banquets (State Visits), the Royal Maundy Service, the Garter Service, the State Opening of Parliament, the Epiphany Service, Investitures at both Buckingham Palace and Windsor Castle, Royal Garden Parties and Diplomatic Receptions. The Body Guard are also attendant upon Services of Orders of Chivalry such as the Order of St Michael and St George or the Royal Victorian Order as examples. The Body Guard may also be seen at Royal weddings, funerals and of course, coronations.

For those readers who might not know me, I served in the 1st Battalion for all of my service, 1971 to 1993, apart from the usual tours at the Guards Depot, Sandhurst etc. I was appointed the Sgt Major of the Battalion in 1989 and handed over after the Queen's Birthday Parade in 1992, the year in which it was our 'Troop'. That period was particularly memorable for the Battalion having had just a few short months of practice due to the Battalion's deployment to the Gulf War in 1991; we should have been back in London a year earlier! After retiring from the Army in December 1993 I followed a career firstly in commerce then in the Civil Service, dealing with the London District

contract and Home Service Clothing. I was invited to join the Queen's Body Guard of the Yeomen of the Guard in 2006 and served proudly for some 12 years as a Yeoman in Ordinary. These duties, as previously described, ran concurrently with my civilian employment.

I was fortunate to be appointed the Messenger Sergeant Major and Wardrobe Keeper about 2 years ago, commencing my duties from January 2018. As the MSM I ensure that the Yeomen attend for duty in sufficient numbers, are briefed and rehearsed and that their clothing and turnout are of the highest standards. The 'Wardrobe Keeper' part of my title has very practical connotations nowadays, but it also refers to a much more ancient part of the Royal Household, together with the 'Messenger' aspect in that it was a role given to trusted yeomen to bear messages and be privy to information within the Court.

I am proud to be the first Grenadier in post since the famous WO1(RSM) Tom Taylor MVO, MBE who served in the post from 1978 to 1994, having previously been the Garrison Sergeant Major, London District.

Current Grenadiers serving in the Body Guard, as well as myself, are Andy Hill, previously the RQMS at Regimental Headquarters and Matthew Smith, formerly WO1(RSM) at the All Arms Drill Wing. The former Band Sergeant Major, Michael Dabbs MBE, RVM, only retired at the end of last year. Also on our Exempt (from duty) list is Major Michael Holland, having retired a few years ago, as well as WO1 John Mundy RVM. Further up there on our Exempt list is WO1(RSM) Lincoln Perkins RVM, BEM who, coincidentally, was my much-feared and respected Company Sergeant Major in Germany when I was a young Section Commander in Germany in the early 1970s. Way up there in the seniority of our Exempt List is WOII(RQMS) John Walmsley. Sadly however, in April of last year WO1(RSM) John Stanyard RVM passed away.

I hope to continue in this post until Christmas 2023 when my candle officially burns low and I must also join the Exempt List. In the meantime, however, I would hope to reassure the reader that good Grenadier Standards are being maintained within the Queen's Body Guard of the Yeomen of the Guard.

A Grenadier High Sheriff

by *William Day*
formerly Grenadier Guards

The Office of High Sheriff is the oldest secular Office in the United Kingdom after the Crown and dates from Saxon times. The exact date of origin is unknown but the Office has certainly existed for over 1,000 years since the Shires were formed.

The word 'Sheriff' derives from 'Shire Reeve' or the Anglo Saxon 'Scir-gerefa'. The King's Reeve was also known as the 'High' Reeve. Some Sheriffs led contingents at the Battle of Hastings. The Normans continued the Office and added to its powers. During the 11th and 12th centuries a High Sheriff's powers were very extensive. For example, they judged cases in the monthly court of the hundred (a sub-unit of the Shire); they had law enforcement powers and could raise the 'hue and cry' in pursuit of felons within their Shire; they could summon and command the 'posse comitatus' – the full power of the Shire in the service of the Sovereign; they collected taxes and levies and all dues on Crown lands on behalf of the Crown and were in charge of Crown property in the Shire. In short, High Sheriffs were the principal representatives and agents for the Crown and were thus very powerful within the Shire. It may have been that some incumbents were a little over-enthusiastic in their enjoyment of their 'droits de seigneur' as by 1215, of the 63 clauses in the Magna Carta, no less than 27 relate to the role of the Sheriff and to putting him back in his box. Nevertheless in 1254 it was the High Sheriff that supervised the election to Parliament of two Knights of the Shire.

The Sheriffs' powers were gradually restricted over succeeding centuries. Under Henry I their tax collection powers went to the Exchequer, which also took on the function of auditing the Sheriffs' accounts. Henry II introduced the system of Itinerant Justices from which evolved the Assizes and the present day system of High Court Judges going out on Circuit. The Sheriff remained responsible for issuing Writs, for having ready the Court, prisoners and juries, and then executing the sentences once they were pronounced. It was also the Sheriff's responsibility to ensure the safety and

comfort of the Judges. This is the origin of the High Sheriff's modern day duty of care for the well-being of High Court judges.

In the middle of the 13th century, more powers went to the newly created offices of Coroners and Justices of the Peace. Under the Tudors (in about 1550, 500 years newer than High Sheriffs!), Lord-Lieutenants were created as personal representatives of the Sovereign. Queen Elizabeth I is generally believed to have originated the practice of choosing the High Sheriff by pricking a name on the Sheriffs' Roll with a bodkin. It is said that she did this whilst engaged in embroidery in the garden. Sadly, this is a myth since there is a Sheriffs' Roll dating from the reign of her grandfather Henry VII (1485-1508) on which the names were pricked through vellum. The role was not always entirely desirable as the Sheriff had to collect unpopular taxes and, while the possibility of some personal enrichment may not always have been resisted, he could also be personally liable for any shortfall. There was therefore sometimes an incentive to avoid the appointment but no matter how high the bribe to erase a name from the roll, nothing could disguise a hole through the vellum next to the appointee's name. The practice of the Monarch 'pricking' the names of High Sheriffs continues to this day.

The office of High Sheriff has been dominated by the great and the good in each county – mostly of course men but not exclusively. Nicola de la Haye was a famous High Sheriff in Lincolnshire in 1216 and now the role is filled equally by women. While it cannot be held by a serving soldier (or lawyer, magistrate or judge), it has been held by countless Grenadiers over the generations – starting, pleasingly, with Thomas Wentworth who was High Sheriff of Yorkshire in 1625, 35 years before he became our first Colonel. It is only since the 1960's that it has been more widely shared, accounting perhaps for my own appointment! Nevertheless, some counties remain more traditional than others. It has always been the practice for an outgoing High Sheriff to nominate his own successor, usually on a four year cycle, although this is now endorsed by a nomination panel. The position is honorary, unsupported, unpaid and indeed costs are not claimed. Depending on one's commitment and hospitality, these can be substantial. While in my



Fellow 3 Coy officers 'salute' the High Sherrif. From Left to Right: Harry Winnington, Patrick Hargreaves, William Day, Charlie Bolton, Alverne Bolitho.

father's generation, High Sheriffs might have had a handful of engagements and perhaps been moved to open a good bottle of wine for a visiting judge, my more immediate predecessors have undertaken up to 300 engagements in their year. I have consciously dialled back and will have completed some 150 visits and events by the time my year is over, not least to avoid deterring future nominees. Engagements have ranged from the purely ornamental, such as presiding over University matriculation and graduation ceremonies, presenting awards and medals to the police or taking the salute at military ceremonies (mainly the RAF here in Lincolnshire - their standard of drill is as you would expect) to more front-foot support of the police, the emergency services, the magistracy and charities, volunteers and public sector workers. A visit by the High Sheriff is still regarded as an event of some distinction and, as the Queen's personal representative, one's value is in recognising and above all, thanking them for their work.

Finally, a note on my attire. The usual order of dress for a High Sheriff is the so-called court dress –

a rather nasty confection of velvet, lace and tights, jabots and breeches. If, however, one has ascended the dizzying rank of Captain or above in the Army, one is encouraged to wear the appropriate military uniform. Upon finding one that fitted at Regimental Headquarters, I was impressed to discover that it had been made for Lt Col Prescott who handed over command of his battalion to Harry Winnington's father in 1952: in other words it was probably made in 1948 and despite its age of 70 years, is still immaculate (if a little smelly). While signing off for all the accoutrements, the Master Tailor issued me – to my delight - with aiguillettes. Opinion of those who Might be Expected to Know whether they are really correct ranged from the definitely 'yes' to definitely 'no'. Into a vacuum.... I have worn them on a handful of occasions when in full fig with the forces of law and order and very smart they look.

In any case, I have been proud to represent the Queen and the Regiment in the office of High Sheriff and I would encourage any Grenadier to accept the appointment if it comes their way. It is a thoroughly enjoyable and rewarding year.

OBITUARIES

We will remember them

It is with deep regret that the Regiment has received notification of the death of the following Grenadiers.

2626861	CF Ashmore	London				& District
22897230	CE Ashwin	London		24021008	R Jones	North Staffordshire
23688725	GE Badley	London		Capt	C Keeling	
2629275	J Bailey	Reading		22545526	G Kelsall	
Major	HA Baillie	Bath		23252728	JS Lambert	
14220365	RW Balcombe	Sussex		24220609	SJ Langston	Manchester
22545219	JA Bartlett	Norfolk		23509322	H Lillicap	Surrey & East Hants
	MJ Beaver, Esq			23688738	P Maguire	Tamworth
22213207	NT Beech	Windsor		23509388	DA Marshall	Lincoln
Major	DV Bendall	Suffolk		22944041	EG Mew	Medway
Lt Col	R Besley			2624314	HW Mountford	London
22911454	EK Bland	Gloucestershire		22643441	R Noke	Worcester and Hereford
5834230	LC Bozeat, MM	Surrey & East Hants		2254712	B Norman	
2628187	AJ Brace	Sussex		2624826	JH North	Surrey & East Hants
2628634	R Britton	Yorkshire		22955972	A Orchard	Essex
2628897	WH Brown	London		23438231	MV Pallister	Gloucestershire
2622214	EJ Buchan	Sussex		2625232	JF Parker	Surrey & East Hants
Major	The Lord Carrington, KG, GCMG, CH, MC			22545890	A Parsons	
Capt	A Chambers			24141634	H Patrick	Lincoln
22602857	M Chapman	Bristol		234255230	GR Pedge	Nottinghamshire
Lt Col (QM)	W Clarke OBE			23252597	RW Petty	Walsall
23688481	STE Clayton-Payne	Wessex		22213354	J Quinlan	
24491182	RV Collett			22955902	CS Ray	Bristol
23509531	AP Connell	Lincoln		24125386	P Reece	Bristol
Capt	CH Cox, TD	Surrey		23621943	GNH Rimell	Gloucestershire
2614539	AEM Crowe	Lincoln		22640069	J Rodgers	Manchester
24000292	PG Davis	Nottinghamshire		24632976	DT Ryan	
2627884	DA Day	Shropshire		2620936	RC Sanders	Essex
22213478	A Diamond			24253833	A Sands	Manchester
Capt	BD Double			23122852	J Scott	Walsall
2625167	J Drage			22545249	F Scriven	Shropshire
23509202	T Dray	Bristol		2628518	REG Seale	Worcester and Hereford
2616402	L Edge	Liverpool		Lt Col	C Seymour LVO	
22545437	W Edwards	Surrey & East Hants		23267268	PF Shackleton	
22545437	W Edwards	Surrey & East Hants		24000382	K Shaw	Nottinghamshire
2623998	AE Foreman	Cambridge		24312469	MA Slade	
23099207	B Frost			24513134	C Spacey	
2626850	JG Gallagher	Leicester		21012237	GE Spragg	North Staffordshire
22955695	RF Gibbons	Gloucestershire		22545753	K Stevenson	Nottinghamshire
2624648	WA Gibbs			23509161	L Stewart	Suffolk
23199307	EJ Gillam	London		22213082	S Stokes	Walsall
2623837	F Goodale			2628696	FC Tatman	
24239544	A Goodman			22955620	L Taylor	Suffolk
23509332	CN Grigg	2016		22273750	FGH Tetley	Essex
Major Sir	HF Hamilton-Dalrymple			24060587	K Thomsett	Medway
Lt Col	H S Hanning			23969893	J Upchurch	Derby
14943943	D Harper, MBE	Manchester		19149340	DL Wallis	London
2624187	J Haynes	Wessex		23451533	C Walters	
22545149	E Herbert			24185873	ME West	
24460953	L Herbert			22955796	PJ White	
22545338	R Hewitt	Lincoln		23174474	HJ Whitear	Surrey & East Hants
14223473	RG Hill, BEM	Wessex		24443691	K Whiteley	
22213628	G Hitchcock			25003691	MD Whittaker	
22383639	M Hollingsworth	London		23509163	AJ Willmore	Worcester and Hereford
Capt (QM)	A Holloway			23051357	TA Wing	
22213701	F Hollingworth	Nottinghamshire		23067722	L Withey	London
22545304	E Howes			23509329	LD Wright	Nottinghamshire
23879745	L Hughes	Wigan, St. Helens		23509150	MJ Wylde	
				23262898	DG Zimmerman	London

Lieutenant Colonel Richard Besly

*by Major General Sir Evelyn
Webb-Carter KCVO, OBE, DL
formerly Grenadier Guards*



I first met Richard when I arrived in the 2nd Battalion as his Adjutant, I had just come off the Junior Command and Staff Course, a sort of school for budding staff officers and I hadn't done particularly well so was dreading the appearance of my course

report. It arrived the day after I reported for duty so no chance to give a differing impression to the Commanding Officer. The closing sentence of the report said something like... 'this officer has not yet reached the stage of his career when he wishes to take it seriously'. Richard read this out to me and said with a laugh that I was to enjoy for many years 'thank goodness for that!'

That laconic comment showed that Richard was an immensely human person who although a very competent officer did not appear to take soldiering too seriously. He was immensely loyal to his officers and soldiers and he was far more interested in their well being than in his own.

John Richard Seymour Besly, a Wykemist like his father, joined the Regiment as a recruit in January 1950 and was commissioned as a National service officer. He joined the 3rd Battalion in Tripoli and it was there at a Brigade swimming championships that he acquired his nick name. The result of the whole championship depended upon the result of the 4x50 metre relay race. Richard was in the final leg and the team were lying second. By his own admission Richard had done a great deal of sunbathing and was thus of a very dark complexion. Pat Robertson the Commanding Officer was so excited at the prospect of winning the championships he shouted: 'come on you ruddy wog, get a move on'. Although the team won the relay Richard won a nickname.

Not long afterwards the battalion was warned to

join 1st Guards Brigade to guard the Suez Canal and Richard's prime concern was his future, as his National Service Commission was about to end and unless he signed on to be a Regular he would miss the action in Egypt. So he applied and gained the Regular Commission: later he said it was one of his better decisions, although the Battalion found themselves merely guarding the vast base at Tel El Kebir.

In Egypt he was able to enjoy sport; he was an accomplished tennis and squash player. Many years later as Commanding Officer he would see off officers 15 years his junior. He enjoyed other things too, after too good a night at the Officers Club in Fayid, he and Christopher Keeling were asked to leave. Having driven back to camp somehow and parked the car they simultaneously remarked 'thank God I wasn't driving'. The 3rd Battalion was a wild battalion in those days and the Adjutant, Hew Hamilton-Dalrymple was one of the few sober officers and it was he who seeing the potential in Richard deflected his exuberance into learning French and so to an Interpreter's course Richard was sent and this was to prove a useful asset later in life and Richard was always very grateful to Hew.

Switching Battalions to be the Adjutant of the 2nd Battalion Richard spent four years in Egypt, which seems extraordinary these days. But in 1956 the battalion moved to Windsor when one of the more bizarre events took place. Richard had just inspected the Windsor Castle Guard and so was dressed in greatcoat, forage cap and sword when the Police appealed to him to come and assist in dealing with an angry bull that got loose following a cattle market in Slough. Richard and David Fanshawe, the weapon training officer armed with his rifle drove to the scene. What met them was more like Laurel and Hardy and the newspaper description entitled 'Besly the Matador' makes for good melodrama: it read 'Captain Besly arrived with Lieutenant Fanshawe, the bull made a short charge. Captain Besly raised a cold eyebrow and adjusted his sword. The Bull stopped and licked its lips. 'Fanshawe', said Captain Besly 'shoot the bull' and so he did with a fine shot. The Osbert Lancaster created a cartoon out of the story. Not long after this he married Dinah Gore. As we have heard he and Dinah were a great team making a

wonderful family life with their five children.

In 1968 Richard was sent St Cyr the French Officers Academy as the British Liaison Officer, his work in learning French years before had paid off as the two years there were one of the happiest periods of his life. Richard was highly thought of by the French military who enjoyed his quick wit and sense of humour. Whilst there Richard wrote a remarkable account of the Algerian War of 1954 to 62, which was much acclaimed but caused some irritation that it was written by an Englishman! Hubert de Lisle tells me that ten years later it was still being quoted at the French War College in Paris. Rather unusually Dinah gets a mention in his St Cyr confidential report for being a perfect hostess and an excellent French speaker.

Richard took command of the 2nd Battalion in Caterham in 1971 and at the time we had a residual responsibility, at Company level, to garrison the



'You unspeakable cad Sir !!'



colony of British Honduras, now known as Belize. In January 1972 there was flap when the Governor of the colony was convinced that the Guatemalans were going to invade on the pretext of some ancient

claim. The battalion was going out anyway for a six week exercise and in the process rotate the Company. After the advance party had deployed and the main party was at Brize Norton the MoD decided to play safe and ordered the battalion to remain for 6 months. You can imagine the implications of all this for the Commanding Officer who found himself in an Evelyn Waugh situation (as in the Sword of Honour trilogy) complete with a deranged Garrison commander, a spit image of Ritchie Hook. The whole scheme was beset with gross exaggerations of the threat but Richard had to decide how he was going to defend this small colony against the Guatemalans. The Garrison Commander took it ultra seriously which Richard found hard to do. He was wont to say 'I think we should kick the whole thing into touch' or 'it's totally clapped out'. On the way back from yet another recce of the planned Battalion defensive position at a place called Teakettle, he turned to Henry Boyt our tame helicopter pilot and said 'well, can you imagine the next time we troop our colour on the Queen's Birthday Parade it will have

Blenheim, Waterloo, Normandy and..... Teakettle emblazoned on it': ... much laughter followed.

British Honduras was a trying tour and as the threat was clearly evaporating it became harder to sustain the morale of the Guardsmen but Richard was well equipped; he was approachable, enjoyed talking to soldiers and frequently made them laugh. In the orderly room Richard used to award officers and soldiers nicknames. Many are unrepeatable but Patrick Nisbett who rejoiced in having 5 initials to his name was referred to as Patrick Alphabetical.

The battalion's next challenge was two tours in quick succession in Northern Ireland; the first just for a few weeks and then shortly after, a full four month tour of the Ardoyne and Shankill. We took over from 3 PARA who in their customary way had stirred up the pot and gripped the area. Richard's approach was different; he had a light touch and was more measured. Pundits thought the situation would revert to a lawless scenario; in fact Richard's sensible and gentler tactics worked and his Brigade Commander commented in Richard's report that the opposite had occurred and instances of violence, shooting and bombing continued to drop throughout the tour. Not only did he receive this compliment but in the last week of the tour the Catholic priest in the Ardoyne thanked Richard for the battalion's restraint and professionalism, something I doubt he told 3 PARA!

Robert Nairac was in the battalion at the time and he did some good work with Bob Woodfield in semi covert operations in the Ardoyne. Richard felt very responsible for Robert whom we all liked and admired. So when later, Robert's work took him to South Armagh and the tragic circumstances of his death came to light Richard was very troubled that he had been unable to prevent Robert being sent back for another tour in his undercover role. Richard latterly supported by Ginny became something of a champion of Robert's reputation and did much to correct misrepresentations of his life and death in Ireland.

Richard was a popular and much loved Commanding Officer who frequently gave Guardsmen the benefit of the doubt. He had the irritating habit of giving Guardsmen, who were able to spin a cakey bar, time off without telling the Adjutant or anybody else for that matter.

After commanding the battalion, Richard went to London District for two years as AQMG. When afterwards he was offered a job in Germany he decided to leave the Army. He became a fundraiser for several charities, notably The British Heart Foundation where he spent eight years finishing as Director of Fundraising. This was hard work but Richard brought his own brand of enthusiasm and humour. He became something of a charity expert, latterly being a self employed consultant and was a key member of the Regimental Council for some years. His last role in the charity sector was as a fundraiser for Eating Disorders Association, about which he felt passionately.

Richard was a lovely man, amusing, generous and kind, who was universally popular and is much missed in many circles. As we reflect on the man let us give a thought to Ginny... and Emma, Lucinda, Tom, Sarah-Jane and Mikey, a Grenadier, and their families who have lost a wonderful husband, father and grandfather. For my part I am sad that this is my last adjutantal duty to a Great Grenadier it was a privilege to know and serve.

Lieutenant Colonel Henry Hanning formerly Grenadier Guards

*Major Philip Wright OBE
formerly Grenadier Guards*



Lieutenant Colonel Henry Somerset Hanning died peacefully at home on 22nd February 2019, after a short illness aged 80. Henry was born at Windsor on 19th January 1939, while his father, Arthur, was on duty as Captain of the King's Guard. His father went on to command 3rd Battalion

Grenadier Guards during the Second War. Henry's maternal grandfather, Wilfrid Abel Smith, died of wounds received at Festubert in 1915 while commanding 2nd Battalion. When putting Henry

down for the Regiment, his father wrote to the Lieutenant Colonel: 'You may remember that two uncles, two great uncles and seven cousins have also served in the Regiment.' Educated at Bradfield College then Sandhurst, Henry was commissioned in 1959, It was the start of 48 years of unbroken years' service to the Regiment.

His regimental and staff careers took him to West Germany, Berlin, The Trucial states, Belize, Hong Kong and Northern Ireland as well as ceremonial duties in London. Notable regimental appointments included Adjutant of 2nd Battalion in 1966 in Wuppertal, command of the Inkerman Company in Belize in 1971 and in 1976, Senior Major 2nd Battalion in Hong Kong. His intellect and potential were recognised by selection for staff training, two years at the Royal Military College of Science were followed by a further year at the Staff College at Camberley. An operational staff post in Berlin at the height of the Cold War meant he was always on call to deal with alarms either real or imagined.

Thereafter staff posts were largely Weapons orientated, dealing with the development of infantry weapons and equipment, ammunition design and safety and towards the end of his career specializing in Defence Export and Sales. It was from this last arena in 1988 he retired from the regular service to work for the Ministry of Defence for a further happy and fulfilling ten years as a Special List Officer at the Directorate of Land Services Ammunition based at Didcot, working with NATO allies on unifying standards for the movement of ammunition. Henry revelled in the idiosyncrasies of each nation's military and his natural charm and infinite patience held sway, A Warrant Officer who worked with Henry at Didcot wrote: 'I am aware that there were some obvious 'cultural differences' between the Ordnance Corps and the Grenadier Guards but, in all my years of service I can truly say your Father was one of the best officers I served under! It was an absolute pleasure and a privilege to know him!'

Henry was something of a regimental rarity for the early 1960s when he went up to Keble College Oxford as an army Scholar to read History. Michael Craster (then a young officer in the Argylls) got to know Henry in the Officer Training Corps and recalls him as something of a father figure, having

high standards, being considerate and displaying style, gravitas, humanity and above all, great humour. The impression Henry made on Michael was such that it was to the Regiment that Michael turned when the Argylls were disbanded.

Early in his career Henry acquired the affectionate nickname of variously The Vicar, Canon or The Bishop. Explanations as to why this nickname came about differ. Some say it was on account of his somewhat academic demeanour, coupled with his skill on both piano and organ and his singing in the Battalion Church Choir. Others maintain that it was as a result of him leaving a bible behind when stepping ashore from a spell aboard The Household Division Yacht, Gladeye. What is beyond doubt is that Henry was a Christian soldier of great faith who increasingly followed the command based on the words of Jesus in the Sermon on the Mount '... do unto others as you would have them do unto you.'

Henry's charming, polite, slightly understated manner will be remembered. He was always interesting and interested; a soldier's officer who really did care for his men. Even as Adjutant of 2nd Battalion he was said to have administered discipline with a smile and light touch. Many have said that they never heard Henry raise his voice in anger. But there was steel in him too. In 1973, as Commanding Officer in Belfast, Richard Besly had to decide which areas to allocate to his Company Commanders. He wrote afterwards: 'The Protestant Shankill area contained lots of criminals so I put Henry Hanning there, his very astute but charming diplomacy defused most situations. He kept a firm grip on what had been a difficult area for our predecessors,' (3rd Battalion The Parachute Regiment.) Without fuss or bluster Henry made his mark. Equally, Michael Craster recalls receiving a fully warranted 'blistering rebuke' by letter when he was late submitting an article for the Grenadier Gazette.

There is little doubt that the need for hearing aids limited the scope of Henry's military career, but he never displayed any frustration and typically made light of it. To the Lieutenant Colonel, he wrote, when discussing further military employment, that he would be a disaster as an attaché since 'one can't say 'what' in a foreign language for ever!' A brother officer recalls Henry telling him that, as he

was in receipt of two hearing aids, he now regarded himself as 'fully mechanised'.

It was Henry's great joy to share his interests enthusiastically with others. Whether encouraging the literary efforts of brother officers, filling the corridors of the Mess at Caterham with the sound of the Overture to Wagner's Tannhauser or running a Mahjong School during Company training in Sharjah. Henry's enthusiasm was infectious. He delighted in the successes of his friends being quick to write to congratulate those in receipt of awards, other accolades or indeed grandchildren.

The Reading and District Branch of the Regimental Association was extraordinarily fortunate to have been led by Henry with similar enthusiasm for the past 12 years. Fun and style abounded, but above all the welfare and well being of retired Grenadiers was his pre-eminent concern. The Branch is the oldest in the Association and in 2013 Henry and his wife Elizabeth jointly led an outstanding celebration of the Branch's centenary at Bradfield College.

In 1976, the then Lieutenant Colonel, Greville Tufnell, decided that a replacement was required for the Association Handbook. On a visit to 2nd Battalion in Hong Kong he discussed his ideas on the Chinese border with Henry and the Grenadier Gazette was borne! Henry later described this episode as 'an ill-conceived moment'! For the next thirty years he edited the Gazette with great flair, never losing his enthusiasm despite Adjutants and other contributors not giving their submissions the priority the Editor might have required. With the assistance of Barry Double and then Trevor Rolfe, who were in turn Assistant Editors, Henry established the Grenadier Gazette as pre-eminent amongst regimental journals.

Henry, thinking ahead to his looming retirement, volunteered in 2001 to write a history to mark the 350th anniversary of the Regiment. With the full support of the then Lieutenant Colonel, Edward Bolitho, his innovative approach broke new grounds for such a work, Accounts of the Regiment's proud and costly heritage are interspersed by individual portraits of interesting (and not just senior) Grenadiers, pictures, maps and charts combine to produce a book that is informative and above all a compelling read. His aim, he tells us, was to 'march

with the men of the First or Grenadier Regiment of Foot Guards down a road 350 years long.' He says, speaking of the survival of the Regiment, that 'a small glow if preserved and cherished, can burst into a vivid flame.' Indeed, one can say that his book is about a light shining in great darkness and not being overcome. The Grenadier Gazette and 'The British Grenadiers' will live on as abiding legacies of Henry's encyclopaedic knowledge of and love for his Regiment.

Lieutenant Colonel Conway Seymour LVO

by Lieutenant General Sir Anthony Denison-Smith KBE DL

formerly Grenadier Guards



Grenadiers and a great many across the Household Division and elsewhere will have felt a deep sadness and sense of loss on hearing of Conway's death on 20th November 2019. He was 78. He occupied a very special place in the hearts of so many. His infectious gravelly

chuckle, his beaming welcoming smile, his sudden burst of uncontrollable laughter, his kindness to all and his generosity of spirit are characteristics which will long be remembered about this remarkable and much admired Grenadier. Conway became an encyclopaedia of Grenadier history and customs.

He entered Sandhurst from Eton in 1959, a fourth generation Grenadier. There was one incident at Sandhurst worth recording. Confined to the Sandhurst sailing boat, Wishstream, in a French harbour, whilst the instructors went ashore to dine, he decided to entertain the local fishermen to a medley of songs starting with the Eton Boating Song, then The British Grenadiers, then Men of Harlech and so on. His rich baritone echoed across the harbour. Amused locals on the quayside gathered to listen and wine flowed. When the instructors returned



Commanding Officer and Senior Major, Cyprus 1982
 - (Left) Lt Col Anthony Denison-Smith (Right) Lt Col Conway Seymour.

from their dinner, the young cadet, well-imbibed, was commended for promoting Anglo-French relations.

He joined the 1st Battalion in 1961 and spent his first five years as a platoon commander in the UK, Germany and on the Emergency tour in Cyprus. His charisma and sense of fun quickly marked him out as someone rather different. His immediate rapport with all ranks made him both popular and respected. In Cyprus, he and John Baskerville-Glegg vied with each other for the deepest tan. This competition ended when Conway, now sporting a moustache, was arrested by Greek policemen who suspected he was a Turkish terrorist disguised as a UN Officer. He was convinced he was about to be shot.

From Cyprus, he was posted to Yorkshire to become ADC to Rex Whitworth a much respected Grenadier General, who was commanding Northumbrian District. Not at all satisfied with the HQ Officers' Mess, he moved with speed into the comfort and style of the Officers' Mess of The Queen's Own Hussars, the local cavalry Regiment. He became a very popular member of that Mess and is remembered even today for being told off for wearing his service dress cap at breakfast - a good

Grenadier Custom.

Next, to his delight, he was selected to be Second Captain of The Queen's Company at Caterham. There followed two Grenadier command appointments, first as Company Commander Headquarter Company 1st Battalion in Sharjah and Londonderry, followed by two years commanding the Grenadier Training Company at The Guards Depot.

It was now time for Conway to undertake a staff job to further his career. Many such appointments were within reach of his home, one of which was on the Staff of the Parachute Brigade in Aldershot. Offered this post he responded with the immortal words 'If God had wanted me to fly, he would have given me wings!' He settled for an appointment in Quatering.

In 1976 he returned to the fold as Headquarter Company Commander 2nd Battalion, which took him to Hong Kong and then Londonderry as Community Relations Officer - the perfect appointment for his skill with people. He used to arrange football matches with the local schoolchildren in the Creggan Estate, followed by enormous teas, thus helping to diffuse the hostility in the largely republican area.

Two Grade 2 Staff appointments followed - one in Defence Sales where he excelled hosting foreign Visitors and the next in PS12 involved in all ceremonial events, right up his street.

With a sigh of relief he returned once more to his Regiment as Senior Major 2nd Battalion, serving in Germany, Chelsea and Cyprus. In Germany, the Officers Mess decided to celebrate the Commanding Officer's 40th Birthday with an Indian night, in deference to his birth in Bangalore. Conway arrived for dinner with a bottle of champagne dressed as a Red Indian!

The battalion deployed to Cyprus in November 1982 on an unaccompanied six month tour and Conway was given command of one half of the Battalion, with the task of securing the Eastern Sovereign Base Area based in Dhekelia. He was promoted to Acting Lieutenant Colonel. 'Do you realise that I am the first Seymour in four generations of Grenadiers to reach this rank' he proudly declared.

He was a very safe pair of hands and was much admired in the local area. There was also the latent

showman in him. As the Battalion was about to leave Cyprus, Conway was tasked with arranging a Farewell Party in the Dhekelia Beach Club for all the VIPs on the Island, including the seven UN commanders from the line. On the night of the party, Conway decided that the Corps of Drums should march up the beach from the sea, in tunic Order, to Beat Retreat in front of the guests. He proudly took the salute. It was a spectacular event.

Two more Staff appointments in the MOD, both in the Planning world, led him gleefully in 1985 to a five year tour as Regimental Adjutant. He was brilliant in the appointment and loved it. He considered The Regimental Band to be his personal command and took a great interest in all the musicians and the music. But much more than this, he crisscrossed the country visiting all the Association Branches, speaking at their events and boosting their morale with his extravert good humour. He loyally supported his Lieutenant Colonels and fundamentally kept the Regiment safe.

The one drawback to the appointment was that he had to attend the Trooping every year on horseback. He was a reluctant rider, as confirmed by the verdict on his riding course in 1962 'I would not recommend him as a future horseman.' But, typically, he got on with it cheerfully and, in the end, rode on the Birthday Parade a great many times.

His final job in the Army was back to The Guards Depot as Headquarter Company Commander and Officer Commanding the All Arms Drill Wing. He was described by the Commandant as a wise old bird, which sums him up perfectly.

On retiring from the Army in 1992 he helped to raise money for Basingstoke Hospital working out of a shoebox for an office. Imagine his delight when, three years later, he was asked to return to RHQ to be Regimental Adjutant as a retired Officer. Back to the Regiment came this extraordinary personality, bubbling with enthusiasm and loyalty, who continued to serve in the appointment for a further eleven years. The culmination of this tenure was the 350th Anniversary of the Regiment in 2006 when, due to reductions in staff and with the Battalion away on operations, the responsibility for all the events fell to him. It was an outstanding

success. For this success, coupled with his years of unwavering loyalty to the Regiment and to the Crown he was awarded the LVO.

Many readers may remember the ITV documentary about the Regiment 'Guarding The Queen' when, with his enormous charm, good humour and panache, he promoted the spirit of the Regiment and, in particular, the Regimental Band; indeed at one point bursting into the opening bars of the Grenadier Quick March.

But, this was not the end of his service with the Regiment. He accepted to continue as the Regimental Archivist. His knowledge of the Regiment was unparalleled. He seemed to know every member of The First Guards Club and was immediately available to answer questions about any former Grenadier family from across the country and indeed the globe. He much enjoyed the research.

Conway Seymour is quite simply a Grenadier legend. In all, he served his Regiment for nearly 50 years and he became a permanent source of wisdom and counsel on all Grenadier matters. But, perhaps he will best be remembered for his endless supply of limericks, many unprintable, and his fund of funny stories, which he would deliver with perfection, leaving the punchline until the last safe moment and then doubling up with laughter. He was such fun to be with, always so kind and attentive and blessed with enormous charm.

He loved to sing, was a staunch supporter of his village Church, adored Opera, was an excellent fly fisherman, a good shot, a keen sailor and a cunning spin bowler, tossing the ball way up so that the flight deceived the batsman. There was a lovely occasion when fishing on the Helmsdale. It was late in the afternoon and an invitation to dinner that night further downstream had been accepted. There had been no fish all day and Conway asked to remain on the river to be picked up later. His hosts duly arrived to collect him, but there was no sign of Conway. It was almost dark when a figure was seen struggling up the bank some way off with an enormous fish. Carrying rods, nets and the fish, he was bundled into the car and taken to the dinner party unchanged, in tremendous form hugging his salmon to his chest.

Conway married twice, first to Elizabeth

Holdsworth Hunt. They had two children, Harry and Arabella. They divorced in 1978. He married, secondly, Diana Trefgarne in 1981, who survives him along with their daughter Emily and three step-children. He loved all his family very much and gained great strength from them. Our sympathies go out to all of them, including his three grandsons.

Conway had so many friends and it is tragic that this generous lovable personality was carried away so early by vascular dementia. But, his indomitable spirit and sense of humour remained to the end, as witnessed by so many friends who went to visit him in his final years. A week or so before he died, I repeated to him, over the telephone, the first line of a favourite limerick and, although he could hardly converse, he completed it without a mistake and roared with laughter. He was a very special man, who will be much missed.

Lieutenant Colonel (QM) Bill Clarke, OBE

*by Major General Sir Evelyn
Webb-Carter KCVO, OBE, DL
formerly Grenadier Guards*



Bill Clarke died last year aged 83. He was a fine Grenadier who made an enormous impression on me. He died on St George's Day; something he would have said was only for Coldstreamers! I first came across him when he was CSM of the Queen's Company in

Sharjah in 1969 and I was the newly arrived Second Captain. He had very high standards and I learnt many things from him. I was always entertained by his dry wit and repartee tinged with sarcasm. I was to serve with him frequently thereafter. He became the Sergeant Major when I was Adjutant of the 2nd Battalion in 1972 and we went out to British Honduras for a battalion exercise which turned into a semi operational tour. We were being reunited with the Inkerman Company which had been making up a small garrison for the preceding

six months. There were already suspicions they had gone native. Going out we were both in the main party and as we entered the gate to Airport Camp he took in the bad order of the barrack guard and said to a nervous guard commander with some force 'Butlins in Belize is over, come and see me in my office'. Later it was my practice to take the small battalion HQ on an early morning run and as the runway was seldom used we frequently crossed it. However on one occasion as we were about half way across Bill looked right and said something like 'clucking bells that aircraft is about to land' and sure enough a large aircraft with a Foreign Office minister on board had to abort its landing. Bill refused to go running with me ever again!

Bill was born in Lambeth in 1936 and as a boy he worked as farm labourer for a while and acquired a passion for gardening which never left him. He joined the Regiment aged 17 and went to the 3rd Battalion. He quickly gained promotion and was a Gold Sergeant in No 1 Company when the battalion went into suspended animation in 1960. He was subsequently sent to the Queen's Company where he spent most of his battalion service. He married Mary in 1959 and they had two children, Debra and Paul. In due course he became CSM the Queen's Company, followed by Drill Sergeant. In this latter role there is one person who remembers his sensible approach to ceremonial. In 1971 at the State Opening of Parliament the Queen's Company was on duty outside the House of Lords complete with the Queen's Company Colour. 2/Lt Forbes was Ensign. A vicious wind blew. As many know, the Royal Standard is awkward in a strong wind. Bill gave clear, sensible advice: 'don't let go of the Colour until 'SHE' arrives; then just the Royal Salute.' Jonathan Forbes was forever grateful for his wise words, having bodily 'sailed' ninety degrees starboard on releasing the Colour for the 'Present' on the arrival of the first lesser member of the Royal Family! All was well, his subsequent inactivity going unnoticed.

In 1972, the following year he was Sergeant Major of the 2nd Battalion. Afterwards he was Families Officer and then TQM and MTO of the 1st Battalion. In September 1978 he returned to the 2nd Battalion as the Quartermaster where he served for four years earning a GOC's Commendation, an

unusual length of time and for which he was also awarded the MBE. It was a well merited award as he had to manage the battalion's arms plot move and the change to the mechanised role. Being of social disposition he suggested to the Commanding Officer that there should be a Guardsman's Club in barracks. In due course this was agreed and Bill devoted much time to the concept which was named 'The Wellington Bar'. It proved to be a popular move and helped to reduce the dramas in Münster city centre. . In amongst all this was an emergency tour to Fermanagh with a company detached to Londonderry. He was an outstanding organiser and always conducted his business with his dry sense of humour. On one occasion after a good party in the Officers Mess and safely negotiating the main road at Oxford Barracks he and David Webster, the TQM smartly dressed in Mess Kit walked through barracks on their way home to their quarters. They decided to do some area cleaning to make the point to the Sergeant Major, Maurice Joyce, that the barracks needed sorting. They deposited two bags worth of leaves on the Sergeant Major's doorstep and went merrily home. However, the Sergeant Major the next morning although somewhat enraged was soon amused to find 5 miniature medals amongst the leaves which could only have belonged to Bill. Maurice had a lot of fun over this as Bill wriggled and placed the blame on David Webster whose idea it allegedly and probably was.

In 1982 he was released from the rigours of Münster but not before his Commanding Officer wrote: *'He was responsible for overseeing a major modernisation programme of Oxford Barracks. His deft handling of the various agencies involved, his imagination, forethought, initiative and perseverance ensured the complete success of the venture.....He leaves the Regiment after 28 years loyal service; his willingness, selflessness, efficiency, quick reaction and above all his marvellous sense of humour will be greatly missed by all.'*

His reward for his hard work was a posting to Cyprus as QM of the UNFICYP Support Regiment, a job which he loved but perhaps more to the point he and Mary discovered this was where they wanted to retire to. But before that Bill was sent to Warminster as TQM of the School of Infantry at Warminster. This was followed by a further two

years as Quartermaster in the rank of Lieutenant Colonel of the British Army Training Support Unit Wainwright in Canada. He clearly had had some spare time to improve his qualifications as he worked to qualify himself as a member of the British Institute of Management and as a Master of Information Systems Management. Nevertheless, he was rewarded for his services to Anglo-Canadian relations in Edmonton with advancement to OBE in the Order of The British Empire. And so, to retirement in 1990 and at last he and Mary could retreat to Paphos in Cyprus which became their happy home for over 25 years. His funeral service was held at Dhekelia British Military Cemetery. Bill was a character and for all his working life a loyal Grenadier. He was a good friend to me over the years and those of us who remember the immaculate Sergeant Major or industrious Quartermaster will mourn his passing and so we commiserate with his family, Mary, Debra, Paul and their three grandchildren.

Major Stephen Denhel, MBE

*by Major General Sir Evelyn Webb-Carter KCVO, OBE, DL
formerly Grenadier Guards*



Stephen Denhel died very suddenly on 24th May last year. It was of a massive heart attack and he would have felt very little. He was comparatively young and apparently he had often said to his family that he hoped to die in the prime of life and not

live through a long illness. He won his wish but his family and those who knew him lost someone who was really very special.

I first met Stephen when I became the Captain of the Queen's Company in 1983 a momentous year with Kenya, Her Majesty's Inspection, Escort on the Troop and Crossmaglen all in a few months. There was a lot to do and most of it required a high level of administration which fell to Stephen.

I don't think I had met such a whirlwind in my Regimental life, an astonishing work ethic, attention to detail and a frightening determination. I remember very clearly watching him operate in Kenya where one gets to know one's team under field conditions. It was obvious he had extremely high standards and expected all to meet them and those that didn't were condemned as 'idle wasters'. I learnt that he sometimes needed restraining and on one occasion I said you mustn't be quite so hard on the guardsmen, the response was 'Sir' and then he added 'but they have to learn'. Yes quite but!! He was a dedicated Grenadier who was loyal to the Regiment, his officers and guardsmen. Yes, he was strict and intolerant of fools but even they had a sneaking admiration for him. He had an emerging charm and a sense of humour which developed over the years. Our paths parted but we were to meet again.

So how did it all begin?

He was born in Basingstoke in 1951 on Waterloo Day, something I only learnt after his death. There had been ample opportunity for him to tell me as we worked on the Bicentenary of Waterloo project but it demonstrates that under the bonnet of this machine he was a very private and modest person. His father was an insurance broker who had served in the RTR during National Service and his mother had served in the WAAF. He was essentially a boy of action and at a young age acquired a sense of what high standards were. And for this reason his eye alighted on the Brigade of Guards. By now he was 18 and being tall he had no difficulty in persuading the recruiter to put him straight into the Grenadiers, how lucky we were.

Stephen went to the Depot but he was not the average recruit as even at that stage it was obvious he was going to go far. And so to the 1st Battalion and to the Queen's Company, the Company he was to spend so much of his life with, becoming a Platoon Sergeant, Pay Sergeant and Company Sergeant Major. He was very proud of this record. As an instructor at the time put it, 'from an early stage the white flame of Regimental righteousness burned in his eye, so much so that there was black and white but never grey!' I don't think that ever really changed and so it did not take long for Stephen to gain Non Commissioned rank and

return to the Guards Depot as an instructor. In 1971 he met Susan then serving in the Women's Royal Air Force and in 1975 they were married in the City of London and so started a wonderful marriage. Susan softened him a bit but it certainly did not extinguish that white flame.

A year or so later he was promoted to Gold Sergeant and was back in the Queen's Company. His course report from Senior Brecon is a good one but it identified his uncompromising approach to soldiering and behoved him to be more tolerant... some chance! He was a very good shot and became a wonderful coach to the Battalion shooting team, leading as he always did by example: this was an important part of his personal code. He was in the Army 100 and gained the Golden Gun a badge for the best shot in the battalion, which he wore with pride. It was not long after this that he went to Sandhurst to train the officers of the future and there he excelled. A cadet in his Company remembers him as being ruthlessly efficient and fiercely competitive. However he had a tendency as this officer cadet put it to 'overthink' and that rings true to me. In those days his sense of humour was not so formative as I latterly remember.

After Sandhurst it was the Queen's Company again and this time as the Pay Sergeant. When we went to Kenya everybody had to go through the Movement Control Centre at South Cerney and whilst the advance party had long since emplaned the main party with Stephen in charge were left waiting... and waiting... until Stephen could bear it no longer and approached the desk where an indolent RAF non commissioned officer wearing a propeller device on his arm was sitting looking smug. The conversation heard by most of the Company was one sided 'listen to me PROPELLER...' Morale rose! It's about this time that he acquired one of his many nicknames, 'Zanussi' after the washing machine because its marketing mantra was an appliance of science, never resting or breaking down. The Guardsmen ever quick witted reckoned he was their own appliance of science!

Guardsman at the time tells a good story of Stephen. Some hay boxes needed scraping down and repainted and there was a need for a fatigue party. The Guardsmen got wind of this and the lines were suddenly evacuated. It was like the Great Escape.

Faced with no fatigue party Stephen ran to his car and intercepted most of the miscreant before they could get to Hounslow West Tube. My informant got away but was met the next morning with a knowing remark from Stephen, 'I hope you had a pleasant evening'. Later when Stephen was CSM, that Guardsman's father died and he remembers how generous Stephen was in giving him a lot of latitude in regard to compassionate leave.

Stephen had high standards and was ruthless in applying them but there was that side that not everybody saw. When a Guardsman had a real problem, at home or elsewhere he was the first to take action and do something to help. Facebook entries since his death have been full of touching tributes and gratitude for small acts of kindness. People may have feared him but goodness me they admired him. There is also the story of the frogman from the Royal Engineers who were caught red handed by the Queen's Company on an exercise. Stephen decided to interrogate him without success so the hapless frogman was stripped to the waist and tied to a tree whilst the signals NCO prepared some electrics... he talked!

In the mid 1980's Stephen was Drill Sergeant at the Depot and a certain Lance Sergeant was quietly washing his car on Christmas Eve in shorts and flip flops. There was seemingly nobody about but around the corner came the Drill Sergeant in No 2 Dress Sam Browne belt etc. A dressing down ensued with the order to go and change into pinstripe suit and polished shoes and then continue with the car. Shocked somewhat the Lance Sergeant went to his room hoping The Drill Bloke would go away but 'No' looking out of the window he could see Stephen waiting by the car until he returned. What a chap!

In 1988 he was appointed Garrison Sergeant Major of British Forces Hong Kong and this was to prove a wonderful two years with the family. One of his Commanders told me he was a consummate Brigade of Guards Sergeant Major who managed with skill and some considerable style a cosmopolitan mess of all three services and Chinese and Malay. He was invaluable as a stage manager of several Royal visits; he knew exactly what to do. Allegedly he even ordered a US aircraft carrier to move as it was spoiling his view of the harbour. From Hong Kong he was deservedly

commissioned and his first appointment was to be Regimental Recruiting Officer a job he devoted his normal energy to.

As a commissioned officer Stephen devoted as much energy as he had as a Warrant Officer no mellowing so far as we could see but for his good work at Catterick as Second in Command of Guards Company he was awarded the MBE, a well deserved medal for all his dedication. He was a fine Quartermaster. Not long after that he came and worked for me at Horse Guards and once again I was able to see his remarkable work ethic in play.

After leaving the Army Stephen became the Manager of the Royal Homes at Queen Alexandra Court in Wimbledon a large establishment with self contained flats for service widows. Stephen and Susan devoted five years to the Homes and as one resident put it they made it 'a great place to live' and they organised some wonderful visits for residents who were made to feel privileged and 'special' as widows. Once again Stephen and Susan, working as a team went the extra mile to build a happy community, holding parties and raising standards all round. As one resident put it, he was 'the best example of a British soldier and gentleman'. Another told Susan that he brought sunshine to their lives. Tragically his time was suddenly and cruelly cut short over the handling of a minor incident involving third parties. The Royal Homes have not been the same since. This was a major blow to both Susan and Stephen which he only very recently had come to terms with.

Although inwardly wounded he was never a person to dwell on misfortune and very soon he was looking for things to do and so it was the Regiment's good luck that Stephen was available to throw himself with his customary energy into running the Wellington to Waterloo Bicycle Ride to raise money for the Colonel's Fund. During the ride a participant was run over by a car. The officer lying prostrate below a wheel had time to tell the driver to ring Stephen's mobile. In a flash he was there, sorting out the drama. Having assessed who was to blame Stephen tore such a strip off the car driver that he swore never to drive again. Subsequently the Police stated there were grounds for a prosecution but the victim of the accident reckoned the driver had already been more than punished.

Then he turned his hand to The Presentation of Colours, Inspection of the Queen's Company and Grenadier Day all rolled into one, a gargantuan project which Stephen relished. He was a brilliant organiser and so he became a sort of Events Manager for RHQ and built up a close relationship with the Guild of San Sebastian in Bruges where the Regiment was formed. As a result, he was awarded the Officer of the Order of the Crown of Belgium by the King of The Belgians. The idea was to present the award in London as a surprise. Susan and the boys contrived to get him to London on a spurious pretext so that it could be presented. Stephen never reacted well to surprises either good or bad and so this was not easy because he questioned all the pretexts and excuses to the extent that he sensed something was up.

In 2015 Stephen volunteered to run the part of the Waterloo Commemoration Service in St Pauls which I was organising. It was wonderful to be working with him again and the years in between rolled away and a perfect service resulted. Someone said to me had I noticed that several emails from Stephen were despatched at 3 in the morning. 'Oh that's perfectly normal' I replied and Stephen would say he did not need sleep.

Time to relax and enjoy a retirement perhaps? You must be joking. He turned his energy to local government. In 2015 in the midst of Waterloo and Agincourt he was elected a Councillor for Ashford Downs North. Soon he was taking on portfolios on the Council and brought that energy into a new field. Among many other events he organised the acclaimed photographic exhibition. He was on three committees at his death. In the mayoral 2018/19 year he was one of the escorts to the Mayor who immensely appreciated his organisational skills and military knowledge. So highly regarded was he as a man of integrity and energy Stephen was about to take a cabinet position on the Council.

Many have said how they had never met anybody quite like Stephen and that seems to be the uniform view whichever side of the Gods you were. Stephen will be long remembered as a Grenadier legend well into the future. His standards were difficult for us all to attain. He was a devoted father and husband and was always so proud of his boys and what they have achieved; this probably meant more than

anything else to him. I can't help wondering what impact he will have in another place; gripping the angels and cherubs, no doubt! However, we in this mortal world shall not look upon his like again.

Captain Anthony Chambers, DL

*by Captain Peter Constable Maxwell
formerly Grenadier Guards*



Tony Chambers died on 21st November 2019 at 75 years of age. He was born at Barnard Castle, Yorkshire on 8th December 1943, the 2nd son of Brigadier Sam Chambers CBE and Mollie *nee* McAllister Chambers. Serving in the Royal Engineers, Sam

was promoted during World War 2 from private soldier to Brigadier; a notable achievement. At Sam's funeral, Tony pointed out that in Sam's day, if starting with modest credentials, the Army was one of the few routes available for social mobility.

Tony was educated at Ampleforth College, and after a year studying as a novice monk at Ampleforth Abbey, went on to St Catherine's College Oxford, where he took a BA Honours Degree and subsequently MA in Modern History. He married in 1965, Rosemary fourth daughter of Wing Commander Gerald Constable Maxwell MC, DFC, AFC, the Royal Flying Corps Fighter Ace who shot down 32 German planes in WW1, and Carrie Carden of Dallas Texas. Whilst at Oxford with the OTC he did a stint with the Kings African Rifles, commanded by his future Grenadier brother-in-law Brigadier Miles Fitzalan Howard, later Major General the Duke of Norfolk,

Tony went on to be commissioned into the Grenadier Guards in 1965. His brother officer, James Tedder; says; 'During the early years of the Northern Ireland troubles, in 1970, the Grenadier's First Battalion was sent to Londonderry and within hours were on the street dispersing angry rioters. Tony, as second in command of No. 2 Company was coordinating the military response from

the Operations Room. The Ops Room could be extremely tense and busy. However, he was always cool, calm and very helpful to all. Tony had a delightful sense of humour and much laughter was had by all concerned. He had a very good rapport with all ranks and was highly respected'.

Another close friend, Philip Wright, says; "Tony joined 1st Battalion when training for a possible emergency deployment to Aden was being carried out. This involved night patrolling exercises on Hankley Common, a small army training area surrounded by houses. Tony, who had been trained in the importance of following a compass bearing without deviating, managed in the pitch dark to lead his platoon of 30 guardsmen off the area into the large garden of one of the houses. The astonished owner watched as Tony, followed by his platoon, climbed down one side of his, fortunately empty, swimming pool and then crawled across the bottom and over the far side without once deviating from their bearing.

By 1968 Tony had been promoted to Captain in command of the Signals Platoon on a nine-month unaccompanied tour in Sharjah, providing a communications network throughout the Trucial States and ground to air communications with the Royal Air Force. He was a brilliant Regimental Signals Officer, who mastered the very tricky atmospherics of the desert and mountain signals environment.

After 5 years Tony left the Army, convinced by the Regimental Colonel that (in those days), as a married man he would not get the key jobs like Adjutant leading to high promotion. After his retirement from the Regiment, he kept in contact in part through his support for the regimental Miles Marriott Trust. John Rodwell writes: 'The Trust was originally endowed by his family, at the end of WW2 in memory of Miles Marriott who was killed right at the end of the War. Since then it has been responsible for providing some small assistance with school fees for Grenadier Officers who might otherwise have left the Army to seek greater financial reward in civilian life. Tony was appointed as a Trustee 20 years ago and took over from Bernard Gordon-Lennox as Chairman in June 2012. His financial experience as a Banker with Flemings, together with his experience of bringing up a large family, made him ideally qualified to advise his fellow Trustees and guide the fortunes

of the Trust, a role which he carried out with characteristic enthusiasm, skill and determination.'

On leaving the Army, Tony joined merchant bank Hill Samuel. He took an MBA at Manchester Business School, he joined First National Bank of Chicago in London, focusing in early 1970s on North Sea Oil development, also expanding the bank's interests in ex British Africa- notably Kenya and Nigeria. In 1984 he became a Director of Robert Fleming, and in 1996, Head of Banking and Chairman of several of its overseas banking operations. A friend also on the board described him as an imposing presence. Later he held several chairmanships and directorships. He was a passionate sailor and member of the Royal Yacht Squadron.

Tony was devoted to his family, with huge pride in Rosemary, who survives him with their five children and 17 grandchildren. A friend says of him: 'He was incredibly warm and kind; magnificent and upright in all he did, a man of complete integrity and decency.' He combined high intelligence with humour and practical common sense. He held a strong Christian faith tempered with constructive criticism of the Catholic church hierarchy, which he felt gave inadequate attention to the views of the laity. He was a Trustee of the Army Benevolent Fund, Help the Aged, and The Army Cadets, and The Hospital of St John and Elisabeth, He was also Chairman of Hampshire Scouts and a Deputy Lord Lieutenant of Hampshire.

Captain Christopher Keeling

*by Colonel A T W Duncan LVO OBE
formerly Grenadier Guards*



Christopher Keeling died peacefully in his sleep, at his London home on Friday 26th April 2019, He was 88.

Christopher was born in London on 15th June 1930. His father was Sir Edward Keeling, MC MP, at that time Mayor of Westminster and Conservative

Member of Parliament for Twickenham.

Following the Dragon School, Eton and Sandhurst, Christopher joined the 3rd Battalion Grenadier Guards at Chelsea Barracks in July 1950. His contemporaries were Hugh Hertford, Alan Hissey, Mike Button, Richard Besly and a rather stout Indian officer on attachment called Major Singh. Richard Besly recalls that the latter was a great advantage as they never got seriously chased on the square in case Singh collapsed!

In July 1951 the Battalion boarded a troopship for Tripoli; this became an excellent training ground as, shortly after its arrival, the situation in the Canal Zone deteriorated and the Battalion moved to Tobruk on board the cruiser HMS Liverpool. After a few weeks, during which it was possible to visit the underground hospital and other wartime sites of interest, the Battalion continued its move to the Canal Zone where it remained for three years in a camp at Deversoir. During this tour Christopher shared a tent with Richard Besly, plus a bulldog named Carlos which had been left with them by a brother officer. Christopher and Richard were frequently in front of the Adjutant, Hew Hamilton-Dalrymple, for various misdemeanours. Richard recalls one occasion in the French Club in Ismailia, when Christopher stuck a pin into the backside of the manager, a large stout Frenchman who was singing a song with the dance band. The culprit was discovered and both were thrown out!

On another occasion, after a considerable amount to drink in the Officers Club in Fayid, they were both asked to leave; having driven back to camp and parked the car, they emerged remarking to each other at the same time, 'Thank God I wasn't driving!'

In June 1953, Christopher was selected to be one of the officers of a Guard size detachment which flew back to London to represent the Battalion at the Coronation. The Battalion returned to England later that year, by which time Christopher was the Battalion's Signals Officer. He had, however, decided to retire and take up a career in the City, opting for the insurance market at Lloyds of London. After working as a broker and underwriter he became a managing agent for non-working names at Lloyds, the majority of whom lived abroad. For decades he made annual trips to Australia, the US, Asia and Southern Africa where many of these names, despite the fluctuating fortunes of their

investments, became lifelong friends. He loved his work, mainly due to the people he met, and did not retire until late into his 80's.

In spite of his business responsibilities and varied pursuits, he never lost interest in the Regiment and was at heart a traditionalist. He regularly attended the First Guards Club and was Vice-President of the London Branch of the Association; his commitment to the Regimental Reserve of Officers resulted in his being called back for duty with the 3rd Battalion during the Suez Crisis in 1956. His splendid house on the Thames Embankment held a treasure trove of Grenadier memorabilia, including pictures, figurines- in silver, bronze and china- and bound copies of the 'Journal of the Brigade of Guards.' All these items he has most generously bequeathed to the Regiment and the Guards Museum.

Away from work he was a very enthusiastic shot and was passionate about cricket, belonging to the MCC and travelling abroad to watch England in Test matches in Australia, South Africa and the West Indies – but not as part of the Barmy Army! An avid reader, he devoured several books a month, including memoirs, history, military history and the occasional novel. He was also an enthusiastic stamp collector from early childhood to his last days, and a good bridge player. He was also devoted to his Border Terriers,

Christopher married first in 1955 Veronica Waugh, with whom he had two sons, the eldest of whom tragically died in India in 1981, and a daughter. The marriage was dissolved and in 1974 he married Rachel MacDonald who predeceased him in 2016. He is survived by his son Julian, and his daughter Nicola.

A Memorial Service for Christopher was held in the Guards Chapel on Thursday 10th October 2019.



Captain (QM) Albert (Stan) Holloway

*by Colonel John O'Connell JP
formerly Grenadier Guards*



Stan Holloway died this year aged 87. I first met Stan at the Guards Depot in 1964. He was the Platoon Sergeant of the Grenadier platoon and I was the Platoon Commander. We looked after 120 Junior Guardsmen aged between 14 and 16 - it was a challenging

job full of potential problems. Stan was the perfect choice – he had great presence, could be forceful when he needed to be, but equally sympathetic and had a kindly twinkle. He was affectionately known by many as Uncle Stan. He never swore but if someone upset him, he would simply call them a ‘paillard’ – which I think means boneless chicken – they invariably got the message.

As well as being a drill and training instructor, his appointment required him to gainfully manage young recruits who needed to be kept busy. He threw himself into this by teaching rugby, football and boxing. A particular success was the winning of the inter platoon boxing competition. Under his leadership the platoon won all but one bout. I have clear memories of him during adventure training - climbing Snowden followed by 120 youngsters, taking them out into the Irish Channel in canoes in freezing weather and swimming before breakfast in March.

Stan was born in North Molton in Devon in 1932. He first joined the Regiment in 1951 serving in Germany, the Canal Zone and England. He had a short break between 1957 and 1959 trying life in the outside world. He quickly realised this was not for him, missing the Regiment and his friends.

He spent much of his service at the Guards Depot and RMA Sandhurst – being as he had shown in early days – ideally suited to training young recruits and potential officers. He also served in battalions in Northern Ireland, Kenya and Germany.

He was a College Sergeant Major in Sandhurst

and Regimental Sergeant Major of 1st Battalion under, uniquely, both Colonel Bernard Gordon Lennox and his successor, Colonel David Gordon Lennox, as Commanding Officers. He was proud and privileged to be the Sergeant Major of the Battalion at the Trooping of the Colour in 1975. He was commissioned in 1976 returning to the Junior Guardsman's Company as second-in-command. His last appointment was as DOPT London District – interestingly he had been a PTI in the 3d Battalion in 1952 and, as a light heavy weight, was one of the Battalion's boxing stars.

He is well-remembered for his impromptu speeches in the Sergeant Mess and was a loyal member of the Sergeants Past and Present Club and the Quarter Masters and Riding Masters Dining Club. My last meeting with him was when he generously invited me to one of their memorable dinners in Saint James's Palace.

He married Gladys in 1956, who was a teacher during her working life and, for many years, a head mistress. They were married for 63 years. She survives him with their two sons - Rex and Guy. He loved the West Country and spent much of his retirement living in North Devon.

Reports on him over many years describe Stan as being thoughtful, conscientious, hardworking, invariably cheerful and loyal. He was all of that and much more. He was a highly-respected Grenadier

Sir John Alexander Noble Graham Bt GCMG

by the Regimental Archivist



Sir John Graham, who has died aged 93, was born on 15 July 1926 in Calcutta, where the family business, Graham's Port, had diversified to in the 19th Century. The son of Lt Col Sir [John] Reginald Graham who had won a VC during the Samarra offensive

in Mesopotamia in 1917, he was educated at Eton College when two German bombs fell on the

College in 1940. He joined the Army in 1944 and was commissioned in the Regiment shortly after the end of the Second World War. He served with the 3rd Battalion in England and Palestine.

After leaving the Army he went up to Trinity College Cambridge to read Classics and Law before joining the Diplomatic Service and studying at the Middle East Centre for Arabic Studies. His diplomatic career included tours in Bahrain (1951), Kuwait Army in (1952) Jordan (1953), Yugoslavia (1957-60), Libya (1960-61) and London where he was Private Secretary to two Foreign Secretaries, Michael Stewart and Sir Alec Douglas-Home.

After being posted to Washington as Counsellor and then Head of Chancery, he served as Ambassador to Iraq from 1974-77, represented the British Government on the ground in the run-up to the Lancaster House Agreement deciding the future of Rhodesia in 1978, and was Ambassador to Iran from 1979-80 during the turbulent days after the overthrow of the Shah. He succeeded to the baronetcy as the 4th Baronet in 1980. His final post was as Ambassador and Permanent Representative

to NATO from 1982-86, the last two years when Lord Carrington, a fellow Grenadier, was Secretary General.

He retired from the Diplomatic Service in 1986, becoming Registrar of the Order of St Michael and St George 1987-2001 and Director of the Ditchley Foundation 1987-92.

In 1956 he married first Marygold Austin (who died as a result of a car accident in 1991) and then, in 1992, Janet Howells (née Hayes), the widow of a diplomat.

Sir John was always immensely proud of his short career in the Regiment and reminded his Argyll and Sutherland Highlander kinsmen that his experiences with the Brigade Squad and as a young Grenadier officer had left an indelible mark. He was a committed supporter and Vice President of the Oxfordshire Branch of the Association for many years.

Sir John leaves two sons and one daughter from his first marriage. The eldest, Lt General Andrew Graham CB CBE (late A and SH), succeeds to the title as the 5th baronet.



Grenadiers at Nijmegen 75 years ago.

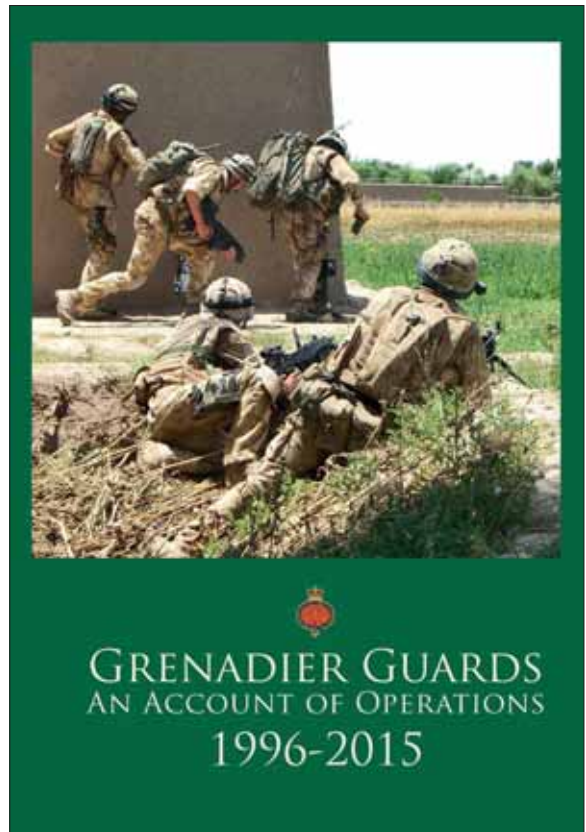
Review of Grenadier Guards An Account of Operations 1996-2015 by Alan Ogden

Great Regiments, like great buildings, embody a powerful sense of shared identity.

They also serve to inspire as well as to comfort in difficult times. The back cover of this excellent operational account of a challenging era in the Grenadiers' illustrious history records L/Cpl James Ashworth's inspirational gallantry in Helmand Province in 2012 where he was to win the Regiment's 14th Victoria Cross. Under the patronage of H.R.H The Prince Philip, The Colonel's Fund raised £3m to look after the families of Grenadiers killed in action, and to care for those wounded in mind or body.

Writing any form of Regimental history is a daunting task. A biography looks at the life of one person; the history of a regiment looks at the lives and actions of many individuals whose 'take' on events during their period of service is likely to be coloured by their own personal experience. Rudyard Kipling's unsurpassed masterpiece, *'The Irish Guards in the Great War'* describes in Kipling's own words, *'soberly and with what truth is possible the experiences of the Regiment'*. Alan Ogden, a former Grenadier and the Regiment's current archivist, describes this account, *'As a record, to capture with fidelity the breadth and complexity of Operations carried out by the Grenadiers 1996- 2015'*. It is to Alan's great credit, and to the readers' pleasure, that he avoids merely recording the formulaic templates required today by the MOD's Historical Branch in regimental war diaries. His time spent talking to the commanders during this period is invaluable.

Alan covers an unusually searching and complex period for the Regiment from Northern Ireland to Kosovo and Bosnia, to Iraq and Afghanistan where the Regiment completed three tours. In the Balkans, Grenadiers may not have had to endure the kinetic ferocity of Afghanistan but they were



to witness atrocities which were to eat into any man's soul. Lt Col Piers Ashfield DSO, then The Queen's Company Second Captain: *'We arrived in Kosovo Polje to find a number of Serbs had been burnt alive in the drainage ditches in front of their homes'*. Major Hancock: *'The biggest challenge we faced was our Grenadier approach versus the Dutch approach who felt they were purely to make friends'*. The Dutch approach led to the massacre of 8000 Bosnian at Srebrenica to the Dutch Nation's eternal shame. It makes for sober reading and a testament to the Regiment's discipline.

The account of the Grenadiers in Northern Ireland, a campaign which, lest we forget, resulted in more soldiers killed and wounded than the Falklands, Iraq and Afghanistan put together, will resonate strongly with those Grenadiers who completed one or more of the 17 tours 1969- 2001.

Once again it's a story of endurance, discipline and frustration. Captain Carew Hatherley, later to command 1 Gren Gds in Afghanistan, *'We arrested Seamus McArdle, a member of the PIRA sniper team in South Armagh and convicted of the 1996 Canary Wharf bombing. He was sentenced to 25 years but released under the terms of The Good Friday Agreement.'*

Iraq and Afghanistan, in the now infamous words of Donald Rumsfeld, US Secretary of Defence, *'There are unknown unknowns- the ones we don't know we don't know'* was for The Regiment, as for the whole British army, an era of political incompetence, failures of higher command, witness Basra, and unremitting sacrifice by the British soldier. Alan paints the history of Afghanistan and our previous involvement there: 1839–42; 1878–80; and 1919, supremely well. The Grenadiers completed three operational tours, Op Herrick V1, X1 and XV1. For those aficionados of topography, ORBATS, arsenals, deployments at Battlegroup and Company level, and operational awards, there is a wealth of thoughtful detail. More poignantly, there are details of those killed and wounded in action and how and when these sorrowful events took place.

Alan's account of Op Herrick X1 is particularly good. The Grenadiers area of operations was Nad-e Ali, the most lethal place in Afghanistan. The Commanding Officer, Lt Col Roly Walker DSO, now a major general, provides a compelling narrative to a tour, as heavy in achievement as in sacrifice, resulting in seven Grenadiers dead including the much respected RSM Darren Chant: *'We had to live in a world where you were being spied on the whole time, insurgent scouts were selling water outside the back gate'*.

The final reconciliation for Op Herrick was a heavy one: 19 Grenadiers, including those attached, killed in action. Those badly wounded in mind and body significantly more. It is of comfort that the Regiment's bravery and fortitude was recognised in one VC, two DSOs, 4 MCs, 16 Mentioned in Dispatches, 5 QCVSs, one OBE and one Commendation for Bravery.

The book's layout is its only weakness. The use of endless bubbles containing quotes from all and sundry, some useful, most adding little, and quite

a few stating the obvious, *'We maybe fighting the wrong war in the wrong country'* draws the eye away from a powerful narrative. It's probably a little unguardsmanlike, but I would have liked to have seen a photograph and a small 'hurrah' for the Regiment's Colonel during this period, HRH The Prince Philip, whose personal example and interest in the Regiment was inspirational.

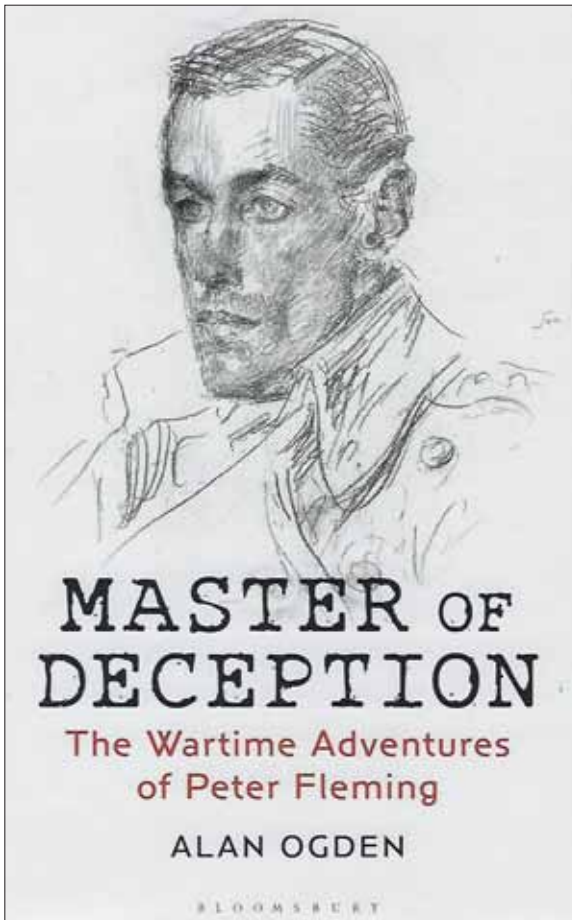
As the senior Regiment of infantry in the British Army, it has its obligations to past, present and future Grenadiers, and to the British Army as a whole. It's quite a name to live up to. The Regiment will celebrate its quatercentenary in 2060. Alan Ogden has done his former Regiment proud.

Paul de Zulueta with kind permission of the Editor of the *Guards magazine*.

Master of Deception: the wartime adventures of Peter Fleming by Alan Ogden

Peter Fleming was the less famous brother of Ian, and also a Grenadier reservist, a most distinguished writer, adventurer and journalist, and the husband of the actress Celia Johnson; and that's all before his wartime career as a 'master of deception'. In the early 1930s, he was in the Brazilian jungle, searching for Colonel Percy Fawcett 'an irrepressible explorer' who was sadly never seen again, but Fleming's book about the expedition became a bestseller, receiving rave reviews from J.B. Priestley, and others. More books followed and by 1936 he had become one of the country's 'most glamorous literary lions'.

In the summer of 1939 he rejoined the Grenadiers, and on the outbreak of war was immediately recruited into the fledgling irregular warfare cadre that later became SOE; and as Alan Ogden suggests, he was probably already 'on the books of SIS'. Fleming was immensely clever, wrote incisive papers, spent time in Norway with Carton de Wiart and, back home, developed stay



behind parties in the event of an invasion (the idea of another Grenadier, Andrew Thorne). He also served for a short time with the London District School of Tactics, running the street fighting wing in Battersea (the mind boggles!).

In early 1942, Fleming received a request from General Wavell to join him as an intelligence officer in the Far East, where the situation was 'little short of catastrophic' as the Japanese swept towards India. It is here that he was in his element, hatching 'haversack ruses' whereby fake information is planted on the enemy, and masterminding strategic deception plans, like the inflating (or perhaps conflating?) of the British and Indian order of battle to deter the Japanese from invading India.

This is not a conventional biography, and a bit like Peter Fleming's extraordinary fertile mind, it wends its way through an oblique and complex

subject in a fascinating way. It does not rattle along like a Ben Macintyre book, but its style shows considerably more substance; we get real insights into the problems and challenges; this is an historian's book not a journalist's.

Fleming was a 'wheeler and dealer' in information, and although he was hampered by, to quote Professor Sir Michael Howard, 'a total absence of any settled Allied strategic intentions in the Far East...', he still managed to build an impressive organization for delivering deception at both the strategic and tactical levels.

He was proud Grenadier who had two sides to him, the conventional and the entirely unconventional, with a brain and imagination ideally suited to his wartime role of deceiving the enemy. He rarely took the limelight and often left the plaudits to others. One gets the impression from this fascinating and well-written book that Peter Fleming was a modest man, a family man, a decent man in all respects and perhaps not like his more famous brother, or indeed James Bond. He was cleverer than both.

Colonel Simon Doughty,
Editor the *Guards Magazine*.

Across an Angry Sea by Lieutenant General Sir Cedric Deves

This first-hand account of SAS operations in the Falklands is a classic Special Forces page-turner. Cedric Delves whose D Squadron played a vital role during the conflict writes with pace, authority and great verve as he describes the extraordinary achievements of his men and the courageous aircrews of the Fleet Air Arm who ferried them about.

From the very beginning, there were two enemies in the Falklands, the Argentines and the weather. Of the two, the weather proved the more unpredictable and fiercest. 'Unaware...of a gathering storm of staggering proportions', the Squadron's Mountain

Troop inserted on South Georgia. It took the loss of two helicopters to extract them. The Boat Troop fared little better with the crew of one Gemini being picked up 62 miles offshore! When Delves calls it 'one of the most inhospitable environments on the planet', he is not exaggerating

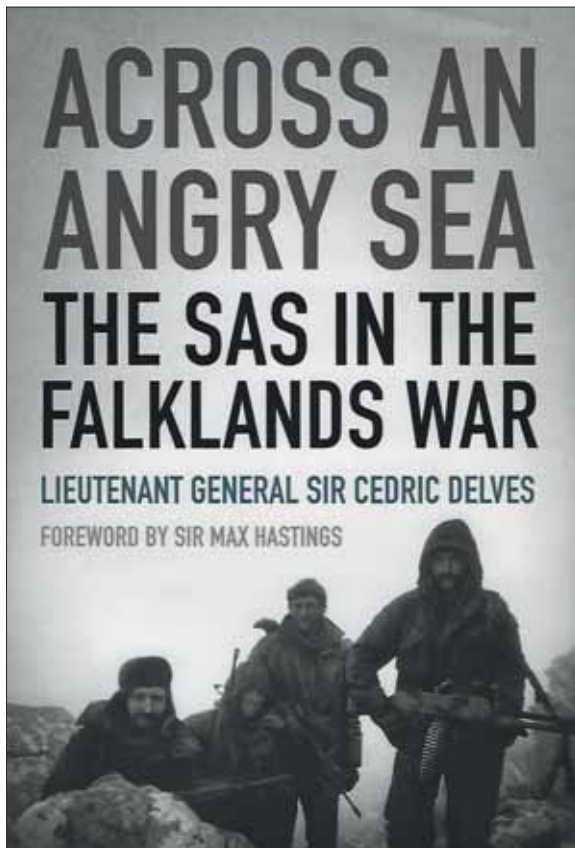
After successful neutralizing an Argentine submarine and taking the surrender of the garrison at Gryhviken, D Squadron rejoined the main Task Force where it met up with G Squadron. There now comes a moment when Delves and Major Euan Houstoun [Grenadier Guards] of G Squadron perch like pet raptors on the shoulders of Admiral Sandy Woodward until they are despatched to hunt for prey. For D Squadron, this meant yet another hair-raising night-time lift by helicopter in the teeth of a ferocious gale, this time to Pebble Island. Fortunately, it went without incident and the Squadron carried out a daring attack on an enemy airfield in the legendary style of David Stirling and

Paddy Mayne. On return, exhilaration turned to despondency when a Sea King helicopter ditched at night, killing 20 SAS soldiers.

Determined to remain in the field, Delves carved out a role for his Squadron in the final assault on Port Stanley. Now in contact with the Argentine main force, they worked closely with flanking units until Lt Col Michael Rose [Coldstream Guards], CO 22 SAS, dropped in by helicopter on his way to assist in the negotiations to surrender and told them that it was over. It was a poignant moment. Delves recalls that there was 'no cheering, no back-slapping, no bear hugs...little talk even. We simply stood up in silence mainly, hushed, half-whispered conversations'.

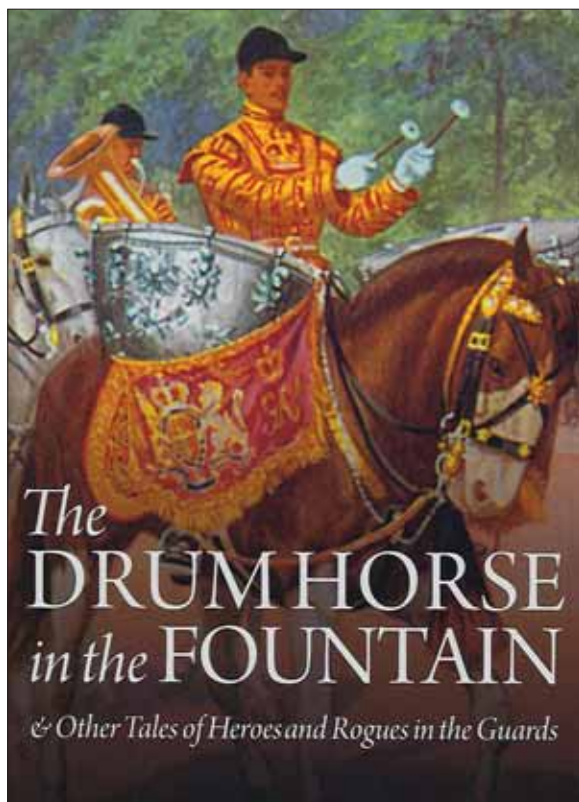
On a more elevated level, this is a book about the challenges of command and the inherent flaws of the decision-making process in war epitomised by the intrinsic tension between the pressure of time and imperfect information. As Delves bluntly puts it, the business of war is 90% about managing cock-ups. The ability to improvise as a plan unravels yet retain the intent is his key to best chance of success. Characterised by a complete lack of bravado and by an unusually frank self-examination, *Across an Angry Sea* not only enthral us as a story of daring do but makes a significant contribution to the study of command and the management of risk.

Alan Ogden with kind permission of the Editor of the *Guards Magazine*.



The Drum Horse in the Fountain by Christopher Joll and Anthony Weldon

The Drum Horse in the Fountain is a glorious cavalcade of individuals who have helped to write the colourful history of the Household Division. From a richly illustrated tapestry that encompasses nearly 400 years of derring-do in all



corners of the world, the authors have imaginatively condensed this well-researched account into twelve entertaining chapters, each themed by an eclectic aspect of this unique military institution.

And unique it is, no better summed up than by HRH The Duke of Cambridge when he inspected the 1st Bn Grenadier Guards and 2nd Bn Scots Fusilier Guards prior to their departure to Canada in the winter of 1861/62. 'Some say we pet and pamper these choice troops, but when danger looms near we treat them as a Spartan mother would treat her favourite child – we send them to the first point of danger'.

Inevitably, some names have slipped through the net. Major-General Sir Henry Bentinck, KCB, formerly Coldstream Guards and Commander of the Guards Brigade in the Crimea, issued his own medal to selected members of the three Guards regiments at a time when insufficient official awards for gallantry were available. It is no accident that the VC medal ribbon is the same colour.

There were thinkers as well as doers. Major-

General E. Burnaby, Grenadier Guards, who had been a young company commander in the Crimea, came up with the idea of the British-European Legion, a prototype of today's call for a Pan-European army. Later seconded to the Ottoman Sultan, he scored another first in organizing international aid for the victims of the devastating earthquake that hit the Lebanon in 1870.

Although hidden in the shadows of the intelligence world, Colonel Johnny Bevan, M.C., Coldstream Guards, merits a place as Head of the innocuously named London Controlling Section for his significant contribution to Allied strategic deception. Likewise, Bill Stirling, Scots Guards, David's elder brother, who played an energetic role in M.I.R., setting up the Special Training School at Lochailort, Tommy Langton, Irish Guards, who became a legend in the SAS and SBS, and Sir Stephen Hastings, Scots Guards, all deserve mention.

Nevertheless, from such an extensive list to choose from, the authors are to be congratulated on their excellent selection. With a following wind, Volume Two of this informative and immensely entertaining book will hopefully see the light of day.

For instance, there is a whole hidden history of officers who travelled the globe in the 19th and 20th centuries, so a section on Painful Peregrinations awaits. General George Pereira, CB, CMG, DSO, Grenadier Guards, leads the charge – British Military attaché in Beijing before the First World War, he went on to become one of the great Central Asian travellers and died on the road to Tibet in 1923 aged 58. And Oliver Shepard, Coldstream Guards, of the 1979 Transglobe Expedition, surely warrants a place on the podium as does intrepid walker Harry Bucknall, Coldstream Guards.

This is a book that belongs to all the Household Division and the authors deserve our thanks for showcasing many of those who created its legacy of excellence, distinction and, of course, eccentricity.

Alan Ogden.

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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 dependents 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 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 prior to the advent of CAMUS.
 - (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 and members of the Regimental Band of the CAMUS era are known as Associate Members.
 - d. **Honorary Members.** Ladies (including Grenadier widows) 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 in line with the By-Laws for Branches, Section 2, paragraph 2.
13. The Executive Committee reserves the right to reconsider the membership accorded to all categories mentioned in paragraph 4 above.
14. Discharged men or Army Reservists with a character reference 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. 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.
16. The Executive Committee reserves to themselves the right to expel any member or exclude any applicant from membership.
17. 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.

SUBSCRIPTIONS, DONATIONS AND THE DAYS PAY SCHEME

18. **Subscriptions.** Subscriptions into the Headquarters Fund are not payable by any member.
19. At a local level and at the discretion of Branch Committees with the agreement of members, local rates for subscriptions may be set, collected and retained by Branches to support their general expenditure.
20. **Donations.** All members shall be actively encouraged to donate an annual sum to the Association Headquarters Fund 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 Headquarters 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.
22. **The Day's Pay Scheme.** This is a voluntary scheme whereby serving Officers and Soldiers can contribute monthly to Regimental Charitable Funds direct from their pay. All those eligible are encouraged to do so in order to help support the Association's welfare effort which is in turn supported financially by a monthly Regimental grant.

BRANCHES OF THE ASSOCIATION

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

Bath	Manchester	Suffolk
Bristol	March	Surrey & East Hampshire
Derby	Matlock & Chesterfield	Walsall
East Kent	Medway	Wessex
Essex	Norfolk	Wigan St. Helens & District
Gloucestershire	Northamptonshire	Windsor
Kingston & District	North Staffordshire	Wolverhampton
Leicestershire	Nottinghamshire	Worcester & Hereford
Lincoln	Oxfordshire	Yorkshire
Liverpool	Reading	<i>Overseas:</i>
London	Shropshire	<i>North America.</i>

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

News from the Norfolk Dining Club

by Ross Donaldson

As planned, we reduced the number of events this year and moved all but two of them to Lunches. The first we held as the Spring Lunch and were very pleased to be able to have as our guest Leonard Boxall. Leonard, not from Norfolk, had been 'found' living in a residential home in Watton and had just passed his 100th birthday. More is written about Leonard and his adventures with the Norfolk Branch elsewhere in this journal but we made him very welcome and he was most appreciative.

We then held a Summer Dinner in June which was quite well attended.

We felt it was time to record our thanks and appreciation to the Stower Grange Hotel for

looking after the Club for the whole 25 years of its existence and were pleased that Richard Fannon, who has owned the hotel for most of that time, accepted our invitation to actually dine with us. As a mark of our appreciation we presented him with a framed photograph of the members at our 25th Anniversary Dinner, suitably inscribed.

So another year draws to a close and we have just enjoyed our annual Ladies Christmas night. Unfortunately, we cannot avoid noticing how members are finding it harder to turn out on a winter's night with, this year, the rain beating down and the wind blowing! Luckily, many found younger members of the family who could drive them in and we gathered 18 Grenadiers together with 26 'support staff' to fill six tables of mixed frivolity for the usual excellent meal at the Hotel, our spiritual home. Unfortunately, Roy Ibson one of our stalwart supporters, is still confined to Hertfordshire with his foot encased in a plaster 'boot' and has not been able to drive up here since last December.



21 members of the Norfolk Dining Club, in various states of unsteadiness and bewilderment, at their Summer Dinner.

We have also held two ‘Pub Lunches’, as they have become known, at the Golf Club in Thetford. Simple menu, not expensive and proving popular, especially to Grenadiers who find Norwich a long way to travel. We were pleased that Andy Green was able to join us for the first and Mick Draper, Al Cameron, Barry Lovelace and Kingsley ‘two drinks’ Minns, all from outside our County, lunched with us in November.

Sadly, we lost one of our younger members, Frank Green, after a long fight against a brain tumour. He was a keen member and had come up with several ideas to enhance the Club. We will miss him greatly.

We are now thinking hard on how to take the Club forward, accepting that we will not attract many, if any, new members. Terry Smith, our Facebook wizard, has made contact with a good number of

Grenadiers living in or near Norfolk but, as when we were at their age, they are busy with working, families and so on and meeting up with us of a previous age doesn’t inspire them to join in.

The plan so far for 2020 is to keep going with the Thetford ‘pub lunches’ – probably one in April or May and another in the Autumn, depending on Norfolk Branch dates. Other ideas for getting together are under consideration – including the idea of placing the Club in ‘Suspended Animation’ – and just having ad hoc gatherings when the mood takes us!

So Grenadiers everywhere, we will be very pleased to welcome you to Norfolk. Please don’t hold back, Norfolk has wide open beaches, woodland walks, museums aplenty, excellent dining AND a few Grenadiers! We hope to see you. Just call 01328 838469 or email ross.donaldson2019@outlook.com



Terry McClenahan, former Honorary Secretary of the Club, presenting the framed photograph to Richard Fannon.

A Company Reunion to Remember

by Gary Eldershaw

No 2 Company 2nd Battalion Grenadier Guards held their reunion on Saturday 14th September 2019 in Nottingham.

A committee was formed to plan and execute the event consisting of Mick O'Hara, Dave Dorrance, Dave Boucher, Paddy Eldershaw and a special mention to Linda Chez, who is a Support Worker and had previously looked after Ray Norris, before his untimely passing in 2017. Despite having no further need for contact with Grenadiers since Ray's passing, Linda has been an active member of the 2019 committee throughout, and assisted in the organising of a number of raffle prizes during her very infrequent spare time.

We had 102 in attendance which included some from an invitation to the Nottingham Branch of the Association, and a former Company Commander, now Major General, a number of former 2 Company officers and all ranks below; Craig Purkiss won the 'most travelled' award for flying in from Sydney for the weekend.

The emphasise of the evening was for as many pals, and their wives and partners as possible to spend a few hours meeting up in an informal setting and have a great time reminiscing, and much to the delight and surprise of the committee members, the fantastic turnout was many more

than originally anticipated.

Those that were able to make it ranged from those that had served as far back as the 1960s, British Honduras in 1972, Windsor in 1973–1974, through to Hong Kong in 1975–1976, Chelsea Barracks and Munster in the 1980's, and up until the 2nd Battalion was placed in suspended animation in the 1990's.

Special thanks should go to a number of people, (Steve Marcham, Steve Balmer and Colonel Richard Aubrey-Fletcher from Association funds) who despite not being able to attend, kindly made a cash donation of £100 each to help offset the cost of the venue hire. Anna Line (widow of Howard) also joined us on the night, and also made a very kind £50 donation. Steve Hill from the Nottingham Branch made a £20 donation.

A charity collection was made on the night and raised £892.00 for the Royal Hospital, Chelsea.



From top to bottom: Jonathan Lloyd and Mike Brennan, Dave Barrett and Craig Purkiss, Dave Dorrance and Paul Bowbanks, General Evelyn and Gary Eldershaw, Mike Gordon and Kevin Parker, Two Company Reunion Group.

REGIMENTAL REMEMBRANCE DAY 2019



Clockwise from the top left: The Household Division Corps of Drums, David Coote, Maureen and Steve Vaughan with Bob Fallon, Peter Hewlett-Smith and James Gatehouse carrying the Mareth Cross wreath, The Lieutenant Colonel with The Colonel, Officers 'milling about'.



REGIMENTAL REMEMBRANCE DAY 2019



Clockwise from the top left: About to Get on Parade, Peter Brookes and Colin Knight, The Colonel laying the wreath at the Guards Memorial, The Regimental Band, Marching Past, Major Sandy Gray.



GRENADIER DAY 2019



Clockwise from the top left: Sgt Rob Broomes shopkeeper for the day, enjoying Bristol Branch cider, the Wessex Branch stall, a look at the past, the present, the future perhaps.

GRENADIER DAY 2019



Clockwise from the top left: The Colonel arrives, The Corps of Drums, I can get you a bigger one Sir, Colonel Richard and The Colonel with Bob and Sue Gilbert, Maurice Joyce and Brian Sheen, Boyton Cup winners from the Medway Branch.



Struggling with a Replacement Vent Panel Bulkhead

by *Stuart (formerly 2nd Bn)*
and *Anne Mckinnon*

Well, to say we were disappointed that at Grenadier Day last year we could not show our usual Lightweight Land Rover and associated vintage Signals display is an understatement. Three days earlier and thanks to our marvellous NHS, Stuart became the new owner of a stent following bouts of Angina, so perhaps we could be forgiven.

So there was the first impediment; no driving for seven days by order of the Doctor and DVLA. The second issue was that the Landy was, to be honest in Bad Order. Not easy to say as a Grenadier but we are struggling with a replacement vent panel bulkhead, holes are starting to appear in ours. We are working on it and although progress is slow we are hoping that normal service will be resumed at Grenadier Day this year. It did give us the chance for once to wander around and we found having the chance to mingle and interact with the various

Branches present very enjoyable. We were also lucky enough to meet HRH The Duke of York, our new Colonel.

Anne normally runs a small raffle in aid of the Colonel's Fund on the day, but as all possibilities of a display were off, we got to thinking how we might make up for it.

For the last three to four years, we have attended the National Hamfest at the Newark Showground in Nottinghamshire and have volunteered to help organise and run the show for radio amateurs up and down the country and much further afield. We had well over 3300 visitors to the show and from as far away as the USA, the Far East, and Australasia to mention but a few.

The show once again was a great success and little did we know that Anne and I were due some financial dividends from shares of proceedings for our small involvement.

We were therefore delighted to have been able to send a cheque to Regimental Headquarters for the sum of £350. The picture below shows the cheque being presented to Stuart (on the right) by Mr Ian Shepherd CEO of National Hamfest Ltd, who coincidentally is also Chairman of the RSGB, the Radio Society of Great Britain, of which our former Colonel HRH Prince Philip is Patron.



A Village in Chelsea – a Brief History and Appreciation of Chelsea Barracks

by Sean Bolan

‘The preservation of the health of the soldier ought, beyond all question, to be counted a sacred duty by those on whose behalf he undertakes the risks of his calling’. So stated Sidney Herbert in his ‘Sanitary Improvement in the Army’ presented to Parliament by command of Her Majesty the Queen in 1858.

There can be little doubt that the Crimean War of 1854–56 highlighted enormous deficiencies in the organisation of the British Army. William Russell, The Times correspondent, sent regular damning dispatches back from the Front on the terrible conditions under which troops were expected to operate. For every one soldier killed or injured in combat, seven had died from preventable diseases!

The good works of Florence Nightingale and her staff at Scutari Hospital are well-documented. Sidney Herbert, later Lord Herbert of Lea, succumbed willingly to her doctrine and vigorously led a Commission to investigate and recommend improvements in the woeful sanitation, ventilation and space allotted to individual soldiers in barracks throughout the land.

Prior to the Commission being set up, a competition was held in 1855 to provide a new barracks for the Guards at a convenient and spacious site in London. The competition was open to civilian architects for the first time and broke with the entrenched position of the government exclusively using military engineers to design and construct soldiers’ accommodation. The winner of the competition was the eminent architect, George Morgan.

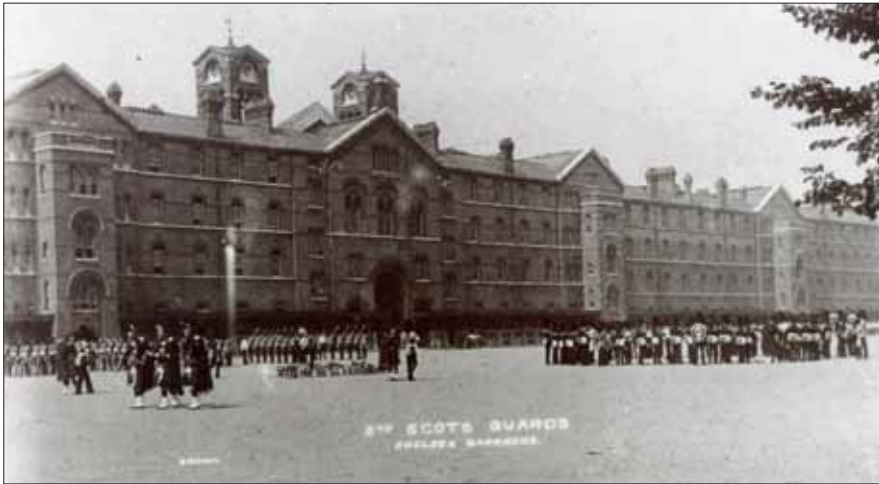
The site chosen for the new barracks had been a modest estate, formerly owned by General Richard Wilford, adjoining Ranelagh Gardens at its Eastern border. On General Wilford’s death in 1822, the house was sold to the Reverend Joseph George Brett and after his passing in 1852, the then Wilford-Brett Estate was able to offer Her Majesty’s Government 12.8 acres of prime land for the construction of the new Guards’ Barracks.

The old estate house was demolished in 1854 to make way for Chelsea Bridge Road and Chelsea Bridge itself opened in 1858. Shortly after this, work commenced on the new Chelsea Barracks. Work was delayed for some time by a dispute between the workers and management. It was suggested by Sidney Herbert that Royal Engineers and other skilled troops could be employed to take over the delayed construction. However, even in those less enlightened times, it was thought unwise to take such a confrontational course and eventually the dispute was settled and work recommenced.

The Barracks, once complete, must have been an impressive structure on what had been a quiet corner in Old Chelsea. It was designed in a Byzantine Style and consisted of several commodious buildings, including quarters and all necessary amenities for the officers, non-commissioned officers and married soldiers. The main accommodation for the private soldiers was in a four-storey main barrack block, 1250 feet in length which comfortably housed two battalions of men.



A view of Chelsea Barracks that appeared in the Illustrated London News in December 1861. The Stepped roof line was levelled in 1897 by adding floors either side of the central section following a fire that destroyed part of the upper floor in A Block, the nearer one of the left.



A view around 1908 of the main Barrack block looking west. A sense of the grandeur and size of the Barracks may be discerned from the view.

The eastern side of the block facing the parade ground, was provided with a canopy running virtually its whole length to accommodate troops forming up for Guard Mounting and various inspections in inclement weather.

There was also an extensive basement under the building for similar purposes. The Northern end was originally known as 'A' Block and Southern



A Postcard view along Chelsea Bridge road in the 1900's. The Tower on the left of the main entrance had a large clock with faces on the road and barrack square side whereas the tower on the right had two faces that showed wind direction. The building in the foreground, at left, was constructed around 1897 and became the Commanding Officer's office and Sergeant Major's office matching the building opposite which was the Guard Room and was provided at the time of opening.

section known as 'B' Block. After the First World War they were known respectively as Headquarters Wing and the Detached Wing. The main entrance to the Barracks was gained through an archway half-way along the main barrack block in Chelsea Bridge Road and gave access to the sizeable parade ground in the centre of the site. Another entrance was in Ranelagh Grove and the other, at the back

Guardroom, led directly from Ebury Bridge Road.

The exterior was completed by March 1863 and one can assume that the interior was ready for the stationing of 1st Battalion Coldstream Guards from Portman Street Barracks as from September 15th of that year along with 1st Battalion Scots Guards from Wellington Barracks.

The completed Chelsea Barracks was for the time considered to be 'state of the art' and was in effect a self-contained village. Because of its sheer size, it was often used in preference to other available venues for parades, reviews, pageants, inspections, entertainments, rehearsals and various public duties in and around London.

Structurally, the Barracks did not change greatly over the years, but on 17th March 1897, a disastrous fire gripped the upper two floors of 'A' Block, destroying the Drummers' room and No2 Company's barrack room of the 2nd Battalion Coldstream Guards, who were then transferred to the artillery barracks at Woolwich. Extraordinary as it may seem, especially with our modern experience of builders, the destroyed section of Barracks was completely rebuilt and extended to increase the space in time to accommodate the visiting colonial troops that attended Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee celebrations of 21st June 1897, well within three months!

A single-storey building, which virtually mirrored the size and style of the guard room at the



German and Italian internees, assembled on the square at Chelsea Barracks, under the vigilance of Grenadier sentries, Summer 1940.

main entrance in Chelsea Bridge Road, was built opposite it around 1897 and subsequently served as a Commanding Officer's and Sergeant Major's office. An extension was added to the South aisle of the Chapel in 1890 and the Officers' Mess was extended towards the end of the 1st World War. At around the same time, new married quarters were constructed along with the miniature firing range. Apart from various temporary buildings coming and going as required, the next substantial changes inevitably came during the 2nd World War. The Barracks was used as the training depot for the Grenadier and Scots Guards for 21 months at the start of the War, as well as a processing centre for upwards of 6,500 enemy aliens until their dispatch to various internment camps for the duration of the War.



Sergeant Growther, Grenadier Guards, oversees a Depot Squad in Musketry at Chelsea Barracks c. March 1940.

Many incendiaries fell on the Barracks causing various degrees of damage. A number of high-explosive bombs fell, one completely destroying the NAAFI building and another creating a massive crater in the parade ground.

Being a self-contained 'village' with a mostly transient population, many events took place in the Barracks throughout the years from the notorious to the ridiculous, but space sadly allows us to offer only a selection.

There was a murder at the Barracks when Michael Connor of 2nd Battalion Grenadier Guards, murdered Noah Johnson of 1st Battalion of the same Regiment on the evening of Christmas Day 1876 in the Guard Room. Connor was subsequently found guilty and hanged.

The first use of motor transport for the Brigade of Guards, was from Chelsea Barracks in March 1909, when 2nd Battalion Grenadier Guards were conveyed to Hastings with their attendant equipment.



Looking north under the canopy, of the main block c.1959, which was provided for the use of troops in inclement weather.

During the First World War, the Barracks was used to its maximum for training purposes. The detention block was used throughout for enemy aliens and spies.

In 1921 a Sergeant Roche, of 1st Battalion Irish Guards was arrested at Euston Station after stealing various machine guns and rifles from the armoury at Chelsea Barracks. Although he had fought well throughout the Great War and indeed was wounded five times for his efforts, his sympathies ultimately lay with Roger Casement's Sinn Feiners.

During the Second World War it was decided that the internal fire brigade, provided by the Grenadier Guards, should be furnished with a pump and undertake regular drills to combat any potential fires resulting from aerial attack. The squad selected took great pride in their regular fire drills and were admired for their efficiency. Among the first bombs to fall were some incendiaries, which lodged on the roof of the mess hall. The now very professional fire crew raced to douse the flames. Regrettably, the highly polished pump did not work and help had to be sought from the civilian fire brigade, by which time the roof of the mess hall was completely destroyed. The Scots Guards subsequently and exclusively provided the internal fire brigade!

At the height of the Blitz a 250lb high explosive bomb fell on the Detached Wing, crashing down through one of the chimneys, smashing fireplaces on its destructive course to the ground floor and skidded through several rooms until it came to rest in some stored bedding! After all that, it failed to explode and a great search was initiated. The heroic Sergeant who eventually found it looked unusually pale and nervous! The bomb was finally taken to Hackney Marshes and detonated.

After the Second World War, the Welsh Guards, on their return from Palestine in 1948, were featured in the film, 'The Conspirator', set in or at Chelsea Barracks, although it was an illusion as all the filming was done at Elstree Studios where a full-size mock-up of the Barrack's main entrance was erected. In 1951 there was a spectacular pageant featuring Council vehicles – dustcarts and the like – that had been in the front line of clearing up during the Blitz.

The grandeur of the Barracks as first built, had faded over the years, and it took on a rather neglected appearance towards the end of its life. During the post-war period usually only one Battalion was stationed there.

After two World Wars and nearly a century of London grime, the Barracks had become a shadow of its former self. By the late 1950s, as was the unfortunate fashion of the time, it was decided to demolish, rather than renovate or restore the venerable, solid buildings, which could easily have lasted another century or more.

The new Barracks imposed on the site, designed by Tripe and Wakeham, were uninspiring and featureless modern blocks which proved universally unpopular, as much of that decade's architecture was. The new Barracks were ready for use in 1962,



A view of the Chapel c.1959 showing the Rose Window and Bell Tower. To the right may be seen the main Barrack block.



The interior of the Chapel prior to the First World War.

but many structural defects were found almost immediately. Much reconstruction took place and problems beset the new buildings throughout their life. F Company, Scots Guards carried out an impressive final Change of Quarters on 22nd November 2007. No 7 Company Coldstream Guards, equally impressively mounted guard for the very last time on 21st December, 2007. The handing over of keys to the property development company took place on 31st January, 2008, finally severing the historic links between the Guards and Chelsea forever.

The only heroic survivors from the original building are the irreplaceable Chapel and Iron railings, fronting Chelsea Bridge Road, both of which I managed to get listed with English Heritage. The Chapel contains some interesting memorials and windows including an impressive Rose Window. The Mosaic floor tiling around the altar area and font are good examples of contemporary Victorian Decorative design. The Choir Stalls, Pulpit and ironwork screen are also worthy examples of the mid-nineteenth century style. Sadly, much of the

interior fixtures and fittings, including the altar and organ were sold off and little remained when the site was eventually sold.

The Development has moved on apace of late and about half the properties have been constructed and sold. The Chapel has now been beautifully restored and forms a fitting centrepiece to the luxury homes that surround it. Even a new bell has been cast for the chapel tower to replace the lost original. Any ex-Guardsmen seeing the superb restoration work that's been achieved so far will feel pride and admiration.

Acknowledgements: I would like to thank the following for their invaluable assistance: John Froud, Tom Smith, Steve Lewis, the late Captain R T Clarkson Scots Guards, the late Lt Colonel C J E Seymour formerly Grenadier Guards, the late E Bolan formerly 3rd & 6th Battalion Grenadier Guards, Adrian Knowles, Katrina and Kensington & Chelsea Library and Diana Wheatley.

NB. Chelsea Barracks was sold for £959,000,000 to be credited to the MOD Defence budget rather than to the Treasury.



An interior view of the recently restored Chapel at Chelsea. (Photograph by courtesy of Anna Bowen, QATARIDIAR).

1st Battalion Grenadier Guards Football XI Berlin - Winter 1955

by *Jamie Illingworth*

I joined the 1st Battalion in Berlin in the Autumn of 1955 travelling with a party of National Service Guardsmen who I was in charge of, from the Depot at Pirbright via Harwich and the Hook of Holland and like me were all in their early 20's if that!

Life in the Battalion was fairly relaxed, apart from the odd exercise on the Sewage Farm, guarding Spandau Prison and also the GOC's house called Villa Lemm.

This left plenty of time to play football most weeks during that very cold Winter against all the other regiments stationed in Berlin and also some from the Zone.

The photograph below is of the 1st Battalion team just after we had won the Berlin Independent Brigade Soccer final. The game was played in the 1936 Berlin Olympic Stadium watched by a mere handful of soldiers and the General Officer Commanding in Berlin who presented the cup and we all got a medal (above right)!

Although I had played a lot of football at school, where I was in the first eleven, playing for the Battalion was for me a complete eye-opener. At school the game was mostly about kick and run, but



playing for the Battalion I remember how amazed I was that everybody in the team actually passed the ball to each other, so that all one had to do was pass it on to somebody else (basically speaking)!

Having always played right half at school, Ginty Croucher in the duffle coat on the right of the team photograph and self-appointed Trainer/Selector, made me play inside right (now what they would call a mid-fielder I think). Interestingly enough Ginty was in the 1st Motor Battalion during the War with my Father, whom he knew well. When I tried to find out from him any stories he could tell me about my Father, all he would say was that he was 'a very fair man' – so I left it at that!

All of the above team must be well over 80 by now and I wonder if anybody can recognise them? The only one I can remember is Sgt Harris who was Captain and has the ball at his feet. He was a fine footballer, and 2 or 3 of the National Service Guardsman were reputed to be on the books of minor league clubs in England.

I really am sad that I can't remember what the score was in the Final! What I can remember about that game, which was against the REME (mostly made up with rather small red haired Scotsmen) was during the first half I heard the REME centre half say to one of his mates who was marking me, 'Get the Officer'. How he knew I didn't know but I suppose my hair might have been a bit longer than the rest of the team, anyway I learnt a lot about the 'Professional Foul' that day!!



D Day 75th Anniversary - Normandy Re-Visited

by David Welling, Chairman Wigan, St Helens and District Branch

In February 2019 on returning from a winter sunshine break I found a message on my telephone from 94 year-old **Eric Radcliffe**, treasurer of the Wigan, St Helens and District Branch of the Association. **Eric** asked me to ring him as soon as possible and, unsure of what the emergency might be, I contacted him the following day.

He told me that he had been thinking about applying to the Royal British Legion for the 75th Anniversary visit to Normandy but was afraid that he may have missed out due to a cut off date for applications. However, the date had been extended and he was keen to attend but the proviso was that he had to nominate a person to accompany him as a personal carer. He asked if I would do this.

I told him that I would consider it an honour and a privilege and to go ahead and apply even though he was unsure of his eligibility as he had landed in Normandy on July 4th with the 4th Battalion as part of 6 Guards Tank Brigade. We filled out the numerous forms with details of fitness, medication, passports health insurance etc. and our application was duly accepted.

On 20th April **Alison Bunn**, the Royal British Legion Area Manager arranged to meet both of us at **Eric's** home where she supplied further information including the itinerary for the visit and answered the many questions we had to ask. On the 10th May **Eric** and I were invited to attend a reception at Wigan Town Hall hosted by the Mayor and attended by other Veterans in the area. Tea and sandwiches were enjoyed by all.

On 20th May it was arranged that all Normandy Veterans from Greater Manchester, Merseyside and Lancashire were to meet up at the Village Hotel, Bury for a familiarisation meeting where once again, we were treated to tea and sandwiches, all arranged by the Royal British Legion. There were 14 Veterans in attendance with their carers and **Eric** met another former member of 6 Guards Tank Brigade, former 3rd Bn Scots Guardsman



From Left to Right: **Eric, Dave and Ted.**

Ted Davidson. They didn't know each other and had never met previously but were about to become firm friends.

The whole event, organised by the Royal British Legion in partnership with Arena Travel, specialists in battlefield tours was to be financed by the LIBOR fund which was set up from the proceeds of the fines paid by banks and other financial institutions for wrong doing.

Our journey started on Saturday 1st June when **Barry and Adel Taylor** took us to join our coach in Wigan. We spent that night in a North London hotel before proceeding to Dover on Sunday 2nd June to join Fred Olsen ship MS Boudicca which was to be our 'billet' for the duration of the event.

On arrival at Dover a wonderful reception greeted us as we alighted the coach to enter the arrivals hall. We were met by Standard Bearers of the RBL, a Corps of Drums of Naval Cadets and many younger Veterans from different eras who formed a Guard of Honour; very moving for all of us. Before we set sail **Rod Stewart** sang his hit 'Sailing. He was accompanied by his Wife **Penny Lancaster** and that was a treat enjoyed by us all!

On Monday morning we were in Dunkirk, many didn't disembark but those amongst us who had been involved in the evacuation of Dunkirk went ashore to pay our respects. Tuesday saw us back in 'Blighty' in Poole where 40 Commando Royal Marines gave demonstrations of modern weapons, vehicles and equipment on the quayside. They came aboard, joining us for lunch and then gave a very good demonstration on unarmed combat.

Wednesday was a big day in Portsmouth with **Her Majesty the Queen, HRH Prince Charles, President Trump, President Macron, Prime Minister Trudeau and Prime Minister May** among the many dignitaries present for D-Day 75. Again, a spectacular event and an honour and privilege to be there.

The Welsh Guards provided the Army contingent of the Guard of Honour. After the event, tea and sandwiches (again) were the order of the day as the dignitaries met many of the Veterans in the marquees.

On leaving, just as it was on our arrival, our coaches were escorted by the police through Portsmouth back to our ship. The people of Portsmouth were out in force to show their appreciation and support for the Veterans.

Overnight we sailed to Le Havre and after an early reveille at 0530hrs we were ready to depart for Bayeux in readiness for the next major event, again under a police escort for the two-hour journey. Once again **The Duke and Duchess of Cornwall** were present with Mrs May and other

French dignitaries for a wonderful, moving and sometimes emotional ceremony. **Eric and Ted** laid wreaths afterwards and we then retired to the marquee for lunch. **Eric and Ted**, it appears, were the only Guards representatives on board ship although we did meet serving Guardsmen including the **Garrison Sergeant Major** in Portsmouth and a **Coldstream CSM** in Bayeux.

Whilst at lunch a senior officer who recognised 'the tie' joined us and stayed with us for around 45 minutes. This officer was, no less than The Chief of the General Staff **General Sir Mark Carleton-Smith KCB CBE ADC**, formerly Irish Guards. All Veterans were presented with a badge to commemorate the occasion and the **General** pinned the badge on to **Eric and Ted's** Blazers. A truly wonderful gesture from a lovely man. He left the table but returned within a few minutes with the British Ambassador to France, **Lord Llewellyn of Steep** who was introduced to 'our two lads'. On leaving to return to Le Havre all coaches were, once again, given police escorts.



Eric is presented with his Badge.



Eric with General Sir Mark Carleton-Smith.



Eric's badge.



Eric, Dave and Ted with some new friends.

The following day, Friday, again saw a 0530hrs reveille as we were returning to the beaches. The first stop was Ranville Commonwealth War Grave Cemetery. A very moving experience. We didn't manage to locate any Grenadiers but found three Welsh Guardsmen and a Coldstream Guardsman's grave before we were required to re-join our coach.

Next port of call was Pegasus Bridge but due to the number of visitors already there it wasn't practical to leave the coach so we went on to Gold Beach which was, once again, a very emotional experience for many of the Veterans. After Gold we moved



Eric and Ted on Wreath Laying duty.

along the coast to Juno where the Canadians have a lovely little museum with Canadian university students spending 6 months of their term year as guides giving information to visitors.

Moving back to Le Havre we travelled inland to where other memorials are located, one to The Green Howards and another to The Winnipeg Rifles who had been captured by the German SS and taken behind a building and shot. There was another to the 49th Division (The Polar Bears) at the start line of their advance inland showing all the Regiments which made up the Division. On return to our ship we all enjoyed a gala evening.

We were due to sail back to Portsmouth that night then on to Dover on Saturday night but, due to a storm warning, our departure was delayed and we sailed direct to Dover at a leisurely pace to arrive for disembarkation on Sunday morning.

Not enough gratitude can be given to the Royal British Legion Staff, Arena Travel, Staff and Crew of MS Boudicca for the way they looked after and cared for the Veterans from start to finish. It was a truly wonderful and moving experience and I was honoured and privileged to have been involved in this historical occasion.



Eric in Winter Order.

Michael John Cottrell - Chairman, Manchester Branch

by Bob Fallon, Branch Secretary

Mick Cottrell was born and raised in Malvern, Worcester and joined the Grenadier Guards in March 1957 and reported to the Guards Depot, Caterham for training. His Squad Instructor was Geoff Mills, with whom he remained a firm friend though; both of them being stalwarts of the Manchester Branch.

On completion of his training in July 1957 Mick was posted to the 3rd Battalion in Cyprus. On his return to the UK he was posted in 1959 back to Caterham and the Guards Depot as a clothing storeman under Major Arthur Spratley MBE. During his time there the Guards Depot moved from Caterham to Alexander Barracks, Pirbright.

In 1961 Mick was promoted to LCpl and posted to the Musicians Wing, Junior Guardsmen Company as a Drill Instructor under the command of Colonel Pope, Coldstream Guards.

In 1963 he joined the 2nd Battalion and the Inkerman Company at Caterham Barracks and from there he went to Libya for six weeks training before the Battalion moved back to Windsor in 1964. It was here that he was detailed to the Bearer Party for Sir Winston Churchill's funeral on 30th January 1965. Mick was assigned the task of 'Swing Man', his job being to support the rear of the lead-lined coffin on its way up the steps of St Paul's Cathedral, and then support the front as it came back. Later once the coffin was in place on the Havengore, the barge that carried Sir Winston on the Thames, Mick took up position at the rear facing backwards at the stern on the starboard side.

The 2nd Battalion moved from Windsor to Wuppertal, West Germany in 1966 for two years and then to Munster in 1968. Like all Guardsmen, he became very familiar with MFO boxes, and how to pack kit in suitcase and kit bag. The Battalion then moved to Chelsea Barracks in 1969 and it was during this time that Mick was posted to the Guards Depot Pirbright as a drill instructor for two years.

He returned to the 2nd Battalion, now in

Caterham not long before they moved again to Windsor from where they went to British Honduras without him.

Mick was medically discharged in 1973 and moved to Bolton, Lancashire where he got a job long distance driving for a company called Roberts Transport. It was during his driving days that Mick joined the Wigan & St Helens Branch of the Association and regularly attended their Remembrance Day parades.

His loud gruff voice was quickly noticed and it wasn't long before he was asked if he would take on the role of Parade Marshall. As his reputation spread he was later asked if he would consider being Parade Marshall for the Normandy Parade along with some 560 other veterans; he jumped at the chance.

In 1998 he became involved in the security business and started a company called Coppermount Security, a company he is still involved with today. His main client is Adam Jeffries Property Developer owned by Mr David Cohen BA, who along with Mick's accountant Mr Julien Berressi are great supporters of our Branch.

Mick and his wife Linda moved from Bolton to Hindley near Wigan a few years ago and he became interested in gardening. One of his neighbours suggested that he should enter the Wigan in Bloom competition. He did, and he was rewarded with a Silver medal and the following year he managed to repeat that feat with another Silver medal.

His dogged determination finally paid off when this year, 2019, he was awarded the Gold medal for the best garden in the Wigan area.



From Left to Right: Mrs Linda Cottrell, Mick Cottrell and niece Miss Leigh Herran.

Mansfield Armed Forces Day

by Jeff Smith

On the 30th June 2019 members of the Nottinghamshire Branch attended Armed Forces Day at Mansfield's Market Square for the second consecutive year. It turned out to be rather special this year as one of their members, Mr James (Jim) Wain of Mansfield aged 96 received The Legion d' Honneur for his WW2 service in Europe with 4th Battalion Grenadier Guards.

At the end of the parade crowds gathered in the Market Square to watch Jim receiving his award from the Mayor of Mansfield Mr Andy Abrahams. There to witness and support the event were three members of Nijmegen Coy; WO2 (CSM) Dean Bailey, LSgt Steve Thorne and LSgt Mark Bunyon, all resplendent in Home Service Clothing. Afterwards they were able to spend a little time with Branch members until leaving at around 1230 pm to return to the Company exercise on Salisbury Plain.



Jim with his wife Maureen and CSM Dean Bailey.



LSgt Steve Thorne, Maureen, Jim, CSM Dean Bailey and LSgt Mark Bunyon.



Jim Wain receives his Legion d' Honneur from the Mayor of Mansfield.



Jim and Maureen with the Mayor, members of the Branch and their guests.



From Left to Right: LSgt Bunyon, LSgt Thorne, Jim Wain, Geoff Hallam, Steve Hill, Jeff Smith, Arthur Dutton, Adrian Sherratt, Chris Dunne, Stuart Davis and CSM Bailey.

Memories in Retirement

by Ray Fear

I left school when I was 13 years old and started working at a pawn shop 100 yards from the recruiting office. The Recruiting Sergeant passed me every morning as I opened the shutters of the shop.

At 14 years of age I joined the Royal Sussex Cadets passing the WAR Class A and was promoted to Sergeant.

I always wanted to join the Grenadier Guards - the same as my father Daniel and my uncle Thomas. At 16 I called at the recruiting office. 'Well lad what do you want?' said the Recruiting Sergeant. 'I want to join the Guards' I replied. He asked me for my identity card and declared I was too young. 'Come

back when your nappy is dry' he continued, I was crestfallen.

Returning home I examined my brother's and father's identity cards and discovered that ages were shown in code.

I got my ration book and together with my ID card burnt them in the living room fire. I then called at the 'food office' and reported that they had fallen off the mantelpiece and into the fire. I produced some ashes and what remained of these documents. The clerk said I must supply three references for replacement purposes which I was able to do without problem.

One week later I returned to the recruiting office armed with my new card and six newly laid eggs. 'Hello son, how's business at the pawn shop?' enquired the Sergeant. 'Okay' I replied, 'Here are six eggs and I want to join the Army'. 'Didn't you



Ray and his daughter Natasha on his 90th birthday.



Ray Fear, left and Jack Gardner in 1956, both aged 30 attending the 300th Regimental anniversary dinner at the Royal Albert Hall.

come in here the other day and were too young?’ he said looking at my identity card. He laughed ‘I see you’re really are keen aren’t you – I wish I had a few more like you’ It appeared that since Singapore nobody wanted to join the Army.

‘Which regiment do you want’ he asked.

‘The Grenadiers please Sir’

‘You ain’t big enough’ he snorted.

‘Yes I am, 5’10” I said.

‘If you can’t get in that lot, what next?’ he asked.

‘The Black Watch or Rifle Brigade’ I replied.

Unknown to me, another young man had recently done the same and also lied about his age in order to join the Regiment. As he was over 6ft and weighed 13 stone they didn’t ask to see his ID card. His name was Jack Gardner and he was from Market Harborough.

We met for the first time when we started our training at the Guards Depot at Caterham. I was well settled in the recruitment barrack room when

at about 9.30 pm in walked this very smart young man. He threw his suitcase on the bed next to mine and declared ‘I’m Jack Gardner, who are you?’ We sat and chatted for a while and it turned out we were the only two volunteers in the squad. The other lads were all over 18 ½ and had been called up.

He gave me some fruit cake his Ma had made and we immediately started a friendship that was to last a lifetime. I noticed he was having difficulty making his bed so I said ‘I’ll do it just this once’ It consisted of a pillowcase, three threadbare blankets that were shaken every Saturday morning but hadn’t been washed for years and a straw filled pillow.

Years later he would introduce me as the little fellow who made his bed the first day in the Army.

I have been married four times and have 10 children. My eldest daughter Jane is 65 and Natasha is 21, a professional golfer with status on the Ladies European Tour sponsored by Nike and Wilson Staff.

Late Entry Officers' Lunch



Organised by Major Andrew Keeley, a Late Entry Officers' Lunch took place at the Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst on Friday 27th November 2019. Attendees are pictured above on the steps of the Grand Entrance, Old College. From Left to Right, Rear: Howard Lawn, Richard Dorney, Derek Rossi, David Loxton, Dan Moore, Neil England, Paul Harris, Mark Cox, Martin Howlin, Brian Sheen, Andy Green. From Left to Right, Centre: Ty Bearder, Scott Roughley, Kevin Fletcher (IG, QM 1st Bn), Cameron Proudfoot (SG, OC HQ Coy 1st Bn), Mark Gaunt, Darren Westlake. From Left to Right, Front: Rick Kitchen, Andrew Phasey, Dave Groom, Andrew Keeley, Steve Munro.

BRANCH NOTES

AYLESBURY & DISTRICT

(Formed 1929)

President: Mr L JEFFREY

Vice Presidents: DH MILLER, Esq; Colonel REH AUBREY-FLETCHER; Captain SIR BEVILLE-STANIER, Bt (Welsh Guards)

Chairman: D DOVER, Esq

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

Tel: (01296) 426506

Email: rgbakker@aol.com

Treasurer: D DOVER, Esq

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

The Aylesbury & District Branch, formed on 6th April 1929, with **Major Sir Henry Aubrey-Fletcher Bt CVO DSO** as its first President, celebrated its 90th anniversary on 7th April 2019 with a lunch held at the Masonic Hall, Ripon Street. We were very pleased to have both Sir Henry's son, **Lt Colonel Edward Aubrey-Fletcher**, and grandson, **Colonel Richard Aubrey-Fletcher**, and their respective wives, **Lady Braye** and **Caroline**, present with us, together with the Mayor of Aylesbury **Mr Mark Willis** and **Major Andy Green** from RHQ.

It was difficult to find a suitable private function room in Aylesbury as times have changed but our President **Mr Laurie Jeffery** and his wife **Enid** booked the hall which turned out to be a most suitable venue.



George Baker, Brian Kelly, Norman Hinds, and Chris Cooke at Grenadier Day.

Two tickets to a Buckingham Palace Garden Party, held on the 29th May 2019 were made available to the Branch by RHQ and we are pleased to report that our secretary **Mr George Baker** and his son **Michael** were able to attend. The dismal weather that afternoon resulted in a rush for the tea tents but it cleared later and just in time for Her Majesty's arrival.

The Branch booked a twenty-seater minibus for Grenadier Day but sadly could only muster 6 members to attend. The day itself however never disappoints us, especially the chance to meet old comrades and catch up with the news. The beer tent is always a good meeting place - bees to a honey pot comes to mind.

Thankfully we haven't received any reports of deaths or members moving away which is good. But we do ask that such events are reported to our secretary in order to keep our records up to date. Within the past 20 years our membership has dwindled from 150 to less than 30, so it is important we are able to keep track of those that remain.

Finally, we would like to extend our warm regards to all Branches and to **Major Andy Green** and **Sgt Bob Broomes** at Regimental Headquarters.

BATH

(Formed 1952)

President: Major GVA BAKER

Vice Presidents: Lieutenant Colonel SIR ANDREW FORD, KCVO; Major R KIRKWOOD, Lieutenant Colonel JLJ LEVINE, MBE; Colonel REH AUBREY-FLETCHER; Colonel RD WINSTANLEY, OBE; Lieutenant Colonel SG SOSKIN; Major MWS DOBSON; Captain S BROOKS

Chairman: Mr V DUNNE

Secretary: Mr V DUNNE. Flat A, Willsbrook House, Usk Road, Raglan, Monmouthshire NP15 2ED

Tel: 01291 690501 / 07704 036790

Email: Vince.Dunne3@Btinternet.com

Treasurer: Mr S Tattersall

Welfare: Mr P Cooper

Meetings: Bi-Monthly; Every second Wednesday of the Month. Riverside Inn, The Shallows, Saltford, Bristol, BS31 3EZ

Once again we report that the Bath Branch have been busy again this year. We have moved our Branch Headquarters to the Riverside Inn (picture and address below), which has turned out to be a great venue with all the facilities we need and very popular with our members. Outside evening events in the spring and summer are something that the



Branch Headquarters – The Riverside Inn, The Shallows, Saltford, Bristol BS31 3EZ.

Branch committee are looking to pursue.

Our Branch meetings are bi-monthly, informal, held on the second Wednesday of that particular month and start at 1930hrs, however, we like to meet in the bar at 1900hrs. As always we offer a warm welcome to all who would like to attend and should you wish to join us then please do so. Further Branch meetings planned for 2020 are March, (AGM), May, July, September and November.

Our Branch is growing slowly and we have a very strong committee who continue relentlessly, to promote and maintain the good and positive approach by living the Association values through leadership and encouragement with a willingness to keep the traditions of the Regiment very much alive through positive activity.

We take great pride in our members who have become active in promoting the Branch and to this end would like to thank our President **Major Grant Baker**, **Simon Tattersall**, **Andy Davy**, **Glenn Shattock** and **Paul Cooper** for their continued support in their respective roles; it is their individual enthusiasm and continued

contribution that keeps us going from strength to strength. Of course we must also mention our Branch members who turn out regularly no matter what the weather conditions might be to support the Branch; credit to you all and thank you.

The Branch has a new Treasurer in **Simon Tattersall** who started his career as a Junior Leader in 1976 and served in the Royal Artillery until 1987. Simon was also a recruiter working in the Bristol careers office for three years prior to leaving his regiment, working alongside our very own **Paul (Henry) Cooper**. Simon's local Royal Artillery Association Branch had previously closed and we were fortunate that he met our very own **Andy Davy**, who very quickly arranged for Simon



Our Spring Lunch held on Sunday 12th May 2019.

to join us and become a member.

Simon has brought a wealth of experience with him and after a day spent with the General Secretary at Regimental Headquarters we are now benefitting



Our visit to Warminster School Of Infantry Weapons Museum.

greatly from his hard and diligent work.

Our Spring Lunch was held at Cumberwell Park Golf Club, Bradford On Avon. Once again we enjoyed a good turnout from our members, guests, families and friends. Everyone enjoyed a lovely lunch on a glorious day, laid on for us by the team at the club.

The raffle was well supported by the many donations received and many people went away with a prize. The feedback from the Branch members was nothing but positive and our thanks go to **Bernice Hanney** and **Dorothy Hardwick** for doing such a great job. It is our first event of the year and as always is open to anyone wishing



Our Branch Presidents Lunch.



The Bitton Horse Show.

to attend.

This year also saw a high turnout of Branch members attending a visit to the Weapons Museum at Warminster hosted by our very own Life Vice President **Lt Colonel Jeremy Levine** who gave a very impressive and informative overview of past and present weaponry. The visit was a great success and was followed by a superb Indian meal at Nagas Spice Trail in Warminster. There was nothing but praise for this event and one to be repeated in the future. Our thanks to **Jeremy** for finding the time to host this event during his busy schedule; it was greatly appreciated by us all.

We also sent a small group consisting of **Paul Cooper**, **Simon Tattersall**, **Andy Davy** & **Nigel Till** to the Bitton and District Horse Show. Our very own **Nigel Till** dressed up in the role of Provost Sergeant which he played in the TV series *Bad Lads*. Becoming somewhat of a celebrity he was asked to judge some of the events during the

course of the day which he did in great style, and by popular request has been asked to return next year. The event helped promote our Branch in the Wiltshire area and well done to all who participated in making it such a success.

On 7th July members attended our Branch President's Lunch on a lovely sunny Sunday afternoon, and hosted by **Major Grant Baker** and his wife **Lucinda** at their home in Wiltshire. It was an outstanding afternoon, their hospitality was exceptional and appreciated by all who were fortunate enough to be able to attend.

Before we knew it Grenadier Day was upon us and our membership was on the road again to support this truly remarkable event. It was a real success and one we as a Branch continue to cherish as one of the great regimental days in the calendar.

Recruitment has played a big part in the sustainability of our Branch this year and operating within our Branch Change Agenda programme, has been headed up by **Andy Davy** who has played an integral part in promoting, supporting an encouraging past and present members to come to our Branch meetings and events. Andy's efforts keep our Branch going from strength to strength and through his energy, drive, enthusiasm and ambition we have seen an increase in our membership.

Andy has approached The Royal British Legion in the centre of Bristol and Kenysham, as well as former service personnel, not only from our

regiment but others as well and given them a Branch card should they wish to make contact. There have been occasions where some of the people Andy has met have fallen on hard times to whom he has offered a friendly ear and given advice where appropriate. Andy is a great promoter of the Branch business card and now has it is on display in many areas on various notice boards. We much appreciate his hard work and thank him sincerely for it.

2019 has seen the passing of fellow Grenadiers from across the country. Branch members attended the funeral services of **Major Stephen Dehnel MBE**, **W02 Joseph Connelly** and **Sergeant Michael Gardiner**; our thoughts and prayers go out to their families and friends. Our Welfare Officer **Paul (Henry) Cooper** has done a sterling job in ensuring that we are kept informed of passing Grenadiers and acting as our link in arranging attendance where possible at their funerals. Henry has now set up a network within the Branch where we have regular feedback on our not so well members and communicates regularly with them offering support where it is required. Henry is also able to advise at time of writing that there are nine Branch members currently on sick parade and we wish them all well and a speedy recovery. A huge thank you to Henry for championing this role within the Branch and ensuring the continuity of support to those in need; it is greatly appreciated by us all.

Branch members attended the Remembrance Parade Service on Monday 11th November 2019 at Firs Field Coombe Down in the presence of the Mayor and Bishop of Bath. Our Chairman **Vince Dunne** was the Parade Marshall, the Branch Banner was on parade and carried by **Nigel Till**. It was a marvellous parade with attendance from our Branch, school children, local people and veterans who all turned out to pay their respects. Afterwards light refreshments were provided at the Hadley Arms and all were made to feel welcome. Coombe Down always holds this parade on Armistice Day itself and will do so again in 2020 on Tuesday 11th November should you wish to join us.

The 2019 Branch Christmas lunch was held at Cumberwell Park Golf Club Bath on Sunday the 8th December. A delightful four course lunch with

wine was enjoyed in a lovely setting dressed in Regimental Colours.

As 2019 draws to a close we continue to recognise the challenges each year presents but with the strong team we now have in our committee and members we continue to strive to meet them head on. As always our Branch remains upbeat and willing and it goes without saying that we continue to flourish, support and promote our Branch & the Regiment. We would welcome all visitors, friends and their families to any of our meetings or functions.

We take this opportunity to thank all members of the Bath Branch and Regimental Headquarters for their continued support; we are all very proud to be a part of our great Regiment.

BRISTOL

(Formed 1919)

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

Vice Presidents: Colonel ET BOLITHO, OBE Lord Lieutenant of Cornwall; Lieutenant Colonel PE HILLS, FLCM, psm; Colonel LCA RANSON, TD; Lieutenant Colonel RM DORNEY, MBE, MStJ; Lieutenant Colonel MH SOMERVELL, MBE; Captain J BUXTON; C SAVAGE, Esq; K JONES, Esq; AF LOCK, Esq

Chairman: Mr B WOMACK

Secretary: Mr M ALLEN, 66 Old Mill Way, Weston-Super-Mare, North Somerset, BS24 7DD

Tel: 07891238866

Email: grengdsbristol@gmail.com

Treasurer: Mr J ROGERS

Meetings: Quarterly, Committee meetings held on the last Sunday of January, July & October. AGM held on the first Saturday of April. Meetings are held at the Holiday Inn, Filton Road, Filton, Bristol, BS16 1QX. All meetings commence at 1400hrs

As 2018 drew to a close a small detachment from the Bristol Branch headed East to join the London Branch at their Christmas lunch which was held at the Union Jack Club. Those who travelled from Bristol had a thoroughly enjoyable afternoon in the Company of the London Branch and we extend our thanks to **Les Cox** and their Committee for making us so welcome.

2019 began rather quietly for the Branch; the first event of the year being the Branch AGM in

April where **Brian Womack** was elected as Vice Chairman, this position had been vacated some months earlier by **Peter Finch** who had moved to Worcestershire.

Shortly after the AGM we headed to Abergavenny, a short journey over the Severn Bridge to compete in the annual St George's Cup skittles competition with the Monmouth Branch of the Welsh Guards Association and the former members of the Bristol Branch of the Coldstream Guards Association. This years competition was held in Wales as the Welsh Guards Association had won the previous years competition and had elected to play on home soil this year. We had a fantastic afternoon in Wales and the members of the Monmouth Branch were excellent hosts, but alas 2019 was not going to be the year for a Grenadier victory. The Welsh Guards Association were the worthy victors with the Grenadier team coming a very close second which left the Coldstreamers languishing in a distant third place. Top Scorer for the Grenadiers and winner of the Cambridge Memorial Shield was **Audrey Rogers** with a very creditable score of 42 and winner of the Branch wooden spoon was **Keith Sperring** with a dismal score of 14. As winners the Welsh Guards Association have elected to play the 2020 competition in Abergavenny again and we look forward to returning there.



Keith Sperring (left), Brian Womack, Ann Womack & Elaine Sperring at Regimental Remembrance Day.

In May a small number of Branch Members made their way to London for Regimental Remembrance Day, it is regrettable that we no longer run a Branch coach to this event but should enough interest be shown by Branch Members we would consider reinstating the coach for future years.

Grenadier Day in July was a great success for the Branch as we sold all the cider that we had brought with us and those attending from Bristol had a thoroughly enjoyable afternoon in Aldershot with the highlight of the afternoon being the visit of The Colonel to the Branch cider stall. A lot of work goes into arranging this event and we extend our thanks to RQMS RHQ, **WO2 James Thompson** and his team for putting on a splendid day for the Association.

In October a small number of Branch Members once again attended the Gloucestershire Branch Annual Lunch, as always a fantastic afternoon was had in the Company of the Gloucestershire Branch and we extend our thanks to **Colonel Lance Ranson TD** and **Colin Knight** for making us so welcome, we look forward immensely to returning to Gloucestershire next year.

In November some 100 Branch Members and their guests attended the Bristol Branch Centenary Dinner which we held at the Holiday Inn in Filton. Those attending had a magnificent evening celebrating 100 years of the Bristol Branch. We were entertained throughout by the London Military Band and thank **Alan Shellard** and the band for their valuable contribution to the evening. During his address the Branch President **Major General Sir Evelyn Webb-Carter KCVO OBE DL** remembered some of the characters from our history, particularly those involved with the formation of the Branch in 1919. The President of the Association **Colonel Richard Aubrey-Fletcher** then gave us an in-depth insight into what the Regiment had been up to more recently and brought us right up to date with all the latest news.



The Branch President, Major General Sir Evelyn Webb-Carter KCVO OBE DL, inspects the raffle prize table at the Centenary Dinner.

We were delighted to welcome members of the Bath Branch to the Dinner who very kindly presented us with a splendid embroidered banner to commemorate our Centenary. It was presented to our Branch President by **Henry Cooper** of the Bath Branch. We were also delighted to welcome **Les and Jan Cox** from the London Branch and **Colin and Elaine Knight** from the Gloucestershire Branch, representing the Regiment was **2Lt Thomas Sinclair** who unfortunately had to dash off rather early as he was mounting guard at Windsor Castle the next morning but we were delighted that he was able to join us.



The Branch Secretary presents the St George's Cup Wooden Spoon to Keith Sperring.

The Branch Secretary conducted the customary raffle at the end of the evening. To celebrate the Centenary our Vice President **Keith Jones** had arranged for a wine decanter, embossed in gold with the Royal Cypher and goblets to be made by the Bristol Blue Glass Company. The set was raffled as a separate prize which was won by **Helen Butler** who was absolutely delighted.



From Left to Right: Jan and Les Cox, Elaine and Colin Knight at our Centenary dinner.



Bev Spriggs presents the Cambridge Memorial Shield to Audrey Rogers.



Branch Vice President Keith Jones with Anita at the Centenary Dinner.

Whist 2019 was a good year for the Bristol Branch it was marked with great sadness, at the beginning of June our Vice President and dear friend **19117219 John Frost** passed away peacefully at the nursing home where he had resided for some time. John had been a member of the Bristol Branch for many decades and was always involved in Branch affairs, a gentle man who would not shrink from stating his truth quietly but firmly, he will be greatly missed by all at the Bristol Branch.



John Frost 2nd October 1927 - 2nd June 2019.

CHESTERFIELD

(Formed 1952)

President: VACANT

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

Chairman: Mr D LEECH

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

Tel: (01246) 206054.

Email: d.brignull@yahoo.co.uk

Treasurer: Mr D BRIGNULL

At a recent meeting it was realised that there were not enough active members to warrant keeping the Branch open after 2019. After further discussion it was proposed that we should seek to amalgamate with the Matlock Branch which would have the advantage of securing an avenue for all members to keep in touch with the Association and the activities of the Regiment. In addition, it would

provide a means of ordering Association goods.

The approval of the Matlock Branch was sought and received and as a result a formal application was made to the General Secretary. We are delighted to report that at the October 2019 Executive Committee meeting our proposal was accepted and as a result the Chesterfield Branch will now join with our colleagues in Matlock. The name of the new Branch will be agreed between the two Branches.

Although a sad moment for **David Brignull** who has been our secretary since 1996, we are sure that the future remains bright for our new Branch. We, and David in particular would like to thank all active supporters for their assistance along with all of those Association members who have come to his aid in the past and include of course all past and present members of staff at Association Headquarters.

With great regret we record the deaths of **22545188 B Prime** and **22648847 D Thompson**. Neither of these members had been able to attend meetings for some time but did keep in touch with the activities of the Branch and the Association. Branch members attended both funerals and **Mr J Wright** of the Matlock Branch was present at Mr Prime's cremation and on this occasion a member of The Royal British Legion sounded the Last Post.



Our Senior Vice President Mr Michael Carnall presents a donation to Mrs Julie Wheelhouse, CEO of the Chesterfield Stroke Unit. Mrs Enid Carnall is standing in the centre.

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 quarterly on the third Wednesday of January, April, July and October at The Alexandra Hotel, 203, Siddals Road, Derby, DE1 2QE starting at 19:00 hrs

Our Branch has now reached its 105th year with our attending numbers remaining constant and we have got into a routine of quarterly meetings. We accompanied the Nottinghamshire Branch travelling to Wellington Barracks to attend this year's Remembrance Sunday in May. In September our Chairman Geoff Gadsby and Secretary Ian Sutton took the Branch Banner to the National Memorial Arboretum for the Northern Ireland Veterans Association. This was to attend a parade to remember the 50th Anniversary of the commencement of Operation Banner. Geoff with Terry Allcock and George Smith also represented the Branch at this year's Remembrance Parade held in Derby Market Square.

Derby has always been popular area for recruiting into the Regiment even back in Victorian times. One such Grenadier was Joseph Moss. After his service with the Regiment he joined the Derbyshire Borough Police Force. It was 140 Years ago that PC 35 Joseph Moss aged 26 years was murdered in the execution of his duty. PC Moss was the first and so far to this day is the only member of the Derby Constabulary to be murdered whilst on duty.

Shortly after four o'clock in Derby on the afternoon of Saturday 12th July 1879 Constable John Shirley saw a pony and trap being driven erratically towards him at great speed down The Wardwick. Driven by a well-dressed young man with a female passenger, Constable Shirley judged the pair to be recklessly drunk. A pursuit made on foot by Constables Joseph Moss and John Clamp ended in the yard of the Traveller's Rest on Ashbourne Road where the wild-eyed driver and his lurching

companion were detained and taken to the Lock Up for charging. This was a small police building where alleged wrongdoers were charged and detained prior to trial.

There the woman companion became violent and abusive and as a group of officers struggled to contain her the male prisoner suddenly produced a revolver and fired a shot. The bullet hit Constable Moss in the lower chest. A struggle ensued in which three further bullets were expelled with one hitting Constable Price in the arm. PC Price recovered from his injury but PC Moss died the next day in the Derbyshire Royal Infirmary.



The plaque commemorating PC 35 Joseph Moss.

EAST KENT

(Formed 1948)

President: Major D BRADLEY, BEM, DL

Vice Presidents: Lieutenant Colonel RM DORNEY, MBE, MStJ; Captain A CLUFF, OBE, DL; RC GOODSON, Esq

Chairman: Major D BRADLEY, BEM, DL

Secretary: Mr RC GOODSON Esq

Tel: 01303 263958

Email: secretary@ekb.org.uk

Treasurer: RC GOODSON, Esq

Meetings: Held at the Hythe Sports and Social Club, 2 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

Facebook: EKBGGA

Since our last report, we sadly need to record that **2625916 John R Spackman** died on 12 May 2019, aged 93. John had been a long serving member of the Branch and regularly attended meetings and Branch functions until he became the full time carer for his wife, **Jo (Josephine)** who herself passed away in late February 2019. Unfortunately, we were not advised until after the funeral, but subsequently provided support to their



Hythe War Memorial Poppy.

son and daughter-in-law.

On the 4th November 2018, several Branch members were involved with the Rededication of the Hythe War Memorial; a project that the Branch donated towards. A large resin poppy was set in the ground in front of the War Memorial.

Just one week later, on November 11th, Branch members were back on parade at the Hythe War Memorial for the Armistice Day parade. Given this was the 100th anniversary of the Armistice, the event drew a huge attendance from locals.

Our 2018 Christmas Function was held at the Hythe Sports and Social Club on Saturday 1st December and we had a good attendance. Entertainment was provided by our good friend **Gavin Bull** who performs under the stage name of 'One for the Road'.

January 2019 saw the first Branch meeting of



Our 2018 Christmas function.

the year and, given the time of year and weather conditions, it was quite well attended.

Our Annual General Meeting moved back to its customary March slot. **Bob Goodson** chaired the meetings as **Major Dennis Bradley BEM DL**, our President and Chairman, was on holiday. Both he and his wife **Mave** reported that they had a wonderful time.

On Wednesday 24th April 2019, **Major Dennis Bradley BEM DL** and **Bob Goodson**, in another role as one of our Branch Vice Presidents, attended the President's Day that was held at Lille Barracks. Attendees were brought up-to-date with various matters and the Commanding Officer of the 1st Battalion was very much 'on board' with supporting Branches. We noted the confidence and professionalism of the Guardsmen; especially those who were presenting to us. A thank you letter was sent to the Commanding Officer along with an invitation for local serving Grenadiers and their ladies to attend our Annual Dinner.

Some Branch members attended the Hythe

Armed Forces Day parade on Saturday 15th June 2019. Sadly, as we only now have a few members that are able to march the distances involved, we did not take part in the march from the top end of the High Street to the Town Hall for the Service. However, we had several members that were involved with the organisation and running of the event, or who attended as spectators.

Although we didn't erect a stall at Grenadier Day, several of our members attended and had a great day meeting with friends that they hadn't seen for several years. This is always a thoroughly enjoyable day and our thanks are extended to the organisers. Long may this event continue.

The Worshipful Town Mayor of Folkestone, **Councillor Jackie Meade**, invited **Bob Goodson** and his wife **Sue** to represent the Branch at the Folkestone Armed Forces Day that was held at The Leas and Bandstand in Folkestone on Sunday 20th June 2019. This was a day-long event that provided an excellent opportunity to meet up with some of their local councillors, distinguished guests, other veterans, civic VIPs and dignitaries who were similarly invited to attend. It also provided an opportunity to 'spread the word' about the Branch. Our Secretary advised that it was a nice change for him to get good seats for the bandstand and arena events, the PWRR (The Tigers) parachute team

Folkestone Armed Forces Day



Bob and Sue Goodson.



The Band of the PWRR.



Gymnasts.



The Red Arrows.

decent and for The Red Arrows display at what was a thoroughly enjoyable event that was blessed with brilliant sunshine.

Our Annual Dinner was held on Saturday 14th September 2019. This was the 71st anniversary of the Branch and was held at The Grand, Folkestone, a new venue for us. **Algy Cluff OBE DL** was our Guest Speaker. We had the hotel's pianist who played through dinner and the initial toasts, then had the ever popular 'One for the Road' to entertain us afterwards. **Guardsman Tom Goodwin** and his fiancé **Miss Serena Simpson** attended as representatives of the serving Regiment. A terrific night was had by all.



Top table set.



David and Carole Grassham enjoy pre-dinner drinks.

Throughout the reporting year attendance at meetings has been constant, although we are having to regularly add more members to the permanent apologies list as travelling is becoming more difficult for some as they grow older, or stop driving.

Following our Branch meetings, several members take luncheon together at the Hythe Sports & Social Club where we meet. Our thanks go to **Joe Moran** (Coldstream Guards) for organising these luncheons.

Trevor Jones MBE previously volunteered to be the incumbent Honorary Secretary, but takeover was delayed due to an injury that Trevor sustained. **Bob Goodson** extended his service in this role and has now served in excess of 10 years in what was a 'temporary' position. Any new handover/takeover date has yet to be scheduled.

The Branch committee would like to conclude this report by thanking all our loyal members, their ladies and the many Friends of the Branch who continue to support the Branch and its activities.



Dinner commences.

ESSEX

(Formed 1946)

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

Vice Presidents: MW GILES, Esq;

G COURTAULD, Esq DL; Major TH BREITMEYER, DL;
Captain CIT WHITE-THOMSON; Mr R KEEBLE

Chairman: Mr C WILLIS

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

Tel: 07730075126

Email: essexbranch@grennds.com

Treasurer: Mr M LAND

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

2019 has been a quieter year for the Essex Branch. We started the year with our first event, our annual spring lunch, held at Prested Hall, Feering in March. Over 40 guests had a great lunch and after a long cold winter, it was great to see everyone chatting and catching up, over an excellent three course lunch. Our AGM at the last minute, had a change to the date and location, which meant only a few members could attend. However, we had a good and constructive meeting and all committee members were voted in for another year.

Unfortunately, this year we had to cancel our annual Summer garden party. In its place we held a smaller afternoon get together at a Hotel in Southend on Sea. We were lucky with the October weather and a great sea view.

Our annual Christmas lunch was held at our usual venue, Prested Hall. They put on a fantastic Christmas menu and the main dining room looked very festive. Nearly 60 guests enjoyed a great afternoon. A raffle of Christmas hampers rounded off the afternoon.

Sadly, this year we said goodbye to three members. In April 23879911 **David King** passed away. He served for five years with the 1st Bn. A packed church said farewell along with many Army Cadets, to which he was an instructor.

In October, 2628642, **John Wright** was laid to rest. He joined the Regiment in 1946 after serving as a boy sailor in the Merchant Navy in WW2. He was attached to the 3rd Bn before being posted to Pirbright as an instructor. His Daughter and

several Grandchildren wore Grenadier Regimental pins as well as poppies in remembrance of him.

In November we said farewell to **Mrs Joan Kimberley**. Joan had been the Secretary of the Essex Branch for 20 years, before ill health forced her to step down. Her work for the Branch has been absolutely sterling. She organised many trips, tickets and much welfare for the Branch and its members and was a friend to all. A packed church with many members from the Branch said their farewells to her.

David, John and Joan were all active members of the Branch and they will be sadly missed by all of us.

We would like to conclude this report by thanking all Branch members and **Major Green** and all at RHQ for their assistance and the great work they do for the Association.

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; Captain JGL PUGH; Captain MJ MACKINLAY MACLEOD; WJ EYKYN, Esq; Major THE LORD ANDREW WIGRAM, MVO; Lieutenant Colonel JG PEEL, TD, DL; Captain AW FERGUSSON-CUNNINGHAME; Major SA MARCHAM, MBE; NJ SIMMS, Esq; PD GWILLIAM, Esq; DAE GEORGE, Esq; Captain EC GORDON-LENNOX; Colonel GW TUFNELL, CVO, DL; Captain GL BANKS; SIR HENRY WG ELWES, KCVO; C MALET, Esq

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 will be the 35th annual report with **Colin Knight** as Branch Secretary. The year has been once more, a busy and active one for our Branch.

The Nominal Roll holds well and pleasing to report with several new additions; the advent of communications via the internet is credited for this as the Branch endeavours to make full use of technology. We are indeed very fortunate to have an excellent assortment of Associate and Honorary members not forgetting our widows who support the Branch well.

In our heading we incorporate 'The Gloucestershire Guards Association'. Back in 2016 the Branch adopted this subtitle to reflect the number of members we already have from across the Household Division and to encourage closer cooperation with other County Military Associations in the future. The Gloucester Branch of the Coldstream Guards Association recently ceased to exist and 30 of their number are now on our roll which currently stands at 237 and includes Associate and Honorary members and our Widows. 180 are on email - 76% of the membership and climbing.

Branch membership comprises 143 Grenadiers, 30 Coldstreamers, 2 Welsh Guards, 2 Irish Guards, 3 Scots Guards, 5 Household Cavalry, 1 RAPC, 1 REME, 1 Gloucester, 1 Gurkha, 1 French Army, 24 Honorary members and 23 Widows.

Seldom a week goes by without members online receiving some form of Branch communication. Those without e-mail have had six newsletters sent to them by snail mail during the past twelve months. Keeping in regular touch with the entire membership, the committee believe, to be one of the main ingredients of the continued success of the Branch.

It is firmly believed that by having a strong Nominal Roll, albeit that it includes Associate, Honorary and Widows enables the Branch to have a marketing list to ensure that, from time to time, we can arrange a function or two and be confident of support.

The entire committee have always been ready to help when asked. It is the teamwork, enthusiasm and variety of ideas, together with an open mind, that maintains the camaraderie. They are indeed the backbone of this successful Branch. **Malcolm Waters** the former Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer of the Gloucester Coldstream Branch has been elected onto the committee to assist keeping

an eye on the Coldstream contingent.

The Branch prides itself in sending Birthday Cards to every member to whom a date of birth is recorded, which is the majority. The scheme is now in its eleventh year is well received by the membership. It was run by **Peter Jones** with his wife **Pamela**, who were replaced at the AGM by, again, using our wide membership, **Roy and Patsy Claridge** who volunteered and stepped into the breach. Thanks to them both.

This idea was started some ten years ago by **John and Gill Carter**, a big undertaking but appreciated by the membership

Meetings are held every other month bar January, commencing at 1930hrs normally concluding in the region of 2145hrs or even later. During the interval it is customary to serve complimentary hot pies which has proved to be very popular. Having an interval allows time to consume the pies, perhaps purchase an extra drink and also affords the time and opportunity for the attendees to have a chat with each other; this formula appears to be working, as despite many members now being too old or infirm to attend meetings, attendances are holding well. To make meetings more interesting it is endeavoured, from time to time, to get a guest speaker, which helps to hold the interest in members attending.

Speakers at meetings for the past year included a presentation on Wills and Power of Attorney. This was followed at a later meeting by a presentation on Personal Welfare and the aging process. Last but not least our secretary **Colin Knight**, following the collapse of Thomas Cook, gave a presentation following his twenty years' experience in retail travel.

The Branch can pride itself, for yet another year, with regard to welfare. Despite being without an appointed Welfare Officer; members, when asked, have rallied round and undertaken many visits. There are members unfortunately languishing in Care Homes and all known to be in a home have had visits. Never thought it would be said but welfare appears to be working better without a dedicated Welfare Officer as it brings in more of the membership being involved.

Now to our activities for the year. For Remembrance Sunday 2018 all of the allocation of

tickets received were taken for the Muster at the Service of Remembrance at Cheltenham Town Hall. Our Branch Banner was paraded by **Andy Dilks**. Some twelve assorted Household Division members paraded in Winchcombe under the command of the Branch President **Colonel Lance Ranson**.

Christmas Cheques were personally given to twenty of the more senior or infirm members and included some of those, who for whatever reason, have not enjoyed good times of late.

Thanks must go to our Social Secretary **Peter T Jones** for being the Promoter of our Christmas lottery. Every year fingers are crossed that sales might not fall; however, it is pleasing to report that, together with the Fifty Club which holds four draws per year, sales and proceeds have held well, in fact have slightly increased. **Peter** is very determined in this field as Social Secretary and his forte is putting pen to paper; he hates the internet.

The attendance at the Branch Christmas Social, a little down on previous years, concluded the calendar for 2018. A hot two course, Branch subsidised meal was served.

March 2019 was the month of the Annual General Meeting Members were informed that their Branch was in good form from a finance, activities and interest shown point of view. **Peter T Jones** stood down as Social Secretary to be replaced by **Graham Barton**. All other positions were re-elected unchanged.

In the same month a large party attended a local Gurkha restaurant for a taste of Nepalese food. Thanks go to **Graham Barton** for arranging this.

April, and thanks once again to the determination of **Derek Knott**, a good-sized party enjoyed a walk along the Stroudwater Canal. At the conclusion the group gathered at a local Wetherspoons for an enjoyable meal.

Next on the calendar was Regimental Remembrance Day and numbers were up from previous years. Both on the outward and return journey a stop was made at the Guards Club, Windsor, where on our return everyone was well looked after with a Fish & Chip Supper. Thanks to the Windsor team, especially Secretary **Bob Gilbert** and his wife **Sue**, who together, ensure that everyone is always made most welcome.

June saw a full complement of members enjoy a

barbecue at Stowell Park, the home of **Lord Sam Vestey**. A warm personal welcome was received from his Lordship by almost each and every member. We were afforded not only the privilege of being able to use the ballroom, but a large marquee had been erected for members to enjoy a band concert. The grounds at Stowell are extensive and immaculate. Unfortunately, the weather was not kind to us as for most of the day the rain did its best to spoil the occasion. However, it did ease off for a while to allow guests to explore the terrain. As many members commented afterwards 'How are we going to better this?'

July saw over thirty members gather at the Hatherley Manor Hotel for a complimentary coffee morning. They were more than fortunate to enjoy, as a bonus, a superb sunny day with the gathering meeting outside to take advantage of the sunshine. Unfortunately, we were unable to gain support for a coach for Grenadier Day. At a recent Branch meeting it was unanimously agreed, with one abstention, that the future format and location should be reconsidered.

September 1st was the day of the Annual Branch Garden Party at the home of **Colonel John Peel** and was held on what turned out to be an exceptionally hot sunny day. The highest turnout was achieved for many years; the result was a lot of satisfied customers. A first-class barbecue was enjoyed with a special 'Thank you' to **Ivor Jones** and **Derek Dean** who for the umpteenth year, showed off their culinary skills over the hot coals. Thanks must also go to all the helpers who assisted on the day, especially **Roy Dowle**, **Jenny Goode**, **Peter and Pam Jones** and also **Graham Barton** who took on the responsibility of the day in the absence of **Colin Knight** who was nursing a swollen and bruised face and neck from implant surgery. **Elaine**, **Colin's** wife left him at home and supported **Graham** in welcoming guests. It really was very much appreciated. We believe that this was the 40th year that the **Colonel** has invited us to his home. An invite for 2020 has already been received.

Later in the month of September, once again a full complement, thanks to the personal efforts of **Derek Knott**, enjoyed a walk from the canal at Saul Junction on the Sharpness Canal across fields,



Branch walkers now well spread out walking the tow path. Derek Knott (with map strung around his neck) and Elaine Knight (Branch treasurer).

over seven styles, following part of a long unused section of an old canal. The weather forecast was for heavy rain with thunder and lightning. Once again the Grenadier in the sky looked after us as the sun shone and the group enjoyed a prearranged pub lunch outside in the sunshine.

In early October the Branch was fortunate to receive an invite for a complimentary visit to Highgrove House to view the gardens. The full complement of places was taken and arrangements made thanks to Branch member **John Aylmer** who is on the volunteer staff at Highgrove. On conclusion lunch was taken in the nearby Cat & Custard Pub owned by a Branch member and Coldstream officer, **Major Richard Boggis-Rolfe**.

Mid October saw the Branch Annual Formal Luncheon at the Hatherley Manor Hotel. A good attendance of ninety sat down to dine. The hotel pulled out all the stops this year and served the attendees with a fine meal. Surprising what a difference we experienced following our detailed complaint from the previous year.

The occasion was indeed very fortunate to include

on the top table, our President **Colonel Lance Ranson**, accompanied by two Vice Presidents, the Crime Commissioner for Gloucestershire **Martyn Surl** and **Captain Christopher Wood** from the Regiment.

The next event on the calendar is the Christmas Social, this year the committee have secured the attendance of the Innsworth Military Wives Choir to entertain us. This, fingers crossed, should prove to be a sell-out or at least very well received.

The Branch has a presence on Facebook, monitored by our Chairman **David Errington**, ably assisted by **Mark Evans**. This must be one of the more positive ways forward. Any member wishing to gain access to the site please follow the usual procedures.

We now have an Honorary member on the committee, **Graham Barton**, stepson of the late **Norman Mitchell**. Graham has undertaken the task with great enthusiasm.

Colonel Lance Ranson as always, is very active giving the Branch strong support throughout the year. The Branch, we are sure, would like to thank

him for his continued leadership and guidance as President.

Many members from the Branch are in receipt of the weekly newsletter from **Jim White**, who once more, is to be commended for his enthusiasm and indeed very personal effort in undertaking this task. It would not be the same now without his newsletter coming through. Keep up the good work Jim as it is much appreciated by so many.

Everyone can rest assured that the Branch is looking forward to the challenges ahead and is confident to suggest that there may be many in 2020.

Our report is concluded by thanking **Major Andy Green**, **Sergeant Rob Broomes** and the small staff at Regimental Headquarters who are all very dedicated to keeping the spirit of the Association very much alive as the Gloucestershire Branch will continually endeavour to strive for too.

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

KINGSTON & DISTRICT

(Formed 1935)

President: Brigadier GK BIBBY, CBE

Vice Presidents: Major (QM) DR ROSSI, MBE

Chairman: Mr FS HOLLOWAY

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

Tel: (0208) 336 1884

Email: grenjohn.jk@gmail.com

Treasurer: Mrs LJ 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

Our Branch members had anticipated a relatively quiet year but to avoid any conflict with other Christmas events deferred their own celebration until early February 2019. In consequence the reporting year commenced with a lunch at the Inn on The Lake, Silvermere Golf Complex, Cobham. The Branch President, **Brigadier G K Bibby CBE**, welcomed members, family and friends to a

most enjoyable event and delicious lunch.

In the absence of the Branch Secretary, **Mark Worsfold** and **Liz Howell** attended the annual Branch Secretaries Meeting at Wellington Barracks.

On the 11th April members gathered with others at the North East Surrey Crematorium to say goodbye to **Violet Friend** who everyone knew simply as Vi or Aunty Vi. She was the sister-in-law of the late **Regimental Sergeant Major Douglas Huxley MBE MM**. No record of when Vi first appeared in Branch affairs is shown in current records but on checking, Duggie Huxley married in April 1943, her connection to the Regiment must have predated that. Whilst Duggie was resident at Chelsea Vi was an almost daily visitor.

Vi passed away in Kingston Hospital on 15th March aged ninety-eight and following a fall at home. It was thanks to a mutual friend, **Sylvia**, that news of her fall reached the Branch. That enabled our Secretary and **Liz Howell** to visit individually. It was likewise **Sylvia** that rang to say that Vi had passed away.

There was a short service for her at the crematorium which was well attended. Her family had arranged for the congregation to march out of the chapel to The British Grenadiers.

On the same day, and following the service at the crematorium, there was a thanksgiving at The Lantern Church in Raynes Park where Vi had been a parishioner for many years.

As parking was difficult **Martin Wells** provided the transport picking up Branch members from two points and transporting them both to the crematorium and The Lantern Church. Through the Branch he had been a friend to Vi over many years.



Violet Florence Friend.

Our Secretary was honoured to be asked to speak on behalf of the Branch at the service.

After the Thanksgiving a buffet was provided in The Lantern Café attached to the church which provided an opportunity to meet with family and parishioners.

On 24th April **Major D R Rossi MBE** and our Secretary enjoyed the hospitality of the Commanding Officer and the 1st Battalion at the Branch Presidents Day at Lille Barracks. They were able to see the current physical training regime in action, displays of current soldiers' kit and weaponry and a tour of accommodation. All very far removed from The Guards Depot Caterham circa 1959!

The Branch still managed a marching presence on Regimental Remembrance Day on 19th May although due to various health issues much reduced in numbers on that occasion.

Thanks mainly to the hard work of **Liz Howell** the Branch had a well-stocked stall on Grenadier Day. Everything on display had been donated either by Liz or other Branch members. There was something of a shock as things got going when it was realised just how many tombola themes there were amongst the other stalls. Despite that we were fortunate to have in attendance **Ian Henderson** who took on the role of fairground barker. The usual calls of 'Roll up' or 'We aren't here today and gone tomorrow' were used but it's safe to say that few passed the stall without putting hand in pocket or purse, often on numerous occasions. It was reported that ours was the only stall that was able to display a hastily constructed sold out sign before the end of the day.



Kingston & District Branch Stall at Grenadier Day.

On 3rd October **23879743 Luke Spencer** moved into a nursing home in Banstead. Sadly, we received the news that Luke had passed away on 9th October. He had served in the 2nd Battalion between 1962 and 1969 with a final rank of Lance Sergeant. Luke had moved from the local area to Weymouth some years ago but retained his membership of Kingston and District Branch. He had served the Branch variously as Treasurer, Chairman and Vice president. In later years he had been less active in Branch affairs. On 23rd October **Liz Howell** and **John Knight** joined his family at the funeral at the North East Surrey Crematorium.

What remained of the year was quiet, but members look forward to another successful year in 2020.

LEICESTERSHIRE & RUTLAND

(Formed 1927)

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

Vice Presidents: SIR JOHN CONANT, Bt; Captain RT CONSTABLE-MAXWELL; RE JONES, Esq; D TREDINNICK, MP; J MORREY Esq.

Chairman: J COWLEY Esq.

Vice Chairman: J MORREY Esq.

Secretary: Ms KITTY LOWE

Tel: (0116) 229 9004

Email:

Treasurer: Mr P HALES

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 Branch 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 / 07791290498

Email: marshall84@ntlworld.com

Treasurer: Mrs A MARSHALL

Meetings: Held on the third Wednesday in the months of February, April, June, August, October and December.
Meeting at 1100hrs in the Restaurant at Pennells Garden Centre, Newark Road, South Hykeham, Lincoln, LN6 9NT

It is sad to hear of yet more Branch closures over the last year, but at present we are managing to weather the storm with our reduced schedule of meetings and events. We would however like to stress that we are, and will be for the foreseeable future, the main contact in the area for anything Grenadier related.

Our bi-monthly meetings are held in the café at Pennell's Garden Centre, on the outskirts of Lincoln at 11am. We have managed to pull in a couple of new members during the last year. At these meetings some members join us for just coffee and cake, others stay and have lunch and do a bit of shopping. Various family members often join us here too. Our Sunday lunches held in the intervening months are well supported. These are held in different locations throughout the County thereby trying to cover a larger area and encourage anyone from that area to join us. Details for these venues can be found on our website or please call or email to our secretary who will be able to give the latest information.

We enjoyed a good attendance at the Remembrance Day Service in Lincoln Cathedral. During the service our Association poppy wreath was laid by **Pat Houldridge**. We then moved onto The Bentley Hotel for a very enjoyable lunch. Several other Branch members and their wives also joined us for lunch after they had attended other services in their local towns and villages.

On Regimental Remembrance Day **Joe and Anne Marshall, Neil and Sheila Crowther and Steve and Maureen Vaughan** travelled together

by train to attend the day's events. Following this we had a lovely meal with **Andy and Babs Reid** from the Surrey and East Hampshire Branch before returning home that evening.

A small coach was booked for Grenadier Day with the usual overnight stay the evening before, it was a very enjoyable day meeting with old friends and comrades, with lots of laughs along the way.

Mrs Anne Marshall continues as both secretary and treasurer **Mr Charlie Short** continues as the Branch Welfare officer. In the absence of a volunteer to take on the role of Chairman and as our Branch activities and commitments are very much reduced **Mr Joe Marshall** is continuing in that appointment.

Sadly, we have lost several members during the last year, including our oldest member, Ted Crowe, who reached the grand old age of 103. **22545589 Carver H, 2614539 Crowe A E M, 22955527 Dench B E C, 22545338 Hewitt R and 23688675 Taylor P.**

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 our loyal and supportive Branch members for their continued support during the past year.



Joe Marshall showing his granddaughter, Becky, how a mortar works.

LIVERPOOL

(Formed 1920)

President: THE EARL OF DERBY

Vice Presidents: Mr C YATES; Mr G HUGHES; Mr GH NORRIS

Chairman: Mr R THOMSON

Secretary: Mrs J CHAMPION, 11 Oulton Close, Prenton, Wirral, CH43 0XD

Tel: (0151) 652 4029 / 07912846197

Email: julie.champion@me.com

Treasurer: Mrs L JONES

Meetings: Held on the last Thursday of each month, except August and December, at 2000hrs, at the Premier Inn, Vernon Street, Liverpool, L2 2AY

Facebook: Grenadier Guards Association – Liverpool Branch

Our 2018 98th Annual Dinner and Dance was a beautiful evening full of remembrance fun and laughter. Our treasured guests were **General Sir Evelyn and Lady Celia Webb-Carter**. They joined us as it was our first year without **Les Edge** and due to their connection with Les they felt that they wanted to support not only Les's family but his memory too.

It was an honour to be in their company, they talked to everyone, and made everyone feel extra special, sharing stories with **Charles Yates** and again, bringing the Grenadier family closer together. Our Speaker was **Major Adam Wellesey-Wood** who gave a great speech about the Regiment. Our Area Representative **Mr Barry Taylor** and his wife **Adele** also attended. In all everybody had a wonderful evening again at the **Mercure Atlantic Tower Hotel** in Liverpool.



General Evelyn with singer Joanne Dennis and Charles Yates at our Annual Dinner.

Joanne Dennis our singer for the evening, who serenaded us with Vera Lynn and 1950s music later sent a lovely message saying... 'thank you so much for sharing all your memories

and stories it was an honour singing for you and meeting you, what an honour'.

On Sunday 2nd December the Branch got together for a wonderful Festive Afternoon Tea. We were joined by the carol singers 'Sing Me Merseyside' who were fabulous and serenaded us all with our favourite Christmas Carols. We held one of our famous raffles and thanks to the generosity of everyone bringing great prizes we continue raising funds for our Branch. We ended the year together, feeling proud that we have a strong Branch with true closeness which would carry us through 2019 to our Centenary year in 2020

We began 2019 with our AGM on Thursday 31st January. Our President **Lord Derby** chaired the meeting where he delivered a quick lively, and informative meeting, the committee was agreed, confirmed and put in place for the next year. Plans were made for a get together after a very generous invitation from **Lord Derby** inviting Branch members for Afternoon Tea at Knowsley Hall.

In February we sadly lost Honorary Member **Ron Nicol** from The Household Cavalry. Although Ron wasn't a Grenadier he was still a huge part of the Branch, a great friend, a regular at our meetings and at local and national events always supporting us with his family; a sad loss for everyone.

In March at the Association AGM in London **Julie Champion** and **Linda Jones** caught up with everyone and were able to reinforce their roles and



Lord Derby with John Edwards and Charles Yates.

understanding of what our great Association is all about. It was a great meeting which empowered them both to come home and do much and more good for our Branch.

April came around before we knew it and we made our way to Knowsley Hall for a wonderful Afternoon Tea with our Grenadier family. We must thank our President **Lord Derby** for inviting

us to his home, showing us around and telling us all about his family past and present. The day was very special for former secretary **John Edwards** as it turned out he served with **Lord Derby's** Grandfather in Israel, so we consider for all sides it was a very memorable afternoon.

April was a busy month with the secretary also attending the Presidents Day at Lillie Barracks where she was brought up to date with the current manning situation of the Battalion, the various deployments they had been engaged in and a clear reinforcement that the Association's main function is the welfare and wellbeing of all Grenadiers and their families and that we should not lose sight of this.

We were treated like VIP's on the day and it was great to see currently serving Grenadiers at their best in all that they did for us and showed us on the day.

Regimental Remembrance Day in May gave us another amazing weekend in London and went far too quickly. Thank you to The Chelsea Pensioners for once again making us so welcome and for the fantastic Beatles tribute band who gave us such a good night in the Club. We were so proud of **John Gregory** who marched on behalf of **Charles Yates** and who proudly represented our Branch on parade. Thanks too to **Margi Burns** and **Doreen Tuohy** for their fabulous fund raising raffle and again thank you to everyone for their generosity in both donating fabulous prizes and buying so many tickets; everyone is already looking forward to much more of the same in 2020.

On 29th May **Julie Champion** and her husband **Nick** attended Buckingham Place for a Garden Party and were proud to represent the Liverpool Branch of the Grenadier Guards Association on such a special occasion.

Thank you to Branch members **John Gregory**, **Brian Russell** and our Chairman **Robert Thomson** who represented the Liverpool Branch supporting Armed Forces Day in Liverpool on 6th June, a great turn out in the city of Liverpool.

In July at Grenadier Day, **Gill Hughes**, **Chris Barrett**, our Chairman **Bob Thomson** his wife **Pauline**, **Pat** and **Norman Duffin** all joined the Wigan Branch for a day at Lillie Barracks where we had a stall and flew the flag for our Branch; a lovely



Chris Barrett and Bob Thomson at Grenadier Day.



Norman Duffin and Robert Thomson at the Cyprus Memorial, NMA.

weekend was had by all which was finished off by a pleasant visit to the National Memorial Arboretum in Staffordshire.

In September the Branch attended the 75th Anniversary of Operation Market Garden with the Parachute Regiment Association (Liverpool Branch) at their Annual Service of Remembrance and Thanksgiving. **John Gregory**, **Robert Thomson**, **Brian Russell** and **Eric Russell** again represented the Branch for what was a very emotional and memorable day for obvious reasons.

The Royal British Legion, Liverpool Pals and the Liverpool Parachute Regiment Association have been in contact a lot this year inviting us to their various events which we are pleased to say our members have attended and represented us whenever possible. It is nice to know that our presence is now more visible in Liverpool to these great organisations.

The Branch commissioned a memorial bench from our funds and it was suggested by **Charles Yates** that it should be placed in Liverpool City Centre if possible. In St John's Gardens by St George's Hall we were very lucky to secure a great location and felt we couldn't get a much more

peaceful place than that. It sits proudly overlooking the City offering a place to sit and reflect for the people of Liverpool and our many visitors.

A small dedication was held on Thursday 7th November and the rain held off long enough for us to dedicate the bench to Past & Present Grenadiers and the people of Liverpool. The ribbon was proudly cut by **Barbara Pennington** who then said a few lovely words about how proud **Frank** would be that we have managed to keep the Branch together with strong bonds of Grenadier and family friendship. It was followed by a small gathering for tea and cakes at the Shrewsbury Lodge courtesy of our secretary **Julie Champion** and her husband **Nick**.

It's been a very busy year for our Branch and we are so grateful to all our members who have helped us throughout by attending so many varied events; their endless support, commitment and generosity is commendable. A special thank you to **Linda Jones** our Treasurer for keeping the books in order and to **Barbara Pennington**, a constant inspiration to our current secretary. Thanks also to **Barry Taylor** our Northern Area Representative for always being at the end of the phone. Finally, to all at RHQ, with special thanks to **Major Andy Green** for his patience and guidance.

Less we forget: **2622403 Ronald Ernest Happs** and **2626894 Charles Oliver**.



Barbara Pennington cut the ribbon on our bench during the dedication ceremony.



Our bench in St John's Gardens, St George's Hall.

LONDON

(Formed 1920)

President: Lieutenant Colonel RG CARTWRIGHT, LVO

Vice Presidents: Colonel ATW DUNCAN, LVO, OBE; Lieutenant Colonel PR HOLCROFT, LVO, OBE; Lieutenant Colonel H FLOOD; Major THE LORD GLENTORAN, CBE; Major N BOGGIS-ROLFE, TD; Major TH HOLBECH, MBE; Major ARG CARTWRIGHT; Major PAJ WRIGHT, OBE; Major JED BROWNE; Major DM BRADDELL; Captain THE HON JA FORBES; Captain Dr IAN REID, PhD; Captain TBCH WOODS; Captain RAC DUNCAN; Major FAO CLARK; Captain A CLUFF, OBE, DL; Captain RJB PINFOLD, Esq; Mr B SMITH; Mr G GIBBS; Mr A WALLIS, MBE

Chairman: Mr PA LANES

Secretary: LES COX, 6 Hill View Lane, Great Billington, Leighton Buzzard, Bedfordshire, LU7 9BH

Tel: (01525) 852229 / 07966203799

Email: lescox01@aol.com

Email: londonbranch@grengds.com

Treasurer: Mr F Hooley

Meetings: Meetings will be held on the third Wednesday during the months of May, July and October. The May meeting will also be the Branch AGM and all meetings will be a questions & answers affair. Committee meetings start at 1900hrs; Branch Meetings will start at 1930; and a buffet will be supplied at every meeting. Branch get togethers during all other months will be held at the Union Jack Club from 1230hrs.

Website: Londonbranch-GrenadierGuards-Association.com

On Sunday the 16th December 2018 we held our Annual Christmas Draw Lunch at the Union Jack Club. 66 members and their friends and families attended and all had a good three course lunch with wine. We were also pleased to welcome



The Top Table.

two young Guardsmen from Nijmegen Company.

One of the Guardsmen sat on the table with the officers and their wives, and you could see the



The London Branch enjoying their Christmas lunch.

amazement on his face when everyone talked to him using his Christian name. Our president **Lieutenant Colonel Robert Cartwright LVO** gave us his yearly talk but this year he came up with a corker of a funny story. Our guest speaker was **Major Patrick Rice** a serving Grenadier and currently a staff officer at HQ 11 Brigade, looking after Operations and Commitments. He gave us a great rundown on where the three companies were overseas and what their roles were. He also told us what Nijmegen Company was up to. We were also pleased to welcome members of the Bristol Branch



Bristol Branch Table.

and we hope they are able to join us again.

As usual we had 2 raffle draws, one that is posted out to every member of the Branch, and a main one at the Christmas Draw. In this way, every member has a chance to join in. We also had a 50/50 draw and **Michael Woodgates** won £152.00 cash on the day. Also, a signed 1st team Arsenal shirt was auctioned and raised £60.00. Again this year, we were lucky to have so many firms donating prizes for our Raffle Draw and we would like to thank them all.

By kind permission of the Garrison Sgt Major, **WO1 (RSM) Vern Stokes**, we were able to have

our Branch meetings and AGM at the Garrison Sergeants' Mess, Wellington Barracks, London. Over the years the turnout for the meetings has dwindled, so a decision was made that we would have fewer meetings and one meeting would also include our AGM, instead of having it on a Saturday.

At every meeting we now also include a small buffet paid for by the Branch coffers. So, we now still meet on a Wednesday night but in May to include our AGM and in July and October. If you are thinking of joining the Branch and would like to attend any of these meetings, please let the Secretary know beforehand as a list must be put into the Guardroom - if you are not on it you will not get in.

The rest of the year lunch time gatherings are held at the Union Jack Club, Waterloo. Again, if you want to go you have to be a member; if you are not, let **Les Cox** know and he will get your name put on the door.

We were able to get some tickets for Trooping of the Colour from **Sgt Rob Haughton** at RHQ, and our Treasurer **Frank Hooley**, who does a fantastic job looking after the Branch's finances, took his wife and they had a well-earned day out. We also managed to get tickets for our members to go and watch the Garter Service at Windsor Castle and Founder's Day at the Royal Hospital Chelsea. Each year, the Hospital holds a parade to mark it's founding by King Charles II. The parade is usually held in late May/early June, close to King Charles II's birthday (May 29th). The parade is attended each year by a member of the Royal Family; this year it was **HRH Prince Harry**.



Jan and Les Cox.

Les Cox and his wife **Jan** had the pleasure of attending a garden party at Buckingham Palace

given by The Not Forgotten Association and in the presence of **Her Royal Highness The Duchess of Gloucester**. It was a fantastic afternoon with the sun shining all the time - just right for strawberries and cream. They also met up with **Arthur and Sylvia Pease, Peter and Maureen Nash, Mike Bunch and his Friend Peggy Hawkins, Roy Croucher – Finch** and his friend **Jan** - all members of the London Branch.



Members of the London Branch.

Grenadier Day was held again at Lille Barracks Aldershot by kind permission of **Lieutenant Colonel Piers Ashfield DSO**, Commanding Officer of the 1st Battalion. It was another hot day and the gods were shining down on former, present and future Grenadiers. The London Branch stall did well again this year selling two types of Blue Red Blue belts and, of course our well-known Christmas Cards painted again by **Sean Bolan**. We had a fantastic day with takings of £1115.00. On the same day England won the Cricket World Cup and **Lewis Hamilton** won the British Grand Prix - what a day!



Margaret Taylor and Jan Cox.

Our on-line shop has done very well again this year selling out of some items and being replaced

with completely different new ranges. You can still get lots of items at great prices from: londonbranch-grenadierguards-association.net

Our new email addresses are lescox01@aol.com or londonbranch02@gmail.com

It is our sad duty to report the deaths of the following members. 22213022 **Mr D Taylor**, 14888778 **Mr J H Clifford**, 22745865 **Mr Harry Russell**, 23429845 **Mr M Sterling**, Captain **C A G Keeling**, 19147783 **Mr G Brown**, 2628706 **Mr E Howlett**, **Mr H Buxley** and **Mr S Vellender** (died 2009).

On behalf of the Committee and the Membership of the London Branch, we would all like to send our condolences to their families and friends.

Our thanks to **Major Andy Green**, **Sgt Rob Broomes**, **Sgt Rob Houghton** and the staff at RHQ again this year for all your help; thank you.

MANCHESTER

(Formed 1913)

President: Lieutenant Colonel CE KITCHEN, MBE

Vice Presidents: Mr F GREEN; Mr RA FALLON

Chairman: Mr M COTTRELL

Secretary: Mr RA FALLON, 58 Newhouse Road, Heywood, Lancashire, OL10 2NU

Tel: (01706) 360818

Email: robert.fallon@talktalk.net

Treasurer: Mr J PARRY

Meetings: Held on the first Wednesday of each month, (except August) at the Fairfield Golf & Sailing Club, Kings Road, Audenshaw, Manchester. M34 5FA at 8pm

Facebook: Manchester Grenadier Guards Association

We start our report with yet another change of venue for our monthly meetings. By the time last year's Gazette had been circulated, we had moved from the Trafford social club to the Fairfield Golf and Sailing club, Kings Road, Audenshaw, Manchester. We were greeted with open arms into this newly refurbished club, with its warm and comfortable clubhouse, and best of all they have a lift up to the first floor so any member with walking difficulties can get up to the meeting room.

The final function of 2018 was our Christmas dinner and dance where we had 87 members and



Our Top Table, from Left to Right: Mike Grimsley, Janet Grimsley, Grace Cohen, David Cohen, Major James Gatehouse, Lt Colonel Rick Kitchen, Linda Kitchen and Bob Gilbert.



Lt Colonel Rick Kitchen, Julien Beressi and Major James Gatehouse.

guests attending. We were extremely well looked after by the staff of the Britannia Country House Hotel, and the food was once again excellent.

Our secretary attended the 2019 Association AGM at Wellington barracks and on his return he gave the members a comprehensive de-brief of all that had gone on.

The Branch Annual Dinner and Dance took place again at the Britannia Hotel on Saturday 27th April with 112 members and guests sitting down to a wonderful meal.

The guest of honour was Major James Gatehouse, the Regimental Adjutant and he presented Mr Julien Beressi with the Inkerman Trophy which we give each year to someone who has supported the Branch financially.

With so many people attending the evening our raffle and envelope draw raised enough money to cover the subsidies and gave a small profit at the end of the evening.

The Branch AGM was held on Wednesday 1st May and we are pleased to announce that all the officers were re-elected for a further term, this

guarantees stability for another twelve months at least.

Regimental Remembrance day was not attended by any of our Branch members apart from our secretary who attends every year. The rank and file feel that it is too far to go for a service and a gruelling march to Horse Guards for the parade and back. It takes a coach 5 to 6 hours to get there and the same to get home, that makes for a long day.

On the 8th June our secretary Bob Fallon and his wife Pamela celebrated their Golden Wedding anniversary as well as his 75th Birthday. The celebration took place at the Britannia Hotel because they had 139 family and friends who wished to help them celebrate. A number of Scots Guards Association Pipes & Drums marched in to play a selection of Scottish tunes, the Drummers gave a display and then they marched out again. The party went on until the early hours with some familiar faces to be seen.



Eight members of The Scots Guards Pipes & Drums.



From Left to Right: K Bowen, P Blagden, S Vaughan, S Davies J Marshall, G Smith, D Waby and Bob Fallon.

On 18th June **Bob Fallon** travelled down to Wellington Barracks for the funeral of **Major Stephen Dehnel**, they were both members of the Battalion shooting team in 1976 and remained friends.

Grenadier Day gave the Branch the opportunity to sell off all the memorabilia stored in the secretary's attic which included paintings, photographs and other Grenadier items that were just gathering dust. It went so well that by 3pm we had sold all the stock and spent the rest of the day taking orders for personalised mugs and coasters; a very good result for the Branch.

On 1st September our chairman **Mick Cottrell** celebrated his 80th birthday which he thought was going to be a family affair. However, six Branch members turned up to add a little spice to the occasion. Mick also won the Gold medal in the Wigan in Bloom competition.



Mick Cottrell flanked by two officials from Wigan.

In a combined effort to try and keep all regimental associations afloat in the greater Manchester area it was decided that each organisation should try and attend other organisations' dinners. With that in mind the secretary and four other Grenadiers attended the Scots Guards Annual dinner on the 8th November. It was also the 60th anniversary of the formation of the Scots Guards Association Pipes and Drums. We already have several members who attend the Wigan and St. Helens Branch dinners and we will be looking into other associations to see if we can help in any way.

The Remembrance Day Parade in Manchester saw a fine turnout of Grenadiers who joined the Household Division contingent led by **Brigadier Kim Ross SG** and the Pipes and Drums.



From Left to Right: M Cottrell, M Tarkenter, R Fallon and extreme right M Thompson Wigan Branch.

Sadly, we have to inform you of the passing of the following members of the Manchester Branch: **23252156 P Burgess**, **23075056 J M Byrne**, **22955818 A Close**, **21006039 J E Hicklin** and finally **Mrs J Berrisford**, widow of the late **Charlie Berrisford**. Lest we Forget.

In conclusion we would like to thank **Major Andy Green**, **Sgt Rob Broomes**, **Sgt Rob Haughton** and all the staff at RHQ for their support during this last year.

MARCH

(Formed 1968)

President: Major AJ GREEN

Vice Presidents: Captain (QM) TA ROLFE

Chairman: Mr E SALMON

Secretary: Mr CM WHITEBROOK, 21 Davie Lane, Whittlesey, Cambridgeshire, PE7 1YZ

Tel: (01733) 350059

Email: whitebrook9834@hotmail.co.uk

Treasurer: Mrs M WHITEBROOK

Meetings: AGM held in March, at the Secretary's home address.

Towards the close of the year the time is passing all too quickly, perhaps because a looming holiday is getting closer and it feels that there isn't the time to complete all that has to be done. For the first time in many years it has been a case of starting to purchase those Christmas presents that are required in October. The raffle prizes for the Christmas Lunch have been identified and obtained, Google and Amazon have been utilised, still to find time to take measurements for door

fittings to be ordered.

A good job that we are reminded from Association Headquarters to get our act together and start working on returns and notes for the Gazette. Not too many days left in the UK with two holidays to fit in. Talking to the Branch Chairman only yesterday led to notification of a 48 hour period to hand over all the details for the next function, it almost feels as hectic as when we served.

So, what has been happening within the Branch? As always, our report starts at Remembrance Day and the involvement of individual members at varying locations. Branch Secretary **Chris Whitebrook** was at Peterborough Cathedral in the morning, and in the afternoon at Whittlesey accompanied by Branch Treasurer **Morag Whitebrook**, together with **Malcolm** and **Pam Clifford**. The Branch wreath was laid on behalf of all the members at March by **Des Pritchard**. At Coates the Branch representative was **Colin Dale**, at Chatteris **Neville Patter**.

Our ongoing thanks go to the Conservative Club in March for allowing the Branch to continue with their annual functions. Although the numbers attending are falling our hosts are glad of our company and do all that they can to accommodate our needs. The chef seems to set ever higher standards and all of this whilst keeping the costs to a very reasonable level.

The first of the functions, the 2018 Christmas Lunch, was successful and following a first-class meal, during which the table quiz was completed, prizes were presented to the winning group. The chocolates are really popular, keenly contested and a close watch has to be kept for assistance being sought from mobile phones. Subtle hints are eagerly sought after from the Secretary as he dispenses the wines and soft drinks, to no avail however as he manages to remain impartial.

The Christmas Raffle, organised by our Treasurer, **Morag Whitebrook**, assisted by Chairman **Edward Salmon** and his wife, **Caroline**, rounded off a most enjoyable day. Gone are the days of the same item re-appearing at successive functions, now the raffle table is often full to overflowing with purchased and donated raffle prizes. Now the cry is to take a prize when your ticket comes up, not to put it back in to re-draw it.

The turn of the year saw the usual round of preparatory work in preparing for further functions, the ordering of Gazettes, establishing requirements for Birthday Parade and Rehearsal tickets, the Annual General Meeting, together with the Secretaries meeting, the round of keeping in touch with all of the members, those who attend as well as those who won't, don't or can't.

Following a long period of inaction with our local Army Cadet Force unit our Secretary, **Chris Whitebrook** has re-established links. The Cadet unit in Whittlesey are badged to the Regiment and now have a very keen and active Detachment Commander, **Lt Richard Nicholson** and when possible Parade nights have been attended and a rapport built up between the Cadets, Adult Instructors and the Branch. Couple this with the involvement of the local Council and the Mayor of Whittlesey and it seems that the historic links between the Branch and the Cadet Unit will grow to a much better level. The Mayor was facing difficulty in choosing which Cadet should be her escorting Cadet for the year, such was the high standard of turnout. Rather than choosing one from the four suitable candidates she now has all of them on parade when required.

At the same time links have been established with the Cambridgeshire Regimental Association, they are in a similar situation of diminishing numbers and it is envisaged that we may in the future be able to have joint functions, but more importantly enjoy the Company of like-minded veterans. So far this year all of the function dates have clashed, however the diaries for 2020 have been consulted to prevent this happening again. Their Chairman, **Bob Wicks**, has been organising the purchase and siting of memorial benches. Initially this will be in cemeteries in Whittlesey and surrounding villages, and then hopefully to be expanded into Fenland. The Branch have contributed towards the cost of benches, as have the Cambridgeshire Regimental Association, a major supermarket with no branch in the area and individual donations. Where there are War graves in a local cemetery there will be one of these benches.

The Secretary spent a day at Annual Camp in Thetford with the Cadet unit and met up with the County Commandant and Company Commander



A Memorial Bench.

who are immensely proud of the unit and tell all who will listen to look out for the Grenade Cap Badge, they will then see some of the best cadets in the County. **Colin and Dorothy Dale** accompanied **Chris and Morag Whitebrook** to the Annual Service for the Cambridgeshire Regimental Association. The Cadets were on parade and many favourable comments were made regarding their deportment and turnout. It is hoped that some of the Cadets may be able to be on parade, at Wellington Barracks, on Black Sunday. It has been suggested that the Regiment may be able to assist with some more of the training and **Major Andy Green** has offered to encourage this matter.

The Annual Lunch was the usual success, with a good turnout and fine meal. Branch member **Gerry Graham**, who is a regular attender and has a journey of some 180 miles each way to attend functions was missing. Having spent £30 to get from home to the nearest main line station by taxi he found, after a long wait, that his scheduled train was cancelled. The next train would have meant arriving some hours after the start time. This was his first function missed in many years, it was also the first time that he attempted to get to a function on the same day as he usually combines it with visiting and has a few days away from home. It will be a loss to the Branch when he can no longer make the journeys. Whilst many of the 'friends of the Branch' are now, with increasing

years finding it difficult to support us, it is encouraging that new 'friends' are being introduced at functions. More of our own members attending would also be welcomed.

The usual round of what are the routine summer events have been well supported. Black Sunday saw the usual attendance. The Queen's Birthday Parade was attended by **Bill and Sally Johnson**, who were more than grateful for the opportunity of attending as they had failed to obtain tickets through the new booking system. **Chris and Carrie Mills** managed to get to the Colonels Review. Quite where they were on their round the world cruise when they managed to secure their tickets wasn't too

clear at first. Apparently, it was somewhere in the Caribbean, the wonders of the internet! Grenadier Day was reported to have been a worthwhile visit

The Branch Chairman, **Edward Salmon** accompanied the Branch President, **Major Andy Green** on a visit to the 1st Battalion stationed at Aldershot. An interesting and informative day was had, not just meeting up with personalities within the Battalion and seeing some of the newer equipment and training, but also in meeting up with Secretaries and Presidents from other Branches of the Association.

The reporting year fades out with the Sausage & Mash lunch. The usual fine meal and raffle. Again we were honoured with new faces, neighbours and friends who may well become more regular visitors and 'friends of the Branch'. This function regrettably could not be attended by our President, **Major Andy Green** as he, along with the Regimental Casualty Officer **Matt Elmer**, was busy walking in the Lake District. To compensate for his absence our President treated all present to their Lunch, a most generous and well received gesture. It doesn't mean that he will gain any advantage in Branch quizzes in the future, but he does hope to be at the winning table again at some stage and win some more chocolates.

The Branch wishes to express appreciation and thanks to **Sgt Rob Broomes** for his invaluable assistance, so readily given, throughout the year.

MATLOCK

(Formed 1955)

President: Mr DW RAWSON, BEM

Vice-Presidents: VACANT

Chairman: Mr JD KILLINGSLEY-SMITH, FInstLM

Secretary: Mrs YJ BALL, 12 Westwood Lane, Chesterfield, Derbyshire, S43 1PA

Tel: 07391576380

Email: yjball@hotmail.co.uk

Treasurer: Mr D BRIGNULL

Meetings: Held at 1230hrs 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 19th December 2018 we held an informal Christmas Luncheon at our Branch venue. Members of the regular monthly meetings were all in attendance and a convivial time was had by all.

On 16th May 2019 another visit to Haddon Hall was organised by **Bill Rawson**. Bill managed to secure 12 passes for those members and friends of the Branch who had been unable to attend the Christmas tour. **Lady Manners** greeted the group prior to the tour of her historic home. The Branch is extremely grateful to **Lord and Lady Manners** for facilitating this annual event.



Branch Members and friends at Haddon Hall, Derbyshire.

We held both our Spring and Autumn luncheons at Bakewell Golf Club. More than 30 members, partners and friends were in attendance on each occasion. Prayers were delivered by **Paul Thackstone** our Honorary Branch member and at the Autumn Luncheon the Chairman read over the Association Notes provided by HQ covering activities of 2019 and forthcoming events for 2020

for the Regiment.

As usual the food, company and raffle prizes were exceptional and in spite of inclement weather at the Autumn Luncheon, everyone left, on both occasions, with a smile on their face, particularly those who had secured a raffle prize. A big 'thank you' must go to **John and Margaret Wright** and **Bill and Tina Rawson** for their well established organisation of these two annual luncheons.



Our Autumn Luncheon.

On Thursday 6th June 2019 our Chairman, **Derek Killingsley – Smith** and his wife, **Kate**, were invited to the Review of In-Pensioners at Royal Hospital, Chelsea on Founders' Day. The invitation was graciously accepted and **Kate** and **Derek** proudly attended the parade. The Reviewing Officer was His Royal Highness **The Duke of Sussex** who addressed the assembled company; a wonderful and emotional day they will never forget.

As a matter of interest, whilst there **Kate** and **Derek** bumped into In-Pensioner, **Colin Thackery**, who won this years 'Britain's Got Talent'. The oldest ever winner at 89 years of age **Colin** was very pleased to chat to them with his lovely family and went on to perform in front of Her Majesty the Queen at the Royal Variety Performance on 17th November.



Derek and Kate with Colin Thackery.

Two days later on

Saturday 8th June **Kate** and **Derek** attended Trooping the Colour on Horse Guards Parade – the Queen’s Birthday Parade. The Escort for the Colour, Numbers 2, 3 and 4 Guards were provided by the 1st Battalion and Nijmegen Company. Another emotional day which brought back so many happy memories for them both. As in previous years, on a cool September morning **Bill Rawson** managed to secure a market stall at Bakewell Market. With the help of his wife **Tina** and other Branch members we were able to sell Bric-a-Brac donated by members and friends to raise funds for the Colonel’s fund.



Tina Rawson and Yvonne Ball poised to persuade.

Our AGM was held on 25th October 2019 the only post that became vacant was that of Social and Welfare Secretary, **John Wright**. **John** has held the post for many years and his enthusiasm, dedication, artistic flair and professionalism will be hard to replace. **Bill Rawson** and **Yvonne Ball**, Branch Secretary agreed to fill the role on a



Margaret and John Wright.



Remembrance Day Programme Redcliffe RSL, Australia.

temporary basis. All other posts were re-elected.

Remembrance Parades this year were attended by **Bill Rawson** at Bakewell and **Derek Killingsley-Smith** at Crich and in the afternoon **Derek** attended Chesterfield Football Club Memorial Gardens where he read the dedication to **Arthur Reville** a former Chesterfield football player and Grenadier Guard who was killed in the 1st World War. As usual **John** and **Margaret Wright** are in warmer climes visiting their son, Andrew and his family in Australia to celebrate **Margaret’s** 80th birthday. They took time out to attend a local Remembrance Day service at the Redcliffe Branch of the R.S.L.

MEDWAY

(Formed 1976)

President: Lieutenant Colonel P HARRIS, MBE

Vice Presidents: Lieutenant Colonel S TUCK, BEM; Captain CD LEIGH-PEMBERTON; Captain AJH HOLLOWAY, MP; Mr AJ WEST, BEM; Captain RC WORTHINGTON; Mr PA FRANKS

Chairman: Mr M ROBINSON, BEM

Secretary: Mr D FLYNN, 12 Linwood Avenue, Rochester, Kent, ME2 3TR

Tel: (01634) 710546

Email: desflynn@btinternet.com

Treasurer: Mr K JEFFRIES

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 has been another busy twelve months for the Branch starting in November 2018 with our local Remembrance Day Service held in Rochester Cathedral followed by a reception in the Rochester Corn Exchange. Some of the members took part in the parade through the high street and our Branch Secretary **Des Flynn** took part in the wreath laying ceremony. In December we held our Christmas Draw at the St George Hotel, Chatham. Once again this afternoon event proved to be popular, was well attended and everyone enjoyed the good food and live entertainment. Our thanks once again to **Jen Robinson** for all of her hard work for a very attractive and popular raffle.



Our Christmas Lunch.

Following the Christmas break, February 2019 commenced with the Branch Annual General Meeting and one change to the Branch Committee. Our Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer and Entertainments Officer were all re-elected. Our Welfare Officer **Karen Flynn** did not stand again for a further year in this role due to family commitments, but remains an active member of the Branch. The Branch would like to thank **Karen** for all her hard work over the past two years. She was very dedicated and professional in this role and will be difficult to replace.

Moving on to Spring and the Branch held its St George's Day lunchtime event at the St George Hotel, Chatham in April. This is proving to be a popular event and was once again well attended and enjoyed by all those present.

Next was the first of our two Petanque events. The first event being held at the Ditton Petanque Club and those that attended had a very pleasant afternoon with nice company. The following day was Regimental Remembrance Day and some of the members made the short journey into London. As always this was a great opportunity to catch up with others from around the Country that you may bump into just once or twice a year. Always a great event and we are lucky to be situated not too far away.

Next in the calendar was the Armed Forces Day

event in Gillingham at the end of June. We turned up with a team of members and our Branch Stall. The event was very busy and well attended by the public. Our stall attractions assist in boosting our Branch funds and is a great opportunity to advertise both the Branch and the Association. Just like last year we had a larger than normal number of the public wanting to come and talk to us.



Armed Forces Day.

Following on from Armed Forces Day we found ourselves erecting the Branch Stall once more, this time in Aldershot at Grenadier Day. Another busy day on the stall but we did all manage to go for a walk to have a look around and locate friends from other Branches. The Colonel turned up to the event in the afternoon and had a wander around the Arena stopping off at some of the Branch Stalls to say hello. Being a bit of a golfer he couldn't resist our 'Golf Challenge' attraction and also took an interest in another of our attractions, throwing a hoop over the Guardsman, but thought better of it despite one of our members **Karen Flynn** offering to lend him a pound to have a go. Earlier in the afternoon the shooting competition took place and we were pleased to be instructed to attend the prize giving ceremony as the Medway Branch once again had retained the Boyton Cup.

The second of our Petanque events was held in September, the Medway Branch and the White House Petanque Club, Maidstone, playing for the **John Chapman Memorial Cup**. A very enjoyable day with nice weather and nice company with a break for a picnic BBQ lunch. Once again the Branch team gave a good account of themselves with **Tony West** finishing as the event runner-up. A relaxing and enjoyable day for those that attended.

October and the Branch Annual Dinner at the

Grange Moor Hotel in Maidstone. Our flagship event of the year and a chance to get dressed up; enjoy some good food and some good company. We were joined by our guest speaker, **Lieutenant Mark Osmond** from Nijmegen Company who gave up his evening to be with us and did a great job. On conclusion of the Loyal Messages and the Guest Speaker we were entertained by **Rich Philips**, who went down well with the audience and we gave him a short break whilst we held a raffle and an auction which was hosted by our entertainments compere, **Chris Warden** who uses his ability and experience to make this a fun part of the evening.



The Branch Annual Dinner.

Moving on a month into November and we found ourselves back where we started. We have just attended the Remembrance Day Service at Rochester Cathedral and some of us were able to take part in the parade through the High Street to the Cathedral. On completion of the service and the wreath laying ceremony at the war memorial in the Cathedral grounds, it was onto the nearby Corn Exchange and into the warm for tea and biscuits and a chat.

We look forward to another busy year but before that we will be attending our Christmas Draw event in December 19th and look forward to some more good food and live entertainment.

Very sadly and just after this report was submitted we lost **23879962 Michael Boniface** who passed away on 20th November 2019; Michael will be sorely missed.

NORFOLK

(Formed 1938)

President: Captain PJS ALLEN, BEM

Vice Presidents: Captain TRE COOK; Major JFQ FENWICK, QC;

R DONALDSON, Esq; JM BATTEN, Esq.; CH MITCHELL, Esq.; Lieutenant Colonel HML SMITH; BL BARBER, Esq.; RF BARWICK, Esq.

Chairman: Captain PJS ALLEN, BEM

Secretary: Mr CHRIS WARREN, 10 Highland, Poringland, Norwich, Norfolk, NR14 7QU

Tel: 01508 494379 / 07885088387

Email: christwrr@btinternet.com

Treasurer: Mr CHRIS WARREN

Meetings: Held on Saturdays in March and September at Stower Grange, Drayton, Norwich, NR8 6EF at 0900hrs. Contact the Branch Secretary for further details

The Norfolk Branch had quite a good year with changes to the meeting venue and style, a lovely evening gathering and a surprising meet with a 100 year old Grenadier. The Branch has around 70 members, 62 being Grenadiers and about 40% of members now contactable by email. The Norfolk Dining Club continued to provide an additional social element for the county and beyond thanks to **Ross Donaldson**. During the year we had to bid a sad farewell to **22213019 Anthony Parry** who passed away in July. Anthony served in the 3rd Battalion in the UK, Malaya, Libya and Egypt between 1948 and 1953.

Both the AGM, held in March 2019 and the half yearly meeting in September benefited from a new location and format. In an attempt to encourage more members to attend the Branch held Saturday 'breakfast' meetings at the Stower Grange Hotel in Drayton, Norwich. Breakfast was served at 0900hrs and members parading at such an early hour were rewarded with extra rations of a 'full English' or kippers. The meetings then commenced at 09.45hrs with the president, **Captain Allen**, having to make excessive use of the gavel to draw members away from their coffee, toast and lively chat. The new format certainly improved attendance with a dozen coming to the AGM and eight for the September meeting.

During the evening of Saturday 25th May **Captain and Mrs Cook** very kindly hosted a

drinks and nibbles event at their Gateley Hill home. The weather was fine and 20 members and guests enjoyed wonderful food and wine whilst also taking in the superb mid Norfolk views. As a measure of gratitude the Branch gave **Carola Cook** a lovely bouquet whilst **Captain Tom Cook** was presented with an apple tree aptly named 'Grenadier'.



Members and guests on the terrace at Gateley Hill.



Captain Allen presents Captain Tom Cook with a 'Grenadier' apple tree.

One interesting and touching story must be shared. By virtue of the sterling efforts of **Terry McClenahan** and **Steve Hayes** a very senior Norfolk Grenadier, **Leonard Boxall**, had his wish come true for his 100th birthday on 5th April 2019. **Len** enlisted in 1939 just before the war, joining the Grenadiers as he particularly liked the red tunic and bearskin cap. He did perform Public Duties at Windsor but in battle dress as the war had by then started.

He was soon posted abroad and served in France, Africa and Italy. He was wounded in Africa and later captured in Italy, spending the last two years of the

war in a German POW camp. During his service he only ever wore fatigues or combat uniform and never ceremonial dress. **Terry** and **Steve** arranged a tunic and bearskin cap and helped a very happy Grenadier make his dream come true on his birthday by getting him on parade in full Guard Order.

On Sunday 20th October 2019 members and guests enjoyed their annual luncheon at Park Farm, Hethersett starting with a Bucks Fizz reception. After the loyal toasts, proposed by **Captain Allen**, a very interesting regimental update was given by **Major Ben Conway**. This was followed by the usual raffle arranged by **Terry** and **Sandra McClenahan** with assistance from **Jean** and **Chris Warren**. The Branch must particularly thank **Terry** for organising the luncheon and **Ross Donaldson** for continuing to provide the excellent menus and place cards.



Leonard Boxall a 100 year old Grenadier gets on parade.

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

(Formed 1929)

President: C MANNERS, Esq

Vice Presidents: Captain THE HON TI BRASSEY; Major JCF MAGNAY; Lieutenant Colonel JS SCOTT-CLAKE; Major JM HIRST; Captain R WILMOTT, DL; Colonel REH AUBREY-FLETCHER; P GOUDIME, JP; Brigadier DJC RUSSELL-PARSONS, OBE; Mr A CRAWLEY; AE PACKE

Chairman: Mr M ELLMER

Secretary: Mr A McDERMOTT, 27 Woodlands Avenue, Corby, Northants, NN17 1JH

Tel: 07770867104

Email: tmcdermott6506@gmail.com

Treasurer: Ms T CLARK

Meetings: Held on the first Thursday of each month (except January), at 2000hrs at the Conservative Club, Cottingham Road, Corby, NN17 1SZ

NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE

(Formed 1933)

President: SIR AEH HEBER-PERCY, KCVO

Vice President: VACANT

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.

The Branch continues to march along, in good heart, albeit in slow time which suits the rather elderly members who now attend meetings. Meetings are held monthly, usually at The Trentham Hotel in the south of Stoke-on-Trent, at lunch time enabling those present to partake of the excellent carvery lunch that the hotel serves. The Branch Intelligence Officer has discovered that the way to get the best out of carvery meals is to dine early so the Branch meets a quarter of an hour before midday! As a result of these meetings the Branch was pleased to welcome back to the fold **Peter Wright** and **Jeff Almond**.

In November, 2018, members of the Branch joined together with pupils from the Packmoor Primary School, once attended by that great Grenadier **John Rhodes VC, DCM and Bar**. A poppy wreath was placed on the adjacent Rhodes Memorial which was erected by the Branch some years ago. A wreath was also placed on the **Rhodes VC** memorial at Stoke-on-Trent Civic Centre. In December the Branch had the pleasure of dining with the Shropshire Branch at their Christmas event in Shrewsbury.

Welfare continues to play a key part in Branch activities and visits were made, on a regular basis, to former Grenadiers who are less mobile than they once were; visits were also made to Grenadier widows. These ladies are always very pleased to receive a visit, particularly in December, and expressed great pleasure and thanks upon receipt of their Christmas gifts from The Association along with a Regimental Christmas card.

Sadly, in March **Charlie Bailey**, the one who jumped out of aeroplanes, passed away. He had only recently returned to the North West and rejoined the Branch following many years 'down south'. He and the host of stories that he could tell, after a long time in The Regiment, are greatly missed by all. During the year it was with great regret we also lost **John Neal, Brian Harrison** and **David Lindsey**.

Members of the Branch were able to attend The Birthday Parade, a splendid performance by The Regiment, where they met up with one-time Grenadier **Graham Bull** who was on holiday from his home in Australia. Members also visited Aldershot for Grenadier Day, a long drive but a good and much enjoyed day.

In June the Branch was on parade at the Stoke-on-Trent Armed Forces Day event, another excellent day but the shine was taken off it somewhat when, returning to the car park, the Branch secretary found that his car had been 'written off' by an idle driver.

Towards the end of July, the Branch had the great pleasure of spending a day at Hodnet Hall at the very kind invitation of the Branch president and **Lady Jane** where we were joined by our friends from the Shropshire Branch and a few more old friends. A most excellent luncheon was enjoyed by all who attended as was the opportunity to walk around the splendid gardens. Another Guardsman Garden Gnome has now joined the staff at Hodnet Hall.

Again, during the past year, a number of visits were made, by the Branch, to The National Memorial Arboretum in South Staffordshire where a number of events were attended. The Branch is fortunate to have it on the door step; it is the most evocative of places.

Branch lunch meetings continued through the autumn along with welfare visits and members plan to be involved in a number of forthcoming Remembrance Day events and look forward to the planned Christmas 'do'.

The Branch would like to extend an invitation to any former Grenadiers in the ether; who live in Staffordshire or Cheshire, to join them at any time – they would be most welcome and the Branch would certainly appreciate (and needs) a transfusion

of younger blood. All Branch members are very appreciative of and thankful for the support and help received from Birdcage Walk and wish to pass on to all serving and former Grenadiers their very best wishes.

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

(Formed 1914)

President: VACANT

Vice Presidents: SIR ANDREW BUCHANAN, Bt, KCVO; Mr G SEVERN; Mr RL SHARPE; Mr GE HALLAM

Chairman: Mr AM DUTTON

Secretary: Mr GE HALLAM 14 The Lawns, Whatton-in-the-Vale, Nottinghamshire, NG13 9EZ

Email: nottinghambranch@grengds.com

Treasurer: Mrs MJ GREENBERRY

Meetings: Held on the second Friday of each month at The Victory Club, Church Drive, Daybrook, Nottingham, NG5 6JG, at 1900hrs

and his family at future events. Although we are thin on the ground we do to get strong support from neighbouring Associations at our functions that we hold and that makes the work worthwhile.

Another sad occurrence locally was the closing of The Oxford and Reading Branch of the Coldstream Guards Association. Despite our traditional differences we all supported each other and we hope in future that the wearing of the blue red blue will still unite us all.

Our year started when we joined together with members of other Guards Association members and friends to attend the events provided for us at The Grenadier Club in Windsor on Sunday 18th November 2018. We enjoyed an afternoon of bingo, and quizzes. On Sunday 20th January 2019 we were invited to join them and enjoy the mysteries of a Beetle Drive. With a little help from them we all soon found out how to play the game. On both occasions the afternoon was rounded up with a fish, chicken or sausage and chip tea, all for £4.

On Sunday 11th August 2019 we all enjoyed a cream tea, a quiz and bingo but this time played with cards. Our thanks go to **Bob and Sue Gilbert** and their helpers from the club for making us most welcome and for such a successful and enjoyable afternoons entertainment.

In December 36 members and friends made our usual pilgrimage to The Household Division Carol Service and whilst everyone enjoyed themselves it was unfortunate that the Mess was not open and we therefore missed an opportunity to reminisce with old friends. Our final event of the 2018 was the Dining Club Christmas Lunch organised by **Peter Brooks** at the Holt Hotel. 33 people sat down to an excellent carvery followed by the usual raffle.

In April 2019 our AGM was again held at The Plough Inn, Wolvercote. As usual it was not very well supported; only nine members attended with nine apologies for absence recorded. The main matters confirmed were the re-election of the committee, our finances which were in excellent order thanks to **Janet Shayler** our treasurer and the Summer's social calendar agreed. Afterwards we all sat down to an excellent lunch organised by **Peter Brooks**.

Regimental Remembrance Sunday was well attended although it is too much for some of us

OXFORDSHIRE

(Formed 1936)

President: Colonel ET HUDSON, CBE

Vice Presidents: THE HON Mrs RS TYSER; Major AH GRAY; SIR JOHN GRAHAM, Bt, GCM; LORD RAGLAN; THE VISCOUNT ESHER; Major DPG IRVINE; D MASON, Esq; Major General THE LORD ALVINGHAM, CBE, DL; Major PFL KOCH de GOOREYND; M COCHANE, Esq, DL (Scots Guards); D PALMER, Esq, DL; 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

Thanks to the dedicated few, the Branch continues to survive. Unfortunately, we have lost the services, on our committee due to health reasons, of one of our stalwart members **Don Thompson**. Don served the Branch as Chairman for 13 years and was an active committee member for 51 years in all. We all wish him and **Judith** a happy future and we are sure that we will see him

to march. **Peter Brooks** our Chairman had the honour of being chosen to help carry the wreath on the day and everyone enjoyed themselves as usual especially the chance to have a drink and socialise in the Sgts' Mess.

A major calamity arose just prior to our joint annual garden party in June that we enjoy with other local Household Division Associations. **Mrs Monson** our host unfortunately had a fall and was confined to hospital. **John Southern** the Reading Branch Secretary worked wonders and arranged for the party to be held at the home of **Major Francis Wauchope**, the Reading Branch President. Everyone joined in helping with the preparation and organisation of the event and on the day around 100 people sat down under a grand marquee and enjoyed a tea, strawberries and as much ice cream as could be eaten.

Roger Coppock and **Eric Hallet** added to the atmosphere by dressing up in Waterloo period costumes and we were entertained during the afternoon by The White Waltham Silver Band. A grand raffle was held to conclude the day's events.

The Branch attended Grenadier Day and ran a stall. **Peter Cook** again proved what a persuasive salesman he is in organising his 'win the £50 note' game. Together with a tombola game we came away with a small profit.

Our annual skittles evening took place at The Masonic Hall, Woodstock in October when our Branch accepted a challenge from the Alfred Masonic Lodge. Sad to say that we were defeated by two pins after two legs and lost the 'Alfie' trophy. Our loss was compensated by the superb buffet provided by **Lorraine and Cliff** and the warm welcome that we receive from their members.

Our main and final event arranged for the Branch was our annual lunch, held for the second year at The Holt Hotel, Steeple Aston. This event is as popular as ever and over 80 members and guests including our 2 veterans **Keith Lewis** and **George Evans** sat down to a great meal in beautiful surroundings.

Mr George Hedges BEM, QPM, DL a local boy who started life as a policeman and rose through the ranks to attain the post of the Chief Constable of Durham spoke about aspects of his career recounting some of the funny and more

serious experiences of his time. He concluded by proposing the toast to the Association. **Lt Sam MacDonald-Smith** gave us an insight into what was happening in the Regiment and their future plans prior to proposing a toast to the Regiment. **Janet and Roy** again organised the raffle; all the prizes were donated by our diners and made £255 for Branch funds.

Once again we wish to thank **Richard Adams** of the Royal Regiment of Fusiliers for inviting our members to join him on his annual trip to The Marne. This enabled us to lay a wreath on The War Memorial at La Ferte on behalf of The Association to all Grenadiers who gave their lives in the retreat from Mons and to pay their respects at the other war cemeteries we visited.

Again we must thank **Pat** and **Barrie Padwick** from the Henley Guards Association, of which many Grenadiers are members, for organising their social calendar. Our first event was the usual cheese and wine party at Bradenham hosted by **Mr Herbert**. This year we were blessed with fine weather and 33 members and friends sat out on the lawn and enjoyed the wine and food provided. A grand raffle was held and the President **Mr Loveridge** presented our host with the usual bottle of whisky.

The two skittle events that were arranged at The Hungerford Royal British Legion Club were as popular as ever and well over 50 members and friends attended each time. Thanks must go to the ladies for providing us with such an excellent buffet. At the time of writing the amount raised in memory of **Bill May** for The Lung Foundation has yet to be confirmed.

In between these events we managed to attend two excellent lunches both held at the Springs Golf Club, Wallingford. The final event was again held in The Queens Box at Newbury Race course where we all enjoyed a good chin wag, the free drinks and buffet.

On 31st October **Peter Brooks** together with other Household Division members attended Poppy London which collects on behalf of The Royal British Legion Poppy appeal at major London rail stations. **Peter** collected at Marylebone station and to date a sum of £85,000 has been raised for the appeal.

November saw the last event of the year in which

members participated. **David Wright** organised a Grenadier themed Poppy Appeal table inside our local Tesco Store and together with help from **Peter Cook** and **Roy Shayler** we raised the grand sum of £6926.76. for the Poppy Appeal.

Finally, our thanks go to our President **Colonel E T Hudson**, our Vice Presidents and to **Mr Colin Hessey** and Association members who gave us their support during the year.

READING

(Formed 1913)

President: Major F WAUCHOPE

Vice Presidents: The Hon. Mrs J. MONSON; JG SOUTHERN, Esq; P.FLOWERDEW, Esq; Mrs T. DAY; AA St. Q. FRY, Esq, TD; Lieutenant Colonel GR DENISON-SMITH;

JM GAGE Esq; Lieutenant Colonel OP BARTRUM MBE; AGR WAY, Esq

Chairman: Mr R KELLOW

Secretary: Mr JG SOUTHERN, 14 Fairford Road, Tilehurst, Reading, Berkshire, RG31 6QB

Tel: 07802721511

Email: mastertailor@virginmedia.com

Treasurer: Mr J VEARY

Meetings: No Monthly Meetings

Facebook: Guards-Association-Reading-and-District-Branch



Colonel Henry Hanning.

A busy year for the Reading & District Branch in this its 106th year of existence. The very first Branch of the Association formed in the first few months of 1913 by command of HM King George V.

The year started off very sadly for us with the death of our beloved President **Colonel Henry Hanning** who had held the post for over twelve years. St. Georges, his local church in Wash Common, Newbury was full to bursting with friends who attended his funeral on the 13th March

to pay their respects and bid farewell to a great Grenadier.

We also bade farewell to another stalwart member **George Terry** who sadly passed away in February 2019.

Our AGM on Sunday 24th March, the day after the Association's AGM in London found us assembled at the Calcot Hotel Reading for our meeting for the first time ever without a President to guide us through proceedings. Fortunately for us we have a very strong, loyal and dedicated committee who all with the exception of our retiring secretary **Theresa Day** after ten years' service were all once again returned to their positions on the committee.

Robin Kellow took over as Chairman to allow **John Southern** to move into the chair of Secretary after a ten-year break having already held the post for 24 years from 1985 when he retired from the Regiment.



Reading & District Branch AGM.

John is honoured to be the Southern Area Representative on the Executive committee and Chairman of the Finance Committee. He is still working, running the family medal mounting business based in Reading but is very happy to observe the old adage – if you want a job doing ask a busy man.

The secretary was able to announce at the AGM that a new President had been appointed to lead the Branch forward. **Major Francis Wauchope** formerly of the 1st Battalion had stepped forward in good Grenadier form to take up the baton and continue the great work **Colonel Henry** had started.

Francis said **Colonel Henry** was going to be a hard act to follow but he would do his best. Little did he know how soon his best was to be put to the test. Just a few weeks later we were to hold along with other branches in the area a large garden party for one hundred plus members and friends at the home of our Vice President **The Hon. Mrs**

Patricia Monson. Very sadly at the eleventh hour Mrs M met with a serious accident and sustained personal injuries putting her out of action for many weeks.



Tea Party at the President's home.

Without a second thought our new President and his lovely wife **Jessica** threw open their home and gardens to the invading hordes. A great introduction with tea and cake, and a good opportunity for them to meet many members in very short order. The day proved a great success and was enjoyed by all who were fortunate enough to attend.



Eric Hallett and Roger Coppock with Brian Sylvester the Newbury Town Cryer.

Black Sunday on 19th May saw the Branch well represented at the Guards Chapel. Theresa Day our newly appointed Vice President represented us at the interment of ashes in the rose garden of our good friend and loyal Branch supporter the late In-Pensioner **Norman Mitchell.**

The Honorary Secretary and his wife **Christine** attended

The Queen's Birthday Parade to witness our Regiment giving a spectacular demonstration of how it should be done.

Grenadier Day on 14th July found us once more



Two fine Period Soldiers, the President and his wife.

after a year of absence, guests of the 1st Battalion at Lille barracks. **Darren White** an honorary member of the Branch laid on a superb display of his miniature model soldiers in combat action and ceremonial dioramas. A hard task for Darren this year as he had to work alone having lost his father **Richard White** last October. Richard was an honorary member of the Branch and gave great service over many years, he will be sadly missed.



The Colonel, Association President and Branch Secretary.

John Southern was introduced to the Colonel who was well informed regarding the Reading Branch.

The Branch lunch already mentioned took

place at The Old Mill, Aldermaston on the 15th September a new venue for the branch after being at the Calcot Hotel for many years. The day proved a great success with 89 members, their families and guests joining us for superb food in beautiful surroundings, the gardens; river and mill pond looked wonderful on a very sunny warm day.

The quality of the event was enhanced by the



The Old Mill at Aldermaston, a great venue for our Branch Luncheon.

attendance of **Brian Sylvester** one of Berkshire's premier Toast Masters who kept proceedings flowing nicely. Our guest speaker was **Squadron Leader (Ret'd) Roy Booth** RAF of the world renowned Aerobatic team the Red Arrows who gave us a fascinating insight into the working of this British Institution.

Lieutenant Mark Osman from Nijmegen Company was our Regimental guest and brought us up to speed with all that was currently happening in the Regiment. All this topped off with a gigantic raffle sent everyone home happy and clutching prizes.

September saw us back once more for our twice



Prizes Galore in the Gigantic Raffle.

yearly skittles event at Hungerford Royal British Legion, a charity event raising funds for the British Lung Foundation in memory of our past chairman **Bill May** who served in The Queen's Company as a Sergeant.

Our Branch head of welfare **Robin Kellow** when not wearing his Chairman's hat keeps busy looking after our widows and keeping an eye on all our members. **Jim Veary** our Treasurer does a magnificent job of looking after the Branch coffers and always volunteers to look after the finances of any joint venture we undertake with other Guards branches in the area. This we have done over the last couple of years and long may it continue to promote the ethos of Blue Red Blue in Berkshire.

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 F ACTON; HW SPENCER, Esq; Captain G WHITAKER; WSI KENYON-SLANEY OBE, KStJ, DL

Chairman: Major RG WOODFIELD, MBE

Secretary: Mr C BECK, 133 Victoria Road, Bridgnorth, Shropshire, WV16 4LL

Tel: (01746) 761501

Email: paulbeckjan@gmail.com

Treasurer: Mrs A FIELD

Meetings: Contact the Branch Secretary for further details

We are currently finding it difficult to soldier on having lost so many of our senior members over the last two years. However, we are determined to keep the Branch alive and active for as long as possible and hope that we might attract more members to attend future Branch activities.

Our AGM was held on 28th April 2019 at the Lord Hill Hotel in Shrewsbury; the attendance of ten (with apologies for two received) was disappointing. We were however indebted to a number of people; **Major Bob Woodfield** MBE our Chairman, **Mrs Adele Field** our Treasurer and **Mr Mark Field** our Welfare Officer, without their support and dedication we would not continue to survive.

We were invited to lunch at Hodnet Hall on 20th July by the President of the North Staffordshire Branch, **Sir Algernon Heber Percy KCVO, JP, (Lord Lieutenant of Shropshire)**. 27 of our members attended and enjoyed meeting with friends old and new and we record our thanks to **Sir Algernon and Lady Heber Percy** for their kind hospitality on what turned out to be a fantastic day and a wonderful lunch. We were also indebted to **David Robins**, the secretary of the North Staffordshire Branch whose excellent organisation helped make the day all the more memorable and agreed that we must, in the future invite **David** and his members to lunch in Shropshire.

We now find ourselves looking for a new venue for our AGM and future lunches as the Lord Hill is closing down in and hope for a good turnout at our final lunch there.

Our members are very lucky to have as President **Major Giles Inglis-Jones** who along with his wife **Arabella**, attend all our functions and give our secretary and committee all the help and encouragement they need to carry on; thank you both.

Sadly, we have had to send our condolences to **Mr W S R Kenyon-Slaney** whose wife **Mary** passed away just before Christmas 2018. **Mary** was such a lovely lady and will be missed by us all. We also lost 2221321 **John Cookson** in late July 2019. **John** had not been well since the death of his wife **Eileen** in 2017 but had, along with his daughter attended our Christmas lunch at the Lord Hill in 2018 and appeared to be in good spirits; we send our condolences to his family. We also said goodbye to **Roy Wallwork**, a fine associate member who came along to our lunches with **John**; he too will be sorely missed.

More recently and very sadly too, we lost 22545610 **Fred Dawe** in October 2019. **Fred** was our treasurer for many years and along with his wife **Diana** were both excellent committee members and very supportive of all our events. We send our deepest condolences to **Diana** and their family.

We close by thanking all at RHQ for all the help we have received over the last year and wish them and all Branches a very happy and prosperous 2020.

SUFFOLK

(Formed 1926)

President: Colonel DHC GORDON-LENNOX

Vice Presidents: Major FAO CLARK; FA WALLACE, Esq; Mr AE JONES; Mr DC BEAUMONT

Chairman: PGD T del C NISBETT, Esq;

Secretary: Mr G REINCKE, BEM 54 Highfield Road, Sudbury, Suffolk, CO10 2QJ

Tel: (01787) 379158

Email: ggasuffolk@gmail.com

Treasurer: Mrs L MILLICHAP

Tel: 01284 753601

Email: lindamillichap09@gmail.com

Meetings: Contact the Branch Secretary for further details.

May we wish any Branch member who had a health problem during the year a speedy recovery. Unfortunately, we must report the following deaths since the last report.

Janet Beaumont, the wife of our Vice-President and previous Secretary and Treasurer, **Derek**, died on 25th Oct 2018. We have a great deal to thank **Janet** for as she always supported **Derek** in Branch matters and took over the running of the Branch during **Derek's** ill health.

14861592 Peter Wood on 25th Jan 2019. **Peter** was Treasurer of the Branch from 2002 to 2012 while **Albert Jones** was Secretary. He will be remembered by the Branch for the painstakingly scrupulous way he presented the figures at any meeting despite his deafness and difficulty in walking. The annual accounts were drawn up in the finest copperplate handwriting in ink and plain for anyone to read in which format they were sent to Regimental Headquarters. He was a very humble and private man, but also a very proud Grenadier. His immaculate flat opposite the main door of Bury St Edmunds cathedral was full of Grenadier mementos.

Lieutenant Colonel Richard Besly on 25th September 19, aged 87. **Richard** was commissioned into the Regiment in August 1950 and subsequently commanded the 2nd Battalion in British Honduras, Windsor and Belfast from 1971–74. He retired from the Army in 1978. He regularly attended Branch events.

Our Annual Branch Christmas lunch was held on



The Branch Christmas Lunch.

Sunday 9th December, 2018 in the Orchard Suite at Hintlesham Golf Club and what a difference a year makes – no snow and the sun shone! 55 of us sat down to a very good lunch, a full house, in fact this year we had to open a waiting list in case anyone cancelled.



The President enjoying himself.

Our Chairman, **Patrick Nisbett**, thanked everybody for coming. Particularly **Tony Daniel**, the Chairman of the Yorkshire Branch, **David** and **Gillian Welton**, who only heard the day before

that a place was available for them and our newest member, **Charlie Allsop**. It was also lovely to welcome **Derek Beaumont** and his family. Derek had made all the place settings from Regimental Colours and designed and printed the menu on each table.

After our President, **Colonel David Gordon Lennox**, who clearly enjoyed himself, gave the loyal toasts and said a few words, we had the raffle, organised and run by **Bernard Taylor** and with thirty odd prizes, generously donated by members, it raised £210. We would also like to thank **Major Frank Clark** for donating copies of his latest book, 'We Were Brothers in Arms', a book that he wrote and gave complete to The Colonel's Fund. After the excellent service we received, we can only look forward to next year which has already been booked.

On 31st March 2019 we held our Annual General Meeting at the Bury St Edmunds Golf Club when the composition of the Branch committee was proposed and agreed and events for the following year were discussed. Unfortunately, we only had ten members at the meeting because it was also Mothering Sunday! We will have to be more careful next year; those that were there did have an excellent lunch afterwards.



The 'Garden Gate'.

Our Summer Barbeque this year was held on 6th July 2019 at Linden House in Eye, the home of **Charles and Sara Michell**. The event this year was a great success bearing in mind that everything had to come and go through a 3ft garden gate into a walled garden (including the marquee and barbeque) in the centre of Eye town!

47 of us were present plus one lonely 4 year-old; **Frank Clark's** grandson. Six were unable to come but everyone had a good time.

The excellent barbeque was prepared and served in the dry but soon after the heavens opened and it rained hard, despite **Charles Michell** insisting that 'it never rains in Eye!' We were most grateful



Our Smokey BBQ.



Inside the marquee at Linden House.

to **Major James Gatehouse**, the Regimental Adjutant, who joined us and gave a brief update of what is happening within the Regiment. Likewise, we were grateful to **Matt Ellmer**, the Regimental Casualty Officer who gave us a most interesting talk about The Colonel's Fund and his personal fundraising efforts, including his recent Scafell Pike challenge.

We would like to thank our Chairman, **Patrick Nisbett**, for bringing the wine back from Italy, to **Bernard Taylor** for looking after and serving the wine on the day, to **Kingsley Minns** for his car parking skills and everyone who helped set up and clean up after in the pouring rain. We already have three offers of gardens in which to hold future events, so look forward to doing it again next year.

Unfortunately, the Autumn Branch Meeting on 1st September 2019, again held at the Ipswich Hotel only attracted seven members including the Chairman and Secretary. It was therefore decided to cancel any future autumn meetings and the time used to organise a pub lunch or other venue to enable members to get together.

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; Major The Lord A WIGRAM, MVO; Captain CTF FAGAN, MBE, DL; Captain R HUTTON; Mr P HODGKINSON, BEM Mr S KEYWORTH, MBE; Colonel The Reverend P HEWLETT-SMITH

Chairman: Mr A REID

Secretary: Mrs B REID

Address: 71 Wyke Avenue, Ash, Aldershot, Hants, GU12 6EA

Telephone: (01252) 316757

Email: babsnga@gmail.com

Treasurer: Mr T JOHNSON

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 **Major Stephen Dehnel MBE** who died on 24th May 2019. **22955340 Colin Francis**, a very special person who worked endlessly for the benefit of our Branch. As soon as he became a member he put his hand up at the following AGM to become a Committee member, going on to be Welfare Officer. He worked endlessly on our behalf. He painted all sorts of items in order to sell at Grenadier Day and other events to help raise funds. And you will all remember him most for doing the wing walk a couple of years back to raise funds for The Colonel's Fund and Alzheimer's. He will be missed by us all.

23329393 Peter Payne passed away on 1st July 2019 following a long battle with cancer. **23688373 Mr Melvyn Tongue** passed away suddenly on 26th July 2019 and **Mrs Midge Lamb** who passed away in December 2018 at the age of 90 years. **Lest We Forget.**

On a happier note we are pleased to report that we have had two new members join our Branch this year and they are **2624495 Bernard (Barney)**

Cresswell and 24878464 William Blenkin who have both joined us from the Sussex Branch when sadly it closed.

It's been quite a year for our Branch. Our meetings are still held in the Sgts' Mess at Pirbright on the third Wednesday of every month, January to November at 1930hrs; anyone wishing to come along is very welcome. All you need to do is drive your car up to the gate, tell the guys manning the gate that you are attending our meeting in the Sgts' Mess. They will issue you with a green vehicle pass that you need to put on your dashboard. Drive up to the Mess and park your car in the carpark to the right opposite the mess and find your way to the bar. Our AGM in 2020 will be held in March when hopefully the weather will be a bit kinder to us, so if you're local please come along and join us. There will even be a free finger buffet if that would help entice you along.

We hold a Branch lunch once a month January to November on the last Sunday of the month. This is held at the Lakeside International Hotel, Wharf Road, Frimley Green, GU16 6JR at 1230 for 1300hrs. Cost is still £20 per head for three courses. Anyone wishing to join us will be made very welcome, but please ring our secretary **Mrs Babs Reid** first on 01252 316757 as we do need to let the hotel know our numbers in advance.

Our Christmas Lunch was good fun as always and held on Saturday 8th December 2018 at Clandon Regis Golf Club, Epsom Road, West Clandon, GU4 7TT, 73 people attended with good food and company at every table. It ended with our normal grand draw where lots of people won prizes, even those members who could not attend, but took part in our postal raffle.

Our Branch AGM was held on 16th January 2019 in the Sgts' Mess at Pirbright with 23 members attending and we're pleased to report that we filled every post on the Committee for a further year.

The Branch Annual Dinner was once again held at the Bush Hotel, Farnham, Surrey. A really good evening and well attended. Our guest speaker was the Regimental Adjutant **Major James Gatehouse** who was invited by our President **Colonel Euan Houstoun OBE** who himself thanked everyone for coming especially members from the Lincoln Branch; their Chairman and

Secretary **Joe and Anne Marshall**, Neal and **Sheila Crowther** and **Steve and Maureen Vaughan**.

Martin Laird attended from the London Branch. So too did the secretary of the Scots Guards Association Surrey Branch **David O'Connell** and his wife **Mairi** with **Roy and Pam Bishop**; and how wonderful it was to have them all along to enjoy the evening with us. **Colonel Euan** handed over to our Chairman **Andy Reid** to make the normal flower presentations. Then our President presented the Regimental Adjutant who brought us up to date with the goings on of the 1st Battalion.



From Left to Right: Major James Gatehouse, Mrs Joanna Houstoun, Colonel Euan Houstoun OBE and Major the Lord Andrew Wigram MVO both holding up their Company Colours.



From Left to Right: Mr Peter Isgar and LSgt Ashley Kirkham-Wingate.



Mrs Pam Burrows happy with her raffle prizes.

Grenadier Day was a great success for the Branch and brought us a good profit on our goods, thanks to all our helpers on the day. An all-round great day meeting up with friends new and old. Our stall even had a quick visit from our Colonel before he was rushed off in his helicopter to present the England cricket team with a cup later in the afternoon.



The Colonel visits our stall and talks to Andy & Babs Reid.



Our Branch stall at Grenadier Day.

Following requests from members regarding one of our Sunday lunches being held at Warner's Hotel, Lakeside Village, Hayling Island the previous year, in July our members met up once again at Warner's Hotel, along with some of the members from the Household Division Solent Branch to enjoy a three-course lunch and afternoon of entertainment put on by the Warner's team.

Our lunch was followed by some horse racing, and yes again some of our members did win. Following the horse racing there was a live show from the Lakeside entertainment team; lots of glitz and glamour, song and dance and of course we finished off with our normal raffle that always helps to raise funds for the Branch. A thoroughly enjoyable afternoon, and all thanks to one of our Committee Members **Mr Malcolm Hammond** who once again arranged it all.



Peter & Francis Isgar's 25th Wedding Anniversary Banner.

The Branch BBQ in September was held once again at our Chairman and Secretary's house and for once the sun was shining. A special afternoon this time as we also celebrated **Peter & Francis Isgar's** (two of our committee

members) silver wedding anniversary. They had no idea of our plans and it was a big surprise for them when they finally spotted the balloons, banner and cake. A really enjoyable afternoon had by all our members.

On Sunday 29th September some of our members went down to The Royal Maritime Club, Queen Street, Portsmouth to join the Household Division Association Solent Branch for their Annual Lunch and Skittles; a very enjoyable afternoon.

As we report, some of our Branch members have just returned from a weekend away in Eastbourne where we had a Turkey and Tinsel Weekend at the Hadleigh Hotel. A well-deserved break where everyone enjoyed themselves. The entertainment in the evening was fantastic and on the last night three of our members won all the Bingo prize



From Left to Right: Mrs Pauline Day, Mrs Wendy Moseley, Windy & Wendy Miller at our Christmas Dinner.

money - one winning it three times. Again this year those members that went have already asked when the next weekend away will be. We already have one planned for March at Shanklin in the Isle of Wight.

Finally, we would just like to say that as all other Branches, we struggle to get new members. We are well supported by our members and we have a good Committee. We appeal for any serving or former Grenadiers who are not yet a member, to join a Branch and not just ours. Branches are not hard to find and if you have internet access just go to www.grengds.com click on the Regimental Association, then click on Branches. You can then scroll down until you find a Branch in your area. This will give you the name of the Branch secretary their telephone number and email address. Let's hope this helps you to find a Branch of your choice.

If you don't have internet access, don't give up ask a friend to look it up for you. You will all be welcome and we look forward to hearing from you. In particular, we would like to invite any members of the Sussex Branch to transfer across to the Surrey and East Hampshire Branch, all you have to do is phone or email our secretary who will do the rest; details are Mrs Babs Reid phone 01252 316767, email babsrgga@gmail.com. Please stay in touch with your Grenadier family and with what's going on now, and in the future.

SUSSEX

(Formed 1947)

President: Captain JS GREENWOOD

Vice Presidents: Lieutenant Colonel TEM DONE;
Captain SG WITHERIDGE; AD MAYHEW, Esq;
Colonel JC RICHARDSON, MA (RAMC)

Chairman: MW BRACKSTON

Secretary: Mr J NORRIS

The Branch had its normal Christmas Lunch at the Windsor Hotel, Worthing on 2nd December 2018, it was very well attended with over 50 guests. A good time was had by all (so they said).

The AGM was held in February 2019 and discussion took place as to the future of the Branch. It was reluctantly decided that the Branch would close, with our last function being the Regimental Dinner in April. The reasons were:

- a. The age of the members, the average age of the Committee being 89 years.
- b. The Secretary and Treasurer **John Norris** did not wish to continue in the role due to ill health.

The Annual Dinner took place on 5th April at the Windsor Hotel, it was very well attended and we had a full table of Vice-Presidents. The food was very good with a five course menu to get through. The report on the Regiment's progress was given by **Lieutenant Tristram Reames**. It was an excellent report and well presented. The President's speech outlined the Branch decision to close and the associated reasons.

Our Secretary **John Norris** was presented with a whisky crystal decanter, glasses and bottles of whiskey and wine. He was very grateful.

The Committee had a meeting in June to consider the disposal of our remaining funds.

It was decided as a lasting memorial to the Branch, that we would purchase two memorial benches and present them suitably inscribed to a local authority.

We approached Arun District Council and Mr **Nigel Lynn** the Chief Executive was extremely helpful. He arranged for them to be sited as part of the War Memorial Garden in Littlehampton for use

by the aged and disabled during the Remembrance Day Service. They would also be in constant use during the year by members of the public. With the help of Arun Parks Department the Benches were purchased and positioned.



From Left to Right: Councillor J Warr (Ward Leader Littlehampton), Captain J S Greenwood President Sussex Branch, Mr J Norris Secretary Sussex Branch as Last Post is sounded.



LCpl Cowley sounds Last Post.

The handing over ceremony took place on Monday 7th October. On behalf of the Branch **Captain J S Greenwood** the President made a short presentation speech. Last Post and Reveille were sounded by a uniformed Grenadier Musician. On behalf of Arun District Council, Councillor **Mrs Jeanette Warr** (Ward Leader, Littlehampton) accepted the benches and made a short speech thanking the Branch. (Her husband is a member of the London Branch, and did not know we existed). Present were Councillor **Dr J Walsh** (Leader

of the Council), **Mr N Lynn** Chief Executive of Arun District Council and a number of Arun Council staff.



From From Left to Right: Front Row: D Sneller, D Room, M Brackston, C Blunden. Second Row: T Holland, D Money MBE, Colonel Professor J Richardson, Councillor J Warr, Mr J Warr, LCpl Cowley, M Burton. Third Row: N O'Connor (Parks Department), Councillor Doctor S Walsh (Leader of the Council), J Norris Secretary, Captain J S Greenwood President, N Lynn (Chief Executive of the Council).

The Branch was represented by our President **Captain J S Greenwood**, Vice President **Colonel Professor J Richardson**, Mr **D Money** MBE, Chairman Mr **M Brackston**, Secretary Mr **J Norris**, Mr **T Holland**, Mr **M Burton**, Mr **D Room**, Mr **D S Sneller**, Mr **C Blunden** and Associate Members, Mrs **H Gilbert** and Mrs **S Higgs**. Mrs **E Money**, Mrs **T Norris**, Mrs **C Holland**, Mrs **B Room** (our Sandwich Makers Extraordinary) and we were also very happy to welcome **Mrs D Burton**, a recent joiner.



A bench and inscription.

After the handover we all repaired to the Fish Factory Restaurant, a short distance away and had a traditional sea side meal of Fish and Chips. There were no more speeches, and after lunch we all went our separate ways. The Branch had closed!



Making use of a Bench. From Left to Right: **C Blunden 92**, **D Money MBE 89** and **J Norris 86** %.

It only remains for our Secretary to thank all those members and non-members who have looked after us over the years; The Royal British Legion, Lancing, Sussex (monthly meetings), The Windsor Hotel, Worthing (our functions) and **Major Andy Green**, **Sgt Rob Broomes** and **Sgt Rob Houghton** at RHQ.

The saddest duty of all; the final entry on our Roll of Honour:

22403970 David Adrian Harrison EKE. He was born on 16th May 1932 and served between 1950 and 1952 with the 3rd Bn in Tripoli and 1st Guards Brigade HQ in Egypt. David died in April 2019 aged 86. He was a regular attendee at our meetings until illness overtook him. Rest in Peace David.

It is time to go now, Good Bye.



TAMWORTH

(Formed 1965)

President: VACANT

Vice Presidents: Mr AW WALE

Chairman: Mr B WATTON, Esq

Secretary: Mr JIM GODSMARK, 20 Wykin Lane, Stoke Golding, Nuneaton, Warwickshire, CV13 6HN

Tel: 01455 212842

Email: godsmarkanne@gmail.com

Treasurer: Mr JIM GODSMARK

Meetings: Held on the second Sunday of each month at Aldergate Club, Aldergate, Tamworth, Staffordshire, B79 7DL, at 1230hrs

Our year started very sadly with the passing of our Branch Chairman **23509091 Barrie Watton**, our condolences go out to his widow **Gill** and son **Neil**. Barrie served in the 3rd Bn where he saw active service in Cyprus. Barrie was very proud of his time with the 3rd Bn and will be sadly missed by us all as he was not only a very active member of the Association but also a very good friend.

Jim Godsmark attended the 2019 Association AGM for the first time and was warmly welcomed by all in attendance. Unfortunately no one was available to attend Black Sunday, mainly due to illness; this is the first time for many years that we have not been represented. It is the most important date in the Association calendar.

A party of us attended the Queen's Birthday Parade in June, a parade we all thought was splendid, and the Escort looked brilliant. It is definitely one of the best days out in London. Grenadier Day was a great success, two of our party were fortunate to meet HRH the Colonel; they were both delighted. It was a good day for us all, with a special mention of the 3rd Bn stand, handily next to the Bristol Branch cider stall, where we met plenty of members who had served with Barrie.

Unfortunately, those aforementioned events will be last time we attend as a Branch, sadly we are due to close at the end of the 2019. We have only three members left with only two who can attend meetings, none of which are Grenadiers. Our Secretary, **Jim Godsmark** takes this final opportunity to thank the Branch and the Association for the wonderful times and opportunities he has been able experience with his fellow members over the years. Thank you all.

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 at 1200hrs on the second Monday of each
month at Short Heath Royal British Legion Club, Church
Road, Willenhall, WV12 5PT.

The Branch AGM was held in January 2019 with all Officers being re-elected.

On Sunday 19th May, 30 members, wives, and their guests attended the Service of Remembrance at the Guards' Chapel. The day was made even more memorable when the Colonel of the Regiment **HRH The Duke of York** mingled with and chatted to many of us veterans.

On Wednesday 29th May, 40 members and wives enjoyed an excellent buffet lunch at the Down Inn in Shropshire.

On Tuesday 3rd September, 35 of our members and wives together with members of the local Parachute Regiment Association had a very good lunch at our HQ, the Royal British Legion Club.

On Sunday 29th September together with colleagues from the Wolverhampton Branch, we attended a lunch celebrating their Centenary this year. 22 of our members and wives attended.

Prior to the luncheon we were entertained with music played by members of the Staffordshire and West Midlands Army Cadets. They were well received and appreciated by all those present.

We were also very pleased to see and greet the Association President **Colonel Richard Aubrey-Fletcher** and our General Secretary **Major Andy Green**, who made themselves available and chatted to many of our colleagues present.

We would like to say a very big thank you to the organiser of the Luncheon, **Mrs Jenny Snead**, who invited our members to attend. The Mayor of Wolverhampton was also present. **Jenny** did a marvellous job. Well done.

Armistice Sunday was observed at the cenotaph



Walsall Branch members at the Wolverhampton Branch Centenary Lunch.

in Walsall town centre and our wreath laid by **Bill Bakewell**. A wreath was also laid at Willenhall by our representatives **Glyn Phillips**, **Peter Smith** and **Ray Smout**.

We are looking forward to our Christmas Social and Buffet Lunch which is being held at 12 noon on Monday 9th December 2019 at the British Legion Club. We are looking forward, with support, to organising further events in the near future.

The numbers on our sick parade are increasing and in fact at times exceed the number of members attending our monthly meetings. This is mainly due to Anno Domini catching up at last.

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: Captain CR ACLAND; JTS BOWER, Esq; PH CORDLE, Esq; Captain CTF FAGAN, MBE, DL; Lieutenant Colonel A HEROYS; CJ HOPE, Esq; MFMO JODRELL, Esq; Lady CLAIRE LINDSAY; Captain (QM) BE SHEEN; THE RT HON SIR HUGO GW 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, February and November will be held around lunchtime. Contact the Branch Secretary for further details regarding the venue Other meetings are held on the third Monday of the month from March to June, and also in September, at 1930hrs. Meetings are held at The Conservative Club, 22 Christchurch Road, Ringwood, BH24 1DN.

A return to The Willett Arms, Wimborne didn't disappoint for our mid-November luncheon. It was in a lovely setting in their private room and a good time was had by all.

The 2018 Branch Christmas Social was well attended and the food brought in by members was thoroughly enjoyed by everyone. We had a Christmas Quiz and a game of Bingo (mandatory at this time of year), which was well run by our MC, **Alan Maslin**. We held a Christmas Draw with prizes of £100, £40 and £30 respectively and the Christmas Hamper, very kindly donated by **Ann Crew** was won by one of our guests, **Mr Pidgley**. We raised £75 on the night towards Branch funds - well done and congratulations to the lucky winners.

Our first get-together of 2019 was held at Haskins Garden Centre, Ferndown where, as usual, we were able to enjoy luncheon in the Conservatory. It was good to have some 'catch-up' time with everyone after the Christmas festivities.

We had a further lunchtime gathering in February which was held at The Elm Tree, Ringwood. An area had been reserved for us which was very pleasant for the occasion.

The Branch held its AGM in March and the Committee were re-elected to serve for a further term with the exception of one position. This was

due to the loss of our Welfare Co-ordinator, **Barry Swyer** who sadly passed away in January 2019. **Barry**, along with his wife, **Olivia**, had been very busy supporting the Branch members in this role from January 2011. He was a very popular member of the Committee and is so missed by us all.

We have to say 'congratulations' to Salisbury for this year's most amazing Armed Forces Day. A small number of us from the Branch attended the weekend of celebrations which opened on the Friday with acts and events taking place throughout the day with **The Princess Royal** taking the salute at the parade on the Saturday. The final 'tribute band' closed the festivities on the Sunday evening.



Alan Maslin being interviewed at Armed Forces Day in Salisbury by BFBS.

Grenadier Day was a great success and we would like to thank everyone who came and supported the Branch stall where we held a tombola along with a wine raffle - it was good to see you all. We are pleased to say that after a very busy day we raised £230.00. A big well done also goes to those who organised the event and made it

the success it was - much appreciated.

As always, the Annual Garden Lunch Party, held in August, was one of the highlights in the Branch calendar. It was nice for us to be together where we enjoyed such lovely food brought in by members. The setting was so relaxing at the home of our President, **Lt Colonel Anthony Mather** and his wife **Gaye** and we would like to thank them for making us all feel so welcome for this special day.



Members relaxing at the Annual Garden Lunch Party.

In September we



A small group at the Army Flying Museum, Middle Wallop.

made a return visit to the Army Flying Museum at Middle Wallop. This was following the refurbishment which took place over the winter months. We had an excellent tour, again given by **Lt Colonel Chris Hyslop**, which made for a very interesting visit.

We held a special luncheon in October to celebrate the 70th Anniversary of the Branch (1949–2019). The location for this was The Dudsbury Hotel Golf Club & Spa in Ferndown. A change of venue from previous years but proved to be a brilliant choice. The setting was excellent along with superb food and we had a wonderful day. We were pleased to welcome as our guest speaker **Colonel Richard Aubrey-Fletcher**, accompanied by his wife **Caroline** where he updated us on Battalion and Association matters.

We were pleased to have as our guest speaker, **Matthew Ellmer**, The Regimental Casualty Officer, at our



Ann Crew, Alan Maslin and Janice Maslin in front of The Wessex Branch Banner.

meeting in October. **Matthew** gave us an update on the very vital role he plays within the Regiment not only for supporting wounded soldiers but also bereaved families. It was full of interest and amazing to hear his commitment and enthusiasm for the job he does - well done! A very fascinating evening and much appreciated by us all.



Members and Guests deep in conversation at the Branch 70th Anniversary Luncheon.

A big thank you goes to our **President** and his wife **Gaye** for all the support they give us throughout the year. To all our members and to those who are able to attend Branch meetings on a regular basis. Also to **Major Andy Green**, **Sgt Rob Broomes** and staff at RHQ for their continued help and support.

It is with sadness that we have to report the passing of the following;

2626729 Major Peter Ball – 13th January 2019,
23688763 Barry Swyer – 27th January 2019 (former Branch Welfare Co-ordinator), **Kathleen Wilcox** – 16th February 2019 (former Branch Secretary), **2623279 James Hammond** – 12th February 2019 and **2629182 Roy Pickford** – 2nd September 2019. Lest we forget.



Branch President Lt Colonel Anthony Mather with Matthew Ellmer.

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 Bi-Monthly, on the last Tuesday of the months of July, September, November, January, March and May, at 1945hrs at 51 Holly Road, Haydock WA11 0DR.

Wouldn't you just know it? You sit down to write an annual report and find you can't complete it because all Branch business wasn't completed in time! This happened last year with our local Army Cadet Force. As previously mentioned, we as a Branch sponsor a competition throughout the academic year to find the best cadet and the most improved cadet. The competition is named in honour of former Grenadier **Walter Massey** who was an inspiration to the cadets and was fundamental in getting a detachment of Wigan ACF named after our Regiment and wearing the Grenade Fired Proper in their headdress.

Cadets in Wigan ACF compete for the '**Walter Massey Award for Excellence**' and are judged on turn out, drill, field craft, weapon handling and Regimental History during the course of the year. Final judging is by Branch members and senior ACF instructors and finalists give an oral and practical presentation. The problem last year was that, due to a heavy schedule in the cadets, we couldn't carry out the final selection until after the final deadline date for reports to be submitted to the Gazette. Anyhow, we got round to it eventually and after much discussion and debate came up with the following.

Winner of best cadet '**The Walter Massey Award for Excellence**' was LCpl **Danny Jones** of the Grenadier Detachment. Winner of most improved cadet was **Cadet Ella Halsall** of the Queen's Own Yeomanry Detachment.

Well done to all who participated, especially our

two winners. These young people are an inspiration and thanks go to the instructors who give a lot of free time to help them grow into fine adults. So, what about this year? The same thing has happened! But we are confident we will have the judging complete in the very near future.

As a Branch we continue with our annual activities with enthusiasm. Where we lack in numbers we compensate with enthusiasm, dedication and gusto. Everyone pulls together to make a success of whatever we get ourselves into. Fundraising is high on the agenda and the support of our members and our ladies is paramount to the success of this.

At the May Day Community Day in Culcheth our bric-a-brac stall raised £141 and thanks go to everyone who helped from the donation of goods to sell to helping on the day. Special thanks to **Adel Taylor, Dave Welling, Eric Radcliffe, John & Marilyn Barkley** for all their work during a very long day.

The Branch also had a fund raising stall at Grenadier Day in July which was a tremendous success. **Adel** spends a lot of time knitting dolls and Grenadiers which she sells in aid of the Branch. The money raised goes towards flowers on the tables at our annual dinner and raffle prizes at our various functions. Grenadier Day realised over £170 which was mainly due to **Adel's** effort but, in fairness, help from members was appreciated.



Adel Taylor manning our stall at Grenadier Day.

Still on Grenadier Day, **Susan Yates** got together a team to contest the Boyton Cup. The team consisted of members from Wigan, Manchester and Liverpool Branches and **Susan** named it The North West Shooting Team and they managed a

very commendable runners up place. We had a good weekend and the actual day was a great success and most enjoyable. We are proud to say that The Colonel walked past our stall and as our Secretary said, he has to be the most senior person to have ever ignored him. He didn't mind and he didn't really blame him. However, he did have a word with our Branch Treasurer **Eric Radcliffe** which made us all very happy.

The Branch social calendar continues to thrive with both our St. George's and Christmas lunches very well attended and hugely enjoyable. Our annual dinner and dance was, as always, a great occasion with over 40 members and guests enjoying a wonderful four course dinner with lots of wine on tap followed by first class entertainment by **Andrew Dunne**. No Regimental speaker this time but no complaints as we were fortunate to host our President **Colonel Richard Aubrey-Fletcher** in 2018.



Eric Radcliffe with The Colonel at Grenadier Day.

But it's not all feet up and stuffing ourselves at lavish functions. This year was very different with the 75th anniversary of D Day and commemorations in France. Our very own recipient of the Legion of Honour, **Eric Radcliffe**, embarked on a mammoth adventure by joining the Royal British Legion voyage to the famous beaches and beyond. Accompanied by **Dave Welling** a very interesting and exhausting week ensued which is recounted elsewhere in this edition.

The year culminated in Remembrance Sunday with a break with tradition as far as the Branch is concerned. We cover a large area with members living all over so we decided that, rather than parading as a Branch, it would be more convenient

for many members to parade where it was most convenient to them. However, the Branch was well represented with our wreath laid in Leigh by **Eric Radcliffe**, with our Branch Chairman **Dave Welling** in St. Helens with **Barry Taylor** in Newton le Willows. More locally, **Robert (Bob) McLellan** attended Golborne which made Branch coverage of our area pretty complete. We all enjoyed being part of bumper turnouts at every location.



Barry and Adel Taylor prepare to pay their respects on Remembrance Sunday.

As a Branch we remain small but resilient. We try to keep in touch with members even if we don't meet up as often as we would like. It all comes under welfare but we just like to refer to it as comradeship and family staying as close as we can.

So, onwards and upwards for the next 12 months. We help each other but are also grateful for the backing and assistance from everyone at Regimental Headquarters. It's always good to know that **Major Andy Green** and **Sgt Rob Broomes** are at the end of a telephone line.

Our meetings are now bi-monthly and held at our Secretary's house on the last Tuesday of January, March, May, July, September and November (no meeting in December). This is due to falling numbers attending monthly but, if attendance rises, we will be pleased to relocate to accommodate everyone!

WINDSOR

(Formed 1926)

President: VACANT

Vice Presidents: Captain DW LING; Major General SIR MICHAEL HOBBS, KCVO, CBE; Major MB HOLLAND; Mr JA STEEL, BEM; RA DOBSON, Esq; Mrs SR HOWELL; RC GILBERT, Esq; Mrs JS GILBERT

Chairman: Mr TG BOOTH

Secretary: Mr RC GILBERT, 84 Kennel Lane, Warfield, Bracknell, Berks, RG42 2EX

Tel: (01344) 485 307

Email: suebob-gilbert@hotmail.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.

A few Branch members attended the Service of Remembrance at Holy Trinity Garrison Church in Windsor on Sunday 11th November 2018. **Alan Urvoy** represented the Branch carrying the poppy wreath. After the service members met up at the club with members from other local Associations.

On Sunday 18th November we held a quiz and social afternoon. We were joined by members from other Associations in the Berkshire and Oxfordshire area. After the quiz we all enjoyed a fish and chip tea before departing for home.

Christmas festivities started early on the 23rd November with **Sylvia Bullion** taking a coach full to Bournemouth where Branch and Club Members enjoyed a Turkey and Tinsel weekend.

December's festivities started on Saturday 8th December with our Christmas Draw. Members of the committee did a fantastic job of approaching local shops and businesses for donations, and they were very successful in this different approach by increasing the number of prizes to 173. We had a very good turnout on the night with members and friends hoping to win one of the prizes on display. We took a break halfway through the draw and enjoyed a finger buffet prepared by the ladies. The evening was a huge success.

The following Saturday we held a Christmas drinks party. **Tony Steel BEM** and **Bob Gilbert** welcomed our guests with a drink on arrival. A buffet was served later in the evening. The

following Wednesday evening **Karen Holmes**, one of our Club members, provided the last quiz of the year. It was well attended with about 60 members and friends being tested on their knowledge on a variety of questions about Christmas.

Tony Steel BEM and Club member **Herbie Morgan** opened the bar on New Years Eve. A very good night was enjoyed by all who attended to celebrate the New Year.

We started the New Year with a Beetle Drive on the afternoon of Sunday 20th January; about 50 people attended. 10 of those were friends from the Oxford Branch and Henley Guards Association. Some of our guests had not done a Beetle Drive before so it added a lot of amusement to the game. We held a raffle and finally we all enjoyed our fish and chip tea before going home.

The next major event, at the Club, was on 16th February when we held a St Valentine's social evening. Secretary **Bob Gilbert** greeted members with a glass of wine on arrival. The 50 people who attended brought their own food and nibbles to share with family and friends. We finished the evening dancing to Rob's Disco Sound.

On Saturday 16th March we held a St Patricks Day social evening. We decorated the club and a club member, **Robert Saunders**, built us a photo booth. There was a variety of props to choose from and many photos were taken during the evening. **Karen Holmes**, **Jayne Rigg**, **Sheila Howell** and **Mandy Saunders** produced an Irish stew and a beef stew which was served with Soda Bread and Baguettes. All of the 60 people who attended enjoyed the food and entertainment.

Our AGM was held on Wednesday 3rd April. The Secretary **Bob Gilbert** gave an over-view of the past year's events. The Treasurer **Sue Gilbert** produced the Branch and Club audited accounts that were accepted. After the interval Vice President **Roger Dobson** thanked **Sheila Howell** and **Irene Deacon** for preparing the buffet. Roger informed members that **Mick Bullion BEM** was not standing for re-election as Branch Chairman and thanked him for his two years' service. Roger went on to say that **Bob Gilbert** was standing for re-election. Bob has served as Branch Secretary for the past 17 years, the longest the position of Windsor Branch Secretary has been held. He

thanked the committee for their loyalty in running the Branch and Club and this was welcomed by those attending the meeting.

The following members were elected or re-elected as Officers to manage the Branch and Club. **Terry Booth** was elected as the new Chairman, Secretary **Bob Gilbert**, Treasurer **Sue Gilbert**, Welfare Officer **Sylvia Bullion** and **Sue Gilbert** as Club Secretary. Other members to help manage the club are **Tony Steel BEM**, **David Boucher**, **Sheila Howell**, **Ruth Booth** and Club Members **Herbie Morgan**, **Peter Geary**, **Karen Holmes**, **Fred** and **Irene Deacon**. **David Holmes** was also invited onto the committee.

On Saturday 27th April we held a St George's Day celebration. The club was decorated with St Georges Day flags. Games were played and a tombola stall attracted a lot of attention. Terry Booth provided the music and some old-time songs so that everyone could join in. A great night was had by all.



St. George's Day Party - members and guests enjoying the celebrations.

Sunday 19th May was Regimental Remembrance Day. We once again welcomed **Colin Knight** and members of the Gloucestershire Branch who called in for a refreshment break on their way to the Service. Members from our Branch were able to travel with them to the Parade in London. On their return journey home, they called in again for a fish and chip tea before continuing their journey.

On 20th June we took a coach trip to Eastbourne



Open Top Bus Tour. Left to Right: **Robert Saunders**, **Bob Gilbert** and **David Holmes**.

with 53 members on board. We were blessed with good weather so some of us took an open top bus tour, followed by a very enjoyable pub lunch.

The following Sunday eight of us attended the Garden Party at **Major Wauchope's** house. Several local Associations in the Berkshire and Oxfordshire area worked together to put on this event. The weather held out and we were entertained by the White Waltham Silver Band, whilst eating our cream tea which was served by **John Southern's** family and **Sue Gilbert**.

On the Saturday before Grenadier Day we had the Wigan and St Helens and Manchester Branches come to the club for a social evening. It was nice to have old friends coming to see us.

The following day the Branch provided a coach for members to attend Grenadier Day at Lille Barracks in Aldershot. **Bob** and **Sue Gilbert** arrived early to erect the gazebo. Later that morning **Sylvia Bullion** and **Ruth Booth** arrived with the prizes for the tombola stall which was a great success and raised money for the welfare fund.



Grenadier Day. Left to Right: **Sue Gilbert**, **Sheila Howell**, **Sylvia Bullion** and **Ruth Booth**.

On Sunday 11th August we held an Afternoon Tea Party at the club. 36 members, which included 12 from the Oxford Branch, enjoyed a wonderful tea of sandwiches, scones with jam and cream and a big slice of cake. This was served by **Karen Holmes**, **Sylvia Bullion**, **Sue Gilbert** and **Mandy Saunders**. After tea we played a couple of games of card bingo. Everyone really enjoyed the afternoon.

The next main event at the club was on the 12th October and was our Oktoberfest celebration. **Ruth Booth** prepared the Bratwurst, Kartoffel Salat along with various sauces and desserts



Oktoberfest - Ruth Booth and David Jones.

provided by her daughter **Emma**. German music was sourced by our Chairman, **Terry Booth**. Many people came dressed in various German costumes which added to the great fun we had. **Karen Holmes** prepared a quiz with a German theme and we played a couple of rounds of card bingo.

The last event of the reporting year was the Branch Annual Dinner and Dance held at the Royal Adelaide Hotel, Windsor on Saturday 26th October. 38 Members and Guests once again enjoyed a superb four course meal. Vice President **Tony Steel BEM** welcomed our guest of honour **Lieutenant Tristram Reames**. He then proposed the loyal toasts to Her Majesty the Queen our Colonel in Chief and HRH Prince Andrew the Duke of York our Colonel followed by a toast to The Regiment. **Lt Reames** responded by updating members and guests on the activities of the Regiment. He then proposed a toast to the Association. After the dinner some guests retired to the bar whilst others decided to hit the dancefloor.

It is with deep regret to report the sad loss of the following members; **22865687 Mr C C Saunders**,



Branch Annual Dinner and Dance. Back Row: Left to Right: Sue Gilbert, Lt Tristram Reames and Linda Oatwa. Front Row, Left to Right: Ruth Booth and Fely Steel.

2624276 Mr A R Hill and 2616344 Mr A (Arnie) Mather. Lest we Forget.

The club still continues to hold regular Friday Night Bingo sessions and Quiz Nights with a fish and chip supper on the last Wednesday of the month.

Our thanks go to the loyal Branch and Club members, and ladies, for their support over the last 12 months and helping to keep the Branch active.

WOLVERHAMPTON

(Formed 1919)

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 regularly, at RAFA Club, Goldthorn Road, Penn, Wolverhampton, WV2 4PN. In March, June, September and December we hold a Sunday lunch. Please contact the Secretary for further details.

Facebook: Grenadier Guards Association Wolverhampton Branch

The Wolverhampton Branch has had a quiet year. Our meetings are regularly attended by our supportive members and friends. Our

regular Sunday lunches are very popular with our members too.

Our AGM was held on 27th February 2019 and all officers were returned.

A party of our members and friends attended Regimental Remembrance Day held on Sunday 19th May and travelled in a minibus, kindly driven by **David Oakes**, son of **Roy Oakes** who is a member of our Branch.

Our Branch celebrated their Centenary in 2019. **Jack** and **Jenny Snead** hosted the event with a lunch at a local venue, the Linden House in Wolverhampton. Our guests of honour were **Colonel Richard Aubrey Fletcher**, **Major Andy Green** and the **Mayor of Wolverhampton**, **Councillor Claire Darke**.



Colonel Richard Aubrey-Fletcher, Major Andy Green, Jenny Snead and Grenadiers from the Wolverhampton, Walsall and Worcester Branches.



L – R, Colonel Richard Aubrey-Fletcher, the Mayor of Wolverhampton Jenny Snead and Jack Snead.

The lunch was well attended by our members with their families and friends. Walsall Branch members supported us too including their Chairman, **Mr Brian Doyle** and their Branch Secretary, **Mr Cliff Jones**. Worcester Branch members enjoyed the event too, with their Chairman **Mr Bruce Baylis** and Branch Secretary, **Mrs Veronica Baylis** attending.

The West Midlands and Staffordshire Army Cadet Band, badged Grenadier Guards provided a musical display of their skills.



Members of the West Midlands and Staffordshire Army Cadets.

Our Centenary lunch was a great success, as our 100 years of service to the members of the Wolverhampton Branch has been over the years. During this time the Branch has had only three Presidents, **Major Eugène Vaughan DSO**, his son **Major Edmund Vaughan ERD** and our current President **Mr Len Thomas**, who has served our Branch for over 25 years in various roles.

Lastly we would like to thank all our Branch members and friends who have supported us during the year; their support is very much appreciated. We would like to thank **Andy Green**, **Rob Broomes** and the team at RHQ for their continuing support and hard work during the year. (Photographs by Lisa Bedi Photography).

WORCESTER & HEREFORD

(Formed 1922)

President: Captain HL GRAY-CHEAPE, JP, DL

Vice Presidents: Lieutenant Colonel PR HOLCROFT, LVO, OBE; Major DJC DAVENPORT, CBE, DL; Lieutenant Colonel LCA RANSON, TD; Major RG WOODFIELD, MBE; Captain D MORGAN; D SPENCER, Esq; REG SEALE, Esq; GJ ROSE, Esq; JA BARTLETT, Esq; TW HEWLETT, Esq; D TURNEY, Esq

Chairman: Mr BI BAYLIS

Secretary: Mrs VM BAYLIS

Tel: (01905) 422569

Email: grenguardsworcs@gmail.com

Treasurer: Captain D MORGAN

Meetings: Contact the Branch Secretary for further details.

Facebook: Grenadier Guards Worcester and Hereford.

Our 2018 Christmas lunch was held at the Pear Tree in Smite on 2nd December and as usual it was most enjoyable. The food was excellent and the whole afternoon was thoroughly enjoyed by all. **Colonel Cassian Roberts**, The High Sheriff of Worcestershire and formerly of the Irish Guards was the President's guest and speaker. He spoke about the history of the Grenadier Guards during battles through the ages. In the absence of representation from Regimental Headquarters, the President updated us on the Regiment. Of course, our Poet Laureate **Bruce Baylis** entertained us all again with the next instalment of the Guardsman Smith. This time about Christmas at the Tower and, of course, the NAAFI girl! Will they ever get married and live happily ever after?



The President, Fiona Gray-Cheape and Colonel Cassian Roberts.



Joan and Bob Woodfield, Elsie Hammond and John Dyke.

The funeral service for **Ray Seale** was held at Worcester Cathedral on 5th December 2018. We managed to get three musicians from RHQ to play the Grenadiers March and the Last Post. It was a very moving service and his family felt it had been a beautiful tribute to Ray.



The Guard of Honour at Worcester Cathedral with Regimental Musicians.

On Sunday 10th February we held the first of our twice yearly lunchtime meetings at the Portobello Inn in St Johns, Worcester. This was followed by a buffet which gave us all a chance for a chat and catch up.

The Skittles and Quiz evening held in April was well attended and a very enjoyable evening and is always a good fundraiser for the Branch. Thanks to **Patricia Smith** and her team for organising the event and, in the absence of **Clinton**, to the **Haywood** family for being the 'picker uppers'

Our AGM was held on Sunday 12th May at the Pear Tree Inn, Smite, Worcester.

The Committee for 2019 was elected as follows; Chair **Bruce Baylis**, Vice Chair **Patricia Smith**, Treasurer **David Morgan**, Branch Secretary **Veronica Baylis**, Minutes Secretary **Sean Hinton**, Luncheon Master **Bruce Baylis**, Welfare **Bruce Baylis/Terry Hewlett**, Funeral Co-ordinator **Terry Hewlett**, Coach Master **Ken Allen**.

Committee Members; **David Spencer**, **Derek Turney**, **Ken Allen**, **Pat Allen**, **Ken Jones**, **David Wilkes**, **Steve Marriott** and **Patricia Smith**. Social Committee; Chair **Patricia Smith**, **Ken Allen**, **Joan Evans**, **Kath Hinton** and **Geoff Allen**.

Following the meeting we had a most enjoyable two course lunch in the Pear Tree's Garden Room.

It had come to the Chairman and Secretary's notice that in 2018 the President had been with the Branch for 50 years. At the conclusion of the lunch, the Chairman presented him with a bronze statuette of a Grenadier Drummer. His wife **Fiona** was presented with a potted rose for the garden for all her support. We must again thank our loyal friends for attending these functions and for supporting the Branch.



The President and Bruce Baylis.



Bruce Baylis, **Fiona Gray-Cheape**, **David Morgan** and **Veronica Baylis**.

A group of members went to Remembrance Sunday by Coach. Prior to the service in the Guards' Chapel it is always nice to catch up with friends. The service was very poignant and moving. Our Colonel, the Duke of York was in attendance and following the service he laid a wreath at the Guards Memorial. Once again, we have to thank **Ken Allen** for organising the trip and of course also a very big 'thank you' to our Branch members and friends for their support.



Group photo at Wellington Barracks.

Grenadier Day proved to be a thoroughly enjoyable Sunday afternoon with lots going on in the arena. Thanks again to **Sean Hinton** for bringing the Gazebos. Luckily enough we did not need them to shelter from the rain as it turned out to be quite nice and sunny.



Patricia Smith holding the fort. **David** and **Mary Westbury**.

The second Skittles and Quiz evening in October was very well attended and as usual a very enjoyable get together. Thanks again to **Patricia Smith** and her team for organising the event and on this



Quizzing - Margaret and Terry Hewlett, Dave Hargreaves and Mike Blissett.



Action shot - Bruce Baylis.

occasion thank you to **Clinton, Milly and Honey Haywood** for being the 'picker uppers'.

John Bartlett now resides in a Hastings House Residential Care Home in Malvern and **Bruce and Veronica** visited him there. His memory is not too good these days but otherwise he is in fairly good health and he was very pleased to see them.



Bruce and Veronica with John Bartlett.

Bruce and Veronica Baylis and Patricia Smith attended a very enjoyable celebration lunch for the centenary year of the Wolverhampton Branch on the 29th September. They would like to say a very big thank you to **Jenny and Jack Snead** for the invitation.

As always, we do try to keep in touch with Branch members but it is difficult for us to do this personally with everyone. Through our annual Newsletter and the Gazette, we like to keep members and their families updated on what's been happening within the Branch and at the same time sending our very best wishes, especially to those who are not in the best of health. Please contact us on 01905 422569 if there is anything we can be of help with.

It is with sadness that we have to report the death of **2627749 Frank Spiers**. Frank passed away on 10th May 2019 in Bidford on Avon, Warwickshire aged 94. The Chairman and Branch Secretary attended his funeral to represent the Branch at the request of his family. Although Frank had been a member of the Birmingham Branch for 40 years, after the Branch closed he attended our functions until he was no longer able to drive.

In conclusion we would like to extend our very sincere thanks to our loyal members, their families and friends for their continuing support by attending our functions and supporting Black Sunday and Grenadier Day. Without their continuing input we would not be able to carry on as we are; it is of great importance for the future of the Branch.

As usual, our thanks go out to **Major Andy Green, Sergeants Rob Broomes, Rob Houghton** and the rest of the team at RHQ for their help and support throughout the year.



YORKSHIRE

(Formed 1948)

President: THE LORD HOTHAM, DL

Vice Presidents: THE MOST HON THE MARQUESS OF ZETLAND; D BURNETTT; Brigadier DJH MADDAN; WALL; A DANIEL; K STIMSON

Chairman: A DANIEL

Secretary: Mr M SPENCER, 52 The Grange, Woodham Village, Newton Aycliffe, County Durham, DL5 4SZ

Tel: (01325) 321218

Email: michael-spencer2@sky.com

Treasurer: A DANIEL

Meetings: Contact the Branch Secretary for further details.

The Branch rounded off the 70th Anniversary year celebrations of 2018 on the 1st December, with a festive Christmas Lunch in the Duchess's Dining Room at Carlton Towers, Goole.



Enjoying a Christmas feast.

2019 is our 71st year since the Branch was formed, Major **The Lord Hotham**, grandfather of our present President **The Lord Hotham** was a founder Vice President of the Branch on 19th November 1948. Like many other Association Branches, the Yorkshire Branch had a large membership when founded, however as membership numbers have reduced over the years, our Branch remains active mostly due to the hard work of the committee and our loyal members. It is still robust and holding its own, and we are fortunate to have many excellent Associate and Honorary members who support the Branch in varying ways.



Harry and Elaine Buxton.

We have also welcomed new members to the Branch this year, **22955583 Harry Buxton** and his wife **Elaine**, together with their daughter **Nicola** and husband **Paul Sugars**.

We held our Annual General Meeting with lunch at The Station Hotel, Birstwith, Harrogate on Saturday 13th April. As far as the election of Officers was concerned, it was 'as you were'. Our President **The Lord Hotham**, Chairman, Secretary and Committee agreed to stand and in the absence of a Treasurer the Chairman agreed to continue in the dual role. **Mick Male** and **Graham Jolly** were newly appointed to the Committee.

Our Chairman **Tony Daniel** travelled to Lille Barracks to attend the Grenadier Guards Association Branch Presidents' Briefing Day on the 24th April.

Branch Members also attended Regimental Remembrance Day, Wellington Barracks in May. As in previous years it was an impressive parade with an excellent turnout from Association Branches.

On Thursday 6th June, **Geoff and Pat Wren** attended Founder's Day at The Royal Hospital Chelsea, which is the highlight of the Royal Hospital's calendar, an event attended by all Chelsea Pensioners, which celebrates the founding of the Royal Hospital.

Founder's Day, also known as Oak Apple Day, is always held on a date close to 29th May – the birthday of Charles II and the date of his restoration as King in 1660. The Oak reference commemorates the escape of the future King Charles II after the Battle of Worcester (1651) when he hid in an oak tree to avoid capture by the Parliamentary forces



Geoff Wren reminiscing.

and is expressed through all Chelsea Pensioners wearing oak leaves on their famous scarlet uniforms.

The Queen's Company had the honour of Trooping the Colour, and the strong breeze could not detract from the spectacle of an exceptional parade which Michael and

Maureen Spencer were privileged to attend.

On 16th June 2019 and continuing what has now become an annual event to celebrate the Queen's Birthday, we returned to Swinton Park Hotel at Masham for lunch. Once again, the 26 members in attendance were treated like royalty, and the hotel look forward to our return every year.



John McNaughton is pictured (fourth from the right) with Branch Members.

Sadly, associate member 4456999 Tommy Bamforth DLI aged 99 years, who resided at the The Royal Hospital Chelsea passed away on 31st May. Tommy was born in Mount Pleasant, Spennymoor in 1920 and joined the Brigade on 1st September 1939 before being posted to 6th Bn DLI, 10th Bn DLI, B.E.F. He was a Prisoner of War (Number 2785) from 12th July 1940 in Camps 1VC and 4C. Tommy enjoyed his years at RHC where he relished going to the West End theatres.

The Yorkshire Branch supported the family by arranging a ceremony in the Chapel of the Durham Light Infantry, Durham Cathedral on Thursday 27th June 2019. The gathering coincided with Tommy's funeral at Royal Hospital Chelsea Chapel on the same day. His family greatly appreciated our care, support and comradeship to make this a memorable occasion. Tommy's obituary will appear in The Rifles Regimental Journal 'The Bugle' and his name will be added to the DLI Roll of Honour and was remembered at Durham Cathedral on 8th September 2019 during the annual DLI Reunion Service. Tommy will not be forgotten by the Yorkshire Branch and its members.



Meeting up with Barry and Adel Taylor and members from the Wigan Branch.

Our President and Lady Hotham kindly invited members to their home at South Dalton on Wednesday 26th June. The 90-year-old John McNaughton who was Padre to 2 PARA joined us. Members enjoyed a delightful lunch and had a completely relaxing day.



Swinton Park Celebrations for the QBP.



Tommy on parade at a First World War Centenary.



Guard of Honour at Durham Cathedral.

Tony Daniel our Chairman attended the Sergeants' Mess Past and Present Club Dinner and Grenadier Day at Lille Barracks, Aldershot, home of the 1st Battalion; another superb day with glorious weather.

On Tuesday 30th July, 8 eligible members were kindly invited to a special Afternoon Tea at York Marriott Hotel, Tadcaster Road, York, hosted by The Not Forgotten Association. During afternoon tea service, the guests were entertained by the Swingtime Sweethearts. Our members and the other guests sang along, which made the whole afternoon a memorable time that they will all treasure.



Tony Daniel and Linda, Gordon and Penny Corner, Mick and Patsy Male.

Geoff Wren visited the Beverley Blind Institute on blind aids demo and by pure chance came across the Military stall. He found he was eligible and completed the necessary forms for Blind Veterans UK Llandudno Centre and hey presto

six weeks later he received the call to say he had been accepted. **Geoff** received a phone call from **Billy Baxter** who said he recognised his voice and asked him if he had been a motorcycle instructor at Leconfield. Then an extraordinary coincidence occurred, **Geoff** had been **Billy's** instructor on his M/C instructor's course in 1992. From then on, they couldn't stop chatting!

Geoff and his wife **Pat** were collected from Beverley for a week away at the Centre in Llandudno where **Billy**, now aged 55 and totally blind from an explosion in Bosnia, welcomed everyone as they arrived. The welcome they received was incredible, and **Billy** was thrilled to have **Geoff** on the course. There was an introductory lecture before being introduced to other instructors for reading, sport, cooking etc. **Geoff's** reading instructor was an ex RMP lad who was shot and injured by an IED device in Afghanistan. He proved to be an inspirational tutor who has supplied **Geoff** with equipment costing £2,000 to help him read and continue his model boat building. **Geoff** and **Pat** came away after a week feeling very humble, at the wonderful way the blind tutors had completely changed the attitude and outlook of the chaps on the course, that losing one's sight is not the end of the world. They both had an incredible week away and returned



Pat was able to watch the archery class, an amazing feat for the visually impaired visitors to experience.



Geoff and Pat Wren.

home safely at no cost, truly incredible.

Each year Eden Camp host special events and reunions and on Sunday 8th September, **Mick Male** represented the Yorkshire Branch. He carried the Household Division Standard at the All Services Parade and Service of Remembrance. There were over 750 veterans, 125 cadets and 79 Standards in attendance, it was a most enjoyable day.

Congratulations are also extended to **Mick Male** who was appointed Hartlepool Borough Council's



Mick Male and friend.

Veterans Champion for 2019/20 on 12th September. **Mick** (The Veterans Champion) will be working closely with the local Armed Forces to deliver the objectives and intentions of the Armed Forces Covenant, and to share information, ideas and best practice.

On October 27th 2019 we held our Annual Lunch at Swinton Park Hotel, Masham; a favourite spot for our members and their guests. Our representative guest speaker at the event was **Lt Robin Mackworth-Young**, a Platoon Commander in The Queen's Company, who was



Constance and Robin with us for another grand day out at Swinton Park.

accompanied by **Constance Freer-Smith**. Robin gave a very informative update on the Regiment and his personal recent experiences. He was the Ensign for The Queen's Birthday Parade in June 2019. He continued in ceremonial duties until he was deployed to Belize with the Battalion in August for two months and returned just prior to the function.

On Thursday 7th November The Field of Remembrance Opening Ceremony at Westminster Abbey was attended by **Michael and Maureen Spencer** to remember those who gave their lives in conflicts and which is now in its 91st year.

This year, our Remembrance Service honoured the service and sacrifice made by the men and women of Britain, the Commonwealth and Allied nations who fought together 75 years ago. 26 Branch members attended All Saints Church, Ripley. **Mick Male** (Household Division Standard) and **Stewart Webb** (Scots Guards) acted as Standard Bearers. Wreaths were laid by the Officer Commanding Guards Company at ITC Catterick **Major Alex Budge**, **Tony Daniel** Chairman, **Harry Buxton** on behalf of the Scots Guards and **Mrs Patsy Male**, The Royal British Legion. Members enjoyed



Mick and Stewart with Major Alex Budge at Ripley Church.

another wonderful lunch afterwards at The Station Hotel, Birstwith.

Sadly, we must report that **2623767 Joseph Patrick Whelan (Joe)** passed away on Monday 21st October 2019 at the age of 94. **Joe** was extremely proud of his Grenadier roots and army career and was a stalwart member of the Branch. He will be very sadly missed by his family who shared many anecdotes of his long life.

It is with sadness that we also record that **22955464 Eddie Dootson** passed away in December 2018.

Finally, the Secretary wishes to extend his wholehearted thanks to **Major Andy Green, Sgt Rob Broomes** and their team at Regimental Headquarters for their invaluable support throughout the year, it is very much appreciated.



Joe at the forefront of the action.

NORTH AMERICA

(Formed 1972)

President: Lieutenant JA TRIGGS

Vice-President: Mr D MACKINTOSH

Chairman: Mr R BROWN, BEM

Secretary: Mr R BROWN, BEM Unit 4, 220 Walnut St.,
Lucan, Ontario, Canada, N0M 2J0

Email: raybrown35@hotmail.com

Treasurer: Mr R BROWN, BEM

We are recovering after losing our long serving Secretary, Betty Pickering last year. We now have a Memorial Award in Betty's name. This will be presented every year to the Member we feel has done much for the Association. This year the recipients are **Ray & Ann Hawkins** (Coldstream Guards) who open their home to us for the Christmas Brunch. The award was presented by Betty's family on December 7th 2019.

We held our AGM prior to the Scots Guards Dinner in September and a lively discussion was held as we begin preparation for our 50th Anniversary in September 2022. We are looking for suggestions to make the Anniversary the best.

We have also opened a site on Facebook called The Guards Association of North America and presently have 110 members. It is open to all Guardsmen all over the world. Our Membership is now down to 30 and we are hoping we can get some members from this site to join us, we need new young blood.

In closing we would like to thank **Major Andy Green** and **Sgt Rob Broomes** for all their help during the past year.

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.

Although one of the smallest Association Branches, we like to pull our weight in support of The Regiment. Whilst our Leader would love to

emulate the success of the Wellington to Waterloo bike ride, geography prevents it from being done here. At a Slow March a hobbling veteran can easily cover the distance between Picquet and Sergeant (opposite ends of the island) in less than 30 minutes. Even if a diversion to In Waiting is incorporated, the time is only increased by a semi-quaver. Cycling it would be pointless.

But here, surrounded by the sea, we are constantly reminded of the Regiment's previous interaction with The Senior Service. At the last full moon meeting it was agreed to organise a charity canoe paddle from Coconut Walk to Birdcage Walk (Walk2Walk). Whilst this has been met with less than euphoric enthusiasm by the wider Association, it has appealed to many Soldiers under Sentence on the island.

Hence, during a hurricane break, our intrepid leader accompanied by LCpl Brendan, the Corporal in Waiting Headquarter Company, and a miscellany of miscreants set off in a North Easterly direction towards Birdcage Walk via the Bermuda Triangle. It is hoped by all that LCpl B will live up to his title and will demonstrate his skills that were recently recognised by his canonisation and deliver us safely across the pond.

P.S. Might the RHQ Staff car be made available for the return journey? We will be very tired and otherwise may not make the deadline for the 2021 Gazette.



ASSOCIATION DIARY OF EVENTS 2020

APR	5	Liverpool Branch Centenary Lunch, Knowsley Hall, Prescott, Liverpool, L34 4AG	AUG	5	Worcestershire Branch Evening Meeting, (Local Reservist Centre - Contact the Branch Secretary for Further Details)		
	8	Worcestershire Branch Evening Meeting, (Local Reservist Centre - Contact the Branch Secretary for Further Details)		SEP	5	East Kent Branch Annual Dinner, The Grand, The Leas, Folkestone, Kent, CT20 2XL	
		Matlock & Chesterfield Branch Annual Lunch, Bakewell Golf Club, Station Road, Bakewell, DE45 1GB			27	Reading Branch Annual Luncheon, The Owners' Club, Newbury Racecourse, Racecourse Road, Newbury, RG14 7PN	
	18	Yorkshire Branch AGM, The Station Hotel, Birstwith, Harrogate, HG3 3AG			OCT	2	March Branch Sausage & Mash Lunch, The Conservative Club, March, Creek Road, PE15 8RD
	21	Birthday of Her Majesty The Queen				4	Wessex Branch Annual Lunch, The Dudsbury Golf Club Hotel & Spa, 64 Christchurch Road, Ferndown, Dorset, BH22 8ST
	24	Worcestershire Branch Skittles & Quiz Night and Buffet, Portobello Inn, Bransford Road, St. Johns, Worcester WR2 4EZ.				10	Medway Branch Annual Dinner, Grange Moor Hotel, Maidstone, Kent, ME16 8BS
	25	Surrey & East Hampshire Branch Annual Dinner, Farnham House Hotel, Alton Road, Farnham, Surrey, GU10 5ER				11	Worcestershire Branch Lunchtime Meeting, Portobello Inn, Bransford Road, Worcester, WR2 4EZ
		Manchester Branch Annual Dinner, The Britannia Country House Hotel, Didsbury, Manchester, M20 2WG				14	Finance & Executive Committee Meetings, Wellington Barracks, SW1E 6HQ
	26	March Branch Annual Lunch, The Conservative Club, March, Creek Road, PE15 8RD				17	Wigan, St. Helens & District Branch Annual Dinner, The Village Club, Culcheth, Warrington, Cheshire, WA3 4LY
		Medway Branch St. George's Day Lunch, St. George Hotel, Chatham, Kent, ME4 6BB				18	Yorkshire Branch Annual Lunch, Swinton Park Hotel, Masham, Ripon, North Yorkshire, HG4 4JH
	Wigan, St. Helens & District Branch, St. George's Day Lunch, The Village Club, Culcheth, Warrington, Cheshire, WA3 4LY		Gloucestershire Branch Annual Lunch, Hatherley Manor Hotel, Down Hatherley Lane, Gloucester, GL2 9QA				
		24	Windsor Branch Annual Dinner, Royal Adelaide Hotel, 46 Kings Road, Windsor, SL4 2AG				
MAY	10	Worcestershire Branch AGM, The Pear Tree Hotel, Smitte Lane, Smitte, Worcester, WR3 8SY	NOV	5		Field of Remembrance, Westminster	
	17	Regimental Remembrance Day, Wellington Barracks, SW1E 6HQ		7	Festival of Remembrance, Royal Albert Hall		
	18	The First Guards' Club Dinner		8	Cenotaph Parade, Westminster		
	24	Bath Branch VE Day Celebration Lunch, Cumberwell Park Golf and Country Club, Bradford On Avon, Wiltshire, BA15 2PQ			Yorkshire Branch Remembrance Civic Service, All Saints Church, Ripley, HG3 3AY and Lunch at The Station Hotel, Birstwith, Harrogate, HG3 3AG		
	30	Major General's Review, Horse Guards Parade		DEC	4	March Branch Christmas Lunch, The Conservative Club, March, Creek Road, PE15 8RD	
JUN	4	Founder's Day, Royal Hospital Chelsea	5		Bath Branch Christmas Lunch, Cumberwell Park Golf and Country Club, Bradford On Avon, Wiltshire, BA15 2PQ		
	6	The Colonel's Review, Horse Guards Parade	6		Gloucestershire Branch Christmas Lunch, Victory Club, Lypiatt Road, Cheltenham, GL50 2SY		
	9	London Branch Cocktail Party, The Guards' Museum, SW1E 6HQ			Worcestershire Branch Christmas Lunch, The Pear Tree Hotel, Smitte Lane, Smitte, Worcester, WR3 8SY		
	10	Beating Retreat 1, Horse Guards Parade	12		East Kent Branch Christmas Function, Hythe Sports & Social Club, 2 St Leonard's Road, Hythe, Kent CT21 6EN		
	11	Beating Retreat 2, Horse Guards Parade	13	Medway Branch Christmas Draw Lunch, St. George Hotel, Chatham, Kent, ME4 6BB			
13	The Queen's Birthday Parade, Horse Guards Parade (Welsh Guards)		Wigan, St. Helens & District Branch Christmas Lunch, The Village Club, Culcheth, Warrington, Cheshire, WA3 4LY				
	Northampton Branch Annual Dinner, Conservative Club, Cottingham Road, Corby, Northamptonshire, NN17 1SZ						
15	Garter Service, Windsor Castle						
	Officers' Past & Present Cricket Match, Burton Court, Chelsea						
21	Yorkshire Branch Celebratory Lunch for The Queen's Birthday Parade, Swinton Park Hotel, Masham, Ripon, North Yorkshire, HG4 4JH						
JUL	18	Sergeants' Mess Past & Present Dinner, Lille Barracks, Aldershot, GU11 2NQ					
	19	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 assnco@grengds.com](mailto:assnco@grengds.com)*



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