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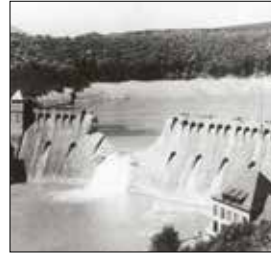
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Foreword

by Major General Roly Walker
DSO

It is hard to reflect on anything these days without referencing the long shadow of Covid-19, not least the numbers associated with the beastly virus. We are now into 2021 and its realistic the full extent of this coronavirus will take years to work its way through. First thoughts to those Grenadiers it has taken before their time – may they find peace in eternity. Second to their families left behind – there will be a time when more than

just close family can meet to celebrate their full lives, to include gatherings of Grenadiers. And a third thought to all those who are involved in responding to the pandemic, either by easing the consequences for those most affected or by their actions accelerating a way out for society at large – thank you.

What may be less apparent to the readership is the Government's ongoing integrated security, defence and foreign policy review. Initiated in the Queen's Speech in 2019, it promised to be "the most radical assessment of the UK's place in the world since the end of the Cold War", to report in Autumn 2020. A large part of the Integrated

Review will be a chapter on Modernising Defence, and I would like to have been able to offer a commentary on what this means for the Army and the Grenadiers, but I can't – a Covid consequence has been a delayed publication to Spring 2021. I do know there is some feverishly detailed work going on behind closed doors, from the Defence Secretary's to the Major General's, to align ambition with practical implementation. What I can share with you, which also went on behind closed doors, is this:

A picture of said Major General adjusting my uniform before I marched out to lay the regimental wreath at the Guards Memorial in 2020, in what was a poignant virtual Black Sunday. The sharp-eyed will spot said Defence Secretary in the background. He was also



laying a wreath that day. The three of us had served together in Northern Ireland in 1994, and this was the first time we'd all met up since.

My thanks, on behalf of the Regiment, to the editor David Russell-Parsons and his loyal team, for compiling this edition of the Grenadier Gazette. It's another bumper publication, with some brilliant contributions from across the spectrum of past and present. The Editorial Committee has, I think you'll agree, ensured the Gazette is a leading example of the best in regimental journals, doubling up as the primary Regimental record and archive.

David is also working on pandemic matters from the trenches of the Cabinet Office. Unlike the Integrated Review, he has managed to publish on time. Nothing less expected from the Grenadiers.

I would also like to thank Lieutenant Colonel Patrick Holcroft for his outstanding voluntary service to the Regiment over the last 30 years. Commissioned into the 2nd Battalion in 1968, when Patrick was selected to command the 1st Battalion in 1987, a recurrent back injury prevented him from taking up the appointment and he left the Army to join the Robert Fleming

group where he revitalized their insurance interests. In the early 1990's, the Regiment asked him to join the Trustees as a financial advisor and he himself became one later that decade. In 2006, although extremely busy in the City, he generously accepted the invitation to take on the Chairmanship of the newly formed Colonel's Fund and assumed the onerous responsibilities of fund raising and designing the delivery of timely assistance to the bereaved and wounded. With his creative flair, business acumen and seemingly inexhaustible energy, Patrick's inspirational stewardship has made the Fund the success it is today. Charlie Bennett, whose profile appears later in this edition, has taken over and I am confident that the Fund is well placed to continue its sterling work.

Finally, it gives me particular pleasure to read the reports from our affiliated regiments - the Canadian Grenadier Guards and 1 Royal Australian Regiment - and our good friends the 19th Lancers of the Pakistan Armoured Corps. These links to our brothers-in-arms mean a great deal to our Regiment and we look forward to keeping in touch in the year ahead.

Editorial Notes

*by Brigadier David Russell-Parsons
OBE DL*

In these most extraordinary years of 2020-2021, we hope you enjoy this edition of the Grenadier Gazette. Our aim on the Editorial team is simple: to compile a journal which is very readable, remains pre-eminent amongst its peers, and records Regimental events, achievements and all current Grenadiers for the archive. This year it feels even more essential on the first of those objectives, in order to reflect on the year which both the serving Regiment and the Association have had. With the country dealing with the impacts of the pandemic, the optimistic progress of the vaccine roll out (but also with the new variants), all aspects of EU Transition and other more routine winter risks, it might be easy to overlook the impact made by

the Army and wider Armed Forces at home. They have supported so many Government Departments under MACA tasks (Military Aid to the Civil Authority) since March last year, bringing skill, planning expertise and leadership. It's been largely overlooked in the media, it seems. And therefore even more important to record it from a Regimental perspective.

On the format of the journal this year, and based on all the much appreciated feedback, we have maintained the same style and look, and have widened our scope still more. You have a packed edition again, all with different perspectives from different generations.

This is to thank all those committing their time and skill to an impressive total of contributions. We think we have a record total this year. We are very grateful to General Sir Evelyn Webb Carter, Sir Andrew Ford, Anthony Hamilton (all ensuring a particularly rich section of Grenadiers at Large),

Euan Houstoun, Dr Iain Reid of the Ironmongers, Alex Heroys, Kevin Kitcher, Rufus Harding, Justin Davies, as well as the ever loyal home team of Philip Wright, Simon Soskin, Jerry Levine and Simon Gordon Lennox. And we hope you enjoy the fascinating story of Dougie Adams and his painting with all our congratulations to him in televised competitions. And as we say a sad goodbye to 40+ years of Branch reporting from the Turks and Caicos, we welcome another potential series - 'Tales from the Potting Shed'. This year, our thanks go to Gerald Lesinki as the first Household Division BBC Birthday Parade commentator for volunteering his sublime perspectives of his time with Huw Edwards. Those who succeeded him in the commentary box are being asked whether they want to succeed him

in this journal.

The core Regimental Headquarters and Editorial team have been prolific in beachcombing potentially rich veins of Regimental history, and then recording them in their own stylish manner. And we should also acknowledge the huge efforts made again the Battalion (and a brave Commanding Officer in volunteering for a probing interview by the Assistant Editor), Nijmegen Company, and the Band, especially with all the additional effort of ensuring the Regimental rolls are 100% accurate.

A huge thank you to everyone who works in this special Gazette team. We hope you enjoy the results of our labour - please let us know whether we have hit those objectives.

Profile of Commanding Officer, 1st Battalion Grenadier Guards

In conversation with the Assistant Editor

When asked "Why the Army?", James Greaves's disarmingly simple reply is: "I always wanted to be a soldier – nothing more complicated than that!" Put in touch with the Regional Household Division representative when he was eleven, a letter was awaiting him when he arrived as a student at Pangbourne College two years later – the Grenadiers had expressed an interest.

When he was eight, his father was seconded from British Airways to fly for the Emir of Qatar, in those days a sleepy place where pearl fishing was the main industry. School holidays were spent in the Gulf where there was a lively international expat community. "Little did I know", he reflects, "what a large part the Middle East was destined to play in my future career."

After reading politics at Newcastle University, James completed his training at RMAS and joined the 1st Battalion at Windsor in time to take 6 Platoon to the Falklands, but not before taking

part in the 2003 Queen's Birthday Parade as the Ensign for Number Three Guard. This was followed by a year at ITC Catterick and from there to the Battalion in Bosnia as Number Two Company second-in-command. His abiding Balkan memory is one of intense trepidation when a chain-smoking Romanian Puma pilot flew him around with a large tank of Avgas strapped to the cabin floor – "I stank of petrol for days but somehow I lived to tell the tale!"

During Op TELIC 8, he commanded the recec platoon which rotated between Shaibah Logistics Base and Al Amarah. He then became the Battalion Ops Officer for Op HERRICK 6, keeping track of Grenadiers deployed across all AOs. This role provided him with an insight into Brigade level operations and the importance of communicating 'the big picture' to the lowest levels.

A tour at RMAS as a platoon commander followed. The Commandant at the time, Major General David Rutherford-Jones, 'brought a sense of fun to soldiering which was inspirational to both the staff and the officer cadets.' In late 2009, James found himself back in Afghanistan on HERRICK 11, this time as Battle Group LO to Task Force Helmand HQ (11 Bde) and doubled up as a J3 Ops Officer. A welcome pause followed in the form of two years at US Command and General Staff College at Fort Leavenworth in Kansas.



Lieutenant Colonel Greaves.

In May 2012, James re-joined the Battalion whilst they were deployed on Op HERRICK 16. Prior to taking command of Number Two Company at the end of the tour, he was Ops Officer at Battalion HQ and also stood in for the Captain and company commanders when they were on leave. ‘This busy programme’, he enthuses, ‘gave me a unique 360° experience of commanding Number Two Company for the closure of PB Rahim, the Inkerman on the patrol base line, and the Queen’s Company on a deliberate operation to deny enemy freedom of movement between Yakchal and Populzai’. His tour finished as the final Grenadier elements handed over to 40 Commando, Royal Marines.

Back in Aldershot, he took over No. 2 Company during the period when the battalion was the ‘test bed’ for the Army 2020 Infantry Company structure as it departed 12 Bde. In LONDIST the Company provided the Guard of Honour at the State Opening

of the new Scottish Parliament in Edinburgh and then went on a demanding and exhilarating jungle exercise in Brunei. Commanding No 3 Guard on the 2014 Queen’s Birthday Parade - ‘eleven years after I was the Ensign’ - completed his tenure as a company commander; it was time to move to a staff appointment.

Starting at the Permanent Joint Headquarters (PJHQ) in June 2014, James spent two years as SO2 Broader Middle East (Land). During this time Op SHADER began and he travelled widely to Kuwait, Iraq, Jordan, and US Central Command in Tampa. On completing this tour, he deployed in June 2016 to Incirlik, Turkey as US 5th Special Forces Group J5 (Plans) Director. This was “a fascinating and challenging time as it coincided with the failed coup against President Erdogan”. Op EUPHRATES SHIELD, the initial Turkish incursion into Northern Syria, was launched in that period.

A return to PJHQ in December 2016 followed, this time as MA2 to Lt Gen Sir John Lorimer KCB DSO MBE, the then Chief of Joint Operations (CJO). On promotion to Lieutenant Colonel in February 2017, James became MA1 to Lt Gen Lorimer’s naval successor, now Admiral Sir Tim Fraser KCB, for the following twenty months; in early 2019 CJO changed and he worked with Vice Admiral Ben Key CBE until June of that year. From August 2019 to May 2020 James was in Kabul working for US General Austin ‘Scott’ Miller, commander of the NATO-led Resolute Support mission and US Forces-Afghanistan, as part of the Commander’s Action Group.

“Returning to command the Battalion is a huge privilege for it’s all about getting it right at unit level. By providing the right framework of relevant training we can continue to thrive in a rapidly changing world. Tasked with being Mission Ready for Op SHADER (Iraq) in 2022-23, I’m confident that we will be a happy, well-trained and well-resourced unit when we deploy. In the meantime, let’s concentrate on enjoying ourselves as we ‘shoot, move and communicate’ for that’s what we do as infanteers!”

James is married to Eila (née Denaro) and they have three boys - Humphrey aged 4, Wilbur 6 and Rowley 8.



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 and
Lieutenant Colonel (Retd) Jerry Levine*

This last year has been all about Covid 19 – obviously - it has affected all of our lives as individuals and the activities of all of our battalions and units. Our Household Division units have each had to adapt their activities and programmes to meet the demands of lockdowns, distancing and outbreaks and have each taken their turn at the forefront of military support to efforts to combat Covid – whether building Nightingale hospitals around the country or testing on the streets of Manchester and Liverpool. Generally we have been able to push on, helping the NHS when tasked and getting on with operations and training as best as possible for the rest of the time. Everyone hopes that this summer will see a return to “normal” in general and the resumption of State Ceremonial and Public Duties in particular but, if not, we will continue to preserve the skills and experiences so that we can return with a flourish when the time does come.



Headquarters Household Division at Horse Guards has managed the dramatic shift in focus and tempo away from State Ceremonial and Public Duties (SCPD) and onto orchestrating the London District’s counter-COVID responses. The main ceremonial event to be salvaged was the unique Queen’s Birthday Parade held in the presence of Her Majesty in the quadrangle at Windsor Castle. The parade was devised and presided over by the Brigade Major and Garrison Sergeant Major and, although much smaller and simpler than usual, lacked none of the accustomed ceremony and precision.

The Household Cavalry Regiment, now based on the edge of Salisbury Plain at Picton Barracks in Bulford, continues its preparation to adopt the new AJAX and ARES vehicles, replacements for the old CVR(T) family of vehicles that so many will remember. These are the new armoured recee vehicles being adopted by the Army, weighing 35 tons and a similar size to Warrior. After various delays the first have arrived, hastening the transition into an Armoured Cavalry Regiment by late 2022 and the advent of an operational STRIKE brigade thereafter.

The Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment has continued to find the Queen’s Life Guard with non-ceremonial weekly rotations, although the majority of the Regiment’s horses returned to Melton Mowbray for an extended holiday over



the Autumn and Winter of 2020. Early 2021 sees excitement rising as the horses have returned to Knightsbridge in anticipation of a full ceremonial season which will see 40% of the horses and many of the troopers having their first experience of a full Queen's Birthday Parade.

1st Battalion Grenadier Guards remains in Lille Barracks, Aldershot with their final year on the 'Blue Line' (of this rotation) severely disrupted by COVID. Despite the majority of the battalion being committed to Op RESCRIPT (counter-COVID operations), they have maximised training opportunities, especially for the junior ranks and once again rotated companies to the Falkland Islands as the Falkland Island Resident Infantry Company (FIRIC). Both the 1st Battalion and Nijmegen Company (filling

in for the Queen's Company which will shortly return from the Falklands) came together in January on Salisbury Plain for a very cold series of field training exercises. Later in the year, the battalion will provide an opposing force to 2 RIFLES on exercise in Kenya.

For 1st Battalion Coldstream Guards which





is based at Victoria Barracks in Windsor, 2020 was supposed to be dominated by Operation SHADER (Iraq). However, in the event, a much reduced deployment occurred. The remainder of the battalion was kept busy by counter-COVID operations in the UK, culminating in a deployment to Manchester where they have assisted with mass testing and vaccinations. In February, the Coldstream moves from under command of 11 Infantry Brigade to become part of London District. Provisionally they will find 4 out of the 6 Guards on the Queen's Birthday Parade on 12 June.

1st Battalion Scots Guards, still in Aldershot, has been preparing to take over the Operation SHADER role from 1st Battalion Coldstream Guards from February 2021. Also a reduced deployment, it allows most of the battalion to prepare for its permanent move to Catterick, delayed from last year at the start of the COVID pandemic. On arrival the 1st Battalion will prepare to take over a new fleet of BOXER armoured wheeled vehicles, later becoming part of the Army's first STRIKE brigade, alongside the HCR. There is a platoon of Grenadiers with 1 SG.

1st Battalion Irish Guards has had a particularly busy 2020 but, like most of the Household Division, a very different one to what had been planned. As part of 11 Infantry Brigade, on its return from Operation SHADER last Autumn, much of the battalion deployed immediately to Liverpool to conduct mass COVID testing. Later in 2021, the battalion will move from Cavalry Barracks,

Hounslow to take over Mons Barracks in Aldershot, and in early 2022 it resubordinates to London District.

In June 2020, 1st Battalion Welsh Guards had the honour of trooping their Colour in front of Her Majesty The Queen. However, it was a very different parade to the usual massed bands, many horses and multiple guards birthday tribute known throughout the World. The Prince of Wales Company, commanded by the Commanding Officer 1st Battalion Welsh Guards, paraded with the Band in the Quadrangle in front of our Colonel in Chief. It all went off without a hitch and marked the Regiment's transition towards training for Operation SHADER, later in 2021. This starts with briefing and mission specific training, including periods at Sennybridge and Castle Martin in March, before deploying a company at a time to Iraq. At the same time, they leave London District to join 11 Brigade and prepare to send a company to the Falkland Islands, with the Corps of Drums heading to Nigeria.

The London Regiment, effectively now the sixth regiment of Foot Guards, is continuing to grow with strong recruiting and increasing alignment to the regular battalions. At the start of the pandemic they mobilised a company in record time to support Op RESCRIPT and mass-testing in London.

The Public Duties Incremental Companies (PDIC), comprising Nijmegen Company (Grenadier Guards) Number 7 Company (Coldstream Guards) and F Company (Scots Guards), remain stationed in Wellington Barracks. They have provided the mainstay of public duties throughout the COVID pandemic, having been mounting non-ceremonial guards at Buckingham Palace, St James Palace, The Tower of London and Windsor Castle on a weekly rotation. When not on public duties, they have undertaken low-level military training outside London or been dispersed from Wellington Barracks. F Company will troop its Colour this year on the Queen's Birthday Parade, with Nijmegen Company and Number 7 Company finding Number 2 Guards and Number 6 Guard respectively.

London Central Garrison continues the long push to make life better for everyone in the various barracks of London District. They are constantly juggling a myriad of contractors,

competing deadlines and ever-changing building and refurbishment plans and it is a tribute to their dedication and flexibility that they continue to make it work, especially under current COVID restrictions.

Despite a lack of public performance opportunities, the Household Division Bands have remained on top form, providing socially distanced performances at the few ceremonial occasions held this year. They have also been instrumental in maintaining morale with numerous social media and broadcast performances. Most notable amongst these have been the broadcasts and podcasts from the Guards Chapel. Later in the year, other Army bands will join them under the direction of the Major General Commanding the Household Division when he takes charge of supervising all the Army's bands.

Guards Training Company at the Infantry Training Centre in Catterick has been running at full stretch, training Guardsmen (including the first of our female Guardsmen) as fast as they can be loaded to training. Although capacity has been cut by 50% by the need for social distancing in the accommodation, the staff and recruits have adapted quickly. Since the first lockdown relaxed, some lost capacity has been regained with accommodation found in Wathgill Camp and additional training teams drafted in to help, so our recruit training remains strong with a steady stream of newly trained Guardsmen coming to each of the Regiments. The Regimental policy that all leaving Catterick first go to Nijmegen Company, before a move later to the 1st Battalion, continues.

Household Division and Parachute Regiment Centralised Courses (HDPRCC) has overcome accommodation issues and continues to deliver its courses in COVID-safe conditions at its home in Brunswick Lines, Pirbright. Key amongst these has been the Potential Junior NCO courses, compressed from 7 weeks into 5, which delivers a steady stream of high-quality soldiers ready to take their place as NCOs in their various battalions, an essential part of maintaining the unit's well-being.

The Guards Museum has used the lockdown period, while its doors have remained closed, to take stock of its exhibits and to plan new events. The Director has produced a series of excellent podcasts – "Bearskins, Bayonets and Bravery

– Notes From the Guards Museum", while the curator has created a series of videos exploring the history of the Guards Division that can be found on YouTube .

Although normal Church services have been difficult at the Guards Chapel, the size of the Chapel as a venue has made it a popular location for socially distanced meetings (when permitted by government rules!). In addition, the Guards Chapel team has recorded weekly podcasts featuring all the pastoral elements of a normal service, beautifully supported by the various Household Division bands and, of course, the Guards Chapel Choir. We remain on track to replace the Chapel organ in 2022, thanks to generous donors and other benefactors.

At Headquarters Foot Guards, we have continued to encourage progress on a number of "projects". Recruiting is our primary focus and we've worked with Recruiting Group and our Foot Guards representatives in the various offices and the Regimental teams to consolidate last year's success. The Foot Guards "brand" is strong and increasingly understood in terms of an exciting and varied "offer" and so the recruits continue to come – not quite in the numbers that we had hoped for before Covid but enough to sustain our future.

6 (Guards) Platoon, an organic part of 3rd Battalion Parachute Regiment, is better known as the Guards Parachute Platoon. We continue to invest heavily to ensure that the platoon remains the fully manned Household Division element in the UK's airborne forces. This year, 16 Air Assault Brigade gave us permission to run our own screening course which was run by 1st Battalion Welsh Guards at HDPRCC and prepared over 50 men for Pegasus Company, and selection for service with Airborne Forces.

Social Media has been the life blood of Household Division external communication during the COVID pandemic. Our team in Horse Guards and a strong cohort of battalion representatives (ranging from Guardsman to Regimental Sergeant Major) provide topical content to various social media streams, including blogs, podcasts and live-streaming lessons and other events, so that people can meet and get to know us even they are unable to visit in person.

Septem Juncto in Uno



Regimental Adjutant's Report

by Major James Gatehouse

Few plans survive first contact with an enemy and, in 2020, routine Public Duties, all State Ceremonial in London, the “regular” Regimental events such as Remembrance Sunday, the First Guards Club dinner and Grenadier Day all became early victims of the pandemic. This was a great shame as we were hoping to celebrate or commemorate several major events and anniversaries last year, including:

- The 75th Anniversary of the cessation of hostilities and Victory in Europe. Fortunately there are still a handful of WW2 veterans alive, all now in their 90's who represent all six battalions of the Regiment in wartime. I am delighted to report that recently the majority have been awarded the Legion d'Honneur by the French.
- The 60th Anniversary of the end of National Service, which had seen many thousands of men joining the Regiment in the preceding 10 years, often serving in pretty spartan conditions abroad. Despite this, the experience of being a Grenadier for little more than a year left a deep and enduring impression on them, many whom are still the backbone of the Association and active in the branches. The reminiscences of a few are recorded in this Gazette.
- The 60th Anniversary of the Farewell Parade to the 3rd Battalion at Buckingham Palace and of the battalion's placing into suspended animation. (represented in the 2020 Regimental Christmas card by the famous painting of that parade by Terence Cuneo, reproduced again in this Gazette).

Everywhere, we have all had to adapt and change our habits over the last year. During the lockdowns in particular Regimental Headquarters

has emptied as working from home became the new normal. All are now adept on Zoom, Teams and Skype calls and, dare I say, in some cases more efficient as there are far fewer distractions and interruptions! Nevertheless, these cancelled events and meetings rescheduled have encouraged more creative thinking and new, innovative solutions.

All who watched the short, 5 minute video we distributed on Black Sunday will have been struck by the simple yet poignant acts of remembrance, carried out on Horse Guards and at the Mareth Cross in the early hours of a quiet, sunny morning in May. Many who would not normally be in London on Black Sunday were able to join in and share the intimate experience from afar, the video connecting them more closely with their Regiment than any other event for many years before. Afterwards I received kind and generous notes from as far afield as Australia, Canada, China, South Africa, Tasmania, Thailand and the USA. I am most grateful to Padre John Vincent CF, the Senior Chaplain to the Household Division who officiated and to the production team of Lance Sergeant Galvin (our Social Media expert) and Lance Corporal Bepat from the 1st Battalion, who created the video. They have set the gold standard; all other regiments in the Household Division are now seeking to outdo each other in 2021. We too will repeat the exercise, the intent to do this annually, running alongside the normal gathering in May.

Including the Regimental Band, there are now 653 men and women who are serving Grenadiers in the Army (as at 31 Jan 21). This figure includes over 130 who are currently employed away from the Regiment in a myriad of roles and appointments which illustrate our far reach and influence. In this Gazette we have re-introduced the nominal roll, a historical record which is (for those who worry about such matters) also GDPR compliant. Although there is no room for complacency, manning levels remain buoyant and the Regiment is the best recruited in the Foot Guards. The nominal roll only tells half the story though and I can categorically state that in terms of achievement within the Army, Grenadiers are punching well above their weight.

Two particular highlights are that three Warrant Officers have been selected for commissioning into the Regiment this year and a further four (out of a total of nine across the Foot Guards) have been selected for promotion to WO1. This is testament to the quality of non-commissioned officers across the board and I am constantly struck by the confidence and professionalism displayed at all levels.

For all in the 1st Battalion, Nijmegen Company and the Regimental Band, the forecast of events and routine duties in 2020 were interrupted and changed frequently, as all units in London District were tasked to support the civil authorities around the country with small, independent COVID Mobile Testing Units. The 1st Battalion has also continued to send companies to the Falkland Islands. So, for all involved, the year has proved more rewarding than many anticipated, with new opportunities and fresh challenges, both at home and overseas. Variety is the spice of life!

At times dispersed and working from home, Regimental Headquarters has continued to fulfil its core functions. In June Captain Robbie Thompson handed over the duties of Regimental Recruiting Officer and Temporary Equerry to Captain Jonny Palmer-Tomkinson. The pipeline of potential officers remains very strong and it is gratifying to

see a steady trickle of newly commissioned, eager Ensigns joining the 1st Battalion. Earlier in the year WO2 Thompson handed over as RQMS to WO2 Wiseman and the latter has continued the process of gripping anything and everything. In the General Office Lance Sergeants Haughton and MacMillan have juggled supporting Nijmegen Company for Public Duties with their normal responsibilities and Linda Leppard continues to manage the Home Service Clothing Stores with customary style.

Major Andy Green, the Regimental Treasurer and Secretary of the Association has resolutely continued to manage our financial affairs as well as handling a variety of requests for welfare support with care and compassion. Sergeant Broomes, the Association SNCO is mid-way through a handover to Lance Sergeant Davis, although his greatest achievement over the last 12 months seems to have been dispatching gallons of Grenadier Gin around the country. You are missing out if you haven't tried it.

The programme for 2021 is still uncertain and subject to change. There will be no Black Sunday; the Queen's Birthday Parade with F Company Scots Guards providing the Escort, will probably go ahead on Horse Guards but spectators may be limited; Grenadier Day will take place at Lille Barracks on 4 July. I hope to see many of you there.



Director of Welfare's Report

For Year ending
31 December 2020

by Major James Gatehouse,
Regimental Adjutant

Organisation

Provision of welfare support to Grenadiers and their families, irrespective of age, rank or length of service remains a core activity in Regimental Headquarters. The Regimental Adjutant is the Director of Welfare and is supported by the Secretary to the Association (Major Andy Green), the Association NCO (Sgt

Broomes, but soon to be LSgt Davis) and the Regimental Casualty Officer (Mr Matt Ellmer). All are involved in the implementation of welfare support.

The Regimental Association

The Association continues to support Grenadiers in need, in a variety of ways.

1. Supplementary Benefits

In 2020, £5590 was distributed to 13 individuals who qualified for this allowance, at a rate of £430 per annum.

2. Christmas Gifts

In 2020, Christmas gifts were paid to 187 applicants, nominated by the Association branches, at a rate of £30 per head. In addition,

each of our three In-Pensioners at The Royal Hospital, Chelsea received a Christmas gift. The total spend was £5,685.

3. Individual Welfare Grants

Net grants, totaling £28,683 at the year end, have been made to support 61 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 was established in 2007 with HRH The Duke of Edinburgh as Patron. This followed the first (of what would be three) operational deployments to Afghanistan where the Regiment sustained seventeen fatalities and many more Grenadiers were seriously wounded, some with life-changing physical injuries. Many more have since sought our support and assistance, suffering from complex PTSD and other traumatic mental health issues.

The Fund supports all Grenadiers whose wounds resulted from an operational/peacekeeping tour, including those to Ulster and Bosnia. No one is turned away and the Regimental Casualty Officer is employed full-time by the Fund. He is kept extremely busy supporting all the bereaved families and wounded Grenadiers; identifying where help is needed, liaising with the NHS, Social Services and other military charities to ensure that we provide individuals and their families with the support and assistance they need, in a timely manner.

The Colonel's Fund is supervised by a Steering Committee, appointed by the Regimental Trustees.

Chairman: Captain Charlie Bennett

Members: Colonel Euan Houstoun OBE
Colonel Richard Aubrey-Fletcher
Major The Lord Valentine Cecil
Captain Alan Ogden

Secretary: Major James Gatehouse, Regimental Adjutant

The Steering Committee reviews the Fund's activities and grants awarded on a regular basis, whilst day to day management is carried out by the Regimental Adjutant and Regimental Casualty Officer, who work very closely together. The Fund 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.

In 2020 there was no let up in the activities of The Colonel's Fund, although we have had to adapt some of the ways in which the Regimental Casualty Officer operates, to protect both him and those he supports. In 2019 he drove over 30,000 miles in visits to more than the 70 wounded individuals and families. In 2020 he has only driven 18,000 miles around the UK, but he's probably spent more time on Zoom, Teams and Skype calls than anyone else I can think of. Overall he has conducted 460 visits, some in person, many remotely.

Donations have continued to come in with many individuals contributing and their generosity is very much appreciated. In particular, I would like to thank Major Green and Matt Ellmer, and all who accompanied them, for their heroic efforts on the Coast to Coast Walk. I would also like to thank The Ironmongers' Company for their continued generous support.

As at 31st Dec 2020 the Fund had raised a total of £4,623,249 and had made £1,238,554 worth of welfare related payments since its inception. In 2020, £45,732 of welfare grants were awarded; most for:

- Mobility aids/home improvements.
- Employment Training
- To supplement loss of earnings.
- Counseling.

The Regimental Casualty Officer leads of the delivery of the support outlined above. At the year end, he was looking after 74 cases, 47 under active management. As well as being the 'fixer', mentor, counselor and friend to our seriously wounded and the 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 (HDWC)

There have been no requests for grants from the fund this year. The fund remains in suspended animation although 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 James Greaves*

What a difference a year makes. From operations in 2018, to Trooping the Colour and Belize in 2019 and on to Op RESCRIPT (military support to the national response to COVID 19) in 2020. The Battalion's focus has, throughout the last 12 months, continually adjusted according to the needs of London District and, with a weather eye on our future, 11 Infantry Brigade to which we will resubordinate in early 2022. Simply stated, the requirement to be Twice the Man continues to be appropriate! Before I go any further, I must publicly thank my predecessor for his time in command and

the smoothly delivered handover. He spoke about Grenadier fellowship in last year's edition; I echo his sentiments – our shared identity continues to grow and expand. It is clear that recruitment and retention are holding strongly in these challenging times. The Battalion has an enviable Forecast of Events throughout the remainder of this year. Company and Battalion Exercises have been challenging; the focus has grown from low level platoon tactics to Battle Group manoeuvre with Challenger 2 tanks. The immediate future holds more challenging exercises in the UK, but also in Kenya where about half of the Battalion will deploy from August - October. November will see Support Company deploy to Thailand on Ex PANTHER GOLD to conduct jungle training with the Royal Thai Army. On current planning the Battalion will deploy on Operations in the latter half of 2022.

Therefore the mood in the Battalion is one of palpable excitement as we all look forward to a graduated return to normality. Even under COVID 19 restrictions, life in Lille Barracks has continued as many of the readers will remember; albeit without some of the fun things such as collective sport and adventurous training! The Battalion recently delivered two four-month company tours in the Falkland Islands, and with a newly created indoor urban training facility there have been lots of opportunities to refine our green soldiering skills. The Battalion's commitment to Op RESCRIPT saw Platoons breakdown into multiples (half platoons) to conduct Mobile Testing Units, mainly in London and the South East. Grenadiers can point to 115,000 civilians tested between April and July last year. Further proof, if needed, that the Battalion can turn its hand to whatever is asked of it.

The Battalion continues to cover the full panoply of activity and the normal churn of la vie militaire. Career courses, postings and support to external taskings (formally RAAT) have continued. Summer 2020 saw a new Captain of the Queen's Company and new Company Commanders for Number Two and Support Companies. In November last year WO2 D Bailey was selected for promotion to WO1 and selected as the new Regimental Sergeant Major. He assumes this appointment in April 2021. At Extra Regimental Employment, you will be pleased to read that Grenadiers are well represented in all the established training locations. With record

numbers of recruits in training, we have increased our Guards Training Company presence in the Infantry Training Centre, Catterick. WO1 (RSM) Shepard holds the fort at the Specialist Weapons School, Warminster and we have CSgt instructors at both the Infantry Battle School, Brecon and Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst. Current preparations for Kenya mean that we must be comfortable with living in the field for extended periods; a pause in the Battalion filling routine Public Duties in London and Windsor has given us the space and time to do so – we are now well (re)

acquainted with Salisbury Plain and Sennybridge! However, we have also kept our focus on being able to deliver excellence on the drill square. A week of ‘Autumn Drills’ sharpened our attention to detail before Christmas and has set the conditions for Spring Drills and The Queen’s Birthday Parade, for which the Battalion will Street Line. So, in conclusion, glancing back over the past twelve months the 1st Battalion has been as busy as ever, but in a slightly different way. Let’s hope that we are able to gather collectively, both past and present, in the latter half of 2021.



The Queen’s Company

by Major James Taylor



Guardsman Julien, Guardsman Firth and Guardsman Tucker after a successful platoon attack on Onion Ranges.

2020 has been a busy and unpredictable year for The Queen’s Company. A year that was expected to focus on training ultimately became dominated by operations, both in the UK in support of the civilian authorities, and abroad, performing strategic deterrence in the South Atlantic.

After returning from Christmas leave in the New Year, The Company began its training progression alongside a skiing expedition and preparing for

Public Duties. However, as Covid-19 took hold in the UK it quickly became apparent that the Army would be called in to support the NHS as part of the national response. For The Queen’s Company, the response began in March when, with the rest of the Battalion, The Company began dispersed training from home to minimise the risk of the virus spreading through the unit. The Company quickly developed methods of training using online video applications, with streamed lessons and the Company Sergeant Major leading daily PT sessions.

The Company then deployed as part of the Battalion’s delivery of Op RESCRIPT, the military support to the NHS. With the other Companies, The Queen’s Company delivered multiple-sized mobile testing units (MTUs) across Greater London. The Company continued to train alongside the Op RESCRIPT commitment, managing to find



The Captain’s Memoranda on the flight deck of HMS FORTH.



2 Platoon on Mount Tumbledown.

enough time in between MTU tasks to take part in a Battalion-led battle camp in Lydd and Hythe. The training wing ran live firing ranges, and an intersection competition was won by Lance Sergeant Hubbell's section from 2 Platoon. With the success of Op RESCRIPT, The Company was eventually able to hand over MTU tasks to the contractors. Over the course of three months, The Company carried out 187 MTU tasks, delivering 26,777 tests across the capital.

The end of Op RESCRIPT also signalled a change of personnel, with Major Neil Strachan handing over as The Captain of The Queen's Company to Major James Taylor, and Lieutenant Sam Macdonald-Smith taking over from Captain Jonny Palmer-Tomkinson as Second Captain. However, the effects of Covid unfortunately did not end with Op RESCRIPT. The Battalion had been due to deploy force elements to the Falkland Islands on Op FIRIC for seven



Members of 2 Platoon visiting the King Penguins at Volunteer Point.

months between July 2020 and February 2021. The aspiration had been for the Battalion's three rifle companies to conduct a three-way operational rotation, with The Queen's Company taking the last rotation between December and February. National Covid restrictions, however, quickly put an end to this plan. Instead, The Queen's Company were to deploy for four months, over Christmas, during which time every member of the company group would have to undergo two weeks of quarantine prior to beginning the operation. This new, longer deployment would see The Company deploy two months early, with five weeks' notice.

In preparation, Company Headquarters quickly pulled together a comprehensive training programme that saw every member of The Company meet the pre-deployment standard. To assist in preparing us to operate in the testing environment of the South Atlantic, Battalion Headquarters arranged for The Company to deploy on Ex BLUE MAKITA playing the enemy force against a battlegroup from 2nd Battalion The Parachute Regiment. This ten-day exercise helped us to develop our defensive and offensive tactics whilst operating against a battlegroup sized enemy. Both platoons took full advantage of the training opportunity, and I am happy to say that the Company performed very well and delivered some extremely challenging training for 2 PARA throughout the exercise.

In October, the first element of The Company began to deploy. However, after multiple aircraft malfunctions it was not until November that the RAF succeeded in getting the whole Company into theatre. The Queen's Company Group, bolstered by a platoon from the Scots Guards, now became the land based quick reaction force and strategic deterrence for the Falklands. The Company quickly began a rotation of QRF, patrols and training, aiming to reassure the local population, develop the defensive plan of the British Forces South Atlantic Islands (BFSAI), and simultaneously conduct range work and training up to Company level. The high point of the deployment was Exercise CAPE BAYONET, where the whole Company was able to conduct joint training with the support of Royal Navy ships and RAF aircraft. This exercise succeeded in both testing The Company and BFSAI's defensive plans allowing The Company to help to develop the BFSAI's future

defensive plans. The Company is looking forward to returning from the Falklands in early 2021 to some well-earned leave, before building on our current training to develop our skills towards the Battalion's tour to Iraq in 2022.

The Queen's Company in the Falklands

by *2nd Lieutenant S J A Tusa and Lieutenant I A Weale 1SG*

Strategic deterrence in the South Atlantic remains an ongoing and important commitment for the Household Division. In October, The Queen's Company Group, backfilled by a Platoon from Left Flank, 1st Battalion Scots Guards, deployed on OP FIRIC, marking the Grenadier Guards' third operational rotation to the Falkland Islands within the calendar year. After a mandatory two weeks' quarantine period, the 26th October saw the successful completion of the hand-over between Major Paddy Rice of the Inkerman Company, and Major James Taylor, The Captain of The Queen's Company, and the beginning of our four month tour.

With the Queen's Company complete in theatre, the Company Group assumed its three-way operational rotation: Providing the quick reaction force to Mount Pleasant Airbase, deploying section-strength patrols across the Islands, and

conducting live fire tactical training progression on Onion Ranges. The rotation provided an excellent opportunity for a wide spectrum of training, from Section Commander led low-level skills and drills – focusing on establishing TTPs, navigation, patrol formations, and operating at night – to more complex Platoon and Company Level tactics building up towards Ex CAPE BAYONET and live firing platoon attacks on Onion Ranges.

For the Scots Guards Platoon, the deployment on OP FIRIC was a sudden but welcome opportunity, and a full platoon of volunteers from Left Flank was quickly found. The dearth in opportunities to deploy overseas over the past year ensured that the platoon deployed with a great deal of enthusiasm. Despite their historic connections to the Falkland Islands the regiment has rarely had the opportunity to deploy en masse. Indeed, the Left Flank platoon was the largest contingent to travel to the Islands since 1982.

With deployments on Op ELGIN, Op CABRIT and Ex DIAMOND BACK imminent, the platoon was able to utilise the training facilities to ensure that they were at a standard fit to deploy in 2021. This involved the entire platoon passing the team medic course as well as conducting intensive marksmanship training. Members of the 1st Battalion Scots Guards' Machine Gun Platoon were also able to provide a comprehensive training package on their specialist weapon systems.

There was also ample opportunity for wildlife tourism and numerous battlefield studies which were enthusiastically led by the Platoon's NCOs.

The most keenly anticipated opportunity for the Scots Guards was undoubtedly the battlefield study of Mt Tumbledown. Unfortunately, due to the coronavirus pandemic we were unable to be joined by the veterans of the 1982 conflict who had been scheduled to guide us around. However, as we approached through the morning mist there was no doubting the incredibly fearsome nature of the mountain. Members of the guns platoon walked the route



Second Lieutenant Tusa, Ex Cape Bayonet - HMS Forth.



LSgt Whybrow cleaning a memorial

carrying full GPMG SF and the difficulty of the assault was not lost on anyone. The tour culminated with a very moving moment where the platoon cleaned and maintained the memorial that lies on the eastern slope of Tumbledown.

The highlight of the tour for the Queen's Company manifested itself in Exercise Cape Bayonet, an

opportunity to join forces with the Royal Navy and Royal Air Force Typhoons as well as the Falkland Islands Defence Force. The exercise began with the Company Group embarking on HMS FORTH to sail for Port San Carlos, then disembarking in rigid-raider landing craft, and forming a beachhead before launching a dawn attack on enemy positions above Port San Carlos. With the challenging terrain and unpredictable weather throughout the exercise, all members of the Company found themselves thoroughly tested in leadership, tactics and the need for high levels of discipline in individual soldiering.

Moreover, this was Summer in the Falklands. We are therefore all the more aware of the enormous challenges that were faced during the Falklands Conflict. From Guardsman upwards, the exercise gave some important context to the battlefield studies that the platoons conducted throughout the

deployment. Another vital aspect of the Falklands Campaign was the robustness required to TAB long distances across difficult terrain. One of The Queen's Company's training objectives throughout the tour was therefore to develop the weight carrying fitness that had not really been tested before deployment because of the UK's coronavirus lockdown. The culmination of this fitness training was a company strength 18-mile TAB through Stanley that also served to reassure the Falklands population. The TAB finished at Government House and was used as an engagement event hosted by Commander British Forces and the Governor of the Falkland Islands.

At the beginning of February 2021, The Company began to recover back to the UK for some well-earned leave. But before flying there was one last opportunity for each guardsman to see penguins and visit Stanley for a beer in the world-famous Globe tavern. The Queen's Company returns to state ceremonial and public duties, while the Scots Guards continue their build up for operations. All ranks of both cap-badges thoroughly enjoyed their time in the Falklands, and the general feeling is that the deployment has left them well prepared for the challenges of the coming year.



Queen's Company on the New Year Raft Race.



No 2 Company

by Major Tom Hendriksen

The start of 2020 saw Number Two Company return to the basics of soldiering, focussing on the Battle Craft Syllabus to secure the foundations needed for the Falkland Islands planned later in the year and Ex ASKARI STORM in 2021. Once the Company had returned from Christmas leave, preparations were being made to go on a basic soldiering exercise, which culminated in an urban package down at Lydd where the Guardsmen were introduced to the new Urban doctrine, a capability the Company focussed on for the remainder of the year.

February and March was a real period of exercising Twice the Man; no sooner were the Company off exercise than back on ceremonial duties. However, it was not all work, there was the opportunity to transition from combat boots to drill boots, via ski boots. The Company was bussed out to France for



Members of Number Two Company clear trenches during Ex CYPHER BAYONET in Brecon.



Number Two Company maximised the use of aviation on Ex CYPHER BAYONET in Brecon, with both Puma and Chinook helicopters on call for insertion, strike ops and extraction.

an exhausting and testing week of adventurous training. The culmination of spring saw the Major General's Inspection where the Company excelled itself.

Enter stage left, COVID-19. The Company's plans, along with the rest of the country, were thrown into turmoil by the outbreak of coronavirus and resulting lockdown. However, after nearly a month dispersed, Number Two Company were called on to contribute to the national effort to combat coronavirus as part of Op RESCRIPT. The Company was swiftly mobilised and deployed the first Mobile Testing Units (MTUs) in London as the Government sought to rapidly expand its testing programme. From April until the end of July, the Company worked tirelessly to support the effort in London, and even deployed emergency MTUs as far afield as Leicester. Even during the pandemic, time was found to conduct a battle camp at Lydd and Hythe. It was a combination of a range package and urban warfare serials, including force on force with the use of simunition rounds; a somewhat painful incentive to ensure individuals low level skills and drills are done correctly.

Summer Leave was the clean break from Op RESCRIPT and MTUs, it also brought a change to the Falkland Islands plans; Number Two Company were removed from the tasking due to COVID-19 restrictions making a 3-way Company rotation unworkable. The consolation prize was more time to train in the UK; a couple of low-level exercises



A platoon commander from Number Two Company working with a JTAC from the Pathfinders as the link between ground troops and Aviation in Brecon.

exceptionally well and endured some less-than pleasurable weather as Storm Alex battered Sennybridge Training Area and we also survived the wettest day on record(!) whilst there.

To dry out and warm up, Number Two Company conducted a week of Autumn Drills to maintain SCPD readiness should the need arise to return to the line, before then deploying back on exercise, this time in support of the Welsh Guards in Otterburn in November. The reports received of the platoon's performances were extremely flattering and testament to all serving in the Company.

The year saw the usual churn of Company Headquarters, WO2 Oliver departed for Nijmegen Company, WO2 Thompson covered a short gap, before WO2 O'Brien took the chair April. Major Will Harries handed over to Major Tom Hendriksen at the start of August and Colour Sergeant Hudson handed over the role of Pay Sergeant to Colour Sergeant Swan in September.

at Platoon level, culminating in a three-week exercise in Brecon (Ex CYPHER BAYONET), facilitated by the Training Wing and facing the Corps of Drums as our enemy in the blank phases. A fantastic package that saw Live Fire Tactical Training up to Live Platoon Attack by Day, then a two-week blank phase that progressed from Platoon level actions up to a Company Attack on Ceilini Village in a Battlegroup Context (Battalion HQ(-) providing an exercising higher HQ). Every member of the Number Two Company performed



A member of Number Two Company clearing an enemy position on a snowy Salisbury Plain on Ex CYPHER WARRIOR.



Support Company

by Major Alex Bayliss

Support Company has had a busy and varied year, not the 'unprecedented' one that the rest of the world seems to have had. It started in the South Atlantic, having spent Christmas and New Year on Op FIRIC, watching the development of the 'Coronavirus' with interest. After a short leave, the Battalion was placed at readiness to assist with the national response to COVID19. From May to July, the focus was Mobile Testing Units; ten-man teams in three vehicles moving to a variety of locations and conducting testing.

MTUs presented an array of challenges, including logistics, interacting with some very unwell people, and developing relations with site managers. The men of the Regiment took this all in their stride. When the nation has a crisis, the Grenadier Guards are called and we deliver. To a man the Company maintained their fitness while away, aided by a virtual competition from Strava and Zoom workouts.

Soon after reforming, the company bid a fond farewell to Company Sergeant Major Lloyd, who has taken over as Drill Sergeant. CSM Lloyd has been at the heart of deployments, training, social events and everything in between. He has been a terrific soldier leading the Company through difficult times. His most noticeable fad was for



Sergeant Elliott, Captain Parkes and Lance Sergeant Truman 'flying the flag' in the Cayman Islands.

'boot run Mondays'. His replacement CSM Lalley – fresh from RMAS – was keen to make his mark with the company by bringing in a new PT regime; Monday morning running.... in boots! *Plus ca change*. In CSM Lalley we have an experienced soldier who will maintain the Company's progress in both scarlet and green soldiering.

Captain Parkes, Sergeant Elliott and Lance Sergeant Truman took part in a training mission to the Cayman Islands, establishing and training a new defence force: three better instructors could not be asked for. All returned with a deep tan but assured us that it was not a holiday. For Captain Parkes it was a swansong before leaving the army and for Sergeant Elliott a last trip before posting to ITC(C) and both will be missed. Captain Ide moves on from Anti-Tanks to 2IC Nijmegen Company, acting as a mentor to both junior Guardsmen and junior officers.

Support Company welcomes Captain Tris Reames to the Mortar Platoon, a bright and keen officer who immediately made his mark on the platoon with a trip to Wales for some hill walking, fishing and team building. Captain Jake Sayers joins the Anti-Tank Platoon from ITC and looks forwards to working on his tank killing concurrent to mastering his fly fishing. Captain Alex Wilson remains the Reconnaissance Platoon Commander, working hard to be the fittest man in the company but competition from Tris is relentless.

The Reconnaissance and Anti-Tanks platoons were attached to 2PARA for their WESSEX STORM beat-up and WESSEX STORM exercise. The praise from the 2PARA Commanding Officer speaks for itself; 'When the men deployed into the field, I couldn't tell the difference between Paratrooper and Guardsman, such was the standard.' High praise for soldiers that had been manning MTUs across the country for the past few months.

Sergeant Shaw and a small team again deployed to the Falkland Islands supporting the Inkerman Company. On top of their usual work as snipers, the team assisted as range safety, adding value where necessary and supporting the wider mission with battlefield studies to



Lance Sergeant Truman providing some concise direction during the drill phase of the course, Cayman Islands STTT.

Falklands War sites and interest lessons with the Royal Navy. By the time they returned, they had spent over six months in the South Atlantic.

In August the time came to bid farewell to the Company Commander, Ben Conway. Ben commissioned into The Queen's Company and had a terrific run with the Battalion, the 'highlight'

being his deployment on Op FIRIC as Company Commander. During the first lockdown he was seconded to the NHS to support the national response. He enjoyed this time, but the experience reinforced his decision that office life is rather too dull for him. He has left the army to pursue a career in agriculture and judging by his skill at digging in, he will be well suited to making his living from the land. He left the company in excellent shape after a challenging year.

He was replaced by Major Alex Bayliss. Major Bayliss comes from Army HQ, where he had a fantastic two years developing the next generation of battle winning weapons and technology. He was also pulled into the Defence response to a 'no deal' Brexit in 2019. Major Bayliss deployed on Herrick 11 in 2009 and on Herrick 16 as the Intelligence Officer, in 2012. He commanded Nijmegen Company from 2016/18. With a schedule set to include Company cadres, a summer of public duties, trips to Kenya and Thailand, the resubordination of the Machine Gun Platoon to the Company and a tour to Iraq in 2022, the next two years make Support Company the best place to be in the Grenadier Guards.



Lance Sergeant Truman and his Section, Cayman Islands Short Term Training Team.



The Inkerman Company

by Major Patrick Rice

2020 began with the Ribs deploying to Cornwall to conduct two weeks Battle Craft Syllabus training, the first step in our progression towards deploying to the Falkland Islands later in the year. Based in RAF St Mawgan and making use of Bodmin Moor training area, these two weeks proved ideal preparation for the South Atlantic, with both the weather and the terrain closely resembling what was to come.

Our return from Cornwall saw the Company continue to man Public Duties in London and Windsor, with the much-anticipated skiing trip to Val Thorens providing a welcome interlude to the ceremonial forecast. No sooner had we returned from skiing, we found ourselves back on the square in Lille Barracks conducting Spring Drills and preparing for the Major General's Inspection. As media attention increasingly focussed on Covid-19 and the impending lockdown, focus began to switch to how we would work and train remotely if required. Almost immediately on completion of

Spring Drills, orders came through for the Battalion to disperse, with Companies and Platoons enacting hastily designed training programmes. Along with the rest of the country, we sought to make the most of 21st Century connectivity, grappling with Zoom calls, Strava competitions, Defence Connect, online presentations and the multitude of other modern means of interacting.

However, it was with notable relief that after a month dispersed the Company and Battalion were recalled to prepare for the delivery of Mobile Testing Units (MTUs) in and around London. Despite new working practices, face masks and social distancing, there was a clear sense of anticipation being back in work and about to be at the leading edge of the national response to Covid-19. Most had quickly learned that soldiering remotely and online is particularly difficult, and the camaraderie and sense of purpose was palpable. The detail of MTU delivery is covered elsewhere, but needless to say the Ribs quickly got into their stride, working long hours in the leisure centres, council offices and car parks of the capital, and covering an area stretching from Twickenham to Romford, and Croydon to Enfield, all whilst commuting daily from Aldershot.

Having spent most of April and May as MTUs, the Ribs were fortunate to have our Falkland Islands deployment to focus on, meaning a release



12 Platoon rehearse casualty evacuation in Cornwall.



Delivery of Covid-19 testing, London.

from testing duties and a return to soldiering to complete the required pre-deployment package. This culminated in the Battalion Live Firing Battle Camp at Lydd and Hythe ranges in late June, where 10 Platoon won the best overall Platoon in the Battalion.

Following a staggered pre-deployment leave window, the Company departed for the South Atlantic in four waves to align with the various quarantine facilities (either two weeks prior to flying at the Defence Academy in Shrivenham, or two weeks on arrival). Nearly a month later, we reconvened in Mount Pleasant Complex, thankfully able to largely forget Covid-19 for the duration of our deployment due to the stringent measures in place keeping the Falkland Islands infection free. Whilst the deployment is detailed in a separate article by Lt Will Martin, our tenure as the Roulement Infantry Company was certainly the highlight of the year,

not least due to the unique training experience of working alongside the other services and the independence for junior commanders to design and deliver their own training.

The great disappointment of the year was the cancellation of all possible social events, and in particular the chance to suitably celebrate the 60th anniversary of The Inkerman Company – we can only hope that 2021 may provide an opportunity for a delayed event or two.

If there was one element of consistency to 2020 it was the Company ORBAT, with surprisingly few changes in personnel – the Company Commander, Second in Command and Company Sergeant Major remain in post into 2021, and all three Pl Comds were with the Company throughout the year. Colour Sergeant (CQMS) Smith has taken over from Colour Sergeant Hepburn, whilst Lance Sergeants Blakeney, Ogden and Wells were promoted and took over as Pl Sergeants at the beginning of the year, replacing Sergeants Davison, Langridge, and Wilson. 2020 proved a good year for junior promotions, with nine Guardsmen passing the JNCO cadre at HDPRCC either side of the Falklands deployment, with more scheduled to attend in early 2021. This development in junior leadership bodes well for the future of the Ribs, as we look towards Kenya in late 2021 followed by the Battalion's tour to Iraq in 2022.



Live firing on Hythe ranges.

The Ribs in the Falkland Islands

by *Lieutenant Will Martin*

(QRF). This role, although straightforward in terms of manning the Operations Room and reacting to any one of the rehearsed responses to predicted threats, also provided a welcome opportunity for the platoons to conduct low-level training. Good concurrent use was made of the DCCT, 25m Barrack Range



The Inkerman Company Group, Mount Pleasant Complex.

At the height of the British summer, The Inkerman Company deployed to a South Atlantic winter for a four-month tour. Following a bleak two-week quarantine period in Mount Pleasant Complex's (MPC) finest portacabins, the Ribs emerged eager to get stuck into whatever British Forces South Atlantic Islands had in store for them. Having conducted Covid testing throughout London earlier in the year and grown accustomed to face covering and social distancing, the world we now found ourselves in seemed positively alien, reminiscent of somewhere we once knew, but unable to put our fingers on quite when.

Due to the Falkland Island's quick response to the pandemic by shutting its borders and enforcing a blanket two-week quarantine on arrival for civilians and military alike, the Islands had managed to rid themselves of Covid in its entirety, and as such we could conduct ourselves as if the pandemic were nothing more than a bad dream. So once the full Company group was established, after taking over from A Company 1 RIFLES, we set about coming to grips with our primary function, namely to provide the infantry element of the Quick Reaction Force

and Urban CQB facility within camp. It also gave commanders valuable time and resources to plan more complex and adventurous aspects of the role. With a three-way weekly rotation of roles involving QRF, patrols and exercise, Platoon Headquarters and Section Commanders pored over maps and patrol records to get out into the wilderness.

While on QRF, 12 Platoon conducted a series of evening training sessions with the Falkland Islands Defence Force, a reserve force of locals who were eager to learn as much as possible from the Non-Commissioned Officers who would head down to Stanley to run through section attacks with them. The tour provided many opportunities for the Ribs to interact with various units, sharing knowledge, TTPs and experience. 10 Platoon headquarters visited MPC's Rapier Air Defence sites to assess and advise on their ground defence plans, while their Sections conducted a capabilities afternoon for a variety of MPC personnel including pilots, Gunners and Naval personal giving them hands on experience with the wide variety of individual weapon systems. Such interactions and relationships proved productive, with reciprocal visits to the flight line of

the Typhoon squadron, the A400 transport aircraft providing insertion for 12 Pl onto their final test exercise, and several patrols boarding HMS Forth, the Royal Navy's patrol vessel. Captain Tracey's weekly pistol ranges on rotation for the various departments at MPC also proved hugely successful in building relationships at all levels.

Following a stint on QRF, and with side pouches stuffed with NAAFI stock, the Platoons would then typically deploy on patrols to remote parts of the Islands. These patrols varied in size, with Section strength being the norm, but in 12 Platoon's case, a Platoon-level patrol deployed. This one-off patrol was rumoured to be as much a chance for the 12 Platoon Commander to get in some of the much-talked about Falklands fly fishing, as it was for any increased output at Platoon strength! Nonetheless these patrols led by Section Commanders and their 2ICs were widely seen as the highlight of the deployment, with a level of mission command and Section independence rarely possible during routine training in the UK. The locations visited by patrols, almost without exception too remote to insert by vehicle and thus requiring helicopter lifts, included Johnson's Harbour, Cape Dolphin, Teel Inlet, Fitzroy, Walker Creek, Pebble Island and Weddell Island. As mentioned earlier, several patrols boarded HMS Forth, landing at Fox Bay on West Falkland and supporting naval patrols in the 'Blue Hole' fishing region North of the Falklands Archipelago. A rare opportunity came for three of the Company to go aboard HMS Forth for its patrol to South Georgia, the resting place of Ernest Shackleton and the location of the first tactical actions of the 1982



Ribs in RIBs! Joint training with HMS FORTH, South Atlantic.

Conflict. The purpose of patrols varied by location and week, with some focussing on military training objectives (such as receiving possible landing sites or training areas), some to show presence on parts of the Falklands rarely visited by British Forces, and

others to stay with and help the landowners with various manual tasks that would take them weeks if not months to complete on their own. This was generally done in exchange for shelter and quite often hearty meals with the farmers and their families. Many of the hosts have vivid memories of the 1982 conflict and feel hugely grateful for the continued presence of the British Armed Forces on the Islands. Without fail on the patrols' return, Platoon Commanders would receive emails of gratitude and compliment for the way the Sections conducted themselves and 'flew the flag' for the Company, the Regiment, and the British Army as a whole. The importance of such activities and the relationships built cannot be overstated.



10 Platoon debrief after a morning of section attacks, Onion Ranges.

Once defrosted after patrolling in unrelenting South Atlantic weather, the platoons would deploy to the legendary Onion Ranges with their fabled '360 Arcs' for a week of Platoon-level training. Although the absence of a QMSI mean that all Live Fire Tactical Training (LFTT) was temporarily suspended, the Company quickly set about adjusting programmes and focussing on blank firing, establishing a progressive package culminating in a Platoon-level FTX. These weeks of training, designed and executed at Platoon level, proved invaluable in building up low-level skills from individual to Section and Platoon actions at day and night. Living and exercising out of Onion Range Camp enabled training to be conducted in harsh

terrain and challenging weather conditions during the day and often after dark, but allowed everyone to return to well-prepared hot meals, showers and a bed for the night. The issues of slow-go peat bogs and kilometres-wide no-go boulder fields, lack of cover from view and fire, and the interminable Antarctic winds were all additional factors to be factored into planning and overcome.



Orders in preparation for a dawn attack, Onion Ranges.

The culmination of such training came in the form Ex BEARSKIN BAYONET or Ex CERTAIN DEATH as Lt Bennett, the Second in Command and exercise architect insisted on calling it to anyone in earshot. Conducted at a fast tempo and rapid orders cycles reminiscent of Brecon promotion courses, the exercise proved a shock to the system for the more junior members of the Company, and a good shake out for commanders. Held over four days, with a day-long advance to contact, several deliberate attacks, an ambush and many miles of careful patrolling, a complex night-time deliberate attack signalled the end of the FTX. Only 18 miles of undulating, icy tracks stood between the Platoons and the hot showers and NAAFI awaiting them at the MPC as they hauled their weary bodies and sodden kit through the icy, hail and snow-filled head winds. Major Rice and WO2 (CSM) Mann completed all three 18 milers, no mean feat and very much showing the rest of the Company the standard expected.

To everyone's delight the news came through that LFTT would be back on the week after FTX. The Company's training wing had created a progressive live-fire package covering individual CQB, fireteam, Section and Platoon attacks at day and night, employing a weapon mix that included heavy machine

gun, UGL and NLAW. Onion Range certainly proved to be the truly unique training area we had all heard about before deploying. The only drawback was an unseasonal dry spell of weather which followed the snow and ice from July to September; no sooner had we started to employ tracer and pyrotechnics, the dry grass and high winds meant fires began spreading with unbelievable ease.



"STOP!" – The obligatory ENDEX photo.

As each Platoon completed their live fire package, they rotated through a short rest and recuperation package around the Islands, before handing over to The Queen's Company. The Platoons and attached HQ elements conducted independent battlefield studies of Darwin and Goose Green, Mount Tumbledown, Mount Longdon and Wireless Ridge, with remembrance services and wreaths laid at the Welsh Guards memorial at Fitzroy by 11 Platoon, and the Scots Guards memorial on Tumbledown by 10 Platoon and Company HQ. 10 and 12 Platoons visited the wildlife hotspot of Bertha's beach for the mandatory penguin photos and the equally mandatory submersion in the South Atlantic.

As the tour wound down, the Platoons and HQ elements arranged respite welfare trips into the bright lights of Stanley for a meal and a few pints of the local ale, 'Longdon Pride', soaking up the atmosphere of a pub not hindered by groups of six, the need for a 'substantial meal', or only serving take-away pints. These evenings served as a perfect opportunity to reflect on the previous four months and all that the Company had achieved. The friendships formed, sights seen, and progress made in all aspects of soldiering were apparent for all, and with the familiar faces of The Queen's Company arriving to relieve us, the Company departed the Falkland Islands proud of all it had accomplished, looking forward to a period of hard-earned leave.



Nijmegen Company

Wellington Barracks, London

by *Lieutenant Mark Osmond*

2020 has proved to be less spectacularly different for all ranks of Nijmegen Company than it has for others around the World and in the wider Army. The Company continues to function as a 'phase three' establishment for young soldiers fresh from Catterick, moulding Guardsmen into *Grenadiers*. Guardsmen continue to be taught regimental customs and experience State Ceremonial duties and demanding field exercises where possible. Such are the numbers that the Regiment has seen come through its doors in 2020 that soldiers have been spending as little as five months in London before moving to Battalion, with those spending just months in Nijmegen Company considered as the 'senior' Guardsmen. Only one Guardsmen out of



Lt Sean Marren and Sergeant Coulbert oversee a festive Christmas Lunch at the Tower of London.

72 has conducted a full Ceremonial Queen's Guard.

From November 2019 to February 2020 a platoon led by Lt Mark Osmond and Sergeant Haynes was deployed with Support Company on Op FIRIC. The Falklands offered the opportunity for junior Guardsmen to spend time with senior soldiers in Support Company, an extended operational tour abroad, and some demanding training with exposure to Support weapons roles. The remainder of the Company deployed at the end of January for final exercise and some robust live ranges; all great experience for young soldiers who had spent little time away from SW1 in the preceding months. Highlights included tactical deployment by helicopter, a familiarisation visit to HMS Forth and a battlefield study on Mount Tumbledown.

On return to the UK in February, the Major General's Inspection was to be one of the last conventional ceremonial undertakings of the year before lockdown. Ceremonial mounts were swiftly set aside so as to avoid drawing crowds, however, sentries have been posted as normal at all Queen's Guard locations. Throughout the year the Ceremony of the Keys has continued in time-honoured tradition. Admission to Royal Palaces has fluctuated throughout the period. Nevertheless, the Guardsmen have continued to uphold the most excellent of standards at all times, receiving recognition from the Brigade Major and Garrison Sergeant Major, and even Royal Credits at Windsor Castle. At the time of writing the Company is into its' 11th month of week-long Guards, with the Incremental Companies being the only Household Division units to man Guards since February last year.

The Company's Brecon summer exercise gave a welcome break from ceremonial duties in London. Organised by the outgoing contingent of Major Charlie Williams, second-in-command Captain Rufus Harding, Lts Tristram Reames, Mark Osmond and Sam MacDonald-Smith, it gave new officers Lts Sean Marren and Alex Fetherston-Godley the perfect environment in which to get to know their platoons and test low level skills. The Brecon exercise involved a week of basic navigation, Battlefield Casualty Drills, Counter-IED, comms and CBRN lessons. This was capped off by a 25 mile patrol competition and circumnavigation of



Nijmegen Company and attachments on completion of their company attack while on exercise in the Falkland Islands.

Sennybridge training area, for which the winning platoon all received Suunto watches. All Guardsmen in the Company completed the competition in less than 10 hours, an exacting test of robustness. The second week of exercise was spent on the ranges qualifying Guardsmen on Annual Combat Marksmanship Tests on rifle, pistol and GPMG and re-familiarising them with live attacks up to fireteam level. The Company was unusually fortunate with the weather on the training area.

After time on leave in August the Company returned to London, welcoming Major Tom Hargreaves and Captain Fred Ide to Company Headquarters, and continuing the three-week rotation of Guards. Duties have required the full manpower at the Company's disposal, leaving only a small reserve behind at Wellington Barracks each week. Whilst on Tower of London Guard 5 Platoon raised £1500 for the Defence Medical Rehabilitation Centre (DMRC) benevolent fund by running four miles every four hours, for 48 hours and latterly just under £1000 for the Royal British Legion by

each member of the platoon running 10 kilometres every day for the duration of a week-long Windsor Castle Guard. All members of the Platoon agreed that the Great Park made for better running than the cobbles and moat at the Tower.

In mid-September the Company spent further time on the ranges at Sandhurst and Pirbright honing marksmanship skills and becoming more comfortable handling the rifle, pistol and GPMG. Marksmanship was complemented by background lessons on harbours, an introduction to tracking and the use of casualty and contact reports. Training serves to maintain the Company's Main Effort maintaining the fundamental principles of 'Shoot, Move, Communicate' in the Field.

Before the November lockdown the Company conducted Guards of Honour for the Commander-in-Chief of the Lebanese Armed Forces and the Minister of Defence for Ukraine, on Horse Guards, two days apart. The Company Commander did a crash course in Ukrainian in order to state the Guard, and Company Sergeant Major Oliver re-



Lt Alex Fetherston-Godley (L) encourages his patrol as they reach the top of Pathfinder Hill in Sennybridge.

wrote the precis to create a socially-distanced format for Guards of Honour. Both parades were carried off in immaculate fashion and the Company was commended for its excellence on the Parade Square by the Major General and Brigade Major. This was all the more impressive since for many Guardsmen it was their first experience of marching to music, their pass-out parades at Catterick having been cancelled or simplified.

A fully planned December exercise had to be cancelled at the last minute due to restrictions imposed by the pandemic, which was a disappointing opportunity missed to work in a winter-Brecon environment. Subsequently, manning the Christmas Queen's Guard, all agreed that if 'there was a Christmas at home to miss, the COVID Christmas one was probably that'. As one would expect the Company made the most of their time on Guard, conducting fieldcraft lessons, quizzes, and competitions to lift the spirits. In keeping with Christmas tradition, the

Company received three welcomed, distanced visits from the Commanding Officer and Sergeant Major, Regimental Lieutenant Colonel, and Major General. In addition, each guardroom was treated with a hamper from London District, and each Guardsman and Lance Corporal received a present under the Christmas Tree from The Regimental Association, and particularly generous libations from the London Branch of the Association which will keep the Company well-oiled into the New Year. Those on Windsor Guard were

surprised with a Christmas Eve delivery of cookies, brownies, and cake from the Colonel, which may or may not have seen the light of Christmas Day.

Nijmegen Company looks forward to dusting off its green kit and joining The 1st Battalion as a Rifle Company on their January battle camp on Salisbury Plain.



Major Tom Hargreaves escorts the Minister of Defence for Ukraine, His Excellency Serjii Taran during Nijmegen Company's Guards of Honour.



14th Company

Infantry Training Centre,
Catterick

by *Lieutenant T I W Sinclair,*
Guards 20 Platoon Commander

Amidst the current climate of uncertainty caused by the global pandemic, Guards Company and the wider Infantry Training Centre at Catterick provides a reassuring sense of continuity. Although COVID-19 has posed significant challenges, the Company, under the new leadership of Major D Morrell (Coldstream Guards) has worked tirelessly to ensure that training is the last element to be compromised.

The requirement to enforce new COVID policy amongst the recruits naturally falls to the Training Teams who have all worked assiduously to keep infection rates low through social distancing and other control measures whilst continuing to deliver world-class training serials.

Another disappointment has been constricting recruits to camp except for vital training such as exercising and range days. The ‘perks’ within the training programme which include Adventure Training in the Lake District, the London Visit and attendees for Passing Out Parades have sadly all been suspended. All, in different ways, offer a refreshing break for both recruit and instructor from the rigorous of infantry training. In particular, the value of the London Visit to introduce recruits to the

unique culture and traditions of the Household Division should not be underestimated. With any luck, restrictions will allow recruits to visit rehearsals leading up to this summer’s Queen’s Birthday Parade, a more than adequate substitute.

Although the global pandemic has caused immense disruption, the opportunities it has also afforded the ITC, should not be ignored. The surge in Army-wide recruitment, partially as a result of a more conspicuous military presence on the national stage through Op RESCRIPT, manifests into ten well-manned Guards Platoons. Additionally, the period of lockdown in the Spring of 2020



Platoon Sergeants: Sergeant A Hendy, Sergeant M Beasley, Sergeant R Elliot.



Section Commanders: Lance Sergeant J Hubbard, Lance Sergeant J Hewson, Lance Sergeant J Dexter, LSgt Lance Sergeant G Wint, Lance Sergeant J Blatchely, Lance Sergeant H Aspinshaw, Lance Sergeant J Williams, Lance Sergeant S Kelly.

offered opportunities to develop creative ways of delivering training virtually which continue to be implemented today.

Plans are also afoot to implement the new Combat Infantryman's Course 21 (CIC21), the newest revision of the training programme. This new package has been informed by the experiences of Training Teams to ensure that improvements are made with the recommendation from the instructors. Amendments include combining the Patrols and Urban training packages to form an extended and more cohesive Offensive exercise and including more extensive training on both the Sharpshooter and Pistol. This informs the constant development of training at the ITC to ensure our Guardsman all pass out with the most relevant

skills to meet the challenge of the evolving Field Army.

Although activity beyond normal jogging has been limited, LSgt Williams successful completion of Senior Brecon and Sgt Hendy's recent charity success completing the 4-4-48 running challenge are both noteworthy.

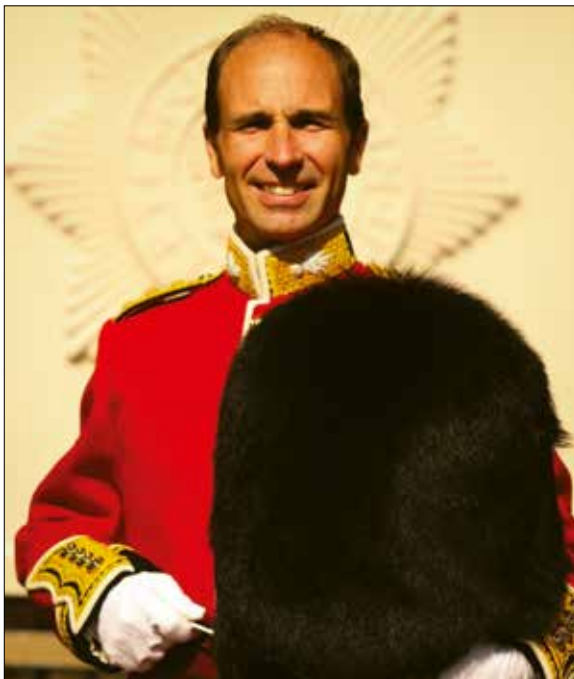
Upon leaving camp after a day's training, it is striking how 'normal' life is at the Infantry Training Centre in comparison to existence beyond the wire. Despite the wider context of a country defined by COVID-19, Guards Company's ability to supply regiments of the Household Division with new Guardsmen readily equipped to join their Battalions continuous with relentless pace and enthusiasm.



Band of the Grenadier Guards – A Year in Review

by Lance Corporal Jack Pearson,
Band of the Grenadier Guards

For the first time in history, three individuals whose military careers within the British Army started out in the Regimental Band, are currently leading the musical direction of the band. Captain Ben Mason returns to the very place where he started his own career in military music in 1994 as a newly trained musician. After an accomplished career, which has seen him rise through the ranks, including a successful tenure as the Regimental Adjutant, Household Division Bands, Captain Mason assigned to take up the Baton and is looking forward to developing the output of the Regimental Band. The story of his progression puts truth to the immortal words “*Once a Grenadier always a Grenadier*”.



New Director of Music, Captain Ben Mason.

In April 2020 the band bade a fond farewell to Lieutenant Colonel Michael Smith who has moved on from the band on promotion after a very successful tenure. His last stint as Director of Music was his third time of being a part of the Regimental Band, his first being as a Bandmaster before coming back as a Director of Music in both 2011 and 2017. During his last assignment to the band, he oversaw the rise in stature of the band to its rightful place as the first and finest band in the British Army. During his appointment he had the honour of organising and arranging most of the music performed for the Queen’s Birthday Parade 2019, which saw the 1st Battalion Grenadier Guards troop their colour. He also enjoyed successful musical tours of Spain, Belgium and Japan during his last year with the band. The band members were sad to say goodbye as he moves on to fulfil his new role as Commanding Officer, Regional Bands of the British Army, but equally happy to welcome Captain Mason into the prestigious position of Director of Music of the Band of the Grenadier Guards.

Although we have welcomed the new Director to the hierarchy of the band, Warrant Officer Class Two, Bandmaster Mattias Andersson has capably



The Director of Music as a Musician in the Band in 1994.



Previous Director of Music Lieutenant Colonel Michael Smith conducting the band.

One project that was achieved in September was a recording of a new selection of music. These tracks were subsequently released to the public for free download on The Household Division website. The music featured a selection of works, including a new composition entitled 'Saint Sebastian'. This was composed by Captain Mason and named after the Guild of St Sebastian where the Grenadier Guards Regiment was formed back in 1656. Due to social distancing measures, the recording and preceding rehearsals were undertaken in the delightful surroundings of The Royal Military Chapel

bridged the gap between the two Directors alongside Warrant Officer Class Two, Band Sergeant Major David Buckles who has been a stalwart figure in the recent history of the Regimental Band. The new addition of Captain Mason completes a hieratical trifecta who all started their military music careers within the British Army in the Band of the Grenadier Guards.

The past year has been a difficult one for many and has seen a disrupted delivery to the usual duties the band performs and an unusual start for the Director of Music's tenure in command. As a result of this, the band deployed on Op RESCRIPT to carry out tasks as part of Mobile Testing Units in and around the London area. This new operational role saw musicians facilitate the testing of between 150 and 300 tests a day. After undergoing training at Lille Barracks, Aldershot, Musicians worked alongside personnel from 1st Battalion Grenadier Guards throughout their deployment. Whilst away from the day-to-day tasks of making music, this was a rewarding time for the band and exemplified the agility and professionalism of the musicians.

(The Guards' Chapel).

Please visit this website to access the music from all Household Division Bands, including the Regimental Band: <https://www.householddivision.org.uk/ggbmusic>



Musn Rouse in PPE ready for duty as part of a Mobile Testing Unit.



The Director of Music during the recording in the Guards Chapel.

On 10 October 2020 it was the 50th Anniversary of Fijian Independence from British Colonial rule, also known as Fiji Day. The band was honoured to participate in such an event to deliver musical support to mark the occasion within the iconic surroundings of the Tower of London.

The British Army's Fijian Male Voice Choir was accompanied by the band in a rendition of the Fijian National Anthem. This was broadcast in Fiji and featured on a variety of social media platforms. It was a fitting tribute to all Fijian nationals, past and present, who have served in the British Army.

To assist with the constraints of social distancing measures throughout the year, the band has been kindly facilitated on several occasions at Lille Barracks, Aldershot by 1st Battalion Grenadier Guards. During these occasions the band was put through its paces in elements of marching band and full band rehearsals. The band's close links with the 1st Battalion enabled us to carry out vital training to maintain a high level of performance, especially for the intermittent high-profile engagements such the 100th anniversary of the burial of the Unknown Warrior at Westminster Abbey (see separate article).

Although the Regimental Band has been through an uncertain year, which has provided many new challenges, the band is looking forward to the tasks that this year will bring, including the resumption of normal duties for opportunities to showcase excellence in military music to the world.



The Regimental Band and the British Army Fijian Choir at The Tower of London.



A View from the Academy

*By Captain
Christopher Pollard
Adjutant, New College*

For all the varied careers that one could experience as an officer in the Grenadier Guards, or the Foot Guards more widely, there remain a few common ‘touchpoints’ which serve as universal experiences we can all understand and bond over. One will almost certainly spend more weeks than one might like in Brecon, and perhaps more weekends than one should at 127 Piccadilly. Time spent on Queen’s Guard or Windsor Guard further helps to cement a sense of commonality among serving and retired officers; but for a change of names (and perhaps fewer titles in the present day), tales of exploits or excellent suppers while on guard could as easily have taken place in the 1920s as the 2020s.

Above all, the Regular Commissioning Course serves as the universal litmus test for all Direct

Entry officers, not just those joining the Regiment. That we have all passed through its gates and marched up its steps at some point in our lives marks the start of respective journeys that make us truly ‘brother officers’. Our Late Entry officers are also trained here, on the Late Entry Officers’ Course (LEOC) in Faraday Hall. It is appropriate therefore to offer a view from the Academy today; to update all readers on changes, as well as reassure that the standard we expect from our junior officers joining the Regiment remains unchanged.

The Regular Commissioning Course remains a 44-week period of training, broken down into three terms. The Junior Term is focussed around basic soldiering skills and developing an understanding of Army life, including the dreaded ‘Weeks 1-5’. Traditionalists may be appalled to learn that the severity of this transition from civilian to military life is likely much diminished from what they experienced: change parades and preparing rooms and kit for inspection into the early hours has been replaced by an increased focus on rest and mental resilience, to ensure increased ability to engage with training. Exercise LONG REACH will likely be familiar to all, such is its enduring status as an



unchanged rite of passage for officer cadets. The Intermediate and Senior Terms expand on the base level of soldiering ability to focus on broader 'officership': leadership and management skills that junior officers require to command our soldiers.

COVID-19 has run a significant line through many of the serials in the training programme, to the extent that many who commissioned even a few years ago would not recognise the course. Military training can continue as 'essential work', but many of the other facets of the course – sport, dinners, balls, and even just leaving the Academy at weekends – have been lost due to the strict adherence to social distancing and Government regulations. Despite the challenges and impact on training, those joining the Regiment during these times will do so having endured many of the leadership and mental challenges that they will face commanding guardsmen once commissioned; their experiences here should serve to give them empathy when enforcing Government restrictions on their own soldiers.

The Regiment continues to enjoy a steady flow of quality officer cadets expressing interest in commissioning into the Grenadier Guards; thanks in large part to the work of Capt Jonny Palmer-Tomkinson the Temporary Equerry, who does an excellent job of vetting and supporting our potential officers. OCdt Alexander Villiers-Smith will commission in April to join the 1st Battalion later this year, and the Regiment has more than enough interest to fill its remaining spaces. The quality of the output from the Academy is directly related to the quality of the input, and the work of Jonny and the wider Regimental Headquarters in resourcing the best talent for the Regiment is clear to see in those passing through.

The benefits and impact of the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst are not just felt in the Officers' Mess; the Foot Guards are perhaps uniquely privileged by the significant number of our Warrant Officers and Senior Non-Commissioned Officers selected to serve here as instructors and Company Sergeant Majors. The result is not only quality tuition for all officer cadets, particularly in the fields of bearing and drill as one would expect; the benefits of this relationship are subsequently felt in the 1st Battalion and Nijmegen Company as well.

The enhanced understanding and empathy derived from working with officer cadets gives our most senior soldiers greater understanding when dealing with junior officers. I have always felt that the consistent quality of our Late Entry Officers, and unique relationship they enjoy with our Ensigns and Subalterns in the Officers' Mess is in large part thanks to the fact so many of them will have served at the Academy at one point or another.

The current crop of Grenadier Guards instructors are real quality, and names that will be instantly familiar to those both still serving and recently departed from the Regiment. Company Sergeant Major Richard Archer is the Company Sergeant Major of Dettingen Company, responsible for delivery of the Commissioning Course Short (the TA course in old money). CSgt Kieran Dunk is currently in the Intermediate Term with a platoon he has taken through from Junior Term, and is thriving despite the pressures on the training programme. CSgt Dan Langridge has been working out of the Dismounted Close Combat Wing (DCCW) instructing the Junior Term on weapon handling and tactics, a role well-suited to his significant experience and ability.

Looking ahead, CSgt Anwar Pitters and CSgt Simon Dent were both successful on the latest Cadre and will become the latest Grenadier Guards CSgt instructors here in due course. Capt Oliver Staunton will also take over as a Platoon Commander in September, leaving only the Academy Adjutant position preventing the Regiment achieving the trifecta of all three Foot Guards officers' posts within the Academy (it remains with the Welsh Guards).

The future is bright therefore, both in terms of officer recruitment and the quality of our next generation of Platoon Commanders, and the experience of our instructors and the excellent advertisement and example for the Regiment they represent. Despite COVID-19 restrictions and broader changes in the Army and society, readers would still recognise much of their own experiences at the Academy in those of the junior officers coming through currently; one has no doubt that they will happily regale you with tales about 'this one time at Sandhurst' without too much encouragement at the next Black Sunday or First Guards' Club.



Letter from the Ironmongers

by *Dr Iain Reid*

Given that the Worshipful Company of Ironmongers and the Grenadier Guards have a combined history of nearly a thousand years, it comes as a surprise that their affiliation should be so recent: 2013, a mere eight years. However, despite this short-lived association, it is already proving to be a mutually rewarding connection between these two ancient organisations.

There are one hundred and ten Livery Companies in the City of London but the Ironmongers are, like the Regiment, part of an elite and ancient group known as the 'Great Twelve'; tracing their history back to 20th March 1463 when the Company's Charter of Incorporation was sealed by King Edward IV. The Livery companies' traditional role was to supervise the training of apprentices and to ensure the quality of products associated with their trade and, as the name suggests, the Ironmongers were early "quality controllers" for all iron materials traded in the City; their original name

was the Ferroners, from the Latin word for iron. The Ironmongers took a leading role in the City in the 17th and 18th centuries, providing Aldermen and Lord Mayors, participating in pageants (such as the Lord Mayor's Show) and supplying funds and manpower for various wars. However, while the Company remained in London, the iron trade moved from southern England to the north where iron ore was more readily available.

So who are today's three hundred and fifty Ironmongers? Some have joined because they work in London and want to participate in the City of London's ancient traditions. Some join for social or sporting reasons; the Company actively participates in shooting, skiing, sailing and golf fixtures. Some assist with the philanthropic work of the Company which is now its main function. Thanks to legacies left by 18th century benefactors and subsequent donations, the Company is able to support a number of charitable activities: it maintains two homes for the elderly; supports a number of primary schools across England; champions schools projects, especially those in the Midlands and the North, which encourage children to study science; provides grants to university materials science departments; provides scholarships for the study



Grenadier Guards from Nijmegen Company with members of the Ironmongers' Company.



Dr Iain Reid with members of the Corps of Drums at the High Commission.

of metal sciences and apprenticeships; and lastly funds for the conservation of historic ironwork or the creation of new decorative iron or steel work. Perhaps of most significance to the Regiment is the annual grant made each year in support of the Colonel's Fund.

Over the last eight years, there has been growing contact between the Company and the Regiment. Since the affiliation, an increasing number of Grenadiers have joined the Company, the First Guards Club have dined at Ironmongers Hall on many occasions and, in 2015, ten Ironmongers visited the 1st Battalion in Kenya. In 2017, the Battalion hosted a visit by the Company to Aldershot, and in 2018 the Ironmongers hosted a families' lunch for fifty wives and children while the Battalion was deployed overseas.

In 2019, two Ironmongers were invited to visit the 1st Battalion in Belize for a week and, having navigated around a threatened strike by BA pilots and the unpredictable progress of Hurricane Dorian, were hosted wonderfully with a programme arranged by the Commanding Officer. This combined visits to the all the companies engaged in jungle training, some sightseeing and an invitation to a reception at the British High Commission. As both Ironmongers had some military experience (one a Grenadier and one HAC) they took a keen interest in the training. They were, however, very grateful

to be given the full VIP treatment and, while the Regiment slept in poncho-covered hammocks, they were provided with a tent and camp beds.

Both returned from Belize impressed with the unchanging standards of excellence and proficiency of the Regiment's warrant and non-commissioned officers, the maturity of the junior officers (who being graduates, were so much more mature than the nineteen or twenty-year-old subalterns of the '60s and '70s) and, not least, the motivation and enthusiasm of the individual Guardsmen.

Since then, until the pandemic intervened, liaison between Hadley Newman of the Ironmongers and Captain Ide of Nijmegen Company has led to several new opportunities to build on the relationship. In December 2019 and January 2020, two parties of Ironmongers watched Guard Mounting in the Forecourt and were then escorted to St James's Palace for refreshments and an introduction to Regimental history.

In return, the Ironmongers arranged an evening for the Guardsmen of Nijmegen Company. After a talk about the City of London, the Guardsmen dined in the Banqueting Hall and afterwards the Master (John Biles TD) spoke about Ironmongers' history, the Company as it is today and the importance of its affiliation with the Regiment.

Sadly, the pandemic has meant a suspension of these events, but it is hoped that soon the easing of restrictions will reactivate this mutually worthwhile affiliation.



Ironmongers ready for action!

Until then, the Ironmongers will always welcome enquiries about membership so please contact the Clerk, Colonel C P H Knaggs OBE, who will be well known some Grenadiers because he commanded Support Company in Ballykinlar in the early 90's.



Canadian Grenadier Guards

by Major Brian B. Tracey,
MMM, CD (Retired)

The COVID-19 pandemic has meant challenges and restrictions imposed on all Reserve Units by the Army as well as federal and provincial health officials. Despite these difficulties, the Canadian Grenadier Guards (CGG) continued to run training within the mandatory safety parameters. Here are some examples of the field and individual training undertaken by the Regiment since the beginning of the Fall 2020 training cycle.



Weapons training was conducted on the ranges in Canadian Forces Base Valcartier to enable individual Guardsmen to qualify on a variety of weapons. The main effort was directed on their individual weapon, the C7 rifle, for both day and night shooting. We took the opportunity for participants also to become familiar with the 9mm pistol, the C9A2 LMG (the infantry section support weapon), and the 84mm Carl Gustav ATW

One of the individual instruction tasks assigned to the Regiment was the organization and running of the Infantry Basic Machine Gun Course for 34 Brigade Group, the Reserve formation to which the unit belongs. This course is a critical step in the training of infantry soldiers as it is a prerequisite for progression in their trade. Over five weekends, troops learnt to operate and fire the C6 Medium Machine Gun, the main platoon support weapon. Twenty-two candidates from the Infantry Regiments of 34 Brigade graduated including eleven from the CGG.

Ex NOVICE GUARDSMAN 2 was conducted during the last weekend of October (Level 2 is the section level qualification and “dry” means using blank ammunition). Thirty members of the Regiment travelled to Valcartier for confirmation of Battle Task Standards. The objective of the Exercise was to run through the seven section battle drills in realistic conditions by using paintballing; these battle drills enabled soldiers to garner an appreciation of the importance of being able to shoot, move and communicate at both section and platoon level. Paintballing further enabled them to adjust tactics if their sub-unit strength was reduced due to casualties which were obvious from the coloured splotches on their combat uniforms! This training method, new for the CGG, enabled section commanders to practice section tactics and drills in a realistic frosty Canadian setting more effectively than training with blank ammunition. Our three CGG Infantry sections achieved well-deserved Level 2 dry certification.

By the time many of our readers get this article, we will have been in full exercise mode for winter warfare training. The Regiment is lucky this year as we have over 150 CM of the white stuff and temperatures hovering around minus 20 Celsius; a far cry from the warm weather our Grenadier Guards friends found in 2018 in a small unit exchange winter warfare exercise here in Canada.

Our families and friends are faring well as could be expected, as the restrictions and conditions around the pandemic situation continue to vary.

The pandemic has inevitably side-tracked a few of the initiatives that were being planned, such as Remembrance Day activities such as the Church Parade and service. The Lieutenant-Colonel has consistently told the Regiment that COVID-19 will not stop us from carrying out our activities providing we adjust to the “how” and “with whom”



we conduct them.

The CGG are very much looking forward to getting their training back to a robust level of planning and engagement and we keenly anticipate the time when our Regiments can again visit and conduct exchange training

Honorary Lieutenant-Colonel, Colonel Paul de B. Taillon



From 2006 to 2014, Colonel Taillon was the strategic and counterinsurgency advisor to Commander Canadian Army. He has wide operational experience with American, Canadian and British Special Operations Forces, and has served in Great Britain, United States,

Oman, Bosnia, Kosovo, Ukraine, and Afghanistan. He conducted 22 foreign Military Training Team missions under the auspices of USSOCOM and was an instructor at the NATO Special Operations School in Chièvres, Belgium. He has published over 60 books and articles on terrorism, insurgencies, strategy, national security and military history.

Honorary Lieutenant-Colonel, Mrs. Ginger Petty



For over 40 years Ginger Petty has acquired operational experience as an active member of the Board of Directors of such organizations as Acadia Forest Products, The Study School, and Centre Action for the physically

challenged, which she went on to chair. She also founded and chaired such organizations as Gem Political movement for environmental protection and The Tea for Children charity, benefitting the families of battered women. Named Woman of the Year by the Montreal Council of Women, she is a recipient of the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal.

Lieutenant-Colonel Commanding, Lieutenant-Colonel Jose Ramon Nunez, MMM, CD, ADC



Appointed in July 2020, Lieutenant-Colonel Nunez started his military career with the 2709 CGG 2709 Cadet Company in 1979. He joined the CGG in 1986 and completed every Non-Commissioned position from Guardsman to Chief Warrant Officer (CWO)

as the Regimental Sergeant-Major from 2000 to 2004. He was appointed Brigade Sergeant-Major for 34 Canadian Brigade Group in February 2008, a position he held until commissioned as a Captain in 2010. As a CWO, Lieutenant-Colonel Nunez represented the CAF on three occasions at the British Army's RSMs' Convention at RMAS. He has completed two overseas missions, one with NATO in the Balkans and the other with the UN in The Democratic Republic of the Congo.





1st Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment

by *Lieutenant Colonel Chris Jaunay*
Commanding Officer

2020 will always be remembered as a year framed by the global COVID-19 pandemic. The battalion's 75th birthday year was planned to be a Big Blue celebration, but unfortunately had to be postponed due to the restrictions placed upon all Australians during the pandemic. We did manage to celebrate our 75th birthday at Lavarack Barracks, Townsville, Queensland in October, albeit in a much reduced capacity, with the Chief of Army in attendance. In 2021 the battalion will conduct a belated birthday parade, involving all present and past members of the battalion. It will be a suitably big event!

As I reflect on 2020, I feel immensely proud of the Battalion in a year that was largely chaotic and at times frustrating. Due to COVID-19, the Battalion re-grouped on four occasions. We were put on a reduced notice to move for domestic and overseas operations all while having to train within the constraints of the pandemic. It was certainly an unusual period which saw Junior NCOs and below working from home for almost 6 weeks. Fortunately, North Queensland was largely unaffected and we returned to training, albeit under constraints, relatively quickly.

We achieved a lot in a year that did not allow for the normal progression of collective training.

1 RAR participated in AASAM in Brisbane and won just about every trophy, including Champion Shot of the Army. Every sub-unit achieved Army Training Level 5 (Combat Team) and were tested during Ex BROLGA RUN. C Coy deployed elements to Afghanistan as part of the Resolute Support Mission. A Coy supported the COVID TF in Western Australia. B Coy deployed to Rifle Company Butterworth – rotation 131 for four months over Christmas. Through the battalion's fine efforts we raised \$50k for our charity of choice, Ronald McDonald House. Over two years 1 RAR raised \$68k for the charity. 1 RAR continued to enhance and build on our relationship with Papua New Guinea, specifically the 1st Royal Pacific Islands Regiment (1RPIR). Most importantly, we built expertise as a Motorised Infantry Battalion, including receiving the Army's first PMV-L vehicles.

As I depart the Battalion for the final time, I reflect on what an outstanding unit the 1st Battalion is and has always been. In 1994 I started my career as a Private soldier and feel blessed to have been given the opportunities through my career that resulted in my return to command the Battalion.



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Commemoration of the Regiment's link with 19th Lancers, Pakistan Armoured Corps, at the Battle of Gauche Wood 1st December 1917

by Major Tom Hargreaves

This year marks the 103rd anniversary of the Battle of Gauche Wood, at which The 2nd Battalion fought alongside the (dismounted) 18th Bengal Lancers. Together the regiments were successful in capturing the wood in fierce hand-to-hand fighting as the right flank action in the 1st Guards Brigade recapture of the Quentin Ridge. Owing to the attrition and confusion of the battle, Lancers and Grenadiers commanded each other's troops in composite formations in order to repulse continued German counter-attacks.¹

On partition of India and Pakistan in 1947 the 18th Lancers were amalgamated with Fane's Horse and became the 19th Lancers, allocated to Pakistan. The regiment continues as a cavalry regiment employing the Al-Zarrar Main Battle Tank, as well as retaining a strong equine tradition and is based in Okara Cantonment, Punjab state.

To mark the anniversary of the Battle, the Officer Commanding Nijmegen Company wrote to the Commandant of the 19th Lancers remembering those who fought and

died alongside their Grenadier brothers in the battle, renewing the Regiment's desire to maintain our bonds of friendship for the future. The Company were delighted to receive a response from the Commandant, received on Christmas Eve while the Company were on Guard.

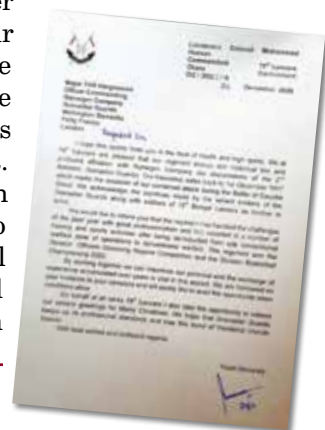
Lieutenant Colonel Muhammad Hassan
Commandant 19th Lancers
Okara Cantonment, DO/38202/A
24 December 2020

Respected Sir,

I hope this epistle finds you in the best of health and high spirits. We at 19th Lancers are pleased that our Regiment shares rich historical ties and profound affiliation with Nijmegen Company (as descendants of the 2nd Battalion, Grenadier Guards). Our friendship dates back to 1st December 1917 which marks the occasion of our combined attack during the Battle of Gauche Wood. We acknowledge the sacrifices made by the valiant soldiers of the Grenadier Guards along with the soldiers of 18th Bengal Lancers as brothers in arms.

We would like to inform you that the regiment has handled the challenges of the past year with great professionalism and has excelled in a number of training and sports activities after being de-inducted from sub conventional warfare zone of operations to conventional warfare. The regiment won the Division Officers Grooming Regime Competition and the Division Basketball Championship 2020.

By working together we can maximise our potential and the exchange of experience accumulated over years is vital in this aspect. We are honoured on your invitation to your company and will surely like to avail the opportunity when



¹ For more information on the Battle of Gauche Wood, please see Philip Wright's excellent article in the Guards Magazine Winter 2016/17.

conditions allow.

On behalf of all ranks 19th Lancers I also take the opportunity to extend our sincere greetings for a Merry Christmas. We hope that the Grenadier Guards keeps up its professional standards and may this bond of friendship

cherish forever.

With best wishes and profound regards,
Yours sincerely,
Signed Lieutenant Colonel Muhammad Hassan
Commandant 19th Lancers
OKARA

Suffolk ACF raise over £10,000 for charity

by Captain Rob M Catton, County Signals Officer, Suffolk Army Cadet Force

Like many others, the Cadets at Suffolk ACF wanted to make a difference and do their bit to help with the country's response to the pandemic. In addition to having to transition from an organisation which previously had been built around face-to-face training and events, to virtual (online) training overnight, the Cadets haven't let lockdown slow them down and have still made a fantastic difference.

Cadet McGinley (12 years old) started delivering grocery boxes to members of his community that were shielding, as well as to frontline key workers such as Police officers who were working back-to-back shifts and hadn't been able to get to supermarkets at times when they were open. Cadet Bombardier Daniel Reeve (15 year old) fired up his 3D printer at home and produced a range of PPE components and mask-clips which were distributed



Cdt Lance Corporal Sam Johnson undergoing virtual training during lockdown.

by Suffolk ACF to hospitals and vaccination 'hypercentres' nationally. For this, he has since received a Lord Lieutenant's Certificate for Meritorious Service, a Commandant's Commendation for Meritorious Service and a 'SEAC Coin' from WO1 Glen Haughton OBE, the Senior Enlisted

Advisor to the Chiefs of Staff Committee. Bdr Reeve also received an unsolicited and heartfelt vote of thanks from members of the Armed Forces, including WO1 Louise Thornton, Branch Sergeant Major SPS, who had heard what Bdr Reeve was doing and thank him both in writing and live on radio!

In addition, hundreds of Cadets across the County like Cdt Cpl Jenna Wright took part in a mammoth fundraiser, raising over £10,000 for NHS Charities Direct, (to help staff and patients in hospitals), St John Ambulance, (as the 'volunteer reserve' supporting the NHS in hospitals, vaccination centres and with ambulances), and setting up a Youth Intervention Fund with the Suffolk Community Foundation and Police and Crime Commissioner, to help young people affected by COVID, including with issues of mental-health.

Finally, and like many other Counties, members of their staff and Adult Instructors have also been acting as key workers, either as volunteer first aiders or vaccinators, or as teachers and members of the NHS, police and more.



Jemma Wright rode 75 miles for a fund raiser.

75th Anniversary of the Liberation of Sandbostel Camp

by Major General Sir Evelyn
Webb-Carter KCVO, OBE, DL



Entrance to Stalag XB.

Before Lockdown in March last year The Regiment had been invited to send representatives to attend a Commemoration of the 75th Anniversary of the liberation of a Concentration Camp in Germany near Bremen. This was Sandbostel which was thought to be a PoW Camp but in the event was also a concentration camp. It had been liberated by No 2 Armoured Squadron of the 2nd Battalion and the King's Company of the 1st Battalion on 29th April 1945. Neville Wigram, my father in law was commanding the Armoured Squadron and his brother in law, George Thorne, the King's Company. Neville often recalled this experience of Nazi war crimes to the family and it left an indelible mark on his perception of the German race.

The Regimental Adjutant asked if Neville's daughter Celia, my wife, would like to represent the Regiment alongside Lieutenant Colonel Simon Soskin who would have been in uniform. I was to be OC Logistics! Sadly, in the event, because of the pandemic it was a 'virtual' commemoration. As we all know April was a dismal month and it was a distraction for us when the organisation in Sand-

bostel asked if Celia would record a few remarks which could be broadcast over the internet on the day. We organised a short 5 minute video with Celia talking to camera and quoting the following words of her father. ;



Neville Wigram in 1941.

"On the 28th April 1945 the 2nd Armoured Battalion Grenadier Guards was near ZEVEN awaiting orders to advance to prevent all German troops from crossing the River ELBE and entering SCHLESWIG-HOLSTEIN. The Grenadiers were facing very fierce opposition and found all roads to be blocked or cratered, and all bridges blown.

We knew that there was a Prisoner of War Camp at SANDBOSTEL and we were planning to relieve this. But unexpectedly two French POWs had escaped and told us that, since our crossing of the RHINE at the end of March about one third of the Camp had been taken over by the SS for political déportés. There were now 8,000 Prisoners of War and 14,000 déportés – mostly French. Since 5th April 2,500 déportés had died and now that they were inflicted with Typhus, 500 were dying each day. Liberation and medical assistance was urgently needed. It was understood that there would be little opposition from the Prison Staff.

On the 29th April, the Grenadier Group comprising the King's Company, 1st Motor Battalion (infantry) and No 2 Squadron, 2nd Armoured Battalion - in Sherman tanks, accompanied by a team from the Royal Army Medical Corps advanced towards SANDBOSTEL.



Sandbostel Reunion 1978.

The camp was situated on the other side of the River OSTE. All the bridges had been blown and the river bank on the camp side was steep and wooded. Our infantry met very strong opposition and obviously needed tank support.

The Royal Engineers came to build a bridge and also brought collapsible boats. As they were working the enemy fired mortars on them so that they were not able to complete the bridge before dark. We therefore decided to postpone our attack until the next day.

When the bridge was completed the tanks were able to cross the river. Now two more companies joined the King's Company and supported by No 2 Squadron, they advanced towards the Camp. They killed all the SS and unfortunately six Grenadiers were killed and several wounded.

The Camp was now definitely liberated and the medical team was able to enter the huts. Much publicity has been given to describe the conditions within the Concentration Camps at BELSEN and BUCHENWALD, but it was considered that life in SANBOSTEL was just as bad."

Over the years Neville attended various reunions related to the liberation of Sandbostel and the adjacent Concentration Camp at Neungamme. At these it was very moving to receive the emotional thanks from those survivors who still lived. One

occasion was in June 1978 when Neville and other Grenadiers including George Thorne, Alan Breitmeyer, Timothy Tufnell, Freddy Shaughnessy and Fred Clutton attended various ceremonies at Caen. The main ceremony required a wreath which had been locally procured. However it lacked any Grenadier identifications until Neville volunteered his blue red blue braces. He had to secure his trousers with string, but honour was satisfied.

In March 2018, Celia and I were staying with the Belgian Ambassador to Germany and he knowing that Neville had liberated the camp kindly arranged for us to visit. It was a sobering day during which we were briefed on the history of the camp, visited the exhibition toured the remains of the POW Camp and laid wreaths at the cemetery; the concentration camp had been completely obliterated in May 1945 but we saw where it had been. Being there brought to life the experiences of those Grenadiers who had liberated Sandbostel. Furthermore the horror and inhumanity of the Concentration Camp was made plain but it is impossible to do justice in writing. I am quite sure however that Neville would not have wished to revisit the site. As Herr Ehresmann, our host said very firmly "it is important we see these things and remember so that they do not happen again." Let us trust this is not a false hope and that we will continue to commemorate those "war heroes without uniform" in the Resistance and the dreadful death, torture and illness suffered by those who fell into the hands of the Gestapo and SS in Hitler's death camps.



Herr Ehresmann and Celia Webb-Carter.

Grenadiers continue to hold the Silver Bugle for the third consecutive year

*by Drum Major Damian Thomas,
Grenadier Guards Senior Drum Major
of the Household Division*

The Major General's Silver Bugle Competition (MGSBC) was held at the Guard's Chapel on 16 May 2020. Set in a socially distanced layout, which meant for the first time all judges could clearly see the competitors who are normally hidden behind screens, the MGSBC had participants from all five regiment of Foot Guards. In all, thirteen drummers raised their head above the parapet. It was a hard fought competition with the added pressure of staring the judges dead in the eye before sounding calls such as Reveille, Last Post and Retreat in

succession.

The First of Foot proved that we hold some of the most talented buglers in the Division and I am extremely pleased to report that the 1st Battalion took 1st, 2nd and 3rd places, making us the clear overall winners of the 2020 competition. Dmr Dean Barton came in at third (£150), Lance Corporal Greenslade second (£250) and Lance Sergeant Kane Ellis secured the top position (£500) and the privilege of being the Silver Bugler, wearing the coveted Major General's Silver-plated Bugle.

After three years working with Household Division Headquarters and the Regimental Bands, my appointment as Senior Drum Major of the Household Division has sadly come to an end. I am becoming Company Sergeant Major of the Inkerman Company from mid-April as we prepare for street lining for this year's Queen's Birthday Parade and will be succeeded by Colour Sergeant Harry Sutton who is currently CQMS, Nijmegen

Company. I wish him all the best in his new appointment, and I can assure readers that our Divisional Corp of Drums are in good hands. Look out for him leading the massed bands on QBP 2021.

Another key appointment has been awarded to a fellow Grenadier - WO2 James Bennet, currently RQMS with the 1st Battalion, will take up the position of Senior Drum Major of the British Army in October 2021. Based in Catterick, he will oversee the training and development of Corps of Drums throughout the Army, ensuring that the traditions of the Corp of Drums are maintained and evolve where necessary.



Left to Right – Lance Corporal Jack Greenslade, Major General Christopher Ghika, Lance Sergeant Kane Ellis, Dmr Dean Barton

Regimental Bibliography Project – an all stations call

by Captain Justin Davies,
formerly Grenadier Guards,
and Yeoman Warder Kevin Kitcher

Three years ago, we met for a 25-year anniversary lunch at the Savoy Grill. Amidst the reminiscences of times past, it emerged that we both collected Grenadier related books. As befits our former collaboration as Platoon Commander and Platoon Sergeant of 5 Platoon, Two Company, 2nd Battalion Grenadier Guards, the reason for the lunch, it turned out that our particular areas of interest were complementary. One had tracked down a considerable number of lesser known Second World War and later books about and memoirs by Grenadiers. The other one had concentrated on the period up to the end of the First World War and found unusual items such as the 1907 War Office publication, ‘The Case of Lieutenant H. C. Woods (2nd Battalion. Grenadier Guards)’.

During these interminable lockdowns we have decided to compile a Grenadier bibliography. Encouraged by the Regimental Adjutant and aided and abetted by the Regimental Archivist we have started to compile as complete a list of Grenadier related books as possible. The latter kindly provided the catalogue of the Library at Regimental Headquarters which forms the core

of the bibliography. To this we are adding titles from our own collections and any others by or about the Regiment and Grenadiers that we can find. The ultimate aim is to publish ‘An Annotated Bibliography of the First or Grenadier Guards’ on behalf of Regimental charities.

By annotated bibliography we mean that each book will have a short six to ten-line summary of its Grenadier contents and interest. Otherwise it would be difficult to tell that *We Were Brothers in Arms* by Frank Clark is a detailed Guardsman’s account of tank warfare with the 2nd Battalion after D-Day or that *The Memoirs of Lord Chandos* include chapters on his service with the 3rd Battalion in the First World War.

To this end we would be extremely interested to hear from anyone who can add any books to the list that we might not have come across or overlooked. Our current list can be found on the <https://www.Grengds.com/regimentalhistory> and will be continually updated. The proviso for inclusion is that the book or pamphlet must have been published. It includes histories of the Regiment, books about Grenadiers and memoirs by Grenadiers that include mention of their service in the Regiment.

We would also like to hear from any Grenadiers who would be interested in providing one of the short summaries for a book on the list. The more named contributors to the published bibliography the merrier. Please get in touch with us at grenadierbibliography@gmail.com.



2nd Battalion at the Curragh (Eire) 1850s.

Ex COCKNEY BALM, Battalion Ski Trip, Val Thorens, 2020

by *Captain Jonny Palmer-Tomkinson*



Lieutenant Robin Macworth-Young (left) and Captain Jonny Palmer-Tomkinson (right) endure the elements.

As I sit watching the dustings of snow, courtesy of the Beast from the East II, my mind turns to this time last year, when the final preparations were well underway for the Battalion Ski Trip 2020. Last minute name changes, final kit issue and soon the Battalion would embark on a three-week Adventurous

Training package, organised and delivered by Major Neil Strachan, the Captain at that time.

Ex COCKNEY BALM took place from the end of February to mid-March 2020. An unusual name for an exercise, however a little-known fact is that as the paperwork for Ex TIGER BALM was submitted with a chuckle, the enjoyment was short-lived once the set prefix unduly changed to COCKNEY (to match with LONDIST nomenclature), leaving us with a far less pleasing title for such a wonderful trip.

I digress. Each week saw 50 Grenadiers and 7 instructors grace the slopes of Val Thorens in France. The Queen's Company paved the way, boarding coaches from Lille Barracks in the dark of night, awaking to a sunrise over France and eventually reaching the meandering roads that lead up into the mountains. The Queen's Company were joined by elements of Headquarter Company and several members of the London Regiment.

Having softened the village for what was to come, The Queen's Company were succeeded by The



Support Company in the trees.

Inkerman Company, who continued the trend of furore and jubilation, helped by Battalion HQ and Support Company. Finally, Number 2 Company and some more friends from the LONDONS, ensured that the third and final week in the mountains ended with style and panache.

Ski rental was a slick military operation. Day One would see a queue snaking its way through the streets of Val Thorens, shaking with anticipation, as each Grenadier was efficiently weighed, measured



The Officers' Mess, second week.



Major Neil Strachan (The Captain) and WO2 (CSM) Mclean.

and kitted out in a chocolate factory procession, leaving the ski shop clad in boots, helmet and with skis in hand, ready for instruction.

Our accommodation, albeit fairly underused, was a dream when it came to our morning starts. In Cheval Blanc, we were well billeted in ski-in, ski-out accommodation, making the morning journey from bed to slope for the weary Grenadier far easier to navigate.

Split into ability groups, the instructors gave a little something to everyone within the rich mix of talent. The keen beans who had already got the itch for the sport on the Ski Trip in 2019, and had already received their Ski Foundation Level 1, were thrown out the door with slightly more



The Commanding Officer with Support Company.



The Officers' Mess

than two planks and a passion. Strapped up in harnesses, they donned specialised touring boots and avalanche packs as they embarked on their backcountry training to reach Level 2.

For those who had not yet enjoyed the thrill of skiing and where the sensation of sliding on snow was something alien and untrusted, they were taken under the wing of some experienced instructors and guided through the basics. It took only a day or two before a few seeds of talent and a disproportionate mass of bravery and gusto would see them flying through the Val Thorens bowl, a lucky few guided to a halt by a watchful instructor, many others abruptly stopped by snowbanks or carefully placed orange impact cushions. Little matter though, with social distancing still a few weeks off, the regular pile-ups were no cause for concern.

This was a time of blissful ignorance, where terms such as 'red lists' and 'quarantine' belonged in Hollywood films, 'travel corridors' were likely some form of mapping terminology and PPE was by no means an everyday household word. Little did we know that these were the last days of Rome. Yet had we known, had we had some foresight into the turbulent, travel restricted year that was to follow, I'm not sure we could have given it much more.

A ski trip like this accentuates everything that Adventurous Training is about. The mountains provide an environment where everybody can be challenged to some degree, where everyone can develop leadership, physical fitness and moral and physical courage; things that are core to what we are as soldiers. All of these developments can be delivered with a controlled exposure to risk by careful organisation, reliable command and a

professional and eager group of instructors that provide first-rate training. Furthermore, it reforms bonds between all Grenadiers and notably on this occasion, with the London Regiment, something that I hope will continue in the future.

When time and conditions allow, we have a Battalion with deep talent on skis, plenty of whom will go on to become instructors and many more who will continue to enjoy the sport in the years to come.

Scots Guards vs Grenadier Guards Cricket match

by *Lieutenant Robin Mackworth-Young*

Lords. The Oval. Trent Bridge. Edgbaston. To many these stadia bring goose bumps. To others, anticipation – the chance to beat Australia once more. And to a few they bring a thought of longing. A thought of possibly playing on these magnificent pitches, dazzling the thousands with sixes, reverse swing and fine long barriers.

Many in our number are fans of cricket and, I have no doubt, once pretended to be facing a spinning ball from Shane Warne when in the nets. And, at long last, these unsung cricketing heroes, restrained in their ability to light up the cricketing world by far more important tasks such as approving leave passes, collecting other Officers from the station when on Picquet, and informing the newest of the Guardsmen that they shall perform the two man sniff test if caught in a CBRN environment, had the chance to enter the greatest of cricketing stages. For Crondall Cricket Club beckoned.

Furthermore, so did the opposition. The First Battalion Grenadier Guards Officers Mess were playing The First Battalion Scots Guards Officers Mess. This age-old cricketing rivalry, akin to England and Australia, were to battle it out once again. The wet, muddy wicket, the bumpy outfield, the cricket whites that hadn't been worn since school set the conditions well for the potential of a scorcher of a match.

The weather was decidedly mundane as the toss was decided and the Grenadiers went to bat first. The Author is currently serving with The Scots Guards. However, his true heart lies with the Grenadiers. As such I elected to play on their side. This had nothing to do with them being down one player.

The Grenadiers batted valiantly. People of merit were The Senior Major, Adjutant and Mark Osmond for actually displaying some skill. With a deft touch here, a poignant leave there the runs added up. Alec Heywood stepped up to the crease, all arms and legs, black trainers distinct against his Cothill cricket whites. And what a performance! Bravo to that man.

It was with relief that those of us at the tail end of the order (my colleagues in this position being Tristram Reames and Sam Macdonald-Smith) did not have the chance to show our cricketing prowess. The innings ended with 127 runs scored by the Grenadiers.

So. To the field.

The indomitable Ben Jesty, Battalion Second in Command of the Scots Guards, took to the crease. Simon Fisher took the ball. Ben managed to straddle the discomfort of playing against his parent battalion well. Scoring enough runs to deny any claims of bias yet falling to a well-delivered Fetherston-Godley ball.

My view from the boundary was unhindered and I watched the Scots Guards' wickets fall. Their key players, their Adjutant and Operations Officer, fell without ceremony. And with that, the rest followed. The Scots Guards were bowled out for 115 runs.

The day was highly enjoyable. It was a chance to rekindle old friendships, to enjoy some much-needed sporting competition, a feature that had been lacking from our lives for the whole year, and, of course, it was an opportunity to revel in inter-Household Division rivalry. Everyone will now look forward to the next sporting adventure.

Post Script. It must be noted that the Author has little to no interest in cricket. All knowledge and references in this article is information gained from "The Ashes 2005 – The Highlights", a DVD that came free with the Sunday Telegraph that I enjoyed as an eleven year old.

Where are they now?

by *Major Simon Gordon Lennox*
SO2 Foot Guards (Officers)
Army Personnel Centre, Glasgow

Extraordinary times. So much so that I've hardly seen anyone, and as such the below is almost take 'on faith' that our trusted databases and the ever-inspiring JPA application are in harmony. We continue to reach far and wide into the Army and Defence, and our stock remains strong.

Lieutenant General Sir George Norton KCVO CBE will no doubt be tackling the remote learning rollercoaster with petulant Brigadiers as Commandant of the Royal College of Defence Studies in Belgravia. **Major General Roly Walker DSO**, our Regimental Lieutenant Colonel moves a mile further South to be Deputy Chief of the Defence Staff, Military Strategic Operations. **Major General James Bowder OBE** is blazing a trail 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 his elegant position as the British Liaison Officer at the Embassy in Paris. **Colonel Alex McKay MBE** is now a student on the Higher Command and Staff Course in Shrivenham, and **Colonel (Des) Piers Ashfield DSO** is off to Washington DC – firstly to be a student at the US National Defence University in late Spring, then two further years as the Special Assistant to the US Army Chief of Staff (their Chief of the General Staff equivalent).

Lieutenant Colonel Andrew James MBE hands over Collective Training in France to be Directing Staff in Shrivenham. **Lieutenant Colonel Simon Soskin** as Lieutenant Colonel Ft Gds, alongside Lieutenant Colonel (Retd) Jerry Levine, keeps things in good order in HQ Infantry. **Lieutenant Colonel Richard Green** remains SO1 Infrastructure Strategy at Army Basing. **Lieutenant Colonel James Greaves**

is the Commanding Officer and is steering the Battalion towards deployment next year and all that comes with it. **Lieutenant Colonel James Green** is Commanding Officer Wales University Officer Training Corps, and **Lieutenant Colonel Andrew Seddon** is likewise at Oxford. Nearer town, **Lieutenant Colonel Dom Alkin** is the SO1 C4ISR in UK Strategic Command, and **Lieutenant Colonel Ed Paintin** has returned from a year in Iraq to take up the reins as SO1 Operations and Engagement in Headquarters Regional Command. **Lieutenant Colonel Rupert King-Evans** deploys shortly to Somalia as the Commander of the Somalia National Army Training Advisory Team.

Major Simon Gordon Lennox, your author, never thought he'd want to get back to the Office as much as he does after 11 months of working from home – perhaps in May? **Major James Shaw** is the Senior Major of our own 1st Battalion and hoping to move onwards and upwards in the Summer, with **Major Ben Jesty** splicing second-in-command 1st Battalion Scots Guards with a short tour in Iraq as Deputy Commander Erbil Air Base. **Major Andrew Tiernan** has hung up his boots for civilian life, and **Major Ben Powell** will swap Army Headquarters as SO2 Plans in the Land Operations Centre for Senior Major of the 1st Battalion in July. **Major Neil Strachan** remains a syndicate leader at the Intermediate Command and Staff Course (Land), and **Major Will Harries** is putting in the hours at the Permanent Joint Headquarters in Northwood. **Major Mike Dobbin DSO MC** remains in warmer climes, whilst **Major Paddy Rice** will hand over the Ribs to Major Hugo Cartwright, who will relinquish Military Assistant 2 to the Chief of the General Staff. **Major Tom Hendriksen** is Number Two Company Commander alongside **Major Alex Bayliss** in Support Company. Meanwhile, **Major James Brown MBE** will swap South Camden for South Wales, and **Major Richard Da Gama** will return from Iraq to take over Left Flank Company Scots Guards. **Major Jonny Hathaway-White** handed over Military Assistant to Director Support in Army Headquarters for a more exciting life on Salisbury Plain, and **Major Chris Stevenson** will

depart being a Military Assistant in the Permanent Joint Headquarters in Northwood to Command Number 1 Company Irish Guards in the Summer. **Major Mike Dobson** holds sway as the Military Assistant to the Military Secretary.

Major Alex Budge is at ICSC(L) before joining the throng at Northwood. Staff College also hosts **Major Charlie Williams**, who will deploy on completion, **Major Alex Shirreff** who will return to South Camden, and **Major Charlie Gilmore**, who heads off to be SO2 Reserves in the Department of the Chief of the General Staff. **Major Will Harris** is also on this course, having squeezed the Army Staff Development Programme between Izmir and ICSC(L), and will be SO2 Recruiting Operations in Recruiting Group afterwards. **Major Hamish Hardy** departs the Regiment to pursue life as a civilian.

Captain Tom Hargreaves has swapped SO3 J3 Commitments in Headquarters 16 Air Assault Brigade with Company Command of Nijmegen. **Captain Ben Tracey** is SO2 J3 J5 at 16 Air Assault but will be ICSC(L)-bound in September. **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 – both looking for something new in the Autumn. **Captain Kit Naughton** is the supporting those who dwell in South Wales, and **Captain Oliver Staunton** keeps Major Gen James Bowder on time and in the right place but will head off to be the Foot Guards Platoon Commander at Sandhurst in the Summer. **Captain Rich Phillips** is a NATO Staff officer in Izmir and **Captain Edmund Harmer** provides continuity as an AMA. **Captain George Barnes** is Detached, and **Captain Chris Pollard** has left SO3 G2 at 7th Infantry Brigade and is also now at Sandhurst as New College Adjutant. **Captain Tom Holmes** will swap the Army Foundation College in Harrogate for SO3 Plans at the Mission Training Mobilisation Centre (the new OPTAG).

At Regimental Duty, **Captain Chris Wright**, the indomitable Training Officer, continues the leap into Civilian life, **Captain Robbie Thompson** is Adjutant of the 1st Battalion and **Captain Jonny Silver** the Ops Officer. **Captain Tom Parkes** has

left for pastures new. **Captains Robbie Laing, Tom Bolitho and Captain Duncan Thorne** have all departed service life, although the former is now a LONDONS Officer. **Captain Jonny Palmer-Tomkinson** is the Assistant Equerry to The Colonel, and **Captain Rufus Harding** the Intelligent Officer. **Captain Fred Ide** is exchanging life in Nijmegen Company to be AMA to General Roly. **Captains Mark Osmond, Tris Reames and Jake Sayers** are Recce, Mortars and Anti-Tanks respectively, with **Captains Chris Wood and Alex Wilson** both assisting Chris Wright in the Training Wing while they look to Wales. **Lt Sam Macdonald-Smith** is the Second Captain (and Signals Officer Designate), **Lt Ed Bennett** keeps the Ribs on the straight and narrow as their second-in-command, and we await the new second in command of Number Two Company following the Troop.

We do well for Platoon Commanders. **Lts Laurence Odlum and Tom Sinclair** represent the Regiment at the Infantry Training Centre in Catterick (the former returning to Nijmegen as Second-in-Command) and similarly from this Summer (when they move North) **Lt Robin Mackworth-Young** commands a Platoon of Grenadiers attached to Left Flank Company Scots Guards. **Lts Alex Featherston-Godley and Sean Marren** spend a lot of time at the Tower in Nijmegen Company. In the 1st Battalion, the Borg has **Lt Alec Heywood**, Taggy Two benefits from **Lts Felix Tracey and Ralph Maddan** (off to Catterick soon) and **Ensigns Simon Fisher and Sebastian Tusa**, and the Inkerman Company have **Lts Henry Winstanley** (destined for Harrogate) and **Will Martin**, soon for Nijmegen. Rounding this off are **Ensigns Tom Hodson**, on the Platoon Commanders Battle Course and destined for Number 2 Company and **Henry Turnbull**, a GAP year officer with the Inkerman Company.

Our Late Entry Officers continue to impress. **Lieutenant Colonel Neil England MBE** is SO1 Combat Training in the Capability Directorate in Army Headquarters. **Lieutenant Colonel Gordon Gask** remains in the British Embassy in Riga as the J3/5/7 Branch Head. **Lieutenant Colonel Stumpy Keeley MBE** is now the Staff Quartermaster at the School of Infantry. **Major**

Andy Butcher is Deputy Chief of Staff of the Specialised Infantry Group, and **Major Ian Farrell** the first Late Entry Executive Officer of the London Regiment. **Major Glenn Haughton OBE** continues to forge a path as the Senior Enlisted Advisor to Chiefs of Staff Committee, and **Major Darren Westlake** remains SO2 G4 Infra at Sandhurst. **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, before adding Quartermaster of our 1st Battalion in the Summer.

Captain Martin Howlin remains the SO3 Recruiting (South), based in Headquarters London District and runs to the Captain's Board shortly. **Captain Howard Lawn** will depart being the Ft Gds Divisional Careers Management Officer up in Glasgow for a stint as Quartermaster of the LONDONS. **Captain Dan Moore** continues a formidable run as Welfare Officer 1st Battalion, alongside **Captain Scott Roughley** as Mechanical Transport Officer. **Captain Sam Brooks** will swap Household Division and Parachute Regiment Centralised Courses for SO3 Recruiting (Centre). **Captain Mark Cox** is to be the Training officer for the 1st Battalion, and **Captain John Byrne** keeps the Welsh Guards in order. **Major Cammie Proudfoot SG** will bid farewell to Headquarter Company after three years for pastures new, and we will also bid farewell to both Micks – **Major Kev Fletcher** and **Captain Shaun Nelson** – who have been our stalwart Quartermaster and Quartermaster (Technical) respectively. That said, the latter hands over to **Captain Danny Hinton IG** so we are delightedly not quite free yet.

A lot of change as the machine continues to turn, but many continuing to fight the good fight. In these strange times we continue to do ourselves proud.



Charlie Bennett, Chairman of the Colonel's Fund



Born and brought up in Gloucestershire, after completing his A-Levels at Cheltenham and with the encouragement of the late Lord (Neville) Wigram, Charlie applied for a SSLC in the Regiment and joined the 1st Battalion in Berlin in 1981. The following year he went up to Cambridge on an

Army Cadetship to read Land Economy, Archaeology and Anthropology and on coming down he returned to soldiering. On passing out from RMAS, he re-joined the 1st Battalion in Hounslow and then Munster. A stint at the Guards Depot followed and he finished his service in 1989 after marching off the Queen's Birthday Parade with the Inkerman Company.

Exchanging his bearskin for the figurative City bowler hat, Charlie went to work with merchant bankers Hill Samuel and then Credit Suisse First Boston (CSFB). Specialising in leveraged finance, Charlie moved to Merrill Lynch and then to Donaldson, Lufkin & Jenrette (DLJ), finally ending up back at CFSB in 2000 when they bought DLJ! He retired from the City in September 2020 and it was at this point that he was invited to take on the role of Chairman, replacing Patrick Holcroft who had been in the chair since the inception of the Fund in 2005. He is also a Trustee of the Regimental Charities and The Hedley Foundation.

'It is a great privilege to have been asked to chair the Colonel's Fund which has been so effective in supporting our bereaved families and our wounded. Patrick and his advisory team have done an amazing job and I see my role as consolidating all the good work done to date and to keep up the momentum for fund raising.'

While with Credit Suisse, Charlie was seconded on two pro bono postings, first to Namibia where

he taught finance at the University of Namibia and mentored graduates in their job searches and then to Chipoli in Tanzania where he inducted the Benedictine Sisters of St Agnes in the intricacies of project finance. This remarkable 500 strong community is behind the \$30m Tulila 7.5 MW hydropower project, funded by two Swiss philanthropists and a loan from Credit Suisse. Once the loan has been repaid, the revenues from the sale of power will be dedicated to social and charitable endeavours in the region.

Charlie is married to Jo and they have two sons, George a banker and Ted a Grenadier, currently second-in-command of the Inkerman Company. Keen sailors, Charlie and his wife recently sailed their boat from the Balearics to the Ionian Islands where she is currently moored in Belize.

WO1 (SEAC) Glenn Houghton OBE Senior Enlisted Advisor to the Chiefs of Staff Committee



Sergeant Major Glenn Houghton OBE has been a Grenadier for 33 years and served at every rank within The Queen's Company before becoming the Sergeant Major of the 1st Battalion in 2011. Thereafter he was appointed as the Academy Sergeant Major of The Royal Military Academy Sandhurst, following in

the footsteps of famous Grenadiers such as Lord, Brand, Huggins, Nesbitt and Gaunt, before being appointed as the first Army Sergeant Major in 2015. In November 2018, Sergeant Major Houghton was appointed as the first Senior Enlisted Advisor to the Chiefs of Staff Committee (SEAC), the highest-ranking Non-Commissioned Officer within Defence. He

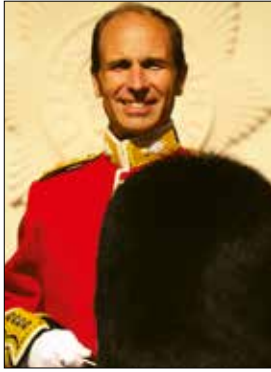
works in the Ministry of Defence and wears the uniform of the General Staff.

The role of the SEAC is unique. It primarily supports the Chiefs of Staff and Defence Ministers with an up to date and reasoned perspective that best represents issues faced by Service personnel from across all three of the Services and across all ranks. He is consistently informed from a variety of sources from which to gather information, not least the Service Warrant Officers, and that information must be accurate, reliable and timely. The SEAC's primary source is from Service personnel, through unit, ship and station visits across the three Services, both in the UK and abroad, he receives first-hand, some of the problems, lived experiences and concerns of Service personnel. In addition, the SEAC is the first Armed Forces Mental Health and Well-Being Champion, an appointment that he takes very seriously having suffered his own mental health issues. Through championing such an important subject he hopes to help break down the stigma of poor mental health across the Services and encourage the importance of mental and physical fitness, strength and resilience across Defence.

Sergeant Major Houghton has deployed on nine operational tours, ranging from the First Gulf War to Northern Ireland, Iraq and two tours of Afghanistan. He has served at The Royal Military Academy Sandhurst on three occasions and had the pleasure of being the Platoon Colour Sergeant to Prince Harry. He holds a first class Masters Degree in Business Administration and was the proud recipient of the OBE in the 2018 New Years Honours List. Glenn has been married to Nicola for 25 years, has two children as well as a trusty 'second in command' in his miniature poodle, Rufus.



Captain Ben Mason BMus(Hons), Dip ABRSM, ALCM, CAMUS Director of Music, The Band of the Grenadier Guards



Captain Ben Mason assumed the appointment of Director of Music, Grenadier Guards in May 2020; prior to which he was the Adjutant of the Household Division Bands for 18 months.

Ben was involved in music making with various Suffolk youth ensembles throughout his childhood and was

a member of the local Army Cadet Force from an early age. He enlisted into his local Regular Army Band, 1st Battalion the Royal Anglian Regiment, as a Junior Bandsman in 1991 at the age of 16. It was in 1994, upon completion of the Junior Musician Course at then the Army Junior School of Music (Pirbright) and the Pupil Course at The Royal Military School of Music, Kneller Hall (RMSM), that he was accepted for transfer to the Band of the Grenadier Guards as a pianist and trombonist. During his time in the band, he was privileged enough to be part of musical tours across the world including Bosnia, Northern Ireland, North America, Australia and Europe.

In 2006 the Regiment awarded him the Brian Johnston Memorial Award for Outstanding Contribution and in November of the same year he was selected to attend the three-year Bandmaster Course at RMSM. Here he was tutored in conducting by Wing Commander (Retd.) Rob Wiffin (former Principal Director of Music of the Royal Air Force).

Upon completion of the course, in August 2010, Ben received promotion to Warrant Officer Class One and was assigned as Bandmaster (BM) to the Minden Band of the Queen's Division – returning to both the Division where his army career began and to the area where he was raised. He was then

assigned to Woolwich as Bandmaster of the Royal Artillery Band in July 2012, where he undertook the leadership of musical support to various State Ceremonial duties.

During Remembrance-tide and Christmas/New Yea 2013, Ben deployed on Op HERRICK 19 as 2IC of a unit which provided musical support to troops across theatre. For this, he was awarded the Operational Service Medal (Afghanistan). In February 2014 he was assigned to Worthy Down as BM/Officer Commanding the Adjutant General's Corps Band, at that time the British Army's flagship Contemporary (Pop/Rock) Band. He took up the post of School BM at RMSM, the senior Army BM appointment, in January 2016 and (following his Commissioning in April 2017) served as Director of Music to the Band of the Queen's Division in Henlow until August 2018.

Ben's interests include composition; work with community groups; keeping fit and the performing arts. In his spare time, he is an associate conductor of the Watford Philharmonic Orchestra & Chorus and the Huntingdonshire Concert Band.

WO2 Mattias Andersson BMus (Hons), LRSM, Bandmaster, Band of the Grenadier Guards



Warrant Office Class 2 (WO2) **Mattias Andersson** was born in Strängnäs, Sweden in 1979. After leaving formal schooling he joined the Swedish Army Band as a cornet player. His year of National Service included basic training, several state ceremonial duties and tours both home and

abroad with a tour of Canada and performances at

the Nova Scotia International Military Tattoo as lasting memories.

In 2001, Mattias moved to Birmingham to study trumpet performance at the Royal Birmingham Conservatoire with Andy Stone-Fewings (Royal Shakespeare Company), Jon Holland and Alan Thomas (City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra). Some of his achievements at the Conservatoire were winner of the Bernard Brown Brass Ensemble Competition and finalist in the Ludlow Concerto Prize.

Soon after leaving the Conservatoire, he began a career as a freelance musician and brass teacher. He taught for Birmingham Music Service and Stratford-Upon-Avon Music Centre. He performed with many orchestras around the UK as well as touring Germany with Philharmonie der Nationen which performed some of the great Mahler symphonies.

Mattias joined the British Army and the Corps of Army Music in 2009 and has so far served with the Band of the Grenadier Guards and the Band of the Prince of Wales's Division as a cornet player. In his eleven years of service, he has travelled to numerous European countries and as far as the Falklands, Pakistan and Bermuda. In 2016 he undertook a years' study on the Bandmaster Course at the Royal Military School of Music and on completion he was assigned as Bandmaster to the Band of the Royal Corps of Signals in 2017.

In Aug 2019 he was posted to the Band of the Grenadier Guards as Bandmaster and has already enjoyed a tour of Belgium to commemorate the 75-year anniversary of the liberation of Belgium during WW2, as well as a musical tour of Japan. It has been a huge privilege for Mattias to return to the band where his British Army career started and to once again take part in all the state ceremonial events in the capital and across the country.

As well as being passionate about music, he is a keen Alpine skier and snowboarder. He also studied the Korean martial art Taekwondo from an early age and won the European Championships in 2006 for Team Sweden and retired from competitive martial arts soon thereafter to concentrate on a career in music. He is married to Laura and with their four young daughters, they enjoy music, sports and holidays to places such as Wales, Sweden and Italy.

WO2 David Buckles, Band Sergeant Major, Band of the Grenadier Guards



David Buckles auditioned to join the Band of the Grenadier Guards as a percussionist and a violinist on 6 October 1988 under the watchful eye of then Major Stuart Watts. Upon successfully passing, he went on to join the Army in January 1989 as a Junior Musician at the Army Junior School of

Music at the Guards Depot in Pirbright. Here he completed 8 weeks basic military training followed by a further 16 months musical training.

In April 1990, he passed out of the Guards Depot and went straight to join the Band of the Grenadier Guards in central London where he took part in daily ceremonial duties such as Changing the Guard, and annual events including Trooping the Colour, Beating Retreat, Festival of Remembrance, and the national service of remembrance at the Cenotaph. Other routine engagements included playing at Investitures and Diplomatic receptions at Buckingham Palace, banquets at the Guildhall and Mansion House, Chelsea Flower Show, Royal Ascot, Henley Regatta, and numerous after dinner cabarets at various top London hotels.

From February 1991 to December 1991, he attended the Pupils Course at the Royal Military School of Music, Kneller Hall. Whilst there, he attained his A2 and A1 trade qualifications and passed his Associated Boards Grade 8 qualification on both percussion and violin.

Upon returning to the Band of the Grenadier Guards, he continued performing at all of the engagements mentioned before, as well as performing at concert venues and stadiums around the globe. During his 25 years spent with the Band of the Grenadier Guards, he has toured much of the UK, Northern Ireland, Bosnia, Japan, Thailand, Singapore, Germany, Belgium, North America, Canada, Sweden,

Switzerland, Italy, France, Denmark, and Holland.

In September 2014, David was promoted to WO 2 Band Sergeant Major and posted to the Band of the Corps of Royal Engineers in Chatham. During his assignment there, WO2 Buckles performed at many engagements including the 'Sapper 300' Concert commemorating the 300th Anniversary of the Corps of Royal Engineers. These celebrations also included a visit from HM The Queen where the Band played a pivotal role in the proceedings. He also enjoyed further overseas tours in France, Belgium and Cyprus.

In April 2017 David was assigned to the Royal Military School of Music, Kneller Hall to take up post as the School Band Sergeant Major (SBSM), the once senior Band Sergeant Major appointment.

Following a successful tour at Kneller Hall, he was subsequently assigned in May 2019 back to the Band of the Grenadier Guards as Band Sergeant Major. Since returning to the Band, he has enjoyed tours of Belgium, the Isle of Man and Japan.

In his spare time, he enjoys going to the gym and is a keen martial arts practitioner, currently holding a 6th Dan Black Belt in Karate. He competes annually at the World Martial Arts Championships and has won medals in various categories.

WO2(RQMS) David 'George' Roper



Shortly after settling into life in London District (and being given the nickname 'George' which he is still known nearly two decades later), he was selected to attend the Potential Junior Non Commissioned Officers' Cadre at Pirbright before being promoted to Lance Corporal later

that same year. He remained with Nijmegen Company in that rank for three years, conducting

multiple Queen's Birthday Parades amongst other State Ceremonial and Public Duties events and an overseas exercise to Kenya, until partway through the First Battalion's operational deployment to Bosnia whereupon he was posted to The Queen's Company and joined them at the Banja Luka Metal Factory in 2005.

Having recovered back to the UK, later that year and following a fourth Queen's Birthday Parade, he was sent on the Section Commanders' Battle Course at Brecon, achieving a Distinction and the accolade of Top Student on the Skill At Arms Phase. Returning to The Queen's Company in Victoria Barracks in Windsor on successful completion of the course, he was promoted to Lance Sergeant early in 2006 in time to begin Pre-Deployment Training for Op TELIC 8 in Iraq.

Following the Iraq tour, during which he served as part of the Baghdad Support Unit and at the Divisional Temporary Detention Facility in Shaibah Logistics Base, he was plunged immediately into further Pre-Deployment Training for Op HERRICK 6 in Afghanistan alongside the rest of the Battalion. That first of his tours of Afghanistan, in 2007, was as part of The Queen's Company's OMLT, guiding and supporting the ANA's First Kandak through multiple close quarters fighting missions in the Upper Gereshk Valley.

On return from operations, he completed the arduous Platoon Sergeant's Battle Course in Brecon and was subsequently promoted to Gold Sergeant in 2008, taking over as Platoon Sergeant of No 1 Platoon, The Queen's Company. He then re-deployed to Afghanistan as a Multiple Commander on Op HERRICK 11 at the end of 2009, this time defending fortifications in and around Helmand's provincial capital of Lashkar Gah. He then featured in the *'Helmand to Horseguards'* documentary in 2010 on his fifth Queen's Birthday Parade before being posted to the Infantry Training Centre Catterick as a Platoon Sergeant.

Towards the end of his time at Catterick, he attended the stringent selection Cadre for the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst which he passed, promoting to Colour Sergeant in 2012 - at that time the youngest in the Regiment - and starting at Sandhurst as an Instructor later that year, a tour of duty that saw him serve in both Old

and New Colleges and the Skill At Arms Wing.

After a successful two years at the Academy, he was posted to Nijmegen Company as the Company Quartermaster Sergeant, a post in which he remained for just over a year before being promoted to Warrant Officer Class Two at the end of 2015 and, realising a career-long dream to that date, took over as Company Sergeant Major of The Queen's Company. Holding that title for nearly two years, his tenure of The Queen's Company saw him involved with the NATO Very High Readiness Joint Task Force as well as in Op TEMPERER and several Battalion exercises, including a CT5 overseas run-out on Ex ASKARI STORM in Kenya in 2016 and a NATO joint forces exercise in Latvia in the same year.

He then returned to the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst as a Commissioning Course Company Sergeant Major, where he spent a further two years educating and inspiring the next generation of officers in a post that he describes as "the best of my career so far".

Leaving Sandhurst at the end of 2019, Roper volunteered for a third tour of Afghanistan in 2020, this time as part of the UK's commitment to Op RESOLUTE SUPPORT, the overarching NATO mission. Arriving during the height of the Covid-19 pandemic, which was having a huge impact on the multinational force at the time, Roper assumed the role of Command Sergeant Major (a NATO title) in the Ministerial Advisory Group - Interior working directly to a UK Major General under a US Lieutenant General within the larger force of the Combined Security Transition Command - Afghanistan, the organisation responsible for all ministerial level Train-Advise-Assist missions into the Afghan government. For his 'exceptionally meritorious service' and 'outstanding leadership and dedication to duty which set the standard for others to emulate' during this tour with MAG-I, Roper was awarded the US Army Commendation Medal.

Upon his return to the UK, he took over as the Quartermaster Sergeant in Regimental Headquarters in Wellington Barracks just before Christmas 2020, a post which he currently still holds and in which he is looking forward to learning more about the wider Regiment and,

with it, all that entails.

David is married to Araminta (Minty) and lives with her and their 18-month old daughter, Katharine (Kitty), in Aldershot. In his spare time, he enjoys running and functional strength training, driving his Toyota Supra on track days and, when the world allows it, attending live music events.

Captain Tristram Reames



Captain **Tristram Reames** commissioned in April 2017 having graduated from Durham University where he studied Natural Sciences. It was a decision no doubt influenced by his late father (who was also a Grenadier) and time spent in Italy, Brunei and Germany in his very early

years. Prior to joining the Army, he spent time travelling, including a cross-Atlantic passage and working in his home town of Tunbridge Wells, Kent.

He joined The Queen's Company on arrival at Battalion and thoroughly enjoyed his platoon command. He was lucky to form part of the Grenadier team on Ex FROSTED BLADE and then deploy on Op TORAL in late 2018. In Kabul he was a Force Protection Commander, working with his platoon to provide protection to mentors and patrols around the historic city.

On return he joined Nijmegen Company and was quick to volunteer to take a team to Las Vegas to play rugby sevens. He says that his time in Nijmegen taught him, 'the positive influence that high quality Lance Corporals and Lance Sergeants can have on junior guardsmen.' Many highlights from his time with the Incremental Company include leading a team to a Gold Medal on the Cambrian Patrol, a Guard of Honour in Bruges, company exercise in the Falklands and time away

with a training team. One company commander described 'being a good dancer and being a good driller' as synonymous; a lesson Captain Reames had to learn in his time there before being part of the Troop in 2019.

He completed the Mortar Platoon Commanders' Course last December and is now looking forward to the nuanced challenges of support platoon command in what is set to be a busy and rewarding year with a deployment to Thailand scheduled for November 2021.

WO2 James Lalley



WO2 (CSM) James Lalley joined the Army aged 16 in 1997 and attended basic training at ATR Basingbourne and the Combat Infantry Course at ITC Catterick before joining the 2nd Battalion Royal Regiment of Fusiliers in Celle, Germany.

During his time in Celle, he completed his AFV Gunnery course and became a Warrior gunner in A Company. He also completed his PTI cadre and his Cpls course which saw him employed as a vehicle commander at only 19 and admits "to be honest I wasn't entirely sure what I was doing in charge of a Warrior at 19 but I applied myself and somehow made it work". He has served multiple tours of Iraq, Northern Ireland, Kosovo and Afghanistan.

WO2 Lalley has completed SCBC and PSBC and has served as a section commander at ITC Catterick, "I really learnt a lot at Catterick from watching quality instructors teach lessons across the division and I believe this set me up for success, I highly recommend the posting for young section commanders in the Battalion now". In 2012 WO2 Lalley was successful on the RMAS instructor cadre and enjoyed 2 years as a Colour Sergeant Instructor there, before extending to complete a further two years at RMAS as a CQMS.

In 2015 WO2 Lalley transferred to the Grenadier Guards after the disbandment of 2RRF and was posted to Support Company as the Sniper Platoon Commander. On promotion to WO2, he returned to RMAS as the Leadership Warrant Officer, and during his last year there applied for a Late Entry Commission and was successful. "I worked very hard in my preparation for the LECAB and was constantly surrounded by excellent people in and out of the Battalion who supported me through the process".

WO2 Lalley is set to commission in the Grenadier Guards in 2021 and will be posted to 1 YORKS as the training officer based in Catterick. He is married to Victoria and is a happy devoted father.

Lance Sergeant Patrick Brady



Lance Sergeant Patrick Brady joined the Army in September 2011 and attended the Army Foundation College Harrogate. Prior to joining the Army he lived in Kent with his mother and two brothers. He played rugby for his local team, Tonbridge Juddians, and is also a keen guitar

player. After Harrogate he was posted to Nijmegen Company and took part in State Ceremonial and Public Duties, including a personal highlight; his first Queen's Birthday Parade. He then joined the Mortar Platoon. His first taste of the Falkland's came soon afterwards and he was able to hone his skills as a Guardsman through the abundant live firing opportunities on the South Atlantic Islands.

His potential was spotted early and in 2015 he attended and passed his Lance Corporals course. It is here that he says 'he learnt the importance of junior leadership and understanding an individual's strengths and weaknesses.' After this he deployed to Kenya where he was mentored by

Colour Sergeant Oldham and Sergeant Price, two influential characters who he works closely with to this day. This exposure was key to him in passing the Mortar Standards Course and becoming a Bravo Mortar Fire Controller. This new position held great responsibility and he was able to put new skills to the test in his second deployment to the Falkland Islands. As a Lance Corporal he was calling in mortar fire on live ranges where troops were advancing towards the fire. He became an Alpha Mortar Fire Controller in 2017, a position that looks to leverage indirect fire across the battle space. These skills have been put to practice in Kenya, the Falklands (now three times) and various training areas across the UK.

In 2018, he deployed with The Prince of Wales's Company, in the Welsh Guards Battlegroup deployment on Op TORAL. As part of the force protection unit, they were also there during the elections held in Kabul and he enjoyed the window into a different culture and enjoyed the history that Kabul has in abundance.

In the future Lance Sargent Brady has professional aspirations to take over as 2IC in the Mortar Platoon. He is looking forward to moving into his first house in Kent this summer.

Guardsman Jayson Exley



Born and raised in Brighton, Guardsman Exley joined the Guards Training Company at 23 years of age, before passing the Combat Infantryman's Course and joining the Grenadier Guards. Guardsman Exley remembers, "training was very tough at times, but I loved the challenge and I like to

push myself, so I got through it. I wanted to join the Grenadier Guards because I wanted serve my country and join the best regiment in the army; experiencing both ceremonial duties and green sol-

diering".

Coming straight from Nijmegen Company, Guardsman Exley has joined the Anti-Tank Platoon where he is fitting in well and is quickly learning the skills required to be a Javelin Gunner. His initial feelings are that "although it is hard work and you have to think about it more, I'm enjoying the challenge and my mates in the platoon are good guys". In any job it is essential to set personal goals and have ambitions, here is what Guardsman Exley wants to do: "Once I've gained enough experience, my next goal is to promote to Lance-Corporal and start to become a leader of men. I'd like to see as much of the world as possible and have experiences that I would never get if I were a civilian". The Battalion has an exciting two years ahead and there is no reason why he won't achieve his ambitions and more.

Finally, it is always good to have a funny story about yourself and this is what Guardsman Exley had to say: "My parents and nan came up to see me guarding Buckingham Palace for the first time which was a big moment in my life. It was all going to plan, my personal drill impeccable and I looked seriously smart. As I approached the sentry box, about to be posted...I slipped over. The good news is that there weren't *that* many people watching!".

Colour Sergeant Mathew Hall



On leaving the Reconnaissance Platoon, Mathew Hall took up a post in the Royal Brunei Armed Forces Loan Service Team. He is currently a Colour Sergeant Instructor at the Officer Cadet School (OCS), the Bruneian equivalent of the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst, upon

which the school is modelled. There are 41 Officer Cadets in the intake, and two Loan Service instruc-

tors among eight other instructors. As a highly experienced jungle soldier, Colour Sergeant Hall was excited about spending more time in 'the trees' – it turns out he has done much more than just jungle-bashing.

The syllabus of the OCS majors on Jungle Warfare, which is unsurprising given that most of Brunei is jungle. Outside this niche capability, the Officer Cadets spend approximately a third of their time on academic studies, with the other two thirds given over to developing their soldiering and their officership.

The School is different from RMAS in one key respect: all aspiring Officers in the Royal Bruneian Armed Forces must attend the same school, regardless of their futures in the Land or Air Forces, or the Navy. This means that, while the focus remains basic infantry soldiering, some aspects of all

branches are covered in the course.

There are several exercises that anyone having passed an infantry course would readily recognise, including navigation and defensive and urban operations. The Officer Cadets have also conducted extensive jungle warfare exercises, for which Colour Sergeant Hall was both lead planner and lead instructor. On top of these, heli-abseiling and riverine operations around the Bruneian coast have challenged the Officer Cadets, as well as their Loan Service instructors, who are overwhelmingly infanteers.

Colour Sergeant Hall took a little time adapting to the breadth of the course but is now firmly in his stride doing what he does best – delivering excellent training underlined by his passion and immense professionalism. For a Grenadier abroad, there are few better places to be!



Carrier Platoon 2nd Battalion, Hem (France) 1939. Left to Right: Standing - Sergeant Croft, Lance Sergeant Hilliard, Lance Sergeant Stanard, Lance Sergeant Mountford. Sitting - Sergeant Mitchell, Sergeant Hirst. Sergeant Mitchell was awarded a DCM for his initiative and gallantry during the fierce fighting at Hem on 20 May. (With thanks to David Robins, North Staffordshire Branch).



Working in the (newly formed) 6th Division

by Captain Oliver Staunton

Whilst every reader knows that joining the Grenadier Guards is the most important step in one's career there comes a time where we must branch out from the clutches of the Battalion and share our talents with the wider Army and so it was with a mixture of excitement, trepidation and curiosity that I left to join 6 (UK) Div as Aide-de-Camp to Major General James Bowder OBE. To my delight, I found vast swathes of our blue-red-blue patch in both the Divisional and the Brigade HQs and was immediately made to feel at home. Thinking about it, this is hardly surprising as all who have worked with the Household Division know that we are well adept when it comes to thinking outside of the box and such thinkers are

just what is needed to make this unconventional Division thrive.

From its Headquarters in Wiltshire, HQ 6 (UK) Div now has a structure of four specialist brigades that deliver unique capabilities that have benefit for the Army, Defence and the wider Government. The Division sits at the heart of the Army's efforts to contest state competitors day-to-day in the so-called 'Grey Zone', to fight asymmetrically in times of crisis, and to support our foreign partners against violent extremist Organisations (VEOs). The 'Grey Zone' is the security setting in which we seek to modify a state competitor's behaviour below the threshold of conflict, and concurrently set the conditions to drive enemy de-escalation in times of crisis.

6 (UK) Div returned to the Army's ORBAT in August 2019 and was placed under the Command of General James. Whilst it is the most recent Division to return, it is far from young and has a rich history dating back to 6th October 1810 where it was first raised by Field Marshall Arthur Wellesley, 1st Duke of Wellington, for service in the Peninsular War. It has since taken part in nearly



Montage of pictures from history.

every major conflict, including a joint advance with the Guards Division under XIV Corp on 15th September 1916 at the Somme. In its most recent history, it was officially re-established on 8th April

2008, under the command of Major General Jacko Page CB OBE and then Major General Nick Carter CBE DSO to take command of Regional Command South in Afghanistan from 2009 - 2011.



CFA and General James raising the 6 (UK) Div flag for the first time.



The fire brigade of the 3rd Battalion Grenadier Guards at Curragh Camp, 1888,

Op RESCRIPT – From the perspective of a Mobile Testing Unit Commander

by Lieutenant Alec Heywood

On 27 April, the Battalion was dispersed across the country, living through lockdown like most of the country. After a few Warning Orders, and a flurry of staff work, the whole Battalion was tasked to provide nine Mobile Testing Units (MTUs) every day across London as part of Op RESCRIPT. In a matter of days, the entire Battalion was recalled from home, trained up, issued equipment, and given locations across the Capital. It was an



Guardsman Garrett with all the gear.

impressive logistical achievement, especially given the unforeseen nature of the task. This unpredictability was illustrated by Lt Bennett's confident wager on April 1st that no members of the Battalion would be deployed on Op RESCRIPT by the end of May. To the subaltern's chagrin, the Commanding Officer responded emphatically with the line "As at 1st May, over 150 members of the Battalion are deployed across London testing for COVID-19."

A typical COVID-19 day in Battalion would run as follows: each MTU team would leave camp between 0700-0800 to head to a Regional Testing Site to receive the day's testing kits. From there they moved to their designated car park to set up their MTU. Testing began at 1030, at which point cars and pedestrians would be admitted to the site by the council. Average testing figures for a day ranged between 80-180 but were as high as 475 in the early rush. Testing would end at 1600, after which the MTU returned to camp and commanders receive a brief from the ops room on the day's activity and locations for the following morning.

Back in Lille Barracks, Captains Wright and Staunton, with key enablers set up and ran an Ops Room to coordinate our efforts on the ground. They gallantly responded to many of the kind of issues that one joins the Army to solve, including but not limited to; "the iPhones for scanning tests have broken", "our gazebo has blown over", "the council didn't know we were coming", "someone has been sick in their car, and apparently it is our fault". One frequent reminder from the Ops Room to Platoon Commanders was that the issued iPhones were intended to assist the testing process, and not for any other reason!

The delivery of MTUs provided an effective shakeout for the Battalion. Platoon Commanders worked closely with their platoons, spending days on end in each other's company, in a way which simply is not achievable when on ceremonial duties. This was particularly satisfying for the three rifle companies, who developed their bonds as Platoons ahead of challenging deployments to the Falklands and Kenya.

Additionally, the daily interaction with civilians was a refreshing change from 'staggering on' in the Royal Palaces. All ranks enjoyed being able



Lance Corporal Chater, Guardsman Lear and Guardsman Hammond waiting for customers at a walk in test station.

to help, guide and reassure locals and feel part of the national effort. It proved rewarding for Guardsmen to engage with members of the public and express themselves rather than stare rigidly ahead from beneath a bearskin. Anyone who visited would have been charmed with the politeness and professionalism with which they conducted themselves. Initiative has been demonstrated daily - an SOP developed for non-English speakers, by getting the individual to be tested to Skype call a friend who did speak the native tongue.

With elements of the Battalion providing MTUs throughout the summer, the Battalion's contribution to Op RESCRIPT proved to be a much longer undertaking than was first anticipated. However, it also proved a rewarding and fulfilling experience, with Grenadiers supporting the nation in a national crisis, as they have for over 350 years.



Lance Sergeant Parker at the coal face.

Kenyan Defence Force live firing training team

by *Lieutenant Ralph Maddan*

The Grenadier Guards were asked by British Peace Support Team (Africa) (BPST(A)), based in Nairobi, to run a short-term training team (STTT) to train a group from the Kenyan Defence Force (KDF) how to run both static and live fire tactical training (LFTT) ranges. This expertise is intended to enhance their pre-deployment training; for any readers not already aware, the KDF is heavily involved in Somalia as part of the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM).



A member of the KDF is overseen as Range Conducting Officer during a day on the gallery range.

As England was placed into lockdown 2, the five-man team were boarding a flight to Nairobi. We were to train twenty-five members of the KDF to a sufficient standard so that they could return to their parent units with enough understanding to plan and conduct realistic ranges safely. The team comprised three Grenadiers (the author and two Lance Sergeants) and two members of the SASC.

After a few days in Nairobi being issued our vehicles and receiving a RSOI package, we drove 270km north to the Kenyan School of Infantry which is situated just outside Isiolo. Of note, Isiolo has a large Somali population which has produced a significant proportion of Kenya's home-grown

terrorists. We were accommodated throughout in a tented camp outside the perimeter of the School of Infantry, which was notable for the absence of any form of fence, bar the front gate. Somewhat surprising given the proximity to Isiolo. However, we never felt even remotely threatened.

We were also very comfortable. BPST(A) have established a camp for STTTs on the edge of a training area in the semi-arid bush that covers the majority of Isiolo country, complete with safari tents, bucket showers and a *boma* from which it was not uncommon to see herds of elephants. BPST(A) also provided a chef who was able to produce some excellent food from a rudimentary kitchen. I'm sure it was a very different experience to the one the Battalion will get when it undertakes its role as Task Force HANNIBAL on Ex ASKARI STORM in Autumn 2021.

Soon after arriving and having met our students, the course was opened by the Commandant of the School of Infantry and we began the four-week training programme. Our students were a variety of rank and ability, but all had extensive operational experience, the vast majority had done at least one 12-month tour of Somalia.

It was very enjoyable teaching the students, who were professional and grasped the subject matter quickly, with a couple of key institutional differences. The biggest challenge we faced was to get the KDF students to appreciate the importance of due process and safe practice, particularly on LFTT ranges. It became clear that on certain matters the KDF had very different way of doing things to our own. One student, known by his peers as crazy Nick, had only been temporarily demoted one rank after storming a local police station with his platoon dressed in riot gear in order to release one of their number who had been arrested. However, to their credit, after a few emergency lessons were added to the training programme, the students adopted the safety measures, and by the time we got on the ranges they applied the necessary practices well.

The highlights often came in the margins of the training programme. Whether it was being invited to the mess for drinks or chatting at the back of a range, we were always being entertained, at one point I was even offered a Masai bride. Additionally,

the KDF did not train at the weekends which afforded us a great opportunity to get out of our tented camp and capitalise on the close proximity of numerous wildlife conservancies with a couple of safaris.

Unfortunately, a week into the course, we were obliged to take coronavirus tests because another STTT we had come into contact with had tested positive before flying back to the UK. All eight of us in our camp (our STTT plus the three locally employed civilians) tested positive and we were forced to postpone the course and isolate for ten days. Fortunately, all eight of us were asymptomatic. Although it was a great shame to have lost time with the KDF, isolation was not a hardship; we were well catered for by our chef, we had fantastic weather, the School of Infantry's Quartermaster's Department became very proficient at dead letterbox resupplies, and we were able to explore the surrounding bush.

Despite losing over a week of the training programme, we were able to adjust the programme to ensure sufficient material was timetabled into the time available, ensuring the STTT achieved its aim. By the end of the course the students had been taught how to plan and run both static and LFTT ranges safely.

After a month in Kenya we returned to the UK just as the lockdown was lifted. I'm confident I speak for all five of us when I say we thoroughly enjoyed our time training with the KDF; a pleasure to teach and the most excellent hosts. It was a fantastic opportunity for the five of us to get some experience of a less conventional part of our role

and I would highly recommend opportunities like this to any of my peers.



WO2 (QMSI) Nicholson SASC (formerly Grenadier Guards), oversees a member of the KDF conducting a walkthrough on the LFTT range.

Task Force HANNIBAL – Lessons Learned as a Free Play Enemy

by *Lieutenant Will Martin*

In the Autumn and Winter of 2020, the Battalion provided enemy forces against a variety of different units of the British Army

under the Field Training Unit's new project; Task Force Hannibal. The purpose is to create a free-play enemy with its own doctrine focussing on maximising mission command. The experience of playing enemy is not to be scoffed at, for it provides an excellent opportunity to experiment with new SOPs and TTPs, try new ideas, and see how British Army doctrine matches from the opposition's perspective. The Battalion has not recently had many opportunities to provide OPFOR for other units, with such a busy forecast of events this last

year, and as such those of us involved were able to learn and observe a lot from our experiences and take away key learning points for our own future exercises and operations, with Kenya in Autumn 2021 and Iraq in 2022.

The lessons learned from the experience of being OPFOR can be grouped thematically into areas the Battalion can address and trial as we look towards increasing time spent on Exercise in 2021. Firstly, the concept of ‘move dispersed’, ‘fight together’ is one the Battalion has been trialling and has been used both by the exercising troops and us as enemy alike. The idea is simple, with force elements moving separately to then come together in an RV prior to the assault. This masks our intentions while reducing our IDF vulnerability and signature on the ground. It proved hugely effective at all levels, from my Platoon up to the Exercising Battlegroup movements.

In defence, it was evident how predictable it is possible to be and therefore how important it is that we as commanders innovatively employ deception to mask our intended course of action. We employed mobile defence when overmatched in fighting strength which proved far more effective in degrading their advantage in manpower than a static, fortified defence. Mobile defence builds on the ‘offensive spirit’ principle of defence. It allowed us as the defender freedom to draw the attacker into our pre-designated killing areas at the expense of holding ground. In other words, we committed to destroying the enemy rather than simply denying them ground. This in turn drew their focus to their front at the expense of their flanks and rear, enabling us to then target their under-resourced weak points. The balance to be struck is in resourcing the main effort but not at the expense of sufficient resourcing of other potential vulnerable points.

The value of maintaining momentum in the battle has been evident for both attacker and defender alike, and we found that once momentum was gained it was hard to stop. This is crucial to success and a lesson that was very apparent to us as OPFOR. This momentum does not necessarily come from speed, but rather we found from low-level skills and drills conducted

smoothly and efficiently, which allows easy Section coordination and movement. This in turn allows me as the Platoon Commander and my Platoon Sergeant to easily and swiftly manoeuvre our elements around the battlefield to capitalise on any initiative gained. While conducting offensive actions on exercising troops superior in number and weapon mix to our own, the importance of overall command and control by commanders, especially at night, was apparent. Mission command and anticipation at all levels really sped up the battle and lent it the momentum that was otherwise easily lost through unnecessary pauses in the battle.

Being the fresh from leave, well-rested enemy that we were, it was clear to see the impact of fatigue and exercise-weariness on even the most highly-skilled and well-trained soldiers. The degradation of their low-level skills and drills, attention to detail and fulfilling basic processes became very apparent as the exercises went on. The clear effect of the extra “horizontal admin” we were getting as enemy was stark in our ability to maintain high standards and morale. Exercise and operational fatigue has always been and always will be a constraint. The importance of us training to such a degree that on operations when under stress and fatigue, we can still perform was not lost on us. Nonetheless seeing the impact it had on the exercising troops, we could fully appreciate it as something commanders must manage and mitigate if at all possible.

Overall, the observations the Grenadiers involved in OPFOR taskings came away with were positive and productive. It proved to the commanders the value of process, and importance of every role in the battle. We came away with even stronger confidence in our own doctrine as it so evidently works, and the above observations merely provide us a canvas on which to develop our ways of doing things to improve in the future. The experience of manning free-play OPFOR gave commanders an unprecedented opportunity to experiment with SOPs, TTPs and command positioning. This we found hugely valuable and is something we should strive to do more of in the relentless pursuit of improvement.

My First Experience of the Battalion

by *Guardsmen Phoenix,*
Number Two Company



It was always going to be a daunting challenge, to dismount Queen's Guard and then join my new platoon on Exercise for three weeks in Brecon, and while it was tough to get to know everyone and try and prove myself, I enjoyed my time on exercise with my new Company.

I was one of thirteen Guardsmen joining Number Two Company from Nijmegen Company, finally heading to the 1st Battalion after such a long journey to get here. We came off guard on the Sunday night and by Tuesday we were at the back of a range on Sennybridge Training Area, trying our best to get to know our new platoons. For the rest of that first week we progressed through lots of Live Fire Tactical Training (LFTT) training, with a particular highlight being the 'shoot-through' facility where we got to practice building clearances with live ammunition for the first time. At the end of the week we managed to conduct four live platoon attacks, on the wettest day in UK history - the river went up to my chest.

Luckily, we were given an admin day in camp to prepare for deployment onto

the next phase which was the blank firing exercise. After a very welcome night of showers and takeaway pizza, the next morning we were transported to the training area, not in coaches, but on a Chinook helicopter, conducting three advance to contacts on the way to our harbour area. These proved to be a bit of a shock to the system as the weather closed in and the many hours spent on guard in London were definitely felt in my legs. However, we soon got back into the swing of things and the rest of the week was a flurry of activity as we conducted multiple raids, recces, ambushes and deliberate attacks. Some were either off Chinook or Puma helicopters, a privilege which was welcomed by everyone and which were certainly very fun experiences.

After a week of fairly relentless platoon level actions we had another mini rest day before redeploying into a Company harbour and working towards the final phase of the exercise. This was to be a Battlegroup attack onto Cilieni Village with Number Two Company at the front. My platoon was the first to launch an attack onto the village - we had to clear a route in for everyone else following us. This was made doubly hard by the fact we were operating in a very thick woodblock and in complete darkness. Soon though the illumination began going up and the attack quickly got going.

It was great to be involved in such a big final attack in just my first exercise with the 1st Battalion. I was welcomed by everyone in the Company and learnt loads throughout the exercise, especially the importance of keeping my sleeping bag dry!



Stage JAGUAR – Jungle Warfare with the French Foreign Legion

by Lieutenant Ralph Maddan



'A jungle treat? An Instructor inspects our shelter during a four day period of group survival.'

On 25 November 2019 I arrived, still saturated from a wet few months on the Platoon Commanders' Battle Course, for my first day in the Battalion. My relief to have finally joined the Field Army after the various training establishments was short-lived when our Operations Officer informed me that I had been selected for a 'jungly treat'. I confess, I wasn't particularly thrilled by this prospect so soon after finishing training, a sentiment which was greatly exacerbated when I learnt it was to be in French Guiana with the French Foreign Legion. However, as a thrusting, brand new ensign I stiffened the upper lip, choked back misgivings about my lack of French and replied gratefully. And so, a couple of weeks later, I found myself being ushered into the guardroom of a French Foreign Legion camp named *Quatier Forget* in Kourou, French Guiana.

Some readers may recall Dan Cuccio's article in *The Guards Magazine* of his experiences of the same course in 2016 - whilst the fundamental structure, subject matter and ethos of the course seem to have remained the same, large parts of my experience undoubtedly differed from his.

After a fairly disjointed discussion with the

guard commander, a well-built, bald, heavily tattooed eastern European (no shortage of those in the Legion), I was finally led to a large, whitewashed building that was providing temporary accommodation for the *stageurs* (students) of *Stage Jaguar* (the French Foreign Legion's jungle warfare course). I can't imagine the first impression the other *stageurs* got of me was particularly impressive. I arrived the day before the course began, having inadvertently missed the acclimatisation week for the international students because of a mistranslation of the joining instructions (as alluded to, I cannot speak French). As a small crowd gathered to weigh up the newest arrival, we exchanged some small talk. The conversation quickly moved to individuals' parent units. All of the other international *stageurs* claimed to be from some form of special forces unit; some, like the Poles from GROM, legitimately, but other claims seemed to be more tenuous.

I thought I'd seen an opportunity to break the ice with an early joke, I explained that I was in the Grenadier Guards which was an exclusively ceremonial unit, and I was only in there because of an unfortunate administrative error. They either didn't understand the sarcasm or perhaps it just wasn't funny. Either way it was met with blank stares and a painful silence. This was followed shortly after by a comparison of tattoos and unfavourable observations about my Pink Panther artwork - as I glanced around at the skulls, swords and swastikas on my fellow *stageurs*, I admit it did look slightly out of place. My notes (I wrote down bullet points when I could) from the day of my arrival conclude, 'bad start...'

The following day I first met our five permanent directing staff. They were an eclectic mix of individuals which I will briefly describe because they are an illustrative cross-section of those who I met in the Legion. The captain commanding the course was a comically stereotypical Frenchman, with his flat tone regularly interspersed by 'errrr' and sound effects, coupled with over-exaggerated hand movements and facial expressions. Our two *instructors* (think Colour Sergeant instructors) could have been brothers; they were both thick set Russians, with short hair and square jawlines who spoke French with thick accents, liked to

shout and consequently seemed permanently miserable. We also had two *moniteurs*, corporals who specialised in jungle tactics and techniques; one was a young Nepalese chap who had joined the Legion after narrowly missing out on being selected for the Gurkhas; the other was a wiry, middle aged Colombian who we later discovered had plenty of experience in jungle warfare from his days in both FARC and an anti-cartel paramilitary group before he had joined the Legion.

After a short introduction we launched into the first phase; three days' worth of *aguerrissement* (Dan Cuccio's loose translation of this word as 'beasting' sums this up); a constant cycle of physical assessments, including boot runs, *pistes* (obstacle courses), body weight exercises, rope climbing and swimming. The swimming was particularly tiring, spending hours on end in the pool treading water, doing underwater lengths, swimming only using one limb and culminating with an assault course in the pool. This included an unpleasant obstacle which can best be described as an enormous wire

mesh Rubik's cube dropped in the deep end, which required you to swim into through a small gap, grope your way through a mini labyrinth before emerging, fighting for air, through another gap in the wire on the far side. By the second day the first *stageurs* dropped out, and there was a steady rate of attrition for the first three weeks or so.

On the fourth day we were bussed from the comparative comforts of *Quartier Forget* 100 miles south into the Amazon Rainforest. The jungle around the *Centre d'entraînement à la forêt équatoriale* (CEFE) is characterised by the large tidal rivers that criss-cross a mix of primary and secondary jungle, with a tidal range of up to four metres that turns large swathes of the jungle into dreaded *marécage* (swamp). *Perogues* (motorised canoes) were the main mode of transport when we weren't cutting our way through foliage. The climate was heavy as the course is run through the rainy season; the temperature resting between 25-30 degrees but exacerbated by the high humidity and frequent torrential rain showers.



The author crawling under barbed wire during a *piste*.



Getting bergens ready for an insertion swim.

The course persisted at a relentless pace for the first five weeks. The subjects diversified from being exclusively physical as we were taught a plethora of new techniques. We were taught basic jungle craft including a wide range of knots, names and properties of plants, how and with what to build shelters, rafts, fires, traps and tools. We also learnt basic soldiering skills including jungle navigation by both day and night (I never saw any sign of the 12 hours uninterrupted sleep I was promised by those who have done British jungle courses), demolitions, close combat known as 'C4' (akin to

Mixed Martial Arts with less rules), survival, and weapon handling on pistols, shotguns, the FAMAS and *Minimi* light machine gun. These lessons were interspersed by regular PT events, ranging from long swims up jungle rivers to the four jungle *pistes*. The most notorious of which, *piste brancardage*, is renowned throughout the French Military and involved wading through waist deep mud in full kit with one member of your team tied to a pole like a dead pig, a technique known as *brancardage* which is common in the Legion as



Getting bergens ready for an insertion swim.

a method of CASEVAC. The battle is to keep the casualty's head from being submerged as you fight your way through the mud, it takes around 40 minutes to complete the 400m course.

These weeks were a steep learning curve, made steeper by my lack of French that didn't develop much beyond being able to name objects in my bergen and the various stress positions employed. I suspect this was partly because of my poor linguistic skills, but also partly because we were just as likely to be taught in Russian, Spanish or Polish. As an organisation that recruits from every dialect of every language in the world, they are well practiced in teaching through demonstration and imitation and so the language of each lesson is of less consequence than one might imagine. Even still, my notes from soon after our move to the jungle reads 'out of the frying pan and into the fire'.

Throughout my time there we looked and felt more like a convicts than soldiers. Our mandatory shaved heads and rapidly shrinking statures as we lost weight gave us a look typical of the incarcerated. The Spartan methods of the directing staff ensured we felt like convicts too. We were each allotted a number in place of our names. Physical punishments were a regular part of the training, stress positions being a particular favourite in the Legion, as nothing was ever to the standards of perfection demanded by the *instructors*. We were

permanently hungry because of the environment and the amount of exercise on offer. We were always wet, even when a break in the rain and swimming events made it look as though our clothes might be drying out, we were sent crawling into a convenient puddle, swamp or river with regular calls of "para agua kurwa!" (an imaginative mix of Spanish and Polish politely translated to "get in the water!"). We were often misled to keep us guessing. Navigation exercises, for example, sometimes included points that didn't exist on the ground resulting in hapless *stageurs* stumbling around for hours searching for nonexistent features.

However, the main reason that it often felt like a penal experience, and in stark contrast to my experience on British courses, was the lack of camaraderie; there were personal friendships, but no common identity or cause. It was very much every man for himself, sink or swim, because there would be no metaphorical life jacket thrown by the other *stageurs*. Perhaps surprisingly, the only common ground between everyone was a childish dislike of the French. Amusingly, this was particularly evident amongst the legionnaires who have a notoriously rocky relationship with the French public.

The content of the training was also markedly different to what I've experienced in the British Army, particularly their appetite for risk which

allowed the training staff to use their imaginations and make serials creative. Highlights included jumping out of low flying helicopters or fast moving *perogues* into jungle rivers as methods of insertion, the demolitions and the ‘C4’ lessons. The close quarter combat, or ‘C4’, was good fun bar two occasions in which I found myself slightly undone. The first was during the post-learning scrapping that took place at the end of each ‘C4’ lesson. These sessions consisted of the *stageurs* standing in a circle to form a makeshift ring and the *instructor* calling out two numbers. The two *stageurs*, with a gumshield, box and MMA gloves for protection, would enter the ring and try to subdue the other by whatever means possible, eye-gouging being the only thing prohibited. I enjoyed those sessions apart from the occasion I was required to fight a big, hairy, Spanish chap, 30kg heavier than I and fittingly nicknamed ‘Gorilla’ who gave me a thrashing. The second instance was at the end of the exhausting ‘C4’ test, done at night and lasting for about 40 minutes which finished with facing two *moniteurs* at once. I was fortunate in that I managed to end up face down so that my bruising was relatively light. Others weren’t so lucky and the following day there were plenty of black eyes, broken noses and split lips to compliment the usual ailments one experiences when living in the jungle for an extended period. ‘C4’ is commonplace within the Legion and I believe we would do well to incorporate it in some capacity ourselves. Not because knowing how best to target an enemy’s weak points or the most effective way of strangling someone is important, but because it is physically arduous and is an opportunity to test ones’ martial spirit.



The author (right) exercising command during the final attack on Devil’s Island.

As we progressed onto the tactical phase it became evident that they are not constrained by the borders of training areas; as well as the vast expanse of jungle, we seemed to be able to train anywhere the directing staff thought appropriate. There was a dawn attack on a town where an unsuspecting *boulangerie* was unfortunate enough to get a wayward practice grenade through the window; there were *piroque* chases along the jungle rivers amongst boats stuffed with bewildered tourists, like a scene out of a James Bond film; an air assault onto a civilian airfield; and an amphibious assault onto Devil’s Island, the former prison, now a tourist attraction after being immortalised in *Papillon*. Neither, I might add, are they constrained by doctrine. As the tactical exercises progressed, I would guess the jungle tactics we were taught would have been recognisable to veterans of Dien Bien Phu for many of the tactics and low-level skills seemed dated.



Stageurs and DS formed up for the closing parade in Quatier Forget.

Even so, when the course finished, I felt a great sense of achievement having reached the end and it was not without pride that I had the *chef de section forêt* badge pinned onto my lapel. At the end of a physically and mentally demanding nine weeks only nineteen of us passed, about 60% of those that started. It is probably indicative of my state of mind at that point that I was incredibly frustrated that they didn’t punch the badge into my chest as is their tradition because concerns about the spread of coronavirus. Somehow I felt like we had been cheated of the full experience right at the end. Am I glad to have done it? Definitely. It was a unique and challenging experience, I learnt a lot about the Legion and came to admire them for their high standards of fitness, endurance, and their appetite for risk.

Climbing Snowdon with Carl Shadrake

by 2nd Lieutenant Alexander Wilson



The start line selfie.

On 16th October 2020, the Commanding Officer, Sergeant Major, Quartermaster Sergeant (Tech), Drill Sergeant Lloyd, the Reconnaissance Platoon Commander and Guardsman Gilbert accompanied the Regimental Casualty Officer and Carl Shadrake – as well as his family – to the summit of Mount Snowdon, the highest point in Wales.

This was the final half marathon of Carl’s epic challenge of running 100 half marathons in 100 days. After giving an interview to ITV’s *Lorraine* – in which he challenged the host to complete a run with him in the future – Carl ran a rapid 10k before

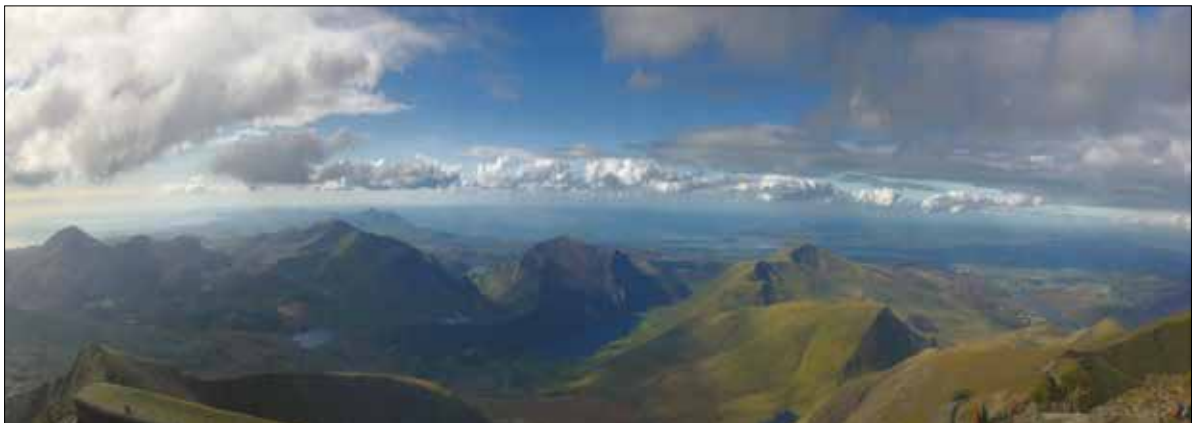
setting off up Snowdon with the rest of the group, which included his two young daughters.

For North Wales in late autumn, the weather was exceptionally kind, offering unspoilt panoramas at every crest, each bettered by the next, until the view from the summit topped them all. For the serving soldiers, climbing in webbing and daysack – with an undisclosed weight – offered an opportunity to feel some satisfaction as walkers in highly technical and brightly coloured gear were left in the group’s wake.

A fortifying round of tea and coffee – with a couple of cups of Bovril in for good measure – kept morale high for the duration of the climb. The most impressive effort undoubtedly came from the two junior Shadrakes, who stormed to the summit in short order, the benefits of youth and vitality!

After some photographs and a short lunch break at the top, the Grenadiers decided that running the way down would provide ample recovery for the drive home – the aching limbs over the weekend would indicate otherwise... Given that Wales was heading into lockdown at 1800 hrs, it was good that everyone hurried down; being marooned on the wrong side of the border was not an appealing prospect for anyone.

For Matthew Ellmer, the endlessly energetic Regimental Casualty Officer, this was just another day in the ‘office’; this year he has walked Hadrian’s Wall among other such challenges. He made it all look very easy. It was a pleasure to be there to support Carl and his family after such a unique challenge. He deserves a huge amount of credit for raising close to £20,000 for SSAFA and Help for Heroes.



The view from the summit to the North West.

News from the Turf: Grenadier Guards sets track record

by *Our Racing Correspondent*

20 December 2020, Japan: Grenadier Guards broke the track record at Hanshin to claim the nation’s most prestigious two-year-old contest, the Asahi Hai Futurity. Bred in the purple, as well as being by the legendary Frankel, he is out of the Breeders’ Cup winner Wavell Avenue.

Grenadier Guards, a 16-1 shot, chased five-length leader Mondreise, who set a rapid early pace, before assuming control 200 yards out, after which he had enough in hand to hold off the rest of the field.

Winning rider Yuga Kuwada said: “My concern was to keep him happy and in a good rhythm



because he is difficult and can run off like he did in his second career outing so you have to be careful to keep him controlled,” he said.

“He has great potential if he can bring out his best and I am looking forward for another good season for him next year.”

Source: the horseracingplanet.com (retrieved 21 December 2020)

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The Remembrance Trust in the Crimea – an important initiative for Grenadiers

by the Regimental Adjutant

Anyone driving through northern France and Belgium – Flanders, Picardy and Normandy in particular - cannot help but notice the many Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC) cemeteries dotted across the landscape, impeccably maintained as a poignant reminder of the sacrifice of thousands of British and Commonwealth troops killed during the two world wars of the twentieth century. In the UK, the War Memorials Trust (founded in 1997) works tirelessly, despite limited funding, to conserve and protect over 50,000 war memorials in cities, towns and villages, many treasured but others left to ruination from the effects of ageing and weathering or, worse still, vandalised.

However, few realise that the remit of the CWGC does not extend to any conflict before 1914, so I was delighted when I learnt that a former Grenadier, Algy Cluff OBE DL, had established The Remembrance Trust to fill the void. As a former Chairman of the War Memorials Trust, the National Army Museum and a former Governor of the Commonwealth Institute, Algy set out the Trust’s objective to find

and document the worldwide location of graves and memorials of British and Commonwealth military personnel who died between 1700 and 1904, and then, where possible, by using a network of skilled masons and other craftsmen, architectural students and volunteers, to restore selected sites. In the process, the Trust aims not only to enhance the community by teaching transferable skills, but also to increase tourism to the area of the sites, creating employment and contributing to the local economy.

Recent projects underway include the restoration of eighteenth and nineteenth century naval and military graves and memorials on Antigua; and two cemeteries at Bayonne in South West France, where there are Coldstream and Scots Guards graves dating from the Peninsular War. The latest project being considered is the restoration of graves and memorials in and around Sevastopol in the Crimea. Firstly, the Trust proposes to use a drone to photograph specific memorials, in particular the two obelisks at Balaclava and Sevastopol, following up with a physical visit later in the summer to assess what work is actually possible, as well as to negotiate an agreement with the local authorities and enlist their support.

For today’s Grenadiers, the Crimean War has special significance for, as Henry Hanning wrote, ‘the historic battle of Inkerman (on 5th November 1854), won by the heroic efforts of individual soldiers, was to leave behind it a name famous in the history of the Regiment’. It is worth noting that

when the 3rd Battalion departed for the East in February 1854 it numbered 984 men in total. A year later, despite the arrival of new drafts to replace some of those killed, wounded and sick, the battalion strength had been reduced to about 150 men of whom only 60 had marched out of St George’s Barracks the previous February. Such losses today are



Grenadiers attacking the Sandbag battery at Inkerman (Regimental collection).



Cathcart's Hill c. 1855 – the graves of officers of the 4th Division who died at Inkerman (Regimental collection).

almost unimaginable.

Although the magnificent Guards Crimean War Memorial located at Waterloo Place in St James's, erected in 1861, commemorates 2,152 officers, non-commissioned officers of the Brigade of Guards who fell during the war with Russia, the graves and monuments left behind after British troops left the Crimea in 1856 have been sadly neglected, indeed many have been lost.

In 2019 the Times' Istanbul correspondent, Hannah Lucinda Smith, visited the Crimea. She found 'on a hilltop close to the Valley of Death...an obelisk, weeds sprouting around its base and slabs of marble missing from its sides. The plaques that carried names of the dead are missing, and there is nothing else to announce that 23,000 British soldiers who perished in the Crimean War of 1853-6 are buried there. Cathcart's Hill, a gentle rise between Sevastopol and Balaclava, was the first battlefield cemetery for British soldiers who died in the war...In 1956 the stones were torn up...dachas were built over part of the burial ground and the gravestones turned into garden ornaments. In the 1990s, a Ukrainian con man scammed £000s from the descendants of the British officers buried at

Cathcart's Hill to erect a new memorial there — the obelisk that is now falling apart.'

On behalf of all Grenadiers, I wish Algy Cluff and the Remembrance Trust every success in their Crimean endeavours. We will follow their progress with great interest and all Grenadiers are encouraged to visit the Trust's website where there are details of how to donate and volunteer: <https://www.theremembrancetrust.com>. Incidentally Algy, as 2nd Lieutenant J G Cluff, was the last officer to carry one of the 3rd Battalion Colours on parade (as the Ensign on the Queen's Birthday Parade in 1960, just before the battalion was then placed into Suspended Animation) just over 100 years after the Colours were last carried into battle at Inkerman (and nearly lost).

For those living within range of Cowes, places at a fund raising dinner for The Remembrance Trust, being held at the Royal Yacht Squadron on Friday 24 September 24 (tickets £100), are still available.



The new memorial.

A Narrow Escape

*by Colonel Euan Houstoun OBE,
formerly Grenadier Guards*

In 1968 when the 1st Battalion was posted to Sharjah as part of the UK Quick Reaction Battle Group in the Middle East, Edmund Hudson and

I, as mortar platoon and reconnaissance platoon commander respectively, were detailed to accompany the Commanding Officer David Hargreaves on a visit to Muscat. Flying over endless low jebel in an Army Air Corps Beaver aircraft, we arrived in good order and were soon enjoying the generous and seemingly endless hospitality of the Sultan's Armed Forces. On the return flight to Sharjah, Edmund and I were in the back with our side doors

secured, both feeling distinctly old-fashioned. I was suddenly aware that the pilot, Sam Law, was executing a 360 degree turn. Nudging Edmund who was fast asleep, I asked Sam why. He pointed at a black dot on the windscreen and replied "Afraid it's oil". In the course of the next three minutes the dot expanded to engulf the entire windscreen, leaving Sam with little more than a tiny triangular window which he had managed to push out to give him a lateral but not forward view of the ground below.

Miraculously we landed on a tiny area of stony but flat desert about 180 yards in length - without crashing. As we skidded to a dusty halt, Sam laconically announced 'Maybe fire. OUT!' Edmund and I wrenched open our respective doors in double quick time, leapt out and ran like the blazes away from the aircraft but after four or five paces we both came to a neck breaking halt. We had forgotten to shed our bulky headsets which were still plugged into the cabin intercom system! Flat on our backs under the aircraft with no flames in sight, the pair of us burst into fits of laughter, a double act patently disapproved of by the Commanding Officer whose cherished sun tan had by now become distinctly mottled. When we finally returned to barracks, we discovered that our roles in the Battalion had already been competed for, so convinced were our brother officers that we had not survived the crash landing! However, the Senior Major who daily

retired to the officers' mess at 11 a.m. for a reviving Tom Collins, looked greatly relieved when the Commanding Officer's moustachioed face appeared at lunch.

Edmund and I went on to become firm friends and I was thrilled to become his choice of 'Best Man' on our return to England in 1969. Eight of us assembled on his 'stag' night at The Guards Club which in those days was at 16 Charles Street, round the corner from Shepherd's Market with its outstanding food and entertainment. In a weakened survival state, we crept into our respective bed spaces at 2 o'clock in the morning, staggering down to a superb breakfast at 10, then out onto Charles Street turning left, downhill for 100 yards to be shepherded into "Trumpers" for a complete overhaul lasting until the early afternoon.

Our career paths diverged but we kept in close touch and both shared the same passion for family life as well as soldiering. When I became President of the Regimental Association, it gave me the chance to stay at Manor Yard whenever I visited the Oxford Branch. Memories abound of gargantuan and absolutely hilarious meals - Edmund had become a dab hand in the kitchen - washed down with copious bottles of excellent wine. The story of our narrow escape always made us both speechless with laughter!



Army Air Corps Beaver.

The King's Company Role on the final journey of The Unknown Warrior

by Major Philip Wright OBE,
formerly Grenadier Guards

The centenary of the burial of the Unknown Soldier 100 years ago in November last year brought back echoes of the night of 10th November 1920 when the remains of the Unknown Warrior arrived at Victoria Station. A single unidentified serviceman, he represented all those who were missing in the Great War with no known grave. A guard was mounted on Platform 8 by 1st Battalion Grenadier Guards consisting of one Sergeant, three Corporals and twelve Guardsmen of The King's Company commanded by Lieutenant Philip Gregson~Ellis.

The scene was described by the correspondent of the *Times*:

"The carriage, with its small shunting engine came in very slowly. The few civilians awaited its coming on the platform saluted. There was a great silence.

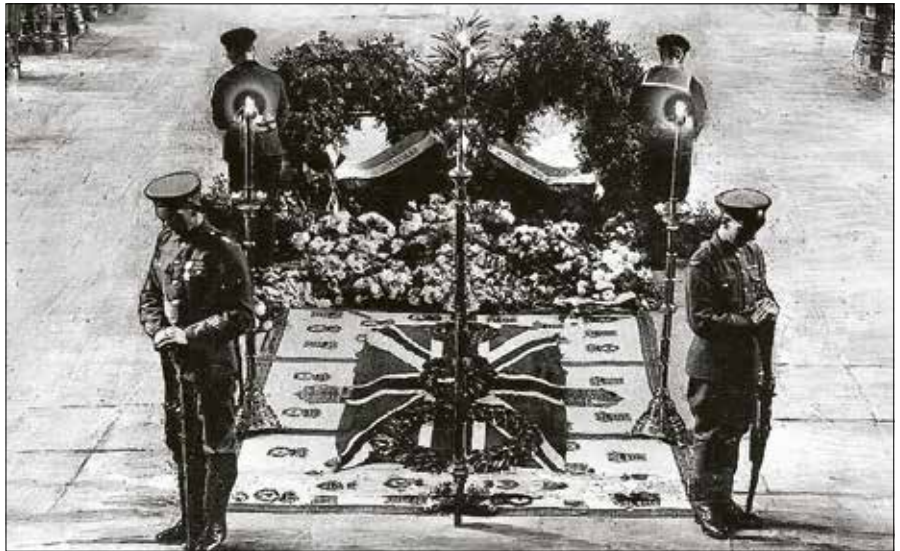
One heard a smothered sound of weeping. The smoke in the roof bellied and eddied around the arc lamps. The funeral carriage stopped at last."

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

their arms reversed. They were relieved every half hour throughout the night. It was a symbolic act of comradeship. Brothers in Arms are never alone, even in death

On Armistice Day at 9.30 am, the bearer party of eight Guardsmen from 3rd Battalion Coldstream Guards removed the coffin from the van and a Union Flag, steel helmet, webbing belt and bayonet were put on it. It was then placed on a gun carriage drawn by six black horses. The procession through London via the Cenotaph to the last resting place in Westminster Abbey was led by the massed bands of the Brigade of Guards and the Scots Guards pipers. Dense silent crowds lined the streets. The cavalcade stopped at the Cenotaph for its unveiling by King George V before progressing to Westminster Abbey. Here the coffin was born to its final resting place, watched by nearly one thousand bereaved widows and mothers.

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



Unknown Warrior.

The Centenary of the burial of the Unknown Warrior

The Band of the Grenadier Guards at Westminster Abbey

On the morning of 11 November 1920, as the gun carriage with the coffin of the Unknown Warrior made its way through the crowd-lined streets to the North Door of Westminster Abbey, the Band of The Grenadier Guards conducted by Captain Albert Williams MVO, Senior Director of Music, Brigade of Guards, commenced playing in the Abbey before

Beginning at 10 a.m., the Band of H.M. Grenadier Guards, under the direction of Captain A. WILLIAMS, M.V.O., Mus.Doc., will play the following :—

OVERTURE " In Memoriam " Sullivan

" MARCHÉ FUNÈBRE ET CHANT SÉRAPHIQUE " .. Guilmant

MORCEAU SYMPHONIQUE .. " Rédemption " .. César Franck

SLOW MOVEMENT FROM SYMPHONY " Killed in action " A. Somervell

At 10.45 a.m. the Choir and Clergy, headed by the Beadle and the Cross of Westminster, will move from the Nave to the High Altar, singing the following hymn :—

" THE SUPREME SACRIFICE."

the arrival of the procession:

Exactly 100 years later on 11 November 2020, the Band took part in the centenary service to mark the return and burial of the Unknown Warrior. Positioned in the South Transept (Close to Poets’



Corner), members of the Band played the same selection of music as their forebearers played at the original service. For those present, it was a privilege to be a part of such a poignant service, one that will be remembered for years to come.



The music to ‘Killed in Action’ on the Director of Music’s stand (by kind permission of Westminster Abbey).

The trombone section at the grave of the Unknown Warrior (by kind permission of Westminster Abbey)

An extract taken from the order of service in 1920 to show the list of music played by the band before 10:45.

An extract to show Equali for Trombones was played in the 1920 service.

THE ORDER FOR THE BURIAL OF THE DEAD.

The following will be sung in procession from the North Porch to the Grave side in the centre of the Nave :

I AM the resurrection and the life, saith the Lord : he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live : and whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die.

I know that my Redeemer liveth, and that he shall stand at the latter day upon the earth. And though after my skin worms destroy this body, yet in my flesh shall I see God : whom I shall see for myself, and mine eyes shall behold, and not another.

We brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out. The Lord gave, and the Lord hath taken away ; blessed be the name of the Lord.

Man that is born of a woman hath but a short time to live, and is full of misery. He cometh up, and is cut down, like a flower ; he fleeth as it were a shadow, and never continueth in one stay.

In the midst of life we are in death : of whom may we seek for succour, but of thee, O Lord, who for our sins art justly displeas’d ?

Yet, O Lord God most holy, O Lord most mighty, O holy and most merciful Saviour, deliver us not into the bitter pains of eternal death.

Thou knowest, Lord, the secrets of our hearts ; shut not thy merciful ears to our prayer ; but spare us, Lord most holy, O God most mighty, O holy and merciful Saviour, thou most worthy Judge eternal, suffer us not, at our last hour, for any pains of death, to fall from thee.

Croft and Purcell

EQUALI FOR TROMBONES Beethoven

The Grenadier cometh...

by Our Motoring Correspondent

When Jaguar Land Rover announced in 2016 that they were stopping production of the 1983 One Ten and 1984 Ninety models (branded Defender in 1990 to differentiate from the Discovery), the world of Land Rover aficionados came to a juddering halt. The reason given was that their boxy shape failed to comply with both US and EU car safety regulations. Although the new variant of the Defender ticks all the right safety boxes and meets customer expectations for high-end off-road vehicles, the ‘take me for what I am – a box on wheels’, down-to-earth unpretentiousness of the former Defender has gone.

This iconic British 4x4 brand had started life in 1947 as the British answer to the Jeep, indeed the prototype was built on a Jeep chassis and axles. King George VI granted it a Royal Warrant in 1951 and the Series 1 model soon became a frequent sight in the British countryside.

In 1945, the Army which had used both Willys Jeeps and Chevrolet trucks in the Second World War, decided to develop an all-British vehicle and five years later the first of over 11,000 Austin Champs entered service. Alongside the Champ, the Army also purchased a trial batch of the newly produced Series 1 Land Rover. Cheap, light and with better fuel economy than other vehicles, they were used for transport duties in rear echelons while the Austin Champ operated in the front line.

Although billed as the Rolls Royce of military small combat vehicles – it did indeed have a Rolls Royce engine – the Champ soon revealed its shortcomings, proving to be heavy and unexpectedly prone to rear axle failure. In the meantime, the unassuming Land Rover had proved that it was able to do almost everything that the Champ could do and at half the price. The Army had to face facts and curtailed their contract with Austin in 1955. From then on, Land Rovers became the standard British Army light vehicle and remain in service today as the Wolf variant which is based on the old Defender platform.

Generations of Grenadiers have driven military

Land Rovers or bumped along as passengers; in the light role, especially for the Recce and Signals Platoons, Land Rovers became mobile homes with the occupants invariably sitting in a nest of radio leads. The 9x9 Command Post (originally called Tent, Air Portable) even provided deluxe office space for company commanders in the field. So how apt that the name Grenadier has been chosen for the exciting INEOS classic 4x4 legacy vehicle which puts durability, utility and capability before luxury. With a box-section ladder frame, permanent four-wheel drive, beam axles, and a boxy body that’s designed rather than styled, the Grenadier is a hard-hitting statement of uncompromising off-road intent.



Why Grenadier? Over a friendly pint at the Grenadier pub in London, car enthusiast, adventurer and entrepreneur Sir Jim Ratcliffe, INEOS Chairman, identified a gap in the market for a stripped back, no-nonsense, utilitarian 4x4. It immediately set bells ringing around the world and the Grenadier project took off. Today, testing of prototypes is well advanced and the progress of the vehicle can be followed on <https://ineosgrenadier.com/en-gb/explore/the-grenadier-videos-and-stories>

Production will begin in early 2022 at the recently acquired Mercedes Benz plant at Hambach in Alsace Lorraine – a hybrid between Frederick I's Grand Grenadiers of Potsdam and Napoleon's

Grenadiers-à-Pied de la Garde Impériale and the Grenadier Guards?

This is by no means the first time that 'Grenadier' has been used as a product name: current uses include electric firelighters, an Airbnb apartment in Milan, a Scandinavian Crewneck Tee Dress for teenagers, Swiss watch models, designer handbags, roof planters, anchovies, hedgecutters (no surprises), infant bodysuits, earthfired pizza ovens, desktop synthesizers, a pair of slippers by Crockett and Jones (embroidered with Mills bombs), and not forgetting 'after a busy day at the office, one of the most enjoyable ways to relax is to sit back and revel in the smoothness of an Antonio y Cleopatra Dark Grenadier Cigar'.



Some thoughts from the Potting Shed

by *Lieutenant Colonel Gerald Lesinski, formerly Grenadier Guards*

Picture the scene ... It is the second Saturday in June. At the top of Stand A on the east side of Horseguards Parade, up against the garden wall at the back of 10 Downing Street, is a little wooden potting shed. It looks across the parade ground towards the Admiralty and is lined up with the front rank of the troops from the Escort to No 4 Guard. Inside there is just room for 4 people – a technician, a girl researcher, Huw Edwards and me. The colour is just being trooped along the front of No 5 Guard and the Massed Bands are repositioning to get out of the way.

“I understand that we are witnessing a rather complex manoeuvre called “the spin wheel”” says Huw to me, live on air, “what exactly is going on?”

“To be honest, Huw,” I reply “I haven’t the faintest idea. There are only two men on earth who really know what’s happening – the Senior Drum Major and the Garrison Sergeant Major. For the rest of us mere mortals - it’s all just smoke ‘n mirrors!”

The Major General had tasked me to help out the BBC with the commentary for the television coverage of Her Majesty’s Birthday Parade. Although I had participated myself, one way or another, (from being a Guardsman in the ranks to the chap in command on the horse.), I was rather nervous. So, too, I discovered, was Huw. It was his first time as well. Initially, after sniffing around each other like a couple of dogs, we agreed that we would treat the whole thing like a sort of conversation but that the key thing was not to say too much. We reckoned that viewers weren’t unintelligent and all we should do was to outline what was supposed to happen, explain where necessary, and then let them enjoy watching and listening to it actually taking place.

“After all,” said Huw “this isn’t radio. People don’t need a ball-by-ball commentary and they want to listen to the music. Apart from anything else, talking more won’t mean getting paid any more!”

In the event, all seemed to go reasonably well. The parade itself was splendid and people seemed happy



The BBC’s Huw Edwards.

enough with the television coverage. We managed to avoid some of the commentary “elephant traps”, for example - the pronunciation of the name of the composer of that wonderful old march “The Children of the Regiment” – a man called Fucik!

Afterwards the producer congratulated me on my command of the French language. “I don’t understand,” I said, “I wasn’t speaking any French.” He then explained, and I realised, that I had been using words for military qualities for which there is no real English equivalent. Expressions like “panache”, “élan” and “esprit de corps” don’t really have proper alternatives in our language. Strange, isn’t it?

The use of French in a military context proved a bit of a problem on a subsequent commentary-related occasion.

Some years before, when my battalion was posted

to Berlin, the Commanding Officer summoned me (the Adjutant) and the Sergeant Major to discuss the British Forces' parade to celebrate Her Majesty's Birthday in that city. The format was laid down by the Brigade Headquarters. The Commanding Officer ran through it. The final element was an advance in review order followed by a gunfire salute – a "feu de joie".

"I am sorry, Sir" said the Sergeant Major "but that is not possible."

"What do you mean?" said the Commanding Officer.

"Well, Sir, I'm afraid that this is not a recognised element of the Foot Guards' ceremonial repertoire. It is not in the Drill Book. We British do not even have a word for it. The Battalion will not be doing a, what do you call it? – a flippin' Follies Bergère!"

"Sarn't Major, the Battalion will carry out all the elements of the parade as laid down by Brigade. Is

that clear?"

"Sir!"

Thereafter, at every discussion, practice, rehearsal, whatever, the Sergeant Major refused to refer to that particular drill movement as anything other than "that Flippin' Follies Bergère"! And so it became known, throughout the Battalion

Twenty or so years later, the then Major General decided to mark the Monarch's 80th Birthday by adding a special postscript to that year's Birthday Parade. When this was communicated to the BBC the filming arrangements were reviewed. Normally the broadcast ends when troops are leaving Horseguards Parade and marching behind their Colonel-in-Chief on to the Mall. This time it was decided to extend the live TV coverage right up to Buckingham Palace where the Foot Guards would perform, in the Forecourt, a celebratory "Feu de Joie". This required a further 45 minutes of live commentary. When we



View of the Queen's Birthday Parade - Potting Shed marked with red cross (Crown Copyright).

learnt of this, I said to Huw “Sorry chum, but you’re on your own for this. I’m not getting involved in this extra ceremony, I daren’t”

“Hang on, I can’t fill in all that additional time by myself. What do you mean, you daren’t?”

“I can’t tell you why, because if I do, I will have sown the seed and your mind, like mine, will be ‘tainted’”

“What are you talking about? What’s this rubbish about “seeds” and “tainted”?”

I demurred. He insisted. We argued to and fro. Eventually I gave in, saying “...be it on your own head”. I then told him the story of the Sergeant Major and the Berlin feu de joie:

“The thing is” I told him “I dare not run the risk of saying, live, to millions of viewers all over the world, “Flippin’ Follies Bergère!””

“Well, thanks a bunch!” said Huw. “You were right, you’ve sown the seed. My mind is now tainted. Thanks to you, it’ll be me that drops a bollock live on air!”

Suffice it to say that, on the day, disaster was averted. The commentary on the progress of the Guards to the Palace was, it must be said, a bit thin, somewhat deliberate and measured with most of the time being handed over to poor Clare Balding who was tasked with a rather breathless vox pop among the crowds down the Mall.

Foot Guards officers and horses do not necessarily go well together. I took Huw and Clare to lunch with the officers in Wellington Barracks. When quizzed by Clare, the Commanding Officer admitted that the last animal that he had ridden had been a camel. Another, younger, officer, due to ride on parade, was rather more confident. He came over, it must be said, as rather smug when saying how experienced a rider he was. One of his brother officers warned that experienced he might be but that chargers from the Household Division stables were rather different from other steeds he may have mounted. “They’ve been so badly ridden by Foot Guards officers that their mouths are like iron and, given the glimmer of a chance, they’ll play up like mad and cart you off parade.”

The potting shed/commentary box has a wide window overlooking Horseguards Parade. One is also faced by a number of TV monitors. The central pair shows the main shot that is actually being



‘Joie de Feu’ in the Forecourt.

broadcast live, together with the next shot lined up to send out. Half a dozen other screens show the images from various camera positions.

The four Household Cavalry Troopers preceding the Brigade Major were coming down the Approach Road. The Mounted Band of the Household Cavalry was leading the Sovereign’s procession off the Mall. Suddenly the smug young officer’s horse went berserk! It bucked and reared like something out of the Calgary Stampede. His bearskin came off, his sword was dropped and the Coldstreamers in No 6 Guard feared for their lives. The currently broadcast shot was of the Royal procession with the director lining up to switch to one focused on the extraordinary equine antics. While Huw was describing the colour of the Queen’s dress, I switched to the internal link straight to the director and, possibly using some rather ‘unparliamentary language’, encouraged him not to broadcast the unfortunate rider’s predicament (I apologised afterwards). By this time Her Majesty was arriving on parade just in time to see the recalcitrant horse being trotted through the Horseguards arch, riderless, led off by one of the grooms. It is reported that she wasn’t best pleased. At least I’d kept it off the screen!

In a pause in commentary, Huw turned to me and asked

“Will that officer remount and come back on parade?”

“No...” I said “...in fact the chances are that he’s now on his way to the Tower of London...”



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The First Regiment of Foot Guards in the 'First World War' of 1756-1763

by *Captain Rufus Harding*

It was Sir Winston Churchill who boldly described the Seven Years' War (1756-1763) as 'the First World War'.¹ This was on account of the war being fought on a such a scale, when compared to previous multi-national conflicts, that it could be considered a truly global conflict. British, other European, and indeed Native American, Indian and African soldiers fought across the globe; from Germany to Cuba, from Quebec to Manila. After withstanding an initial string of significant military disasters, Great Britain, together with her German allies, turned defeat into victory during the *Annus Mirabilis* of 1759 and emerged triumphant.²

The role of the First Regiment of Foot Guards in this most significant of conflicts is not one that has received a great deal of coverage in both the annals of regimental history and the historical memory of those who have served in the Regiment. Perhaps this is because no specific battle honours were awarded to the Regiment during the war, and therefore it does not conjure up the same tales and images as the names Waterloo, Inkerman and Somme so often do. That does not mean, however, that the Regiment was denied considerable overseas service and frontline action in the Seven Years' War which is worthy of a higher profile. As will be described, the Regiment saw some significant and bloody service, albeit restricted to the European theatre, which included both victories and also significant

defeat. In terms of the former, significant victories were achieved whilst campaigning in Germany during 1760-62, most significantly at the Battle of Villinghausen, in July 1761, and at the Battle of Wilhelmthal in June 1762. In terms of the latter, the Regiment was deployed on a number of hugely ambitious, but eventually deeply costly, amphibious raids on the French coast – Saint Malo in June 1758 and Saint Cast in September of the same year.

With the intention of not concluding this article on a low ebb, it is the amphibious operations in France that will be the initial focus. For the opening two years of the war, the Regiment was preoccupied with its usual peacetime duties, principally guard duties and responding to civil unrest in London, and was principally garrisoned at the Tower of London. Long summers during the campaign season were spent encamped in Hyde Park, ready to march at a moment's notice, should they be required to deploy to France, or elsewhere, or even to respond to a feared French invasion of southern England.³ It is worth noting, that throughout this period, all three Regiments of Foot Guards operated with three battalions, and were organised and deployed as the Brigade of Guards, although usually with no more than a single battalion of each regiment being deployed at a time.

It was in this period, in 1757, that Field Marshal John Ligonier 1st Earl Ligonier, was appointed 12th Colonel of Regiment, whilst serving as Commander-in-Chief of the Forces.⁴ This appointment followed the resignation of Prince William, Duke of Cumberland, otherwise known as 'Butcher Cumberland', an infamous nickname granted to him following the alleged massacre of Scottish prisoners after Culloden. Cumberland's resignation followed a string of disastrous campaigns in Germany, where

1 Tom Pocock, *Battle for Empire; The Very First World War 1756-1763*, (London: Caxton, 2002), p.13.

2 Britain's German allies consisted most significantly of Prussia, under Frederick the Great; Hanover, of which George II was Elector, and a number of smaller states: Brunswick-Wolfenbüttel, Hesse-Kassel and Schamburg-Lippe. This was lined up against a multitude of mostly Catholic European states, which intermittently included France, Spain, Austria, Sweden and Russia.

3 F. W. Hamilton, *The Origin and History of the First of Grenadier Guards*, Volume II (London: John Murray, 1874), p.153.

4 A French Huguenot born in 1680, whose family had fled France in the late 17th century in fear of religious persecution, Ligonier went on to have a distinguished career in the British Army and was remarkably appointed a Knight of the Bath by George II, when in the field, after the Battle of Dettingen in 1743.



Field Marshal, John Ligonier 1st Earl Ligonier, here in the uniform of the Royal Regiment of Horse Guards.

he had been Commander-in-Chief, which resulted in the French occupation of Hanover. The loss of Hanover, albeit temporary, was a great humiliation for George II, who, in his capacity as Elector of Hannover, was particularly motivated by a desire to defend the Electorate, which was not only a source of income for the Crown, but also a major source of troops and mercenaries.

Part of the reason for that failure was the diversion of British resources to deliver a series of amphibious raids along the French coast known as 'the Descents', the first of which failed to take Rochefort in September 1757. These raids were the brainchild of William Pitt the Elder, the newly appointed Secretary of State for the Southern Department.⁵ The intent was to open a second front against France and to also make better use of the Royal Navy, Britain's key national asset. However,

as shall be made clear, a lack of strategic end state to these raids and the significant resources expended in delivering them, particularly at the expense of soldiers on the ground, ultimately led to their failure.

Despite the initial failure to take Rochefort, Pitt persevered with the policy and in June 1758 launched a second attack against the major French port of St. Malo. This was to be the opening deployment of the First Guards in the war. The force consisted of 13,000 troops, amongst which was the Brigade of Guards under the command of Major General Alexander Dury, Lieutenant Colonel of the First Guards. The Brigade consisted of the first battalions of all three regiments and departed the



Major General Alexander Dury, Regimental Lieutenant Colonel of the First Guards and commander of the Brigade of Guards during 'the Descents' on the French coast.

⁵ In this period the conduct of British foreign policy was divided into two departments, the Southern and Northern. The Southern Department, the more senior, was responsible for southern England, Wales and Ireland, alongside Catholic southern Europe and the American colonies. The Northern was responsible for northern England, Scotland and Protestant northern Europe. The Southern Department under Pitt became a proponent of naval 'blue water' policy, with a focus on the colonies, versus a focus on a 'European policy' with the maintenance of a large land Army on the Continent and continued financial subsidies to Britain's German allies. The debate on whether to focus British foreign policy in Europe, or further afield, was very much alive in the eighteenth century, as it is today.

Isle of Wight in late May with the fleet commanded by the distinguished Admiral Richard Howe, later 1st Earl Howe.⁶ The 1st Battalion, First Guards was commanded by Lieutenant Colonel Carey.

With rough seas having ruled out a direct attack on St. Malo the troops landed on 6th June, close to the village of Cancale, and advanced from there to St. Malo with the Guards in the first column. On the evening of the 7th, French shipping was identified in a basin to the rear of the town and the order was given to destroy it. In this opening gambit, British

cavalry, with hand grenade wielding infantry mounted behind them, managed to destroy two French men-of-war, 33 privateers and 70 merchant ships; a considerable haul.⁷ Finding St. Malo itself too strongly defended for a direct attack, and satisfied with the destruction of French shipping, British forces withdrew to the Isle of Wight on the 1st July.

After a month spent replenishing, the fleet set sail again on 1st August, this time in the direction of Cherbourg. With the Brigade of Guards again



The uniforms and distinctive headdress, featuring the white horse of Hanover, worn by 'Grenadiers' of the three regiments of Foot Guards in the Seven Years' War.

⁶ Hamilton, *Grenadier Guards*, p.159

⁷ *Ibid*, p.160

taking the lead, a landing was conducted with the use of flat-bottomed landing craft at the Bay of Marais. Naval gunfire was brought in to support the landing, after a force of 3,000 French emerged to resist. Leading the advance against the French, the Guards, along with the Grenadiers of the Army, held firm in the face of three volleys of enemy fire, prior to advancing and forcing the enemy to withdraw from the field.⁸ Official dispatches described the action as follows:

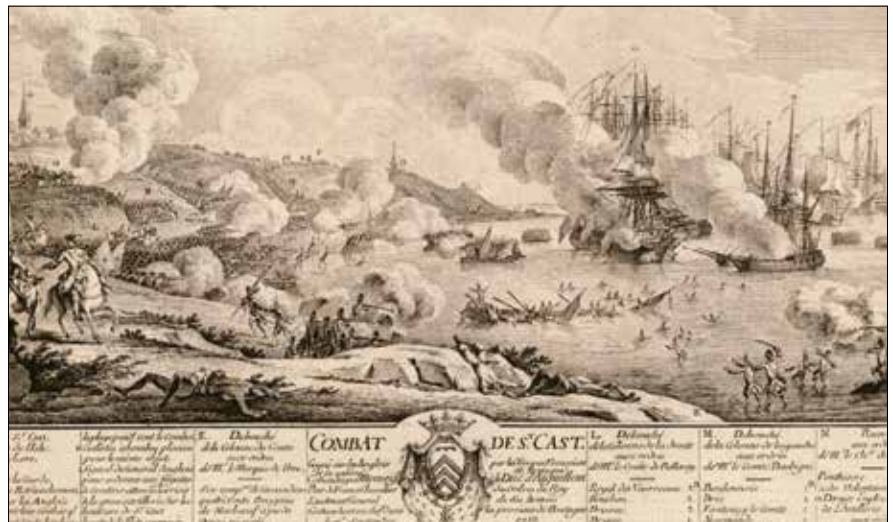
*'Dear Sir – We have this day the agreeable news that our troops... have by a vigorous action repulsed a body of 3000 horse and foot who opposed their landing. This service was done by the Guards and the Grenadiers of the army who received three volleys of fire before they returned it, but then attacked with such vigour that the enemy, after a considerable loss, retreated.'*⁹

With the withdrawal of French forces, Cherbourg was left open, and it was occupied on the 8th August. There followed an initial lapse in discipline, during which the soldiers, 'indulged in riot and licentiousness' in the town which was not deemed representative of, 'the strict discipline and sobriety of which the Foot Guards set a laudable example to the rest of the army.'¹⁰ After order had been restored, work was begun on destroying fortifications, shipping and other infrastructure. With the port of Cherbourg, and surrounding coastal batteries destroyed, the fleet withdrew.

In light of significant military defeats in Germany, the success of the raid on Cherbourg was a major boost to public morale and

captured cannons, colours and other trophies were paraded through London. Riding on the back of this success plans were made for an additional raid in September, focussing again on St. Malo. But it was naive to think that the French would sit back and allow a similar disaster to which they had suffered at Cherbourg. Setbacks began almost immediately when St. Malo was again ruled out for attack due to high winds. In a change of plan, the British disembarked on the 9th September at the Bay of St. Cast, which offered more shelter. Things got off to a bad start when scouting parties were ambushed by groups of armed French militia and irregular forces. The French follow-up to the British landing should have been seen as inevitable and it was not long before a considerable French force of at least fourteen battalions of infantry, four squadrons of cavalry, and another separate force of 3,000, came into sight.¹¹ The British were considerably outmatched.

There followed a period of British indecision, as supplies continued to be delivered to the shore overnight; it was not until the next morning that orders were given to withdraw to the ships. As can



The Battle of St Cast – the French surround the British extracting in chaos to their ships

8 In this period the term 'Grenadier' was reserved for elite troops from the across the Army, who were renowned for their size and physical strength. These Grenadiers were formed into individual battalions and were often deployed in more specialist operations, such as amphibious attacks, and as an initial 'punch' to break enemy morale.

9 Hamilton, *Grenadier Guards*, p.162.

10 *Ibid*, p.162.

11 Hamilton, *Grenadier Guards*, p.162

be easily be imagined, embarking an eighteenth-century army onto ships, in rough seas, was no easy feat and would take considerable time. Four companies of the First Guards were ordered to form a rear guard to cover the extraction. By late morning the majority of British troops had embarked the ships, leaving the rear guard dangerously exposed. While the fleet was able to fend off initial French moves with naval gunfire, it was not something that could be maintained across the entire area of the bay.

Remaining British troops on the ground were the four companies of the First Guards and the Grenadier companies, around 1,500 in total, under the command of Major General Dury. It was at this stage that the French came down upon the British in force. Rather than withdrawing on the remaining boats Dury ordered that his troops emerge from cover and form up to face the oncoming French. Despite considerable resistance from the First Guards, the French continued in their advance and began to direct their cannon fire against the few boats that were left. When the order was finally given to withdraw to the boats it was too late, many had been sunk and the Guards had nowhere to run. They were forced into the waves and in an attempt to swim to the ships many drowned. The remainder were killed on the shore or compelled to surrender. Dury himself was shot in the chest while attempting to swim to a boat and drowned. The expedition had been a disaster, with the loss of 600 dead and 400 captured.¹² Major General Dury, the Regimental Lieutenant Colonel, was among them.

The Battle of St. Cast marked the end of the British 'Descents' onto the French coast. While there had been some successes, most notably at Cherbourg, the great expense in both men and money had simply not been worth it. Fortunately for the British government, news of the disaster was softened by more positive news from North America where both Louisburg and Cape Breton had been taken from the French; and in Germany where Anglo-German forces had begun to make a comeback. Indeed, it did at least seem that the French had been forced to divert some considerable

resources from Germany to bolster their coastal defences, as had been intended. Despite showing considerable bravery and discipline in the face of the enemy, St. Cast had been a disaster for the First Guards and significant effort had to be put in to rebuilding and reforming the 1st Battalion in the months which followed. With the 1st Battalion effectively undeployable, it would be the turn of the 2nd Battalion to take the lead on future deployments into Germany.

The events of 1759, the year that became known as the *Annus Mirabilis*, were remarkable, with writer and politician Horace Walpole exclaiming that, 'our bells are worn threadbare with the ringing for victories.'¹³ Many of the most famous battles of the war took place that year, including the Battle of Minden in August, where Anglo-German forces inflicted a significant defeat on French; the Battle of Quebec, in September, where Major General James Wolfe was mortally wounded leading his troops to take the city; and the Battle of Quiberon Bay, in November, where Admiral Sir Edward Hawke destroyed the French Atlantic fleet, thereby ending the threat of a French invasion of England and leaving the Royal Navy as by far the dominant force in the North Atlantic. The victories of 1759 led to a surge in patriotic feeling and support for the government; *Heart of Oak* was composed to celebrate naval triumph and HMS Victory, laid down in 1759, was given her name.

It was hard to imagine, that only a year earlier Britain and her German allies had been sitting on the precipice of defeat. The First Guards, for their part, did not play much of a role throughout 1759, being left at home to provide defence against the French invasion threat. The destruction of the French fleet at Quiberon Bay ruled out that invasion threat and it was decided that more risk could be taken on the domestic front, enabling more troops to be sent to Germany. Anglo-German forces had been commanded, since the resignation of the Duke of Cumberland, by Prince Ferdinand, Duke of Brunswick. Ferdinand quickly established himself as a superb commander and was the lead architect

¹² *Ibid*, 166

¹³ Fred Anderson, *Crucible of War; The Seven Years' War and the Fate of Empire in British North America, 1754-1766*, (New York: Random House, 2000), p.298.



Prince Ferdinand, Duke of Brunswick, leader of Anglo-German forces in western Germany during the Seven Years' War.

of the victory at Minden. In the spring of 1760 considerable reinforcements were sent to Germany, and in July the Brigade of Guards received its deployment orders. The 2nd Battalions of all three regiments, 3,000 in total, were to be deployed, under the command of the grandly named Major General Julius Caesar, Lieutenant Colonel of the Coldstream Guards. The deployment of the Brigade of Guards, alongside other regiments, took the British contingent under Lieutenant General John Manners, Marquess of Granby, to some 32,000.¹⁴

The Brigade of Guards saw little action for the remainder of the 1760 campaign season and spent the winter encamped near Paderborn. The campaign of 1761, however, would be much more

eventful. Eager to begin the campaigning season early, and after being joined by a contingent of 7,000 Prussians, Prince Ferdinand mobilised his forces towards the end of February. The campaign got off to a good start for the Allies, with the French, surprised by the early start to the campaign, conceding much ground to the west. The French army rallied in the summer, and on 15th July the two sides faced off in the vicinity of Vellinghausen in Westphalia. The two French armies in west Germany were vastly superior in numbers to the Anglo-German force and at Vellinghausen they were able to muster some 90,000 against the combined Anglo-German force of 65,000.¹⁵

The British were positioned in an area of wooded high ground to the west of Vellinghausen, with orders to hold that ground against any French advance. It was on 15th July that the French commander, the duc de Broglie, ordered his advance directly at the positions occupied by the Guards. These positions were defended, in the words of Prince Ferdinand, 'with indescribable bravery,' until the coming of darkness forced the French to withdraw.¹⁶ The following day, the Brigade of Guards was withdrawn from the front and ordered to hold in the vicinity of the village of Hohenover. Subsequent French assaults resulted in total losses of around 5,000, against 1,500 for the Allies. As the French withdrew from the field at Vellinghausen, the Allies were able to advance towards the River Diemel, but were unable to inflict a decisive blow for the rest of the year.

The hardships of the campaign had taken their toll, and by the winter a third of the 2nd Battalion's rank and file were considered unfit for duty. In April 1762, a draft of 187 men was sent from London to supplement the ranks. After waiting for reinforcements, it was not until June that Prince Ferdinand made his move to cross the Diemel, advancing south towards Wilhelmstal, where the French army was encamped. The French, taken by surprise at the sudden advance, were unable to mobilise their entire force when the Anglo-German

14 It said that the Marquis of Granby has more pubs named after him than any other person. This is a direct legacy of his great popularity amongst his soldiers, many of whom he sponsored to become publicans upon their retirement.

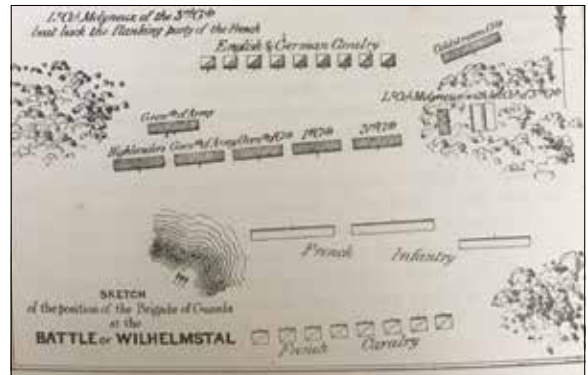
15 Dull, *French Navy*, p.189

16 Hamilton, *Grenadier Guards*, p.183

army descended upon them. With the Brigade of Guards very much at the forefront of the advance, the French were again forced to withdraw. The fighting at Wilhelmstal had been considerable, with the First Guards suffering a high rate of casualties: 32 men were declared as missing, 29 were wounded and 9 had been killed, including the Commanding Officer, Lieutenant Colonel Henry Townsend.¹⁷

The French never fully reorganised following their defeat in the Battle of Wilhelmstal and the Allies were able to continue to press their advantage by forcing the them to withdraw further and further back to their own frontier. That is not to say the remainder of the campaign was without action and hardship. In August the commander of the Brigade of Guards, Major General Ceasar was killed after falling from his horse. There was also significant action at Amöneburg in late September, where the First Guards were called forward to assist German troops who had become stuck in their attempt to dislodge French forces from a fortified redoubt protecting a key bridge across the River Ohm.¹⁸ Nevertheless the war was clearly coming to an end as France was not prepared to risk an invasion of her own territory. For the First Guards, and the remainder of British forces in Germany, the Seven Years' War was over, although it would not be until January 1763 that the 2nd Battalion returned to England. That summer all three battalions of the First Guards were reviewed by the new King, George III, in Hyde Park, with laurel and oak sprigs being presented to those who had fought in Germany.

Britain emerged from the Seven Years' War as the world's leading imperial power with the 1763 Treaty of Paris granting a large extension to her territories in North America and India, and with it control over many of the world's major trade routes. France, previously the leading force in North America, was completely reduced. Britain was ceded all land to the east of the Mississippi River, which had previously formed New France. At the same time Spain ceded Florida to Britain. In the Caribbean Britain gained a number of wealthy



The Battle of Wilhelmstal – the map shows the positions of the Brigade of Guards, to the north of the French positions.

trading islands including: Dominica, Grenada, Saint Vincent, and Tobago. The defining colonial gain of the Seven Years' War, however, was India. The East India Company under the leadership of Robert Clive secured military dominance in Bengal and effectively destroyed any French threat to British hegemony on the Sub-Continent. As historian Fank McLynn put it simply, 'if the war decided one thing irrevocably. India would be British not French.'¹⁹

While the First Guards had played no role in these major actions in the colonial sphere, their contribution the European war in France and Germany had been considerable. There is no doubt that successful campaigns in America, the Caribbean and India were significant, but most important of all was the European theatre. It was there that France and her allies – Spain, Austria and Russia were ultimately defeated. The success of the Anglo-German alliance and of their combined armies in western Germany, together with the victories of Prussia in the east, exposed France to a threat of invasion that she was unprepared to face, making peace the only option. Ultimate victory, as in so many wars throughout British history, was secured in Europe, but it would not be long before the First Guards were again treading familiar ground in the face of Revolutionary France and Napoleon.

¹⁷ Hamilton, *Grenadier Guards*, p.188

¹⁸ *Ibid*, p.190

¹⁹ McLynn, *1759*, p.35.

Captain John Perceval, Grenadier Guards, a pioneer campaigner for Mental Health

by *The Assistant Editor*

The stories of individual Grenadiers over the centuries reflect the life and times they lived, and none is more extraordinary than that of John Thomas Perceval. Born in 1803, the tenth of thirteen children of Spencer Perceval MP, he was a mere nine years old when his father, by that time Prime Minister, was shot dead in the lobby of the House of Commons by ‘an aggrieved merchant’, John Bellingham.



After completing his studies at Harrow, Perceval obtained a commission in the 2nd Dragoon Guards (‘The Queen’s Bays’). In May 1822, he transferred to the Grenadiers and appeared on the regimental roll as ‘an ensign and lieutenant’. In one of its more unusual deployments, six companies of the 1st Battalion (23 officers and 513 ORs) embarked at Deptford on 15 December 1826 for Lisbon as part of Lieutenant General Sir William Clinton’s 5,000 strong expeditionary force. His orders were to support the Constitutionalist Party in the War of Succession between the two fraternal

claimants – Dom Pedro and Dom Miguel – but on the proviso that Britain was not at war with Spain or France. Other than suppressing riots in Lisbon in April 1827, it was a bloodless and uneventful campaign for the Grenadiers, characterized by ‘long marches between the towns – to do nothing’ and ‘the assassinations of one or two of the men and outrages upon the officers, unatoned for.’¹ The Grenadier contingent returned to England in April 1828, only to be redeployed to Dublin in August to relieve the 3rd Battalion.



Daumier cartoon – the King of France on the right supporting Dom Miguel.

In his memoir, Perceval wrote that ‘I passed my life in the Guards quiet and unobserved...If I was remarkable in society for anything, it was for my gravity and silence when the levity of my companions transgressed the bounds of decorum...I was also firm in resisting all attempts to drive me by ridicule into intemperance’². Not surprisingly, by June 1830, he had had enough of the army and, after selling his commission, went up to Hertford College Oxford. A restless soul, he soon eschewed university life and joined an evangelical sect in Row in Scotland who spoke in tongues and were said to perform miracles. On a visit to friends in Dublin, he reportedly contracted syphilis from a prostitute which triggered a long-overdue breakdown.

By this stage, aged 27, as the son of a very

¹ Perceval, John: *A narrative of the treatment...*

² *ibid*

conservative Prime Minister, Perceval's behaviour was so strange and his radical politics so completely contrary to his family's views that his elder brother, a Tory MP who had recently persuaded Parliament to pass a law to impose a day of fasting on the population which at the time was engaged in widespread rioting for bread, had him restrained and put in the lunatic asylum at Brislington House in Bristol and then Ticehurst House in Sussex from which he promptly escaped.

When he was recaptured, he recorded his interview with the principal, Dr Newington:

"You ran away. I thought you would never run away." "You know it was no sudden impulse that made me run away, but that I have given warning that I would attempt it long ago." "It was an act of folly and madness." "No sir. It was an act that required forethought, dexterity, courage, resolution and enterprise."

Surely the qualities of a good Grenadier!

One of his first actions on release in early 1834 was to marry Anna Gardner, a cheesemonger's daughter, who was described by his family as 'quite out of his station in life'. Perceval and his wife went to Paris, where he started working on a book about his experiences. It was published in 1838 under the lengthy title *A narrative of the treatment experienced by a Gentleman during a state of mental derangement designed to explain the causes and nature of insanity, and to expose the injudicious conduct pursued towards many unfortunate sufferers under that calamity.*

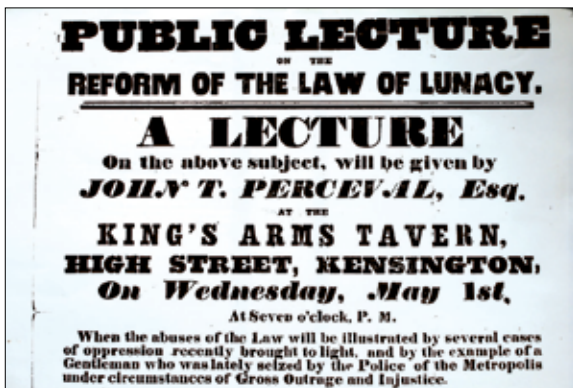
The book begins: 'In the year 1830, I was

unfortunately deprived of the use of my reason. This calamity befel me about Christmas. I was then in Dublin. The Almighty allowed my mind to become a ruin under sickness - delusions of a religious nature and treatment contrary to nature. My soul survived that ruin."³ A second volume followed shortly after.

Perceval spent the rest of his life campaigning for the reform of the lunacy laws and for better treatment of asylum inmates, once referring to himself as 'the attorney general of Her Majesty's madmen'. He joined a small group of ex-inmates, their relatives, and supporters to form the Alleged Lunatic's Friend Society in 1845 which was the first Mental Health advocacy organisation in Britain. In 1859, after many years of petitioning the government, the Society finally gave evidence to a Select Committee chaired by Perceval's brother-in-law and cousin, Spencer Horatio Walpole, on the care and treatment of lunatics.

He argued that 'the asylum visitors act as judge and jury. They have all the odious features of the inquisition, except that they do not themselves administer bodily torture. They examine into cases without the presence of the party concerned in person or by attorney; they do this without notice given to him. They collect evidence against him behind his back. They do not inform him of what is alleged against him. In short, they are a secret tribunal, and the system is so fearful, so un-English that the government cannot too soon amend or abolish it.' To the disappointment of the Society, its appearance before the Select Committee did not result in new legislation.

A hundred years later, after the republication of his books, the psychiatrists Richard A. Hunter and Ida Macalpine described him as someone who 'played a significant role at a crucial period in psychiatric history by his fearless and honest exposure of himself as well as what he considered the shortcomings of his time' and whose work was 'prophetic in the accuracy of its prevision of present developments in mental health policy'. Today, the issue of mental health remains as pressing as ever, no more so that in the case of a number of veterans of the recent conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan.



'Lhasa Englishman First' The final journey of Brigadier-General George Pereira, Grenadier Guards

by Alan Ogden,
formerly Grenadier Guards

In a tumbled-down house in the small village of Kantse, high in the mountains of the Tibetan borderlands, 58-year-old George Pereira lay dying in great pain. He slipped in and out of consciousness, sometimes talking in Chinese, at others in English. In the early hours of 20 October 1923, he exhaled his last breath. 'So died a brave soldier, a remarkable traveller and a devout Christian' wrote Gordon Thompson, his travelling companion of the time.

Born in 1865, George was the scion of two great Catholic families, the Pereiras who came from Portugal and had settled in England at the beginning of the 19th century, and the Stonors of Stonor Park who dated back to the 12th century. After



George Pereira as Brig Gen.

completing his education at the Oratory School in Birmingham, he passed into RMA Sandhurst and was commissioned in the 3rd Battalion Grenadier Guards in 1884. A serious hunting accident the following January put him out of action for 9 months and left him with a permanent limp which earned him the nickname of 'Hoppy'.

An inveterate traveller, over the next fifteen years, George roamed the world, visiting Australia and New Zealand, South Africa, South America, most of Europe, Turkey and North Africa. One trip stands out in particular when he and his brother Cecil set off on a marathon journey in 1895/96 that took them to the Holy Land and back via Russia and Scandinavia. Their 120-day adventure cost them, according to George, £23,000 each which was approximately what he was used to losing or winning on one day at the races!

When word of Kitchener's impending expedition to the Sudan reached England, George set out for Egypt in early 1897 and went to see the Sirdar¹ who told him there were no vacancies and furthermore there was a waiting list. A second visit 10 days later yielded the same result, so George left for Malta at the end of the month and made his way home. Still determined to remain in the running, he studied Arabic and passed an exam in November, only to be turned down again, this time by Kitchener who considered his lameness would be an impediment on the battlefield. Down but not out, he applied for a posting to the newly formed Chinese Regiment in Northern China.

George sailed from Tilbury in April 1899 and on the long journey out he continued his Arabic studies and started Chinese lessons. He arrived at Wei Hai Wei on 5 June and two days later took command of No.7 Company which at the time consisted of himself, a sergeant from the West Riding Regiment and three men. Before long, the Regiment found itself caught up in the events of the Boxer Rebellion and when, in July 1900, the decision was taken by the Eight-Nations Alliance to capture Tientsin, George was ordered to establish a collection point for the wounded. For his actions in bringing in a large number of casualties under heavy fire irrespective of being wounded himself,

1 The Commander-in-Chief of the Egyptian Army



Pereira's route 1921-23.

he was awarded the DSO.

Disembarking at Plymouth in December 1901, George re-joined the Grenadiers and in April the following year, sailed from Southampton for South Africa in charge of a party of 500 reservists. By now the war was coming to an end and when news of peace reached the 3rd Battalion, it was ordered to return to Southampton; the total tally of George and his reservists was the capture of two Boers at a cost of one Guardsman slightly wounded in the ear.



George 3 Battalion Group S.Africa.

With his fluent Chinese language skills, George soon came to the attention of Military Intelligence and in 1904 he was appointed Military Attaché to the Minister Resident in Seoul. This was the period of

'the Korean Empire' when the country was trying to modernize and keep the influence of an expansionist Japan in check. For the next 18 months, George was ceaselessly on the move, living entirely off the country and, apart from his technical baggage, never carried with him any of the basic European necessities of life. During his tenure, he was temporarily attached to the Third Japanese Army in Manchuria for duration of the Russo-Japanese War and received the Japanese War Medal and Order of the Rising Sun, 4th Class.

With the support of Sir John Jordan, H.M. Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary to China, and the Director of Military Intelligence who were impressed by George's meticulous reports, in 1905 he was appointed Military Attaché in Peking. He was highly thought of, for the Brigadier-General commanding troops in Northern China wrote to the Secretary of State for War advocating that 'the Army Council attach such importance to Major Pereira's present sphere of work that his promotion to Lieutenant Colonel would be very highly prized and a well-deserved reward'.

He had originally been summoned back to England in October 1908 to be Senior Major of 3rd Battalion Grenadier Guards but after persuading the War Office that 'I have not had any leave (for five years) except sick leave for blood poisoning and varicose veins', George managed to get permission to make his own way home via Ceylon and arrived back in London in March 1909 when he was posted to the 2nd Battalion. Somewhat to his surprise, on 17 July he was gazetted out of the Army after 25 years' service which left him 'a bit low, but dissatisfied with my treatment by the War Office, it was more dignified to go'.

In no time at all, George was back in Peking which he reached on 15 May 1910. Now began a series of

journeys which were to all extents a synthesis of George, the ever efficient and diligent intelligence officer, and George, the intrepid explorer and amateur anthropologist. In June, he set off from Peking and spent the next nine months exploring and shooting in the remote Altai and T'ien Shan Mountains before heading for Lanzou on the Tibetan border, where he visited the Kumbum and Labrang monasteries before moving south along the mountainous upper reaches of the Salween and Mekong rivers. He crossed briefly into the Burmese Shan states before travelling cross country and then by steamer to Shanghai. He finally arrived back in London on 29 March 1912 after a journey across Russia on the Trans-Siberian Express. He had been 'on the road' for nearly two years.

Much to his dismay, the War Office had refused to sanction his promotion to Lieutenant-Colonel in the Reserves, but on the outbreak of war he was given command of 'the Fighting Fourth' 4th Royal Welch Fusiliers. Promoted to Brigadier-General in 1916, he took over 47 Brigade, 16th Irish Division. He ensured that his men dominated no-man's-land and constantly informed his troops, an officer recalled, 'that it was our duty to beat up the enemy and give him no rest'. 1916 saw the division in action at the Battle of Hullach where it was decimated in a gas attack, and then on the Somme where it played an important part in the capture of Guillemont and Ginchy. In 1918 he took command of 43 Brigade, 14th Light Division, and was involved in the Battles of St Quentin and the Avre. Such were the severities of the division's casualties that it was withdrawn from the line and only moved back to France in July in time to take part in the Hundred Days Offensive.

By war end, George was 53 years old, an experienced commander, fluent in Arabic and

Chinese. So where better to send him than to Russia which was in the throes of a civil war. The British Military Mission to Admiral Kolchak, the self-styled 'Supreme Ruler of Siberia' was commanded by Maj-Gen Alfred Knox, a fluent Russian speaker. Mainly responsible for overseeing the arming and equipping of White Russian troops, the Mission rarely took part in operations as Kolchak was unwilling to listen to British advice. Once Allied forces had been evacuated in 1920, George resigned his commission for a second time and, after a short visit to Canada, headed once more to China.

This time, he was determined to make the great 7,000-mile trek from Peking to Gangtok in India. The only other Europeans who had achieved this feat were the Vincentian Abbé Évariste Régis Huc and Abbé Joseph Gabet in 1846; many others had tried since – Russians, French, English, Scandinavians, Americans – but all had failed. The challenges were immense. China was in chaos with warlord fighting warlord and most at odds with the central government; famine stalked the North; the frontier people on the border of Tibet and China, torn between allegiances, were in disorder; and no European had been allowed into Lhasa from China.

Travelling in China at that time was an extraordinary balancing act between shortages of



Tibetan porters.

cash, varying levels of armed protection, and the hire of cooks, coolies, bearers, mules and ponies; the stress was unrelenting and in George's case compounded by his deteriorating health which included attacks of sciatica. Accompanied by his cook 'boy', George set off on foot from Tientsin to Mt Emei, at 10,167 ft the highest of the four Buddhist holy mountains in China. The next leg took him to Yachow-fu, Kwanshien, Nan-P'ing, and Choni. Now Tibet was in sight and after reaching Jyekundo, he met up with 52-year-old Madame Alexandra David-Néel, a remarkable Frenchwoman who had been in Tibet and China for the last five years, much of the time based in the Kumbum monastery. She too was hoping to get to Lhasa and was able to give George valuable information of what lay ahead.

Leaving Jyekundo on 10 July with his 'boy', an interpreter, 2 mounted men and 23 yaks, he followed the route of Rijnhart Teichman, the Dutch explorer who had disappeared in 1898, and arrived in Chamdo at the end of the month to be greeted by the whole town with 'small boys grinning and saluting in the English fashion'. Providentially, a messenger arrived with permission to visit Lhasa and so on 6 September he set off for the last 670 miles which included four passes over 16,000 feet. On 17 October 1922 he finally 'entered (Lhasa) with my white beard, very tired but happy for the great trek was at last a thing to look back upon...the weary miles of tramping were over'. He immediately sent a telegram to his brother in England which read 'Lhasa Englishman First'. Although not the first Englishman to have visited Lhasa, he was indeed the first to arrive after travelling through China rather than the shorter route from India.

A guest of the Tibetan Commander-in-Chief, he stayed for 10 days in the capital during which time he met the Dalai Lama but his journey was far from over as he still had to reach Gangkok in India. Crossing the Brahmaputra river on 8 October, he arrived in Gyantse where, on reading the English racing results in the Indian papers, he was heard to exclaim that he had never even heard of the names of the winning horses! For a man who once knew the name of virtually every race horse in England, this admission would have been of some comfort to his banker. There were still two more passes to cross, the 15,200 ft Tay La and the 14,700

ft Nathu La, before he could descend to Gangkok where, tired and exhausted and with hands still sore from frostbite, he was greeted with a warm welcome by the British Agent who installed him in his bungalow. He finally arrived in Calcutta in December 1922.



Yi people.

After a journey of 6,680 miles of which he had walked 3,680, most travellers would have called it a day and hung their boots up for a few months. Not so George, who after recovering in hospital from treatment for a thrombosis in his left leg, left Calcutta on 9 January 1923 and by way of Bhamo in Burma, reached Kunming on 2 March, a mere 550 mile journey. From there he ventured north into the land of the Yi people from where, after several adventures, he made for the upper reaches of the Yangtze and sailed down river in a variety of craft until arriving in Shanghai on 13 May. Setting up base in Hong Kong at the end of the month, George now plotted his next journey, aiming to finish it in time to return to England for the 1924 Derby.

Having marched from East to West and then

West to East, he determined to make his way South to North, traversing 'the practically unknown borderlands between Tibet and China'² by following the course of the three great rivers that flow from the uplands of Tibet, the Salween, Mekong and Yangtze. After leaving Hong Kong, George reached Kunming on 1 July where he was joined by fellow explorer Dr Gordon Thompson. Accompanied by an escort of 30 well-armed Chinese soldiers, they followed the Yangtze to Lijiang where they stopped to engage Tibetan muleteers and then set off up the Mekong valley. By the time they had crossed back into the Yangtze valley and reached Xiaqiong via the 14,130 ft Cha-La Pass, their escort had long dispersed.

Their next objective was the town of Garze but news reached them that the usual route was closed due to bands of brigands operating in the area. So they decided to travel through Wa-shi country with guides provided by the Queen of the Wa-shi tribe. Crossing the Ta Sa Shan pass at 15,600 ft, they descended and pitched camp 1,000 ft lower. It was a bitterly cold night with snow driven by a north wind and it was at this stage that Thompson noted that

'Pereira [was] beginning to feel distinctly unwell' and was unable to keep his food down. In his diary, George wrote how he 'felt seedy and wretched'.

Still several days' march from Kantse, they crossed another pass, the 15,152 ft Luma La³. George appeared to be on the mend and had cheerfully climbed the last 400 ft through deep snow but later that day he collapsed and had to dismount from his pony. Thompson made a makeshift stretcher but the reluctant Tibetans in fear for their own health refused to carry him. George eventually was able to remount and, after crossing the Yalung river in a coracle, the party reached Kantse that evening. It was here on 20 October that George died in the arms of Dr Thompson, most likely from a perforated gastric ulcer. The next day, his coffin with his sword and military cap upon it, was carried by 16 Tibetans to a grave which had been prepared on the open ground to the East of the town under the shadow of the Bhuddist monastery on the hill⁴.

No other living European - at that time or since - ever covered anything like the areas George did; he probably racked up over 50,000 miles in Korea and China. Those who came across him spoke of



The Rongcha river at Kantse where Pereira died

'his essential goodness, his lovable nature, his faculty of endearing himself to all he met'. He was above all, in the words of his friend, the soldier and explorer Sir Francis Younghusband, 'a good man, a good fellow and a good Guardsman' and 'an inspiration to all who follow after him in that distant borderland, to many a lover of travel in every quarter of the world'.

(Based on the diaries of George Pereira held at the Royal Geographical Society in London)

2 President of RGS

3 'La' is the Tibetan word for the climb up to a pass, often used by travellers incorrectly for the pass itself which is 'niha'.

4 According to Younghusband, George's remains were later moved to Tai-chien-lu [modern-day Kanding/Dardo] to the south of Garze.

“Never off duty from the first day, we shall miss him – he was such a gallant fellow...”

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



This is the story of a young man who like so many fell in the flower of his youth. Captain Cholmeley Symes-Thompson of the 2nd Battalion was killed at Ypres on 17 November 1914 during the First Battle of Ypres. His Company Commander remarked: “He was never off duty from the first day until his death”. He was buried in the cemetery

of Sint Catharinakerk at Zillebeke, often referred to as the ‘Aristocrats’ Cemetery’.

The Cholmeley family came from a medical background; his father, Edmund Symes-Thompson, living at Fimmere House, Oxfordshire, was an eminent physician and academic. Born in 1881,

Cholmeley was sent to Elstree Preparatory School and then to Harrow where it seems he decided against medicine and was commissioned into the militia from where in 1901 he obtained a Regular Commission in the Grenadiers. His photograph shows him wearing the Queen’s South Africa Medal. In January 1912 he married Grace Churchill in the Guards Chapel and a year later a daughter, Sibell, was born. He found time that season, however, to go hunting when stationed at Warley Barracks, probably with the Essex Union hounds.

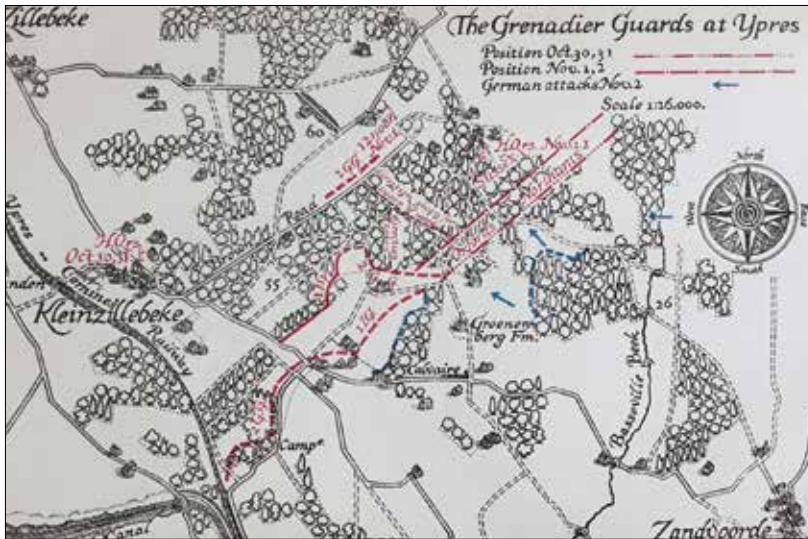
He was sadly not to see much of Sibell growing up as he embarked with the 2nd Battalion in August 1914 as second in command of No 1 Company. He was to take part in the battles of Mons, the Marne and the Aisne before finding himself at Ypres in October.

After their defeat at the Battle of the Marne the Germans withdrew northwards attempting to out flank the Allied left flank, in what was called the ‘race to the sea’. The First Battle of Ypres began on 19 October. Ypres lies on a wet plain overlooked from the North West to the South by a series of low ridges, Passchendaele, Messines and Kemmel. The Germans having entered the town withdrew to the higher ground from which they made several desperate attacks. They outnumbered the BEF and were so confident of victory that the Kaiser was brought forward in anticipation.

The most testing period was between 30 October and 19 November during which time the 2nd Battalion lost 12 officers and 466 men killed or wounded. It was a confusing time for all concerned as the Battalion found itself under the command of three different Brigadier Generals in as many days, operating in the area of Hooge Chateau and Polygon Wood. On the 14th the Battalion, such as it was, reverted to 4th Guards Brigade and returned to the area of Klein Zillebeke. The



Warley Barracks - 1913 - Cholmeley is sitting on far left.



Area of Klein Zillebeke.

Battalion was defending the line of the Brown Road (see map and called thus because of their colour on the maps). On the 17 November the Germans made their last serious attack on Ypres at about 1 pm and the brunt in 4 Brigade's area fell upon No 1 and 2 Companies. Cholmeley or 'Simeo' as he was nicknamed was by now commanding No 2 Company and during the fighting that day was killed. A brother officer reported:

"Symes-Thompson was killed by a sniper and word was passed down the trench for John (Lee Steere) to take command of the Company. He came straight up the trench to where Symes-Thompson was lying to make certain he was dead. He then himself tried to do in the sniper who had killed Symes-Thompson, but was shot through the head himself attempting it"

John Lee Steere was a first cousin of Cholmeley's. He was educated at Eton and only child of the Lord of the Manor of Ockley, in Surrey. The Commanding Officer, Wilfred Smith wrote in his diary:

"I have lost two more officers, Symes-Thompson and Lee-Steere (only 20 years of age) and am reduced to 6 Company Officers. My fine Battalion of 1,030 on October 20th has been reduced to 480 in spite of drafts."

Lord Cavan, the Brigade Commander, similarly wrote to his mother:

"No one did his duty better or more steadily and

as continuously as your son,"

In the event, the line held and 1st Battle of Ypres came to a close but at a huge cost, particularly to the original BEF. The Germans referred to the battle as 'The Massacre of the Innocents'. Cholmeley's body was taken to the little Church at Zillebeke where it was buried alongside 6 other Grenadiers including that of his cousin, John Lee Steere and Lord Bernard Gordon Lennox. It is a remarkable cemetery on account of the number listed in Burke's Peerage. The inscription on Cholmeley's gravestone is

"Your Joy No Man Taketh From You" St John 16: 22. For the family this must have been a bitter blow, his father had already died in 1906. For his mother,



Cholmeley wearing his Queen's South Africa Medal.



Grave marker before.



Grave marker after.

who died in 1920 and his widow and daughter the years after 1914 must have been distressing and lonely. Sibell died in 2005 aged 91.

Before the Imperial War Graves Commission (IWGC) started their work to create the cemeteries we are so familiar with today, separate wooden grave markers were placed on graves. Very often when these were replaced by the IWGC gravestones families were able to retrieve the wooden markers as keepsakes. The Symes -Thompson family placed Cholmeley's in the village church of Finmere where he worshipped as a boy. Over the years it had deteriorated, and the parish have now had it beautifully restored.

Before Lockdown I was invited by a Scots Guards friend, Charley Grimston, who lives in Finmere to attend the ceremony to unveil the restored grave marker. But sadly the appointed date was at the beginning of the first lockdown. Cholmeley is also remembered with a tablet on the south wall of the church. Father, mother and widow are all buried at Finmere and Sibell is recorded on her mother's gravestone. The restored grave marker is a worthy addition to Cholmeley's memory.

Note: I have drawn on *Aristocrats go to War* by Gerry Murland, published by Pen and Sword. I am also indebted to Charley Grimston who invited me to the unveiling.



Grave of John Lee-Steere in Zillebeke Churchyard Cemetery near Ypres.

The Grave of CSM Albert Leach

by Major Philip Wright OBE
formerly Grenadier Guards

Albert Leach had a wonderful record in 2nd Battalion Grenadier Guards. He served with it throughout the Great War, was promoted to Company Sergeant Major, awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal for gallantry and initiative and the Military Medal for bravery in the field. Only 11 other Grenadiers were awarded both medals and he was clearly very highly thought of. His Commanding Officer Lieutenant Colonel Wilbur Smith wrote from water-logged trenches in his diary of 31st December 1914: "I went along the line in the evening and talked to some officers who were getting down on their luck. Told them they *must* keep cheerful and set an example that way. The men marvellously



Sergeant Major Albert Leach DCM MM.



Before...

cheerful in the circumstances, especially Sergeant Leach, a first-rate NCO who was in my Company in 3rd Battalion. He was roaring with laughter and keeping all the men cheerful."

In two years, 1918 and 1919, a pandemic of Spanish influenza swept the world. It destroyed more lives than were directly sacrificed in four years of destructive war. It was an individual tragedy that having been an inspiration to so many others



...during...



...after.

throughout the war and survived the horror of the trenches, CSM Albert Leach should be killed by this disease aged 33. It is highly probable that the stresses of combat had increased his susceptibility to disease, and he died of influenza in Bermondsey Military Hospital on 10th March 1920. He was survived by his wife Alice and their two young sons, Thomas and Richard. He was buried with military honours in Weedon Cemetery in Northamptonshire.

An article about Albert, "Inspiring One and All", for the Grenadier Gazette 2010, was subsequently published in 2014 on the Weedon village website "Weedon 1914-1919, adding that it was a shame to see a war hero from Weedon lying in an unkempt grave, This was noticed by Mr Malcolm Ogle who, together with Jess, his 8 year old granddaughter, decided to remove the turf, lay a plastic membrane and cover it with two bags of red gravel, They then

cleaned up the stonework and inscription and finally laid a wreath with a card saying "It has been an honour to tend your grave Albert". Two years later Malcolm revisited the grave and, again at his own expense cleaned it and renewed the gravel.

In 2018, Jane King, a registered volunteer researcher with the Imperial War Museum's War Memorials Project contacted the Regiment about the article "Inspiring One and All" requesting permission to use the photograph of Albert in it. At the time, as a personal favour to the Northamptonshire Police, she was researching all their former officers who had died in both World Wars including, Albert Leach. Jane discovered that the Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC) had no record of Albert and in May 2018 she submitted the necessary documents to

them and asked them to consider adding him to their Casualty Register. In October last year she was informed that the Submission succeeded and that Albert Leach was now officially recognised as having been a World War casualty. Until the CWGC have conducted a site visit to his grave at Weedon and established whether the existing headstone is sufficient, or if a CWGC stone is needed, his website entry temporarily records him as being commemorated in the Berkshire Book of Remembrance.

Albert Leach's grave is a wonderful example of the kindness of strangers, who having become aware of his story, were inspired to ensure that he lies in a grave that befits the man buried there. The endeavours to pay a fitting tribute to him are very much a group activity in which many people are participating.

A Raid and Result for the Limbless

by Major Philip Wright OBE
formerly Grenadier Guards

On 12 December 1915, in the trenches north of Neuve Chapelle, 4th Battalion Grenadier Guards carried out a most successful raid on the enemy trenches. At 8.15pm final orders were issued to the raiding party consisting of thirty-three men from 3 Company and the battalion bombers under Lieutenant George Ponsonby. It was decided to first cut the enemy's wire and then rush the trench. At the same time a pre-arranged artillery barrage opened fire and continued very effectively until the party returned. Bombing and bayonetting began in earnest and the Germans were completely cleared out of the trench. During this trench fighting, Ponsonby was badly wounded in the right leg. Private W N Sweetman remained with him until he finally succeeded in carrying him back, under heavy fire, to his own lines. He was subsequently awarded the DCM.

Ponsonby's leg had to be amputated with six inches of stump remaining. He found a wooden leg of American willow too heavy and acquired a lightweight aluminium leg complete with fastenings and shoe. His surgeon referred for training in its use to St Thomas's Hospital (then a military hospital). He became so proficient in using the limb that he was able to demonstrate to fellow amputees, limb makers and the Ministry representatives its advantages over the usual wooden ones distributed by the Government. Even so the Treasury and the Ministry would not consider supplying them owing to the high cost.

Undaunted Ponsonby and others wrote to the *Times*. There followed much correspondence in the national press and a question in Parliament. At last, on 21st April 1921, the Minister said that metal limbs would be available and free to all limbless pensioners. By 1925 all amputees from the war were given a second limb as a substitute when a limb went for repair. The pioneering efforts of Ponsonby had succeeded.

As part of his campaign, under the pseudonym 'Chirgwin' he had written an article called *Life on*

an Artificial Limb in the Victory Number of the Household Brigade Magazine. During the Great War and the period immediately afterwards, among the British armed forces alone, over 41,000 men lost at least one limb.

With six inches of my right leg remaining and ten pounds of American willow fastened on to it, the world was rather a weary place; but then came a change. Somebody gave me a light limb, 5½ lb. all told, with fastenings and shoe complete; and - Somebody taught me how to use it.

You must work a bit. Three hours a week as an out-patient at St. Thomas's P.T. department after office hours did the trick for me.

Dull at first, learning the simple movements of walking, like a child, and forgetting the awful faults of slinging ten pounds of wood along. "Can you feel anything with your limb?" says the Instructor, and you answer "No".

"Look at those wall bars: now close your eyes and climb them: alternative feet. That's high enough, come down; don't miss a bar. Well, did you feel anything?" and you suppose you must have.

"Shut your eyes; place your right heel against your left toe cap. Now your left heel against your right toe cap," and so it comes to you that you can get muscle sense developed in your stumps and your brain will control your artificial foot just as it does your natural one.

"Can you touch your toes?" "Good heavens! You seem to forget |I have got a wooden leg". "All right, come into the garden, the boys are playing cricket; you might field a bit".

The other side seems to be stealing runs, or is it a memory of fielding cover at Harrow? I wonder; but all the difficulty of getting down to the ball seems to go and the Instructor chuckles softly as we go in to bat. And some of the old peace days come back.

Three good days' shooting this Christmas; over stubble and plough, carrying a gun and cartridges and always in my place in time. Fences no difficulty because we had a stile built at St. Thomas's and learnt how to negotiate it. A bit tired before dinner, but ready to dance after: fox-trot, one-step or waltz. Why not? When you have learnt to remember your partner is not a crutch.

The old bicycle comes out, with a toe-clip to bring

the free wheel up on the artificial leg side. A pony is not so bad with a proper saddle. Five miles up the loch where the trout lie – not a bad pull, but I would rather have the wind to help, and I must find a cushion for next time.

Seven miles - road and footpath - in two hours, five minutes is my best walk; four miles out and four back took longer – all road, but there were snow and ice. Snow and heavy clay are uncomfortable on an artificial limb.

But here comes a Government expert: “The great surgeons say you will be blown over by the wind on a light limb”. The great surgeons say: “Your mental impulses will be ruined if your artificial limb is

much lighter than the one you lost and your balance will be all wrong”.

“Good-bye! Sorry I can’t discuss it. I was wounded in ’15, and have earned my living on a limb ever since. Not a peg like a crossing sweeper but a leg I can wear a full uniform with.

How much wiser the experts would be if they had practical experience?

My message to every man who has a few inches of stump is that, given a limb sufficiently light, given the knowledge how to make the best of it, given a comfortable fit, there are very few limitations; and my aluminium leg has lasted three years without a smash, so there is no question of durability.

Tracing a Grenadier

by Major Philip Wright OBE
formerly Grenadier Guards

In 1968, the following letter was published in the Guards Magazine:

*To The Editor, The Guards Magazine
From Lieutenant Colonel J, Codrington, formerly
Coldstream Guards*

AN MI9 ANECDOTE

Sir,

During 1942 and 1943 I was stationed at Gibraltar undertaking and supervising various clandestine operations for MI6 and MI9. MI9 dealt with the very gallant French, and Dutch and Belgian, helpers on the escape routes, and debriefing those who escaped across the Pyrenees, Spain and reached Gibraltar.

One day a tall smart young man came into my office and said he had been a Corporal in the King’s Company, 1st Battalion Grenadier Guards and looked it. He might have come straight off Horse Guards Parade! He had been attached to the Commandos which had just done a very successful raid on St Nazaire, in Western France. They had been told that, if they had not managed to get back to their ship by a certain hour, say, 2 am, they were to make their way through Vichy France and on to Spain, and gain Gibraltar.

He didn’t make zero hour for his ship, so he set off. I asked ‘How on earth did you get past the cordon that the Germans must, at once, have thrown around the town and across the ‘routes Nationales’? Do you speak any French?’ ‘Oh no, sir’ he replied, in a lovely broad north-country accent. ‘What did you do?’ ‘I just lined up with the French workmen who went out of the town every morning, and did as they did; they just said ‘Bon jour’ to the German NCO in charge of the post, and I went through with the others’. Anyone less like a French workman it is hard to imagine; he was over six feet tall, I commented on this: ‘Oh, I walked a bit sloppy, like’, he said.

He got captured and interned in Vichy France and taken to the camp at Ese, near Nice, where he found morale at a very low ebb. He started fitness courses and plans for escapes (I learnt all this from other sources) and eventually got away, and across the Pyrenees and through Spain and ended up in my office in Gibraltar put him in for a decoration.

It was extremely stupid of me not to have made a note of his name or to have made enquiries about him soon after the war, but so many things were happening in my life that I did not. I have always



Lance Corporal Arnold (Arnie) Howarth.

regretted it.

I have sent this story to Regimental Headquarters, Grenadier Guards, but, of course, it is so long ago that it seems unlikely that he can be traced. It is faintly possible that one of your readers may know about this splendid young Guardsman, all that a member of the Household Division should be.

Yours faithfully
J. Codrington

Thanks to the digital archive of *The Guards Magazine* a copy of this letter was swiftly passed to Captain Alan Ogden, the Regimental Archivist. Within the day he managed to trace both the man's name together with his citation for the award of the Croix de Guerre, which reads as follows:

Citation

On the night of the 27/28 March 1942, Lance Corporal Howarth was with No. 2 Commando in the Combined Operation against the Harbour and Naval Installations at ST.NAZAIRE. When

it became clear that it would be impossible to re-embark, Lieutenant Colonel Newman gave the order to fight into the new town in the hope of getting into the country. As a result, Lance Corporal Howarth was able to make his way through occupied into unoccupied France and after being interned at Fort Revere was able to return to this country. Considerable pluck, ingenuity and determination was displayed by Lance Corporal Howarth throughout and I have no hesitation in recommending him for an award.

Lance Corporal Arnold (Arnie) Howarth was later awarded the BEM and was Mentioned in Despatches. He returned to England in October 1942. He re-joined and was with 2 Commando when they attacked at Salerno, where he was badly wounded. At home in Rochdale he was admitted to hospital and died aged 23 on 8th November 1944. It is sad that Lieutenant Colonel John Codrington, who died in 1991, never found out his name. However, Lance Corporal Howarth's example speaks for itself and he was truly "all that a member of the Household Division should be."

A Fellowship among Foes - the story of POW Lieutenant David Wedderburn

by Harry Wedderburn,
former Grenadier Guards

Agged 19, David Wedderburn, my father, was granted a wartime commission in the Regiment on 19 December 1941 and after a spell with the Training Battalion, was posted to the 5th Battalion in North Africa (1st Army). During Operation SHINGLE, the Allied landings at Anzio, he was taken prisoner in his first battle at 'The Factory' near Aprilia on 26 January 1944. In a letter to his parents¹, he described what happened:

'I was sent off with my platoon to recapture some

buildings about a quarter mile from the company positions, which we did, and to hold them. I am absolutely satisfied in my own mind and conscience that it was no longer possible to obey those orders, since there were two German Mark III (or IV) tanks about 100 yds away, one on each flank, and a third got round our rear, and came right in among us. We had been too busy to dig ourselves any pits, and we had used up all our grenades on the German infantry; also there weren't very many of us left. We tried to do what we could with our rifles and bren guns for a short time. It didn't worry the tanks, but two more men were killed and several others wounded. So we packed it in. I think I should have been much happier that day if I'd been badly wounded, but I was half surprised to find myself unhurt, apart from a few cuts from a German hand grenade.'

Being a front-line officer, he was of particular

¹ This letter was written when he was on the run as an escaped POW and handed to an Italian who managed to pass it to a British officer in a POW camp. The officer forewarned it to England in the camp mail and thus it finally reached my grandparents.



David aged 23, on the day of his return from prison with his parents and sisters Jane, Olivia and Clarissa, at Parsonage Farm, East Hagbourne, Oxon in April 1945.

interest to the enemy for the battlefield intelligence that he held; however, due to Allied air superiority, no vehicles could move in daylight so his transfer to the German HQ had to wait until night had fallen. A motorcycle-sidecar combination arrived with an ageing Liaison Officer and driver; my father was put into the sidecar and under the watchful eye of the officer and his Luger, they set off without lights. Unsurprisingly, they met an armoured vehicle coming down the road towards them which failed to see them in the pitch darkness. There was a collision and the motorbike driver was killed.

In the summer of 1980, I was with my mother and step-father (also a Grenadier – Warren Freeman-Attwood) in the garden of our house one Sunday afternoon when the telephone rang. The call was from the wife of our parish vicar who, with her husband, had just returned from a visit to a friend of theirs in southern Germany. This man, a retired Pastor, was called Max Dellmann and, during their talks, he mentioned a young British officer whom he'd met during the War called... David Wedderburn. I visited 81-years-old Pastor Dellmann the following year and this is his story.

Born in 1900, Dellmann had briefly seen action in the Great War and shortly afterwards had taken Holy Orders, moving in due course to southern Africa. In 1938 he'd returned to Germany and was almost immediately 'defrocked' by the Nazi regime and then 'volunteered' for the Wehrmacht.

Commanding an anti-tank company in Russia, he was wounded early enough in the fighting to be returned to Germany, a stroke of good fortune for he was then posted to southern Italy as a Brigade Liaison Officer and thus it fell to him to collect my father from the battlefield.

In the crash, Dellman was knocked unconscious: he came to with his head in my father's lap being, as he said, 'nursed'. It is a wonder that Father had chosen Humanity over Hostility, for he could easily have made a run for it – unless he too was somehow incapacitated. They passed the rest of the night sitting on a wall, chatting and exchanging pleasantries until transport arrived to take them to Perugia.

By now, the battlefield had changed shape and anything that my father could have told them would be 'yesterday's news', so he was no longer of interest; and, since they had no facilities in Perugia for POWs, he posed a problem for his elderly escort. The answer on which they settled seems splendidly archaic – he gave Dellmann his parole that he would not escape and was thus free to explore the city, dressed as a British soldier in an area bustling with German soldiers. They spent time together too and on one occasion when they were studying a map to find out where they'd first sat after the accident, they realised that it was the wall of the Papal Palace at Castel Gandolfo, neutral Vatican territory. If my father had stepped off the wall the other way, he would have been a free man! On their last evening together before being handed over to the German POW organization, my father was given dinner by Herr Dellmann and that was when they cemented their rapport through a shared love of poetry and music. They never met again but both remembered...

On the night of 12 February, my father managed to escape. In the same letter to his parents, he described how 'the lights round the camp weren't working, so it wasn't too difficult, though I can't think why the sentries didn't hear us climbing over the wire, which rattled a lot. I escaped with an American officer called Simons... We got out at about 9.30pm and walked as hard as we could for

about five hours. At the end of that we felt pretty exhausted, so we lay down under a straw-stack, although it was terribly cold. The next morning, we got some food at an isolated house, and pushed on, keeping always in woods, and well away from roads. We found a house to sleep that night, and went on the next morning. But that day I felt ill, and at midday we stopped between two villages called Badia Agnano and San Pancrazio (in the province of Arezzo, about thirty miles East of Siena), in thickly wooded, hilly country... The first fortnight I felt very ill. I don't think there was much wrong with me, but I couldn't get medicine, and one had to be out in the woods every day and a few nights, where it was very cold, and usually rained or snowed. The weather has only turned hot and sunny in the last week, and is now perfectly lovely. I managed to change my uniform for civilian clothes very early on, and in this area one can practically rely on getting help from the Ities. They are very poor, and haven't got a great deal of food. But they are kindness itself, and one is never hungry, although one's diet is bread and minestra with very little else... There are very few Germans round here, and they don't worry us at all, but the Fascists are very active, and we have to be on our guard for them all the time, although there aren't many of them. I was extraordinarily lucky, as about three weeks ago I ran into two very nice South Africans, Clarence Hiscox and John Hirst. They were captured at Tobruk and escaped at the armistice, and since October they have been living in a *capunna* in the woods. They invited me to stay with them, and here I have been since then. They had no plans, but they agreed to go South with me when the weather turned, which it has, and when they could get boots fit to walk in, which is a great difficulty. Also we are trying to get a decent map. All being well, we hope to start off in ten days or a fortnight. After that, I don't know what will happen... I think that we shall have to depend at least as much on luck as on good management, so we must just hope for the best.'

Luck proved elusive and my father was recaptured on 27 April after seventy-two days on the run. When his captor, a young aristocratic German platoon commander, insisted that he had been sheltered by the partisans and demanded to know their names, he retorted "I was educated at Eton and Balliol College, Oxford! I am an officer in the King's Company (a strategic lie) of His Majesty's First or Grenadier Regiment of Foot Guards... Would I consort with BANDITS?" He had judged his interrogator well and was returned to his cell without further molestation.

David went on initially to M.-Stammlager VIIA a transit camp at Moosburg in Southern Bavaria and then to Oflag IX-A/Z at Rotenburg an der Fulda, a permanent Prisoner-of-War Camp, where he made a name for himself as an enthusiastic organiser of musical and theatrical groups and a keen member of the bridge school. He returned to England in the spring of 1945 and married my mother in 1946 before returning to Germany as part of the Army of Occupation. He decided to continue his army career and became a regular officer, serving in Malta, Libya, Egypt, Cyprus and England. In 1960, while on secondment as second-in-command of 1st Battalion The Singapore Infantry Regiment, he was shot dead during an armed robbery when driving back to camp with a \$35,000 payroll. Thanks to his characteristic courage, the robbery was thwarted. He lies buried at the British Military Cemetery at Kranji, overlooking the Straits of Johore.



Funeral of my father in February 1960. Five companies of the 1st Battalion Singapore Infantry Regiment were represented by 20 men from each. General Sir Rodney Moore represented the Grenadier Guards (Copyright Valmay Young).

A War Crime Unresolved

by Alan Ogden,
formerly Grenadier Guards

At 9 p.m. on the 15 September 1943, Troop train No. 7430280 pulled into the sleepy station at Bronzolo, a small farming and wine-growing village in the Italian South Tyrol. On board were 1,200 British and Commonwealth POW officers being deported from Modena to Stalag VIIB in Moosburg, Germany, after the Italian Armistice had been announced the previous week. When the train of twenty-four cattle trucks interspersed with several ack-ack wagons came to a halt, the SS guards let their prisoners alight for exercise in pairs, one truck at a time.

28-year-old Lieutenant Arnold Vivian and 21-year-old Lieutenant Lord Brabourne had been captured on 17 March that year during the Battle of the Horseshoe Ridge when the 6th Battalion and 3rd Battalion Coldstream Guards attacked what was believed at the time to be a lightly held feature overlooking the approach road to the Mareth Line. In fact, the defenders, protected by two minefields unidentified by the British, were none other than the 90th Light Division, one of the most experienced formations of the Afrika Korps. The result was a disaster. The Grenadiers lost fourteen officers and sixty-three ORs; five officers were wounded together with eighty-eight ORs; and 109 all ranks were taken prisoner.

Shipped to Italy along with the three other officers of the 6th Battalion who had been captured that fateful night, Vivian and Brabourne ended up in PG 73, an Italian POW camp at Fossoli near Modena, for under international law Tripolitania came under Italian jurisdiction. All was to change when General Badoglio signed an armistice with the Allies: German troops flooded into Italy and in the brief window between the Italian capitulation and the arrival of the Wehrmacht, many POWs realized this was their last opportunity to escape.

However, General Montgomery as commander 8th Army had issued an order that POWs should stay put which Senior British Officers in the PGs were obliged to pass on. Irrespective of the fact

that many of the Italian guards had deserted their posts and were on their way home, the order remained in force for twenty-four hours by which time the Germans had arrived. Only a few determined individuals disobeyed it and set off into the unknown Italian countryside, including two Grenadier officers, Tommy Butler and Mark Bonham-Carter, who hid under the floorboards of their barrack room when their camp was evacuated



Bronzolo village.

and reached Allied lines after a 400 mile walk.

As they descended from their carriage just outside the station at Bronzolo, Vivian and Brabourne made a run for it. Two other POWs also bolted but were immediately recaptured by the guards. As soon as the two Grenadiers were out of sight of the station, they knocked on the door of a farm house on the Via Ischia and asked for shelter for they realized they had to lie up till morning. The house belonged to Giuseppe Gallmetzer, who agreed to put them up for the night but told them he would have to report them the next day. However, his wife Maria, fearful of reprisals, ran to the next door house and returned with two men. The three Tyroleans then marched their 'guests' back to the station and handed them over to the German Military authorities.

From the witness statements compiled later, the exact details of what happened next remain unclear; some accounts appear to be of similar but different incidents. What is indisputable is that a blatant and shocking war crime was perpetrated. The SS officer in charge of the train arbitrarily ordered one of his private soldiers to shoot them by the side of the track. Realizing what was happening, the two Grenadiers froze in disbelief for both were wearing British Army uniforms. The SS rifleman raised his Schmeisser SMG and shot them at close range, one in the head and the other in the midriff. It was

11 p.m. when the train with the killers on board pulled out of the station, leaving the bodies of the murdered officers where they had dropped.

Other German officers and NCOs were appalled by this criminal behaviour. One immediately rang through to Bolzano to try and stop the train and arrest the culprits. The same officer then telephoned German Headquarters in Rome and filed an official complaint. By the time an investigating officer from 44 Division arrived to take statements, too much time had elapsed to catch them.

The next morning a work detail of local Italians arrived and took the bodies of the two men by horse-drawn cart to the mortuary. From there they were taken to the Old Church where Don Giuseppe Zini, the Parish priest of some twenty years standing, received them. The following day, at considerable personal risk, he officiated over their burial in the village graveyard; no coffins were afforded to them but wooden crosses with their names were erected and flowers laid on their graves¹.

On 25 May 1945, Lieutenant Warren Freeman-Attwood of the 3rd Battalion visited the village to try and establish what had happened. Not speaking any Italian, he was fortunate to find a local interpreter and was able to talk to some Partisans and villagers about the incident; these interviews resulted in a fairly accurate description of what had taken place. Don Zini gave him Vivian's ID tags

and showed him their graves, one of which needed a new cross. He reported his findings to 78 Section SIB in July.

Vivian's nephew, David Sutherland, who had taken over as commanding officer of the SBS from George Jellicoe, stopped off at Bolzano in June on his way to Klagenfurt to hand in the citation for Anders Lassen's VC. He photographed the two graves and managed to get a copy to Guy's grief-stricken mother (his grandmother) who was in hospital. It 'cheered her up a bit' before she died shortly after². It was only in August 1945 that their remains were disinterred by a British Grave Unit and taken to the War Cemetery at Padova where they lie today.

The search by Allied War Crime investigators for the killers - both the officer who gave the order and the soldier who carried it out - continued on until February 1948 when the investigation was deemed to be concluded as it had proved impossible to identify the German SS officer involved. One suspect, Helmut Farr, who was not a member of the SS, had been arrested in May 1947 but it soon became clear that he had never even been in Italy and he was released.

The courage of Vivian and Brabourne in attempting to escape on that September day in North Italy 78 years ago and their self-sacrifice to the cause of freedom remains etched in the annals of our Regimental history. Vivian's uncle, the composer Roger Quilter, had dedicated his new score for Thomas Ford's song *Since First I saw your Face* to his nephew on his 18th birthday. Its first line - 'Since first I saw your face I resolved to honour and renown ye' - became a moving tribute to these two brave young men.

Note: This article is based on the documents in WO 309/191 held at the National Archives.



Don Zini's Church.

1 Quilter to Percy Grainger 10 June 1945

2 David Sutherland: *He who Dares*, Leo Cooper, 1998.

A Grenadier Dambuster

by *The Assistant Editor*

On the evening of 16 May 1943, Lancaster bomber AJ-J took off from RAF Scampton and set course for the Möhne Dam. Piloted by 21-year-old Fl Lieutenant Dave Shannon, DFC, who had just completed a tour of thirty-six operations, it formed part of the second wave of Dambusters from 617 Squadron. In addition to the skipper, the crew comprised a flight engineer, navigator, W/T

operator, front gunner, rear gunner and perhaps the most important member, the bomb aimer - Fl Sergeant Len Sumpter, formerly Grenadier Guards.

Born in Kettering in 1911, Len had joined the Army as a boy soldier in 1928 and served with the Regiment until 1931. He rejoined on the outbreak of war and in 1941 applied for a transfer to the RAF. After training in England and Canada, he was posted to 57 Squadron and flew as a bomb aimer on thirteen operations before joining 617 Squadron.

Having reached the Möhne Dam, Shannon circled while the first and second waves went



The Eder Dam after a visit from 617 Squadron. With kind permission Bundesarchiv (Bild 183-C0212-0043-012).

in. After five bouncing bombs had been dropped with no apparent result, he was just setting up his attack when the dam gave way, so he followed Wing Commander Guy Gibson to the Eder Dam. Set in a deep valley, the lake was smaller than the Möhne and the approach much trickier. The one blessing was that it was undefended. Shannon made four passes without Sumpter releasing the mine as it proved extremely difficult to get down to the right height of 60 foot. Two more dummy runs were made before he got the angle and speed right.

Sumpter dropped his mine, it bounced twice and hit the damn wall, sending up a huge water spout. But there was no breach. The next Lancaster released its mine too late and it exploded on the

wall. There was just one mine left to drop. After just one dummy run, Les Knight's AJ-N released its mine which bounced three times before hitting the wall and exploding, causing a large breach to open up some thirty foot below the top of the wall. They had done it!

Len went on to be commissioned in 1943 and flew as observer in Dave Shannon's Pathfinder Mosquito. By the end of the war, he had flown thirty-five operations including 617 Squadron's last mission over the Eagles Nest at Berchtesgaden on 25 April 1945.

With thanks to Charles Foster's *The Complete Dambusters, the 133 men who flew on the Dams Raid*, the History Press, Stroud, 2018.

Colonel John Waddy - Who captured Nijmegen Bridge?

from the Archives

Colonel John Waddy, who died in October 2020 Caged 100, had commanded B Coy 156th Para Battalion at Arnhem, where he was wounded in fighting and then twice more while at a Main Dressing Station before eventually being taken prisoner. John wrote to the Regimental Archivist in 2015 to set the record straight about the role of the Grenadiers in 'A Bridge Too Far'.

"It would seem that in the minds of the general public, especially in the U.S.A., that it was Robert Redford playing the part of Major Cook, an American officer of the 82nd Airborne Division, in the film 'A Bridge Too Far', who led the gallant charge to capture Nijmegen bridge and thus allow the tanks of the Grenadier Guards, led by Sergeant Robinson, to cross.

The truth is that it was Robinson's troop that first crossed the huge road bridge, losing two tanks at the north end, He, with the other tank, pushed on several hundred yards, passed under the railway bridge and a few hundred yards furtheron, saw the American paratroopers in a ditch. He met

an American Lieutenant-Colonel, who in a state of panic told him that he was going to surrender. Robinson related that he told him that he had better 'talk to my sunray' on his wireless (Robinson's troop was on the CO's net). Meanwhile, Captain Peter Carrington, 2i/c of the squadron, who had been positioned on the south end of the bridge acting as a link between Robinson and Battalion HQ, moved over the bridge and resumed his duty on the north end of the bridge

So who was the Military Adviser to the film and why didn't he stop this distorted version of events? Well, I was that person and I did try to alter the scene so that it showed the true story.

The film script, written for the American producer Joseph E. Levine by William Goldman, the well-known American writer, had been seen by many senior British officers, all of whom had raised various objections to certain scenes which were obviously inaccurate but no notice had been taken.

I was taken on at short notice as Military Adviser by Richard Attenborough, who gave me a copy of the script, saying that no changes could be made. I had to accept a number of errors and horrors, mainly designed to show off the gung-ho American officers as opposed to the rather languid attitude of their British counterparts, and some blatantly false scenes.

One such scene was when Redford has an

argument with a major in the Grenadier Guards about moving on up the road to Arnhem, indicating that if they had been American tanks they would have done so. What the film script did not show was that, in actual fact, it was by now dark, the road ran along the top of a raised dyke and there were no infantry to accompany the tanks.

When I raised an objection, I was sent a message from Levine in New York, via Attenborough, “tell the Colonel I make movies for money, not history. I’m paying that guy Redford two million bucks and he’s going to capture the biggest goddam bridge in Europe”. So the scene was shot (I took the part of a machine gunner in one of the Sherman tanks) and it has passed into history as more or less a true account of the incident.

On a lighter note, we filmed a brief scene which was meant to show Redford running towards the bridge with a group of his men, firing his semi-automatic rifle from the hip. Twice it jammed; we reloaded it, fired it and handed it back to Redford and re-filmed the shot. It failed to go off again. A flustered Dickie Attenborough came up to me and said: “John, what’s happening?” I replied “I don’t think Robert has the strength to pull the trigger”;

Dickie immediately said: “Quiet! If he hears that, he’ll walk off”. It worked the third time but the scene was not shown in the film.

My apologies for this lengthy letter but I just wanted to set the record straight before I ‘drop off my perch’. Waddy



A Grenadier Sherman tank crossing Nijmegen bridge.

Maintaining Standards

from the Archives

1st Battalion Officers Mess, Schloss Birlinghoven, Sankt Augustin, Bonn - 25 July 1945



Consommé Frappé

*

Truite Rhéнан

Sauce Bernaise

*

Oeufs aux épénards

*

Poulet Rôti

Pommes Nouvelles

Petits Pois verts

Sauce Perdreau

*

Glace à la Crème

Sauce Chocolatée

*

Tomates Angoulèmes

*

Les Fruits et Café

Coupe Champagne à la Feche (Ed: *Flèche?*)

Hock

Moselle

Champagne

Brandy

Cointreau

Benedictine

Unsolicited Testimonials In Holding The Line

*by Lieutenant Colonel Alexander Heroys,
formerly Grenadier Guards*

Three examples of unsolicited testimonials (that is to say un-called for, spontaneous comments from an outsider) to the Grenadier Guards during the Second World War highlight the Regiment's ability in holding the line under the most

challenging conditions.

The first occurred during the withdrawal to Dunkirk when the Divisional Commander, Lieutenant-General Franklyn, described the actions of the 3rd Battalion as follows: "I give this example of the highest form of discipline. Last May, when my Division was being hard pressed on the Ypres-Comines Canal I was given a Battalion of the Grenadier Guards as a reserve. After marching well over twenty miles on a very hot day they arrived at my Headquarters at 7.30 p.m. An hour later they were put into a vital counter-attack in the half light,

over unknown ground. They advanced as efficiently as if on a field day at Pirbright – and their efforts were completely successful.”

The second unsolicited testimonial involved a battalion in North Africa being sent to hold a certain position which had with it some anti-tank gunners. German tanks had broken through and no one really knew what the general situation was. One anti-tank gunner said to another: “Do you know what the situation is Bill?” Bill replied: “I do not know, better ask those Guards.” The first man then said: “It is no use asking those Grenadiers, they would say they were alright if they were surrounded.”

The third example was told to me by a Grenadier who I sat next to at the Annual Dinner of the West Kent Branch of the Association held in the Hand and Sceptre pub in the late '60s, He said : “Yes, I was one of those men with Major Sidney that night when he earned his VC at Anzio. I was his driver and we had been placed on the top of an embankment. I remember the Drill Sergeant saying: “Stay here!” You never argued with the Drill Sergeant. Then, as the night wore on, the front-line soldiers started withdrawing past us. And one of them, as he stepped over my prostrate body, spotted my Grenadier

Guards shoulder flashes and said: “Oh! We’ll be alright, the Guards are here!” And then disappeared into the night back to the safety of the rear areas. So, I thought: “Oops! How on earth did I come to be ‘The Guards’ holding the line?” But we did hold the line and the Anzio beachhead was saved.”

To me these three testimonials sum up all that it means to be a Grenadier. However, the Second World War ended 75 years ago and since then the Regiment has had to face an extraordinary range of difficult and challenging tasks, each of which has demanded a very high level of resourcefulness and adaptability. It would be good to hear from readers of the Gazette any more recent examples of unsolicited testimonials where Grenadiers ‘have held the line’.



Holding the line at Monte Camino, winter 1943.

60th Anniversary of the last National Servicemen

Compiled by Assistant Editor

Jeremy Booth (1952-53)

‘I went more or less straight from school to Eaton Hall and then to the 1st Battalion in Wellington Barracks. One morning I was blown for by the

Adjutant.

“Booth, you are turning out to be a most unsatisfactory officer for London duties”.

“Oh, I’m sorry to hear that, Sir. Any particular reason?”

“Well, it’s come to my notice that when you have an evening off, rather than do what most other officers do ... go racing, attend cocktail parties, spot of gambling and so on ... you go fishing”.

“That’s quite right, Sir. I have an excellent beat

on the Kennet and there's nothing better than to catch a good fish on a summer's evening".

With an Adjutantal frown, our meeting terminated.

The Commanding Officer then summoned me and, with a twinkle in his eye, sent me off to join the 3rd Battalion in Egypt, "more your sort of place by the sounds of it, young Booth".

It was indeed. Lots of cricket and sport and the occasional excitement. On one occasion, my platoon was shot at when manning a road block. I heard a muffled voice beneath me say: "I suggest you come and lie down, Sir".

It was the CSM, a much decorated veteran of the Second World War, who had come to visit us. On reflection, it was excellent advice.

Captain Nigel Chancellor and I were then sent by Pat Robertson, the Commanding Officer, to Aqaba in Jordan where Glubb Pasha was in the process of handing over the Arab Legion to King Hussein. Off duty was spent snorkelling in the Gulf of Aqaba, visiting Petra and Jerash, all a far cry from Wellington Barracks and London duties.

David Westbury (1959-61)

One day the 1st Battalion was told it was going to the Cameroons. Everybody was asking where it was - someone thought it was in Scotland. Why are we fighting the Scots now we asked? It turned out to be in West Africa and after being kitted out in tropical gear, we left Southampton on SS *Devonshire*, the last troopship used by the British Army. Three weeks later we arrived and after anchoring off Buea, capital of the British Cameroons, were ferried ashore by banana boat.

No 3 company was sent to Kumba, the largest town in the country in the middle of dense rain forest and one of the worst places in Africa for malaria. Our camp was on the edge of the town, opposite the local prison. The communal latrine was a large open pit with a wooden bench with appropriate holes and a tin roof. For the first few days after we arrived, the greatest enjoyment for those that had not yet gone down with the '*Kumba gunge*', or who had recovered, was to watch the poor wretches who were dashing down the track trying to pull their trousers as they ran, usually not making it.

If you walked left out of the camp, it was a mile to the town where there was a market you could barter for anything you needed. We were not allowed to buy any food there. The *hausa* quarter was out of bounds. Fortunately, there were plenty of bars: Heineken lager came in 2 litre bottles and there was a homemade palm oil hooch which was lethal.

The food in the other ranks mess room was appalling. We had tinned ham for breakfast, lunch, and dinner. We boycotted the mess for 24 hrs and had a meeting in the cinema hut. The CSM then came in armed with a copy of Queens Regulations and read the passage that says mutiny is punishable by death. He kindly pointed out that today mutineers would only serve a life sentence. We dispersed pretty quickly but a check was made on the cookhouse and it was discovered that the head cook had been flogging the rations down the town and he was court martialled.

On the Queen's Birthday Parade, the Company trooped its colour on a dusty plain outside the town in front of an African Chief and his thirty wives, plus a large crowd that clapped and cheered every time we did a different drill movement. CSM Huggins said on a recent TV programme he had been on many Troops in his day but this was the strangest by a long way.

As Independence Day approached, the battalion withdrew after handing over to the French. We boarded the *Devonshire* and headed back to Blighty, calling at Lagos and Las Palmas before we sailed into a Force 10 storm in the Bay of Biscay. We arrived at Southampton to be turned over by the customs. Then onto Tidworth where I handed in my kit, marched into the Orderly Room where I was told what a good boy I had been and got demobbed.

Colin Knight (1958-60)

I knew absolutely nothing about the Armed Forces when my Call Up papers arrived with a request that I attend the Army recruiting office in Gloucester. There I met a tall man who informed that he was a Grenadier and as I was six feet tall then it would be the Grenadier Guards for me.

Having been bamboozled into signing up for an extra year (£4.00 instead of £1.10 shillings per

week), on a fine September day in 1958 I made my way to Caterham by train and bus to the famed Guards Depot at Caterham.

I was met at the barrack gate by a very tall sergeant who greeted me with great politeness: "Good afternoon, young Sir"

"Good afternoon to you", I replied.

"And what can I do for you?" he continued.

"I have come to join the Grenadier Guards to do my National Service".

Inviting me to step inside the Guardroom, he stretched to his full height saying, "And what is your name?"

"Colin", I replied.

"That is a nice name". He continued: "Now Colin, do you have a mother, and does she love you"?

Strange question I thought and answered "Yes".

"How about a father, Colin. Have you one of those and does he also love you"?

"Yes", I replied, beginning to wonder why these types of questions were being asked.

He then put his face close to mine and whispered: "Colin, I am going to be both your mother and father from now on and I am definitely not going to love you."

With that it was "Follow that man" on the forced walk with my suitcase waving in the wind down the long drive to the barrack blocks. It was the start of an interesting and varied time with the regiment and I never regretted the extra year.

Jim Savage (1960-62)

On completion of Depot training, I was posted to Number 1 Company, 3rd Battalion which was stationed in Wellington Barracks. The Battalion was making ready not only for Trooping the Colour, but also for the wedding of HRH Princess Margaret. Out on the square for the first time wearing my Bearskin Cap, I sensed it was out of line with the others, so I held my head at an odd angle to compensate for the difference and make it line up. Wrong action! The Sergeant Major went berserk and chased me off the square, saying "I don't ever want to see you on my parade ground again".

Next morning, I lined up with what was termed 'Guard in Waiting' ready to fill any vacant spots. The Sergeant Major spotted me and shouted "I told

you once before, I do not want to see you on my parade ground", "Right Turn", "Quick March" – and off I went, back to my barrack block for the next week or so. I fathomed that the CSM thought that I was on parade, the Sergeant Major – who must know what he is saying – doesn't want me there, so I laid on my bed each day, with a bumper at the ready, just in case I heard any footsteps on the stairs. Bliss. I watched the wedding on television, nobody bothered me and I never had to bluff my way with the bumper.

John Mitchell (1955 – 1957)

On a freezing weekend in January 1956, fresh from Pirbright, I arrived at Hostert, near Dusseldorf to report to the 1st Battalion. During the weekend, with no duties allocated to us, we were regaled with horror stories from the 'old sweats', mostly about the reign of terror the Battalion was subjected to by RSM Dickinson.

On Monday morning I was sent to the MI room to collect some disinfectant for cleaning the ablution block. En route I had to pass the HQ block, containing the Orderly Room. Aware of the dangers of being 'spotted' I marched with resolute smartness. All to no avail! I heard the dreaded voice – "Come here That Guardsman!". Trying to control my shakes, I marched up to the Sergeant Major and banged in my tabs.

"Why are you not wearing a leather jerkin?" The voice, much impersonated by the story tellers, was terrifying in close up stereo,

Due to the extreme cold, jenkins were the standard order of dress, but we had not yet been issued with them. I managed to stammer, "New draft, Sir, not issued yet".

"Fall Out!"

I scuttled in great haste to collect my disinfectant and returned to the HQ Company block. By the time I got there, my draft was lined up outside the Company stores ready for the issue of jenkins. Such was the overwhelming power of 'The Dick'!

Evan William (1960-61)

There I was, one of the last of the National Servicemen, lined up with my squad in three ranks to the rear of Elizabeth Block in the Guards Depot

at Caterham. Dressed in an assortment of ill-fitting denims, dark navy berets and rigid, studded boots that were covered in leather pimples, we nervously awaited the first word of command from the immaculate Lance Sergeant squad instructor complete with slashed forage cap and swagger stick.

He drew himself up and yelled 'From the right, number'. The right-hand man shouted 'one' then we followed on 'two', 'three', 'four' and so on until it reached a lad from up north who leaned across and shouted his number in the next man's ear. There were stifled giggles and the irate instructor once more gave the order 'From the right, number'. One, two, three, four, then, once again the lad leaned well to his left and shouted his number in the next man's ear.

By now, his patience running thin, the sergeant moved in, towering over the new recruit, toe to toe and, with difficulty, nose to nose.

He hissed: 'Why are you leaning over to the next man?'.

The lad replied: 'That's how we did it in the boy scouts, sergeant'.

With bulging eyes and flushed cheeks, the sergeant bellowed: 'Well, you're not in the effing boy scouts now and I'm not an effing Scout Master!'

And so my recruit training began.

Derek Baker (1957-59):

When I was serving with the 2nd Battalion in Cyprus, someone in their infinite wisdom decided it would be a good idea to put on a concert. As you can imagine volunteers were hardly forthcoming. This being the case the Drill Sergeant instructed the Orderly Room staff to do something about it; in other words, we were either destined for stardom or the guardroom. As we were all living under canvas in a transit camp, we decided to come up with an act which reflected our daily 'ablutions'. It didn't take long to conjure up a name – '*The Three Latrines*'. Come the night, sitting on dustbins, we sang an emotional rendition of 'Red Sails in the Sunset... Way out on the sea, Oh, carry my loved one, Home safely to me'. We never received any feedback from the Drill Sergeant, so our performance couldn't have been that bad but maybe someone out there still remembers it.

Julian Bower (1954-55)

The 2nd Battalion was stationed in a tented camp outside Port Said in Egypt. Next to the sewage works, to be precise. It was decided that there should be an inter-regimental athletics match to be held at Moascar, halfway down the Canal, with the Irish Guards, who were stationed there, acting as hosts. I was captain of our athletics team, which happily won the competition.

The Micks kindly asked me to stay the night and after being royally entertained in the Officers Mess I retired to my tent somewhat the worse for wear. After about ten minutes, there was a tap on the entrance to my tent and a voice said "Sir, this is Corporal O'Brien. Regimental Sergeant Major Mercer would like you to join him for a drink in the Sergeants Mess".

I replied that regretfully I was really not up to it, at which Corporal O'Brien left. Ten minutes later there was another tap but the message this time was "Regimental Sergeant Major Mercer would *really* like to see you in the Sergeants Mess". I sent my regrets once again. Another ten minutes elapsed when a chorus of voices announced "Sorry Sir, but we have come to get you"; four strong Irish men then hauled me out of bed and carried me in my pyjamas towards the Sergeants Mess.

This journey involved crossing the main Port Said to Suez road and passing the Camp Guard en route. It must have been exactly 10 or 11 o'clock because the sentries were being changed and were called to attention to present arms to a Grenadier officer. On arrival at the Sergeants Mess I was propped up against the bar with supporters on both sides. Regimental Sergeant Major Mercer was most welcoming: "Good evening, Sir. It is very good of you to come, but you are improperly dressed, Sir. Shoes are compulsory, so here is a pair of suede shoes for you. What will you be drinking, Sir? May I suggest rum and coke".

A major characteristic of rum and coke is that you cannot tell how much rum there is in it. After two large tumblers and some jolly conversation I was escorted back to my tent on foot and, having handed over the shoes, had a very sound night's sleep.

'A sorrow too deep to express' The farewell parade of the 3rd Battalion Grenadier Guards

by Major Philip Wright OBE
formerly Grenadier Guards

In the 1950s, the whole Army was in a constant state of change. One defence review succeeded another at unwelcome intervals. Organizations were varied and modified and, worst of all amalgamation and in some cases disbandment, were visited upon many proud regiments. The Foot Guards were by no means exempt and in 1960 the 3rd Battalion, commanded by Lieutenant-Colonel Tony Way were placed in 'suspended animation'. The Battalion returned from tackling EOKA terrorists in Cyprus in 1959, to face their demise, marked by a painful farewell parade before The Queen at Buckingham Palace in July 1960. Happily, the new Inkerman Company was formed and sent to the 2nd Battalion in 1961, and then in 1994 to the 1st Battalion, where, as left flank company, it remains still to preserve the tradition of the famous "Ribs".

On 8th July 1960 the Battalion, led by the Regimental Band and accompanied by detachments of the 1st and 2nd Battalions and some 200 comrades marched to Buckingham Palace to take a final farewell of Her Majesty in the presence of the Queen Mother and many spectators and guests of the Regiment. Precisely at 11am The Queen stepped out onto the terrace overlooking the Palace Gardens and was greeted by the Royal Salute. Then, accompanied by the Regimental Lieutenant Colonel, Colonel Alex Gregory-Hood and the Regimental Adjutant, Major Sir Hew Hamilton-Dalrymple Bt., Her Majesty inspected the Parade, after which the Commanding Officer made the following speech:

Madam, the last time the Battalion paraded before Your Majesty, our Colonel-in-Chief, was at Windsor in 1956 when the whole Regiment was celebrating the joyful conclusion of 300 years of



proud service in good times and bad, in peace and war, to our Sovereign and the Crown. Now only four years later, events necessitate the 3rd Battalion temporarily laying down that service and I and every man in the Battalion are filled with a sorrow too deep to express. Since those early days when our forebears shared with His Majesty King Charles II the difficulties of exile, we have had but one aim --- to serve our Sovereign with the utmost loyalty and devotion of which we are capable. This tradition, Madam, will be the



proudest possession of the company which, with your Majesty's permission we shall leave behind as the left flank company of the 2nd Battalion, until that happy day when the 3rd Battalion will once again stand in the presence of their Monarch. And so, Madam, on behalf of my Battalion I offer Your Majesty our humble devotion and duty on this farewell parade. We thank you Madam, for the great interest Your Majesty has shown in us as our Colonel and Colonel-in-Chief, and especially for giving us this final opportunity of showing

that loyalty and devotion which since 1656 has been the greatest source of our strength,"

Her Majesty was graciously pleased to reply in the following words:

Colonel Way, Officers, Warrant Officers, and Guardsmen of 3rd Battalion Grenadier Guards: I do not think that there can be anyone here today who does not feel a pang of sorrow and regret as we say goodbye to this historic Battalion. Owing to the

changing structure of the Army, other regiments have already lost battalions with long and distinguished records. Many of them have held their final parades and their Colours have been laid up. Through being your Colonel for ten years, I have had a closer link with the Grenadiers than with any other regiment in the Army, and that is why I have invited you here today But I would like you to remember those other regiments too: and I ask them to regard this parade as symbolic of my feelings of sympathy with all corps and regiments in the Army which have lost units for which they have as great an affection as all Grenadiers feel for their 3rd Battalion.

For over 300 years, since it upheld King Charles II during his exile, your Battalion has devotedly served its Sovereign and its country, from early service as Marines, which has given it a unique link with the Royal Navy, to the present day. Twice your forebears have had to fight their way back to the sea on foreign soil, showing impeccable discipline, withstanding fatigue as well as holding off the enemy at Corunna and Dunkirk. The same dogged courage that finally routed Napoleon's Guards at Waterloo carried the Battalion through the bitter trench warfare of 1915 and earned for it the nickname of "The Plumbers" in Tunisia in 1943. More recently you have shown your resourcefulness and hardihood in the mountains of Cyprus. These exploits- and many more- are in our minds, as today as you step aside from the active scene.

I gladly approve your leaving behind a company, which will stand on the left flank of the Regiment, to preserve the individual spirit of the 3rd Battalion. I think that this company, which carries such a great responsibility on its shoulders, should bear the name of one of the most resolute and daring engagements in which your Battalion ever took part. I therefore name it "The Inkerman Company" confident that it will ever maintain the steadfastness and courage which was displayed by the Battalion in that battle. To all ranks of the 3rd Battalion I say Farewell and Godspeed, and I welcome the Inkerman Company to the very special place it will now hold in the Regiment.

After the speech the Parade gave three cheers and the Battalion then marched past Her Majesty to return to its original position in preparation for the

Advance in Review Order and final Present Arms. The Commanding Officer then asked permission to march the Battalion off with the exception of the Inkerman Company which remained behind to join symbolically at this stage the 2nd Battalion Detachment. Stepping off in slow time the Battalion left the Gardens to the music of "Rule Britannia!" and "Auld Lang Syne."

FOOTNOTE

Those of us whose privilege it was to be on parade, including myself with the 2nd Battalion Detachment from Germany, felt as we marched off, that we had been greatly honoured. Honoured by Her Majesty's invitation to hold the parade at Buckingham Palace. Honoured that we should represent all those distinguished battalions and units of the Army whose misfortune it should be to lay down their service. And finally, honoured and happy by the designation of the Inkerman Company, who I joined as 11 Platoon Commander, to carry on the traditions of the 3rd Battalion in the Left flank Company of the 2nd Battalion.

'One of my duties before the parade was to escort the artist Terence Cuneo while he was selecting a suitable position for his easel from which to paint the parade. Lieutenant Colonel Sir John Smiley Bt., who was Adjutant of the Battalion, has let me know that the Cuneo mouse is standing directly behind his spurs. Apparently, on being shown the painting, The Queen said that the mouse was the smartest person on parade.'



Sergeants' Mess Photograph - Left to Right: Lieutenant Colonel A Way, RSM A.Stevens, HM The Queen, RQMS L.White, Captain J.Smiley.

Richard Westmacott In Memoriam

Forty years ago, Captain Richard Westmacott, Grenadier Guards, was killed on active service in Northern Ireland when serving with G Squadron 22 SAS. In recognition of his leadership and courage, Richard was awarded an MC, the first posthumous award in the history of the decoration. His citation, which has not been published before, reads:

Captain Westmacott had been employed as a Troop Commander on Special Duties in Northern Ireland since February 1980. His troop was specifically tasked for operations in Belfast, but late on Thursday 3 April his troop was tasked to stand by at Portadown for a possible operation in the Cookstown area of East Tyrone. Information received indicated that a senior On-the-Run terrorist was expected to cross the border into Northern Ireland in order to attend the marches in Carrickmore on Easter Sunday. Further information indicated an address in the area of Cookstown was the likely location to which the terrorist had proceeded and also that he was armed with an Armalite rifle plus a .38 snub-nosed revolver.

Captain Westmacott skilfully deployed a trigger Observation Post with the task of ensuring the security of the information received and to act as a cut-off for an assault on the target house. In addition, he produced a comprehensive but simple plan of attack for his troop. The assault, which he personally led, was executed with superb coordination and controlled aggression. The Senior Terrorist responsible for up to twenty killings, was caught totally unawares. This, in spite of irregular but frequent patrolling by other occupants of the household around the perimeter of the house and grounds. The suddenness of the assault was such that the terrorist was quite unable to reach his weapons.

The removal of this terrorist, the top gunman in East Tyrone, for a period silenced the Provisional IRA in the area. Forensic evidence subsequently proved that the Armalite rifle had been used in six murders, several attempted murders and a further shooting incident.



Richard Westmacott.

On Friday 2 May 1980, Captain Westmacott and his troop were tasked to stand by for an operation against a Provisional IRA gun team, believed to be planning a shooting attack using an M60 machine gun and a number of automatic weapons.

At 1130 hours the firing position was located in the area of one of the houses in the Antrim Road district of North Belfast. Further information indicated that one of these houses had been used in the past by the Provisional IRA. Captain Westmacott was tasked to prepare his options for an attack on this particular house. No guarantee existed as to whether the gun team would remain in position. Speed was of the essence. After driving past the possible firing position himself, Captain Westmacott made his plan to assault the front of the selected building, at the same time he placed a blocking position in the rear. At 1403 hours Captain Westmacott was ordered to execute his plan.

The speed, aggression and courage of Captain

Westmacott and his troop was such that their assault so stunned the four man gun team that, within a few seconds they had surrendered, together with their weapons, an M60 and two automatic rifles. Unfortunately Captain Westmacott was killed, while coolly and with no thought for his own personal safety, returning the fire of the gun team to give cover to other members of his assault group. The leadership and courage displayed by Captain Westmacott was supreme.

This particular gun team had been responsible for a large number of shooting attacks in Belfast, many of which had resulted in the death or injury of members of the Security Forces, both Army and Police. Before Captain Westmacott's action almost no attrition had been achieved against them, because they had eluded capture after their ambushes, and evidence on which to convict them

was not obtainable. The fact that this team and their weapons have now been captured intact will undoubtedly have a profound effect on Provisional IRA morale in Belfast. The outstanding leadership and courage shown by Captain Westmacott will have results far beyond those achieved in the action itself, and there is no doubt at all that it will save the lives of many other members of the Security Forces.

Captain Westmacott in paying the supreme sacrifice displayed selfless disregard for his own safety. His conduct represents the highest possible devotion to duty in the best tradition of his Regiment and the British Army. He deserves very special recognition for his valiant actions.

His widow, Vicky, lives in Germany as does their daughter Honor, the proud mother of four children, one of whom is called Richard.



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Lieutenant Colonel (Retd) Sir Andrew Ford GCVO

It was with very fond memories of twenty-two years serving as a Grenadier that I left the Regiment in 1999 in order to command 1st Battalion Welsh Guards, an appointment that was thoroughly enjoyable and fulfilling. Six years later I retired from the Army and joined the Royal Household as Comptroller, Lord Chamberlain's Office in succession to Sir Malcolm Ross, formerly Scots Guards.

I held that post for some thirteen years, retiring in 2019 to become Chairman of The Hedley Foundation, a grant giving charity, in succession to John Rodwell DL, also a former Grenadier and in 1977 the Adjutant of 1st Battalion Grenadier Guards, when I joined the Battalion as an ensign. Now, as Honorary President of The Hedley Foundation, he still maintains his beady eye over me so in this respect not much has changed in forty-three years!

But to the point of this article. The Editor asked me for some reflections on my time at the Palace and on my present role at The Hedley Foundation.

Many Grenadiers will have felt the influence of the Lord Chamberlain's Office (LCO) during the course of a posting in London District. It is one of five Departments within The Queen's Household with responsibility for planning and coordinating "ceremonial events". Readers may have witnessed or participated in State Visits, the State Opening of Parliament, the Cenotaph Parade, Investitures, Presentation of Colours Parades, Garden Parties, Royal Weddings and Royal Funerals. Less well-known activities that the LCO undertake are liaising with the Diplomatic Community in London, organising the annual Maundy Service, managing Royal Family representation at memorial services, arranging the Orders of Chivalry Services at Westminster Abbey and St Paul's Cathedral and arranging The Queen's visits to units of the Armed Forces, amongst a myriad of other tasks.

The Department is well resourced with highly

committed people in place to deliver these events (the staffs of Royal Mews and the Central Chancery of the Orders of Knighthood, the Marshal of the Diplomatic Corps, the staff of the Chapels Royal, Her Majesty's three Bodyguards (the Gentlemen at Arms, the Yeomen of the Guard, the Royal Company of Archers), the Gentlemen Ushers and a small, dedicated team in the Central Office, so there is every good reason for all to go well. But, inevitably, not all things do go to plan.

The State Opening of Parliament was always sure to sharpen the Comptroller's senses. It was a uniquely fragile feeling to be on national television walking up the Sovereign's Stairs, at the House of Lords, carrying the Imperial State Crown with a sword hanging by my side seemingly there to trip me up at every step. Whilst I managed to keep the Crown intact on the Sovereign's Stairs there was once a near miss with it on the return journey to Buckingham Palace, because I had failed to exchange the cushions upon which the Crown sits before departing the House of Lords.

These cushions are important. There is the Travelling Cushion that is designed specifically to rest on a small table that is fixed in the carriage, which allows for the battery powered, up-lighting to illuminate the Crown during its voyage to and from the House of Lords. The Carrying Cushion is much larger, full of stuffing and made of velvet. It is also inflammable, not that I fully appreciated that point when I placed the Carrying Cushion on the table for the return journey to Buckingham Palace.

It was somewhere down the Mall when smoke started to fill the carriage as the highly combustible Carrying Cushion, sitting on the electric up-lighters, began to ignite.

Then began an un-rehearsed disaster avoidance plan, which took the form of me and my fellow travellers - the Sword of State and the Cap of Maintenance - slapping and blowing at the cushion, me by now cradling the Imperial State Crown whilst at the same time trying to open a window. All very undignified and potentially very embarrassing but thankfully we got away with it without the need to call the Emergency Services!

It was during my time at the Palace that I was invited by the then Chairman of The Hedley Foundation to join his Board of Trustees, all of whom had strong connections to the Regiment or were associated with the Royal Household in one form or another. In time I took over as Chairman and once again I am engaged in a very fulfilling and rewarding, part-time role.

Endowed by Ian Hedley (whose forbear invented the steam locomotive "Puffing Billy" in 1813) and set up for charitable purpose in the early 1970s by his close friend and former Grenadier, Philip Byam-Cook, the Foundation supports smaller, UK based charities in their efforts to improve the quality of life of disadvantaged people.

These days, the Trustees will consider applications to support the Nation's youth, the elderly, the disabled, the terminally ill and carers. In a typical (non-COVID) year grants totalling about £800,000 are made to approximately 250 charities. These donations might be put towards educational projects, expeditions, sports

equipment, support to ex-offenders, criminal prevention programmes, medical aids, care home equipment and many other initiatives. Readers may be interested to scan the website at www.hedleyfoundation.org.uk to get a fuller flavour of The Hedley Foundation's activities.

One of the privileges of working with a grant giving charity is the opportunity it provides to visit front line charities and to see the truly great work that is being done in our country to alleviate the hardship endured by many who are living in reduced circumstances. The energy and total commitment of charity workers to their respective causes provides a genuine lifeline to many people, which is humbling as well as uplifting to witness.

To conclude, I submit this short piece with a feeling of enormous gratitude to the Regiment. Grenadiers everywhere will recognise the worth of the friendships made during our service together and it is often these friendships that help frame our lives going forward. Certainly that has been the experience of this Grenadier at Large.



Anthony Hamilton

Late one afternoon in March 2020, I flew into London from six weeks working in Oman with DARKTRACE, a UK cyber defence company. That night, unable to sleep, I got up, took a bath, and had a stroke. As a Grenadier, I thought 'What If' as I was taught all those years ago, and I remembered that I better let out the bathwater in a bid to survive. I was found four days later, by two concerned colleagues, unconscious in the bath.

I vividly remember my last day serving with the Regiment, when Lieutenant Colonel Charlie Woodrow said I should keep up with my high level of fitness which would always stand me in good stead. I have run, swum or taken some form of exercise every day since. That undoubtedly helped to keep me alive for those four days with no water or food. What wise words indeed!

For five weeks I was in a coma. After three life-saving operations on my skull, thanks to NHS and the amazing surgeons, anaesthetics, doctors and nurses at The National Hospital on Queens Square London and St Thomas's Hospital, I am now firmly back in the land of the living, slowly recovering from a brain haemorrhage after a close call when heaven very nearly beckoned.

It was thanks to a distinguished Grenadier, the late Major Geoffrey Merton, MC, who encouraged me to join the Regiment when I was just 16-years-old, that I was commissioned in 1975 and served with the 2nd Battalion for ten very happy years. Numerous highlights and happy memories will stay with me forever.

Driving with Six Platoon, wearing night goggles, on Exercise CRUSADER with our FV432s with only tail lights showing, was, in itself, quite a challenge. Watching the US Airborne parachuting in from the Carolinas was memorable. Those days were the height of the Cold War shortly after the Soviet Union had invaded Afghanistan.

From Oxford Barracks, Major Hubert De Lisle arranged for me to teach at the French Officer Training School at the École spéciale militaire de Saint-Cyr in Coëtquidan. I realised, at that point, just how well trained I had been by the Regiment and the British Army for amongst other things, I

was teaching French Officer Cadets about NBC warfare. I also learnt how to open a bottle of champagne with a French bayonet and, in a more officer-like fashion, with a sword, by some splendid DS who had served with the French Foreign Legion.

Lieutenant Colonel Henry Smith who had moved to the MOD, knew that I had served with the Royal Navy in 1975 as a French interpreter to police our North Sea fishing assets. So he chose me as the Battalion's Intelligence Officer to be attached to the Navy for the duration of the Falklands War. I was 'down the hole' deep underground at Northwood working for the Admiral of the Fleet, Admiral Sir John Fieldhouse, who I will always greatly admire as a superb leader of men.

My time as Intelligence Officer, Assistant Adjutant in Dhekalia Barracks under Major Conway Seymour, then Information Officer at St David's Camp on the Cyprus Green Line, and Signals Officer in Belize, all prepared me well for my future career. From Sir Evelyn Webb-Carter, I learnt the meaning of true leadership and this was something quickly picked up on when I went to Edinburgh Business School, headed by Professor Simon Coke. He told me that you are always a product of your first professional training. He knew I was a Grenadier and somehow, despite my apparent idleness, awarded me my MBA. It was at that stage, I realised that Evelyn and the Regiment had left an indelible and very positive mark on me.

On graduating from Business School at the University of Edinburgh, I was recruited by the CEO of Kenrick & Jefferson, the high security printers. Later, I moved to London to set up my own marketing consultancy which took me to the US, Switzerland, and all around the Middle East. Today I work as a partner with DARKTRACE, a company founded in 2013 by Cambridge mathematicians which was the first to develop an AI system for cyber security. We support the UK Centre for the Protection of National Infrastructure and those of our allies overseas.

Many years after I left the Regiment, I discovered that my real name is not Hamilton. The trail started when I discovered my father's Walther PPK in his house in Geneva when I was going through his effects after his death in 1985. It struck me as it was somewhat strange at the time, and then I



Attending Remembrance Sunday at the Cenotaph 2020.

came across an Oxford newspaper article which described his secret work behind enemy lines. My 'mother' Baroness Van Zuylen van Nyevelt who raised me from the age of two in Switzerland and Ireland, had predeceased my father and I found some papers of hers in the house that mentioned a lawyer in London. I wrote to the address but never heard back. It was only in 1997 that I received a reply and met up with him at Armourer's Hall in London.

He told me an extraordinary story about my father being a government agent, and how I had been baptised twice in rapid succession and put in a children's home in Reigate for two years before going to live with my father and his partner 'the Baroness' in Geneva. I was left incredulous. It

transpired that my 'real' mother was from a Lebanese family living in Egypt – her father had been made 'a Bey' by King Fuad. She had given birth to me in England in 1955 when my father was in South Africa and after I had been put into care, she left for America. With the help of Ariel Bruce, the search consultant who specialises in tracing people affected by adoption or have lost touch with relatives, I tracked her down in New York where she was working for the UN and she confirmed the lawyer's story was true.

My father told me that during the Second World War he had worked as a staff officer for General Jumbo Wilson, C-in-C Middle East and later Supreme Allied Commander in the Mediterranean; in 1943, as a member of the Spears Mission, he appeared in a photograph at the side of Riad Al Solh, the first Prime Minister of Lebanon; and after the war, by this time a Colonel, he was photographed with the Hungarian Prime Minister, Nagy Ferenc, having lunch in Budapest in 1946, before the Hungarian government was forced out by Marshal Voroshilov on the orders of Stalin.

In my childhood, I remember how he had spent a lot of time away, particularly in Russia and Eastern Europe, but at some stage in the early 1970's he appeared to retire. I only really remember him as a proud Englishman living in Switzerland as a businessman working 'in the insurance world'. I learnt a long time after he passed away that he had held several passports in different nationalities.

One day, during Tony Blair's Premiership, I received a mysterious letter asking me to contact a number at the FCO to verify who I claimed to be. Then a document was shown to me, which I was told should have been shredded ages ago; however, under the new Freedom of Information Act, I had the right to see it. It transpired that all my passport details, including my names had been deliberately changed to protect me from being identified with my father's real name. It was then that I realized the extraordinary significance of the people I had met unknowingly through my father, with UK Agencies, and in Switzerland, and with key UN Agencies. They are all now long gone.

To this day, I am still in touch with my birth mother, and remain particularly close to my Dutch 'mother's' family and her relations the Van Loons.

Carl Shadrake

by WO2(RQMS) David 'George' Roper

As well as being widely regarded by those who served with him as an all-round 'good bloke' - and a close personal friend of mine for very nearly two decades - there can be little doubt that former-Sergeant Carl Shadrake is also something of a modern Grenadier legend.

Having passed out of training at the Infantry Training Centre in 2001 aged 17 and after a stint of Public Duties with Nijmegen Company, Carl later joined the ranks of The Queen's Company and saw active service in Bosnia, Iraq and Afghanistan.

During Op HERRICK 6 in Afghanistan in 2007, Carl, at the time a Lance Sergeant, was critically injured when a suicide-borne Improvised Explosive Device detonated near the WMIK Land Rover he was commanding, resulting in his medical evacuation back to the UK for surgery to repair damage to his carotid artery, a process which included a complete blood transfusion.

Having recovered from his wounds during a six-month stay at DMRC Headley Court, Carl was posted as a squad instructor to ATC Pirbright. After subsequently completing the arduous Platoon Sergeants' Battle Course, he was promoted to Gold Sergeant and took over as Pl Sergeant of No 2 Platoon, The Queen's Company ahead of the First Battalion's deployment on Op HERRICK 16 in 2012. Three months into that tour, Carl was again seriously injured by a blast when the lead man in his patrol triggered a victim operated IED. Carl was evacuated to hospital in the UK and underwent surgery to repair damage to his stomach, face and arms. It was following his recovery in hospital that Carl received the tragic news that his younger brother, Jamie - also a Grenadier serving with the Recce Platoon - had been killed in action in Afghanistan just days after his 20th birthday.

Carl was medically discharged from the army in August 2014 and now has a successful civilian career in facilities management. In addition, he has also striven to develop his physical fitness,

competing in numerous *Iron Man* triathlons and multiple other fitness events over the years. As if that wasn't enough, he has become an ambassador for *Help for Heroes* and, supported by his wife, Angie and two children, Penelope (6) and Zara (5), devotes much of his spare time to charitable fundraising.

I sat down with Carl over a Covid-compliant video call in January to ask him about one exploit of his in particular from the last twelve months:

RQMS: You set yourself the challenge of running 100 half marathons in 100 consecutive days in 2020. What was the inspiration behind the challenge - totalling a fairly extreme 1,310 miles - and why did you set it for yourself?

Carl Shadrake (CS): I had completed a lot of Iron Man competitions and one-day endurance events in previous years and I needed something different. I was out running one day and thought, "I haven't raised any funds for a while, maybe I should do something for charity again," so I decided on a 100-day event. During planning it then quickly escalated from 5km a day to 13.1-miles a day and the challenge was born.

RQMS: During the challenge itself, what were your motivations for completing it?

CS: They were twofold: one was to raise crucial funds for SSAFA and Help for Heroes, but equally I felt I'd put on a bit of a 'winter coat' and I thought, "What a great way to lose some weight!"

RQMS: Did the Covid-19 pandemic affect your plans in any way and what did you do about it?

CS: Unfortunately, it did. I got to Day 8 of the challenge when Lockdown 1.0 kicked in. I continued for three days whilst becoming increasingly angry about vast numbers of people being out and about when government guidelines were suggesting we stay in where



possible. Realising the level of my own hypocrisy, I paused the challenge on completion of Day 11. Once the lockdown eased, I started up again from Day 12 and continued until Day 100.

RQMS: Other than the satisfaction of completing such an arduous physical endeavour, what else do you feel you personally gained from the challenge?

CS: I am mentally more resilient for completing the challenge. I had to do some serious soul-searching and dig deep on most days to motivate myself, so I know I'm mentally tougher as a result and I'm physically stronger too. Once

the event was finished, I'd achieved multiple distance-PBs; I was a fitter person for it.

My wife put out an article locally to see if anyone was interested in joining this lunatic who was running consecutive half marathons and thankfully, I had a huge buy-in. I ended up running with a different person almost every day, many of whom I still go running with now. So, as a result of the challenge my social circle's much bigger.

RQMS: Your hundredth half marathon was completed as a climb of Mount Snowdon supported by your family and members of the First Battalion. Who accompanied

you and what are your thoughts about that particular day?

CS: Along with my wife and daughters I was joined by several members of the Battalion including, among others, the Commanding Officer (Lieutenant Colonel James Greaves), the Sergeant Major (WO1 Chris Dougherty), the Technical Quartermaster Sergeant (WO2 Dean Bailey) and the Drill Sergeant (WO2 Martin Lloyd) as well as Matthew Ellmer (Regimental Casualty Officer). In fact, those from the Battalion had just been in Brecon for a week and they actually finished there early to climb Snowdon with me.

It was fantastic to have support from the Battalion. I'd originally arranged to do multiple runs with the Battalion on PT sessions, but due to the lockdowns that came into force that plan just never came to fruition, so for the serving Grenadiers to be there on the last day - especially people who I'd previously worked with closely - was a real morale boost.

We were also so lucky with the weather! It was mid-October, the weather could have been proper garbage, but it was phenomenal.

It was great for me to finish the challenge because it had taken over my day-to-day life. In the summer heatwave, I wasn't going out until 2130, getting back at 2330; showered, changed, bed for around midnight then back to work the next day, it was really tough... So, to have Day 100 done with friends and family around was an epic finale. We drove home the next day and I ran another half marathon as a lap of honour!

RQMS: Like you do! Immediately ahead of your ascent of Mount Snowdon, you were also interviewed for TV by Lorraine Kelly. How was that?

CS: Lorraine Kelly's a really cheerful lady. I called her out to come on a run with me in the future and she agreed on national TV so she can't back out now! Being interviewed on the show definitely contributed to helping with my charitable aim because there was a spike

of donations afterwards. It was also heart-warming to receive well wishes from people I'd never met.

RQMS: How much were you aiming to raise for SSAFA and Help for Heroes and did you attain your goal?

CS: I originally aimed to raise £15,000, not really expecting to reach that, but in the end I managed to raise £24,500. With a great deal of help!

RQMS: As you now reflect on the challenge, is there anyone in particular you want to thank for their support or contributions?

CS: The big shout has got to go to my wife; she had to take up the slack when I was out running for two hours every day. Also, Matt Ellmer. The original Day 100 was scheduled to be in the summer over the 'Yorkshire Three Peaks', but when that had to change to a finish in October, he came up with the concept of climbing Snowdon and then came along to support me.

RQMS: Finally, what's next for you and what is your inspiration to carry on doing these types of events?

CS: I'm currently running a minimum of 5km every day for the whole of 2021, not for charity just to keep myself motivated. My next charity event is with my children; they're going to be walking Hadrian's Wall this summer to raise money for the Colonel's Fund. We aim to do that [73 miles] over ten days in August; it will be between 8-12 miles a day so quite a feat for a five and a six-year old.

My social circle includes several wounded Grenadier veterans. Raising funds for military charities that are going to help them through difficult times is what inspires me to do charitable events. Knowing that the money will go to great causes and that people who are close to me are going to be helped by it, that's what keeps me going.

RQMS: And you can't say fairer than that...

Dougie Adams

Ever since I can remember, I had a yearning to join the Army. My first attempt to join was unsuccessful and resulted in me studying carpentry at college followed by a few menial jobs to get by until I could go to my local Army Careers office and reapply. I am pleased to say my second attempt was successful and upon recommendation from an old school friend who had already joined the Regiment, I enlisted

in 2005.

After training at Catterick, I wasn't sure what to expect when I joined Nijmegen Company at Wellington Barracks and it came as a bit of a shock to my system. Finding myself totally out of my comfort zone, I hated my first week but soon settled in and enjoyed the next two years on ceremonial duties. In 2007 I moved to a rifle company, ready to deploy to Afghanistan on Op HERRICK 6, and later joined the Queen's Company followed by Op HERRICK 11 and HERRICK 16.





ready to engage with anybody, especially not to expose myself to more vulnerability with others in a similar situation. Welcomed by the host who was also a professional Artist, I was encouraged to do simple pencil and charcoal sketches of the landscapes to help me concentrate again. For the first time my mind, which had been going at an exhausting 100 mph, started to slow down and I felt safe as time passed. Although art was unfamiliar to me, I could feel its benefits to my

On 21 June 2012, I was involved in an incident in Upper Gereshk Valley during Op QALB when my life as I knew it changed forever. Six weeks before the end of my deployment, I was casevaced to the UK; all my immediate and future plans had come to an abrupt end and everything seemed totally out of my control. Looking back, this period is a blur and I really don't know how I have got to today.

In March 2013 I was invited by 'The Not Forgotten Association' to spend some quiet time and respite at a picturesque Majorcan Finca. I felt extremely apprehensive as I was mentally and physically unwell and really wasn't

mental health and physical wellbeing. I carried on painting most days, filled with marvel and anticipation about where this journey would take me.

However, my options and resources were





limited: I had chronic ill health and little income. What spare funds I had were spent on art equipment. Fortunately, with the support and encouragement of The Colonels Fund, my father's Masonic Lodge and Emma Willis's 'Style for Soldiers' Charity to mention but a few, I have been able to continue exploring and developing my new found skill.

I have been lucky enough to be attend the Florence Academy of Arts at Stowe for the last few years, which gave me the confidence to submit a piece of my art to Sky Arts *Landscape Artist of the Year* competition in 2019 when I was chosen as a 'Wildcard' contestant with the opportunity to spend a day painting at Herstmonceux Castle in East Sussex. I entered the competition again in 2020; this time I was invited as one of the

contestants to paint at West Wycombe Park in Buckinghamshire. I felt a little more pressure this time around, but the landscape was familiar, so I was able to lose my thoughts in the here and now. I am pleased to say I won my heat and got through to the Semi Finals, which was a great experience.

I have since been approached by enthusiasts asking to purchase my work or enquire about commissions which has given me the confidence to carry on and the ability to buy more paint. I am deeply grateful to all those who have helped me on this journey which I hope is just beginning!

More information available at www.dougieadams.com or follow my blog on Instagram [dougie_adams_art](https://www.instagram.com/dougie_adams_art)



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The FIRST or GRENADIER REGIMENT of FOOT GUARDS

at 31 January 2021

Battle Honours

Tangier 1680, Namur 1695, Gibraltar 1704-1705, Blenheim 1704, Ramilles 1706, Oudenarde 1708, Malplaquet 1709, Dettingen 1743, Lincelles 1793, Egmont-Op-Zee 1799, Corunna 1809, Barrosa 1811, Nive 1813, Peninsular, Waterloo 1815, Alma 1854, Inkerman 1854, Sevastopol 1855, Tel-El-Kebir 1882, Egypt 1882, Suakin 1885, Khartoum 1898, Modder River 1899, South Africa 1899-1902, France and Flanders, Declaration of War 1914, Armistice Day 1918, Mons 1914, Retreat from Mons 1914, Marne 1914, Aisne 1914, Ypres (Gheluvelt) 1914, Ypres (Nonne Bosschen) 1914, Ypres (Pilckem) 1917, Ypres (Poelcapelle) 1917, Langemarck 1914, Neuve Chappelle 1915, Aubers 1915, Festubert 1915, Loos 1915, Somme (Flers-Courcelette) 1916, Somme (Morval) 1916, Somme (Bapaume) 1916, Somme (Albert) 1918, Ginchy 1916, Passchendaele 1917, Cambrai (Fontaine Notre Dame) 1917, Cambrai (Gouzeau-Court) 1917, St Quentin 1918, Arras 1918, Arras (Scarpe) 1918, Lys 1918, Hazebrouck 1918, Hindenburg Line 1918, Hindenburg Line (Canal Du Nord) 1918, Hindenburg Line (Havrincourt) 1918, Selle 1918, Sambre 1918, Dyle 1940, Dunkirk 1940, Mareth 1943, Medjez Plain 1943, Salerno 1943, Volturno Crossing 1943, Monte Camino 1943, Anzio 1944, Cagny 1944, Mont Pincon 1944, Gothic Line 1944, Nijmegen 1944, Battaglia 1944, Reichswald 1944, Rhine 1945, Italy 1943-1945, North West Europe 1940 & 1944-1945, North Africa 1942-1943, Gulf 1991, Wadi-Al Batin 1991

Colonel in Chief

Her Majesty The Queen

Colonel

His Royal Highness The Duke of York KG

Regimental Lieutenant Colonel	Maj Gen	CRV	Walker DSO
Regimental Adjutant	Maj (Retired)	JPW	Gatehouse
Regimental Treasurer and General Secretary of the Grenadier Guards Association	Maj (Retired)	AJ	Green
Regimental Recruiting Officer and Temporary Equerry	Capt	JC	Palmer-Tomkinson
Director of Music	Capt	BS	Mason
Regimental Quartermaster Sergeant	WO2(RQMS)	DA	Roper
Honorary Regimental Archivist	Capt (Retired)	AGH	Ogden

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Major General CRV Walker DSO
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Brigadier (Retired) D J Maddan
The Earl of Derby DL
Captain (Retired) CAG Bennett

Officer Commanding Nijmegen Company
Chairman, The Colonel's Fund Committee
Editor, The Grenadier Gazette
Regimental Archivist
Regimental Adjutant (Director of Welfare)

THE REGIMENTAL COUNCIL

HRH The Colonel
Regimental Lieutenant Colonel
President, Grenadier Guards Association
Representative of the Regimental Trustees
Commanding Officer First Battalion

15th Company REGIMENTAL HEADQUARTERS

Maj(Ret'd)	J	Gatehouse
Maj(Ret'd)	A	Green
Capt	J	Palmer-Tomkinson
WO2(RQMS)	D	Roper
Sgt	R	Broomes
LSgt	G	Davis
LSgt	R	Haughton
LSgt	M	MacMillan

NOMINAL ROLL

REGIMENTAL BAND

Capt(DoM)	B	Mason
WO2(BM)	P	Anderson
WO2(BSM)	D	Buckles
CSgt	M	Dichello
CSgt	D	Hull
CSgt	K	Miles
CSgt	J	Rowles
Sgt	J	Burton
Sgt	M	Gray
Sgt	G	Hall
Sgt	S	Moore
LSgt	P	Batai
LSgt	B	Beavis
LSgt	S	Bradbury
LSgt	C	Deacon
LSgt	O	Duffield
LSgt	A	Garner
LSgt	M	Hayes
LSgt	M	Langmaid
LSgt	P	Matthews
LSgt	L	Narhkom
LSgt	D	Pile-Gray
LSgt	I	Shepherd
LSgt	N	Turner
LSgt	D	Wong
LCpl	C	Barber
LCpl	D	Byrne
LCpl	V	Carter-Graham
LCpl	R	Dewey
LCpl	N	Duffield
LCpl	R	Ellard
LCpl	A	Higginson
LCpl	S	Jolly
LCpl	K	Lawson
LCpl	J	Pearson
LCpl	M	Thomas
Musn	S	Brunyee
Musn	R	Coates
Musn	M	Denney
Musn	D	Griffiths
Musn	S	Henderson
Musn	C	Hibberd
Musn	G	Hirst
Musn	A	Kucharczak
Musn	K	Kucharczak
Musn	J	Perkins
Musn	J	Redman
Musn	A	Rouse
Musn	L	Wrycraft

Sgt	A	Hendy
LSgt	J	Adom
LSgt	H	Aspinshaw
LSgt	T	Battisson
LSgt	A	Blatchly
LSgt	J	Dexter
LSgt	J	Heale
LSgt	J	Hewson
LSgt	J	Hubbard
LSgt	J	Loftus
LSgt	T	Smith
LSgt	J	Williams
LCpl	G	Wint
LCpl	C	Smith
Gdsm	A	Robinson

BATTALION HQ

Lt Col	J	Greaves	Comd Offr
Maj	J	Shaw	Snr Maj
Capt	M	Cox	RCMO
Capt	R	Harding	Int Offr
Capt	J	Silver	Ops Offr
Capt	R	Thompson	Adjt
Capt	C	Wright	Trg Offr
WO1(RSM)	C	Dougherty	The Sgt Maj
WO2(TQMS)	D	Bailey	TQMS
WO2(CSMIM)	D	Bennett	CSMIM
WO2(DSgt)	D	Bennison	DSgt
WO2(RQMS)	R	Dacey	RQMS(M)
WO2(DSgt)	M	Lloyd	DSgt
CSgt	C	Green	Master Tailor

CORPS OF DRUMS

Sgt(DMaj)	K	Rodda
LSgt	K	Ellis
LSgt	L	Seer-Boylan
LSgt	J	Childs
LCpl	J	Ramsbottom
LCpl	A	Kenny
LCpl	J	Greenslade
LCpl	R	Evans
LCpl	A	Walker
Dmr	K	Adamson
Dmr	D	Barton
Dmr	J	Walker
Dmr	T	Lester
Dmr	J	O'Connor
Dmr	R	Hunt
Dmr	L	Boon
Dmr	K	Pharaoh
Dmr	K	Adamson
Dmr	H	Woolley
Dmr	O	Treacher

14th Company

INFANTRY TRAINING CENTRE (CATTERICK)

Lt	L	Odlum
Lt	T	Sinclair
Sgt	M	Beasley

NOMINAL ROLL

THE QUEEN'S COMPANY

Maj	J	Taylor
Lt	S	MacDonald-Smith
Lt	A	Heywood
2Lt	H	Crawford
2Lt	S	Tusa
WO2(CSM)	V	McLean
CSgt(CQMS)	K	Richards
Sgt	S	Beekman
Sgt	A	Matthews
Sgt	J	McCormack
LSgt	J	Andrews
LSgt	Y	Griffiths
LSgt	S	Hubbell
LSgt	E	Orlowski
LSgt	G	Parker
LCpl	L	Chater
LCpl	A	Hazell
LCpl	J	McDowell
LCpl	D	McKenna
LCpl	S	Scanlon
LCpl	L	Teague
LCpl	G	Whyte
Gdsm	M	Arthurton
Gdsm	C	Bingham
Gdsm	L	Bott
Gdsm	D	Brown
Gdsm	T	Campuzano
Gdsm	A	Chapman
Gdsm	D	Coghlan
Gdsm	C	Cushen
Gdsm	M	Dean
Gdsm	S	Edgar
Gdsm	J	Emony
Gdsm	S	Ernest
Gdsm	J	Firth
Gdsm	T	Flynn
Gdsm	S	Gale
Gdsm	A	Gyesi
Gdsm	C	Hammond
Gdsm	L	Hazell
Gdsm	J	Heard
Gdsm	S	Hill
Gdsm	J	Howell
Gdsm	S	Jefferies
Gdsm	A	Johnson
Gdsm	D	Julian
Gdsm	G	Lancashire
Gdsm	S	Leach
Gdsm	J	Lear
Gdsm	C	Mason
Gdsm	L	McGann
Gdsm	J	Mercer
Gdsm	J	Millington
Gdsm	D	Mortley
Gdsm	S	Osbourne
Gdsm	S	Pinsent
Gdsm	S	Ransby
Gdsm	C	Rukin
Gdsm	G	Sales
Gdsm	K	Sheridan

Gdsm	W	Smith
Gdsm	W	Stark
Gdsm	H	Tucker
Gdsm	S	Tudor
Gdsm	C	Tweed
Gdsm	S	Whincup
Gdsm	J	Williams
Gdsm	J	Young-Hastings

No. 2 COMPANY

Maj	T	Hendriksen
2Lt	T	Hodson
2Lt	S	Fisher
2Lt	R	Maddan
WO2(CSM)	A	O'Brien
CSgt(CQMS)	L	Swan
Sgt	L	Davis
Sgt	B	Moffat
Sgt	J	Moore
LSgt	J	Alexander
LSgt	J	Brady
LSgt	B	Chipchase
LSgt	A	Cooper
LSgt	C	Key
LCpl	R	Bailey
LCpl	O	Bibby
LCpl	A	Coe
LCpl	A	Cox
LCpl	K	Duck
LCpl	S	Edwards
LCpl	B	Fanning
LCpl	D	Fielding
LCpl	E	Jackson
LCpl	J	Simmons
LCpl	B	Steele
LCpl	A	Szysko
LCpl	A	Trott
LCpl	N	Walker
LCpl	C	Willis
Gdsm	B	Beck
Gdsm	S	Beckett
Gdsm	M	Belas
Gdsm	T	Blinco
Gdsm	D	Bramwell
Gdsm	L	Burdett
Gdsm	J	Cahill
Gdsm	H	Davies
Gdsm	R	Dering
Gdsm	R	Digman
Gdsm	J	Dines
Gdsm	J	Evans
Gdsm	L	Gaunt
Gdsm	F	Goodege
Gdsm	A	Heads
Gdsm	J	Huxtable
Gdsm	L	Jones
Gdsm	W	Massingham
Gdsm	C	McClendon
Gdsm	R	Mead

NOMINAL ROLL

Gdsm	J	Miles	LCpl	J	Dexter
Gdsm	J	Mullins	LCpl	E	Fairley
Gdsm	B	Notton	LCpl	W	Farmer
Gdsm	A	Packham	LCpl	T	Hayton
Gdsm	O	Phoenix	LCpl	J	Holdsworth
Gdsm	J	Pitts	LCpl	P	Leason
Gdsm	C	Poole	LCpl	R	McKnight
Gdsm	J	Purdie	LCpl	L	McTaggart
Gdsm	B	Ralph	LCpl	T	Millington
Gdsm	B	Reynolds	LCpl	D	Nash
Gdsm	C	Speirs	LCpl	N	Reilly
Gdsm	R	Spendley	LCpl	J	Rhodes
Gdsm	R	Spilling	LCpl	S	Rose
Gdsm	R	Starky-Duffy	LCpl	M	Rosser
Gdsm	T	Tasee	LCpl	P	Singlehurst
Gdsm	B	Thorne	LCpl	K	Smart
Gdsm	B	Walpole	LCpl	A	Smith
Gdsm	E	Ward	LCpl	C	Smith
Gdsm	N	Wilkinson	LCpl	S	Swart
Gdsm	J	Woolis	LCpl	D	Thomas
Gdsm	T	York	LCpl	K	Tracey

SUPPORT COMPANY

Maj	A	Bayliss	Gdsm	L	Ashford
Capt	M	Osmond	Gdsm	C	Aston
Capt	T	Reames	Gdsm	M	Bradford
Capt	J	Sayers	Gdsm	J	Buck
WO2(CSM)	J	Lalley	Gdsm	R	Button
CSgt(CQMS)	P	Money	Gdsm	C	Chambers
CSgt	J	Pearce	Gdsm	S	Clancy
Sgt	J	Browning	Gdsm	J	Cloete
Sgt	S	Dent	Gdsm	H	Coe
Sgt	R	Elliott	Gdsm	T	Coles
Sgt	H	Foxcroft	Gdsm	L	Cooper
Sgt	K	Oldfield	Gdsm	S	Cowen
Sgt	K	Partridge	Gdsm	C	Cox
Sgt	A	Pitters	Gdsm	A	Dean
Sgt	C	Price	Gdsm	N	Dexter
Sgt	M	Shaw	Gdsm	J	Durham
Sgt	R	Tracey	Gdsm	J	Elder
LSgt	N	Atang'a	Gdsm	J	Exley
LSgt	P	Brady	Gdsm	J	Fisher
LSgt	C	Dovey	Gdsm	E	Gilbert
LSgt	J	Fairley	Gdsm	C	Hamnett
LSgt	N	Fray	Gdsm	R	Harper
LSgt	M	Grove	Gdsm	J	Holding
LSgt	W	Hurst	Gdsm	S	Howells
LSgt	A	Kirkham-Wingate	Gdsm	T	Hunter
LSgt	F	Mabasa	Gdsm	R	Hurst
LSgt	C	McClendon	Gdsm	Z	Ivetic
LSgt	A	McKenna	Gdsm	S	James
LSgt	M	Morewood	Gdsm	S	Jones
LSgt	J	Plant	Gdsm	A	Keane
LSgt	J	Rainima	Gdsm	S	Kidson-Trigg
LSgt	O	Rosser	Gdsm	J	Ledington
LSgt	N	Truman	Gdsm	J	Manning
LSgt	A	Wates	Gdsm	J	McCrudden-Callaghan
LCpl	M	Campuzano	Gdsm	B	McKendrick
LCpl	M	Culloty	Gdsm	N	Mendez
			Gdsm	L	Merritt
			Gdsm	S	Molinari
			Gdsm	K	Mortiboy
			Gdsm	K	O'Sullivan
			Gdsm	L	Prentice
			Gdsm	T	Preston
			Gdsm	S	Rainsley

NOMINAL ROLL

Gdsm	J	Roberts
Gdsm	L	Sleath
Gdsm	D	Taylor
Gdsm	M	Turley
Gdsm	M	Vella
Gdsm	G	Westwood
Gdsm	J	White
Gdsm	A	Wylde

LCpl	J	Lloyd
LCpl	A	Mabert
LCpl	E	Mottershead
LCpl	Z	Pincott
LCpl	S	Rose
LCpl	E	Sergant
LCpl	L	Smith
LCpl	E	Tweneboa-Kodua
Gdsm	J	Aldous
Gdsm	L	Ashford
Gdsm	U	Atuanya
Gdsm	J	Coleman
Gdsm	O	Dixon
Gdsm	P	Dixon
Gdsm	C	Drew
Gdsm	G	Filer
Gdsm	D	Fletcher
Gdsm	E	Gilbert
Gdsm	T	Goodwin
Gdsm	D	Harvey
Gdsm	A	Hazell
Gdsm	J	Holding
Gdsm	C	Howarth
Gdsm	S	Howells
Gdsm	R	Jenkin
Gdsm	S	Keane
Gdsm	M	Lyon
Gdsm	R	Martindale
Gdsm	S	Martinez
Gdsm	J	McBride
Gdsm	J	McDonald
Gdsm	K	Mortiboy
Gdsm	D	Nicholls
Gdsm	S	Sambells
Gdsm	D	Sherwin
Gdsm	S	Showell
Gdsm	M	Southall
Gdsm	B	Taylor
Gdsm	C	Whitehead
Gdsm	A	Wiggins

HEADQUARTER COMPANY

Capt	S	Roughley
Capt	F	Tracey
Capt	C	Wood
Capt	A	Wilson
WO2(CSM)	J	Thompson
WO2	R	Wiseman
CSgt	B	Cobb
CSgt	C	Fiddy
CSgt	A	Harper
CSgt	G	Hudson
CSgt	T	Mercer
CSgt	M	Mooney
CSgt(CQMS)	M	Parker
CSgt	A	Stott
Sgt	A	Bush
Sgt	L	Findler
Sgt	T	Loder
Sgt	P	Lyons
Sgt	A	Martin
Sgt	L	McLoughlan
Sgt	C	Metcalfe
Sgt	S	Richardson
LSgt	M	Bent
LSgt	R	Booth
LSgt	A	Burrin
LSgt	M	Ceesay
LSgt	K	Elasli
LSgt	S	Freeman
LSgt	D	Hankey
LSgt	G	Harper
LSgt	T	Hayward
LSgt	D	Lyons
LSgt	A	McKenna
LSgt	T	McQueen
LSgt	M	Morris
LSgt	E	Oyengo
LSgt	D	Parke
LSgt	B	Pritchard
LSgt	L	Richards
LSgt	S	Scott
LSgt	E	Scott
LSgt	A	Slater
LSgt	D	Smith
LSgt	T	Timmins
LSgt	C	Walton
LCpl	J	Baxter
LCpl	J	Dexter
LCpl	W	Dickerson
LCpl	L	Jallow

THE INKERMAN COMPANY

Maj	P	Rice
Lt	E	Bennett
Lt	W	Martin
Lt	T	Winstanley
2Lt	W	New
2Lt	H	Turnbull
WO2(CSM)	G	Mann
CSgt(CQMS)	N	Smith
Sgt	R	Blakeney
Sgt	S	Wells
Sgt	M	Wilson
LSgt	C	Austin
LSgt	M	Bunyan
LSgt	M	Ogden
LSgt	B	O'Hanlon
LSgt	A	Pugh
LSgt	J	Robinson

NOMINAL ROLL

LCpl	G	Barry
LCpl	D	Barham
LCpl	S	Bond
LCpl	J	Heslop
LCpl	S	Roberts
LCpl	F	Russell
LCpl	I	Stark
LCpl	O	Taylor
LCpl	O	White
LCpl	R	Woodrow
Gdsm	K	Adams
Gdsm	L	Amis
Gdsm	J	Bernard
Gdsm	J	Brace
Gdsm	E	Brunt
Gdsm	R	Button
Gdsm	C	Campbell
Gdsm	F	Clare
Gdsm	A	Coull
Gdsm	D	Cunningham
Gdsm	O	Davies
Gdsm	C	Fielding
Gdsm	S	Flitton
Gdsm	H	Fripp
Gdsm	J	Goodman
Gdsm	A	Halford
Gdsm	L	Hardman-Haworth
Gdsm	C	Hodgkins
Gdsm	G	Indge
Gdsm	N	Jones
Gdsm	C	Judd
Gdsm	K	Kearns
Gdsm	J	Kilpatrick
Gdsm	M	Licence
Gdsm	C	Lordhale
Gdsm	S	Mabbott-Day
Gdsm	K	McCann
Gdsm	J	McKinneley
Gdsm	E	Morgan
Gdsm	M	Mott
Gdsm	K	O'Brien
Gdsm	A	Palmer
Gdsm	J	Patterson
Gdsm	J	Perrett
Gdsm	B	Phillips
Gdsm	K	Purdy
Gdsm	S	Renshaw
Gdsm	D	Robinson
Gdsm	L	Roddy
Gdsm	C	Scott
Gdsm	C	Shaw
Gdsm	S	Smart
Gdsm	G	Souter-McKee
Gdsm	K	Studley
Gdsm	D	Taylor
Gdsm	J	Theobald
Gdsm	R	Watson
Gdsm	E	Whiston
Gdsm	R	Wilson
Gdsm	K	Winter
Gdsm	C	Yare

NIJMEGEN COMPANY

Maj	T	Hargreaves
Capt	F	Ide
Lt	S	Marren
Lt	A	Fetherston-Godley
WO2(CSM)	D	Oliver
CSgt(CQMS)	H	Sutton
Sgt	L	Coulbert
Sgt	M	Haynes
LSgt	J	Austin
LSgt	S	Emmet
LSgt	A	Jones
LSgt	P	Thomas
LSgt	A	Turay
LSgt	A	Wilson
LCpl	H	Beckett
LCpl	M	Dolman
LCpl	T	Dell
LCpl	D	Bearder
LCpl	C	Bird
LCpl	L	Debattista
LCpl	J	Beresford
LCpl	A	Hardman-Haworth
LCpl	J	McCulloch
LCpl	E	Sargent
LCpl	K	Smart
Gdsm	K	Agbo
Gdsm	M	Appiah
Gdsm	J	Belshaw
Gdsm	A	Benjamin
Gdsm	J	Bennett
Gdsm	B	Caller
Gdsm	C	Cawsey
Gdsm	E	Cox
Gdsm	C	Cox
Gdsm	W	Curran
Gdsm	C	Cushen
Gdsm	E	Devine
Gdsm	L	Dewey
Gdsm	W	Elliott-Turner
Gdsm	R	Ernest
Gdsm	D	Faulkner
Gdsm	A	Fitzgerald
Gdsm	J	Fomebu
Gdsm	R	Gray
Gdsm	K	Gyamfi
Gdsm	T	Gyesi
Gdsm	S	Hambleton
Gdsm	R	Harvey
Gdsm	D	Hawley
Gdsm	A	Hayes
Gdsm	S	Heard
Gdsm	M	Holding
Gdsm	C	Holloway
Gdsm	T	Hunter
Gdsm	T	Iqbal
Gdsm	F	Jones
Gdsm	M	Kimberling
Gdsm	S	Lacey
Gdsm	J	Little
Gdsm	N	Mathers

NOMINAL ROLL

Gdsm	M	McColl-Bailey		Maj	A	Butcher	Deputy Chief of Staff, Spec
Gdsm	A	Miller					Inf Gp
Gdsm	J	Morris-Jowett		Maj	H	Cartwright	MS2 to CGS
Gdsm	J	Navunisaravi		Maj	R	Da Gama	Coy Comd, Left Flank, 1SG
Gdsm	A	Oluade		Maj	M	Dobbin DSO MC	MOD A Block
Gdsm	J	Osborne		Maj	M	Dobson	MA to MS, APC
Gdsm	S	Pal		Maj	I	Farrell	XO, LONDONS
Gdsm	M	Parry		Maj	J	Frith	ICSC(L)
Gdsm	P	Pelikan		Maj	C	Gilmore	SO2 Reserves, Dept of CGS
Gdsm	H	Perkins		Maj	S	Gordon Lennox	SO2 Ft Gds Officers, APC
Gdsm	L	Phillips		Maj	W	Harries	PJHQ
Gdsm	J	Pickin		Maj	W	Harris	SO2 Recruiting Ops, Re-
Gdsm	A	Pritchard					cruting Gp
Gdsm	M	Ransby		Maj	J	Hathaway-White	MA to Dir Sp, Army HQ
Gdsm	M	Reader		Maj	G	Haughton OBE	SEAC (WO1)
Gdsm	J	Robson		Maj	B	Jesty	Bn 2IC, 1SG
Gdsm	S	Sanders		Maj	B	Powell	SO2 Plans, LOC
Gdsm	D	Sanderson		Maj	A	Shirreff	MOD A Block
Gdsm	I	Shahry		Maj	C	Stevenson	MA, PJHQ
Gdsm	L	Simpson		Maj	N	Strachan	ICSC(Land)
Gdsm	A	Smith		Maj	D	Westlake	SO2 G4 Infra, RMAS
Gdsm	O	Sneath		Maj	C	Williams	ICSC(Land)
Gdsm	E	Somerville		Capt	G	Barnes	MOD A Block
Gdsm	J	Vaughan		Capt	S	Brooks MSM	OC HDPGCC
Gdsm	C	Vincent		Capt	J	Byrne	Trg Ofr, 1WG
Gdsm	B	Whitfield		Capt	E	Harmer	AMA
Gdsm	T	Williams		Capt	T	Holmes	AFC (Harrogate)
Gdsm	A	Williams		Capt	M	Howlin MBE	SO3 Recruiting (South)
Gdsm	K	Yalley		Capt	H	Lawn	Ft Gds DCMO, APC
				Capt	D	Moore	Welfare Officer, ATC Pir-
							bright
				Capt	K	Naughton	MOD A Block
				Capt	R	Phillips	NATO Staff Officer, Izmir
				Capt	C	Pollard	New College Adj, RMAS
				Capt	O	Staunton	ADC to GOC 6 Div
				Capt	B	Tracey	SO2 J3/5, 16 AA Bde
				Capt	K	Varmuza	SO3 Policy, Director En-
							gagement & Comms, MOD
							Main
				Capt	O	Wace	SO3 Ops & Deployments,
							HQ LONDIST
				Lt	R	Mackworth-Young	1 SG
				WO1	G	Davis	HQ Regional Command
							Pers Ops
				WO1(RSM)	M	Hughes	Bristol UOTC
				WO1(RSM)	R	Shepherd	Support Weapons School,
							Brecon
				WO2(CSM)	R	Archer	RMAS Trg Staff
				WO2	R	Owen	BATUS
				WO2(CSM)	S	Perry	1 SG Sp Coy
				WO2	J	Stenton	JCTTAT JFC
				WO2	J	Summerscales	Bristol UOTC
				WO2(DMaj)	D	Thomas	HDiv Snr Drum Major
				WO2(CSM)	L	Walton	1 Coldm Gds HQ Coy
				CSgt	D	Bonsell	Dems Trg Regt Search Wing
				CSgt	S	Castel-Nuovo	MTMC
				CSgt	K	Dunk	RMAS Trg Staff
				CSgt	C	Friess	D Pers OpSmart, Catterick
				CSgt	M	Hall	Royal Brunei Armed Forces
				CSgt	S	Harrell	ACC Northampton
				CSgt	S	Hepburn	MTMC
				CSgt	D	Johnston	HQ Londist LCG
				CSgt	D	Jones	RMAS Trg Staff
				CSgt	D	Langridge	RMAS Trg Staff

GRENADIERS AT EXTRA-REGIMENTAL EMPLOYMENT

Maj Gen	J	Bowder OBE	GOC 6 Div				
Col(Des)	P	Ashfield DSO	US National Defence Uni-				
			versity				
Col	M	David MC	British Liaison Officer,				
			Embassy Paris				
Col	R	Maundrell MVO	Asst Head (Int'l) JSCSC				
Col	A	McKay MBE	HCSC				
Lt Col	D	Alkin	SO1 C4ISR, UK Strategic				
			Comd				
Lt Col	N	England MBE	SO1 Combat Trg, Capability				
			Directorate, Army HQ				
Lt Col	G	Gask	J3/5/7 Branch Head, British				
			Embassy Riga				
Lt Col	R	Green	SO1 Infra, Army Basing				
Lt Col	J	Green	CO Wales UOTC				
Lt Col	A	James MBE	JSCSC				
Lt Col	J	Keeley MBE	Staff Quartermaster, ITC				
			(Catterick)				
Lt Col	R	King-Evans	Comd Somalia Army Trg				
			Advisory Team				
Lt Col	E	Paintin	SO1 Ops & Engagement,				
			HQ Regional Comd				
Lt Col	A	Seddon	CO Oxford UOTC				
Lt Col	S	Soskin	Lt Col Ft Gds, HQ HDiv				
Maj	T	Bearder	QM(T), 1 Coldm Gds				
Maj	J	Brown MBE	MOD A Block				
Maj	A	Budge	ICSC(L)				

NOMINAL ROLL

CSgt	P	Lyons	Infantry Battle School Trg Sp Div
CSgt	B	Middleton	Bristol UOTC
CSgt(CQMS)	M	Oldham	HDPRCC
CSgt	M	Parker	AADW, Catterick
CSgt	A	Saxton	RMAS CIS Wing
CSgt	P	Struczynski	ASLS
CSgt	D	Sullivan	ATC(Pirbright)
CSgt	P	Trussler	HQ 12 Armd Inf Bde
Sgt	E	Barnett	Instructor, Defence School of Intelligence
Sgt	M	Davison	MTMC
Sgt	L	Humphries	ACC Canterbury
Sgt	M	Jallow	RMAS CIS Wing
Sgt	M	Morris	1 SG
Sgt	S	Thorne	AFC(Harrogate)
LSgt	M	Bent	OT Chilwell
LSgt	J	Brown	AFC(Harrogate)
LSgt	J	Brunt	AFC(Harrogate)
LSgt	D	Clarke	1 SG
LSgt	L	Deen	Gren Gds Elite Sports
LSgt	O	Few	HQ LONDIST, Garrison Tailors' Shop
LSgt	S	Galvin	HQ HDiv Media Ops
LSgt	M	Hadfield	ATC(Pirbright)
LSgt	G	Harper	Army Welfare Service, Colchester Team
LSgt	S	Hayes	North PRU, Catterick Coy Rehab
LSgt	L	Heatley	ACC Milton Keynes
LSgt	S	Howcroft	1 SG
LSgt	P	Kirk	1 SG
LSgt	C	Mitchell	MOD A Block
LSgt	N	Ngwenya	Army Boxing
LSgt	R	Punter	(Shared Parental Leave)
LSgt	A	Skinner	HQ LONDIST
LSgt	W	Slater	HDPRCC
LSgt	S	Whybrow	Guards Para PI
LCpl	C	Bepatt	Bn Media Team
LCpl	B	Berry	Recruiting
LCpl	J	Boyzile	1 SG
LCpl	L	Daines	1 SG
LCpl	G	Davison	1 SG
LCpl	C	Dunphy	Infantry Battle School Trg Sp Div
LCpl	R	Halliburton	1 SG
LCpl	J	Porter	Guards Para PI
LCpl	J	Price	1 SG
LCpl	C	Reynolds	Infantry Battle School, Driver
LCpl	N	Richardson	1 SG
LCpl	N	Thompson	ATC(Pirbright)
LCpl	A	Turner	Dems Trg Regt Search Wing
Gdsm	C	Aston	Recruiting
Gdsm	A	Buck	HCMR RHQ
Gdsm	H	Day	HQ LONDIST
Gdsm	J	Dwyer	HDPRCC
Gdsm	N	Everett	1 SG
Gdsm	W	Flint	HQ LONDIST - Garrison Sgt Maj's Batman
Gdsm	H	Gilbert	1 SG
Gdsm	C	Goold	Guards Para PI
Gdsm	J	Hayward	OT Stafford
Gdsm	P	Holland	Guards Para PI

Gdsm	J	Hughes	F Coy, Scots Guards
Gdsm	H	Luff	East PRU London Coy Rehab
Gdsm	A	Mahmood	1 SG
Gdsm	L	Neal	1 SG
Gdsm	J	Pearson	LONDONS
Gdsm	D	Robinson	OT South Central
Gdsm	K	Singh	1 SG
Gdsm	L	Taylor	1 SG

OFFICERS

SENIOR OFFICERS

Maj Gen	C R V	Walker DSO	Regt'l Lt Col
Maj Gen	J M H	Bowder OBE	GOC 6 Div
Col	R T	Maundrell MVO	Asst Head (Int'l) JSCSC
Col	A R	McKay MBE	HCSC
Col	M P	David MC	British Liaison Officer, Embassy Paris
Col(Des)	P L	Ashfield DSO	US National Defence University

REGIMENTAL OFFICERS

Lieutenant Colonels

Lt Col	A F R	James MBE	JSCSC
Lt Col	S G	Soskin	Lt Col Ft Gds, HQ HDiv
Lt Col	R J H	Green	SO1 Infra, Army Basing
Lt Col	J R	Green	CO Wales UOTC
Lt Col	J C M	Greaves	Comd Offr, 1st Bn
Lt Col	D J	Alkin	SO1 C4ISR, UK Strategic Comd
Lt Col	E J	Paintin	SO1 Ops & Engagement, HQ Regional Comd
Lt Col	J A	Seddon	CO Oxford UOTC
Lt Col	R E	King-Evans	Comd Somalia Army Trg Advisory Team

Majors

Maj	S C	Gordon Lennox	SO2 Ft Gds Officers, APC
Maj	B J R	Jesty	Bn 2IC, 1SG
Maj	J E N B	Shaw	Snr Maj, 1st Bn
Maj	B M E	Powell	SO2 Plans, Land Ops Comd, Field Army HQ
Maj	W H L	Harries	PJHQ
Maj	N A	Strachan	ICSC(L)
Maj	M O C	Dobbin DSO MC	MOD A Block
Maj	P J	Rice	OC The Inkerman Company
Maj	A W E	Bayliss	OC Sp Company
Maj	J D	Brown	MOD A Block
Maj	R C	Da Gama	Coy Comd, Left Flank, 1SG
Maj	T R	Hendriksen	OC No 2 Company
Maj	J R	Taylor	The Captain
Maj	H C	Cartwright	MS2 to CGS
Maj	J	Hathaway-White	MA to Dir Sp, Army HQ
Maj	C J	Stevenson	MA, PJHQ
Maj	M W S	Dobson	MA to MS, APC
Maj	A H M	Budge	ICSC(L)
Maj	C M B	Gilmore	SO2 Reserves, Dept of CGS
Maj	W L R	Harris	SO2 Recruiting Ops, Recruiting Gp

NOMINAL ROLL

Maj	A J P	Shirreff	MOD A Block
Maj	C A G	Williams	ICSC(L)
Maj	T H R	Hargreaves	OC Nijm Coy
Captains			
Capt	C	Wright	Trg Offr, 1st Bn
Capt	B R N	Tracey	SO2 J3/5, 16 AA Bde
Capt	K M D	Varnuza	SO3 Policy, Director Engagement & Comms, MOD Main
Capt	O M	Wace	SO3 Ops & Deployments, HQ LONDIST
Capt	C J	Naughton	MOD A Block
Capt	R E L	Phillips	NATO Staff Officer, Izmir
Capt	C J	Pollard	New College Adjit, RMAS
Capt	G W J	Barnes	MOD A Block
Capt	J M B	Silver	Ops Offr, 1st Bn
Capt	O S B	Staunton	ADC to GOC 6 Div
Capt	R E	Thompson	Adjit, 1st Bn
Capt	R H J	Harding	Int Offr, 1st Bn
Capt	E R	Harmer	AMA to DSF
Capt	J C	Palmer-Tomkinson	Equerry
Capt	A J K	Wilson	HQ Company
Capt	C A	Wood	HQ Company
Capt	F C N	Ide	Nijmegen Company
Capt	T C	Holmes	AFC (Harrogate)
Capt	T J D	Reames	Mortar PI Comd, Sp Coy
Capt	J A	Sayers	Anti-Tank PI Comd, Sp Coy
Capt	F S N	Tracey	HQ Company
Capt	M G	Osmond	Recce PI Comd, Sp Coy
Lieutenants			
Lt	E C	Bennett	The Inkerman Company
Lt	S R S	MacDonald-Smith	The Queen's Company
Lt	L P	Odlum	14th Company
Lt	A C	Fetherston-Godley	Nijmegen Company
Lt	R G L	Mackworth-Young	Left Flank Coy, 1SG
Lt	T I W	Sinclair	14th Company
Lt	S E	Marren	Nijmegen Company
Lt	H J T	Winstanley	The Inkerman Company
Lt	A G	Heywood	The Queen's Company
Lt	R A D	Maddan	No 2 Company
Lt	W D J	Martin	The Inkerman Company
Ensigns			
2Lt	S J	Fisher	No 2 Company
2Lt	S J A	Tusa	The Queen's Company
2Lt	T J	Hodson	No 2 Company
2Lt	H C L	Crawford	The Queen's Company
2Lt	W T W	New	The Inkerman Company
2Lt	H M	Turnbull	The Inkerman Company
LATE ENTRY COMMISSIONS			
Lieutenant Colonels			
Lt Col	N	England MBE	SO1 Combat Trg, Capability Directorate, Army HQ
Lt Col	G	Gask	J3/5/7 Branch Head, British Embassy Riga
Lt Col	J	Keeley MBE	Staff Quartermaster, ITC (Catterick)
Majors			
Maj	T	Bearder	QM(T), 1 Coldm Gds

Maj	A	Butcher	Deputy Chief of Staff, Spec Inf Gp
Maj	I	Farrell	XO, LONDONS
Maj	J	Frith	ICSC(L)
Maj	G	Haughton OBE	SEAC (WO1)
Maj	D	Westlake	SO2 G4 Infra, RMAS
Captains			
Capt	S	Brooks MSM	OC HDPRCC
Capt	J	Byrne	Trg Offr, 1WG
Capt	M	Cox	RCMO
Capt	M	Howlin MBE	SO3 Recruiting (South)
Capt	H	Lawn	Ft Gds DCMO, APC
Capt	D	Moore	Welfare Officer, ATC Pirbright
Capt	S	Roughley	HQ Company

WARRANT OFFICERS

Warrant Officers Class 1

WO1	G	Davis	HQ Regional Command Pers Ops
WO1(RSM)	C	Dougherty	The Sgt Maj, 1st Bn
WO1(RSM)	M	Hughes	Bristol UOTC
WO1(RSM)	R	Shepherd	SWS

Quartermaster Sergeants

WO2(TQMS)	D	Bailey	TQMS
WO2(RQMS)	R	Dacey	RQMS(M)
WO2(RQMS)	D	Roper	RQMS RHQ

Drill Sergeants

WO2(DSgt)	D	Bennison	Drill Sergeant, 1st Bn
WO2(DSgt)	M	Lloyd	Drill Sergeant, 1st Bn

Company Sergeant Majors, Regimental Duty

WO2(CSMIM)	D	Bennett	CSMIM
WO2(CSM)	J	Lalley	Support Company
WO2(CSM)	G	Mann	The Inkerman Company
WO2(CSM)	V	McLean	The Queen's Company
WO2(CSM)	A	O'Brien	Number Two Company
WO2(CSM)	D	Oliver	Nijmegen Company
WO2(CSM)	J	Thompson	Headquarter Company

Other Warrant Officers Class 2

WO2(CSM)	R	Archer	RMAS CSM
WO2	R	Owen	BATUS
WO2(CSM)	S	Perry	1st Bn Scots Guards Sp Coy CSM
WO2	J	Stenton	JCTTAT JFC
WO2	J	Summerscales	Bristol UOTC
WO2(DMaj)	D	Thomas	HDiv Snr Drum Major
WO2(CSM)	L	Walton	1st Bn Coldstream Guards HQ Coy CSM
WO2	R	Wiseman	HQ Coy

OBITUARIES

We will remember them

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

23252630	GJW Allen	Worcester & Hereford	Colonel	ET Hudson, CBE	Oxfordshire
2629233	PJ Allen	London	23509775	J Humphreys	Oxfordshire
23104320	J Allford		22545782	J Hunt	Yorkshire
22731182	JG Andrews	Medway	Major	GV Inglis-Jones	Shropshire
23865116	AW Arnold	Surrey & East Hants	24239435	CJ Jennings	Surrey & East Hants
24185904	P Baxter		23104529	K Jerome	Reading
22213717	D Beckley	Manchester	22213939	D Jocelyn	Bristol
23252083	D Bell	Surrey & East Hants	22955224	MK Johnson	
22961628	JA Bessell	Medway	22955497	GE Kent	Yorkshire
24348227	NW Bexon			WSR Kenyon-Slaney, OBE	Shropshire
22213226	A Boardman	Manchester	22545449	L Knowles	London
Major	N Boggis-Rolfe		Major	M Lambert**	Suffolk
24021685	MJ Burke	Surrey & East Hants	23688595	M Lindley	Manchester
4868559	D Burnett	Yorkshire	Captain	MJ MacKinlay-MacLeod	Gloucestershire
22545937	C Burrage	Manchester	22705790	W Marshall	East Kent
23000418	RM Burton	Kingston	22545644	M Matthews	Walsall
2625001	WJ Butcher	London		RA Nicolle**	
24164946	R Butcher			RH Murray-Philpson, OBE	Leicestershire
22864104	J Candlish	Manchester	Captain	WA Palmer, CBE	Reading
22955298	E Carpenter	East Kent	23509432	GE Parker	Bristol
2616550	AJ Clarke	Nottinghamshire	Captain	B Pegg*	
2629299	HC Clement, BEM	London	2623427	AC Phillips	Norfolk
23252879	JS Coates	Liverpool	22213947	JR Porter	March
23633083	GEK Coburn	Manchester	22545106	M Prince	Walsall
23252124	C Cookson	Nottinghamshire	19036876	B Quarendon	Surrey & East Hants
23688610	B Corns		23252844	J Revell	Oxfordshire
23688001	J Court		23969863	TB Rice	Worcester & Hereford
23865056	DG Crabb		23252270	DK Roshier	Reading
24414601	G Crew	Wessex	Viscount	Runciman	
23509698	R Dean		24414493	SAW Sadler	North Staffordshire
24125379	C Deaville	North Staffordshire	24185995	P Shepherd	
23509842	E Done	Manchester	2626727	CN Shereston	Lincoln
2626449	CJ Dorey	Surrey & East Hants	23366987	NJ Simms	Gloucestershire
2624989	JH Dutton	Yorkshire	23550567	B Smith	
23509834	B Eastman	Bristol	Lt. Col	HML Smith	Norfolk
2626010	WJ Edwards	Liverpool	2625916	JR Spackman*	
24048763	DW Evans	Worcester & Hereford	22125429	DH Stones	Yorkshire
23509042	P Flowerdew	Reading	2623487	JHJ Tallick	
22213381	T Foreman		23252848	MC Taylor	
23365542	B Gedney		2628697	L Thomas	Wolverhampton
Major	M Giles**		Captain	RHL Thompson	
24164876	JRN Gillyett	Lincoln	22213037	G Turton	London
23688668	D Gleed	Surrey & East Hants	Captain	JRS Wace	Surrey & East Hants
Major	A Gray	Oxfordshire		RJ Wallace-Turner	
2622452	AE Green	Essex	24141696	RTG Warlow, BEM	
22472570	PD Gwilliam	Gloucestershire	Captain	AJ Waterworth	
22213870	BF Halsey	London	2626301	JC Webb	Surrey & East Hants
22987310	M Hart*		2628042	RW Welham	Windsor
22955823	TJ Higgins	Walsall	2628462	HT Westwood	Essex
23633085	G Higginson	North Staffordshire	24000334	DE Wilkinson, BEM	
22545696	R Hill	Windsor	23252114	D Willis	Manchester
23688152	R Hobbs	Bristol	Major	RG Woodfield, MBE	Shropshire
24738279	G Howard	Manchester	2625427	C Yates	Liverpool
23509154	R Hubball	Derby			

*2019 **2021

Major Nicholas Boggis-Rolfe TD

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



In 1963 Nicholas Boggis-Rolfe was a subaltern in 14 Company at the Guards Depot and whilst he was there a television series on the Brigade of Guards was being filmed. In one scene a sylphlike Nicholas is seen doing the rounds of an evening parade in the barrack

lines. This immaculately turned out officer in Service Dress and Sam Browne examines newly-arrived recruits on their knowledge of regimental matters. "What is the regimental motto?" asks Nicholas of one recruit. "Honey sweet and quills makes pens" was the answer and Nicholas, as ever urbane, replies; "well that's one way of putting it", before the superintending sergeant "Cheyenne" Walker rifts the poor boy. It's a wonderful clip of a past age.

Nicholas died unexpectedly in hospital on 20th December 2020. The family had celebrated his 80th birthday in fine style in February, days before lock down.

Nicholas's parents divorced when he and his sister, Amanda were very young. Their mother was Juliet Macleod who was an accomplished equestrian artist. He went to Pinewood preparatory school where he found it difficult to cope with reading as he had, as we now know, dyslexia. He got into Radley on account of his musical skills, not just for his then treble voice, but also on the piano and violin. When his father moved to Rhodesia he remained in England and was looked after by a series of relations and so in a way he had a rather feral childhood. From an early stage it was clear that he was a talented sportsman running for Radley and later for the Regiment, notably in the 800 yards. He also later boxed for the 2nd Battalion. He went on to McGill University in Quebec, Canada reading engineering, a profession he never pursued but accounts for

his interest in the engines of both cars and boats, which sometimes surprised his Grenadier friends. During his time at school and university his talents went beyond sport and he acquired a reputation as a very fine deep bass singer, 'basso profundo' as it is known as in opera circles. He attended the Italian Conservatoire in Milan. Such bass singers are rare and Nicholas was able to have a lot of fun using his voice. It was of such a high quality that one of his teachers commended him for his "beautiful organ", much to Nicholas's mirth. He enjoyed entering singing competitions but because he had considerable talent he did not always rehearse as much as he might. On one occasion at the Oxford Festival, his accompanist on the piano, Caroline Blois, recounts that when he was singing a Russian operatic aria he forgot the lines and so repeated the words "dry biscuits" in Russian over and over. So surprised were they when they won First Prize that Caroline Blois went over to the judges to enquire why they were so impressed. It soon became clear however that none of them understood a word of Russian! One of the notable memories of Nicholas in the Regiment recounted by his friends was the sudden breaking into song in the middle of a boring dinner party, much to Caroline's embarrassment.

He joined the Regiment in 1962 in Caterham and served with the 2nd Battalion in British Guiana, a tour he much enjoyed owing to the freedom offered to young platoon commanders, often based in isolated sugar plantations. Later when serving with the 2nd Battalion, then commanded by Peter Prescott, in Wuppertal he along with several other officers were invited to an evening with the local Bundeswehr engineer battalion. It was to be an evening of epic beer drinking and competitive singing. It was clear that the battalion officers were going to be no match for them at either until Nicholas entered the fray and sang the Volga Boatmen. The German officers fell silent in awe at the quality of Nicholas's voice, so much so that he was forced to sing the song about a dozen times. He was the hero of the evening.

Added to his talents was a natural ear for languages, something he was unaware of at school which in his view taught him little. He was already conversant in French and Italian and learnt Russian at Beaconsfield with a view to joining

The British Commander in Chief's Mission to the Soviet Forces otherwise known as BRIXMIS. His extended language training entailed living with a Russian émigré family in Paris, which proved an entertaining interlude to military life.

He married Caroline in 1968 and thereafter and throughout his life she was his rock and foundation in the many appointments he held and the homes they lived in. At the time Caroline's parents Brigadier Mick and Betty O'Cock were living in Bonn and they were able to see a lot of each other visiting the vineyards of the Moselle and Rhine. Nicholas's time in Berlin as part of BRIXMIS was both challenging and great fun for them both. As a young family they enjoyed the whirl of life in a very enlightened city still in the shadow of war. Based in Potsdam outside the city, his job entailed touring East Germany known as "The Russian Zone" observing Soviet Army movements, a hazardous and sometimes dangerous occupation. He is remembered by BRIXMIS veterans as a cool and professional intelligence officer and one contemporary described him as "the bravest man I ever knew". His most alarming experience was hiding with his car and driver in some bushes close to an autobahn. He found it very odd that this usually busy road was completely devoid of traffic in either direction. After several hours of suspicious silence he became aware of a low rumbling sound and a vibration through his car which became louder and louder. Suddenly, he saw a vast armoured column of Soviet tanks spread out across both carriageways coming straight towards him with all their lights on. He and his driver started to count, and kept counting for 24 hours until they were able to escape during a break in the column. They were face to face with a Soviet tank division.

In 1973 after a brief period at Regimental duty and RHQ, Nicholas went to the Italian Staff College in Civitavecchia, after which he was appointed Assistant Defence Attaché in the British Embassy in Rome. This was a particularly happy time for Caroline and Nicholas with the many opportunities to travel, invariably with Edward and Camilla in the family campervan, to the cultural centres of Italy. Peter Prescott's niece, Nicola Prescott, was the au pair and was very much part of the family. After five years in Italy the family returned to England and

Nicholas to the 1st Battalion as Senior Major and he went with the battalion on the demanding 1978 South Armagh tour. One young officer remembers him as being particularly supportive to the young and another as a great diplomatist with his good humoured approach, oiling the wheels of Battalion HQ. Not long after this he left the Army.

His experience and linguistic talents did not go unnoticed and so he spent the next 20 years working for the Ministry of Defence. He also joined the TA Intelligence Corps and it was in that capacity I came across him at an evening drill night in 1998 rather to our mutual surprise. He was then commanding 22 Intelligence Company and was awarded the Territorial Decoration.

In latter years the family moved to Devon and there Nicholas entered in to the spirit of the community, running the local church accounts and becoming a trustee for a local charity looking after disadvantaged children, a sure mark of his kind and generous nature. He became a member of the twinning associations of Plymouth and Exeter with cities in Russia, Novorossisk and Yaroslav. He helped organise annual exchanges for several years and sometimes was the tour leader. He was still working at his Russian online from his bed shortly before he died

Throughout his life he was able to enjoy his talents. Nicholas loved sailing and was a fine yachtsman and he had, to some, a surprising knowledge of navigation and marine design. Nor did many people know that he had a Private Pilots licence, although he did not make as much use of it as he might have. Perhaps we all remember him best for his charm, sense of humour and sense of the ridiculous. He was an awful tease and would say to friends "I hear such and such", something which was quite untrue or much exaggerated and lots of giggles would follow. Above all he was wonderful company, saw the best in people and had an abidingly kind outlook on life.

Having had to have a very small funeral because of the Covid situation, Caroline, her son Edward, daughter Camilla and son-in-law Ed, and granddaughter Sophie are hoping to be able to welcome Nicholas' wide circle of friends and relations at his Service of Thanksgiving at midday at the Guards Chapel on Friday 9th July.

Michael Giles

by his son Peter Giles



Michael Giles sadly succumbed to Covid 19 on 10 January 2021. Born in Tonbridge Wells in 1925, the only son of William and Dorothy Giles, he spent his formative years at Radley College, where he kept wicket for the first XI. With the

Second War looming, his father, a highly respected Officer in the Ox and Bucks, 'opened' a few doors for him with the result that Michael joined the Grenadier Guards. Sent to occupied Germany in late 1945, one tale of high jinks goes that, with a few friends, he stockpiled some German small arms with a view to selling them on return to the UK. However, upon arriving in Windsor, they realised how difficult this was going to be, so opted to dump them in the Thames instead. Twenty or so years later when dredging the Thames along the Windsor waterfront, the authorities found a mysterious German cache of guns. At the time they concluded that there must have been a German secret sleeper cell based in Windsor!

Commissioned as a Regular Officer in 1945 he spent a large proportion of his army career in Germany. He used to regale his family about his exploits, including his great love for hunting in the Black Forest and the shooting of wild boar. He also visited the remains of the Reichstag and made much of how he had spent time in Hitler's office. In 1948, he was seconded from Germany to Palestine to administer the creation of Israel, although his family are not sure how long he spent there with the British Forces. He used to remark it was not much fun being shot at by both the Irgun and the Palestinians.

In 1951, after two years in the Guards Training Battalions he was dispatched to the 4th Guards Brigade in Germany as a GSO3. He spent a further two years with the 2nd Battalion in Berlin and Hubbelrath before attending Staff College in 1956, after which he was based at the War Office. In

1959 he once again returned to Hubbelrath to take command of a rifle company in the 2nd Battalion. His last position was as a Chief of Staff in HQ Libya. He left the Army in 1962 but still kept up his connection with the Regiment and was Vice President of the Essex Branch of the Association for many years.

On leaving, Michael found employment with the Ford Motor Company where he would remain a loyal employee well beyond his retirement age. His primary responsibility was in European sales. As a result, he managed to sustain a close connection to Germany. Climbing up through the ranks of Ford, he was eventually awarded the position of Europe Sales Manager. Such was his dedication to the Company that upon reaching his retirement age he continued to work for Fords and was still working as a consultant for Jaguar and Mazda, who were at the time part of the umbrella Company, until he was 85.

Upon retiring from Ford, he threw himself into charitable work, in particular Maldon MIND, where he was on the executive board of the Essex branch, and also Essex Churches. He continued to be involved in both of these until he entered Stowlangtoft Nursing Home at the age of 90. It is also worthy of note that in his 80s onwards until the time he entered the nursing home that he volunteered at one of the Farleigh Hospice Charity shops in Chelmsford, where he was apparently the life and soul of the party.

Michael's family life began when he first met Dominica Browne, who in the late 50s already had a daughter Sarah from a previous marriage. In 1964 Dominica and Michael were married and the following year they had their first child Peter. Arrabella would follow three years later. Until the late 1970s the family lived in Chelmsford, Essex. Michael retained his interests in all things relating to sport and was a keen golfer and cricketer. Later he would become a member of the Essex County Cricket Club. In the late '70s the family moved out to a small village on the outskirts of Chelmsford, where he remained until 2012 when he moved into rented accommodation.

He was a private man for the most part and it was only in his later years that he divulged some of things that he had got up to when in the army. A

grandfather, a father, and a dear friend, he will be sadly missed by his entire family, such was his love for all things mischievous that it only seems right by ending this obituary by saying “Bop the Bird”.

Major Alexander ‘Sandy’ Gray

by Lieutenant Colonel Oliver Bartrum MBE
formerly Grenadier Guards



Sandy Gray, one of the oldest surviving members of the 4th Battalion to serve in the Second World War, died on 14th of November 2020, a month short of his 96th birthday.

Sandy was born in Bombay in 1924. His father, Sir Alexander George Gray, was the Manager of the Bank of India in Bombay, retiring in 1943. His mother, Dulce (née Wild) was a descendant of the Reeves brothers who established the artists’ watercolours business in 1766 that bore their name. Sandy spent a great deal of time researching his family history and recorded it meticulously in his private memoirs: *‘What I Remember...’*

Sandy and his sister, Diné, returned to live in England with their mother before his 4th birthday. His mother went back to India each winter and his father came to England every 5 years. The family took up residence on the Yattendon estate in Ashampstead, Berkshire where Sandy became close friends with the Dunlop brothers who lived nearby. Sadly, Brian and Hugh Dunlop, both future Grenadiers (5th Battalion) were killed in the war; Brian in April 1943 and Hugh in August 1944. Brian had been engaged to Sandy’s sister, Diné, at the time of his death.

Sandy’s memoirs recount happy days spent hunting and shooting on the Yattendon Estate before he joined the Army. On one occasion, in 1940, Sandy was the left marker on the estate’s shoot. One of the guests that day was Admiral Sir Henry Harwood, and Sandy was mortified to

hear that he had peppered the Admiral with shot on the last drive of the day. The Admiral, recently returned from sinking the *Graf Spee* at the Battle of the River Plate, dismissed Sandy’s apology with an offer of a gin and orange and a cheerful reply: ‘It was only one pellet in my sock!’. Sandy could not believe that he had almost achieved what Captain Landsdorf of the *Graf Spee* had failed to do.

After Cambridge (Modern Languages at Trinity Hall) between October 1942 and June 1943, Sandy attended Brigade Squad at Pirbright before going to RMA Sandhurst to join D Squadron under the command of Major The Hon Neville (later Lord) Wigram, Grenadier Guards with SSM Troy, Irish Guards, in Old College. Sandy passed out of Sandhurst on 14th May 1944 and was sent to the Guards Armoured Training Wing at Pirbright. The 4th Battalion had been moved to Lenham in Kent in preparation for the Normandy landings, deploying as part of 6th Guards Tank Brigade on 24th July. The Brigade quickly discovered that the ‘bocage’ was most unsuitable terrain for armour. After a short stint with the Training Battalion in Windsor, Sandy flew out on 10th August to join the Forward Delivery Squadron, near Bayeaux.

6th Guards Tank Brigade comprised three armoured battalions: 4th Grenadiers, 4th Coldstream, and 3rd Scots Guards. Each battalion had three squadrons, each supporting an infantry battalion. The Brigade was equipped mainly with Churchill tanks with a top speed of 15mph and a 75mm calibre main armament that, in Sandy’s words ‘just bounced off the German tanks’. Some of the Churchills had 95mm guns retrofitted to achieve better results.

By November, Sandy had been given a troop to command, No 10 Troop in 2 Squadron, soon to engage in Op VERITABLE, a detailed account of which is given in Patrick Forbes’s *History of the Grenadier Guards in WWII (Vol 1)*. Over 300,000 British and Canadian troops were involved on a 40 mile front between Nijmegen and Wesel. By early March 1945, the Siegfried Line had been broken and the German forces between the Maas and the Rhine were ‘thrown back in complete disorder’. On 27th February, the squadron was supporting a company of King’s Own Scottish Borderers as part of the advance towards Kleve, the first large town

in Germany to be taken by the British. Progress had stalled on the edge of a wood, resistance coming from a barn ahead. Sandy's tank fired a high explosive round and 15 Germans emerged, rather shaken and waving a white flag. As the prisoners were being gathered in, Sandy's tank was hit in the side and Sandy was wounded in the leg. He was evacuated back to hospital in Epsom. Sandy's war was over, and he considered himself very fortunate to have survived. He was extremely proud to be one of the veterans who received the Legion d'Honneur from the French President in 2015 for their role in the liberation of France.

After the war Sandy served in all three battalions of the Regiment: in Palestine with the 1st Battalion, in Egypt with the 3rd Battalion and in London with the 2nd Battalion. He saw out the King and saw in the Queen, being a member of the 1st Battalion's Vigil for the Lying in State of King George VI at Westminster Hall in February 1952 and being part of the 3rd Battalion's contingent for The Queen's Coronation in June 1953. He also served as a staff officer in Egypt, Hong Kong, and Ottawa.

Sandy married Diana (née Carlisle) in April 1958 having known and courted her since 1946 when the family had moved into Ashampstead. He left the Army in 1964 and embarked on a career as a chartered surveyor. This involved completing the RICS correspondence course to master the theory, building an extra floor on the family house for practical experience, and working at Haslam's in Reading to make ends meet. Once qualified, he worked as a district valuer in Oxford before taking up a job at Savills in Banbury and moving to Souldern where he and Diana lived so happily for almost half a century (1970-2019). Sandy was the driving force for many local improvements: the building of a new village hall, the refurbishment of the village church including re-hanging of its bells, the creation of the new recreation ground, and the planting of a commemorative Jubilee wood. He was an early advocate of car boot sales and established a monthly sale in Souldern that drew crowds from all over the county and beyond. Sandy and Diana created a magnificent garden at Souldern House, the public opening of which, as part of the annual National Gardens Scheme, always attracted hundreds of visitors. Sandy was made a Fellow

of St. Birinus in 2017, an honour awarded by the Bishop of Dorchester, to acknowledge exceptional work done by individuals in both the Church and the community.

Sandy's memories of his time in the Grenadiers remained with him throughout his life. For many years he was an active member of the Oxford Branch of the Association and he made a point of being present at the Regimental Remembrance Day each year. He took great pride at falling in with the 4th Battalion, and later with the 2nd Battalion, for the march to Horse Guards for the wreath laying. He was last on the Black Sunday parade, in a wheelchair, in May 2019.

Sandy and Diana made a very happy home for their three children, nine grandchildren and numerous cousins. He was delighted to have seen their first great grand-daughter, born in March 2020. As son-in-law to Sandy for 34 years, I can personally vouch for the warmth of hospitality that he extended to everyone he met. He lived life to the full and he helped his family, friends and many acquaintances to fulfil their own lives.

Colonel Edmund Hudson CBE

*by Colonel E H Houstoun, OBE
formerly Grenadier Guards*



Edmund died suddenly aged 75 at home on 7th June this year. He was one of the few winners of 'the Empire Triple Jump' (MBE, OBE and CBE) for six years' distinguished service in Northern Ireland. He was born in Harrogate on 21st June 1944; the Isle of

Wight was home from 1945-48 and then Versailles from 1944-51, where his father, who was in the RAF, was involved in selling the French Air Force their first jet fighters. Then to Guernsey, enrolling at Elizabeth College in 1958 where he became a prefect and typically commented in a letter home 'I

do not know why!’

After a heated argument about his future with his father, in a huff Edmund joined the Parachute Regiment as a ‘tom’ and passed the tough recruit training including on two occasions having to open his reserve chute on jumps. By 1964 he was at Sandhurst where he demonstrated that he had all the requisite qualities to be an officer - tough, resourceful and straight talking. He was selected to be an Under Officer and in July 1965 at the Sovereign’s Parade, he received the new Sovereign’s Standard when it was presented to the Champion Company. In December 1965 he passed out of Sandhurst and was commissioned in 1st Battalion Grenadier Guards.

In 1968, the Battalion deployed to Sharjah; as Mortar Platoon commander, Edmund was able to make use of the limitless live firing opportunities and brought the platoon to battle-ready excellence. In April 1970, he was posted to Canada as an exchange officer commanding a company of the Canadian Guards in Petawawa, Ontario. His posting coincided with serious insurrection by the FLQ, a Quebecois separatist group. Edmund took his company to guard the Houses of Parliament in Ottawa, much to the concern of the British Embassy.

This was followed by the Vancouver Penitentiary riots when prisoners took over the jail, inmates were tried by Kangaroo Courts, murdered and beheaded. Edmund recommended that the prison should be cleared from the top down. He organised helicopters from which his Company abseiled onto the roof and he led them in clearing the prison, witnessing the most appalling scenes in the process.

In 1976, with 2nd Battalion in Hongkong, Edmund commanded the Inkerman Company. On exercise in Brunei, he decided to construct a bridge over a river; with experience of felling trees with explosives in Canada, he selected one the size of a Saturn rocket, while the company 2 i/c moved the company to what he thought was a safe distance. There was a massive bang and the tree took off in exactly the opposite direction of the river. At this point the company ‘legged it’ crashing through the jungle like a herd of elephants. Edmund wanted to try again but was dissuaded when it was pointed out to him that there was a suitable

deadfall straddling the river a few hundred yards upstream!

As officer i/c water sports in Hong Kong, Edmund had procured a triple hulled speed boat for trips to the remote islands and had named it the Sir Alan Adair. All ranks and their families benefited from day trips in this imaginative purchase for the Battalion. His several determined attempts at water skiing were a disaster: despite huge power from the boat, only a pair of hands between the tips of the skis were visible above the massive wake while his head remained defiantly submerged.

By 1978, Edmund had progressed to Headquarters British Forces Hongkong as a staff officer. Sam Coleridge held a drinks party around the swimming pool at the Sheko Country Club. The Brigade Commander (51 Brigade) attended with the officers and wives from the battalion. Edmund decided it would be fun to throw him in and creeping up on him from behind, he placed one hand on his waist belt and the other on the back of his shirt collar, lifted him up and propelled him in an arc high above the surface of the pool before gravity took over! Silence ensued before Edmund himself was pushed in and the soaking Brigadier joined in the merriment.

Six eventful years in Northern Ireland followed. He oversaw the formation of the South Armagh Patrol Company with its six platoons based at Bessbook Mill and went on to command it; after a busy tour, he was awarded the MBE for his inspirational leadership. The job of Commandant at the Royal Tournament then intervened before he returned to Northern Ireland to command 8 Ulster Defence Regiment in Dungannon. Major Jay Nethercott, one of his Company Commanders, described him as ‘a colossus of a Commanding Officer...his nature was to push the boundaries’.

East Tyrone was a dangerous, terrorist infested command area. While Edmund always put his soldiers first, this was a fight he was not prepared to lose, and the successes of the Battalion are a testimony to his commitment to succeed. Tragedy came when one of his soldiers was murdered by the IRA; this senseless and depraved act reduced him to tears. He was awarded an OBE for his outstanding command of the Regiment.

Edmund completed a sprinkling of staff

appointments leavening his time in command. The Military Secretariat was invariably his choice for which he was regularly chosen as people meant so much to him. He was immensely popular, and it was in that appointment after his sixth year in Northern Ireland that he received a well-deserved CBE.

After completing an MS appointment at Headquarters, British Army of the Rhine, his final job was managing the Army redundancy programme, which he did so well he emerged redundant himself! After leaving the Army in the 1990's, he tried various careers from bursar at the Dragon School in Oxford to building narrow boats before he finally settled on 'Toys for Boys', a company specialising in wooden structures for gardens and play areas. He became a talented designer and his clients included Richard Branson for whom he built a cricket pavilion, Jemima Khan and Matthew Freud.

In 2003, his daughter Katherine married Jeremy Hodges and Edmund's first grandchild, Frederica was born in 2006. (Little) Edmund followed in 2008. His involvement in their upbringing, and the careful planning of holidays and outings which became major events, gave endless pleasure, purpose and great satisfaction to all his family.

Edmund was leading a full and active life until in 2012 he was struck down by a mysterious disease which attacked the nerves in his legs, gradually depriving him of the ability to walk unaided. Every conceivable test was carried out, but doctors were unable to diagnose or cure his condition. His lack of mobility made his last years difficult and though he chafed at the enforced inactivity, he never lost his sense of humour or zest for life.

He became a supportive and enthusiastic President of the Oxford Branch of the Regimental Association and channelled his energy into its activities. His interest in natural history remained an enduring passion and he derived great pleasure from observing the wildlife in and around his house and garden.

Edmund was always larger than life and permanently full of fun. He loved his friends and was a devoted husband to Roz, who he married in 1969. She survives him with their daughter Katherine and their two grandchildren.

Major Giles Vivian Inglis-Jones

*by Captain George Roche
formerly Grenadier Guards*



They say that you only see 10% of an iceberg above water and this certainly applied to Giles Vivian Inglis-Jones, who died on 22nd June 2020, aged 53. This may seem strange as he was physically a giant of a man being 6 feet 8 inches in his bare feet. But the

fact that occupants of Buckingham Palace, number 10 Downing Street, a former head of the Airforce and over five hundred of his friends and colleagues took it upon themselves to write to his widow after his death highlights how much more was going on under the surface than most of us had any idea about.

Giles was born on 4th April 1967, scion of the Inglis-Jones family, son of Julian David Vivian Inglis-Jones, and his wife the former Mairi Lennox Owen.

He went to Stowe where he was head boy. Probably the tallest pupil from the day he arrived, he gloried in catching the opposition's lineout ball. Water was an even more natural environment for him and the water polo team he led was unbeaten. Giles also surprised many including himself as a noteworthy actor. His performance as Lenny in 'Of Mice and Men' is still spoken of. Stowe became the crucible for developing his undoubted leadership talents.

He made a lasting impression on Brigade Squad 45 in the summer of '86 before going up to Exeter University where he was close to two future Grenadiers Rupert Villiers-Smith and Robert Fanshawe. His car was a Volvo Estate with a bespoke seat rail so that he could get in and out, but it meant that no one could sit on the back seat behind him and rather impressively when he stopped to talk to anyone, he would wind down the back window to speak to them. In their third year Robert, Giles and Rupert lived together in a

small farm workers cottage outside Exeter. It had low ceilings except for one room which had a lean-to roof which was Giles' bedroom – otherwise he would have to crouch in every downstairs room. They had a Coutts & Co house bank account called the “3rd Battalion” with a Company sized cheque book, which always seemed to baffle the local supermarket checkout attendant as it was too big to go into the conventional cheque section of the till. A big cheque book for a big man.

In 1995, he married Arabella Lennox (now Arabella Kincaid of Kincaid, Chief of the name and arms of Kincaid), daughter of Denis Peareth Hornell Lennox of that ilk and of Woodhead, and his wife the former Jane Logan Batters.

Of his time in the Regiment, although he served in both the 1st and 2nd Battalions and was Temporary Equerry to HRH The Duke of Edinburgh, he spent most of his time in the 1st Battalion, serving in The Queen's Company, as Adjutant and then as officer commanding No2 Company for the 1996 tour in Northern Ireland. His Commanding Officer, David Hutchison, from his time in Ballykinler wrote *“Not much time was spent in camp as he was frequently away, patrolling mainly in South Armagh, the most dangerous part of the province. He was a perfectionist who planned operations meticulously and looked after his soldiers with real care and compassion. His Christian faith shone out in his work, and he was hugely respected throughout the Battalion. I valued his loyal support enormously. Together, he and Arabella were a magnificent team.*

There was an episode in Ireland which I shall never forget. The annual Portadown Marches, where the Protestants delighted in marching through a staunchly Catholic area, and the Army's job was to be a rather thin piece of ham in the sandwich, keeping the two sides apart. We went in at 3am to catch the locals unawares and sure enough we found a crate of petrol bombs all ready to go. The march went off fairly peacefully thanks to our presence, but at the end of it Giles was leading his company back to their vehicles when a youth emerged from the crowd and hurled half a concrete block at him. It hit him on the chin with considerable force. The cameras of the world were on him and if he had retaliated then the edited broadcast would only have shown a 6'8" British soldier in full riot gear laying

into an “innocent” bystander. At that moment Tony Blair's peace process hung in the balance. Giles swayed back with the impact but then carried on walking as if nothing had happened. It was as if David's slingshot had bounced harmlessly off Goliath and the giant had said, “Is that all you've got, little man?” He never mentioned it but that night he could hardly speak because of a swollen jaw.”

Giles had a life long love of water. On the 20th August 1991, he swam the English Channel which he conquered in 15 hours and 59 minutes. In his own words *“at the 11th hour I could see Cap Gris-Nez quite clearly but the sun was beginning to set. After another hour of swimming there were three miles left to go. I was then told that the tide had swept me to the north of the Cap which meant two more miles on top of the three already left. This was depressing news and from this point on I was searching for a good reason to give up....”* He did not and this is testament to the legendary determination that characterised the warrior that he was at his core.

Giles was selected for the Army Staff College and would have had a very successful career in the Army. He, however, chose a different course and left the army to undertake an MBA at Warwick Business School (where he achieved a distinction). Subsequently leading a corporate turnaround at British Nuclear Fuels, he carried out a major restructuring, which developed his expertise in the world of Human Resources, which became his speciality and something he excelled in.

He had a strong desire to serve his country and was the Conservative candidate in the 2004 election in Ashfield, a former mining constituency, standing against Geoff Hoon the Labour Defence Minister. From day 1 he launched his full energy into the campaign aiming for every single constituent to have a hand-addressed envelope with the information inside. He wanted to cover the whole area, down the mines, every street, into the hospitals, schools and usually with a baby or child accompanying along with a group of supporters. By the time of the election itself he had lost every toenail from the pressure of having pounded the streets relentlessly. He received letters even from those in opposition in recognition of his sheer goodness of heart and determination to be an advocate for Ashfield.

His heart was in politics and the wellbeing of the nation. He would have dearly loved to serve as an MP but it was not to be.

If he was not to serve in the Palace of Westminster, then he would serve his party and he became Director of Human Resources for the Conservative party after its third General Election defeat in 2005. Of his time in politics, I think it most fitting to quote Former Prime Minister David Cameron who wrote:

“The Conservative Party is the most unusual of ‘organisations’ and thus, I suspect, a HR nightmare! I was therefore blessed to have had Giles take charge of this area of Party management throughout my eleven years as Party Leader and six years as Prime Minister.

Managing personnel in a political organisation must be an unenviable job at times (politics has a knack of attracting the odd ego!); I know that staff quaked in their boots when an e-mail dropped in their inbox from Giles with the subject heading, ‘Restructuring’, or even worse, simply ‘Can we have a chat?’! But despite the difficult and often delicate conversations he had to lead, Giles was universally respected, hugely admired and very much liked. He was such a kind, decent, courteous and gentle colleague, who could find humour in any situation. Of course, as well as the trickier aspects of dealing with HR, there is also the humane side, and Giles was perfectly suited to this compassionate, nurturing and encouraging role.

Throughout it all, he was such a wonderful source of sound, friendly advice for me and my team and helped our office get out of several professional fixes! Calm under pressure – all that military training coming to the fore – and willing to find a solution to any problem we threw his way.

When I set-up my new private office on leaving government in 2016, Giles was one of the first calls we made for help and advice. I just can’t believe he is no longer with us.

Giles was a towering figure in so many ways – both literally and metaphorically – who had led such a full and fascinating life. While he might not have been a household name, for those who worked in and around Westminster and the Conservative Party over the past two decades, his legacy is very much a part of all we achieved during those years.”

He never ceased to wield his influence serving behind the scenes, after finishing as Director of Human Resources for the Conservative Party he set up on his own as an HR Consultant. This allowed him to deal with increasingly delicate situations both inside and outside the political realm. Sir Lynton Crosby AO amongst others valued and trusted Giles *“Giles could always find the solution to a problem no matter how seemingly intractable”*.

It was not however just at work where Giles made an impression on those around him. He was a much loved President of the Shropshire branch of the Grenadier Guards Association where he served with dedication and gusto. At home he picked up the family nickname “The ladder” as he was always able to help people get to where they wanted to get to.

He tackled his cancer diagnosis and subsequent operations with his typical and unwavering commitment. After his first major operation he had a view of the Long Mynd and Shropshire hills that he loved and said that he wanted to run in them once again. Not too long afterward he did just that and completed a 50 mile walk/run through the night which turned out to be just before he discovered he would need another major operation. As he came out of the last major op a kindly nurse leant over him asking him if he was ok at which point Giles replied “Yup, totally fine!”. I don’t think she had ever had that reaction before!

He was one of a kind, immensely strong, tough, wise, kind, and had an encyclopaedic knowledge of history, battles, strategies, victories and defeats. In short, Giles Inglis-Jones has left a legacy that will not tarnish or fade. He laid foundations in the lives and hearts of his family, friends, businesses and politics that will stand the test of time and bear rich and bountiful fruit for the years to come. He was a devoted husband to Arabella and father to five children.

He will be much missed.



Simon Kenyon-Slaney OBE, K StJ, JP, DL

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



Simon Kenyon-Slaney, the former Vice Lord-Lieutenant of Shropshire, who died peacefully at his home in Much Wenlock on 12th May this year, was aged 88. He was born on 31st January 1932 the son of Major R O R Kenyon-Slaney, Grenadier Guards, and Nesta Forestier-Walker.

His father served with the 1st Battalion in the First War and was wounded in action with the Kings Company at the First Battle of Ypres. Simon was brought up at Hatton Grange, near Shifnal.

After school at Eton, then the Brigade Squad and Eaton Hall Officer Cadet School, being taught to be an efficient platoon commander, he followed his father, grandfather and great-grandfather into the Grenadier Guards and was commissioned as a National Service officer with the 3rd Battalion in April 1951. In Autumn of that year, Simon was posted as a Lieutenant to 14th Company Grenadier Guards at the Guards Depot to complete his service in 1952. His elder half brother Robin had also joined the Grenadiers shortly after the Second War, both coming from a prominent Shropshire family.

On completing his National Service, Simon returned to Shropshire and began his training as a Chartered Surveyor at the Apley estate, near Bridgnorth. In 1960, he married Mary Bridgeman, the daughter of Lieutenant Colonel The Hon H G O Bridgeman DSO MC, After periods spent in North Wales, and subsequently as the resident land agent at Haddon Hall in Derbyshire, he returned again to Shropshire in 1966 to start farming and in 1968, he bought Chyknell Hall, a Regency country house near Claverley where he and Mary lived for 42 years.

Simon was involved with the setting up of the Bridgnorth branch of the Shropshire Voluntary Helping Hand Association in 1966 and in 1969 was made county chairman of the charity. He became a magistrate in 1969, joined the county's Magistrates

Committee and served on the Bridgnorth bench until retiring in 2002. He represented Shropshire at the Magistrates Association in London and was appointed High Sheriff in 1979. He was also a past chairman of the county St John Ambulance Brigade, having been a member since 1969, for which he was appointed a Knight of the Order of St John of Jerusalem in 1993 and in 2004 he was awarded an OBE. He was an enthusiastic and supportive President of the Shropshire Branch of the Grenadier Guards Association from 2007 until 2012. One of his most significant contributions to the county was his long and enduring association with the Ironbridge Gorge Museum Trust, becoming Vice-Chairman.

Simon was widely considered as a kind, courteous, wise and thoughtful man whose encyclopaedic knowledge of county life was always available if sought but never proffered without invitation. He was a true countryman and an astute and accurate observer of the natural world. He was a passionate gardener with a particular love of azaleas, rhododendrons and lilies. An accomplished fisherman and an experienced forester. Mary predeceased him in December 2018 and they are survived by their three sons Harry, Andrew, Francis and seven grandchildren. There will be a service of thanksgiving in 2021.

Major Miles Lambert

*by Major Philip Wright OBE
formerly Grenadier Guards*



Miles Lambert died peacefully in his sleep after a short illness at his home in Halesworth, Suffolk on 4th January this year, aged 89. He was born in Beverley, Yorkshire, in 1931, the son of Peter Jocelyn Lambert MC and Lettice Jane Katherine Wellesley.

After Eton and Sandhurst, he was commissioned

into the Grenadier Guards in 1952 and went with the 2nd Battalion to the Canal Zone in Egypt in 1954. He was briefly attached to the King's African Rifles on active service in Kenya fighting Mau Mau terrorists before returning to England with the Battalion in 1956.

The Guardsmen soon began calling him "Shane" after the famous Western starring Alan Ladd in 1953. There was an uncanny likeness. He enhanced this image when he was Captain of the Queen's Guard by teaching the junior officers how to play poker in games that often went long into the night. He was appointed Assistant Regimental Adjutant in 1958 and the following year married Armored Barry, the daughter of Major Sir Rupert Barry 4th Battalion and Diana Madeline O'Brien Thompson. He passed selection for the Guards Independent Parachute Company in 1960 and served in Malaysia and Singapore.

Miles deployed to British Guiana with 2nd Battalion as Company Commander of the Inkerman Company in July 1963. He decided to return from the Takama training area in the savannah leading the Company on a gruelling route march in the tropical heat. Fortunately, they passed a grapefruit farm where he purchased the entire crop to provide refreshments for everyone.

Miles commanded the Guards of Honour that were found for the outgoing Governor of the Colony, and later for the new Governor. In March 1964 the Battalion returned to Caterham, having been congratulated by Sir Richard Hull, the Chief of the General Staff, for a job well done. Miles and Armored never missed British Guiana reunions. He used to wear a sombrero decorated with tropical flowers and a large green anaconda snake round his neck made of rubber.

He commanded Number 4 Guard on the 1964 Queen's Birthday Parade before taking up a staff appointment in Borneo as Staff Captain A HQ 99 Gurkha Infantry Brigade. This was the beginning of his lifetime admiration for the Gurkhas and was followed by an appointment as GSO3 (Training) at HQ Far East Land Forces in Singapore where his family were based. He returned to the 2nd Battalion in Wuppertal as Company Commander of No 2 Company in 1967. Returning to his married quarter after a dinner night in the Officer's Mess,

Miles parked his car in the garage and slipped quietly into the house through the side door. He crept upstairs and into his dressing room. As he undressed a lady lying in bed objected most strongly. She was a brother officer's au pair. Needless to say, Miles had gone to the wrong quarter and had some serious explaining to do. After the Battalion moved to Munster, he retired from the Army having served for seventeen years.

In the field of sport, as an accomplished tennis player who was captain of the Sandhurst team, Miles represented the Army at tennis in Singapore. He was in the Regimental team that defeated the Irish Guards in the final of the Colonel in Chief's Golf Cup in 1961. He was also Captain of the 2nd Battalion Ski Team that competed in the Army Ski Championships in Scotland and the BAOR Championships in St Moritz in 1963.

On leaving the Army, Miles wrote for The Tatler on personal finance and worked for an investment advisory company. Having retired to Suffolk, he was involved with the British Heart Foundation and was an active fund raiser for the East Anglia Air Ambulance. He and Armored initiated the Annual Halesworth Antique Market to raise funds for both charities. As a member of the Suffolk Branch of the Grenadier Guards Association he took a personal interest in supporting some of its older members. Miles was devoted to Armored and they celebrated their Diamond Wedding in 2019. She survives him with their children, Annabel, Miranda and Tobin and six grandchildren. Miles will be much missed by his many friends and remembered as an officer who lived life to the full and who had the greatest fun while doing so. On the night he died, having been offered his supper, his last words were "And I'll have a large glass of wine with that."



Michael MacKinlay-MacLeod

by Malcolm Shennan



Michael died at home in Somerset with his close family around him on 11 December 2020 after a short illness. On leaving Eton, he did his National Service and was commissioned into the 3rd Battalion. This was followed by Pembroke College,

Cambridge to read economics. University didn't suit him and, failing to complete his degree course, he returned to Scotland, living in Renfrewshire where he worked for the family shipping line on the Clyde and entered wholeheartedly into life with A Squadron, The Ayrshire Yeomanry, based in Paisley.

In 1967 he married his second wife Dawn and moved to Gloucestershire. Michael had an interest in and wide knowledge of many things, not least 18th century English furniture. He was a countryman in every sense and owned a mixed farm near Broadway. From there he moved to Overbury and then Herefordshire, at all times remaining closely involved with the CLA. He much enjoyed game shooting, was a great companion and generous with his hospitality. He had a wide circle of friends whom he entertained with considerable humour; he loved people and was always interested in what they were up to and always had time for the younger generation.

A proud Grenadier, standing tall and immaculately turned out, I never remember seeing him without a neck tie and his collection was second to none. In the early 1970's, he went on a safari holiday to Kenya with Dawn and another couple. When I met him at the airport prior to departure, he was certainly dressed for the occasion, attired in shorts, long socks, desert boots, a boating jacket with Brigade tie and clutching his pith helmet.

We will all miss him, his generosity, his friendship, his humour, his wisdom and interest in life.

Robin Hylton Murray-Philipson OBE DL

by his son, Hylton Murray-Philipson



Robin was born in Edinburgh on 5th June 1927, the only son of Monica and Hylton Murray-Philipson of Stobo Castle, Peeblesshire. His father Hylton was Squadron Leader of Edinburgh 603 Bomber Squadron and MP for Twickenham, then Peebles,

and his grandfather Hylton Philipson kept wicket for England and played with WG Grace.

He went to Eton where his uncle Claude Beasley Robinson was his housemaster, the last man to coach his house Bumping Four from a hunter on the towpath. Like his father and grandfather before him, and his son Hylton after him, he was Keeper of Rackets and was an avid tennis player all his life.

He did National Service as an officer in the 2nd Battalion, Grenadier Guards. He enjoyed recounting the story of when he was in Officer Training Camp, after six days of square bashing and boot polishing, the RSM posted the Sunday morning activity as 'Nature Ramble'. This turned out to be an assault on Mount Snowdon in full battle kit!

Commissioned in 1946, he served with in the Army of Occupation in Germany based in Wuppertal. One task was marshalling the local population at gunpoint to watch footage of the concentration camps so that no-one could ever say it had not happened.

In 1954 he married Nini Tilney 2nd daughter of Frances and Brigadier Robert Tilney, Leicestershire Yeomanry, who commanded allied forces on Leros in the Second World War.

After the war, Robin went round the world (he would say the Empire) on money left to him by his grandfather 'To visit the overseas dominions of His Majesty the King'. His interest in travel later led him to be Managing Director of Serenissima, a travel business which took his friends (and a few others!) to cultural destinations such as Moscow with Prince Yuri Galitzine or Venice with Viscount

Norwich.

Apart from travel, his great enthusiasm was helicopters. He learnt to fly one summer in Shannon and then ran aerial tours of London and a crop spraying business in Syria before joining the European operations of Howard Hughes. Friends recall Robin dropping in for a game of tennis in a Hughes 300 or later a Hughes 500 – the machine described as the workhorse of US forces in Vietnam.

In later years he spent increasing amounts of time on the family farm in Leicestershire. During his time as High Sherriff, he founded Crimebeat (later named the Warning Zone) to help children stay out of trouble. Amongst other interests he was a supportive and enthusiastic President of the Leicestershire Branch of the Grenadier Association for over twenty years.

Robin had tremendous energy and a zest for life. He loved his friends and was the life and soul of any party. For 65 years he was a devoted husband to Nini, father of four children and grandfather to 11 grandchildren.

Robert Nicolle

by his daughter, Fi Norbury



Bobby Nicolle died peacefully at home on 3 February 2021, aged 86, after a prolonged period of poor health. Originally from Jersey, he was educated at Eton College, where he was Captain of Boats, and then went on to Trinity College, Cambridge to read Natural Sci-

ences before joining the Regiment in April 1957 as a National Service officer. He spent just over a year with the 3rd Battalion in Cyprus during the Emergency, for much of this time in dispersed company groups covering a large area surrounding Nicosia, employed on internal security operations.

In 1958 he joined the merchant bank Kleinwort Sons & Co and was a director of Kleinwort Benson Ltd from 1973 – 1989, mainly working

within the investment management division, and subsequently worked for Matheson Investments Ltd from 1989 – 2000. Other financial and trustee positions included being a Director of Colonial Life Insurance (1987-96), a trustee of St Thomas' and Guy's Hospital, adviser to the Worldwide Fund for Nature in Switzerland (formerly World Wildlife Fund), a treasurer for both HOST (Hosting for Overseas Students) and the Iris Fund, as well as promoting and fundraising for the Nightingale Fund and the Countryside Alliance. In 1998 he became Master of The Worshipful Company of Tallow Chandlers.

In retirement in Gloucestershire he continued to pursue country sports and was an active fundraiser for this as well as his local church St Lawrence, Didmarton where he was a church warden. He was a keen gardener and in later life developed a love of painting, a skill he honed during numerous art trips with friends to India, where his father once worked for many years as a civil engineer. With Carolyn he had three children, Darcy, Fiona and Harry, and five grandchildren. A principled man with a fine mind and a love of the natural world, he will be remembered by those who knew him for his kindness and unflinching courtesy.

Captain William Alexander (Bill) Palmer CBE, DL

by his son Howard Palmer, QC



William Alexander (Bill) Palmer was born on 21 May 1925 in Down Street in London. He died at home on 31 October 2020, the last survivor of the fourth and final generation of Palmers to serve as directors in the firm of biscuit manufacturers,

Huntley & Palmers of Reading. The firm had been founded by Bill's great great uncle, George Palmer,

in partnership with Thomas Huntley, in 1842, and they had been joined soon afterwards by George's brothers William Isaac and Samuel Palmer, the latter being Bill's great grandfather. Bill's grandfather, Howard Palmer, had been Chairman of the company during the First World War and his father, Reginald Palmer, took on that role in the aftermath of the Second World War. It was therefore almost inevitable that Bill would join the firm and equally certain that, having joined, he would become a director.

The first Palmers who founded the firm were Quakers and pacifists, as was the Huntley family. It was therefore remarkable that Howard Palmer was praised personally by Lord Kitchener for his role in helping recruitment in the early period of the First War, and furthermore turned over part of his manufacturing facility to the production of munitions. His son, Reginald, was commissioned as an 18-year-old into the Grenadier Guards and fought in France from 1917 until the end of the War.

Bill went to Eton in 1938 and his war there was uneventful other than a stray bomb fell on an empty building close to where he was undertaking a tutorial. In 1943 he went to Mons from where he was commissioned into the Grenadier Guards in March 1944. After a signals course in Scotland, he joined the King's Company in April 1945 just before the end of the war in Europe.

His son once asked him whether he had ever "seen action", to be told that the nearest he had come to it was when his Driver ("silly arse") had got lost at night on a particular route close to the Front Line. They had stopped to consult a map when a German soldier came up to them offering to surrender with a hundred or more comrades who were "just over there". Bill rapidly weighed up the pros and cons of accepting the offer and decided that discretion was the better part of valour – at least the approach of the soldier demonstrated how far off their intended route they were – and they made a rapid exit in the direction from which they had come.

At the end of hostilities in Europe, Bill was posted to the 3rd Battalion to Palestine which formed part of 1 Division engaged on internal security. He quickly learnt not to discriminate between the Jewish rebels and the Palestinians; both sides seemed equally keen to kill him. He

spent a challenging two years in the Middle East in peace keeping operations in Acre and then Lydda until he was demobilised in 1947.

On his return home, he was immediately apprenticed into the family firm. This was rather like being subjected to the power and wrath of the Sergeant Major during training, in the knowledge that he would soon graduate as an officer/director. Menial and distasteful jobs on the shop floor were thrust at him and he undertook them with cheerfulness and good will. In due course the apprenticeship was over, and he soon became a director, involved in production. The science of producing and baking biscuits always fascinated Bill.

In 1948 and 1949 he courted and won his bride, Cherry Gibbs, whose father had also fought in the First War (being a founder member of the Welsh Guards) but who had sadly died in 1945. Their life in Berkshire, close to the Reading factory, was interrupted in 1955 by a call to oversee the construction and commissioning of a new factory in Huyton, Liverpool. This venture was designed to take advantage of a post-war boom in biscuit consumption - sweet biscuits were on the ration book until 1950, and when they came off ration the floodgates opened.

When the new factory opened, the family moved to Cheshire where many new friends were made and kept for life. They remained there until 1963, and during this period the Group saw a merger between Huntley & Palmers and W & R Jacob Ltd., famous for its Cream Crackers, whose English base was in Aintree, Liverpool. In 1963 Bill and his family returned to Berkshire to a house near Newbury, and a daily commute to the Reading factory, where he became Production Director for both the Reading and Huyton factories.

By the mid-1970's, biscuit consumption in the UK had stagnated, and the business sought to expand into snacks, chocolate and confectionery, as well as seeking overseas growth to increase their market share. In March 1982 the Group, which then employed some 14,000 people in the UK, was targeted by the American giant Nabisco Brands Inc., which had a negligible share of the UK biscuit market. In spite of a reference to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission, the takeover

was concluded in early 1983. At that point, both the Huntley & Palmer brand and all remaining members of the Palmer family were discarded.

Bill's interests in the science of food manufacturing continued and he became Chairman of the Flour Milling and Baking Research Association in 1970; his services were recognised by the award of the CBE in 1983. That year, he was also made an Honorary Fellow of the UK Institute of Food Science and Technology. Huntley & Palmers had been the proud holder of a Royal Warrant since the early 1890's and Bill became President of the Royal Warrant Association in 1976. He continued to attend its annual events, including the Coronation Festival of Royal Warrant Holders' stands in the grounds of Buckingham Palace in 2013.

Without a job in Reading, Bill turned his attention to local causes. A local District Councillor in West Berkshire (then Newbury District Council) and a Berkshire County Councillor, he was also invited to become a member of the Council of Reading University, whose foundation had owed much to the generosity of George Palmer and his relations in the 19th Century. At the end of his tenure, he was offered an Honorary Doctorate – he chose law, so as to be able to outdo his lawyer son, who was merely BA. In 1992, he became a Deputy Lieutenant of Berkshire

Bill's parents and grandparents had been passionate collectors of fine Chinese jade and porcelain and upon his mother's death in 1981, Bill inherited a fine collection, which he cared for with a passion and added to from time to time. Although naturally reticent, if he could be persuaded to show and discuss pieces in the collection, he would display a deep knowledge of the quality and history not only of the art itself (and how it was made) but also of the way in which the collection was built up over the years dating back to the early 1900s.

Bill was a great shooting man. Until he was 80, he ran two shooting syndicates, which operated on alternate Saturdays. Both of them involved Cherry in supplying traditional lunches for 10 or 12 guests every week during the season. He continued to shoot until he was 87. He also loved a small sporting estate in Caithness, which his father had bought immediately after the War.

Here, in August or September every year, he would walk up grouse, over pointers – requiring a degree of fitness he was able to display until he was well into his 80s.

As well as a keen shot, he was an avid gardener and party loving host. He managed to display all his passions in one fell swoop when a granddaughter persuaded him to serve champagne and show parts of the Chinese collection to her and a group of friends. In the middle of a discussion about Chinese jade, interspersed with instruction on the correct etiquette for drinking champagne in polite society, he suddenly spotted a rabbit on the lawn attacking his prized roses. He made swift excuses, dashed up to an upstairs window, from which he shot the rabbit with a .22, and returned to continue the conversation as if nothing had happened.

He remained a passionate supporter of the Grenadier Guards and made huge efforts to attend celebratory dinners of The Queen's Company even after his mobility was much impaired by old age. His conversations at home, especially any form of reminiscence, would inevitably return to an anecdote of service with the Regiment, whether recounting his experience in post-war Berlin or an incident involving 'undesirables' in Palestine.

Bill is survived by his wife Cherry, their four children, 8 grandchildren and 12 great grandchildren.

Captain Basil Pegg

by his son, Jonathan Pegg



Basil Pegg passed away peacefully on 31st December 2019, at home in Alresford, Hampshire. Born in 1925, Basil enjoyed a rural childhood near Mayfield in East Sussex, as well as boarding at Allen House Preparatory School, before Eastbourne college in 1938. He ended his Eastbourne years, two of which were under wartime evacuation to

Radley, as Head boy, captain of the rugby, fives, and athletics teams.

From Eastbourne, Basil was commissioned in the Grenadier Guards. He was frustrated not to take part in the assault on the Nijmegen Bridge in September 1944, but was among the first into Berlin, beaten only by the Russians to Hitler's bunker. The rest of his national service was largely concerned with intelligence gathering and restorative projects.

Upon being discharged in 1947, Basil went up to Queen's College, Cambridge. Two years later he was reading law at Christchurch College Oxford. His love of travel pointed to a career with British Petroleum. After five highly social bachelor years managing BP's Rome office, he was based in London with trips abroad for BP's Middle East and West Africa department. It was in London where Basil met Deidre Wingfield whom he married in 1969. Three years later they were sailing to West Africa with their one-year old daughter, Camilla and the next year their son Jonathan was born in Dakar.

In 1977, Basil seized the chance of returning to his beloved Rome when John Deuss, the oil Tycoon, asked him to run JOC Oil's Rome office. Five years later the firm was consolidating its international operations and Basil returned to JOC Oil's London office before retiring. The next chapter was divided between a family house near Newbury and an apartment in Knightsbridge until a move to Hampshire, near Winchester. During these years he completed a History of Art degree and maintained an active interest in the stock markets.

In his early seventies, Basil developed cerebellar ataxia and, consequently, suffered from gradual loss of balance, a condition he bore with great physical courage and counting his blessings of being of sound mind and otherwise well. These became less apparent after he turned ninety, but in Deidre's care he could remain at home, where he was often surrounded by his five grandchildren. It was on the eve of 2020, a few months after golden wedding anniversary celebrations, he died peacefully at home aged ninety-four, with Deidre and both of his children present.

Viscount (Garry) Runciman of Doxford

by *The Assistant Editor*



Born in London in 1934, the only child of Leslie Runciman, 2nd Baron Runciman, who had inherited the Anchor Line shipping company which his great-grandfather had founded in 1885, and Katherine Schuyler Garrison, whose family were promi-

nent figures in New York society, Runciman was shipped off to the United States during World War II and on return followed the family route to Eton and then on to Trinity College, Cambridge. However before 'going up', National Service intervened and he found himself embarking at Liverpool for Egypt with the 2nd Battalion, which had just returned to England after nearly seven years in Germany.

Before sailing, his father arranged for the battalion to entertain its many old Liverpoolian friends on board by hosting a splendid lunch. Arriving in Egypt at the end of March 1952, the battalion took up station in St. Pierre Camp in Fanara and began routine duties of training and guards, including participating in the Queen's Birthday Parade on Moascar polo pitch.

Having completed his National Service, Runciman returned to Cambridge as an undergraduate where he gained a first in both Classics and History. As a Harkness Fellow, he then went to Harvard and returned to Trinity as a Research Fellow in 1959. Four years later, he joined the family shipping business and went on to become president of Walter Runciman plc.

In parallel to his business career, he continued in academia and although his discipline was sociology, he wrote a number of books and articles that ranged widely across the humanities and social sciences, publishing papers on topics such as the origins of states in ancient Greece and accelerating social mobility in Anglo-Saxon England.

A third strand to his life was public service. At

different times, he was treasurer of the Child Poverty Action Group, a member of the board of the British Library, and Deputy Chairman of the Securities and Investment Board. In 1991, the then Home Secretary asked him to chair a Royal Commission on criminal justice in England. The most important recommendation of the Runciman report was the creation of the Criminal Cases Review Commission to investigate future potential miscarriages of justice.

Elected a fellow of the British Academy in 1975, he served as its president between 2001 and 2005, overseeing its centenary celebrations. He also edited a British Academy occasional paper examining the events, controversies and legal issues surrounding the UK's invasion of Iraq in 2003. The report explores the inner workings of the Blair government at the time and the deeper themes of trust between government, the governed and the news media.

Known as 'the cleverest man in Trinity' and surely by default in the Grenadier Guards as well, Runciman died aged 86 on 10 December 2020. His widow, Dame Ruth Runciman DBE, is an eminent public figure with special interests in mental health and prison reform and his son David an eminent Professor of Politics at Cambridge.

Lieutenant Colonel Martin Smith

*by Major Justin Fenwick, QC
formerly Grenadier Guards*



Henry Martin Lockhart Smith died on 25th November 2020, aged 83, after a short illness. Martin, as he always liked to be called, had three great passions in his life, the Regiment, his beloved Ellingham Estate in Norfolk and his family. Behind

a somewhat gruff exterior, he was the kindest and most thoughtful of men, truly interested in

the welfare of his junior officers and friends, and always ready with practical help and advice when one of them needed assistance.

Martin relished in his friends to whom he remained loyal throughout his life. He had an almost boyish simplicity in his language, and as well as secretly rather liking his nickname of "Hooky", as he was universally known, always maintained the nicknames by which he had characterized his friends in those early days in the Regiment. To name but a few, "the Dormouse", "the Goon" and "the Sloth", will all recognise how affectionately he would speak of them, even 60 years later. Martin was always intolerant of those who did not give of their best and of low standards. Situations and individuals who did not meet those standards were invariably described as "shabby" and poor performance written off as a "Shabby Show". Despite this, all who knew him recognized that underneath there was a truly caring and compassionate man who would note shortcomings but always have sympathy for those who did their best.

Martin was born on 23rd December 1936 and was educated at Pangbourne before going to Sandhurst, where he decided to apply to the Regiment (as later did his brother Peter who followed him into the Regiment) rather than to the East Surrey Regiment in which both his father and his grandfather had served and in which his father was still serving as Commanding Officer. He was commissioned in 1957 and posted to the Second Battalion in Lydd as a Platoon Commander before moving to the Third Battalion in Cyprus in 1958. It was a fairly hairy tour and as reported by Oliver Lindsey "when officers did go out to restaurants in Nicosia or elsewhere, they carried pistols and some, such as 2 Lt HML Smith, always sat with their backs to the wall facing the door." That relish for combat situations never left him and came into its own when he later commanded a company in Belfast.

Martin was on parade at the Farewell Parade and Inspection of the Third Battalion by Her Majesty the Queen at Buckingham Palace on 8th July 1960.

After a spell as a staff Captain in BAOR and as Company Commander with the First Battalion, he went to Staff College in 1969 and then went to

Malta as a G2 where he was heavily involved in the rundown of the British Forces presence there. He returned to the Second Battalion first as Senior Major, where in British Honduras, he commanded the Queens Birthday Parade in front of the local Mayor. Several commented on the dignity of the Mayor although his top hat was green with mould. During the Parade, it is said, Martin suddenly felt ants climbing fast up his legs: When at last he could give the order to march off, he almost ran, certainly moving faster than Light Infantry pace.

On the return from British Honduras Martin moved over to become Support Company Commander in Belfast. His company was responsible for the area known as The Bone, which was divided into the Catholic Bone and the Protestant Bone. This was in many ways the high point of his soldiering career and he was in his element, on the ground night and day and keeping the tightest control on the area. As Evelyn Webb-Carter, then Adjutant of the Battalion, puts it "He was a highly effective and ruthless company commander and ruled the Bone like a medieval Baron". Richard Besly was his Commanding Officer and described him as "an outstanding Company Commander. The Bone area of Belfast was very tough so I put Martin there and he stood no nonsense whatsoever". It caused some amusement to his fellow officers when he was sometimes confused with another Martin Smith, an Ulster Unionist politician with extreme views. Patrick Holcroft, who succeeded Evelyn as Adjutant during the tour, paints a vivid picture of Martin in his element: "Martin was determined that 'the natives' (as he called them rather affectionately) were not going to get the better of him or his Guardsmen and indeed they did not. Rather like the landowner he became, he patrolled his area on foot personally every day, made it his business to be well informed and was very tough on anyone who misbehaved or worse. More than 4 'natives' on the street together always constituted a riot in his book. After a series of incidents on the streets at night, Martin managed to obtain a key from the RUC that could switch the streetlights on and off. He would recount this with pride at his briefings only to find out eventually that the IRA had one too!"

Martin returned to Cyprus as a staff officer at the

end of 1973, where he remained until April 1976, his tour having been extended at the request of the General Officer Commanding, Major General Purdon, who wrote of him as follows: "His great attributes are his sound common sense, his deep loyalty and his ability to "grip" with great firmness and tact, both situations and individuals". It is a description of Martin that all who knew him well would recognise and endorse.

Martin led the Regimental Band on its highly successful three month tour of the United States in 1977 and although disappointed not to be allowed to fire his favourite shotgun as part of the Post Horn Gallop, played a large part in the smooth running of the tour and its success and was rewarded on his return by a gift from the Regiment of a silver table lighter from Carringtons, an object of far more use in those days than it is now.

After a spell as Senior Major for the second time (this time of the First Battalion), Martin commanded the Second Battalion from 1978 to March 1981 in settings as different as Kenya, Chelsea, Munster and Fermanagh. He joined the Battalion midway through the Kenya tour and established his firm hand from the start, outrunning both his Senior Major and Adjutant, who he insisted should accompany him on his early morning run. Sensing inevitable censure of their less honed fitness, they were forced to the pretext of running round the circuit in the opposite direction and taking a short cut to ensure that they met the new Commanding Officer just before he reached the halfway point.

Martin was not by nature inclined towards mechanised warfare, preferring to be on his feet and out on the ground. However, the Battalion under his command had a successful tour in BAOR and he concentrated on training the Battalion in their mechanised role and preparing them for what proved a difficult and arduous tour in Fermanagh, where, to his regret, his companies were allocated in support of other battalions and he had limited scope to use his experience and skills of dealing with both sides of the sectarian divide. Nevertheless, he was commended for his energy and unsparing hard work in an area where the pattern of terrorist incidents was of long periods of inactivity followed by spectacular, well executed and savage attacks,

which made it particularly difficult to maintain the motivation and alertness of his Guardsmen in the sometimes long quiet periods.

After handing over command, Martin was posted to Headquarters Household Division where he tried unsuccessfully to manoeuvre a role for both battalions in the Falkland Campaign, a role which he himself would have loved to be in the thick of.

Martin retired from the Army at the end of 1983 and returned to his beloved Ellingham Hall, where he took over the estate from his father. However, his energy remained undiminished and he became a Queen's Messenger, in which role he toured the world delivering delicate missives in the diplomatic bag and came home with a host of adventures, about which he was remarkably modest. Most notably, he was in Peking, as it was still called by the English in those days, just at the time of the Tienanmen Square massacres. His arrival in the Chinese capital from Hong Kong on 30th May 1989 and his eventful journey by rickshaw to his hotel, passing within a few hundred yards of Tienanmen Square whilst clutching his diplomatic bag, determined at all costs to protect it from the Chinese armed forces and the rioters, make for a fascinating read in the Guards Magazine of 1989. To the astonishment of the embassy staff he delivered his bag safely to the Embassy the next morning before returning home unscathed.

In retirement at Ellingham, Martin devoted himself tirelessly to improving the estate, planting thousands of trees and making sure that nobody could call the estate shabby. In 1997, he handed over a much improved estate in good shape to his elder son Vaughan, who to his great pride had followed him into the Regiment, on the eve of the general election, fearful that a Labour government would tax inheritances in a way that made it impossible to maintain the estate intact.

On 31st March 1962 Martin married Margaret Eaton, with a Guard of Honour from the Regiment in attendance. She was to prove his greatest ally and supporter and they were devoted to each other. Together they had two sons, of whom they were rightly proud.

Martin was a keen sportsman, a keen skier, a real countryman and a true friend. He will be much missed.

Captain Rodney Wace

by his son, *Hugh Wace*



Rodney Wace was born on 28th June 1923 at the home of his grandparents in Shalford near Guildford. His father E.W.C. Wace was a highly decorated officer in the C.I.D. section of the Indian Police retiring as Inspector General.

Aged 8 he returned to England from India and was educated at Windlesham House, Marlborough College and Oriel College Oxford. He described his days at Oxford as hedonistic since he and his contemporaries anticipated military service before facing examinations.

Through the introduction of a relative Mervyn Cornish, who had served in the First War with Duff Cooper, he obtained a commission with the Grenadier Guards in December 1942. He was stationed with the training Battalion at Windsor Castle where he and brother officers were made welcome by the Royal Family.

His first foreign posting with the 6th Battalion was to North Africa to replace the many casualties suffered at Mareth. Recently he took the family to Libya and showed us the house in the main square in Tripoli where Churchill and other Allied leaders had observed the Victory Parade from the balcony. He and the majority of the soldiers in the parade had been drafted in after the main engagements in North Africa and had yet to see action.

Military life took a dramatic turn in September 1943 when the Battalion embarked in flat bottomed craft for the landings at Salerno where Kesselring and his Panzers waited in readiness. He missed the first landing due to hepatitis. He had vivid memories of the crossing, in particular the breakfast of waffles and bacon covered by maple syrup served by a Canadian cook which did not go down well. Another was his friend Humphrey Lyttleton playing *Alexander's Ragtime Band* and *When the Saints Go Marching in* on his trumpet before the landing. Many years later I met Humphrey and asked if he remembered my father. He shook my

hand and said how much he enjoyed his company which was just as well as on the troop ship from the UK to Africa they were four in their two man cabin.

After an uncomfortable time in foxholes at Salerno, the battalion sought to remove the Germans from their well defended positions on the Gustav line. The regimental history records how the Battalion successfully surprised a German position and my father turned an abandoned Spandau on the retreating enemy. He was surprised how much faster the Spandau fired than the Bren and was soon out of ammunition. Earlier the battalion had attacked a mountain which they believed Germans were defending. The march to the top was unopposed and resting at the top they heard what they thought was hail on the surrounding rocks. The hail turned out to be bullets fired by the watching enemy on a neighbouring promontory.

Six weeks after landing in Italy, he had reached Monte Camino which they were ordered to attack without air cover with the certain prospect of suffering severe casualties. The climb up what has been described as "the bare arse mountain" took place at night and in the morning the defending Germans were able to repulse the attack. My father was wounded by a mortar bomb with shrapnel in his chest and hand. He recalled having no idea where to find medical help and was incredibly lucky to be picked up by a soldier who knew where to find the casualty clearing station.

He was invalided back to North Africa where the occupant of the next hospital bed was a First War veteran Colonel Tim Mills who lived in a village near to his grandparents. When eventually my father returned to England, he was offered a lift from Guildford rail station by Tim's wife who invited him round for a drink the following Sunday. There he met their daughter a nurse from St Thomas Hospital whom he married on 8th January 1947.

On return from Africa some months were spent in convalescent homes. One, Botley Park, remained what was then called a lunatic asylum. He recalled the inmates as harmless and enjoying saluting the wounded soldiers. The door of his ward bore the initials M.L.G. which stood for Male Lower Grade. No P.C. euphemisms then. Before being posted to India as A.D.C. to Sir Bertram Glancy, the Governor

of the Punjab, he was based at Wellington Barracks. He was reading the paper in the bar on 18th June 1944 when a V bomb landed on the Guards Chapel. He also recalled how the officers who had served in the First War would appear at the bar at 11am to order their first gin and ginger beer.

After the war he became a successful underwriter with Janson Green, retiring in 1983. He was a well-liked and clever businessman who held several non-executive directorships in his retirement. He was the Chairman for many years of both the Dunsfold British Legion and the Parish Council. He had a long and happy retirement enjoying the company of many close friends, fishing for trout and salmon and shooting on the Downs of West Sussex. He was very proud of his grandson Ollie who is a Grenadier and was the Ensign at a recent Trooping of the Colour. When interviewed on television, Ollie recounted the story how his paternal grandparents had met. He remained in touch with a number of Grenadiers in particular Major James Whatman M.C. known to the family as Uncle Gin. Until the end he detested the sight of the baseball cap which he thought reminiscent of the German AfriKa Korps field cap.

He had a very happy marriage to Heather for over 60 years. She died in 2012 and they are survived by their three sons, ten grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Robert John Aufrere Carr Wallace - Turner

by his daughter, Sarah Forrester



Robert, who has died aged 88 was born in 1931. With his younger brother Anthony, who predeceased him in 2014, he was brought up between London and Hampshire. He was educated at Eton where he developed his lifelong passion for cricket.

He did his National Service with the Grenadier Guards and was commissioned in July 1950 with

the 1st Battalion in Tripoli. In December, Princess Elizabeth, the Colonel of the Regiment, flew over from Malta to visit them. He was very proud of his connection with the Grenadiers and embodied the expression "Once a Grenadier, always a Grenadier." He never lost touch with the Regiment, regularly attending the Guards Chapel, regimental reunions and continuing lifelong friendships forged during his service with the 1st Battalion.

After National Service he went on to Oxford to read law. This was followed by a long career in banking which started in New York with Bankers Trust Co. Robert remained with Bankers Trust for many years and continued to travel the world for them after his return to London in the early sixties. A descendant of the Huguenot Aufrere family and with his French wife Sabine a collateral descendant of Field Marshall the Earl Ligonier KCB, PC; Robert was very involved with the Huguenot Society for over 50 years, including a term as President in 2004.

Robert and Sabine were married in 1966, and she survives him with their three daughters and six grandchildren.

Captain Andrew Waterworth

by *The Hon. Andrew Dixon*
formerly Grenadier Guards



Tributes from many different areas of Andrew's life, quite literally 'poured in' when word got out that he had died. During his six years in the Army he commanded three platoons, the last of which was thirty four years ago, but on his passing, over fifty 'Other Ranks' of Grenadiers from his time, took the trouble to post a farewell tribute; a statement that anyone with a military background will understand to be an unprecedented mark of respect.

A former colleague who worked with Andrew at

FTI in the 2000s, said "Andrew was the kindest of men with a huge appetite for life. Whether as a loving husband and father, annoyingly good musician or raconteur of exaggerated stories, he brought a zest to life which charmed everyone who met him. He will be hugely missed. *Nil Satis Nisi Optimum* is the motto of his beloved Everton Football Club - and Andrew was nothing but the best."

Another City associate described Andrew as 'an exemplary and highly popular Grenadier Guards officer; I knew him as a thoroughly decent, amusing and intelligent individual who thrived on life and all its challenges. An amazing father, colleague, friend and overall top-notch human being. We will be the lesser for his sad passing.'

Andrew was born and grew up in Cheshire with his sister and two brothers. He was educated at Shrewsbury where although 'academically capable', he excelled on the sports fields and in the music halls more than the classroom; he played first XI cricket and soccer, before representing the England school boys on a soccer tour of America; a modest secret not often disclosed.

On leaving school Andrew passed his RCB, by-passed Brigade Squad by not knowing the Regiment he wished to join, and was recruited to the Grenadiers while still at Sandhurst. It was the perfect steal for us all; he was without doubt the most popular officer of his generation, contributing to all forms of Regimental life. Commissioned into the 1st Battalion in the winter of 1981 while stationed in Berlin, Andrew joined 5 Platoon No2 Company, where he made his mark almost immediately by winning the Divisional March and Shoot competition with Sergeant White.

While still in Berlin, Andrew was moved to The Queen's Company where he remained for a year or so as the Battalion returned to Hounslow to 'stagon' in a tunic or greatcoat. The trudge of endless Public Duties was made more enjoyable for him as he was an excellent sportsman who played cricket for the Army and soccer for The Combined Services. He also managed to get 'off-side' with a secondment to the Guards Depot for the summer to run the Battalion shooting team, then based at Pirbright; clearly an able shot with an SLR despite being left-handed - ejecting cartridges only went one way!

Cricket filled many a day in London, and it was a sport Andrew enjoyed and excelled at. Socially Burton Court was an ideal venue for making new acquaintances, entertaining wives and girlfriends in the late afternoon, and whiling away a summer's day out of uniform with the company of his team mates and the 'pavilion hospitality'. Andrew enjoyed it almost more than the 'on field battle' and always retained fond memories of the people and the time. When driving away in the late evening, he often mentioned to me that he had always dreamt of scoring a century, and I always replied by telling him that he had a very good chance if he avoided 'the refreshment' until after he had finished batting. I was proven right on a bright summers' day at Armoury House in The City, when he went into bat before lunch, much earlier than expected. We managed to keep him off the pop over lunch, and before the clock struck three, Capt. A.J. Waterworth had scored a century!

With the Battalion still at Hounslow, Andrew was selected to be the next Anti-Tank Officer. After receiving a 'Distinction' on the induction course, his subsequent promotion made him the youngest Captain in the army at the time. He took the Anti-Tank Platoon to Kenya and then South Armagh in the winter of '83/84, before departing for civilian life in the Spring of 1986.

He married Nix in July 1987. They have three children; Josh Tilly and Kitty. Andrew's love for his family was unquestionably the priority in his life and they were an intricate part of his passion for music and the great outdoors. He wrote songs about people, educated all who would listen on the life and times of Peter Gabriel, and made sure that his children could recite *Solisbury Hill* and *Sledgehammer* before they were out of nappies. He took holidays in his beloved North Uist, on which he bought a ruin on the Atlantic west coast. It was an on-going dream to develop it with Nix and the children in his retirement years.

His ability to entertain on the piano was always a prop for a fun evening, whether in a private house, a public house, or an Officers Mess. More competent but less known at the time was his ability and passion when playing the guitar. Although 'a leftie' he played right-handed, gaining enormous pleasure learning cover songs, writing

his own songs, creating harmony lines and new melodies, as well as experimenting with some new technology (purchased in secret from next month's house-keeping) so as to create effects and sounds that now make up every modern production. Many Grenadiers witnessed his rendition of The Grenadier March and then Scipio, played on an electric guitar to a full house at the Hippodrome, as he fronted a section of the Regimental Band on stage under lights. This was followed by a few 'Rock' numbers as an encore, that many got up and danced to, leaving the former Drum Major wondering how he had just been hijacked.

A natural 'grafter' and always incredibly conscientious about all the people he ever commanded or worked with, Andrew carried these caring qualities through a very successful career in Financial PR which spanned for over 30 years. He was a man with style, charm, and Savoie Faire, and would have been a success at anything he turned his hand to, but blessed with too much natural humility, he never appreciated how good he was at so many things or indeed how highly he was regarded.

Away from work, fishing was another passion. It was definitely where he displayed most patience, but the shape of his 'Cast' was to him far more important than catching a fish, as was the style of his 'Off-Drive' rather than where the ball ended up. The same cannot be said of his driving a motor car; to Andrew, cars were just another mode of transport. For him there certainly wasn't any art in driving fast or concentrating on anything other than the sound coming from the speakers. Motor bikes on the other hand were a completely different thing. When he first acquired a motorbike in the late eighties, those of us who had been regular passengers in his car, gave him about three months to live. However, the opposite was the outcome; he rode a motorbike which had to be a BMW, as if it was a part of him, and with the same style that he cast a rod and struck a ball; he was as accomplished and competent as anyone who rode. He commuted every day for over thirty years in and out of the city, toured most of the UK, Spain and France, and never seriously hurt himself. I can even vouch that being on the back was a relaxing experience compared to the passenger seat of his car.

We all have a vice or two and after numerous attempts Andrew never really managed to give up the 'smokes' or his penchant for a decent bottle, or two, of 'French' red. Always with a smile we will all remember images of him with a cigarette in his left hand while the right swept the forelock off his face. His generosity with his pouring when hosting dinner, always led to great late-night amusement; maybe those many evenings in the mess in Berlin left their mark, but a mark we all appreciated often.

Andrew's parents, Sir Alan and Lady Myriam Waterworth, produced 'a man of his lifetime' who wasn't frightened to be different; he was a gentleman and with it he had style. An outstanding Grenadier whose popularity with all ranks and of all ages was unsurpassed. His all-round ability, his professional competence, his compassion, his humour, and his sense of fun, all marked him out as someone very special. He died far too young and will be greatly missed, but well-remembered by many for a long time into the future. The pleasure in knowing him was all ours. Those of us close to him were the lucky ones. Farewell my friend and God Bless.

Major Robert Woodfield, MBE

by The Assistant Editor



Bob Woodfield, who died on 27 August 2020, enlisted in the Regiment in 1948. After a posting from the 2nd Battalion in Krefeld to the Guards Depot as an instructor, he rejoined the battalion for Public Duties in Chelsea where he was involved in the Coronation

prior to appointment as MT Sergeant and a two-year tour in Egypt. He then served as an instructor at RMAS between 1957-58 before joining the 1st Battalion as a CQMS.

In 1959, Bob found himself in Ghana on a six-

month secondment preparing the Ghanaian Army for the country's Independence ceremonies. This involved various drill courses and two Presentation of Colours parades. He returned to the 1st Battalion in time for a tour of the Cameroons as CQMS of No. 2 Company. He was then promoted to WO2 and posted as a CSM to Mons Office Cadet School prior to being appointment CSM of the Guards Independent Parachute Company from 1963-66 which involved a short tour in Cyprus and two tours in Borneo where the Company worked as an SAS squadron during 'Confrontation'. From 1966-69 he held the appointment of Assistant Drill Sergeant with the 2nd Battalion and on promotion to WO1 he was posted to the Army Apprentices College at Arborfield.

Bob was the first SRC officer to be commissioned in 1971. Major General Sir Evelyn Webb-Carter remembers that 'we had a problem with not enough officers for Ceremonial so when it came to needing half section commanders of Street Liners for the State Opening of Parliament I resorted as Adjutant to make Bob one but of course he had to wear a bearskin. This caused a hiatus with Peter Lewis, our wonderful QM and the eminence grise of such matters. He said it was quite improper for an officer commissioned from the ranks to wear a bearskin. In sentiment Peter was right but technically I was not wrong. Anyway, we were so desperate that Bob wore a bearskin and Peter refused to speak to me for the next week!'

Bob was then appointed MTO of the 2nd Battalion before a posting to Belize as Inkerman Company Group and Garrison Admin Officer for 15 months. Webb-Carter recalls that he 'took it upon myself as Adjutant to carry out a 10 day patrol on the border; the patrol consisted of myself, the Sergeant Major, Bob, a signaller Lance Corporal Kyme, my orderly, the Sergeant Major's batman, and there must have been a couple of others. Anyway, we had our adventures and Bob having been ex-Parachute Company was the man who got us out of scrapes getting lost and inadvertently crossing the border into Guatemala. It was in fact a very tough 10 days and Bob was our mainstay throughout'.

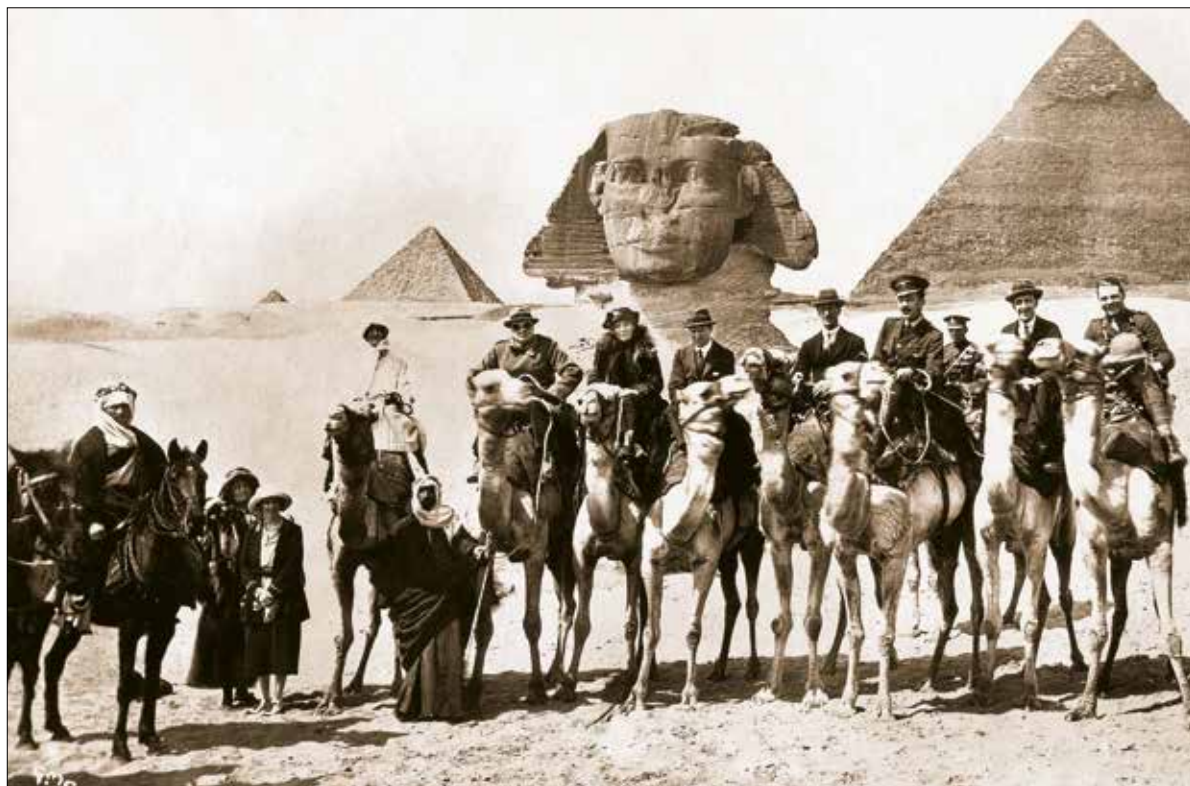
Prior to retiring in 1983, he did two tours in Belfast - in 1973 as i/c special patrol group working in the Ardoyne where he was the lynchpin of the

intelligence system and in 1978 in Londonderry; he then served with the 2nd Battalion in Hong Kong and 8 UDR at training officer; and as the Recruiting Officer at RHQ for his final regimental appointment. He will also be remembered for his time with the 1st Battalion in Berlin (1979-81). His last posting as a serving officer was to the ACF Training Centre at Frimley Park,

From 1983-1996, Bob was employed as the Cadet Executive Officer for Shropshire ACF. Throughout his career, he showed a keen interest in sport, particularly athletics, fencing, football, cricket, and squash. Naughtily, when competing in Army Athletics competitions, he was happy to connive with his fellow Grenadiers in packaging the best team by cross-posting from one battalion to the other. The Micks, always the staunchest opponents, never found out! For many years he was

heavily involved as an Army football referee and boxing judge. In 1996 he was appointed an MBE for services to the youth of Shropshire. He was twice mentioned in despatches for his services in Northern Ireland.

He retired to Alcester in 1999, the town of his birth and was an enthusiastic Vice President of the Shropshire Branch (and also the Worcester and Hereford Branch) for many years. He also worked tirelessly for the Alcester Branch of the Royal British Legion and wrote a history of the Alcester soldiers who had died during the First World War. In the early 2000s, he was the Regimental Archivist at RHQ and succeeded Barry Double in expertly framing and re-framing the medals in the Regimental collection. He is survived by his wife Joan and their children Martin and Nicola and three grandchildren.



Cairo Conference March 1921: Mounted Left to Right - Clementine Spencer Churchill, WSC, Gertrude Bell, T.E. Lawrence, Walter Thompson (bodyguard), Captain Lord Edward Hay, Gren Gds (Mil Sec to Chief Secretary to the Administration).

Military Misreadings of Shakspere by Major Thomas Seccombe

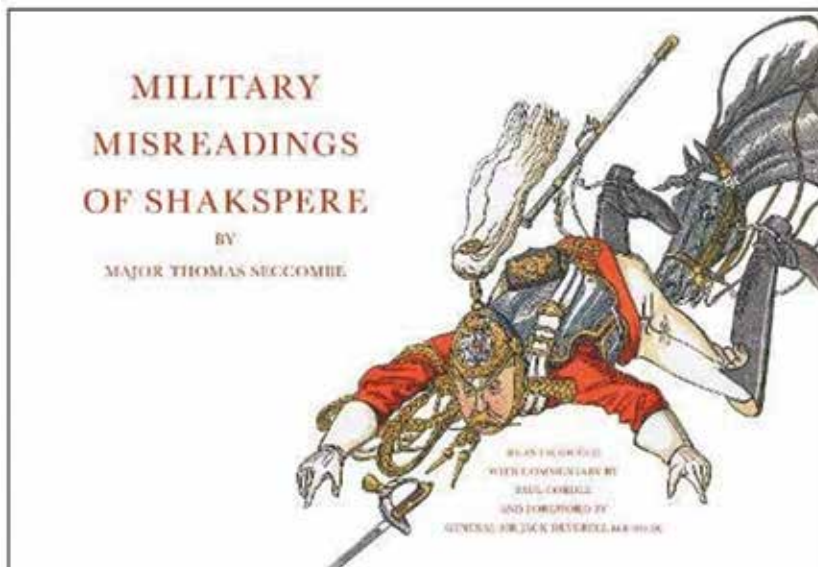
Amongst the books I inherited from my father was a rather eccentric publication linking William Shakespeare with military mishaps. It was a compilation of 31 amusing cartoons each depicting a Shakespeare quotation. So it was a touch of serendipity when my old friend Paul Cordle came to lunch and told us he was embarking on a project to republish this book. 'I have one here' I blurted. Several months later the book has appeared and how handsome it is.

140 years after the original publication Nine Elms have re-published the book with an additional cartoon which was not in each of the original editions. The 32 cartoons are now rearranged in regimental order and they have cleverly added explanations and short historical notes which do much to enhance

the book for modern readers. As the Foreword by General Jack Deverell declares, 'This is a fun book!' and as such is an ideal stocking filler. The situations depicted are illustrated in the style and uniforms of the late 19th Century but could just as easily, with a change of uniform, be transported in time to today. On page 58 is a cartoon of a rifle range and an angry farmer protesting to a young officer of a Volunteer Rifle Corps about a pig which had been shot by one of his volunteers. Whether in error or not is not disclosed but the picture reminded me of Lydd Ranges in 1978 when a Guardsman of mine shot a cow, quite obviously on purpose!

The book includes a helpful appendix explaining the lineage of cavalry regiments but for some reason does not do the same for the infantry, probably because it is so complicated by the multitude of cuts and amalgamations they have suffered since 1880. Nevertheless, *Military Misreadings of Shakspere* is a must for those who enjoy poking fun at the Army and its eccentricities.

Major General Sir Evelyn Webb-Carter



Off the Cluff by Algy Cluff OBE

Locked down at home atop the White Cliffs by Dover, in a house closer than any other on British soil to Europe, some might have expected Algy Cluff, now 80, to have done little over the last few months, apart from watching boat loads of illegal migrants heading our way. He has a vast library to dip into, a collection of twentieth century paintings to enjoy, a vineyard to worry about (he's hoping for an annual yield of 10,000 bottles of English "fizz" from about 2024), a company to run and the Remembrance Trust to manage, all while waiting for his beloved clubs in St James's to re-open. Instead, as well as all the above, Algy has also penned the fourth volume of his memoirs. It has been time well spent.

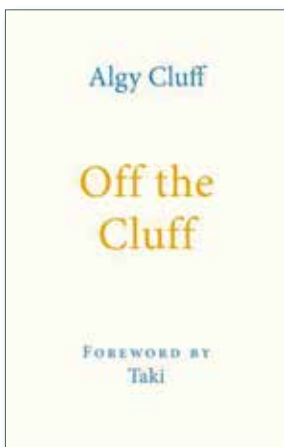
He is a former Grenadier officer and later entrepreneur; he has owned listed companies involved in North Sea oil exploration and, for 30 years, been active in the development of gold in mines in Burkini Faso, Ghana, Tanzania and Zimbabwe; he has lived all over the World and he has met and known many, many people. For five years he was the proprietor of The Spectator, its Chairman for a further twenty and one-time employer of Boris Johnson and many other luminaries. With an introduction by Taki (earlier books were introduced by A.N. Wilson, Simon Heffer and Charles Moore),

Algy continues to write about the extraordinary cast of characters that he has known and all the adventures he has had. With a sprinkling of high jinks, valuable insights and much leg-pulling, Off the Cluff is above all else, great fun. It continues to mine a rich, unique vein of people and places and it will leave you chuckling, wanting more.

Shadowplay: Behind the Lines and Under Fire by Tim Marshall

For those who served with the 1st Battalion in the Balkans in 2004-5, Tim Marshall's illuminating account of how events unfolded as war returned to Europe after nearly 50 years of peace will strike a chord. Drawing on his personal experience as diplomatic editor at Sky News at the time, eyewitness accounts, and interviews with intelligence officials from five countries, Marshall tells a gripping story. This is journalism at its best: behind the lines, under fire and full of the insight.

Twenty years on from the war's end, with the rise of Russian power, a weakened NATO and stalled EU expansion, the events of those days are more relevant than ever, as questions remain about the possibility of conflict on European soil.



War: How Conflict Shaped Us by Professor Margaret MacMillan

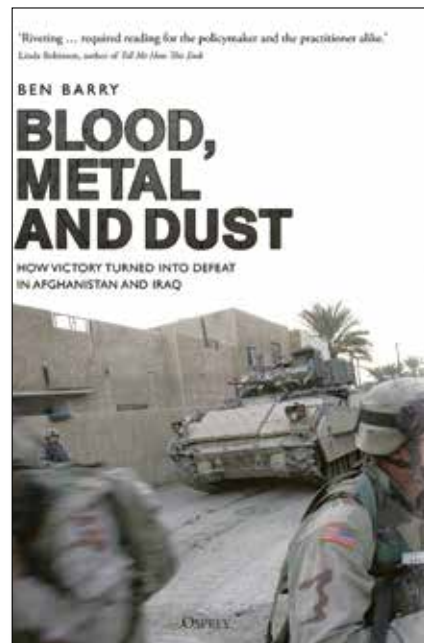
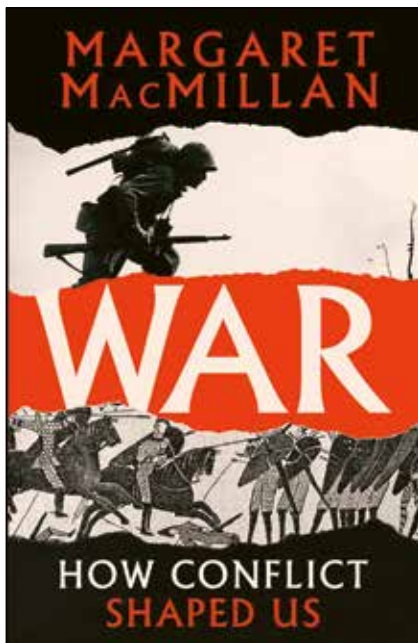
Best known for her books on the First World War and its aftermath, Margaret MacMillan looks at the ways in which war has shaped human history and how, in turn, changes in political organization, technology, or ideologies have affected how and why we fight. The book considers such much-debated and controversial issues as when war first started; whether human nature dooms us to fight each other; why war has been described as the most organized of all human activities and how it has forced us to become still more organized; how warriors are made and why are they almost always men; and how we try to control war.

Drawing on lessons from classical history as well as analysis of modern warfare from all parts of the globe, MacMillan reveals the many faces of war - the way it shapes our past, our views of the world and our future.

Blood, Metal and Dust by Ben Barry

Written by Brigadier Ben Barry, the author of the official British military analysis of the Iraq campaigns, *Blood, Metal and Dust* is an authoritative military history of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. Inextricably linked to the ongoing 'War on Terror', both wars dominated more than a decade of international politics, and their influence is felt to this day.

With in-depth accounts of the operations undertaken by both US and UK forces, Barry explores the wars which shaped today's Middle East, providing a detailed narrative of operations as they unfolded. With unparalleled access to official military accounts and extensive contacts in both the UK and the US militaries, the author is uniquely placed to tell the story of these controversial conflicts, and offers a rounded account of the international campaigns which irrevocably changed the global geopolitical landscape.





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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

Albert Green

by his son, Peter Green



Albert Green in 1946.

My Dad Albert passed away on 21st January 2020 after a short illness. He was cremated at Great Chesterford in his beloved North Essex and, due to COVID restrictions, his ashes were finally laid to rest with Mum in her grave at Arkesden Parish Churchyard on

1st September 2020. A small family group were present on a lovely sunny day accompanied by the song of a blackbird.

Dad was born in Stratford in the East End of London on 30th August 1921. The eldest son of Mark and Louisa he had two brothers and a sister. Times between the Wars were hard but Mark had regular work as a driver for Charrington's Brewery and they all enjoyed a happy family life. Louisa died just before the start of the Second World War and the family started to disperse. Dad and his brother Len joined the Grenadier Guards as regular soldiers whilst youngest brother Ron and sister Rita were evacuated to South Essex.

Mark was very proud to have two sons in the Grenadier Guards and accompanied Dad to the gates of Chelsea Barracks where Dad's army life started in 1941. Because he was over 6ft tall Dad was placed in The King's Company and did early training at Pirbright, Caterham and Windsor. About this time, he stood guard outside the Cabinet War Rooms so saw some of the 'comings and goings'. Specialist training on Salisbury Plain prepared him for war as a Mortarman. He was one of a 4-man team in a Bren Gun Carrier and part of the Guards Armoured Division.

After entering a shell hole on Gold Beach at Arromanches in their carrier and nearly capsizing, he made it into France with his three mates

and stayed with them for the rest of the War. In France, Dad saw action at Cagny, St Charles De Percy, Vernon and Pont-a-Marcq. He was led by Major Nigel Baker MC, our previous Regimental Adjutant's father.

Over 20 Grenadiers fell in the action to liberate Pont-a-Marcq before his Unit moved out through Lessines in Belgium and on to Brussels. Later, Dad fought at Nijmegen and in the Ardennes before moving eastwards through Northern Germany and ending his War at Stade, west of Hamburg. As a member of The King's Company he took part in several Victory Parades in Berlin before returning to the UK to be stationed in Hawick. Here he did Picquet Duty when a guard was mounted for the then Princess Elizabeth.

He then went to Palestine with the 3rd Battalion and, about 12 months later in 1946 he returned to civilian life. When being discharged in Haifa he was encouraged to join the Essex Branch of the Grenadier Guards Association and never regretted the two guineas that his life membership had cost him!

Having first met Mum at a dance whilst on pre-invasion manoeuvres in North Essex they married on Dad's return in 1947. I came along 2 years later. After originally working at Stratford for Yardley Perfumiers he got regular work more locally as a brewer's drayman for Benskins Brewery in Bishops Stortford and continued to work for them and successive owners for over 30 years. He took early retirement when Mum died in 1986.

Around this time, he was contacted by an old Grenadier comrade, Jim Hague of the Yorkshire Branch. Jim and a friend, Bill Leeson had made contact with villagers in Pont-a-Marcq and decided to visit them and commemorate the lives of their regimental colleagues who fell in battle in 1944. Dad joined the group which, with wives in some years numbered up to 30. Major Grant Baker became a great friend of the old Grenadiers who visited Pont-a-Marcq and always did all he could to ensure serving soldiers were present at the commemorations.

As numbers diminished Dad became the last living Grenadier present at the battle for Pont-a-Marcq. The four Mayors he met over the 30 or so

years that he attended the commemorations always called the Grenadiers 'liberators'. As a result of his efforts the Town Mayor in 2012, Daniel Cambier, nominated Dad for the Legion d'Honneur. This was presented to Dad by the French Ambassador, M. H E Bernard Emie, at a ceremony held at the French Embassy in London in the presence of the British Secretary of State for Defence on Bastille Day June 14th 2014.



Albert Green receiving his medal from the French Ambassador, June 14th 2014.

In his presentation speech the Ambassador commended him for 'Always wishing to maintain the duty of remembrance for your brothers-in-arms killed in action, and his human qualities, charisma, humility and kindness which made him an iconic figure in the Grenadier Guards'. This statement really summed up Dad's personality which he displayed particularly when he was talking to the many young serving Grenadiers who visited Pont-

a-Marcq over the years. He was always encouraged by their enthusiasm and positive attitude towards his old regiment.

Dad found great solace in later life from his membership of the Association and attended Essex Branch meetings when he could as well as Black Sunday at Wellington Barracks. Initially he went there to meet old comrades but as the years passed I went with him for support. On 26th June 2013 Dad and I were presented to the Colonel of the Regiment at Wellington Barracks. Dad said that after his wedding day this was the greatest day of his life.

Unfortunately, Black Sunday in 2018 was the last parade he was able to attend as he later suffered a stroke and after some time in a nursing home he died. His cremation at Gt Chesterford was attended by the President of the Grenadier Guards Association, Colonel Richard Aubrey-Fletcher and Major Grant Baker under whose father Dad had served in France in 1944-5. The General Secretary, Major Andy Green, the Branch Chairman and Secretary as well as members of the Essex Branch of the Association. Last Post was played by Lance Corporal Cowley of the Regimental Band. A large group of friends led by Deputy Mayor Sylvain Clement came over from Pont-a-Marcq and Lessines and added to the atmosphere of the service.

Dad's service was a fitting end for an old soldier described by the French Ambassador as an Iconic Grenadier.

CQMS T H Herring

by his son, John Herring

It is with sadness that I have to announce that my Father, Theodore Harry but known as Douglas (he adopted Douglas Charlton's name after he was killed in action, I believe Douglas was a cousin to Bobby & Jackie) passed away at the good age of 95 on 30th March 2020.

He lived as strong as an ox more or less until my Mother died in November 2019 and then it became apparent he had denied failing health until

she passed away. All the same we had expected him home from hospital but he died a week into lockdown having escaped COVID. His motto was spoof Latin with the word asbestos at the end for 'Bugger you Jack I'm fireproof'. I can imagine that may be a common expression amongst Grenadiers.

My Father enlisted on 8th February 1943 at the age of 17, a month before his 18th birthday, his war record shows they had his date of birth about a month earlier than it was. He was posted to Italy on 12th January 1944 and on 9th February was taken prisoner until 9th May 1945.

He served in the Middle East from October 1945 to June 1946 then with the BAOR in Germany from August to November 1946. September 1947 to

August 1948 I think was Suez and then in Malaya from September 1948 to August 1949 where I believe they manned machine guns on trains. May 1951 to February 1954 was spent in the Middle East; my Mother and Sister were with him in Tripoli. From April 1956 to February 1959 he was Port Sergeant in Gibraltar, which I can remember. There is a short documentary of Dad there featuring him conducting the Ceremony of the Keys (see the link below). According to Dad, the officer was Dan Snow's Grandfather. His last posting was in Cyprus from April to July 1959. He left the Regiment on 3rd January 1961.

He was serving with No 2 Company of the 3rd Battalion when he left, but I know he had served in other Battalions too. In 2013 I went with my Father on the Association coach to Her Majesty's Grenadier Day. He was asked which Battalion he served with and it seems he raised some interest when he quoted I think, the 5th Battalion. I felt a little sorry for him that day because he didn't see any of his old comrades although he enjoyed the day.

He always said the photograph below was taken on Princess Margaret's Wedding Day!

The link below is to the short film mentioned above from his time in Gibraltar; the last few minutes' feature Dad and I thought some of your readers might like the chance to see it.

Dad's Funeral was a limited one due to lockdown but we had the full 15 allowed in attendance. He came in to 'The British Grenadiers' and after the Last Post went out to 'Scipio'. His coffin was covered in blue and red flowers.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wEuPRzctZNg>



Theodore Harry 'Douglas' Herring.

William Charles Frederick Marshall 1934 to 2020

by Beverley Crouch with additional input from Bob Goodson, East Kent Branch



Bill Marshall.

William Frederick Marshall will always be known to his friends as **Bill**. He was born on 16th June 1934 in Belvedere, Kent. His father was **George Charles Marshall**, an engineer's fitter and his mother, **Mary**,

was a housekeeper. **Bill** was the youngest and last surviving of 11 siblings - 5 half siblings and 6 full siblings.

Bill attended Bedonwell Hill junior school and Brook Street senior school in Belvedere but being brought up in the war years he had a hard childhood. He had a period of evacuation and recounted that some of his schooling took place in Chislehurst caves.

He was twice married and fathered four sons and a daughter through them. After a second divorce he met **Beverley (Bev)**, his long-standing partner, in 1985 and they spent 35 happy years together.

Bill had what we might describe as a colourful past life. With the wonders of DNA Ancestry, he was very recently found to have another daughter

who he met on one occasion only, a month before he passed away. He lovingly welcomed this new part of his family into his life and lots of family gatherings were hoped for in the future. Sadly, this time of knowing his new family was cut devastatingly short.

The DNA research delighted Bill as it threw up his Scottish Regal connections via a long Scottish lineage. The 15th century held some particularly interesting ancestors. Bill was a direct descendant of **Lord William 4th Earl of Glencairn** and **Lady Margaret Elizabeth Campbell** on one side; and **James III, 2nd Lord Hamilton** and **Mary Stewart**, sister of **King James III** on the other. Recent "hot off the press" ancestry research back to the 11th century indicates that Bill was also a direct descendant of **William the Conqueror**. William it seems, was the family name way back then too. No wonder Bill was such a Royalist and proud to serve the Queen as a Grenadier, it was in his blood!

Bill was a panel maker by trade and did an apprenticeship with Rolls-Royce coachmakers, **James Young** at Bromley. He would regularly recount how car wings were made and how during his working life he crafted many body parts that were required on restoration projects by what is now known as the National Motor Museum at Beaulieu, Hampshire.

In 1952 he enrolled for National Service and joined the Grenadier Guards at Caterham. Although Bill had the odd memory lapse in later life, he could always recite his 22705790 Army number with pride. He continued in National Service for six years until 1958 and could recount some harrowing stories from areas of conflict but also some extremely memorable tales of his involvement with Public Duties including attending **King George VI's** Funeral and **Queen Elizabeth II's** Coronation. For Bill these events were a "typical day at the office". His particular claim to fame was that he was the last Guardsman on sentry outside Buckingham Palace in the days leading up to the Coronation, although there will undoubtedly be many of the "old and bold" who will also lay claim to that honour.

When he left National Service he owned a car repair business called Repanels in Chislehurst



An Australian soldier relieving Guardsman Marshall.

in the early 1960s, followed by Chislehurst Service Station and Red Lodge Garage in the 1970s. Bill can be remembered as the only person to undertake an MOT in sunglasses and a blue velvet jacket. He also went to work in Red Lodge Garage with permed hair –

very fashionable at that time - attired in a three-quarter length fur coat; clearly the Del Boy of West Wickham in those days - sadly there is no photographic evidence of this spectacle!

In the early 1980s, Bill and one of his sons worked together in Bermondsey where they built armoured vehicles for Group 4 Security. In the mid-1980s, Bill turned his hand to kitchen fitting which he did for several years until retirement.

In his retirement he still used to enjoy DIY projects and loved pottering about in his workshop. He also enjoyed motor caravan touring holidays, breaks away at his static caravan, holidays in the South of France and cruise holidays.

Twenty years ago, Bill and Bev attended a concert given by the Band of the Grenadier Guards at the Leas Cliff Hall in Folkestone. Chatting afterwards to members of the East Kent Branch of the Grenadier Guards Association prompted Bill to become a Branch member.

He was an extremely loyal and supportive member and for many years served as, what the Branch termed "Branch Visiting Friend" (Welfare Officer). In that role, he maintained regular contact with many of the Branch's members and widows; especially those who were sick or who were unable to attend meetings or events.

His dedication to the role was exemplary. Even whilst hospitalised himself - shortly before his death - Bill was still contacting other members to

lift their spirits, or find out if there was anything he, or the Association, could do to help them.

He had such a likeable and friendly personality that he forged many enduring friendships over the years.

Bill's National Service and subsequent membership of the Grenadier Guards Association were a large and important part of his life and he loved attending the meetings, outings and events organised by the East Kent Branch. On 15th July 2020 Bill was laid to rest in his Association blazer, grey flannels and Household Division tie which he always wore with enormous pride.

More detail of Bill's work with the East Kent Branch can be found in their Branch report in this Gazette.

Bill loved art and wildlife. He combined these two interests and often became totally absorbed in watercolour art and particularly loved painting images of birds. His love of art also prompted his interest in The Shed Foundation, Hythe in Kent. This Charity was set up in 2016 to provide greater social opportunities for adults with learning disabilities. As well as providing art, craft and woodworking opportunities The Shed also organises many activities and events. Bill loved to visit the clients and watch them paint and demonstrated great care, love and support for clients and staff alike.

Bill liked tinkering with watches and was a volunteer helper for his local Cats Protection Charity Shop. Over the last few years he put hundreds of batteries in watches donated to that charity.

Throughout the whole of their time together Bill and Bev loved going to Boot Fairs on Sunday mornings. They were usually amongst the early



Bill Marshall – new stamp promotion, June 2005

birds arriving before 7am and they filled the car with bargains. Bill built up a good tool collection from his boot fair snips although a lot of the resulting clutter then had to be resold at another Boot Fair in due course!

Bill suffered ill-health for many years but with particular problems affecting his mobility over the final 18 months of his life. He was a fighter and bounced back from many illnesses but sadly he did not have enough strength to fight Coronavirus which he contracted during his last hospitalisation. His illnesses over the last 6 months of his life, in particular, caused him significant pain so we must be thankful that he is now at peace and free of pain.

He was a friendly, likeable, larger than life character who touched so many lives and he will be remembered and sadly missed by everyone who had the privilege to know him.

Diary of My Coast to Coast Challenge in Aid of The Colonel's Fund (It's Just Around the Corner) 2nd – 17th September 2020

by Matthew Ellmer –
Regimental Casualty Officer

Back in 2018, Andy Green and I decided to take regular wellbeing breaks in the form of walking in the Lake District. It was during one of these breaks that we agreed to undertake a future challenge; complete Alfred Wainwright's (AW) Coast to Coast (C2C) Walk of 192 miles from St Bees on the West Coast of Cumbria to Robin Hood's Bay on the East Coast of North Yorkshire. In preparation and for the following two years we trekked many a mile and climbed a few mountains too.



Leaving from Matt's on 1st September.

From March 2020 we were hit with the COVID epidemic and so, like any good soldiers, we adapted our training in line with Government guidelines and started to meet for longer and more challenging walking days. At the back of our minds however was the threat of the closure of Hotels, B and B's and Pubs along our route that we were planning

to use for our overnight stops. Thankfully we were lucky and apart from a couple of enforced changes our plan remained intact. Andy and I travelled to St Bees on Tuesday 1st September for an overnight stay and the first of many calorific suppers in preparation for day one.



Vital First Line Supplies.

Before supper and with the necessary preparation of kit complete, we went for a walk to the start point down by the beach and found ourselves looking a little nervously at the C2C information board. We both felt anxious but ready, discussed the first big hurdle of the Lake District on our way back into the town and above all hoped we would avoid injury of any type. An awful lot of kind and generous people had already donated to our cause.

At 0900 hrs on **Day 1**, Wednesday 2nd September and after what was to become a regular large helping of porridge and a 'Full English,' we took our first step of thousands and began our journey.



Where it all started by the beach at St Bees.

On a very wet and windy day (with mandatory pebbles from the beach on board), we headed north along the coast towards St Bees Head Lighthouse before for the first time, turning right and heading properly east. The going underfoot was not too bad but the day became wetter and windier. Apart from at the start point, we did not encounter many other walkers on our route to Ennerdale Bridge where we arrived at 1615hrs having covered 17.54 miles (37,037 steps) as measured by my GPS.

more about this gentleman shortly. Our 16.5 mile route was completed in 8.5 hrs and added another 33,897 steps to our total.

Alexander was approaching his 80th birthday and asked to join us in order to help raise money for The Colonel's Fund. I had the honour of walking much of this day with him and we spoke at length about our wounded and bereaved and the work that I do on behalf of the Regiment to support them. I told him that when I was a Junior Guardsman in 1984 I had to learn and remember his name as he was then the Commanding Officer of the 1st Battalion and it was one of the questions that was asked on the Adjutant's Drill Inspection.



On our way to Ennerdale Bridge.



Black Sail – the most remote Youth Hostel in England.

The owner of the Shepherds Arms Hotel took our waterproofs and boots and placed them in the drying room. After routine admin we tucked into a good old fashioned homemade steak and ale pie and washed it down with a couple pints of Guinness, our drink of choice and we were convinced, medically beneficial.

Day 2 was our first real Lake District leg and would end at Seatoller. We were joined for the day by Colonel Richard Aubrey-Fletcher and Lieutenant Colonel Alexander Heroys -



The start of Day 2, Andy, Richard, Alexander and Matt.

Never did I imagine that 36 years later I would be walking along the north shore of Ennerdale Water, lunching at Black Sail Youth Hostel, climbing Loft Beck and then descending steeply to our destination via the Honister Slate Mine with this man; I felt inspired. He had trained hard back home in Wiltshire, and through his hard work and determination managed to complete a challenging day and personally raise with family and friends, over £2,500 for our cause. We were grateful too for the supply of Mars Bars he had managed to pack in his kit – enough it seemed to stock a small NAAFI shop! Richard was excellent company too, but then again he always is.



Descending to Seatoller

During our lunch break at Black Sail we were also joined by my sister Stephanie and her walking partner Jim. We had walked with them both before during training trips to the Lakes over the previous few years. Their company, expertise and local knowledge had been and was to prove later, very beneficial indeed. Having had a beer or two sat outside the Glaramara Hotel before Steph and Jim left us and with admin complete we enjoyed dinner and a Guinness with Richard and Alexander. We said thank you and goodbye to them after breakfast the following day.

It was just Andy and I for **Day 3**. Another 12.5 miles and 26,131 steps covered in 8.5 hrs would see another challenging day end at Grasmere. Blessed with good weather to start with the rain soon came as we started to climb up through the valley by Greenup Gill passing Eagle Crag to Greenup Edge. The climb took us 3.5 hrs and included a short scramble up Lining Crag. On the way up we met a chap called Stuart who was from Wigan and walking solo. He had chosen to complete the C2C in four day sections. As the weather closed in he asked to walk with us as he was not feeling too confident with his navigation.

After a lunchbreak the three of us set off in the mist and rain and over very boggy ground. A while later we came to the head of the valley which led down into Grasmere. It was at this point that I had convinced myself I would be able to see Grasmere. From the map it seemed to be 'just around the corner' but as with many points before we would finish, it was not to be. Morale dropped but quickly lifted as we began a 3 hr descent. At the bottom we said goodbye to Stuart and at 1800 hours arrived at our hotel, The Inn at Grasmere. Admin, three courses, Guinness and bed.



Descent Complete – Left to Right: Matt, Steph, Andy, Jim, Richard and Alexander.



Meeting our company for Day 4 just north of Grasmere, Left to Right: Matt, Josh, Steph, Andy and Jim.

For **Day 4** we welcomed Josh Tuicicia one of the wounded that I support, my sister Steph and Jim. We had 10.65 miles and 22,402 steps ahead of us which we completed in 6 hrs. The weather was fresh with rain at times, but it was a good days walk. We began with a long pull up to Grisedale Tarn which was almost mirrored by the long descent into Patterdale.

On the way down Jim showed us the 'Brothers Parting Stone' where the poet William Wordsworth and his sister Dorothy spent their last days together with their brother John who was a Ship's Captain. Later John's ship sadly sunk in a storm and as this was the last place that the siblings had been together, William later wrote about it and a plaque was placed on a rock near to the Tarn.



The descent from Grisedale Tarn to Patterdale.

In Patterdale we stayed at the Old Water View B & B where AW himself stayed when planning this route. Steeped in history and on the back of a very warm welcome we enjoyed a pleasant evening and a very good supper (with Guinness) at 'Fellbites' just up the road in Glenridding. We were advised it was a 30 minute walk to the restaurant or five minutes in a taxi; we enjoyed the taxi ride – there and back.

We anticipated **Day 5** was to be a long one and so it proved – with bells on. We started after an early breakfast and completed our most challenging day in 13.5 hours covering 20.63 miles and racking up another 43,389 steps. Having climbed to the lovely Angle Tarn in fair conditions the weather started to change. It became wet and windy as we continued

round The Knott and towards Kidsty Pike, the highest point of the C2C walk. The changes kept coming and soon the cloud started to roll up the valley. I turned to Andy and told him it was time to get our waterproofs on and within five minutes we couldn't see more than a couple of metres.

My GPS was switched on and with map, helped guide us to the summit. During this time, we assisted a couple who were having difficulty with their navigation and a group of equally challenged students to the summit of the Pike. No sooner had we summited than the weather started to clear. Over the next hour the sun burnt through leaving us with a warm but tricky descent down to Haweswater. At times we were on our backsides negotiating a difficult route through the rocks.

Haweswater we had been warned, would take longer to put behind us than a quick glance at the map might have suggested - and it did. Towards its end we met up once more with my sister, Steph who marvelously helped navigate us via Shap Abbey and on to Shap, our overnight stop where we had planned to arrive before nightfall. However, with the bad weather and conditions we were behind schedule and finally made it in the dark at 2115 hrs. Although tired we had a very pleasant surprise in that we found Captain Scott Roughley at the King's Arms along with Nick Rowe and two friends of mine from home - Dave and Sharon Crossley. We helped ourselves to Guinness and the food that Scott and been out to get for us – the pub restaurant had closed.



The start of Day 6 - Matt, Scott, Andy and Nick.

Day 6 from Shap to Orton was a relatively short one but the weather was horrendous. 9.65 miles and 20,535 steps which was completed in 4.75 hrs. Scott and Nick walked with us in the strong wind and heavy rain. We were rewarded for our efforts by the welcome afforded to us by Bronagh at The George, a very friendly pub, good food and very good Guinness. A real bonus was that Steph turned up too with clean washing that she had extracted from us in Shap. We were not to see her again until the end of our journey but what fantastic support she had given us.

Day 7 saw us negotiate the 13.72 miles and 28,981 steps from Orton to Kirkby Stephen in 6.75 hrs with Scott for company once again. Sunny and dry initially but it soon changed when the mist closed in and it began to rain. We re-routed slightly into the village of Ravenstonedale for a break and much to our surprise around the corner came former Colour Sergeant Mark Mitchell and his wife Karen. We hadn't seen Mitch for over 10 years, so a good catch up and after the obligatory selfie we set off again. Only 10 minutes Mitch said - and it probably was in his car! We made Kirkby Stephen at 1545 hrs and after all the usual admin we walked up the road to The Mango Tree for a really nice

curry and Cobra.

Day 8 saw us say farewell to Scott Roughley who had to return south for work. Kirkby Stephen to Keld added 13.47 miles and 28,651 to our endeavor and took us 7 hrs. Andy and I walked alone on a day that started cold and overcast but cleared up nicely later. A long climb past a quarry and the cairns of Nine Standards Rigg over Hartley Fell and into Swaledale and the small village of Keld. Keld was a prominent stopover as it marked the half way point of the C2C; we had walked 101.14 miles and 241,023 steps.

Keld to Reeth in Upper Swaledale on **Day 9** amounted to 14.14 miles and 29,913 steps, covered in 7.5 hrs. Enroute in Gunnerside we met up once again with Nick Rowe who had cycled there on his mountain bike. We had a break for lunch there before continuing on to Reeth. One of the abiding memories of this days walking will forever be the seemingly endless number the gates and styles we had to negotiate - I lost count at about 30, many of them proving to be quite a tight squeeze for us both. During our evening in Reeth we met with former WO2 Pete Brown for supper before heading back to our guesthouse. Pete lives in Brompton-On-Swale, had driven over specially to see us and how nice it was to see him too.

For the next leg to Richmond (12.36 miles and 26,392 in 6 hours) we enjoyed the marvelous company of Lieutenant Colonel Stumpy Keeley the Staff Quartermaster at ITC Catterick and Lieutenant Colonel Paul Mort (PARA) who is the OC of Phoenix House Recovery Centre, Catterick. Stumpy stayed at Catterick for the weekend in order to support us. During a very pleasant days walk I took the opportunity to have a good chat with Paul about the Recovery Centre as well as having some good Guards -

PARA banter; check pouches Matthew! That Friday evening, we thoroughly enjoyed our second curry eating at the Amontola with Stumpy and Paul. It is



Our surprise but very welcome meeting with Mark Mitchell.



Arriving in Richmond, Left to Right: Matt, Andy, Paul Mort and Stumpy Keeley.

for the whole leg. Colonel James took time out of his busy schedule to support us and enjoy a lovely days walking. I took the opportunity to talk a lot of 'shop' which I hope was as beneficial to him as it was to me. Colonel Keeley kindly turned up at the end of the leg in 'Blue Thunder' to return Colonel James to Catterick. There was no overnight accommodation available in Danby Wiske due to the Coronavirus epidemic so we had a pre-booked taxi take us to North Allerton and return us in the morning. That evening we had supper with Charlie Bennett and his wife Jo. Charlie recently took over as a Regimental Trustee and is Chairman of the Colonel's Fund Steering Group.

Danby Wiske to Ingleby Cross, our **Day 12** leg was 9.98 miles and 21,019 steps which we completed in 5.5 hrs. We were joined by Charlie and Jo, the first of three days we would enjoy their splendid and very generous company. John Hodson a former 1st and 2nd Battalion man provided further great company on this leg. It was a great days walk and



Our company for Day 11 – Lieutenant Colonel James Greaves.

a place that I regularly used whilst working at the ITC myself.

Day 11 from Richmond to Danby Wiske amounted to 14.28 miles, 29,984 steps and was completed in 6.5hrs. We had the great pleasure of the company of the Commanding Officer of the 1st Battalion, Lieutenant Colonel James Greaves who joined us



The Farmer's Fridge.

included a stop at the 'Farmer's Fridge' - famous amongst C2C walkers.

So to **Day 13** - Ingleby Cross to Clay Bank Top, 14.10 miles and 30,187 steps which we completed in 8.5hrs. It proved to be a sunny, very warm day that started with a long climb up through some pleasant woods before taking on some rolling hills and moorland, quite an atmospheric area. We

were treated to a Mars Bar ice cream and Coca Cola at the half way point and in the evening enjoyed supper at The Buck Inn, Chop Gate. Our accommodation that night was given free of charge by the proprietor, a German gentleman and great supporter of our military.

Day 14 saw us walk from Clay Bank Top to Blakey Ridge, some 9.90 miles and 21,332 steps which we completed in 5 hrs. We were not only joined again by Charlie and Jo but also Major Tim Breitmeyer, a former Recce Platoon Commander of Andy's and Clive and Paula Arthurton, Clive is the consultant accountant to RHQ. Sadly, Charlie and Jo had to leave us at the half way point as they needed to get back for a family birthday; they had been delightful company. The day was dry and hot and with some of the route following an old railway line across the North York Moors. Our accommodation for the evening was the isolated Lion Inn.



Left to Right: Clive, Paula, Matt, General Roly and Kate, Juliet, Andy and Brigadier David.

We then continued our walk with Clive and Paula arriving ahead of time at The Horseshoe Hotel only to find that they hadn't reserved a room for us! A frantic search by the owner for local accommodation fell short and an exchange of views followed. I took myself out of the heat and managed to find accommodation in Robin Hood's Bay, our final destination. Without Clive and Paula there to help I'm not quite sure how we would have managed as we did.

Day 16 from Egton Bridge to Robin Hood's Bay began as Robin Hood's Bay back to Egton Bridge



Round Hill Trig Point, Left to Right: Matt, Tim, Clive, Jo, Andy, Paula and Charlie.

Day 15 from Blakey to Egton Bridge, 12.49 miles and 25,816 steps was completed in 6 hrs. Our penultimate day was given a great boost as we were joined by the Regimental Lieutenant Colonel, General Roly Walker and his wife Kate along with Brigadier David Maddan and his wife Juliet. Initially misty and wet (so no pressure on my navigation in such company then) visibility gradually improved and the rain eased. Sadly, General Roly and Brigadier David had to leave us at around half way due to work commitments, so their transport was called forward. Probably the only time that I could get away with saying "You're getting into the jack wagon then Sir".



Heading towards Grosmont, Left to Right: Matt, Leon, 'Frank', Alex, and Andy.

courtesy of Clive and Paula who were then to leave us to head south to complete their short holiday. Looking forward to 19.52 miles and 41,097 steps over a final 10hrs, we were joined by Alex Harrison and Leon Stokes, two of our wounded veterans that we support. Tony Golden, a former Grenadier who served in the 1970's came to wave us off and then later in the day joined us for the last couple of miles – more good company.

The day was long, hot and had its challenging moments. Late in the afternoon the coast came into view - a relief but we knew we still had a couple of hours of walking left. We followed the coastal path south until we came to the edge of Robin Hood's bay itself; the end was in sight. Through the town we walked and down the road until we came to a very steep hill. We knew we had to walk down it in order to be able to dip our toes into the sea and complete our walk.

We also knew we had to walk back up it to our accommodation, AW up to his old tricks again! As I walked around the bend at the bottom of the hill I suddenly heard the dulcet tones of Mrs Averil Ellmer, my wife who along with my sister Steph and members of the Yorkshire Branch had formed a welcome party to see us home.

All of a sudden emotion took over and I must confess to a tear or two, we had done it. 221.43 miles by my reckoning and 466,763 steps across the Lake District, the Yorkshire Dales and the North York Moors with many a rest stop or final destination seemingly 'Just Around The Corner'. AW had certainly set a stiff but ultimately enjoyable and rewarding challenge.

I learnt a lot about myself and came to appreciate the generosity of many, many people. Along the way we met other walkers whose company, drive and determination was admirable and will not be forgotten. I have also learnt that AW has a slightly different way of measuring distance and when he describes a walk as 'pleasant and steady', the reality can be somewhat different.

There were tough days, Patterdale to Shap was especially so and the last day was hard going. I have reflected on these 16 days since being home and can safely say that I have enjoyed my experience and would recommend it to anyone.

So, we started this walk with the aim of finishing it and raising £15k to help the injured soldiers and bereaved families of the Regiment. Not only did we reach it we went well beyond and £25K will now be closer to the mark.

Thank you to my walking partner, throughout our training and our C2C challenge we never shared a cross word. More importantly to everyone who made a donation, I see first-hand and on a daily basis the positive effect that The Colonel's Fund has on our wounded and bereaved. Because of it I can and will continue to support our Grenadiers and their families.



ENDEX and a job well done.

Persons Named Goodson Who Served in The Grenadier Guards

*Compiled and with a Foreword by Bob
Goodson, East Kent Branch*

I am 24440189 Goodson RC, Grenadier Guards and I served in the British Army from 1976 until my discharge in 2002. During that time, I served in the British Army of the Rhine (what was West Germany on three separate tours), Cyprus, Kenya, London, Northern Ireland on three separate tours and in other parts of the UK and around the world. My final rank was Warrant Officer Class 2 and I completed my military service whilst serving on what was termed the Long Service List.

Throughout my service and subsequently, I have searched for other Grenadiers named Goodson, but never found any. This led me to the belief that I was the only Goodson that ever served in the Grenadier Guards.

However, thanks to the power of the Internet, I recently discovered the record of 5706 Guardsman Joseph Goodson, proving that I am not alone in the Regimental archives. Subsequent searches have discovered perhaps four other men that served in the Grenadier Guards with the Goodson surname and who are listed on the Forces War Records website (www.forces-war-records.co.uk).

As I am currently unwilling to subscribe to the £8.95 monthly or £48.95 yearly fees of the Forces War Records website (supposedly discounted by 50% of the usual fee), I conduct my own detective work.

I suggest that the G Goodson and J Goodson (1902) records are perhaps one and the same person and that records for those listings were perhaps

duplicated and factually account for the service life of just one man (G Goodson) who perhaps served 1899 (or earlier) to 1902 (or later).

The 5706 (1899) record for Lance Corporal G Goodson is undoubtedly 5706 Joseph Goodson who was killed in late 1899 whilst fighting in the 2nd Boer War. Typographic and writing/reading mistakes are easy to make – especially in those days. I myself was always listed in the Regimental Nominal Roll, of the early editions of the Grenadier Gazette (1977 to the early 1980's), as P Goodson, when it should have been R Goodson. As I rose through the ranks, I was able to have that mistake corrected in future publications of our most excellent Gazette.

I therefore focus on Joseph Goodson and dwell on the record found on the Herts Police Historical website (<https://www.hertspastpolicing.org.uk/>). All credit to those records are afforded to Paul Watts and Mick Hall (Herts Past Policing) who researched and wrote the original article.

To my knowledge, Joseph Goodson is no direct relation to me, I replicate that record here (with permission) as it is not only a most interesting article of great Regimental and historical record, but goes to disprove my claim that I am the only person who served in the Regiment and who bore the Goodson surname – albeit I can smugly still brag that I am still the only Goodson since the early 20th century; so my boastfulness still holds some credit – until someone can prove me wrong.

JOSEPH GOODSON

Police Constable 205, Guardsman 5706 Grenadier Guards, Credit: Paul Watts and Mick Hall (Herts Past Policing).

Early Life

Joseph Goodson was born on 4th October 1877 in Great (Much) Hadham and was baptised on the 9th December 1877 at Much Hadham.

First Name	Surname	Service Number	Rank	Record Year	Unit
Robert (Bob)	Goodson	24440189	WO2	1976	Grenadier Guards
G	Goodson			1900	Grenadier Guards
G	Goodson			1902	Grenadier Guards
G	Goodson	5706	LCpl	1899	Grenadier Guards
J	Goodson			1902	Grenadier Guards



Credit: Here's Police Historical Society

Joseph Goodson Death Announcement.

His father Henry, an agricultural labourer, was born about 1835 in Little Hadham. Henry married Emily Perry, born in 1836 at Bishops Stortford on the 28th November 1858 in Bishops Stortford, they had a son named Henry William Goodson in 1860. Sadly, Emily died in 1861 aged 25 years.

Henry remarried in 1862 again at Bishops Stortford to Elizabeth Warwick, who was born in 1836 at Little Hadham. Sadly, Elizabeth died in March 1876 aged 40 at Little Hadham.

Henry married again in September 1876 at Bishops Stortford to Eliza Perry, who was born in 1845 at Little Hallingbury. Eliza already had five children: Charles born 1860, William 1863, Edward 1864, Alexander 1869 and Mary Ann born 1870. Henry and Eliza had just the one child which was Joseph.

They lived in Much Hadham and in the census returns of 1881 and 1891 Joseph was shown as a scholar and then, like his father, as an agricultural labourer.

Early Army Service

On 8th August 1895 Joseph enlisted as 4875 in the Militia, the 3rd Battalion, Essex Regiment and he supplied the following details: He said he was born in Much Hadham, Bishops Stortford and at the time of his enlistment he was living in Stanstead Parish, Bishops Stortford. He gave his age as 17 years 11 months and his trade as labourer. He was not an apprentice and he was employed by a Mr Knight of Bishops Stortford. He was single and had no children. He had never been sentenced to prison and had no previous Military Service.

He was physically examined at Warley on 9th August 1895 and found to be fit for the Militia. He was described as appearing to be age 17 years 6 months, 5 feet 9 ½ inches tall, weight 128lbs,

minimum chest 34 inches expansion maximum 36 inches, with a fresh complexion, blue eyes, brown hair and a scar on his upper lip. He gave his religion as Church of England.

His Record of Service shows that he had 49 day's drill on enlistment but nothing else until on 13th February 1896 he transferred to the Grenadier Guards.

His Grenadier Guards Service Record confirms that on 13th February 1896 he enlisted as Private 5706. He signed up for Short Service of 3 years with the Colours and 9 in the reserve. He supplied the following detailed information: he confirmed he was a British subject born in Great Hadham, Bishops Stortford and that his age was now 18 years 4 months. He was still an unapprenticed labourer and had not lived away from his father's home in the last 3 years. He was still unmarried and still had never been sentenced to prison. He declared that he previously served in the Army with the 3rd Essex Regiment.

He was medically examined in London and his description was again recorded. The only differences to when he joined the Militia were that his age was now physically equivalent to 19 years, he had put on 5 lbs and he had distinctive moles on his right arm and abdomen. He gave his father Henry of Great Hadham as his next of kin.

From 13th February 1896 until 27th September 1897 he served at 'Home' initially in the 3rd Battalion. However, by 28th September 1897, when he was posted to Gibraltar, he had been transferred to the 1st Battalion. On 13th February 1898, two years after enlisting, he was granted his first Good Conduct pay rise.

On 28th April 1898, he wrote out and signed a declaration that he accepted to come under the conditions of the new Regulations as to the grant of Messing Allowance.

Egypt and The Sudan

He remained in Gibraltar until 18th July 1898 when with the rest of the Battalion, he was sent to Egypt. He then took part in what was called the Nile Expedition and was subsequently awarded the 1898 Queens Sudan Medal and the Khedives Medal (although not shown on his record he would have been eligible for the Khartoum Clasp).

He returned 'Home' on 8th October 1898 and continued to serve until 13th July 1899 whereupon he was placed in the 1st Class Army Reserve.

It is probable that even before he went onto the reserve he would have been on leave and may well have been appointed as a Constable in the Hertford County Constabulary before that date.

Police Service

His Police Service Record has not survived and his date of appointment is not known. However, it is known that he was Constable 205 stationed in E Division at Hitchin.

Marriage

Joseph's marriage certificate shows that on 11th September 1899 at St. Mary's Church Hitchin, Joseph Goodson a Constable and bachelor age 22 living in Hitchin, whose father Henry Goodson was a Gardener, married Elizabeth Constance Goodrum, a spinster aged 23 from Richmond Surrey, whose father was George Abraham Goodrum, a Stone Mason.

Recall To The Army And The Boer War

Joseph's Army Service Record shows though that his fledgling Police career, and his marriage, were cut short as on 9th October 1899 he was 'Recalled to Army Service under Special Army Order of 7th October 1899' and posted as a Private in the 3rd Battalion Grenadier Guards. His wife Elizabeth was now recorded as his next of kin and she had apparantly returned to the family home at 12 Lorne Cottages, Albert Road, Richmond, Surrey.

On 21st October 1899, Joseph was sent to South Africa to take part in the South African Campaign or 2nd Boer War. On the 13th November 1899 he was appointed a Lance Corporal.

The final entry shown on his Service Record is for 23rd November 1899 when he was recorded as having been killed in action at Belmont. He was later posthumously awarded the South African medal and Clasp for Belmont.

Joseph's name appeared in the casualty list published in the London Evening Standard on Monday 27th November 1899.

Joseph was buried in the military cemetery at Hopetown on the Orange River. His remains were



Grenadier names on Memorial to British Soldiers Killed 1899-1902. West End Cemetery, Kimberley, South Africa.

later reinterred in West End Cemetery, Kimberley and his name appears on the memorial there.

(NOTE: The Goodson name is recorded as Pte – when we know Joseph was promoted to Lance Corporal by the time of death, and with the initial C. Perhaps the letter J was mistakenly read in reverse at the time the stone was carved or the initial was written incorrectly on the list that would have been submitted to the stone masons?)

Police General Order 27 of the 27th November 1899 announced Joseph's death as follows: The Chief Constable regrets to announce the death in action at Belmont, South Africa on Thursday 23rd November of Private J. Goodson 1st Btn. Grenadier Guards, Police Constable 205 in this force. Signed: Henry Daniell Lt. Colonel Chief Constable of Herts.

Assistance For War Widows

(Abridged) Published in *The Scotsman* on Saturday 2nd December 1899 under the headline *The Daily Telegraph And The Scotsman Shilling Fund For Our Soldier's Widows And Orphans*: The Daily Telegraph of yesterday says: Several most interesting cases of widows, as a rule with children, are occupying the attention of the administration department of this fund. Their claims arise from the battles in which Lord Methuen has been engaged. We are still waiting for the relief of Ladysmith to bring the Natal casualty list to date. It must also

be recollected that the regiments under Sir George White were sent from India, and, in some instances, the widows created by fatalities to their husbands are still at Allahabad, and cannot be assisted by the Daily Telegraph until their return to this country.

The fund is enabling the widow of Private T Chadwick, of the 1st Battalion Scottish Rifles, who died at Cape Town a few days ago, to open a Post Office Savings Bank account, and the initial stage of assistance was taken yesterday in another instance, that of Mrs Elizabeth Goodson, the widow of Private Joseph Goodson, killed at Belmont, on the 23rd inst. He was a reservist in the 3rd Battalion Grenadier Guards under Lord Methuen, and the claim of his widow is recommended to us by the Rev H C Squires, MA, Holy Trinity Vicarage, Richmond. This gentleman remarks: "This case is an especially distressing one. The young couple were only married on September 2 last; when the husband had secured what was apparently permanent employment with very good chances of promotion. The young widow has no means of support and no one to whom she can look for assistance, her own mother being a widow in indigent circumstances." This applicant has received relief from no other fund.

Today's Daily Telegraph states that the fund now stands at 1,311,543 Shillings, of which £1226.11s was received yesterday. The next list of subscriptions received at the offices of The Scotsman will be published on Monday.

There are two other documents which exist, one a letter dated 10th January 1906 in which Elizabeth Goodson gives her address as 1 Burrator Villas, Durrington, Salisbury, Wiltshire, and confirms that she was married to Joseph, and the second is a receipt, dated 12th January 1906, for one campaign medal and one clasp for the South Africa Campaign issued to 5706 Private J Goodson which is signed by Elizabeth and gives the same address.

Joseph and Elizabeth had no children and by early 1901 Elizabeth had in fact remarried to a James Flynn. According to the 1911 census they were still living in Durrington and had three children. James was an Army Canteen Manager.

An Extract From The Diary Of Grenadier Guardsman George Frederick Watts

George Watts was three years older than Joseph Goodson and had already been in the Grenadier Guards for four years before Joseph enlisted. They were both in the 1st Battalion, both went to Gibraltar at the same time and then on to Egypt and the Sudan War. They returned home together but whereas Joseph was transferred to the reserve in February 1899 George Watts did so in the May.

Whilst Joseph joined the Hertford County Constabulary George Watts joined the London Dock Police (he was later to serve 25 years in the Metropolitan Police). Both men were recalled to the Colours on the same date and both joined the 3rd Battalion, Grenadier Guards and both travelled to South Africa at the same time.

Joseph is not mentioned by name in George Watts' diary but there is a chance they could have known each other. In South Africa, the roll of the 3rd Battalion shows that George Watts was in Number One Company whilst Joseph was in Number Three.

From the diary Joseph Goodson and George Watts sailed from Southampton on 21st October 1899 aboard *SS Goorkhar* travelling via Gibraltar (where they collected the rest of the Regiment) and Tenerife before arriving at Cape Town on 15th November. They then travelled 'up country' by train.

The Extract Begins

(punctuation etc. is as per the record in George's diary)

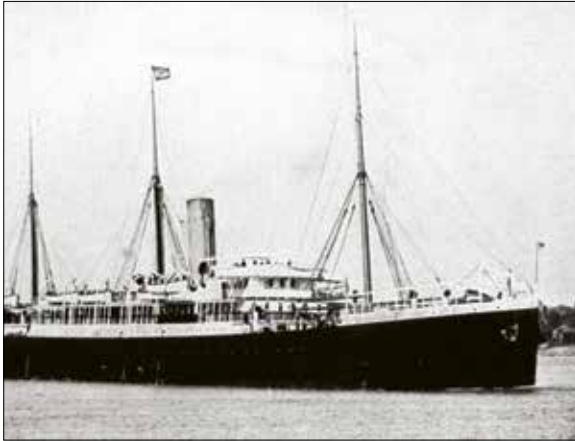
20th November 1899: Marched out in force to find the Boers but came in alright we are dyeing all our kits khaki colour and making all bright things so as they won't shine.

21st November 1899: Reveille at 3 a.m. and marched off at 4 a.m. went about 12 miles and arrived at Split Farm and camped for the night.

Belmont

22nd November 1899: Marched to Belmont Station and camped for the night the Boers are on the hills in front of us, we can see their fires and are told we shall have to take their position at the point of the bayonet in the morning not much sleep.

23rd November 1899: Reveille at 3 a.m. told not to make a noise the Brigade marched off in the



The SS Goorkhar.

dark just afterwards and arrived at the railway and then advanced in fighting order Grenadiers leading and my company on the right we came in sight of Gun Hill and advanced steadily for about 1 hour and came within 500 yards of the hill when the enemy opened a hot fire on us they were fighting for all they were worth 2 or 3 of our chaps dropped but none of my company (No.1) until we got to 100 yards of the hill and then we got the order to charge we had our bayonets already fixed my chum Brian O'Bierne was the first killed shot through the head and then nearly all the company was hit before we got to the top David St. John and Corporal Frazer

were both shot together on the top of the hill they were lying on top of each other dead I took a Boer blanket and covered them over, the enemy cleared out and dived into some *kopjes* opposite we never had enough mounted men to catch them so we just put a few shells into them, our adjutant was shot by a Boer who holding a white flag in his hand we lost 2 officers and 24 NCO's and men killed and about 150 wounded I and about a dozen more after it was over stopped and collected the dead and bandaged some of the wounded. I bandaged Lieutenant Leslie who was shot in the thigh but it was not much good for he died the same night we went back to the old camp and joined our companies the RAMC brought the dead and sent the wounded to hospital everyone was excited in camp about the fight the officers killed were Lieutenants Fryer, Blundell and Leslie. The Colonel was wounded and ½ dozen more officers including Lieutenant Travers of my company. Private Ball and myself carried the dead to the grave and all hands turned out for the funeral the dead all turned black and smelled very bad, lying in the sun too long I smelt the stink for several days afterwards we turned in for sleep at dark.

24th November 1899: Parade and addressed by General Lord Methuen he said we had done well and made a good speech marched off at 3 p.m. and went about 5 miles and camped for the night.

Local History and Lockdown with a Dirty Grenade

by 24417868 'Fingers' Worsfold

The COVID - 19 pandemic I think, has greatly affected us all and being effectively in Open Arrest we have all had to find ways to pass the time.

Being something of an amateur historian, I have been contributing to a book being written by a dear friend about Cobham during WW2. I had already provided him with numerous stories for his earlier publication regarding WW1. It has meant we've

both been doing a lot of local historical research.

Our then small village in WW1 suffered 93 men lost, of which 3 were Grenadiers. Losses in WW2 were thankfully far fewer with only 47 fallen, only one of which was a Grenadier, **Guardsman L Christmas**. He was mortally



Cobham's Avenue of Remembrance.

wounded in the arduous campaign through Italy and buried in a CWGC cemetery out there. Given this Grenadier connection, I was therefore, pleased to have been invited to represent the local chamber of commerce at a recent rededication of the Avenue of Remembrance in Cobham. (Guardsman Christmas, I understand, served in North Africa with another indomitable Grenadier known throughout the Association for his sterling service, the late Len Bozeat MM).

Unlike most villages and towns throughout the UK, Cobham does not have the usual War Memorial found elsewhere. Instead there is a War Memorial Chapel in the nearby parish church of St Andrews. Here the Book of Remembrance may be found listing all those who fell in both World Wars. Interestingly the wood parquet floor of this chapel is made from the salvaged butts of WW1 rifles.

Following WW2 the local population felt that something more accessible and visible should be created. The local Cobham WI set about organising and planting an avenue of cherry trees on an area known as the Tilt. There were 47 trees planted. Each one dedicated to an individual and each tree with that individual's name plate hung on it.

Sadly over the years the name plates have been lost and a number of the trees have withered and died. To counter this and to keep the memories alive a plinth listing the fallen was erected nearby.

However the remaining trees continued to be lost and it was finally decided that the best course of action was to replace all the trees and clean up the setting. So with the aid of the local Borough Council all the trees were replaced, the compacted ground repaired, new name plates were made and a service of rededication organised. The ground along the avenue was even sown, by the local junior school, with poppy seeds to make the whole setting



Memorial Plinth near the Avenue of Remembrance.

even more poignant.

It was to this location that I too felt I should pay my respects on Black Sunday, as there was to be no parade on Horse Guards. So, suited and booted, on a sunny Sunday, with a recording of the Regimental Collect, Last Post and Reveille on my iPhone I paraded, and held my own, Black Sunday Service of Remembrance.

Continuing the local theme, I was also invited to another Service of Remembrance at the nearby Brooklands Museum where equally suited and booted I attended as a representative of my local Association Branch.

Locally too I discovered that two distinguished Grenadiers had lived nearby; Lord Ligonier, Colonel of the 1st Guards and hero of Liege, Blenheim, Schellengerg, Menem, Ramilies, Malplaquet and Oudenarde. Following the battle of Dettingen he was found to have 23 musket ball holes in his clothing but was totally unscathed. He is buried in the same St Andrews Church mentioned above.

No less heroic was Sir Henry Percy VC who was



Black Sunday.

born in Cobham. Following the infamous battle of Inkerman he was awarded one of the very first Victoria Crosses. He then commanded the inaugural parade for this award in Hyde Park where he was presented with the medal by none other than HM Queen Victoria herself.

Trying to keep busy during the pandemic crisis, I have tried to stay in contact with Association members and former serving Grenadiers. I mention this for two reasons to highlight why, I believe it is important and worthwhile joining the Association



The author at Brooklands.

or just staying in contact.

The first involves a Grenadier who I hardly knew or could say I was a best mate of as I was a buckshee guardsman and he the RQMS! I found out about his demise through the Association and along with other Grenadiers, attended his funeral. He was 'Vasser' Campbell!

Like me he suffered from Parkinson's and distressingly spent his last few years in a nursing home. What I found upsetting was that for 15 years he lived, literally, 100 yards from me and had I known I would have dropped in to put the kettle on, stayed for a chat or even run the occasional errand.

The second is about a Grenadier who, whilst serving together in Berlin, agreed to be my Best Man. Sadly the marriage didn't happen, the Battalion returned to the UK, I left the Army and we lost contact. For about 15 years we used to exchange Christmas cards, but that was it and even that stopped eventually. Every year I sent a card but received nothing back. I found his page on Facebook

but saw that his last post had been over two years ago. Then, last year, I received a reply.

It was from a couple explaining that they had bought my mate's house about two years previously and that he no longer lived there. They did say, though, that they believed he still lived in the town. Emboldened with this news, and with the 'lockdown' stiffening, I spent my time tracking him down and yes, he still lived nearby and I managed to find an address! We were back in contact.

Sadly his wife of a great many years had died a couple of years previously. Again if he had remained in contact with the Regiment and the Association it would have been so much easier to provide help or solace as needed.

After these two cases, I now make a point of attending funerals of Grenadiers in my area, whoever they are or whenever/wherever they served or being available for anyone in the Regimental family who might need help.

My final piece of local Grenadier history was the discovery of a Grenadier Sweetheart brooch from WW2 near the Avenue of Remembrance. We will never know who it belonged to or the Grenadier involved. Maybe it was Guardsman L Christmas, I like to think so!

So there is a lot we can do during these times of crisis. After all to paraphrase a famous advert - we're all in this together and the least you can do is write an article for the Gazette. I only know I did and I hope you enjoyed it.

Royal Star & Garter Residents Complete 874-mile Tour of Britain Challenge

Veterans at Royal Star & Garter in High Wycombe have successfully completed their virtual cycle ride fundraiser from Lands' End to John O'Groats.

The residents finished the 874-mile High Wycombe Tour of Britain challenge on static bikes in the Physiotherapy Room of the Home in



John with Paula, a healthcare assistant.

Hughenden Avenue on Thursday 9th July.

To tie-in with Armed Forces Week and together with staff from the Home who also took part in the Tour of Britain challenge, they have already helped raise £555 for Royal Star & Garter, a charity which provides loving, compassionate care to veterans and their partners living with disability or dementia at Homes in Solihull, Surbiton and High Wycombe.

The challenge was organised by the Home's Activities and Physiotherapy Teams and started on Monday 22 June. It saw the group of residents and staff cycle in 15-minute sessions over the period.

Their progress was tracked on a map as they made their way across the country. Residents also enjoyed local delicacies from the area they were passing through, including Cornish pasties, Devonshire cream teas, Somerset cider, Eccles cakes and Lancashire hotpots.

There were also various activities and quizzes based on the regions they pedalled through, and a look at some of Britain's iconic landmarks, such as Stonehenge. This helped the residents who were unable to feel part of the team effort.

Activities Manager Hayley Helsdown said: "Activities and Physiotherapy play a key role in the overall care and well-being of residents at Royal Star & Garter. We work together to tailor care-plans for every resident in the Home. It was great that we were all able to come together to successfully complete our Tour of Great Britain and raise money."

Lead Physiotherapist Maddie Venkatesh said: "The High Wycombe Tour of Great Britain was great fun and exactly what residents and staff needed after a challenging few months. Physiotherapy is very popular in the Home, whether it's one-to-one exercise sessions on the static bikes, parallel bars, block of stairs and the treadmill, or group

activities such as music to movement, Tai Chi and aerobics."

Among those who took part were John Walmsley, a 94-year-old World War 2 veteran who served in the Grenadier Guards and 102-year-old Ena, whose husband was killed in action in Belgium in 1944. She said: "We had a lot of fun cycling and taking part in all the other activities. Staff always think up clever ways to keep us active in body and mind."

The state-of-the-art High Wycombe Home, which has a library, gardens and a hair salon, as well as ensuite bedrooms and stunning communal spaces, opened in April 2019. The team are now welcoming new residents to the Home. For information about the Home or to take a virtual tour, go to www.starandgarter.org/HW email hw.enquiries@starandgarter.org or call 01494 927 555.

You can still help residents from High Wycombe reach their £874 fundraising goal by visiting their Just Giving page here: <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/hwcycle>

(The Gazette editorial team are grateful to Goolistan Cooper, Communications Officer and the staff at Royal Star & Garter for this article and the pictures they provided goolistan.cooper@starandgarter.org 0208 481 7669 / 07391 868796).



John and Ena cycling to raise funds for the challenge.

The Old Farts Golf Society

by *Reg Sargeant*

We started in September 1996 when our first meeting at Evesham Golf Club was attended by nine former Grenadiers. Since then we have met every year without exception and attendance has risen to 40 or more.

The idea was to meet up once a year to keep in touch, play some golf, swing the lantern, pull up a sandbag and well, you know the rest.

Any past or present Grenadier and their guests are most welcome. 2021 sees us celebrate our 25th year at Carden Park Golf Resort and Spa in Cheshire between 12th and 14th September. A gala dinner is held on the Monday night at which the two major trophies are presented and a charity collection held. To date we have raised over £6000 for military charities.

It is usually a three-day event with prizes and trophies galore that have been donated by well-known former Grenadiers, most notably:

The Paul Griffiths Trophy - donated by Les Scholes in 2004 in memory of his brother in law, our great friend and character. A medal competition open to all past and present Grenadiers.

The Dougie Blackford Trophy - donated by Dougie in 2007 for the best Stableford round.

The Memorial Trophy - donated by Les Scholes in 2011 for the best combined Stableford score over 2 days.

The Team Trophy - donated by Kevin Walsh in 1997 for the best team (now blind pairs).

The Best Guest Trophy - donated by John Wall in 2018 for the best Medal score on day 1.

The Captain this year is a Guest of Reg Sargeant - George McCall. George has attended and supported every event since 1998 with the exception of a single absence due to hospitalisation (leave was approved by the committee).

If you would like to join us please contact Reg Sargeant or Ron Smith via Andy Green at Regimental Headquarters on 020 7414 3225 or regltreasurer@grengds.com



The Old Farts at Kenwick Park in 2020.

BRANCH NOTES

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



Branch Headquarters: Riverside Inn, The Shallows, Saltford, Bristol, BS31 3EZ.

The Bath Branch meeting routine is bi-monthly, informal and held on the second Wednesday. We start at 1930 hours but like to meet in the bar at 1900. 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 proposed for 2021 are March, (AGM), May, July, September, & November.

We open this years annual report where we left off last year. On the 6th December 2019 the Branch held its annual Christmas Lunch at Cumberwell Park Golf Club Bradford On Avon, where we are delighted to say we had a great turnout of 110 members including guests from the Bristol Branch,

White Ensign & Busa along with families and friends who all enjoyed a superb Christmas Lunch. The event was also attended by our guest speaker **Captain Benedict Tracey**, Adjutant 1st Battalion Grenadier Guards, who gave us a delightful update about the Battalion and what their commitments would be for 2020 coupled with the challenges that they were going to face; a clearly challenging but rewarding year lay ahead.

As always after the speeches, we moved onto the entertainment where 'Santa Claus' aka **Henry Cooper**, was marched into the room by none other than **Tim Weston** from the series bad lads, aka our very own **Nigel Till**. We then moved onto the raffle, which again was well supported by all present with lots of prizes and happy winners. Many thanks to everyone who donated a prize which as always is greatly appreciated. The Christmas lunch ended with the newly formed Branch Male Voice Choir led by our very own **Andy Davy** and **Glenn Shattock** in a round of Christmas Carols much to the delight of everybody present. We would like to thank all our guests for making our lunch such a wonderful and special occasion.



Henry Cooper as Santa Claus and Nigel Till as Tim Weston.



Our Chairman Vince Dunne looking in on top table etiquette.



The Branch Chior under the guidance of Andy Davy.



Guests at lunch.

January 2020 saw the Branch Committee come together to discuss the events for the year and a full programme was planned. Little did we know what

was coming around the corner in March with all our event planning having to be shelved due to the Coronavirus pandemic. It is simply quite amazing to see the change in our life, not only personally but as a nation that this situation has had on us. However the one thing we as individuals and our regimental family do and do well is that we turn the negative into a positive, and that is exactly what we have done. Our Committee, **Simon Tattersall** (Treasurer), **Henry Cooper** (Welfare Officer), **Andy Davy** (Recruitment Officer), **Lieutenant Colonel Jerry Levine MBE**, **Major Grant Baker** (President) and **Vince Dunne** (Secretary) implemented and held weekly 'Zoom' meetings, where each committee member updated us on their roles and most importantly what if any contact they had had with our members, this was then communicated to Branch Members by email.

We also developed a monthly information sheet produced by **Henry Cooper**, which covered the latest updates from government on the pandemic and raised awareness on 'scams' which were active in our area. This has been a great piece of work and well received by our members. The clear benefit was that the communication which has taken place since the start of the pandemic has improved significantly and we would like to say well done and a big thank you to everybody, not only the committee, but also our membership for their part in the success of the development of 'On The Gate'.

Easter came to the Branch on the 12th April 2020 and we wanted to put a smile on the faces of our members. We decided to send out an Easter Card with a small token of our appreciation to them all. This was greatly appreciated and our aim was certainly achieved, the feedback we received was great even though there were no winners.

Victory in Europe Day came, and although we were not able to celebrate as a Branch with our planned lunch, members made the best of the occasion by celebrating in their own way. None other than our very own **Lester Cruise** a long standing Branch member raised the Union Flag in his garden and made a short video of himself standing to attention and saluting the occasion. The picture below shows Lester, sat in his garden in front of his flag pole appropriately dressed with his forage cap on. Well done Lester and thankyou.



Lester Cruise.

On 30th July Lieutenant Colonel Jerry Levine MBE made a visit on horseback to the Royal Hospital Chelsea where he met up with two Grenadier In-Pensioners, **Sergeant Mush Goddard** who was formerly the MT Sergeant of the 2nd Battalion and **Company Sergeant Major Dave Coote** formerly No 1 Company, 2nd Battalion. Lieutenant Colonel Levine said it was an absolute pleasure meeting both gentleman and a great day was enjoyed by all of them.



Lieutenant Colonel Levine and his horse Quella, with CSM Dave Coote and Sergeant Mush Goddard.

November saw the cancellation of the many Remembrance Parades around the nation. The committee had planned to attend Firs Field at Coombe Down, Bath, sadly this was not to be. However, we were not deterred, **John Leach** a stalwart of the Branch placed a wreath on the head stone of **Lance Corporal Wilfred Fuller VC** Grenadier Guards at Christchurch, Frome, Somerset and **Simon Tattersall** our Treasurer laid the Regimental wreath on the monument in Keynsham, Bristol on behalf of the Branch. **Vince Dunne** attended the service in his village in Raglan South Wales.



John Leach laying a wreath on the head stone of Lance Corporal Wilfred Dolby Fuller VC.



The Regimental wreath on the monument in Keynsham.

This year has seen the passing of some fellow Grenadiers, not from the Bath Branch but from other areas within the Regimental network of which we have been notified:

24000334 Sergeant D E Wilkinson BEM, formerly 2nd Battalion and who lived in South Wales.

23104320 John Michael Allford, born in Manchester in 1936 and who joined the Regiment in 1955 to complete his national service. During this time, he became a squad instructor with the 3rd Battalion, his pride in the Regiment stayed with him all his life and he would always wear his regimental tie on all occasions. His family recently purchased a new tie for him as his original had seen better days. Sadly, the first and last time he was to wear it was at his funeral.



John Allford.

Mr John Andrew Fuller was not a Grenadier, however his father was the late Lance Corporal Wilfred Dolby Fuller VC and was very supportive of the Regiment. Pictures opposite show Mr Fuller with Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal and also one of him with The Corps of Drums at the opening of the new Police Training Centre in Clevedon, Bristol. Mr Fuller is wearing a set of medals which are duplicates of his father's and will be on display at Clevedon Police Headquarters. The original medals are held at Regimental Headquarters. Lest We Forget.



John Fuller with The Princess Royal.



John Fuller with The Corps of Drums.

As we come to a close this year and reflect on what an extremely difficult time we have all been having, it is only right and fitting to thank **Major Andy Green** and **Sergeant Rob Broomes** at Regimental Headquarters for their continued support.

We would like also to thank **Matt Allen**, **Colin Knight** and **Veronica Baylis**, Branch Secretaries in the Western Area for their continued support to their Branches, it is greatly appreciated.

A huge thank you to our President **Major Grant Baker**, **Lieutenant Colonel Jerry Levine MBE**, **Vince Dunne**, **Henry Cooper**, **Simon Tattersall** and **Andy Davy** for their support and enthusiasm in ensuring the sustainability and continuity of our Branch, they are a great team who always rise to the job in hand and deliver whatever is asked of them.

Although 2020 has been a very difficult and challenging time for us all, the one thing that we take heart from is that the regimental family is still there and strong in its support to all and continues to march forward in true Grenadier style. From the Bath Branch we say to one and all; Stay Safe, Keep Your Distance, Keep Smiling and Thank You.

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

Along with all Branches of the Association, 2020 was an extremely quiet year for the Bristol Branch. We held a Committee meeting in January at our new home, The Holiday Inn Hotel in Filton but it was soon after this that the wide ranging effects of the pandemic began to take hold.

We were due to gather for a Sunday Lunch in Thornbury in early March but in February the Branch secretary decided that the risk to our members was becoming too great and cancelled the function. After this Branch and Regimental events began to be cancelled more widely and in August the Branch President made the decision not to proceed any further with the arrangements for the Branch Annual Dinner which was scheduled for October.

Throughout the year many Branch members have kept in touch with each other with regular telephone calls and the Branch secretary has kept in touch with Committee members. We are hoping to employ technology in the form of 'Zoom' to hold a Committee meeting in early 2021 with a view to using this format to hold the 2021 Branch AGM online should restrictions dictate that a physical meeting is not possible.

We look forward hopefully to some degree of normality being restored in 2021 and the

opportunity to return to a more normal Branch calendar.

It is with sadness that we report the deaths of **23509834 B Eastman, 23509432 G Parker and 23688152 R Hobbs.** **DERBY BRANCH**

Derby, in line with most Branches found that restrictions did not just reduce but curtailed virtually all activities over the year. We were though able to hold an AGM in January 2020 to ratify elected Branch officials. In doing so **George Smith** took on the role of Welfare Officer and he has done a magnificent job in telephoning Branch members on a regular basis. This has kept up the morale of several people living in isolation for considerable periods of time. George has also attended two restricted attendance funerals and with the cancellation of an official event, individually laid a wreath at Derby Market Square memorial on Remembrance Day.

Ian Sutton served for four and a half years in the Regiment and has been the secretary of the Derby Branch for 20 years. With the lack of events to report on this year he thought of briefly covering his introduction to the Army as a young Guardsman.

In 1976 as a fresh faced 16-year-old I reported to the Guards Depot, Pirbright to commence training as a Junior Guardsman where a few experiences still stand out during the year where I grew from a civilian boy to an adult soldier.

My first day included the issue of uniform from boots to webbing. At the stores I received each article as I reached the front of the queue, catching a carefully thrown piece of kit. This was followed with a sprint to the back of the line to shuffle forward very quickly and repeat the process until all items had been issued. Anything dropped was lost if not instantly picked up. Kit now back in my barrack room and after a lightening quick change into coveralls I was marched at a steady 140+ paces to the minute to the Barbers. Sat in total silence and not daring to talk or move the peace was shattered by a piercing scream from the Sergeant Barber. This was followed with an unfortunate young lad being led unceremoniously to the Medical Centre to be relieved of his nits. The poor soul chose to go home the next day with short, clean hair and never to become a Grenadier.

A year's hard and comprehensive training had commenced.

Each Saturday the entire compliment of Junior Guardsmen paraded in front of the Commanding Officer and under the keen gaze of the Regimental Sergeant Major. After being inspected and often 'ripped to pieces' we would then march behind the band from the parade ground through the married quarters and back.

I gradually learned drill and then more drill and then even more drill. First, simple basic turns at the halt, how to march in a squad and then the smart, crisp handling of a rifle and bayonet. This was my introduction to becoming a Grenadier, one of the smartest and most impressive soldiers in the world. It gave me a feeling of tremendous pride and eventually the honour of becoming a member of the Senior Infantry Regiment in the British Army.

I also became familiar with rifting, straight arms, digging my heels in, keeping my neck in the back of the collar, the gas chamber, the NAAFI, bulling boots, blanco, brasso, ironing, locker inspections, the bumper, room inspections, putties, 58 pattern webbing, the gym, murder ball, pokey drill and to hurry up and wait.

The summer of 1976 was one of the hottest on record and with the camp located in the centre of a vast wooded area, several times in the middle of the night I was woken up to attend forest fires as a beater. It was long, hard, and filthy work to cut off the out of control flames, ending up black from head to foot and drained of energy. The reward for my efforts was a hot brew and egg and chips in the cookhouse on return.

Throughout the year I enjoyed several runs around the training area in full kit which included going up and down the four sisters. This was followed by the assault course that I believed at the time to be the largest in Europe. Then a section shoot at metal plates on the rifle range with the old but trustworthy SLR and GPMG. Another sport was to trot up and down the sandhill in full kit and this was done with plenty of encouragement from instructors who introduced me to a fresh look at how the English language was spoken.

Towards the end of the year a couple of weeks were spent in sunny Thetford for battle training.

I learnt to dig trenches, to stay awake for days, to march long distances with full kit, to dig more trenches, carry out section attacks and to finally finish a three-day exercise without sleep with a dawn attack. At the end and 'on my chin strap' we were all exhausted but the kind instructors let us ride back to camp in a four tonner, full of fun they let us chase after it as it drove slowly away into the distance.

After passing out I moved to Chelsea Barracks to become a member of The Inkerman Company. They were then part of the Second Battalion who had recently returned from a posting in Hong Kong.

Each week the detail for duties was posted and this could mean anything from fatigues in the Cookhouse cleaning very greasy pans to a slightly better duty in the Sergeants' Mess where there seemed to be less grease. Even better was the Officers' Mess where there was hardly any grease. The Guard duties were either camp barrack guards or Royal duties at either Buckingham Palace, St James Palace or the Tower of London.

To get to Buckingham Palace we paraded at Chelsea Barracks at 1025 for a 1030 inspection by the Adjutant followed by a 40-minute march through the streets to form the New Guard in the Palace forecourt. To make life interesting in our room we had a competition to see who would start to get dressed last. One by one individuals would chicken out and then it was a rush to put on trousers, boots, tunic, belt, bearskin and after grabbing a rifle run down several flights of stairs with slippery stud soled boots. The art was to be the last to start getting dressed and still arrive on time and be immaculately turned out.

A couple of personal challenges I set for myself while on Royal Guard was to firstly complete a continuous two-hour patrol and secondly to remain static for two hours. While at Buckingham Palace I managed a nonstop patrol and finished exhausted by the time the relief arrived. The difficulty was to keep the rifle in the right hand throughout as you cannot change arms on the march while on sentry duty. Then at the Tower of London I completed a stag at the sentry post outside the Queens House. The post was set away from the public and guardsmen were under orders to keep as quiet as possible. I managed to be incredibly quiet

by remaining stationary for two hours. This was possible as while standing at ease with the SLR the rifle rests on the ground against the right toe cap. Unfortunately, when the relief arrived I could not move to stand to attention as my joints had seized up. The Corporal swore through clenched teeth and told me to stop messing about.

Whilst at Chelsea I completed a tour at Bridge Camp in Londonderry and also spent a few weeks in Kenya. Then the Battalion moved to Oxford Barracks in Munster, Germany. While there the Battalion completed another tour of Northern Ireland where I was based at Rosslea Camp in County Fermanagh.

We all have regrets in life and one of mine was to leave the Regiment too early, but the years I did serve gave me tremendous pride and a strong grounding that I have taken into civilian life.

The Branch would like to wish all Grenadiers past and present all the best for 2021 hoping it will be better for everyone.

DERBY

(Formed 1914)

President: VACANT

Vice-Presidents: VACANT

Chairman: Mr G GADSBY

Secretary: Mr I SUTTON, 43 Bullhurst Lane, Weston, Underwood, Ashbourne, Derbyshire, DE6 4PA

Tel: 07961170644

Email: ijdutton@icloud.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

Derby, in line with most Branches found that restrictions did not just reduce but curtailed virtually all activities over the year. We were though able to hold an AGM in January 2020 to ratify elected Branch officials. In doing so **George Smith** took on the role of Welfare Officer and he has done a magnificent job in telephoning Branch members on a regular basis. This has kept up the morale of several people living in isolation for considerable periods of time. George has also attended two

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Squad Three - June 1976.

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Fondouk One - March 1977.



The Inkerman Company - Chelsea Barracks August 1977

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The Branch would like to wish all Grenadiers past and present all the best for 2021 hoping it will be better for everyone.

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

The East Kent Branch report commences on Sunday 10th November 2019, when some of our members were once again on parade at the Hythe War Memorial for the Armistice Day parade.

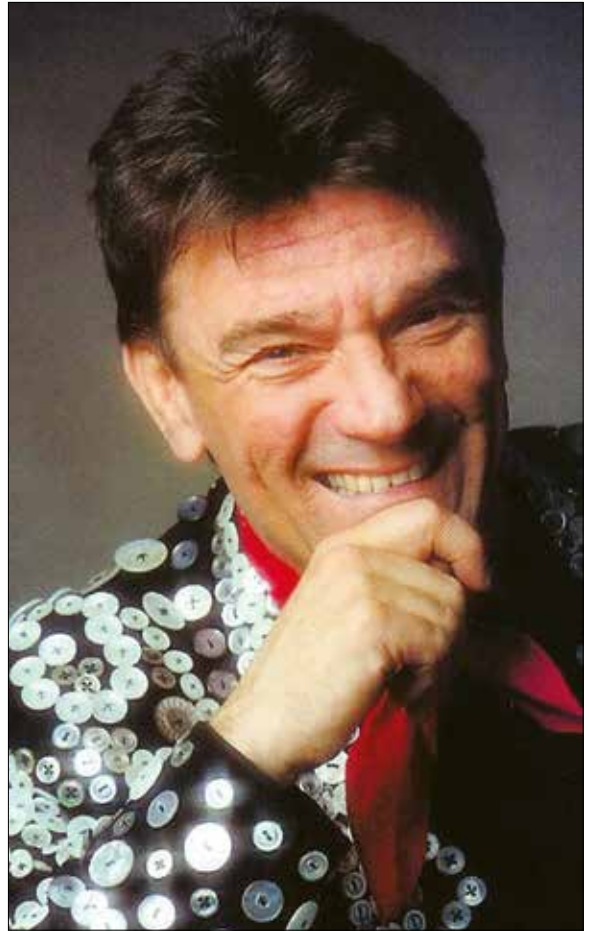
Our 2019 Christmas function was held at the Hythe Sports and Social Club on Saturday 8th December and once again the event was well supported; especially by our many 'Friends of the Branch'. Entertainment was provided by **Mickie Driver**, a professional entertainer and compere who sang songs from Music Hall, Wartime, 1950s and 1960s, and was enjoyed by all.

In mid-January 2020 we held our first Branch meeting of the year and started to make many plans for the remainder of the year. Little did we realise that the Covid-19 pandemic was going to impact on so many of them.

We managed to squeeze in a socially distanced Annual General Meeting and Branch Meeting in March and followed that with a lovely Sunday Luncheon that was held at the Hythe Sports & Social Club where we meet.

Whilst we had made plans to provisionally keep our May meeting and luncheon date on the forecast of events, these events had to be cancelled due to lockdown being imposed nationwide.

Members were also unable to attend customary events such as the Major General's Review, the Colonel's Review, Beating Retreat, the Queen's Birthday Parade (on Horse Guards Parade) and



Mickie Driver, our Christmas function entertainment.

Grenadier Day and we were also unable to take part in the Hythe Festival Week parades as they were all cancelled due to Covid.

Sadly, we need to record that whilst hospitalised - due to other medical issues - **22705790 William Charles Frederick Marshall**, contracted Covid-19 in June 2020 and as a result, he died on 23rd June 2020, just seven days after his 86th birthday.

Bill had been a long serving member of the Branch who regularly attended meetings and Branch functions along with his long-time partner, **Beverley**. For many years, they also ran hugely successful raffles at our Christmas functions - generously donating the majority of the prizes too.

Bill was also very influential and regularly obtained and organised free access to the War and

Peace Revival for Branch members and their ladies.

Within the structure of the Branch, he was what we termed our 'Branch Visiting Friend' (Welfare Officer), a role he eagerly assumed in approximately 2010 and maintained phone contact with a great many of our members and some of our Branch widows; especially those who were sick or unable to attend our Branch meetings and events.

He was dedicated to that role and, even whilst hospitalised himself, continued to call people to find out how they were, or to establish what he or the Branch could do to help.

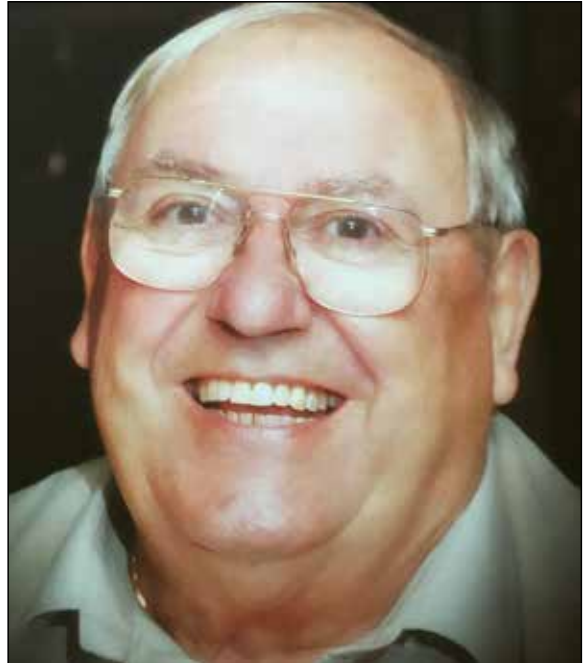
Although Covid restrictions meant those parading had to be socially distanced, many friends and Branch members helped form a Guard of Honour outside **Bill and Beverley's** house for the arrival and departure of the hearse and mourner party.

In addition, Covid restrictions meant there was a limit on how many people could attend his funeral at Hawkinge Crematorium on Wednesday 15th July 2020. Representing the Branch were the Branch President **Major Dennis Bradley BEM DL**, **John Taylor**, **David Grassham** who sounded Last Post at the graveside, **George Pritchard** and our Secretary **Bob Goodson** who carried the Branch Banner.

We had hoped that with lockdown restrictions being eased, we would be able to once again hold a Branch meeting in mid-July, but that too had to be cancelled as, despite pubs and clubs being able to resume business, restrictions on people from several households meeting together were still in place.

Whilst some people will undoubtedly have found lockdown difficult, **Bob Goodson** attempted to keep members, Branch widows and our 'Friends of the Branch' up to date by publishing and distributing more than the usual number of 'Roll Call' newsletters. Despite a lack of events, he regularly managed to fill 12 pages in each edition.

Our Branch President and Chairman **Major Dennis Bradley BEM DL** reported that during lockdown the Lord Lieutenant of Kent, **Lady Colgrain**, requested that all Deputy Lieutenants, **Major Bradley** being one of them, attempt to commemorate V J Day from their home properties and to have their contribution photographed in



Bill Marshall.

order that it could go on the Lieutenancy web site to allow the general public, and the other Lord Lieutenants, to see how we in Kent were commemorating this important event.

Our secretary reported that his planned April trip to take his grandchildren, son and daughter-in-law to Disneyland (Florida), plus intended travel to Goa this year had to be cancelled; all because of the pandemic. However, the lockdown period gave him lots of opportunity to get several branch matters in order and he was able to complete many of the things that, for lack of time, he'd been putting off for years. In addition, he managed to get several ceilings and walls re-plastered in his home, install fitted wardrobes in a spare bedroom, fully dig, weed and plant the gardens, decorate the bathroom, kitchen, porch, stairs, landing and two bedrooms, have carpets and other flooring replaced in most rooms in his house, assisted his son with his move back to Kent, "babysat" roofers at his daughter's home and sorted out the contents of the shed, all whilst continuing to do the regular housework and tasks his wife assigns to him. He also did some research to find out about a long held belief that he was the only Goodson that had served in



Major Dennis Bradley on parade.

the Regiment. If there's a second lockdown, then a clear out of the garage, an extension, plus the installation of a new shed and a summerhouse are but a few things that are planned until he and Sue can get travelling again.

We also had a report from **George Cox** to advise that he had used the time to write his memoirs. This certainly filled time and tested his memory. What prompted him to do this was that, regrettably, he knew little of his parents from his early years. He said that he never thought to ask and now, when it's too late, wishes that he had. His children will not now have the same regret.

We have no doubt that our other members managed to deal with the situation and restrictions as we had no problems reported to the committee.

Our Annual Dinner was scheduled for Saturday 5th September 2020. This was the 72nd anniversary of the Branch and our dinner was once again to be held at The Grand, Folkestone and we had high hopes of Regimental Headquarters nominating an interesting Guest Speaker. We had the hotel's pianist booked to play throughout dinner and afterwards, and a superb night was expected to be had by all. Sadly, Covid restrictions were tightened by the Government and this meant that people from other households were now not allowed to mix, so we had no option other than to cancel the event.

As the Government's 'Rule of Six' was now in force, our September 2020 meeting also fell foul of ongoing restrictions and that too was cancelled.

In early October we took the decision to cancel our November meeting and Christmas Function as restrictions looked like tightening, not easing off by then.

It is with sadness that we record the death of **22955298 Edward (Ted) Carpenter** who passed away on the morning of Saturday 17th October 2020 at the age of 84. Ted had been a loyal and supportive Branch member for a great many years. He had also been our Branch Librarian up until we closed the library.

The Branch committee would like to conclude this report by thanking all our loyal members, their ladies and our many 'Friends of the Branch' who continue to support the Branch and its activities, no matter what. We trust that forthcoming years are less subject to the constraints we have had to endure throughout 2020.

ESSEX

(Formed 1946)

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

Vice Presidents:

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@grengds.com

Treasurer: Mr M LAND

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

2020 has been a year like no other. We had so much planned and like all other Branches, everything had to be cancelled due to the strict lockdown restrictions. We have a senior membership, so their safety was paramount due to the high risk.

We would like to thank **Sergeant Haughton** for the excellent Regimental Headquarters Facebook site. This has been an invaluable help for current, relevant, and up to date information on all things Grenadier. As most of our members don't have any social media, it has also been a great help in keeping our four newsletters of 2020 filled with Regimental history, personalities, events, and deployments.

During the lockdown **Stephen Norsworthy** has been able to speak to members and has discovered some interesting facts and stories about their service - too many to put in this report, so here are just two.

22545054 Ray Glasspell, The Queen's Company 1st Battalion 1952-59, 3rd Battalion 1959-67 had the privilege as a Colour Sergeant of carrying the 3rd Battalion Colour on their last Troop in 1961.

2626111 Ray Freestone, 2nd Battalion 1944-52. In 1945 on returning to London as a junior Guardsman, he was part of the Kensington Palace POW camp guard. This camp held high ranking members of the German military. He remembers being asked to escort, in plain clothes, Field Marshal Albert Kesselring to lunch in Notting Hill. **Ray** remembers just the two of them walking to lunch and then afterwards returning to camp.

Unfortunately, he can't remember the topic of conversation or what they had for lunch.

On Friday 8th May 2020, we as a country remembered and commemorated the 75th anniversary of the ending of WW2 in Europe. On 15th August we also remembered and commemorated the ending of hostilities against the Japanese. **2626111 Ray Freestone**, **Major Michael Giles** 1st Battalion 1943-65 and **2623167 Ron Keeble** 1942-46 all received a letter from HRH The Duke of York our Colonel, thanking them for their wartime service with the Regiment.

At the beginning of the year, Colchester civic society contacted RHQ regarding a grave they found after clearing the graveyard of St Botolph's Priory in Colchester. Research has found that the grave is that of Captain Jesse Jones, 1st Foot Guards. His is a fascinating story with the 1st Foot Guards from 1806-1838. He joined the Regiment aged 18yrs and served throughout the Peninsular campaign in Portugal and Spain. Records show he was at the Battle of Barossa in 1811 where he was given a field promotion to Sergeant for saving the colours, which were described afterwards as "battered and torn".

He was at the storming of Badajoz in 1812 and fought and was injured at Bergen-Op-Zoom in 1814. In 1815 he was a Sergeant at the Battle of Waterloo. Records show he was at Hougoumont Farm from the start of the battle until an hour before final victory when he was shot in the chest. The French musket ball, force being spent, failed to fully penetrate his tunic. Flattened, it was found in his clothing when he was undressed.

He made a full recovery and continued to serve until 1838. The Essex Branch are immensely proud to have supported the restoration of his grave, gravestone, and an information board with a donation and by members visiting the site.

Sadly, we report the passing of two Essex Grenadiers this year.

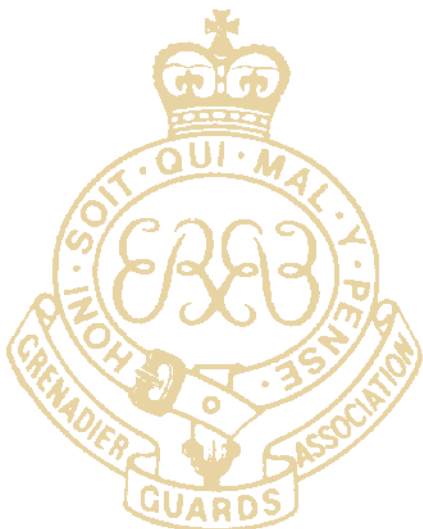
In January, **2626452 Albert Green** 1st and 3rd Battalion 1941-46, passed away. He landed on D Day + 20 and fought with the Grenadiers through France, Belgium, Holland, and Germany. He fought on 3rd September 1944 at Pont a Marcq with around 130 Grenadiers who took on and defeated a force of over 250 German infantry. 24 Grenadiers were killed in action and over 30 wounded during

the liberation of the town. Later in the war **Albert** was present at the Liberation of the Sandbostel concentration camp. His funeral was attended by Branch members, with some forming a Guard of Honour, Officers and Staff from RHQ and a delegation of towns people from Pont a Marcq. The Deputy Mayor of Pont a Marcq said that in honour of the Grenadiers who fought there, the Town Square. would be renamed 'The Grenadier Guards Square'.

In April, 23862835 **David Herbert**, The Queen's Company 1st Battalion and then 2nd Battalion 1961-64 passed away. He served mostly in Germany and had many tales to tell of being on Train Escort duty. He and his wife **Rosemary** were regular attendees at our events. He was also the Chairman of the Great Dunmow Royal British Legion branch for many years.

We would like to thank all at RHQ for their help and support. Congratulations go to **Major Andy Green** and **Matt Elmer** on their truly sterling effort on the Coast to Coast walk.

FM Kesselring surrendered to Americans in April 1945. Testified against Goring at Nuremberg. Held in British custody and in autumn 1946 transferred to 'London cage' in Kensington. In company of a British officer, the FM was allowed to explore London. Stood trial in Venice for war crimes in Feb 1947.



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 FERGUSON-CUNNINGHAME; Major SA MARCHAM, MBE; 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 36th annual report compiled by **T Colin Knight** as Branch secretary. He is not, as he sometimes describes himself, a glutton for punishment but a most loyal and dedicated man. For reasons well known, this past year has not been as busy and active as usual for us, every Branch event for the year and in common with other Branches, had to be cancelled due to the current and ongoing pandemic.

The Nominal Roll remains strong with online communications via the internet credited for much of this as the Branch continues to make full use of technology. We are indeed extremely fortunate to have an excellent assortment of Associate and Honorary members who along with our widows support us so well.

Since our last report we have lost three Vice Presidents, namely **Lieutenant Colonel Conway Seymour**, **Peter Gwilliam** and **Nigel Simms**. Due to restrictions, members were unable to muster in our usual way for the funerals of Peter and Nigel. The funeral of Conway, held before restrictions



Colin Knight conducting the Allied Rapid Reaction Force Ladies Military Wives Choir at the Branch Christmas Social.

were implemented, drew a huge congregation.

Peter Gwilliam was Branch secretary for some 16 years. Since the formation of the Branch 71 years ago, there has been just three secretaries and only four Presidents.

Nigel Simms joined the committee over 50 years ago and in the same year as our Honorary secretary. **Nigel** gave continuous committee service throughout this period including stints as Chairman and Vice Chairman; a wonderful record of service. **Nigel** also managed and ran a Branch team in the skittles league for some 45 years. This is a record of voluntary service which will take some equalling let alone beating.

All of the allocation of tickets received for the 2019 Muster at the Service of Remembrance at Cheltenham Town Hall were taken. Some 11 assorted Household Division members paraded in Winchcombe under the command of the Branch President **Colonel Lance Ranson**.

The attendance at the Branch Christmas Social held well, a little down on previous years and concluded our calendar for 2019. A hot two course, Branch subsidised meal was served. A bonus was the attendance of the Allied Rapid Reaction Force Ladies Military Wives Choir who entertained members with a variety of songs. Was it the highlight? Perhaps not as our secretary **Colin Knight** having made a request for a song from the musical *Les Misérables* was invited by the Musical Director to step forward and conduct the choir. To

his credit he did not make too bad a job of it.

Christmas Gifts were personally given to 20 of our more senior or infirm members including some, who for whatever reason, have not enjoyed good times of late.

Thanks must go to the Social Secretary **Graham Barton** for being the promoter of our Christmas lottery. Every year fingers are crossed that sales might not fall and it is pleasing to report that together with the Fifty Club, which holds four draws each year, sales and proceeds not only held well but slightly increased.

Graham is determined in this field as Social Secretary and his forte is putting pen to paper.

In February 2020, a party attended a local Gurkha restaurant for a taste of Nepalese food. Thanks go to **Graham Barton** for arranging this. Apart from a Committee Meeting in February these were to be the only activities for the year.

March was to be the month of the Annual General Meeting. Members were to be informed that their Branch was in good form from a financial, activity and general interest point of view. However, due to the lockdown imposed the meeting was cancelled.

When the Coronavirus struck and shortly after lock down began, **Colin Knight** started to forward a daily lockdown virus related humorous email to the 170 members with email facilities, later reducing the transmission to every other day. At the time of writing 160 separate transmissions have been made. Of course this would not have been possible without the enthusiasm of the membership who sent in a constant flow of potential material for publication. Thanks are given to everyone for their efforts.

From feedback received it is apparent that many members forward these transmissions to their respective families and friends. It is thought that they now reach well over 1000 recipients.

Much was planned for the remainder of our year but sadly the March, May, July, September and November meetings, the St George's Day service at Tewkesbury Abbey, Regimental Remembrance

Day, Grenadier Day, a visit to Highgrove House, our Spring gathering at Dumbleton Hall, a Branch walk, Gurkha lunch, a visit to Sandhurst, our Garden Party, Formal Luncheon, Christmas Social, Cenotaph Parade together with a Remembrance Service at Cheltenham Town Hall were all cancelled.

On a brighter note, the Branch can pride itself, for yet another year, with regards to welfare. Despite being without an appointed Welfare Officer, members, when asked, have rallied round and undertaken visits. There are some of our members residing in care homes where, as we all know, visits are strictly limited. Many of our ladies have been personally given or sent bouquets of flowers and some of the chaps a few bottles of the hard stuff.

The Branch believes that it is the only Branch sending Birthday Cards to every member for whom a date of birth is recorded, which is the majority. The scheme is now in its 12th year and well received by the membership. It is now run by **Roy Claridge WG** who volunteered to step into the breach. Thank you Roy for the efficient running of this much appreciated task.

This scheme was started some 11 years ago by **John and Gill Carter**, a big undertaking but much valued by our members. When they stepped down **Peter Jones** took up the role.

Members without email have had four newsletters sent to them by snail mail during the past twelve months. Keeping in regular touch with the entire membership is, the committee believe, one of the main ingredients of the continued success of the Branch.

It is also our belief that having a strong Nominal Roll which includes Associate and Honorary members and our Widows, enables the Branch to ensure that from time to time during periods of normality, arranged functions can be confident of support.

The 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 our camaraderie. They are indeed the backbone of this successful Branch. **Malcolm Waters** the former Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer of the Gloucester Coldstreamers has been elected to the committee to assist in keeping an eye on our Coldstream contingent.

Currently our membership stands at 137

Grenadiers, 27 Coldstreamers, 2 Welsh Guards, 2 Irish Guards, 3 Scots Guards, 5 Household Cavalry, 1 RAPC, 1 REME, 1 Gloucester, 1 Gurkha, 1 French Army, 23 Honorary members and 21 Widows. 76% of the total membership, up 4% from last year, now have e-mail facilities to which regular communications are sent.

In 2021 virus restrictions permitting, meetings will be held every other month commencing in March. Starting at 1930 hours and normally concluding by 2145 hours or sometimes later. During the interval complimentary hot pies will be served and this has proved to be extremely popular in the past. Having an interval allows time not only 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 and network. This formula appears to work well and we intend to continue with it once meetings are allowed to resume.

To make meetings more interesting the committee endeavours, from time to time, to arrange a guest speaker, which helps to hold the interest of members attending. Subjects covered in the past have been interesting and varied.

The Branch has a presence on Facebook which is monitored by our Chairman **David Errington** who is ably assisted by **Mark Evans WG**. This must be one of the more positive ways forward and any member wishing to gain access to the site should follow the usual procedures.

Colonel Lance Ranson our President is as always, continually active and gives the Branch strong support throughout the year. We would like to thank him for his continued leadership and guidance.

We are looking forward to the challenges ahead, remain confident in our future and conclude by thanking **Major Andy Green**, **Sergeant Rob Broomes** and the small staff at Regimental Headquarters for their dedication during the current difficult times and for keeping the spirit of the Association very much alive as we the Gloucestershire Branch will continually endeavour to do.

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 HOLLAWAY

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

Tel: (0208) 336 1884

Email: grenjohn.jk@gmail.com

Treasurer: Mrs 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

It was only when members started to think seriously about a report for inclusion in the Grenadier Gazette for 2021 that the full impact of Coronavirus really hit home. The last Branch meeting we were able to hold was way back at the beginning of March 2020. At that time members were looking forward with optimism to what lay ahead.

For the immediate future, a Sunday lunch had been arranged for 26th April at the Inn on The Lake, Silvermere Golf Complex in Cobham. Within days of the Branch meeting we all found ourselves in open arrest thanks to the virus restrictions. Most of our members were in the rear echelon in terms of age and had to isolate themselves. That all put paid to the Silvermere lunch. Amongst members the agreement was that we will rearrange this event whenever it might be possible. Contact has been maintained by telephone, text, and email as far as possible.

Something that had helped to maintain interest amongst members every year was accumulating stock for the Branch stall on Grenadier Day. By tradition, those efforts commenced at the closure of a previous year's event. Sadly, that accumulated stock had to be carried over due to the cancellation of Grenadier Day 2020. There were prayers being said that Grenadier Day 2021 would go ahead as both **Liz Howell** and **John Knight** had some of their respective homes closed off for warehousing.

Thankfully at the time of writing there had been

no reported cases of Covid-19 amongst our Branch members.

Having closed Grocers' Hall in mid-March, **Greville Bibby** spent lockdown with his wife and two sons all working from home in Wiltshire. His daughter, **Pandora**, was on the frontline as a doctor in Durham Hospital. The lockdown experience was one of mixed emotions, on one hand he enjoyed having unprecedented time with his family, on the other his close friend and proud Grenadier **Andrew Waterworth**, died of the virus. **Andrew** served with the 1st Battalion in the 1980s; greatly missed he was an immensely able and popular officer and a fine sportsman, representing the Battalion at football and cricket.

Greville also used the opportunity to improve his golf handicap and decorate his house!

Stan Hollaway had had a difficult year having received an eventual diagnosis of bowel cancer. The early part of his ordeal was fraught with problems thanks to scanners breaking down, rearranged appointments all compounded by the imposition of Coronavirus restrictions. Chemotherapy, radiotherapy, and surgery are all behind him now and he has been given all clear. Recovery has been slow but over recent weeks he has been back on his feet and even able to make his way to the local shops. He is thankful that any follow up is to be done at the Royal Marsden Hospital in Sutton. The surgery and immediate follow up had been done in Kensington making for a difficult, lengthy, and uncomfortable journey in hospital transport. Frustratingly his Silver Shadow has been moth balled.

Liz Howell suffered mishap after mishap throughout the year. Escaping water from a poorly installed new washing machine caused many weeks of disruption, all the floor covering on the ground floor was removed and de-humidifiers were running constantly. Once that had all died down there has also been water leaks both in a downstairs cistern and in the bathroom upstairs.

As was usual for him, and despite all, **Mark Worsfold** has kept busy both with matters Grenadier and local issues in Cobham. Details of his endeavours are reported on separately.

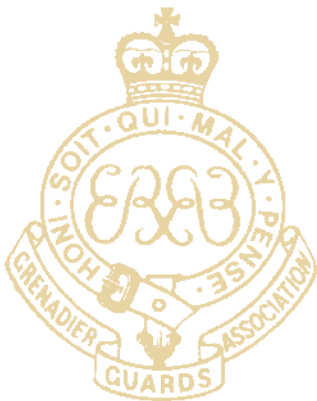
Looking back, **John Knight** thought that he must have had a moment of insanity. He had

thought it a good idea to demolish a workshop cum greenhouse in the garden that had suffered over the years and had become unstable. Built of brick and breeze block it was still quite substantial and to date has taken several weeks of toil and two large skips to remove waste. Parts of the building fell over when leant on but equally some took a sledgehammer to get down to ground level.

Early in the project his eldest son lent a hand whilst the roof was being removed. John, using a jig saw, at the top of steps and in the absence of safety goggles managed to acquire two eyes full of sawdust and an amount of at least fifty-year-old detritus. Fortunately, an escorted walk to the local pharmacy with both eyes closed produced some prescribed eyewash and soothing drops. No permanent damage was done.

Finally, concrete has been laid to extend the base ready for the new building to arrive for erection. His eldest granddaughter and her boyfriend both contracted the virus early in the pandemic, but both recovered at home without the need for hospital treatment. His second granddaughter, her husband and their toddler have moved into a new build permanent home. Having developed a fever John took a virus test which returned a negative result and he recovered within a few days.

As has become be the norm for everyone it was impossible to make plans. It would be wonderful to think that we could, sometime soon, return to something approaching normality. We do, however, look forward in anticipation that Regimental Remembrance Day and Grenadier Day might return to the calendar in 2021.



LEICESTERSHIRE & RUTLAND

(Formed 1927)

President: R JONES, Esq

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

The last year has been anything but normal although we started in good form at Lincoln Cathedral on Remembrance Sunday. During the service our Association poppy wreath was laid by **Pat Houldridge**. This was followed by pre-lunch drinks as the guests of **Neil Crowther** at the private Castle Hill Club, located in the historic area of the City between the Cathedral and the Castle. Following this we all decamped to the Bentley Hotel for lunch, which as ever was excellent. Take a look at the rear of the **Keith Harvey** and **Pat Houldridge** photograph, who both found a suitable hanger for their walking sticks!



Keith Harvey and Pat Houldridge.



Richard and Fiona Golding (right) with their guests Paul (Stan) and Louise Boardman outside Lincoln Cathedral on Remembrance Day 2019.

In December we changed our meeting to an informal Christmas Lunch, almost 30 members and guests attended and had an enjoyable afternoon as these pictures show.



In January, several members and their wives met for Sunday Lunch and then again in February we met for our bi-monthly meeting at Pennell's Garden Centre. Unfortunately, this was our last get together of the year.

Our secretary, **Anne Marshall** wrote to all members reassuring them we remain at the end of the telephone should they need any assistance and kept in touch with others by telephone.

Our Branch President, **Major Dennis Bradley BEM DL** lives in Kent, although he is originally from Lincoln. He is a Deputy Lieutenant of Kent and during the lockdown the Lord Lieutenant of Kent requested that her deputy Lieutenants commemorate VJ Day from their own properties and have their actions photographed for the Lieutenancy website, in order to show the public that Kent was participating in this important event even when struggling with the Covid lockdown. Major Bradley's photograph can be found in the East Kent Branch report.

Our committee all remain in-situ and, hopefully, we will be able to meet again soon.

Sadly, we have lost several members during the last year; **22649925 J E Blades** an Associate Member, **2626727 C N Shereston** - Nev first joined the Association in the late 1940s and held the post of Honorary Treasurer for over 25 years, **24164876 J R N Gillyett** - John was a longstanding member of the Branch and well known within the Regiment. We will remember them.

LIVERPOOL

(Formed 1920)

President: THE EARL OF DERBY

Vice Presidents: 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@shrewsbury-hotel.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

16th November 2019 and our year begins as always with our (99th) Dinner and Dance, again at the Mercure Liverpool Atlantic Tower with all the usual suspects. This year was a little different as we were very proud and honoured to have representation from the Irish Guards.

Jim Ross headed their table of ten and it was so special for two proud Liverpool Associations to be as one, celebrating the longevity of our presence in our amazing city. Our Area Representative **Mr Barry Taylor** and his lovely wife **Adele** also attended, and our guest speaker was **Lt Alex Featherstone-Godley**. All in all, it was a lovely evening and our Grenadier family seemed to strengthen and grow once again.

Michael McNicholas, secretary of the Wigan Branch Royal British Legion, informed us in March 2019 that in Widnes cemetery they have a CWGC Memorial Stone to commemorate the lives of three men who were buried in another cemetery in West Bank in Widnes. Their graves were lost when the cemetery and church were closed down as part of the project to build the suspension bridge across the River Mersey.

One of those men was **11710 Private Joseph Dixon** of the 1st Battalion Grenadier Guards. He joined the 3rd Battalion Grenadier Guards in 1904 at Wellington Barracks in London and returned to Widnes as a reservist. He re-joined the Regiment on the 5th August 1914 and after being injured during the Battle of Loos he returned to England. On 21st October 1915 he died in hospital in Manchester

after feeling unwell and his body was brought back to Widnes where he was buried in St Marys Dock Church Cemetery.

Paul Wright, who is manager for open spaces in Halton, contacted the Commonwealth War Graves Commission and persuaded them to bring the memorial back to the old Cemetery grounds. These two lovely men contacted us to ask if we could be a part of the unveiling of the memorial stone to **Private Dixon**. We were honoured to be asked to attend such an important occasion, so on a cold Winter morning in November 2019 Branch members **George Hughes**, **John Gregory**, **Bob Thomson**, **Linda Jones** and **Julie Champion** represented the Branch. **George Hughes** led us in giving him the farewell that he so deserved.



George Hughes, Linda Jones, Julie Champion and John Gregory at Joseph Dixon's memorial stone.

From here we move on to what is becoming our traditional Festive Afternoon Tea. Over the years this day has become so special and lovely for our Branch members. Local radio DJ, **Billy Hui**, from Radio Merseyside brought his choir to serenade us with a sing along of all our favourite festive Carols. There was no better way to end 2019 than with fun, laughter and the best company. Thanks to the generosity and support of our amazing members we raised £150 to support our Branch. 2019 ended with optimism and the hope of an exceptional start to our centenary year of 2020.

2020 started with not the best news regarding our dear friend of Charles Yates. Charles was one of our

longest serving members and one of the youngest to join up in WW2. Unfortunately, we were all about to embark on a journey that did not have the happy ending we prayed for.

We owe it to Charles to share his last journey; he was so loved and cherished by all of his Grenadier family. A routine Christmas call from **Julie Champion** to see how their Christmas was going sadly revealed that Charles had had a fall at home on 29th December and was taken to Aintree hospital to be told that he had fractured his hip. Understandably due to his age they did not want to operate so only physiotherapy was offered.

With this news, Charles was adamant that he wanted to get home to his beloved **Joyce** so discharged himself from hospital. This was the beginning of a very difficult month for us all. Charles' health deteriorated so much so that he was again admitted to hospital at the end of January. **John Gregory, Brenda Shannon** and **Julie**, alongside close friends **Agnes** and **Vic** promised Charles they would look after **Joyce** and to care for her every day whilst he was in hospital. They visited Charles every spare minute they had.

All of the hospital staff loved him and it was so lovely to sit and chat with him as he was such an endearing, caring, beautiful man. We are all so grateful that COVID restrictions had not then been implemented and we were able to enjoy these special moments with Charles.

In early February we managed to get **Joyce** to the hospital for a visit and on that Saturday afternoon they had a lovely hour together, just like the young sweethearts they once were. **Julie** visited him on that same evening, and he was like a love-struck teenager telling her how beautiful **Joyce** looked and how he yearned to get back home to her. Sadly, on the following Tuesday morning **John Gregory** and **Brenda Shannon** received the news that Charles had deteriorated during the night and to prepare themselves for the worst.

Knowing this was the end, they rushed to Charles' side. COVID-19 restrictions were bubbling up but they knew they had to be there with him. We were blessed that the staff thought so much of Charles that they didn't want him to be alone. **John & Brenda** were with him until the end, holding his hands and talking to him about his wonderful life

and Grenadier friends who had become part of a wider loving family. Charles peacefully passed away on Tuesday 12th February.

We were determined to give him the best Grenadier send-off we could. The Royal British Legion were there to support him with a Standard Bearer and the Last Post was played by **W02 Richard Howe, 4 LANCS**. Charles's coffin was draped with the Union Flag and his beret and medals were with him too. His pall bearers were Branch members, **John Gregory, Brian Russell, Paul Carroll, Bob Thomson** and **Geoff Norris** (Charles's best friend **George's** son). The sixth would have made Charles' day and he would have been so proud that our youngest Grenadier, **25211887 John Shields** was there for him in his beret, blazer and regimental tie. **John** had travelled quite a way to be there and this made a huge impact on us all.

George Hughes saluted Charles before he was carried in to the church and wrote "On 4th March 2020 we said a final farewell to a very well respected and loved member of the Branch as we laid him to rest. "Charles was 93 years of age when he died but never lost that spark. "He represented all that it is to be a Grenadier and a gentleman. "He set a standard that many admired and will be sadly missed by all who knew him. "RIP Dear Friend".



Farewell Dear Friend – George Hughes at Charles Yates' funeral.

A poem by W H Auden begins “Stop all the clocks cut off the telephone, prevent the dog from barking with his juicy bone”. It ends with “The stars are not wanted now put out every one, pack up the moon and dismantle the sun”

Nothing could better describe how we felt and even more so as we have also had to bear the loss of **Terry McMahon, 23252879 John Coates, John Clarke**, and in June **John Edwards**. We haven't yet had the opportunity to properly regroup due to the current pandemic, but we will remain strong in the memory of these men.

A little later in the year we heard the wonderful news that **John Shields** and his wife **Chrissy**, had a beautiful baby boy **Alexander** who was born on Sunday the 5th July. A gift that confirms that life goes on and so will we in memory of all we have loved and lost in 2020.



John, Chrissy and Alexander Shields.

We missed celebrating our Branch's Centenary this year, a year that has been a very different one for everyone. We remain so very grateful to all our members for their patience, commitment and generosity. It is, and always will be so very much

appreciated.

A special thank you to **Linda Jones**, our Treasurer for keeping the books in order and working extra hard coping with all the cancellation refunds to and from the Branch. Thank you also to **Barbara Pennington** who is still at the end of the phone inspiring **Julie** in everything she does, **Brian Russell** for all his kind donations and inspirational and kind phone calls. A huge thank you to **George Hughes** for representing the Branch, his total commitment and going out of his way to attend every funeral; a true inspiration to us all. All too at RHQ, especially **Major Andy Green** for his continued patience and guidance. Last but not least our President **Lord Derby**, a huge thank you from us all, for your time, outstanding commitment, understanding and all you do to support our Branch.

This year has been a struggle for many to say the least and we have personally lost people close to us. What has been very apparent throughout however and as our rich history shows, we will overcome whatever challenge is put before us. We will see better days and come together again soon.



Happier times – George Hughes and Judith at Black Sunday.

In memory of **22213618 Terry McMahon, 2625427 Charles Yates, 23252879 John Coates, 2626010 John Edwards, 2622403 Ronald Ernest Haps** and **John Clarke** an Honorary Member. Lest We Forget.

Charles Yates



Charles was born in 1926 in the Kensington area of Liverpool and enjoyed a happy childhood with his mother Alice, father Arthur and brother Jim. He attended Gurwin Street school where he met his lifelong friend George Norris.

After school Charles went to work at Blacklers as a delivery truck driver and later as a milkman. Keen but too young to fight for his country, he thought such employment would help discipline him for Army service when the time came.

Charles joined the Regiment in 1944 and after basic training joined The King's Company. After landing at Ostend, he fought his way through Belgium, Holland and Germany. Arriving at Lubeck he experienced the most horrific sight of Sandbostel concentration camp. Later he took part in the victory march in Berlin.

Charles met and married Joyce in 1948 and they enjoyed a honeymoon on the Isle of Man. One of their first dates had been at Anfield to see Liverpool play.

Charles worked at English Electric for 15 years and then with Dutton Forshaw as a stock controller for both. He then became a policeman and often reflected laughingly about his sergeant taking him into pubs in Old Swan to check for underage drinkers whilst looking too young himself.

Charles retired in 1991 but still did voluntary work, he and Joyce always had a very active life and had many enjoyable holidays together. One night during a week in Harrogate the fire alarm went off in their hotel. Having to evacuate the building, they spent the night in their car in pyjamas whilst the fire brigade tried to trace source of the fire.

Charles loved being part of the Grenadier family, it was a huge part of his life. He stayed active with the Liverpool Branch where he became an honorary Vice President. He never missed Black Sunday in London for as long as he was able. In 2014 Charles, being one of the surviving veterans of World War 2, was presented with the Liverpool Citizen of Honour award.

Charles enjoyed many hobbies and was a member of the Wavertree bowling club for 26 years until his eyesight failed. He also loved music.

Charles and Joyce moved into a bungalow in Kiln Hey in 1998 with their dog Peg. They made many friends there and were very highly regarded.

Charles was one in a million and never was a bad word said about him. He was a very honourable man, kind, helpful and proud. He neither needed nor wanted a lot for himself; if Joyce was happy so was he. We have lost such a dear friend and life will not be the same without him, his cheeky smile and sense of humour. It was an honour and a privilege for us to have shared part of his life.

William John Edwards



John loved a parade and how fitting it was that representatives from the Grenadier Guards, the Police, the Merseyside Blue Badge guides as well as family and friends were present at his funeral.

Born in Everton John was very proud of his time with the Grenadier Guards, serving in Palestine and the Malay peninsula. He was devoted to the Queen and it was his service that was presumably responsible for his love affair with marching music which was often heard all around his house.

Whilst serving in London he used to travel to the Kent coast by bicycle, and if the odometer had not clicked up 100 miles, he used to keep riding around the block until it did.

He served as a policeman, first in the Liverpool City Police from August 1952, then the Liverpool and Bootle Constabulary and finally the Merseyside Police until his retirement in 1985 having risen to the rank of Superintendent.

He served at Belle Vale, Admiral Street and Police Headquarters amongst others, but his time at the Police Training Centre at Mather Avenue was possibly his most enjoyable and rewarding. Coaching and leading by example instilling his values into his cadets, and where he could enjoy his

love of the outdoors during training and leadership courses. Many of 'his' Cadets went on to have highly successful careers.

George Fowler, passing on some thoughts and tributes from John's police colleagues said "His passing has generated much sadness but has also evoked much gratitude and respect. "I would like to think that a taste of the tributes expressed might bring a tad of comfort to the family, founded as they are not just on John's achievements but more on the prestige in which the man himself was held".

On retirement and never one to sit around idle, John threw himself into researching local history, and as a natural progression became one of the City's first Official Blue Badge tourist guides.

John was married to Beryl for 65 years and as a loving and caring couple, were proud parents of their three children, three grandchildren and one great grandchild.

John will be sadly missed by his family, his many friends and by our Branch.

John Coates



John enlisted into the Regiment in February 1957 serving for some time in Cyprus and then in London.

He enjoyed his service and particularly the challenge set by Major I. Erskine of Headquarter Company who in his wisdom, implemented

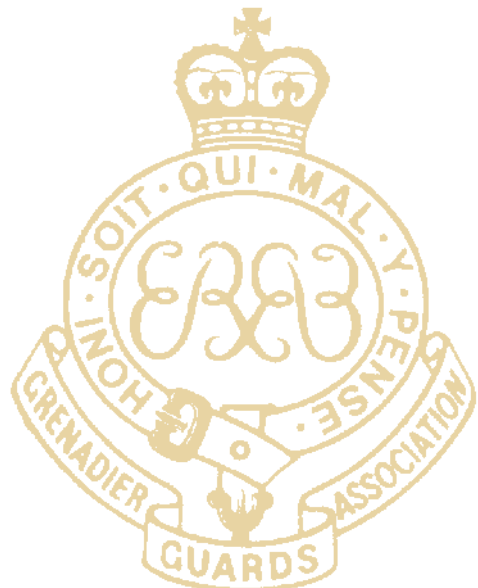
'Exercise Europa'. The challenge was to let eight men travel back to London under their own steam, with the princely sum of five shillings (25 pence) in their pocket and a time limit of 14 days. The remaining 800 men of the 3rd Battalion Grenadier Guards were to travel home by troopship.

John and the other seven Guardsman were left at Limassol docks with their allotted 5 shillings and their 14-day timeframe. Their first challenge was to find a ship that would allow them to sleep on deck and take them to Europe. They finally boarded the Greek ship SS Agamemnon that would take them to Southern Italy via Alexandria in Egypt.

On reaching Brindisi they decided to travel in groups of two and lots were drawn as to which pair would start their journey first, each at 10-minute intervals. John was in the second group. On reaching Genoa John and his travelling companion separated finding it easier to hitch lifts that way. John told many a funny story of his travels over land and sea, his experiences ranging from hitching lifts, sleeping on the deck of a ship, railways and police stations, also managing to sleep in a hotel and nudist camp, the latter he claimed was purely accidental. He met so many kind people on his journey, many offering lifts but still plenty of walking.

John, the first one back to barracks was immediately sent to clean up and change his clothes for he was to be interviewed by Christopher Jones of the BBC. The interview went out that evening as part of the early evening news. The only person that seemed to miss it was his mother.

John was proud of his time with the Grenadiers and was a member of the Liverpool Branch until his death in February 2020. He is missed so much by his wife of 54 years, his son, daughter and granddaughter.



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; Mr PH LANES

Chairman: Mr F HOOLEY

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: No meetings planned for 2021.

Website: Londonbranch-GrenadierGuards-Association.com

who has been such a help to Les, for their hard work over the year. He saved till last his thanks for **Phil Lanes** who, after serving the Branch over the last 30 years as the Social Secretary and as our Chairman, had decided to stand down. How appropriate that he should do this on the London Branch's 100th Anniversary. **Colonel Robert** then went on to thank **Frank Hooley** who is our Branch Treasurer, for taking on the role as the new Branch Chairman. We know he will make a fantastic Charmian and carry on where **Phil** left off.



Another scene from our Christmas Draw.

Our annual Christmas Draw was held on 14th December 2019 at the Union Jack Club, Waterloo, London. At the last moment six members in one family came down with a cold and were not able to come, but in the nick of time **Les Cox**, his wife **Jan** and **Margaret Taylor** managed to rearrange the tables just as the remaining 60 members started to arrive. Everyone enjoyed themselves and the Club excelled with a fantastic three course meal.



Our 2019 Christmas Draw.

Our President, **Lieutenant Colonel Robert Cartwright LVO**, thanked everyone for coming and also thanked the committee and **Jan Cox**

Our guest speaker was the Adjutant of the 1st Battalion, **Captain Ben Tracy**. He told us amongst other things about how Support Company had deployed to the Falkland Islands in the cold, wet and very, very windy weather. In reply our secretary asked him to give our best wishes to the families that were left behind at Christmas while their loved ones were so far away from them.

Once again, we welcomed members from the Bristol Branch and also **Sean Bolan** and his wife. **Sean** is the artist who paints the picture for our Christmas Cards. We then went on to have our grand Christmas Draw. We would like to thank not only our members but also the many people across the country who bought raffle tickets. This year, **Sean Bolan** brought along some of his prints which were auctioned off and won by **David Roalfe's** bid of £60. The 50/50 draw for £142 was won by **Peter Nash**.



More members and guests at our Christmas Draw.

On return from a holiday to Egypt in February Les Cox was about to meet and experience what the Coronavirus pandemic was to bring. In short the enforced cancellation of all planned Branch and wider annual associated events. The Branch had been about to celebrate its centenary. A cocktail party had been arranged to be held at the Guards Museum at Wellington Barracks with The Colonel

of the Regiment as our guest of honour. It was hoped that he would present **Phil Lanes** with an Association certificate and a gift from the Branch to mark his 30 years of service.

We commissioned **Sean Bolan** to come up with a Christmas Card to coincide with our centenary. Incorporating some of our ideas, he painted a fantastic picture of four guardsman standing on Horse



The London Branch Christmas Card 2020.

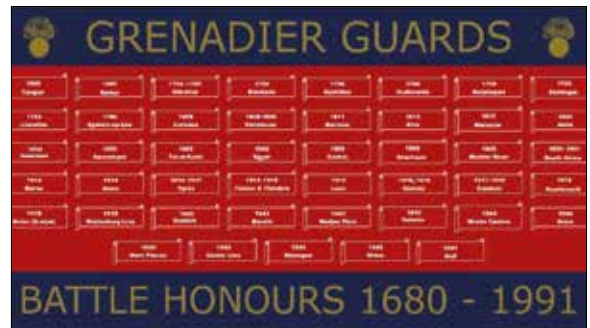
Guards Parade in the snow with the Guards Memorial in the background. The guardsmen are in Greatcoat order from 1920 – 2020 with the Lee Enfield 303 Long and Short rifles, the Belgium FN SLR and the SA80. We also had the two Royal Cyphers, George V and Elizabeth II, reworked to make them bolder and sharper. These appeared on either side of the card.

Despite lockdown our secretary kept in close contact with our committee, **Colonel Cartwright, Frank Hooley and Mike Bunch**. He managed to get a small emergency edition of our Review out to all our members to try and keep them informed about what was going on within the Branch and at RHQ.

The Branch shop is doing well with two special items we had designed especially for Grenadier Day. Two bath/beach towels both 5 ft x 3 ft in Blue Red Blue velour with terry toweling backing. The first shows 45 of our Battle Honours from Tangiers to the Gulf. The other shows all five Regiments of Foot Guards and how to tell the difference between them.



The Foot Guards Towel.



The Battle Honour Towel.

Since our last report and with deep sadness we record the deaths of **2629233 Mr P Allen, 2625001 Mr W Butcher, 2629299 H Clements BEM, 23509698 Mr R Dean, 2628932 Mr P Dellar and 2254559 Mr L Knowles.**

On a brighter note and since our last report we have some new members. **25025723 Mr M Burnicle, 24068454 Mr P Castel, 25083172 Mr K Glynn, 22545248 Mr G Shadbolt, 24076228 Mr R Baker, 23865090 Mr M Burk, 22213316 Mr D Money MBE and 23392083 Mr D Room.** We also welcome as Honorary Members **Mr D Crouch, Mr D Woolaston** and ladies **Mrs J Cunningham and Mrs D Russell.**

As always we send thanks to **Major Andy Green, Sergeant Rob Broomes and Sergeant Robert Haughton** at Regimental Headquarters who give such unstinting support to the Branch. Also in these strange times, our President has asked that the following message be sent to members of the London Branch who have supported us during the time of Covid-19, despite its disruption and disappointments.



Colonel Robert showing off his Branch Towel at his swimming Pool in France.

“Although, at the time I am writing, a second lockdown is about to begin, I believe there is cause for hope on the horizon. One of our Vice Presidents, **Major Alexander Cartwright**, is working with the Department of Health and Social Care on the Covid-19 laboratories. Despite criticism in the press, the testing system is advancing rapidly with assistance from the Ministry of Defence and serving and retired soldiers. This, and the likely advent of a workable vaccine, means the outlook for 2021 is much brighter. I hope when you read this life is much closer to normal than during 2020. I look forward to seeing you at events held during a more normal year!”

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 ended 2019 with a bang; our Annual Christmas Dinner and Dance. The venue was once again the Britannia Country House Hotel, our favourite hotel and our members obviously agree with us on that. There were 128 members and guests sitting down for a four course meal and entertainment from a country band called the Hayley Sisters supported by our own DJ.

During the evening we had a raffle with some 40 or more prizes, a keg of beer to auction off and the brown envelope draw for a special prize. To encourage our members to attend, we subsidised the meal, however, the raffle and other fund raising items meant that we ended the evening making a small profit, so well done the social team.

Shortly after our Branch monthly meeting in

March came the dreadful news that the country was to go into lockdown, and this changed everything. Like everyone else we had to cancel our Branch Annual Dinner and Dance and RHQ gave us the news that all regimental functions were being cancelled, including the Association AGM, Black Sunday and Grenadier Day. Well that's enough doom and gloom for now, on to happier news.

Two years ago our secretary, **Bob Fallon**, along with a Royal Marine, a member of the Royal Signals and a Women's Royal Air Force policewoman started a veterans' breakfast club in a community hall in Heywood, Lancashire. They named it the Sandbag Café and began serving bacon butties with tea or coffee for £2 per person. The café now has 27 regular veterans from all three services attending every week, although the dreaded lockdown has brought a temporary halt, and twice a year they serve up a full English breakfast for the princely sum of £2.50.



Sandbag café Remembrance Day 2019.



VJ Day members during lockdown.

These veterans celebrate all the major anniversaries VE Day, VJ Day, Remembrance Day and Armed forces Day. **Bob Fallon** even decorated his family home for VE Day



Bob Fallon with Ray Sharkey SG.



Bob's house on VE Day.

This year has been a bumper year for members having reached their Diamond Wedding Anniversary, which just goes to show the age of our membership. The first ones are **David and Sheila Pugh**. In 1954, whilst working for Esso petroleum, David received his call up papers for National Service. His bosses at Esso told him they were prepared to keep his job open for two years

only, so David signed for the two rather than risk not having a job to come home to.

In September 1954 David reported to Caterham Barracks for basic training, from there he went to Pirbright and finally on to Windsor, where he joined the Mortar Platoon, Support Company, 3rd Battalion. He became the Orderly to the **Honourable Jeremy Monson** who was the Ensign on the Birthday Parade in 1956. After leaving the Regiment David moved back to Manchester and back to his old job as a tanker driver for Esso Petroleum, being thankful that they had honoured their promise to keep his job open. In November 1956 David went to the Broadway dance studio where he met **Sheila**, and so began a wonderful relationship that has lasted to the present day



Dave and Sheila's wedding day.



Dave and Sheila's anniversary day.

On the 3rd September 1960 David and Sheila got married, and their first child, **Mark** was born in July 1962. Two years later their second child, **Michelle**, was born in May 1964, they are very proud of their four grandchildren whose ages range from 17 to 32 years. After working for 36 and a half years David was finally retired due to ill health, but we are pleased to say they are both still going strong and we wish them well.

In 1955 **Ronnie Callan** received his call up papers for National Service and he decided to join the Grenadier Guards, he signed on for the extra year to get more pay. After basic training at Caterham he was posted to Germany. Ronnie cannot remember which battalion due to the onset of dementia but we are sure a lot of readers will know. He was demobbed in 1958 and moved back to Manchester. Once he was home Ronnie began drinking in the Royal British Legion club in Middleton Junction, and this is where he began a relationship with the barmaid, **Marian**. They courted for two years before they got married on 15th October 1960 at St. Gabriel's Church, Middleton Junction.



Ronnie and Marian's wedding day.



Ronnie and Marian's anniversary day.

They lived in Newton Heath for two and a half years, then moved again to central Manchester with Ronnie's job where they lived for 34 years and where their daughter was born. When their daughter got married she and her husband moved to South Africa with his job, and she gave birth to a baby girl. When Ronnie retired in 1997 they moved to Kearsley,

Bolton and they are still living there. They do, however, travel to South Africa every winter to spend a couple of months with their daughter and granddaughter. They have been doing this for the last 24 years, but due to poor health and the distance involved they now say it is too far. The current pandemic has also got something to do with it. We wish them both well for the foreseeable future.

The Branch does have another Diamond wedding anniversary coming up, but that will be after this article has been submitted for publication. It was **Neil & Barbara Davies'** anniversary on the 3rd December 2020, and we will have photos of that in next year's edition.

Having had to cancel the Christmas dinner for this year we are trying to be optimistic and hope we can start work on our annual dinner due to take place at the end of April 2021. Who knows what will happen in the near future.

Sadly, we have to report that the Branch have lost the following members; **23509610 R D McCaughtree**, 10 Nov 19. **23688595 M Lindley**, 16 Jan 20. **23509842 E Done**, 13 Jun 20. **22545937 G K Burrage**, 25 Jul 20. **24125393 T Bennett**, 29 Aug 20 and **23633083 G E K Coburn**, 09 Nov 20. May they rest in peace.

We would like to thank **Major Andy Green**, **Sergeant Rob Broomes** and all the staff at RHQ for their support and help throughout the last twelve months.

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.

like of which we haven't seen before. Lockdown, self-isolation, social distancing, rules on everyday activities, rules on gatherings indoors or in gardens, funerals, weddings, Church attendance, charity work, foodbanks, working from home, supermarkets, panic buying, online shopping and so it goes on.

Can we plan – yes or perhaps no! Is that journey necessary? Are the grandchildren part of your 'Bubble'? When will we get back to normal and what will normal be? The batteries for the crystal ball ran out many months ago but come on, we are Grenadiers and have been raised on discipline and order. Do we understand confusion? Lord only knows we always had the Sergeant Major or the Drill Sergeants to help us understand what was required!

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 in 2019. **Chris Whitebrook** was at Peterborough Cathedral in the morning and in the afternoon at Whittlesey accompanied by his wife **Morag**, **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** and at Chatteris **Neville Patter**. Many of our other Branch members remembered in their own way, some at Church services and others in the privacy of their own homes.

The regular venue for Branch functions, the Conservative Club at March, had accepted the bookings for our annual functions and all of the members had received reminders of what and when, and our Branch President, **Major Andy Green**, had indicated his availability.

Because of the Covid pandemic the only function that could be held during the reporting year was the Christmas Lunch. This was, as usual, a great afternoon. Good food and company, a challenging table quiz, despite an assurance from **Chris Whitebrook** that the quiz was an easier one. This statement was met with derision, however the chocolates are really popular and keenly contested for. Subtle hints are always eagerly sought after as the wines and soft drinks are dispensed, all to no avail. The Christmas Raffle, organised by our Treasurer, **Morag Whitebrook**, assisted by Chairman **Edward Salmon** and his wife,

So how do we go about reporting on the most horrific of years, so disrupted by a pandemic the

Caroline, rounded off a most enjoyable day when there was a reluctance for people to leave.

The turn of the year saw the usual round of preparatory work for further functions, the ordering of Gazettes, establishing requirements for Birthday Parade tickets, reminding members as to how they can apply for rehearsal tickets. Preparation for the Annual General Meeting, together with the Secretary's meeting, the round of keeping in touch with all our members, those who attend as well as those who won't, don't or can't. And then those dreaded words from our Prime Minister... LOCKDOWN!

So we couldn't do what we had planned for, a new way of living had to be adapted to. For some, holidays had to be cancelled and the fight for refunds began. For others holidays were swapped to other dates either later in the year or in a future year. For the majority of members of the Branch they ceased being elderly, they now became vulnerable whether they felt it or not. Hospital appointments were cancelled; surgery visits became difficult if not nigh impossible. The telephone became even more important as communication became more vital. Fortunately, a long, warm summer meant that a lot of garden visiting could take place where social distancing could be observed. The Branch AGM was held just days before mixing in other households was barred.

The change from the initial lockdown to the Tier system didn't really have a great effect as far as the Branch was concerned. Visiting was still difficult. Shops re-opened but the restrictions still meant that for the majority of our members there was little change. Vulnerability still led to isolation. Throughout all of this the mood of the members was one of optimism.

The remainder of the year contained the usual round of personal mishaps for members and their immediate families, none of which caused any great concern. After all, as we increase in years we are almost expected to have the falls and bumps. Luckily we have only really been affected by the pandemic in one instance, **Caroline Salmon**, wife of the Branch Chairman, contracted Covid in her work as a nurse at a local Hospice. Fortunately, she beat it and following a period of hospitalisation and then isolation at home, was able to resume her important work. We are thankful for all of the NHS

workers and also thank another nurse within the Branch, **Pam Clifford**, for her long difficult hours fighting the pandemic.

Whilst VE Day commemorations were heavily restricted across the country, in our local area they were non-existent. Due to a temporary easing of restrictions however it was a different story with regard to VJ Day. The Branch Secretary joined, in support of the local Branch of the Cambridgeshire Regiment, in honouring the memory of the occasion. A scaled back parade took place at the War Memorial in Whittlesey and wreaths were laid. Following this a more private wreath laying took place at the local cemetery, and at this time the Peace Bench purchased with financial assistance from the Branch was dedicated.



'The Memorial Peace Bench'.

The Branch was particularly proud of our Branch President, **Major Andy Green**, when he joined with the Regimental Casualty Officer, **Matt Elmer**, on his trek across the country to assist the Colonels' Fund. Had circumstances allowed more would have liked to have joined in for stages of the trek, however it was a cause worthy of sponsorship.

Continuous phone calls and correspondence between Branch members are keeping all updated and positive. Our venue hosts, the Conservative Club at March, have refused offers of financial assistance due to cancelled events but are eagerly looking forward to when they can welcome us back for future Branch events.

The Branch wishes to express appreciation and thanks to **Sergeant Rob Broomes** and his team for all of their invaluable assistance, so readily given, throughout the year. Although he will be moving on, for which we wish him well, we look forward to meeting and working with **Lance Sergeant Glen Davis**.

MATLOCK & CHESTERFIELD

(Formed 2020)

President: Mr DW RAWSON, BEM

Vice-Presidents: Mr MF CARNALL

Chairman: Mr FA KNIGHT

Secretary: Mrs YJ BALL, 12 Westwood Lane, Chesterfield, Derbyshire, S43 1PA

Tel: 07391576380

Email: yjball@hotmail.co.uk

Treasurer: Mrs YJ BALL

Meetings: Held at 1230hrs on the last Friday of each month, (except in August and December) at The Sycamore Inn, Parwich, Derbyshire DE6 1Q

During the latter part of 2019 discussions took place between Matlock and Chesterfield Branches concerning a possible merger. In December RHQ agreed with the merger and at our first meeting in January 2020 all present agreed the new name should be Matlock and Chesterfield Branch. It was also agreed that a new venue would be sought convenient to all members. However, due to February snow on the hills and the commencement of lockdown we were unable to hold face to face meetings.

Members were extremely enthusiastic when it came to VE Day, providing photographs of their celebrations. They celebrated in their gardens in a very traditional, Covid safe way. A typical example were members **John and Margaret Wright** featured in the illustration below:



John and Margaret Wright celebrating VE Day in great style.

On 1st August **John** and **Margaret** celebrated their Diamond Wedding Anniversary. **Margaret** and **John** grew up in homes only 400 yards apart. They attended school together and were childhood sweethearts from the age of eleven.

To celebrate their Diamond Wedding **Margaret** and **John** had hoped to have a meal at the same venue that they had their Wedding Breakfast with their original bridesmaids in attendance. This was to be followed by a visit to their family in Australia. Sadly both these arrangements have had to be shelved because of the current pandemic.

When interviewed by the Derbyshire Times they were asked what they attributed their longevity to; **John** replied, 'My subservience' and **Margaret** said 'Tolerance and a Bad Memory.'



**'John and Margaret
'Then...'**



'... and now'.

Sadly, in September, **David Brignull** passed away after a short illness. He was the former Secretary and Treasurer of the Chesterfield Branch and also Treasurer for Matlock. **David's** role in the management of both Branches' finances was outstanding. He was not only very organised, conscientious and detail oriented, but also a very brave man who, learning of his diagnosis, was very pragmatic about what the end result would be. His funeral was well attended by members of both Branches but what was left unsaid was that **David** was a true gentleman. Whilst not a Grenadier himself he thoroughly enjoyed his time completing National Service in the Royal Engineers. One of his postings was to the Monte Dello Islands off the coast of Western Australia where nuclear bomb tests were held. He will be sorely missed.

As our AGM approached it was agreed with members that a telephone conference call would be an appropriate way to hold the meeting. It was not possible to use 'Zoom' or 'Teams' as all members do not have broadband/Wi-Fi facilities. At this point not only did we have to find a new Treasurer but also pass a new Constitution and find appropriate signatories for the financial aspect of the Branch. However, adding to this, unfortunately our incumbent Chairman, **Derek Killingsley-Smith**, submitted his resignation due to ill-health



VE Day – Derek Killingsley-Smith.

On 30th October the telephone conference took place and the following posts were filled:

President: **Bill (David) Rawson**

Vice President: **Michael Carnall**

Chairman: **Frederick Knight**

Secretary: **Yvonne Ball**

Unfortunately, the post of Treasurer was not filled by any other committee members but **Yvonne** agreed to hold this post until a new Treasurer can be found. The post of Social and Welfare Secretary remained unfilled but the former incumbent, **John Wright** agreed to assist the President and Secretary in organising any future events for the Branch.

It was agreed our monthly face to face Branch meetings are to be held at a new venue - the Sycamore Inn at Parwich.

With changes to our Committee it seems appropriate to re-introduce them with a short synopsis of their time in the Grenadier Guards:



VE Day – Bill Rawson.

Bill Rawson enlisted in 1957 and reliving past times **Bill** has kindly provided the photograph below of his team in Libya taken in 1960. They were part of Operation Starlight. **Bill** recalls them having to trial food replacement meals whilst marching and withstanding extreme heat for one month.



Libya 1960 taken by Bill Rawson. Left to Right: Sergeant Liquorish, Lance Sergeant May, Sergeant Whitehead and Sergeant Lund.



VE Day – Michael Carnall.

Michael Carnall joined the Grenadiers on 5th December 1960 training at Pirbright before being posted to the 2nd Battalion in Dusseldorf, Germany. The Sergeant Major was **Freddie Clutton**. He was then posted to No 1 Company under CSM

Sharrocks and spent a further six months in Germany before returning to Caterham. After passing a driving test he was posted to the MT 3-ton section and posted to British Guyana for 9 months before returning to Caterham for demobbing. **Michael** joined the Grenadier Guards Association in 1960 as a life member and became a member of his local Branch at Chesterfield in 1966. The President of the Chesterfield Branch was **Major Tom Bagshaw** and after serving as Social Secretary and Chairman **Major Bagshaw** proposed **Michael** to be Vice-President of the Branch.



VE Day – Fred Knight.

Fred Knight was training at the Guards Depot when the King died and lined the streets for his funeral. Similarly, when **Queen Mary** passed away he was on duty for that funeral too. He was assigned to The Queen's Company and was in the marching party for **Queen Elizabeth's** Coronation. He performed guard duty at major public places in London and was on stag when Commonwealth troops took over public duties during the Coronation. **Fred** appeared on the front page of a national newspaper as Canadian troops took over from him.

After a driving course he moved to the MT section until he moved to Germany into No 5 Company stationed in Montgomery Barracks in Berlin. From there he performed guard duty at Spandau Prison alternating with the American and Russian armies. With plenty of time to complete field training his company entered the Nijmegen Marches, which they won, and he received a medal.

Finally, on 2nd November 2020 our Branch President, **Bill Rawson** and Branch Secretary, **Yvonne Ball** presented a Certificate of Service and a bouquet of flowers to **Derek** and **Kate Killingsley-Smith** respectively.

Derek joined the Regiment in 1956 and became

a life member of the Grenadier Guards Comrades Association shortly afterwards having been signed up by the then General Secretary, the late **Colonel Fred Turner** (who later became a Military Knight of Windsor).

In 1959 **Derek** joined the Chesterfield Branch and soon became a Committee Member. Over a number of years, he held the post of Assistant Secretary, Branch Secretary, Treasurer, Social and Welfare organiser. When his work in the police force took him to Derby he again found himself working on the Committee as Assistant Secretary followed by Branch Secretary and Treasurer. Again on police transfer to Crich he remained a member of the Derby Branch as Social and Welfare Secretary before assisting in the setting up of a new Branch at Matlock.

Derek has been an active Chairman of the Matlock Branch since 2014 and it is only recently that he has had to take a step back due to his ill-health. He has been a true stalwart of the Grenadier Guards and hopes to continue to support the Branch when he is able. It would be remiss of us not to mention **Derek's** wife, **Kate**, who has unequivocally supported both **Derek** and the Grenadier Guards Association throughout.

The Branch wishes to thank **Derek** and **Kate** for their commitment and wish them the very best for the future.



Presentation to Derek and Kate.

One highlight of the summer months has been interest shown by two former Grenadiers that has resulted in membership of our new Branch. **James Williamson** served from 1994 to 1999 and **Gary Nicholas** spent 10 years first in the 2nd Battalion and later in the 1st Battalion. Both now work together in security in Iraq – 2 months away followed by 1 month back in Chesterfield. The Branch extends a huge welcome to them both.

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

NORFOLK

(Formed 1938)

President: Captain PJS ALLEN, BEM

Vice Presidents: Captain TRE COOK; Major JFQ FENWICK, QC;

R DONALDSON, 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 a very restricted year in line with most other Branches due to Covid-19. There has been no face to face Branch meetings and the only proposed luncheon for December was cancelled. The only meeting held was a virtual AGM in October. The Branch has 58 members, 50 being Grenadiers.

During the reporting year we had to bid a very sad farewell to **24306174 Frank Green** who passed away in November 2019 after a challenging few years. Frank served from 1975 to 1999 in the 1st and 2nd Battalions and also as a recruiting

sergeant. He served in Hong Kong, Cyprus, Belize, Kenya (twice), Canada, Germany, Northern Ireland and the UK. In January we also sadly lost **2623427 Allan Phillips**, a war veteran and in his 96th year. Allan served from 1942 to 1945 in North Africa, Italy and Austria with the 3rd, 5th and 6th Battalions. As befitting his status, a contingent from Regimental Headquarters lead by **Sergeant Haughton** attended his funeral in Harleston on 6th February to celebrate Allan's long life and service to his country.

In early September, **Captain Allen** entertained, at the Langham Dome, **Steve Craddock**, a former Royal Engineer, and **Matt Lunn** who were cycling from Kent to the National Memorial Arboretum in Staffordshire, raising money for Help for Heroes. Steve, having suffered from PTSD and been supported by Help for Heroes, is now the largest single individual money raiser for the charity, having raised £500,000 over the past twelve years. There to support him were Norfolk's first female Lord Lieutenant, **Lady Philippa Dannatt**, accompanied by **General the Lord Richard Dannatt**, **Duncan Baker MP** for North Norfolk, as well as Norfolk Grenadiers **Terry McClenahan** and **Chris Harrison**.



General the Lord Dannatt, Lady Dannatt, Matt Lunn, Steve Craddock, Captain Allen and Duncan Baker MP standing beneath the silver Spitfire at Langham Dome.

The President, **Captain Allan**, very bravely mustered a small party to attend a virtual AGM via 'Zoom' in October to continue the business of the



Lord Dannatt tries his hand at Anti-Aircraft gunnery under instruction from Lady Dannatt. Chris Harrison is standing in the doorway.

Branch. Whilst dress was very informal discipline was maintained by **Captain Allen** having control of the mute facility. In the initial phase of the meeting there were many views of ceilings until members got the hang of it whilst the broadband in the sticks of Norfolk nearly defeated the whole process. As things stand it looks like the 2021 AGM may well need to be conducted in a similar fashion.

To complete our report for this year, **Chris Warren** has offered a couple of reminiscences:

Picture The Scene 1 - British Honduras, the seventies, Corporals Course, one of many examination parades under the keen eyes of the then Adjutant **Captain Webb-Carter** and **Sergeant Major Clarke**, both with clip boards and pens poised. A hot day with fear at its maximum. The individual under test was about to drill the squad who were formed up in front of him. He gave his first word of command and his false tooth plate flew from his mouth and landed several feet away in front of the squad.

The Sergeant Major glared as only Sergeant

Majors can. Teeth gritted to stifle a laugh I stole a sideways glance in either direction (without moving a muscle), which revealed other gritted teeth and an imperceptible vibration of heads and shoulders. The individual under examination did not bat an eyelid but smartly took two paces forward, performed a perfect ground arms movement, picked up and replaced his false tooth plate and continued with the parade. No one moved, audibly laughed or said anything during this surprising turn of events. He passed of course, partially I am sure for courage under duress.

Picture The Scene 2 - Windsor Castle Guard Room, some fooling about was taking place in the absence of anyone more senior than a Corporal. 'We' locked ourselves out of the lower room (not sure what it was for now). The smallest Guardsman was ordered into the dumb waiter in the upper room and lowered down to unlock the door from the inside all before the hierarchy returned. Post event thoughts of the rope breaking and said Guardsman plummeting down inside the dumb waiter later came to mind with all their fateful consequences!

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

Our main theme this year is the hope that our Branch can carry on for some time yet. **Ray Brown** now 85, plans to be around for years to come and hopes to be able to continue as our Secretary, with the main goal being the celebration our 50th year. One good thing we have going for us is The Guards Association of North America, with our own page on Facebook, we have over 100 members.

Ray formed this Branch of our Association with the help of **Jim Bonham Lovett** in September 1972. We held the inaugural meeting at the Royal York Hotel in Toronto. In September 2022, this is where we are planning to hold our 50th anniversary reunion and hope everyone will make an effort to attend. We will offer as much assistance as we can to help those of advanced years, who suffer from ill health and may have difficulty in travelling.

Our secretary spends a great deal of time and effort trying his utmost to keep in touch with all those he has details for. In return we ask on his behalf that all that do hear from him reply, if only to let him know that you are there, in mind and body. Help in the payment of Branch subscriptions would also be most welcome – thank you.

We have been busy as a Branch even though we have had a pandemic on our hands. We donated \$500.00 to **Andy Green** and **Matt Elmer** who walked Alfred Wainwright's Coast to Coast route across Cumbria and Yorkshire in aid of the Colonels Fund, they raised over £20,000. We received letters of thanks.

This year the recipient of the Betty Pickering Memorial Award was **Bill McDowell**. Bill is our second oldest member (after Ray Brown), he joined in 1973. Bill is not in the greatest health right now but was very happy when he received the news. A statuette for Bill, a Coldstreamer, will be presented



Bill McDowell.

to him when it arrives from England. **Dot**, a staunch supporter will receive an award too.

Ideas for the next presentation of Betty's Award for 2021 would be much appreciated. We have one for 2022 and it will be presented at the 50th Anniversary Dinner.

Finally, we would like to wish all Grenadiers, wherever they might be, a safe and healthy 2021.

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

Sadly, we start this report having to record death of **Paul Goudime** who sadly passed away with cancer in June. Paul was a regular attendee at our dinners and a strong supporter of the Regiment.

Born on 6th June 1937, the son of a White Russian émigré, Paul was educated at Wellesley House and then Eton College. By his 19th birthday he was already at Eaton Hall and he was commissioned as a National Service Officer at the end of August 1956.

Paul joined the 2nd Battalion at Pirbright at a time of great uncertainty. The Battalion had only recently returned from Egypt after two years there

and it was the last British battalion to leave Egypt before General Nasser seized the Canal and the Suez Crisis erupted in late July. The 3rd Battalion had already sailed from Southampton on 14th August, bound for Egypt via a stopover at Malta and it expected to be committed to battle within days of arrival. However, the 2nd Battalion was not to share in the excitement and, instead, Paul remained in Pirbright until the Battalion moved on to the cold and bleak shores of Dungeness in Kent, where it would remain until mid-1958.

Covid-19 in 2020 changed many people's lives and sadly has taken many too. This did affect our Branch meetings and we have not had a face to face meeting since March.

Keith Hudson our Welfare Officer has been busy checking in on Branch members and we held our first 'Zoom' meeting in November. The Branch Secretary kept everyone up to speed with all Regimental correspondence from RHQ that had been sent out.

We had our annual visit to the National Memorial Arboretum in October 2019, where Branch members along with members of the TRBL Corby Branch spent the day visiting and laying a wreath in memory of fallen Grenadiers. Whilst there we all had a very nice meal and also managed to produce a mobile display team made up of **Colin Elvey**, **Dave Robinson** and **Keith Hudson** on their mobility scooters!



Our Branch Motorised Scooter Display Team.

December saw us hold our Christmas dinner and draw with over 35 members and friends in attendance.

The Branch Secretary has been busy with his job as a Health and Safety Manager in the food industry but has found the time to cycle and has met up with a couple of fellow Grenadiers.

Steve Dunstan has been very busy and took part in the Phoenix 24 challenge where he ran a mile, on the hour every hour from 0800 Saturday to 0700 Sunday, but with a twist. With the clocks going back at 0200 on the Sunday it meant he had to run during an extra hour. However, to make the challenge slightly harder Steve decided to run 2 miles every hour and adding another twist he did 25 press ups every hour as well. All of this was to raise awareness of PTSD, anxiety and depression. He completed 51.57 miles in 7 hours 52 minutes and did 600 press ups; his wife completed 25 press ups as well. Steve also completed the BLESMA 11k on Remembrance Sunday



Our 'Madman' Steve Dunstan completing yet another challenge.

Other Branch members have been busy with work in their key roles.

Like many events around the country our summer ball, The Waterloo Dinner had to be cancelled. We hope that we can have our next dinner in June 2021.

Our Branch Chairman, **Matt Ellmer** who is the Regimental Casualty Officer walked the Coast to Coast walk in aid of the Colonels Fund with **Major Andy Green** for company. As a Branch we supported the charity with a donation of £250.00. Matt's article appears elsewhere in this edition.



The start point - Matthew Ellmer and Andy Green at St Bees Head.

Our Branch Sectary, **Tony McDermott** and Welfare Officer, **Keith Hudson** attended the Corby War Memorial on Sunday 8th November and laid a wreath on behalf of the Branch. Our Chairman **Matt Ellmer** attended the service in his home town of Thrapston and other Branch members attended local services.

Our Christmas dinner and draw for 2020 was cancelled and at the time of writing we do not know when our next face to face meeting will be held. However, we will continue to keep in contact through phone, email, Facebook and Zoom!

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.

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 S HILL

Email: stevehiil13hondo@outlook.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

OXFORDSHIRE

(Formed 1936)

President: Major DPG IRVINE, MRICS

Vice Presidents: THE HON Mrs RS TYSER; Major AH GRAY; SIR JOHN GRAHAM, Bt, GCM; LORD RAGLAN; THE VISCOUNT ESHER; D MASON, Esq; Major PFL KOCH de GOOREYND; M COCHANE, Esq, DL (Scots Guards); 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

What an awful year we have had with the Covid-19 virus having a completely devastating effect on all our proposed Branch and Association functions.

The main meetings affected were our own AGM and the Secretaries Meeting that was due to be held at Wellington Barracks. However, all important local news and important information from Headquarters was circulated by **Peter Cook** to all.



Colonel Edmund Hudson CBE.

One happy blessing is that we have not heard of any of our members suffering from the virus.

Our greatest loss was the sudden death of our President **Colonel Edmund Hudson CBE**. Not only did he take a great interest in the Branch, he very rarely missed a committee meeting or lunch. He could

hold a conversation with any member as if he was one of the family. Not only was he liked by all but he was a very generous man. The help and reassurance he gave to a former Grenadier living at the time close to Henley, was simply inspiring. Edmund was a true gentleman and he will be sorely missed by us all. The Branch made a donation of £100 to the Four Paws Charity in his memory as requested by the family.

As for the few events that did take place, around 25 members and friends attended the annual morning carol service in the Guards Chapel and afterwards all met in the London District Sergeants' Mess for drinks. A very enjoyable morning was had by all and as to whether this will be the last time that the service will be held in this form remains to be seen.

The only other event was in February when we joined up with the Windsor Branch members and enjoyed a Beetle Drive at the Grenadier Club followed by a fish, chicken, or sausage and chips tea; all for £4.50p and very popular with our members as we do not have to worry about getting home too

late. Our thanks go to **Bob and Sue Gilbert** who put in a lot of hard work organising the afternoon. Unfortunately, due to a genuine misunderstanding it clashed with **Barrie and Pat Padwick's** running of the **Bill Mays** skittles afternoon at Hungerford RBL. The last two such events have raised in excess of £200 for The Lung Foundation. Sadly, **Barrie** has been in hospital with a foot problem and we wish him a speedy recovery.

The Branch wish to congratulate **Major Andy Green** and **Matt Elmer** on the completion of their 192-mile charity walk in aid of The Colonel's Fund. We made a donation of £192 in support of their efforts.

Former Grenadier **WO1 Matthew Smith** now **Sergeant Matthew Smith** is with the full time training team at 2624 Squadron RAuxAF Regiment, RAF based at Brize Norton. **Matthew** received the great honour of being sworn in as a member of The Queen's Body Guard of the Yeoman of the Guard (The Body Guard) at a ceremony in Her Majesty's Chapel Royal in January 2020. After the ceremony he travelled by horse to Buckingham Palace for his first investiture attended by **HRH the Duke of Cambridge**. On behalf of all members we say well done **Matthew**.

We welcome as our new Branch President **Major D P G Irvine MRICS** who is the son of a former Branch President, **His Honour J E M Irvine** and look forward to meeting him when this virus allows us to do so.

On the welfare front, **Geoffrey Richardson** has now moved to a nursing home at Blackbird Leys. **Gerald Morris** is still recuperating at home in Kings Sutton and **Mick Brown** who lives in Banbury, is going through a very difficult period health wise and **Roy Ibson** who lives in Harpenden, has been in and out of hospital all year with leg problems. Unfortunately, no one can visit them but we do keep in contact by telephone in case they need our help.

Sadly, we have lost **23509775 Jim Humphreys** and **23252844 John Revell**. Lest we Forget.

Finally, our thanks go to our new President **Major D P G Irvine**, our Vice Presidents, **Mr Colin Hessey** our Accountant and all members and friends who gave us their support over the year.

READING

(Formed 1913)

President: Major F WAUCHOPE

Vice Presidents: The Hon. Mrs J. MONSON; JG SOUTHERN, 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@outlook.com

Treasurer: Mr J VEARY

Meetings: No Monthly Meetings

Facebook: Guards-Association-Reading-and-District-Branch

It will take more than a world pandemic to stop the oldest Branch in the Association from serving its members.

2020 was admittedly a strange year but as an Association formed in 1913 for a Regiment that has been in existence since 1656 with continuous service to Crown and Country we are unstoppable. Where there is a will there is a way.

Here at the Reading and District Branch we have stayed in touch with all our members through the hard work of our Welfare Officer **Robin Kellow** ably supported by his girl Friday **Theresa Day**. They have used every method to stay in touch with the Reading Branch flock. A friendly voice on the end of a telephone works wonders for morale which for some has taken a little battering during the past year of lockdown.

We are pleased to report that we have lost no one to the virus. We did however have the wind taken out of our sails in losing three members to natural causes. **Bob Wood** our last Other Rank member who served in the Second World War, died two days before the end of last year on the 29th December 2019. Another stalwart member **Doug Roshier** passed away on the 13th February 2020. The Branch was represented at both funerals and we are pleased to report that this was before the Government enforced Lockdown so we were able to attend without number restrictions.

Unfortunately, the same cannot be said for the death on 20th June 2020 after a long illness, of

our past Chairman and Vice President **Philip Flowerdew**. His funeral on 22nd July 2020 was a restricted numbers affair and only the Chairman and Welfare Officer **Robin Kellow** attended the service at St Michaels Church, Royal Wootton Bassett where **Robin** sounded Reveille and Last Post on the bugle.

At the cemetery after the service for Philip's interment there was no restriction on numbers so as well as the church congregation many more were able to attend. A dozen guardsmen formed a guard of honour supported by the Branch banners of Reading and Wiltshire Guards Association.



Bob Wood.



Doug Roshier.



Philip Flowerdew.

Like most Branches of the Association our membership has reduced dramatically over recent years with no new blood joining. Having said no new blood that is not quite true, we have had with the demise of the Reading & Oxford Coldstream Guards Association a new recruit in the form of our old friend **Barrie Padwick** and his wife **Patricia** join us.

Barrie was their Branch secretary for many years and is currently the secretary of the Henley Guards Association. He will be a great asset to our Branch and is very keen to take an active role. He has already arranged for us to hold our next Branch luncheon at the Owners Club, Newbury Racecourse where he has many friends and contacts. We would have been there in the summer of 2020 had the lockdown not forestalled it.

We look forward to cramming in as many Branch events as we can in 2021 to make up for lost time.

Our Vice President **the Hon Mrs Patricia Monson** is very keen to hold a garden party for the Branch and all our Association friends as soon as the weather permits. It will be good to start up the inter branch skittles tournament again at Hungerford RBL. Let's hope we can find who has the skittles trophy after such a long absence.

As we go to press for this year's Gazette we have just learnt of the death of one of our officers, namely

Captain William (Bill) Palmer CBE, DL at the great age of 95.

Bill served with the Regiment during the Second World War and in Palestine immediately after the war. He held the office of High Sheriff of Berkshire between 1974 and 1975. He was president of the Council of Royal Warrant Holders in 1976. He was Chairman of Huntley & Palmers between 1980 and 1983 and was director of the Association of Biscuit Manufacturers. He was treasurer between 1982 and 1995 at Reading University and director of Huntley, Bourne & Stevens. He was appointed Commander, Order of the British Empire (CBE) in 1983. He was Deputy Lieutenant of Berkshire in 1992. A great supporter of the Branch along with his wife **Cherry** of 71 years. RIP Sir.

Not a great note to finish this report on and we are sorry for that but we look forward to a brighter future in 2021 and to welcoming back all our members and friends to future planned events.

Meet the Team



Major Francis Wauchope, President.



Robin Kellow, Chairman.



John Southern, Secretary.



Jim Veary, Treasurer.



Paul Stamp.



Theresa Day.

SHROPSHIRE

(Formed 1927)

President: VACANT

Vice Presidents: SIR AEH HEBER-PERCY, KVCO, JP, LL; C BECK Esq; Lieutenant Colonel F ACTON; HW SPENCER, Esq; Captain G WHITAKER;

Chairman: VACANT

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 should have held our Branch AGM in April but due to the coronavirus lockdown it was postponed until Spring 2021 in the hope that things will have improved by then.

During the course of 2020 we very sadly lost our President **Major Giles Inglis-Jones** and Vice Presidents **W S R Kenyon-Slaney OBE, K StJ, JP, DL** and **Major R G Woodfield MBE**. It is difficult to imagine, on the back of the loss of such vital people as these and without the influx of new members, how much longer the Branch in its current form can survive. We will however do our best.

The coronavirus pandemic has affected all of us in the Association and we hope everyone is keeping well and that spirits remain high. Let's look forward to the time when we can, once again attend Black Sunday and Grenadier Day, both were sadly missed during 2020.

Giles Inglis-Jones was appointed our President in 2013 and was instrumental in organising many of our functions. We remember especially the Waterloo Lunch held at the Lord Hill Hotel in Shrewsbury on 14th June 2016 when we were joined by members from North Staffordshire, Wolverhampton and the Coldstream Guards Association. Giles was always there for us and always ready to help. We cannot recall an AGM or event at which we did not enjoy his support even when he was not well. We will miss a very kind and caring man who did all he could to help us. We send our deepest condolences to his wife **Arabella** and the children. Sadly, the restrictions in force at the time prevented Branch attendance at Giles' funeral.

Bob Woodfield passed away on 27th August 2020 in hospital. A former President, Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer, he was instrumental in reforming our Branch in 1983. We have lost a tirelessly enthusiastic man who served us all so loyally for so long. We send our heartfelt condolences to his wife **Joan** and their family. Bob's funeral was held on 29th September in Alcester and we were represented by members of the Worcester Branch where Bob was also a Vice President. Because of his service with them, Bob was also remembered by former members of the Guards Parachute Company.

Simon Kenyon-Slaney passed away peacefully in hospital on 12th May 2020 and his funeral was held in Shrewsbury on 6th June. He was a past President of our Branch and had also been a Vice Lord Lieutenant of Shropshire. Although he was a very busy man he always found time to support us along with his late wife **Mary**. He too will be much missed but always remembered as a gentleman who was always pleased to be able to help anyone.

Finally, may we thank all at RHQ for their help during this difficult time. We hope that all of our members and those of other Branches will keep safe and that we are all able to meet again during 2021.

SUFFOLK

(Formed 1926)

President: Colonel DHC GORDON-LENNOX

Vice Presidents: Major FAO CLARK; FA WALLACE, Esq; Mr AE JONES

Chairman: PGD T del C NISBETT, Esq;

Secretary: Mr G REINCKE, BEM 54 Highfield Road, Sudbury, Suffolk, CO10 2QJ

Tel: (01787) 379158

Email: ggassuffolk@gmail.com

Treasurer: Mrs L MILLICHAP

Tel: 01284 753601

Email: lindamillichap09@gmail.com

Meetings: Contact the Branch Secretary for further details.

Since our last report we have unfortunately lost two of our widows: **Mrs Constance Conn**, who died on 1st October 2019 and **Mrs Jessie Last**

who sadly suffering from Alzheimer's, died on 13th November 2019.

Our Annual Branch Christmas lunch was very successfully held on Sunday 8th December 2019 in the Orchard Suite at Hintlesham Golf Club. 53 of us attended and a good afternoon was had by all. **Lieutenant Ted Bennett**, serving with the Inkerman Company, attended to represent the Regiment and brought us up to date. He also unusually brought his parents with him, **Captain Charles Bennett** and his wife, **Jo** who have been members of the Branch for a long time. It was good to meet them and hopefully they enjoyed themselves sufficiently to come and support the Branch in the future. It was also lovely to meet **Pam Cadge**, her daughter and son-in-law for the first time. She had been threatening to attend for some time and we are pleased she was finally able to arrange it. Again we hope they enjoyed themselves.

After the President, **Colonel David Gordon Lennox**, proposed the loyal toasts and said a few words we had the raffle, which was again organised and run by **Bernard Taylor**. The members were very generous in donating prizes and the raffle raised £250 for Branch funds.



Our 2019 Christmas Lunch.



Because the venue for our Branch Annual General Meeting and Lunch were unable to provide us with lunch we had to look elsewhere. Our Chairman **Patrick Nisbett** found an alternative and he and our Secretary went to visit and found the facilities and standard of food to be excellent. Plans were well advanced for the event to be held at the Best Western Priory Hotel, Bury St Edmunds on Sunday 29th March 2020 when COVID-19 reared its head

and we had to cancel.

We were planning a Summer Barbeque at the kind invitation of our President, **Colonel David Gordon Lennox**, in his garden on Sunday 6th September, 2020. Marquee and food had been ordered when again it had to be cancelled due to the then current advice. However, we were able to have a very successful, socially distanced picnic at which we all provided our own food and seating and which attracted a small but enthusiastic group of 20 in all. The President had also provided us with several bottles of wine which ensured the success of the afternoon. To thank the President and his wife **Elizabeth** for their kind hospitality, the Chairman made a small presentation. The weather remained pleasant and the sun came out occasionally enabling us to enjoy the President's lovely garden and each other's company of course!



Members at our Branch Picnic.



Enjoying our President's Garden.

As with all other Branches, because of the uncertainty of the pandemic we have decided to cancel or postpone future events until 2021 when we will try for an Easter lunch. It is hoped that by then COVID-19 will be under control and we will be able to get on with our lives.

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: Colonel THE REVEREND P HEWLETT-SMITH; Lieutenant Colonel RM DORNEY, MBE, MStJ; Lieutenant Colonel HMP de LISLE; Lieutenant Colonel TJ TEDDER; Lieutenant Colonel DJ WEBSTER; Lieutenant Colonel GR WHITEHEAD, RVM; Lieutenant Colonel SIR JOHN SMILEY, Bt; Major THE LORD A WIGRAM, MVO; Captain CTF FAGAN, MBE, DL; Captain R HUTTON; Mr P HODGKINSON, BEM, Mr S KEYWORTH, MBE

Chairman: Mr A REID

Secretary: Mrs B REID

Address: 71 Wyke Avenue, Ash, Aldershot, Hants, GU12 6EA

Telephone: (01252) 316757

Email: babsgga@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 **24239435 Chris Jennings** who died in Basingstoke Hospital on 6th April 2020 after having been admitted with Covid-19. **23688668 David Gleed** who died in his care home on 4th April 2020. **2626301 James Charles Webb** who passed away on 5th March aged 93 and **Mrs Mary Campbell** widow of **John (Vassa) Campbell** died suddenly on 10th June 2020.

Our year has been a total washout with the advent of Covid-19, we had to cancel everything we had planned for the year. No meetings, no Sunday lunches, no Branch holidays etc. So not very much to report. We have kept in contact with all our members that are on email weekly with a catchup email to make sure they were safe and well and asking if they needed any help in any way. Likewise, we have written letters to those members not on email. With the exception of **Chris Jennings**, we have only had one person affected with Covid-19 and that was our President's wife **Mrs Joanna Houstoun** who had it quite badly and was hospitalised for quite some

time. We are very pleased to report that she is now recovering at home.

Our Welfare Officer **Dennis Waby** has been making lots of phone calls to members who we have not heard from for a while just to make sure they were ok and to have a general chit chat. Most were pleased to hear from him, however we found it very disappointing when Dennis informed us that a couple were quite rude to him and did not wish to hear from him again.



Branch Vice President Lieutenant Colonel David Webster and his wife Maureen celebrate VE Day with neighbours, social distancing of course.



Andy & Babs Reid setting up their table for their VE Day Celebrations.



The famous cake that Andy Reid baked and decorated for VE Day.

Even though we could not celebrate VE Day together, we did hear from some of our members who celebrated in their back gardens. One of our Vice Presidents, **Lieutenant Colonel David Webster** along with his wife **Maureen** was one of those that contacted us and sent in a photo. **Babs** our Secretary and her husband **Andy** our Chairman also celebrated in their garden decorating it both at the back and front in bunting etc. They also enjoyed afternoon tea and cakes with a bottle of bubbly. Andy even made the main cake and decorated it for the special event.

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.

Tel: (01305) 814555

Email: janmaslin@gmail.com

Treasurer: Mrs A CREW

Meetings: Meetings: Third Monday of the month:

For 2021 - April, June, September and October, at 1930 for 2000hrs. Held at The Conservative Club, 22 Christchurch Road, Ringwood, BH24 1DN (For Sunday 3rd Oct, 2021. The Wessex Branch Annual Luncheon, being held at The Dudsbury Golf Club, Hotel & Spa, 64 Christchurch Road, Ferndown, Dorset, BH22 8ST)

The meetings in March, May, and November to be held at lunchtime at a venue to be determined during the year.

The Branch AGM was held in January 2020 with all Officers being re-elected. Due to the Coronavirus we held our one and only other meeting in March.

The year has been a particularly sad one for the Branch as we have said farewell to the following Members and Associate Members: **22545644 M Matthews**, **22955224 M Johnson, John and Sheila Bate**, **Mrs Diane Gent, 229955823 T Higgins**, **22545106 M Prince** and **Mrs Phyllis Butler**. Unfortunately, due to Lockdown we were unable to pay our last respects at their funerals. All had supported the Branch for many years.

On Remembrance Sunday a wreath was laid by **Bill Cooper** at Bloxwich Cenotaph and at Willenhall Cenotaph by **Glyn Phillips**.

Our thoughts go out to all Grenadiers and their families in these difficult times and hope that all stay safe and well.

Thanks to **Major Andy Green** and **Sergeant Rob Broomes** for their continual help and advice.

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

November 2019 was a busy month for the Branch. Firstly, we had a lunch at The Willett Arms, Wimborne, where we had a very enjoyable meal and get-together. Secondly a small group of members visited the Battalion for the day where we were very well looked after. The day commenced with coffee in the Sergeants' Mess, followed by a briefing from the Commanding Officer, **Lieutenant Colonel Piers Ashfield DSO**. We then went on to visit stands which were manned by members of The Queen's Company, followed by pre-lunch drinks and an excellent meal in the Officers' Mess.

After lunch there was a presentation of the Fagan and Penn Awards which were presented to Guardsmen **B Heywood**, **L Daines** and **R McKnight**. Those members who attended would like to thank everyone involved for making our visit a very interesting and pleasant one, we appreciated the hard work that was put into it on our behalf.

The Christmas Social was a success with many members attending. After the quiz and a game of bingo, again run by **Alan Maslin**, we held the Christmas draw and the lucky winners were, **Neil Kimish** £100, which he very kindly donated to The Colonel's Fund, **Gary Crew** £40 and **Dennis Bellamy** £30 - congratulations and well done!

Due to circumstances beyond our control we had a change of venue for our January lunch. This was held at The Pure Drop in Ferndown and very pleasant it was too. In fact, because the food was great value we decided to return again for our February lunch.

The Coronavirus pandemic has had such a big impact on all of us not only on a personal level but also in Branch and Regimental matters. Our last get-together was at our lunch in February and like

everyone, all things social have had to be put on hold since then. Here's hoping that the situation improves and we can start looking forward to returning to normal during 2021.

The Trooping of the Colour, however, was able to take place at Windsor in June and such a splendid ceremony it was. We were delighted for Her Majesty that this special occasion was able to go ahead with the Welsh Guards putting on such a great performance.

We have tried to keep in touch with all Branch members either by telephone or email throughout this difficult time, and pleased to say this had been well received by all.

It is with great regret that we have to announce the death of **24414601 Gary Crew** on 5th Feb 2020 *Lest we Forget*.

We would like to say a big thank you to **Major Andy Green** and **Sergeant Rob Broomes** at RHQ for all the support they have given us throughout the year. To our members also who are able to join us at our Branch meetings in Ringwood - this is much appreciated.

Branch meetings are always a great place to get together and have a chat with former members of the Regiment. If you would like to join us at any of the meetings, or come along to any social event that may be taking place throughout the year please contact the Wessex Branch Secretary on the



Just Gary.

telephone number above, all would be made most welcome.

Gary Crew - February 1955 to February 2020

By his wife Ann

Gary joined up in 1976 at the age of 21. He served in the 1st Battalion, both in The Queen's Company and Headquarter Company.

His first operational tour was in Northern Ireland in 1976. Gary also served in Great Britain, Germany, The Sudan, Berlin, Canada, Kenya and on OP GRANBY. He had stories to tell about them all. When Gary first joined up, he was an Infantry soldier, and after learning to drive whilst in Germany, he became a military driver in the MT Platoon. He gained a vast amount of experience driving many different vehicles both at home and abroad throughout his service. Gary's life was his driving and he was never happier than when he had a steering wheel in his hands.

When Gary left the Regiment in February 1998, he joined the Wessex Branch of the Regimental Association and regularly attended the monthly Meetings. Gary became a coach driver and in this role, he drove Branch members to Garden Parties at Buckingham Palace, the National Memorial Arboretum, the Royal Hospital Chelsea and Grenadier Days.

His first civilian job was as a Coach driver for Victory Tours, Handley. During his years with Victory, Gary drove single and double decker coaches at home and abroad. Victory sold out to Blueways and Gary remained with them as a driver until 2007 when they went into administration. In an instant Gary went to work for Excelsior Coaches based in Bournemouth and continued as a coach driver until, in 2019, a seizure at home forced him to stop driving. Gary was diagnosed with a brain tumour in February 2019 and was given just 12 months to live, and he did just that.

In May 2020, I received photographs of the front and rear of Gary's Excelsior coach with his name on both. I received a message from the Company saying "He was not forgotten by them and this was in his memory". To my family and me this means that Gary is still doing what he loved best; driving around, still on the road.



Gary - Always in Front.



Never Behind.

Gary

Written by a Wessex Branch Member

A Grenadier Guard was Gary Crew,
served many years, maybe twenty two.
But Once a Grenadier you are always so
No matter what you do or where you go.
He then had a job, a coach to drive
Did not want a job from nine to five.
He liked to tour to see the sights,
And to show his passengers so many delights.
On one such trip he met you Ann
You were on a school trip with your small clan.
One of the best things he did in his life
When he asked you to become his wife.
But sadly, his life was cut too short,
A battle he faced and bravely fought.
Just proves that life is not always fair
He left behind so many who care.
But time is the only healer Ann,
Then you smile as you recall how you met that man.
Remembering the fun and the joy you had
I know how you miss him and how you feel sad.
But it's ok to smile or laugh, ok to cry
Whatever eases the pain, give it a try
But one day good memories will comfort you
And your family will smile at the memories too.

WIGAN, ST HELENS AND DISTRICT

(Formed 1974)

President: Mr B TAYLOR

Vice Presidents: Captain (QM) TA ROLFE; Mr D YATES

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.

Wigan, St. Helens and District isn't any different from the majority of Branches in that the past year's social calendar has been a disaster. Just about all our events have been postponed or cancelled in line with Covid-19 guidelines. Our last get together was in December 2019 when we celebrated Christmas with our usual lunch. 77 members, friends and families gathered for a fun filled afternoon at the Village Club in Culcheth.

It was at this lunch that we said our official farewell to our Chairman **Dave Welling** who decided to relocate to Devon to be near his daughter **Nicola** and we couldn't let him go quietly. So, **Barry Taylor** in his role of Branch President made a presentation and wished him well after thanking him for his hard work and dedication to the Branch.



Dave Welling being presented with his farewell gift.

However, a rethink meant we wanted to retain **Dave** as our Chairman so we clung on to him! Yes, he now lives in Devon, yes, it will be difficult to attend meetings and functions but we decided to repay his loyalty. This decision was made easy by the

fact that we have an excellent Vice Chairman in **David Yates** who we can confidently depend upon to stand as Chairman as and when required. Big thanks go to both **Dave** and **David**.

In the middle of the pandemic there was a happy occasion when our treasurer (and oldest member at 95 years) **Eric Radcliffe** received a letter from The Colonel acknowledging his service to the Regiment and Country during WW2. He was surprised and delighted and we are all very proud of him. Along with his Legion of Honour this letter was a great accolade.

Of course, it's not just functions which have suffered during the pandemic, our fund raising has taken quite a hit too. No raffles which subsidise our annual dinner and lunches, and the sale of **Adel's** knitted items has come to a standstill. But not to worry, during lockdown **Adel** hasn't stopped knitting and she looks forward to bumper sales once we are up and running again. It's worth noting that every penny which **Adel** raises goes to providing flowers for the tables at our annual dinner with the remainder going to Branch funds.



Eric in relaxed mode reading his letter from The Colonel.

Another casualty was Culheth Community Day where we run a bric-a-brac stall and usually raise around £150. Members and friends donated goods to sell and all the items are in the loft of our President and Secretary **Barry Taylor**. A little anecdote regarding these goods is that **Barry's** central heating boiler is in the loft and during the annual service of the boiler the engineer noticed a jig saw puzzle which had been donated. He bought it for £5 and, along with £10 donated by **Barry** for goods he had purchased we raised £15 without even having a stall!! That's not bad business. The good side is that our expenditure has been minimal.

Pandemic or no pandemic certain things will go

ahead regardless. On VE Day **Barry and Adel**, on the advice given by the local council, observed a two minute silence in their garden. On Remembrance Sunday our Branch wreath was laid at Leigh War Memorial by our treasurer **Eric Radcliffe** and our Vice Chairman **David Yates**. This took place at 1100hrs and along with a good turnout from Regimental Associations from the area Last Post was sounded and a two minute silence was observed.



Barry in his garden showing respect on VE Day.



Eric and David preparing to lay the Branch wreath on Remembrance Sunday.

On Wednesday 11th at 1100hrs our Branch President **Barry Taylor** laid another Branch wreath at Wigan War Memorial. Originally he was invited to represent the Branch at a service in the Parish Church on Remembrance Sunday but, abiding by Covid-19 rules, this service was cancelled.

So, that was our year. A bit different but we did our best to remain strong as a Branch and a unit.

It goes without saying that appreciation goes to all our members and friends who have remained loyal and supportive throughout this difficult and strange period. We all look forward to meeting up again in the not too distant future. We have all stayed in touch via social media, e-mail and telephone but it's not the same is it?



Barry preparing to lay the Branch wreath on 11th November.



Barry laying the Branch wreath on 11th November.

Sincere thanks and gratitude go to everyone at Regimental Headquarters who support us so vigorously. Our Association President, the Regimental Adjutant, our General Secretary **Major Andy Green**, our Association NCO **Sergeant Rob Broomes** and our Regimental Affairs NCO **Sergeant Rob Haughton** – thank you for being there for us.

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.

On Sunday 10th November 2019 **Alan Urvoy** represented the Branch carrying the poppy wreath at the Service of Remembrance at Holy Trinity Garrison Church in Windsor. Other members attended the service and met up at the Club later, talking about the good old days.

The Christmas festive events started on the 15th November with **Sylvia Bullion** taking a coach of Branch and Club Members to Weston-Super-Mare for a Turkey and Tinsel weekend.

On Saturday 30th November we held our club Christmas Party with live entertainment provided by a local singer called Barry, who has appeared on TV. The club was full and everyone enjoyed the buffet and said what a great night it had been.

A new event this year was a coach trip to Winchester Christmas Market on Thursday 5th December. We left the club at 1030hrs and had a good trip down the M3 to arrive in Winchester about an hour later. We were wrapped up to keep out the cold and were fortunate enough not to get any rain.

There was a lot to see so we went off with family and friends looking at all the stalls and trying some of the different foods that were on offer as we went round. At the end of the day most of us gathered in a local pub waiting for the coach for our return journey home.

Our Christmas Draw was on Saturday 14th

December. The committee were very successful in obtaining many prizes from local shops and businesses. The club is always full as it is such a popular event in our annual calendar. We provided a finger buffet half way through the proceedings. The funds raised will be put to good use.

The following Wednesday evening **Karen Holmes**, one of our Club members, provided the last quiz of the year. It was well attended with about 50 members and friends being tested on their knowledge about Christmas. After a fish and chip supper we handed out hot mince pies.

Tony Steel BEM opened the bar on Boxing Day, for a few hours, so members were able to enjoy a lunchtime tippie. **Tony** and Club member **Herbie Morgan** opened the bar on New Years Eve. A few of the club members provided a buffet. It turned out to be a very good night and was enjoyed by all who attended to celebrate the New Year.

2020 started off very slowly with our first major event of the year. A Beetle Drive was held on the afternoon of Sunday 23rd February. We were joined by **David Wright** and 10 members from the Oxford Branch. Some of our members brought along their grandchildren who wanted to join in as they had never played this game before. The Beetle Drive is a lot of fun and prizes were given out for the first to finish the game and the best drawn beetle. We held a raffle and finally we all enjoyed our fish and chip tea with a slice of cake before going home.

Due to the Government restrictions on Covid-19 we had to close the club on 17th March. We cancelled all functions that had been planned for the coming months. This included our coach trip which was arranged for June. As time went by and with new restrictions coming from the Government, we cancelled our Annual Dinner and Dance and Christmas Draw.

We re-opened the club on the 6th September for a Sunday lunchtime social distanced drink.

Until further notice the club will be open for Bingo on a Friday evening and Sunday lunchtimes and subject to any further Government restrictions.

It is with deep regret that we report the sad loss of the following members: **22865687 Colin Saunders**. Colin served in the Regiment from 1953 to 1955. **22545696 Rodney Hill (Niffy)**, who served from 1953 to 1978 in the 2nd Battalion and

as Master Tailor of the Battalion from 1962 to 1978. **2628042 R W Welham** and **Mrs Ruth Booth** who was a very popular member of the Branch and Club. She was an excellent Committee Member, supporting and helping in arranging many club events. One in particular, was the Oktober Fest which we held at the end of 2019. Lest we Forget.

Finally, our thanks go to all our Branch and Club Members who gave us their support during the last reporting year.

WOLVERHAMPTON

(Formed 1919)

President: Vacant

Vice Presidents: 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

Our Secretary had an idea for our report this year and it has been very rewarding, finding out so many interesting facts from our members. We were able to hold our AGM at the end of February and all officers were returned. The rest of the year was put on hold!

2628887 William Rowley

Reminiscences from **Bill Rowley** who served in Palestine in 1947, during the Allied Occupation of Libya.

Guardsman Bill Rowley, was in The King's Company and he was proud to be in the Guard of Honour for the marriage of Princess Elizabeth and Philip Mountbatten. Bill became driver/orderly to **Captain William (Bill) Spowers**.

Captain Bill Spowers, an Australian, had an adventurous life. During World War 2, he served in quick succession in 3 armies, Australian, British and Indian before 14 years as an officer in the Brigade

of Guards from 1946, known as a 'character' it was said of him that his men would follow him anywhere.

Captain Spowers had his own Rolls Royce shipped to Palestine, and Bill and he drove through the desert to Tripoli, Benghazi and Cairo, occasionally sleeping in the Desert at night, before being based at Prinn Barracks, near Tripoli.

Bill Spowers returned to Australia, and on his way home wrote to Bill Rowley in 1951, relating his journey driving his Rolls Royce from Tripoli via Amman, Turkey and Persia to Kabul. He then entered the Khyber Pass and into Delhi, then to Calcutta and from there sailed home to Australia.

In the meantime, Bill had returned to Barracks at Brentwood in Essex, then to Windsor in 1952 arriving the day before the King died. Bill was on duty in Westminster Abbey for the lying in state of the King.

Captain Spowers was later promoted to Major in 1959 and retired from the British Army in 1960. In 1957 Bill bought a cottage in Windlesham, Surrey together with 43 acres of swamp. There he created one of the largest, privately owned Arboretum consisting of about 25,000 trees. He passed away aged 84 years in 2009 and had remained in contact



From Left to Right: Guardsman Taitley, Guardsman Rowley (driver) Guardsman in vest was a survivor of the Mareth Line - they were tidying up graves.



From Left to Right: Guardsman Taitley, Guardsman Rowley and Capt. Spowers with Rolls Royce, by 'Marble Arch' in Libya.

with **Bill Rowley** until that time.

From a former Grenadier - First Three Years of Nine with the Colours

In 1957 after finishing my apprenticeship, (Carpenter/Joiner), I joined the Grenadier Guards at Caterham Barracks. Before going further, let me go back five years, to being 16 years old. I was in the Air Training Corps at RAF Cosford. On my 16th birthday, I did my first solo flight. During five years at Cosford with 633 Gliding School, I became an Instructor at weekends.

At 21 when training was completed at Caterham Barracks, we were sent to Pirbright. (**Sergeant Whitehead's** Squad) here I was his Batman. When training finished at Pirbright, he sent me to Wellington Barracks. Here I became Orderly/Batman to **Brigadier C M F Deakin CB CBE**. My time with the Brigadier was very interesting, going to the Highland Games, Braemar, Aboyne, and visiting Balmoral. Also accompanying him on Stag and Grouse shoots, carrying his guns. After twelve months I requested an RTU, knowing my interest in Gliding the Brigadier asked if I would like to go to the Army Gliding Club at Lasham, this was my ideal posting.

During my time there I met many interesting people famous in the Gliding world. Including Derek Piggott MBE, Ornithologist Peter Scott, and Lorne and Ann Welsh ATA, pilots in the war. My duties included driving the winch and the tow cars for launching the gliders, rigging and derigging gliders and taking students from the Army, Navy and Civilians for their first flights in a glider.

Whilst at Caterham Barracks the CO of 633 gliding school at RAF Cosford wrote to my CO asking if I could I be allowed a weekend off to fly the Slingsby Prefect at the Battle of Britain weekend. With insurance cover and a 48 hour pass in place I was given permission to fly in the display.



Our former Grenadier with Glider having just landed at Dunstable Downs.

Eventually and sadly my time at Lasham came to an end and I returned to the 1st Battalion at Tidworth, joining the Signals Platoon.

24829402 Daniel Ferretti

I am a veteran. Not just any veteran but a Grenadier Guards veteran. I joined the finest regiment in the British army, fresh-faced from school and I put my big boys pants on, whilst the rest of my fellow leavers were deciding what to do with their lives. I swore an oath to the country and the boss took the shilling and made a bond with people that would last a lifetime. I wrote a will at 17. I travelled the world, I have been fortunate enough to have seen some amazing things, but also unlucky enough to see some bad things. I



Lance Corporal Daniel Ferretti.

have laughed, mainly at how low fellow servicemen will go at 3 am on the club dance floor. I have cried when I have lost those friends. It moulded me into what I am today.

Come 11 am on Sunday I'll be thankful to all those who paid the ultimate sacrifice to keep Britain great, remembering the good and bad times and feeling that unbreakable bond that only a few will ever be fortunate enough to experience.

2628697 Sergeant Len Thomas

12 December 1926 – 30 April 2020

Len was born in Wolverhampton, West Midlands. He joined the Grenadier Guards in 1945 and served in Palestine, Singapore and Germany.

Len spent his working life in transport, firstly as a driver and then in management. During this time, he also served as a police special constable and retired

with the rank of Inspector. Len had been a member of the Wolverhampton Branch for many years and served in various roles, ending up as President.

Len Thomas was a widower and leaves a daughter Pauline, son in law Roger, grand daughter Elizabeth and great grandson Samuel.

Owing to the Covid restrictions at the time of his funeral, our Banner Bearer **Jack Snead** was the only member of the Branch to attend his funeral.

A great supporter and Vice President of our Branch, **W S R Kenyon-Slaney** also passed away about this time and may they both Rest in Peace.

We would like to thank **Andy Green, Rob Broomes** and the team at RHQ for their support during this difficult year.

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; Captain D MORGAN; D SPENCER, 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.

As in the previous years, the 2019 Christmas Lunch was again held at the Pear Tree Inn. As is now normal we all enjoyed an excellent Lunch and the Pear Tree did us proud. **Major Charlie Williams**, Officer Commanding Nijmegen Company, represented RHQ and updated us all on what the Regiment had been up to over the past 12 months. **Lance Corporal Bruce Steele**, serving with the Regiment and a local man, also attended the lunch and here's hoping that one day he will be one of our members!

We were also very pleased to welcome **Jack and Jenny Snead**, Chairman and Branch Secretary

of the Wolverhampton Branch to the lunch. Afterwards the Chairman **Bruce Baylis** (in his role as the Branch Poet Laureate) entertained us all again with another instalment of his Christmas poems. We are always astonished at how he manages to recite these entirely from memory.



Bruce Baylis welcoming Major **Charlie Williams** and Lance Corporal **Bruce Steele**.



Bruce Baylis reciting his poem.

Bruce and **Veronica** celebrated VE Day with the rest of the people in their Close, as a social distanced event, by having picnics on their own drives. Flags and banners decorated all the houses. The weather could not have been better and they managed to have a very enjoyable day.



Bruce and **Veronica**.

In June our President **Hamish Gray-Cheape** and his wife **Fiona** entertained **Colonel George West** and his wife **Hazel** to a 'coming-out-of-lockdown' meeting. **George** was part of the Birmingham Branch before it closed down.



Hamish Gray-Cheape, **Fiona Gray-Cheape**, **Hazel West** and **Colonel George West**.



David and **Mary Westbury** came across this memorial bench dedicated to **Roger Cleveland** on a walk by the riverside in Evesham. In recognition for everything **Roger** did for the Branch over the years, we thought it would be nice to include the photos in the Gazette.

We also include the



Roger's Bench.

photograph below courtesy of Roy Routledge. Does anyone have any knowledge of when or where this was taken? Notice the white cap bands - did they run out of red paint?



Ken Allen had not been in very good health due to COPD but since we last spoke to him he has been feeling much better. Keep it up Ken! **John Bevan's** wife **Dorothy** is not in the best of health. **Ken Jones'** wife **Ann** is managing her situation. Sending all our very best wishes to John and Dorothy as well as Ken and Ann. Please let us know if there is anything we can do!

Patricia Smith had a fall and broke her right arm in three places. She had to have surgery and recuperated with her daughter in Buckinghamshire for about two months. Following the operation, we sent her a bouquet of flowers and get well card. We visited her when she came back home (see photograph below). A standing joke between **Patricia** and **Veronica** is that when she does something, she does it well. She's done it again, as the injury may take up to 12 months to heal!



Veronica and Patricia.

Veronica has spoken to **Brenda Noke** on the phone and she is keeping well. **Bruce** and **Veronica** have visited **Betty Seale** on a few occasions and she is also keeping well. She has kept herself occupied by doing a little gardening and, at 93 still walks into Droitwich every day to do a bit of shopping.

David Westbury is struggling with his eyes and having to have injections regularly. Hopefully there will be an improvement soon. **George Rose** is holding his own. Although he spends most of his time in bed, he can and enjoys, chatting on the telephone. We are sure he would appreciate a call from Branch members.

Joan and Harold Evans are pretty much housebound now. **Harold** had to go to hospital for tests but is back home and both are managing with help from their family.

On 13th November 2019, **Roy Routledge's** wife **Sheila** passed away following a long illness. Her funeral was held on the 28th November and was attended by the Chairman, Branch Secretary, **Patricia Smith, Ken and Pat Allen** and **Kath Hinton**.

On 13th December we were notified of the death of **Bob Hudson**. Bob was a Branch Member although he had moved to Lincolnshire some years ago and had been suffering from Alzheimer's, which

may be the reason why we lost touch with him. The cremation took place on Friday 10th January at Worcester Crematorium. Bob had specifically requested to be returned to Worcester for his cremation, for which **Terry Hewlett** provided the wreath and Branch Banner. The funeral service was attended by the Chairman, **Terry Hewlett, Ken and Pat Allen** and **Kath Hinton**.

Derek Turney lost his wife, **Cynthia**. She too had been unwell for a long time. The Chairman, Branch Secretary, **Betty Seale, Patricia Smith** and **David Spencer** and his daughter attended her funeral service on the 20th January.

On 9th March some of us attended the funeral service of **Mrs Margaret Stroud**, a long standing and very good friend of the Branch. **Margaret** and her husband, as friends of **Ray and Betty Seale**, used to attend most functions and after she became a widow, she attended with a group of friends, all widowed, and used to like to refer to themselves as 'the merry widows'.

23252630 Geoffrey Allen passed away on 14th May. Although **Geoff** had been very poorly for some time, he died very suddenly of a heart attack. Due to Covid-19, and restrictions at the crematorium, only the Chairman and Branch Secretary attended. We were surprised to hear what an interesting life he had led, being very much involved with the Worcester Rowing Club and Cycling Club as well as point to point and horse racing. **Terry Hewlett** organised the Branch Banner and poppy wreath. **Geoff's** sister and other family members were very grateful for our involvement.

24048763 Donald Evans had not been in the best of health and passed away on 30th June following a spell in hospital. Due to Covid-19 his funeral service on the 14th July was attended by family only and the only involvement the Branch had was to provide the wreath and Branch Banner which was placed on his coffin.

In June we were informed of the death of the President of the Shropshire Branch, **Giles Inglis-Jones**. **Giles** died after a long battle with cancer. A very kind and caring man, who always gave us a very warm welcome when we attended their Branch events. We sent a sympathy card to his wife **Arabella** and his five children on behalf of the Branch.

Major Bob Woodfield passed away on the 27th August. He had been in hospital for some time, where he had been receiving treatment for pneumonia. It was hoped that he would have been able to go home to **Joan** to receive further treatment from the medical staff within the community but unfortunately he died from heart failure. His funeral was held in Alcester on the 29th September. Due to the Covid situation we were not able to attend the funeral but **the** President and his wife, the Chairman, Branch Secretary and **David and Mary Westbury** lined up outside the church to show their respects.

As always, we try to keep in touch with our Branch members but it has been so much more difficult this year with Covid-19 in our midst and with the cancellation of meetings. We have kept members up to date on what's been happening within the Branch via email and newsletter. In his capacity as Welfare Officer, **Bruce** tries to keep in touch as much as possible but obviously cannot manage to contact everyone. Via the Gazette we are sending our very best wishes to you all, especially those members who are not in the best of health.

Please contact us on 01905 422569 if you are, or if you know of anyone, in need of our support.

We would like to extend our very sincere thanks to our loyal members, their families and friends for their continuing support to the Branch. We sincerely hope that in 2021 the Covid situation will have eased enough to allow us to get together again at meetings and at our social events. The Executive Committee hope to be able to meet up to discuss items for the Centenary Celebrations, which has been scheduled for 1st May 2022.

As usual our thanks go out to **Major Andy Green, Sergeants Rob Broomes and Rob Haughton**, as well as the rest of the team at RHQ, for their help and support throughout the year and we would like to send them, as well as all Grenadiers, our very best wishes for a safe and healthy 2021.

A Coronavirus Poem written by Bruce Baylis during lockdown - March 2020.

This thing called Coronavirus which is sweeping the land,

Government advice 'keep your distance and no shaking of the hand'.

Guidelines given, which includes self-isolate,
It's like being locked up, losing your name and
stuck on the gate.

Down at the supermarket, shelving stripped bare,
"I'm all right Jack, as for you, I don't care".

No essentials, hand sanitisers, "what? No toilet
rolls too",

What happened to newspapers cut into squares,
can you remember? I certainly do!

We had dark days during and between the two
world wars,

Restrictions, food shortages and lots, lots more.

Pick up the phone and call a friend,

Exchange stories, by then the virus could be close
to an end.

Sort out your kit, bull up those shoes,

You know its therapeutic, it'll chase off those
blues.

Try to overcome, improvise and adapt,

You know it makes sense, it's what we're good at.

Whatever happens, please don't despair,

Stand tall, stand straight, remember, you're a
GRENADIER.

YORKSHIRE

(Formed 1948)

President: THE LORD HOTHAM, DL

Vice Presidents: THE MOST HON THE MARQUESS OF
ZETLAND; D BURNETT; Brigadier DJH MADDAN; W
WALL; A DANIEL; K STIMSON

Chairman: MICHAEL MALE

Secretary: MICHAEL SPENCER, 52 The Grange, Woodham
Village, Newton Aycliffe, County Durham, DL5 4SZ

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Treasurer: GRAHAM JOLLY

Meetings: Contact the Branch Secretary for further details.

2020 is the 72nd 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. As we paused our activities
during the unprecedented and uncertain times of
COVID-19 restrictions, we are thinking ahead to

what is next as we adapt to what will become the
'new normal'.

We are delighted to welcome veteran **2624875
Henry E Dyer** to the Yorkshire Branch. **Henry**,
or 'Ginge' as he was known by his comrades due
to his thick ginger hair, is now in his 94th year and
remains extremely well with an incredible memory
for his age. Aged just 17 he joined the Grenadier
Guards on 14th February 1944 and completed his
14 weeks basic training at the Guards Depot at
Caterham, before going to Wellington Barracks as
he was only 18 years old.

Henry resumed training with the Training
Battalion at Windsor and was promoted to Lance
Corporal before he joined the demonstration
platoon and was quickly promoted to Lance
Sergeant. In 1946 he joined the 3rd Battalion and
was posted to Palestine where he undertook the
role of Platoon Sergeant. In 1948 he held the office
of Superintendent Sergeant at The Guards Depot
at Caterham before volunteering to rejoin the 3rd
Battalion as they were deployed to Malaya, where
he was in command of the young men who had
enlisted as conscripts. **Henry** served as CQMS
before returning to Chelsea Barracks in 1949.

At Chelsea he was Sergeant in Charge of
Musketry and Sports Secretary before being posted
to Pirbright as a Platoon Sergeant in 1950. While
at Pirbright he was assigned to Pickering as acting
CQMS of the complete camp before being promoted
to CQMS in the 1st Battalion at Pirbright. In 1952
he returned to 3rd Battalion as CQMS and posted
to Abu Sultan Wharf, Egypt. In 1954 **Henry** was
once again posted to Windsor and promoted to
Warrant Officer Class 2 before taking the post of
CSM 3 Company. Afterwards he was posted to the
1st Battalion in Humberthorpe, Germany and upon
his return in early 1955, he asked to terminate his
service as he was now married and desired more of
a family life, leaving the army in 1956.

Some readers may remember **Henry** as a founder
member and Chairman of the North Cheshire
Guards Association in 1991. He held that position
for almost ten years and was elected a Vice President
for his work and experience in the Branch in 2001
when it became known as the Warrington Branch of
the Household Division. He now lives in Yorkshire
with his wife and family.



Henry striding out! (far left).



A youthful looking Henry.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Government guidance and the advice of the Regimental Adjutant we held a Virtual Annual General meeting on 21st April.

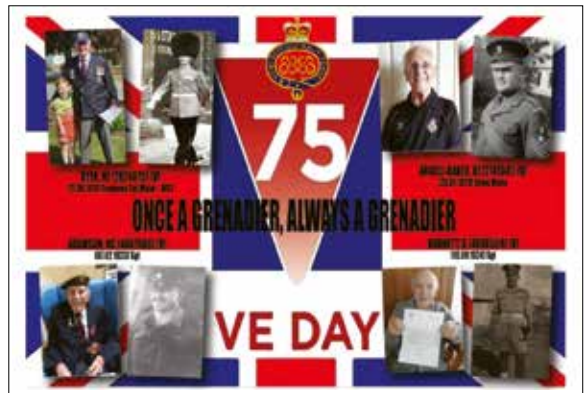
Our long serving Chairman and Treasurer **Tony Daniel** stepped down. Our Secretary had organised a certificate of merit in recognition of loyal and dedicated service to the Association which was to be presented to him at the planned meeting on 18th April 2020 by our President **The Lord Hotham**. The framed certificate was posted together with a letter of gratitude on behalf of the members

to **Tony** due to the current circumstances. Our President **The Lord Hotham**, the Secretary and the Committee agreed to stand for the ensuing year and **Graham Jolly** volunteered to become Treasurer.

Branch Members were able to enjoy the streaming of Regimental Remembrance Day, Wellington Barracks and Horse Guards in May in the comfort of their own homes this year.

Four extraordinary gentlemen in the Yorkshire Branch who served in the Regiment before the end of hostilities in May 1945 received an acknowledgement from our Colonel; **4867686 Harry Adamson** aged 97, **2741341 Rodney Angell-Baker** aged 91, **4868559 Dennis Burnett** aged 96 and **2624875 Henry E. Dyer** aged 94.

In celebration of the 75th VE Day Celebrations the Branch presented each recipient with a plaque to mark the occasion.



They continue to set us such an inspiring and unparalleled example today.

VE Day veteran **Rodney-Angell-Baker** has published 'Twice the Man' about his eventful life from a "Yorkshire tyke" in the 1930s, to his experiences as a Grenadier Guardsman. The final part of his working life was as a firefighter, ending his career as a Divisional Commander.

On Friday 8th May members still managed to celebrate the 75th anniversary of VE Day and were urged to host a 'stay at home street party' and celebrate the date with socially distant activities. They decorated their homes and held street parties to celebrate the Nation's Toast to the Heroes of WW2.



Enjoying a socially distanced street party.

Considering the pandemic, members enjoyed the televised scaled down version of Trooping the Colour which took place in the Quadrangle of Windsor Castle to mark HM The Queen's official Birthday. This unique ceremony was performed by soldiers from the 1st Battalion Welsh Guards, with accompanying music performed by Musicians of the Household Division.



Baxterbear is treakled to be joining the party.

This year's Armed Forces Day event due to be held in Scarborough on Saturday 27th June, was sadly cancelled. The distinctive Hawk fast-jets of The Red Arrows still made a spectacular appearance across the region as part of National Armed Forces Day celebrations. The jets took off from their base at RAF Scampton at 9.30am, and arrived on schedule over the British Army's Catterick Garrison, RAF Leeming and the coastal town of Scarborough.

Recruits formed up on the parade ground, keeping socially distant and spelling out the letters NAFD (National Armed Forces Day). On a

second fly by they flew over the married quarters and the parade ground outside the Headquarters of Catterick Garrison and 4th Infantry Brigade, before rounding off their visit to the region with a fly by over RAF Leeming.

Coming after VE Day, VJ Day on 15th August, has sometimes in the past been referred to as the 'forgotten victory', Our Branch member **Mick Male**, The Armed Forces Champion for Hartlepool, was involved in the area paying a full and rightful tribute to all those who served in the Far East, not least those who suffered as prisoners of war. This 75th Anniversary was a further opportunity for us to honour the remarkable courage and determination of the WW2 generation who saw some of the harshest fighting set against the background of dense jungle conditions.

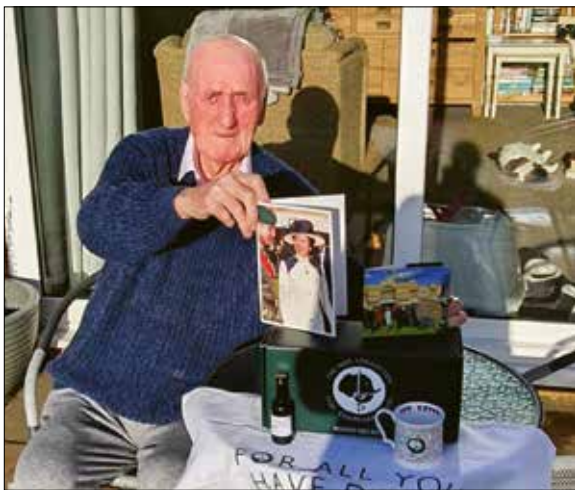


Mick Male on duty.

Eat Out to Help Out and breakout! during the month of August meant that we could meet up with **Ken and Mary Stimson** at Carlton Towers for a well-deserved catch up.



In 2020 The Not Forgotten Association celebrated 100 years on 12th August, and to honour this landmark the Branch joined their Centenary Challenge. Our members have enjoyed watching the Best Seat in the House performances, the Boredom Buster Booklets and jigsaw puzzles to help with lockdown. The pandemic denied our veterans the opportunity to properly celebrate the 75th anniversary of the end of WW2. As a token of appreciation our eligible Branch Veterans received a 'Forgot You Not' gift box to remind them that their service is not forgotten.



Harry Adamson.



Henry Dyer.

September 15th 2020 also marked the 80th Anniversary of the Battle of Britain and we remembered the work of 607 Squadron and all who brought to pass the jubilant moments on VE Day and VJ Day.

As with many organisations, the pandemic has greatly affected fundraising efforts which had been planned throughout the year. **Major Andy Green** and **Matt Ellmer**, Regimental Casualty Officer planned to complete the Coast to Coast walk in September to raise a target of £15,000 for The Colonel's Fund. As the walk crossed much of Yorkshire, our members were able to meet up and encourage **Matt** and **Andy** in their achievements. They had some Yorkshire Fat Rascals to help them on their way in Richmond and were warmly welcomed on the last leg to Robin Hood's Bay. The Yorkshire Branch members were keen to keep up to date with their daily progress and contributed to their fundraising efforts. The Yorkshire Branch presented **Andy** and **Matt** with a keepsake plaque capturing each stage of their challenge.



Welcome to Richmond from the Yorkshire Rascals.



Dipping their booted feet at Robin Hood's Bay.



Keepsake plaque presented to Andy and Matt on their great achievement.

As in all Branches, the extended initial lockdown meant that all social events were cancelled, so in order to maintain some camaraderie and socially distanced support to the members the Secretary asked if they were willing to send any recollections of what they were up to and what memories each had of their military service and VE Day celebrations to provide some anecdotes of times gone by to share and many members reading the Gazette may recognise.

Elaine Jolly had already started investigating her family tree and supplied these memoirs of her father **2614182 John Edward Butler 1919-2012**.

My dad joined the Army when he was 14 years old in 1933 (he lied as he should have been 15). He signed up with the Grenadier Guards as a junior soldier and learnt to play the drums, bugle, flute, and piccolo to a very high standard, learning to read music as well. Although only 5'8" he was a keen footballer, athlete, swimmer, and also a boxer and often told me that they always gave him the big lads to fight who he usually beat as his motto was "the bigger they are the harder they fall" I'm pretty certain that his sporty days were when he was around 18 to 19 years old.

He worked his way up the ranks Corporal, Sergeant, and lastly RQMS which suited him down to the ground as he was very neat and tidy and so organised. When there were any manoeuvres taking place everything was there - tents, billy cans, lamps, blankets, camp beds etc. As a 10-year-old I was allowed to tell him tea was ready when we lived at Chelsea Barracks and would go down from our flat into the stores and all would be laid out for the next day's manoeuvres, a sight to behold!

Before we went to Chelsea we lived at Hubblerath (Gort Barracks) and Dad took us camping into the German countryside, he had borrowed one of the Army tents and Camp beds etc. The tent was huge and imagine all the German campers' faces when we put it up, they couldn't believe it! We had a party in it and all the other campers came and brought food and drink along with music - so memorable! I rode the Army horses after school with my friend Lynda Gadd, it was 10 shillings a month anytime we liked, Great days.

I am an Army child through and through and moving to a new house is no problem for me as I have done it all my life and Dad was in the Grenadiers for 25 years Man and Boy!



The young John Edward Butler.



Elaine's Dad meeting the Royal Party.

Branch member 23390307 **Gordon Corner** from Tadcaster recalls his childhood memories of VE Day when he had a day off from the village school and the village organised a sports day where he remembers winning a 1/6d prize - a fortune to him! He also took part in an obstacle race where a tarpaulin was fastened down around the edges and the children had to crawl through - one boy was unfortunate enough to scramble through a cow pat.

Gordon included some photographs of his army life - he only just made the regulation height to be in a Guards regiment (smallest soldier on the right).



Elaine with her Dad and Sister.



Smallest soldier on the right.

He sailed to Cyprus to begin his National service on MS Dunera. They had been told there would be a stop off in Valletta, Malta and they were looking forward to going ashore and getting some decent food. Unfortunately, the ship could not get into the harbour because of bad weather conditions so they were anchored outside for three days. Most of them did not feel like eating, but the Indian cooks continued to make curries for themselves and the smell permeated the ship...**Gordon** has never touched a curry since!



This was Gordon's home for 17 months.

Gordon asked and was lucky enough to be put in the Mechanical Transport Unit and it was a hazardous drive up the Troodos Mountain tracks. The trucks could not get all the way up, so donkeys had to be used for the final stretch of the journey.



It is a long way up lads!

23509986 William John Fear also agreed to share memories of his service. He had just completed a five-year apprenticeship and was earning the princely sum of five pounds a week when he was called up for National Service to earn one pound 2/6d. However, as a regular in the Grenadier Guards with a minimum of three years he could earn three pounds a week, at least a somewhat improved offer.

His mother was not too pleased he laughs. Armed with cake and warm underwear for the November cold weather at mother's insistence, **John** undertook his first ever rail journey, from Bristol Temple Meads station to Paddington London, and then on to the Guards Depot at Caterham to complete his basic training. Getting off the bus from the station in darkness, he was greeted by a voice that bellowed "Come to join the Army son? You're late!" Following a very early morning bugle call we were told to go to the stores to collect our gear, change into denims and pack our civvies which would be sent home. "Can I keep my underwear?" he asked and was told a most definite "No you bloody can't"

Following his basic training, **John** went onto Pirbright before flying to Cyprus to complete his training. He went on training exercises to Libya before returning to the UK to prepare for Public Duties in London.

John returned to duties at the Guards Depot Caterham and Pirbright, where he met with the then Secretary of State for War, the Rt.Hon. **John Profumo** on an informal visit to the Guards Depot, Pirbright in September 1961. The photo below was sent to **John's** parents with the accompanying letter, his mother would be very proud.



Newspaper reports of Grenadiers Train on War Battleground, and John pictured in Libya.



John pictured far left meeting the Rt. Hon. John Profumo.

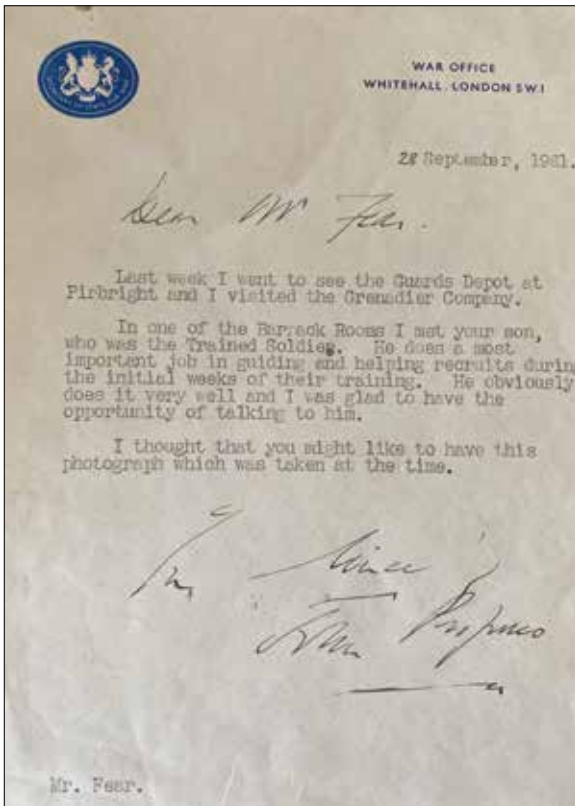
I remember standing on the mountain when a thousand bombers came over and bombed the Monte Cassino Monastery – the mountain was shaking.

I remember our Major at Anzio: there was a trench, and he was on the edge of the trench and his batman was passing grenades to him and he was throwing them. One dropped into the trench and it killed his batman.

In August 2005, my son in law and my two grandsons took me back to Anzio and Monte Cassino to see the war graves. They pushed me everywhere in a wheelchair - at one gravestone my grandson pointed out that the name on the headstone was identical to mine – a 17-year-old soldier - but from a different regiment. We have got a photo of it.

It was on this trip on a Sunday morning that we all visited the Anzio Museum, me in my medals and Guards blazer, in a wheelchair. I was presented with a decorative scroll on behalf of the City of Anzio. It says thank you for being there.

Anyway, I came out of it alright. I am still here.

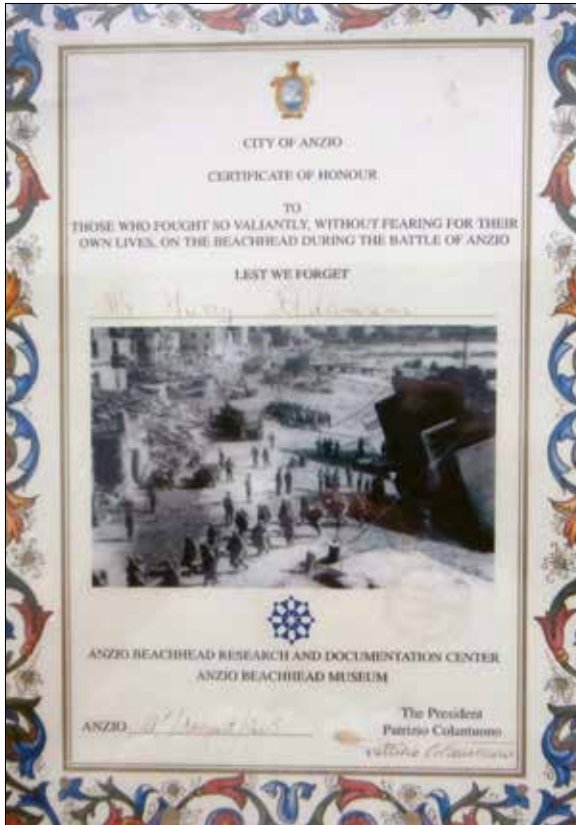


Letter to the family.

4868686 Harry Adamson born February 1923 is one of our Branch VE Day veterans and now lives in a care home in Wales. When asked to recount any memories of his service he reflects on the experience of war as follows.



Harry on deployment.



Certificate of Honour.



We know that Remembrance Day was a little different this year. However, Ex-Forces Support North Yorkshire wanted to thank all the men and women who served in the UK Armed Forces. **Henry (Ginge) Dyer** was overwhelmed to receive a Remembrance Gift Box filled with a selection of gifts as a small token of their appreciation.

The second wave and lockdown restrictions mean that Christmas events were going to be very different this year. Our members are hoping with anticipation that the Christmas Luncheon at Carlton Towers will take place, with Miss Marina Mae, who is best known for her wartime tribute show.

In 2020 we suffered the loss of some of our members: **22955497 George E. Kent** on 6th May.



Mick Male carrying All Saints' Church Ripley Standard.

This year, our Remembrance Service at Ripley War Memorial was pre-recorded before being live streamed on Sunday 8th November, as people around the country were encouraged to pay their respects at home due to the second lockdown. **Mick Male** acted as Standard Bearer with **Michael** and **Maureen Spencer** laying wreaths on behalf of Branch and the 75th anniversary of VE Day to remember all who made the ultimate sacrifice.

George originated from Buckinghamshire and was a very popular and active member of the Royal British Legion. Apart from his standard bearer's role, he entered competitions and served his Branch for many years as Welfare Officer.



Dennis and Martha Burnett with George and Joyce Kent, Brooklands Hotel 2008.

22545782 **Jim Hunt** on Saturday 16th May. 4868559 **Sergeant Dennis Burnett** a D Day veteran aged 96, on 28th October. **Dennis** a founder member had supported the Branch in several positions over many years. The enthusiasm he gave to the Branch and Association was exemplary. The passing of each of them is deeply felt.

On a personal note the Secretary would like to thank the Committee, Branch members, and their wives, for their support. Our friends and supporters can look to the future with hopefulness.

Mick Male has offered his services as Chairman of the Branch and he is now Chairman designate in advance of our 2021 AGM.

Finally, the Secretary wishes to extend his warmest thanks to **Major Andy Green, Sergeant Rob Broomes**, and the team at Regimental Headquarters for their invaluable support throughout these strange times, it is very much appreciated.

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.

MMy dear Andy,
It is my duty to inform you, with great sadness, that nothing has been seen or heard from the Chairman and his fellow paddlers since last December.

As you know they were on Bar2Bar, their charity canoe paddle for The Colonel's Fund. Even allowing for mandatory self-isolation for a couple of months, it must be assumed the Bermuda Triangle has claimed more victims.

It must be very big because there are already dozens of ships, aircraft, errant street liners et al there.

Unless a miracle happens I fear the T & C will hereafter be on Gazette Silence.

Yours ever,

F Luent

Branch Secretary



Right: Harry White was an adventurer, Grenadier and Jameson Raider. His colourful story was recounted by Evelyn Webb-Carter in *The Grenadier Gazette 2000*. Removed from the Reserve of Officers when he was sentenced to five months imprisonment in Wormwood Scrubs for his role in the 1896 Jameson Raid, he was restored to it and promoted Lieutenant Colonel, as well as being awarded the D.S.O., for his subsequent services in the Boer War. He died at Pietersburg, South Africa, in 1903 and was buried with full military honours at Pretoria. This fine Grenadier memorial was erected by his friends in All Saint's Church next to Holdenby House, the White family residence.



**In Loving Memory of
LIEUT-COLONEL HON^{BLE} H.F. WHITE, D.S.O.**

BORN 17 APRIL 1859. HE JOINED THE GRENADE GUARDS SEPTEMBER 1878.
SERVED IN THE SUAKIM CAMPAIGN 1884-5. MEDAL & CLASP, KREDIVES STAR.
BECAME CHIEF MAGISTRATE OF SALISBURY (RHODESIA) 1894.
CHIEF COMMISSIONER OF RHODESIA MOUNTED POLICE 1895.
AND COMMANDED THAT FORCE IN DR JAMESON'S INCURSION INTO THE TRANSVAAL 1895,
FOR WHICH HE UNDERWENT FIVE MONTHS IMPRISONMENT;
WAS MAYOR OF BULAWAYO 1899.
SERVED UNDER GENERAL PLUMER FROM THE COMMENCEMENT OF THE S. AFRICAN WAR
UP TO THE RELIEF OF MAFFERING. (SEVERELY WOUNDED AT CROCODILE POOLS)
SERVED UNDER COLONEL GARRETT.
AND LATER ON COMMANDED A COLUMN WHICH INCLUDED THE 7TH NEW ZEALAND,
AND 6TH QUEENSLAND REGIMENTS UNTIL THE TERMINATION OF THE WAR;
QUEEN'S AND KING'S MEDAL D.S.O., TWICE MENTIONED IN DESPATCHES.
PROMOTED LIEUT-COLONEL; HE DIED AT PIETERSBURG, (TRANSVAAL) OF PNEUMONIA,
17TH AUGUST 1903. BURIED AT PRETORIA, WITH MILITARY HONOURS.

"THE WILL TO DO, - THE SOUL TO DARE"
PLACED HERE BY THOSE WHO LOVED HIM.

Former Sgt Carl Shadrake, supporters and members of the 1st Battalion at the summit of Mount Snowdon on 16 October 2020, after he had completed 100 half marathons in 100 days. From the front, left to right: Matt Ellmer (RCO), RQMS Bailey, Gdsm Gilbert, Capt Wilson, the Sgt Maj, DSgt Lloyd, Carl with Zara, Penelope and Angie Shadrake, the Comd Offr.

