

The Grenadier Gazette

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THE REGIMENTAL JOURNAL OF THE GRENADEIER GUARDS



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Inside front cover: The Inkerman Company marching to Horse Guards to mount a Guard of Honour.

Back cover: 75 years ago – 1st Battalion Mounting Kings Guard 24 January 1947.



Foreword

by *Lieutenant General Roly Walker, DSO*

With a metronomic regularity comes the email in December from the Editor, politely requesting a short pithy foreword to the annual edition of the Gazette. With equal regularity comes my pathetic attempts at procrastination before the hastening request drops into my inbox come late January, but with a bit of bite and ice to it. After five years one would imagine I'd have learnt my lesson. Not so, it seems; and this year it took a bout of Covid to force my isolation and thus the opportunity to pen some thoughts. Luckily for the Editorial Committee, this will be the last time you have to chase me up, as I will hand the Lieutenant Colonelcy reins to James Bowder in June.

One of the advantages of a late jotting is I get to see the full list of contributions and articles. It is heartening to see quite how much material can be packed into an edition, covering old favourites and opening up new insights into soldiering both past and present. I like the look of a new section entitled From Our Foreign Correspondents, which shows just how far and wide Grenadiers are scattered in the service of their Sovereign.

It's been a year of change. The implications of the governments Integrated Review for the Army are significant. The Commanding Officer summarises what it means for the Household Division and for the Grenadiers. I think it's a good outcome all round, not withstanding the difficult choices made about the overall size and shape of a modern British Army. A notable change will be the formal incorporation of Army Reservists into our Regiment, albeit the majority of reservist Grenadiers will serve in the 1st Battalion, the London Guards.

Perhaps the most high-profile change has been with the Colonelcy. The Duke of York relinquished all his military affiliations and titles in January, so our colonelcy returned to Her Majesty, with whom it will remain for the foreseeable future, almost 80 years to the day that She first assumed

the role. We are honoured that She has taken the Colonelcy back in hand, but any sense of joy and nostalgia must, I think, be tempered by the regrettable circumstances that forced it. Giving up the colonelcy was a bitter blow to the Duke of York, who in the short time as Colonel showed very high levels of interest in the fortunes of the Regiment and the Guardsmen. I wrote to thank him on behalf of us all. Equally bitter last year was the death of the late Colonel, the Duke of Edinburgh. The dignified coverage of his life and works in the media in the days that followed, all bought to a point at a sombre but intensely personal funeral at Windsor, was a wonderful way to pay tribute to Prince Philip, and it was a privilege that so many Grenadiers were involved both behind-the-scenes and also very firmly in the public eye.

It is with that in mind that we look forward to this Platinum Jubilee year for the Company Commander of the Queen's Company, the Colonel of the Regiment and Colonel-in-Chief.

My last word is one of thanks for our brilliant outgoing Treasurer, Andy Green. He has been a stalwart in Regimental Headquarters, with an ever open Quartermasterly eye for detail and a man of exemplary integrity – we wish him well for the future.



Editorial Notes

by Brigadier David Russell-Parsons OBE DL

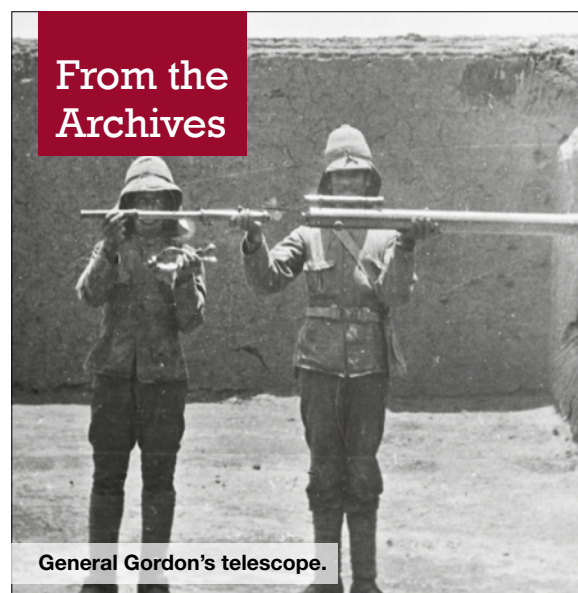
This last year has been dominated by the death of our previous Colonel, HRH Prince Philip, Her Majesty's decisions about the Colonel and her return, as well as fundamental changes to Household Division and the Foot Guards within the Integrated Review and the more routine and yet diverse span of Regimental activity. We have tried to do the scope of that justice in this year's edition of the Gazette- and as ever over the last 12 months more Grenadiers have discovered new parts of the world and engaged in a full variety of training, adventurous activity and operational duty.

First, a big thank you to all readers – all of us on the Editorial Committee cannot remember a year where there has been so much follow up and comment. You have been very generous and fulsome with their feedback on our 2021 journal last year. We have had a complete consensus and validation of the current style, colour and content – we are keen to maintain the same standards. Last year we did have the quantity of material to be a bumper edition. This year we are very fortunate to receive a great number of excellent submissions from diverse authors located all around the world, as well as a number closer to home. We thank Brigadier Greville Bibby and Colonel Richard Maundrell in that latter category for their photographs and reflections on the Colonel's funeral.

We will continue to publish all our regular features from the serving Regiment, including the thoughtful summary of all Household Division issues from Lieutenant Colonels Simon Soskin and Jerry Levine, for the third time, this year with all the nuance, change and results of the Integrated Review. The Battalion. The Regimental band and wider Regimental contributors have been busy again ensuring that the most interesting reports and photos have all been recorded in our aim for this journal to remain a comprehensive archive and living record of all Regimental activity. We issue the offer and challenge again to everyone to contribute – the Gazette is an inclusive forum for those who dare to read, think, speak, and write to advance our understanding and appreciation of the Regiment.

I am particularly grateful to Alan Ogden and Philip Wright for their superb support of this journal and on the Committee, and this year it is with huge sadness that we say goodbye to Andrew Green, the most assiduous, detailed and reliable Association Editor any Regiment could have. His guidance of policy, oversight of the complete second half of the journal, his experimentation, his coordination of the wealth of material from all Branches and general conduct of his office have been so excellent throughout his tenure. He has an unending commitment to recording Regimental and Association activity, a tireless work ethic, and extensive talents in teaching and mentoring, all with the kindest of hearts. He is much loved and well-respected by other Regiments in terms of what he has achieved for the Gazette, and it is humbling to try to encompass all that he has contributed to the journal over all these years. I am sure you would all join us in universal appreciation too. We wish him well in his retirement and for his new pastures and he leaves us with our deepest gratitude.

This next year promises much too, and likewise an edition of the Gazette which aims to keep sharing it all. As ever, all Grenadiers should know that they can write in at any time (regltreasurer@grendgds.com and regtladjt@grendgds.com)



**From the
Archives**

General Gordon's telescope.

HRH The Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh KG, KT, OM, GBE, QSO, AC

Some Grenadier Reflections

by James Gatehouse

In 1974, Major General Sir Allan Adair Bt started to discuss with The Queen when he should give up the appointment of Colonel of the Regiment, which he had held since 1960. Of all his illustrious predecessors, only one had neither been a Duke nor an Earl and, apart from the Duke of Wellington, only one other since 1770 had not been a member of the Royal Family.

By then aged 76, the former GOC of the Guards Armoured Division was a very popular and distinguished Grenadier and he had already been Colonel for 14 years. Most Colonels of Line Regiments were then appointed for only five years and another important consideration was that HRH Prince Charles was now old enough to succeed His father as Colonel of the Welsh Guards, an appointment that Prince Philip had held since 1953. So, change was agreed and, on 1st March 1975, Prince Philip became our 22nd Colonel. He would go on to hold the Colonelcy for 42 years until 1st December 2017, almost the longest period in our history.

Prince Philip already knew the Regiment well. In April 1942, on Her 16th birthday, Princess Elizabeth had been appointed our 19th Colonel and later, after their marriage and both before and after the Coronation, Prince Philip accompanied The Queen on parade and on most of her visits to the Regiment. Within the first few months of his appointment in 1975, he had visited both battalions, attended Regimental Remembrance Sunday and the First Guards Club dinner, and chaired the Regimental Council, establishing a pattern that would be interrupted only rarely over the following decades.

In June 1975 the 1st Battalion, newly arrived in Chelsea Barracks after three years in Munster, was providing the Escort and Number Two Guard on the Queen's Birthday Parade. Just before this,



HRH The Colonel.

Her Majesty and Prince Philip attended a Garden Party in Ranelagh Gardens, meeting many of the families. Further afield, he also found time to visit the 2nd Battalion in Hong Kong, who were settling in to life at Stanley Fort and discovering all that the Far East still had to offer.

Later that summer Prince Philip visited the 1st Battalion again, this time at Knook Camp on the edge of Salisbury Plain, on its first major live firing exercise since Germany. The *Guards Magazine* reported that "during his visit The Colonel witnessed some enthusiastic training". An officer present at the time has added a bit more colour to this rather bland statement; "Bernard Gordon Lennox was commanding. I was commanding No 2 Company and I was challenged to give The Colonel

a ‘realistic experience of ambush drills’. With the whole Company deployed, I used an open top Landrover which I drove, with him as passenger. I had laid out a series of ambushes and improved realism by adding 1lb primers to the various ‘bangs areas’. Although sitting beside me on the last drive, bumping along pretty quickly, there was blinding smoke and a deafening explosion and I lost sight of Him for a second or two. When the smoke cleared, there He was with a big grin on his face and holding a sizeable branch of wood, which had landed on Him!”

On another visit to the 1st Battalion, then in South Armagh, the Commanding Officer remembered that “owing to a hitch in the visit programme, aged 78, He ended up climbing 5 flights of stairs and a vertical ladder to get into a sangar to visit the sentry. He loved it! Coming down afterwards, I went first to catch Him if he slipped in his highland brogues. I wasn’t going to have Him falling down 6 flights of stairs, taking my career with Him!”

In January 1991, Grenadiers were about to be heavily involved in front line fighting in the Gulf War on Operation GRANBY. It was a worrying time, particularly for the families being left behind in Munster. “The Colonel came and sat amongst us,” recalled one wife, “He was very good, sympathetic and constructive – not ‘gung-ho’ He laughed and joked and cheered everyone up – a brilliant morale booster.” He asked one wife what were the worst aspects of the sudden deployment of their husbands to the Gulf. She replied that the wives had all cleaned their ovens, thinking they were about to return to London and, now that they were to remain in Munster, they didn’t want to dirty them again by cooking. So cooking had become quite tricky! Prince Philip thought this was tremendously funny and frequently asked other wives he met later on the same visit, “have you cleaned your oven?” much to their surprise and delight.

Throughout his Colonelcy Prince Philip kept a very close eye on the Regiment and always found time to find out about and help with any problems or issues as they occurred. In the mid 1980’s one Regimental Lieutenant Colonel noted: “I had a difficult and important issue which needed resolution by the Colonel. So I waited until he had left for New Zealand before writing a letter for him

to consider, in due course and probably after he returned, a week or so later. To my astonishment, within 48 hours, I had his response. It was obvious that my letter had been flown out to New Zealand and that he had dealt with it the moment it arrived. I felt that this demonstrated two of his key characteristics: his very strong commitment to the Regiment and his great personal efficiency, no doubt from his naval days. I learned later that he never went to bed before he had cleared his in-tray”.

Prince Philip continued to ride on the Queen’s Birthday Parade until 2003 and then, in the years following, he accompanied Her Majesty in a carriage. In 2012, a week after being discharged from hospital and looking in remarkably good spirits, he accompanied the Queen on the Birthday Parade in the coach which they had first used on their wedding day when they travelled from Westminster Abbey to Buckingham Palace on 20th November 1947. During his Colonelcy the Regiment trooped it’s Colour on twelve occasions.

Prince Philip was held in enormous respect and great affection by all who met or knew him. He has left an indelible mark on the Regiment and we are immensely proud of the fact that for 46 years he was a Grenadier.

This article is based on one printed in the Summer 2021 edition of the Guards Magazine.



The Colonel's Colour of HRH The Prince Philip.

The Colonel's Funeral as seen from the BBC Commentary Box

by *Brigadier Greville Bibby, CBE*

I do not routinely receive texts from the BBC, so when one pops up on my mobile it sparks a little more interest than the average message. On this occasion it was a Monday morning in April when I was walking off the eighteenth green of St Enodoc Golf Course in Cornwall. My immediate thought was they wanted to speak about the Birthday Parade, but as I dialed the number the penny dropped, HRH The Duke of Edinburgh had died on the previous Friday and perhaps they wanted advice on who to speak to about HRH's 42 years as our Colonel.

Three days later I was sitting alongside Huw Edwards in a hastily constructed glass commentary box positioned opposite St George's Chapel in Windsor Castle. It was Thursday and a dress rehearsal of the Colonel's funeral was in full swing. Prior planning and preparation prevents a etc. Everything about my preparation, or lack of it, caused me acute concern; "this will not be like the Birthday Parade," I was advised by the producer, 'the running order is a little thin, and we are still working on the commentary'. 'Oh and you will be 'on camera' throughout, so no notes!'

None of this should have come as a surprise; the



Brigadier Bibby as commentator.

Birthday Parade happens every year at the same time in the same way, and everyone knows what to expect, until Regimental Adjutants fall off their horses! But the plan for the Colonel's 'COVID compliant' funeral had only been put together in recent months, and it was the first of its kind to take place in the confines of Windsor Castle, it was unique and a 'one off'. The original plan for a full scale State Occasion in London, with up to 10,000 participants, had been masterfully adapted by, amongst others, the Brigade Major, Lieutenant Colonel Guy Stone Welsh Guards, and Garrison Sergeant Major, WO1 Vern Stokes Coldstream Guards.

My brief was to 'cover the military elements of the funeral'. By the time I got home that evening I had less than 36 hours to work out what the military elements were and what, if anything, I knew about them. I knew I was due to be 'on air' for 25 minutes and, thanks to watching the rehearsal, I had a feel for what would be happening during that time. The BBC provided me with 60 pages of briefing notes covering every imaginable detail of the military participants. The challenge was to distil the information into interesting and relevant sound bites to tally with the pictures on the screen.

To be honest the more I thought about it the more terrified I became. Ask me about the Colonel and his relationship with the Regiment and I, like any Grenadier who served in the last 40 years, could recount any number of amusing anecdotes. But what did I know about his Royal Highness's association with the Navy, the RAF, the Rifles, the Queen's Royal Hussars, the Highlanders, the Intelligence Corps, the REME and the Royal Marines? In short, not a lot! As a result I spent most of the Friday selecting one fact about each, and it was as I did this it dawned on me what a remarkable person the Colonel was, and what it means to live your life 'dedicated to the service of others.'

Despite the preparation I surprised myself by starting my commentary by comparing his love of everything he did to that love a parent has for a second or third child. Possibly slightly emotional and over the top, but in the moment it seemed right – when you think you could not possibly have enough room in your heart for another, of course it

turns out you do. Well this, in my mind, summed up Prince Philip, he had the rare ability to make everyone feel special. We felt special having him for so long as our Colonel, but so did all his other Regiments, the Royal Navy and the RAF, not to mention the cadets and an extensive list of non-military organisations. This was a truly remarkable feat and reflected an exceptional man, and to think he did it for over 55 years, well into his 90s.

To give you a taste of Prince Philip's military achievements and appointments: he served in the Royal Navy from 1940 to 1951, during which time he commanded the anti-submarine ship HMS Magpie in the rank of Commander; in 1952 he became Admiral of the Sea Cadet Corps, Colonel-in-Chief of the Army Cadet Force and Air Commodore-in-Chief of the Air Training Corps; he succeeded King George VI as Captain General Royal Marines in 1953; in the same year he was promoted Marshal of the Royal Airforce and the Chief of the Air Staff awarded him his wings; HRH went onto qualify as a pilot on 59 different aeroplanes and helicopters; also in 1953 he was appointed Colonel-in-Chief of the 8th Hussars, to become the Queen's Royal Irish

Hussars, and Colonel-in-Chief of the Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders, latterly the Highlanders; he was appointed Colonel in Chief Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers in 1969; in 1975 he succeeded General Sir Allan Adair as Colonel of the Regiment; he became Colonel in Chief Intelligence Corps in 1977; and he was appointed the first Colonel in Chief of the newly formed Rifles Regiment in 2007.

To sit alongside Huw Edwards with the backdrop of Windsor Castle and the funeral procession passing by within 30 yards was as extraordinary as it was surreal. With the glare of the studio lights, the cameras rolling, monitors flashing and an estimated international audience of 60 million, the weight of responsibility was overwhelming, and there was nowhere to hide. Luckily I knew Huw from commentating on the Birthday Parade; he epitomises professionalism, knows exactly what he is doing and, most importantly, puts his guests at ease. That said, I had no time to settle in as I was ushered into the seat vacated only moments before by Sir David Attenborough, and as the microphone went live so Huw asked me my first question. And that's how it was for the following 25 minutes, chatting to Huw Edwards about one of the most wonderful, moving and memorable occasions many of us have witnessed in our lifetimes. To be honest I was enjoying the experience so much that I was bitterly disappointed when I was asked to vacate my seat for another.

Needless to say to play any part in this special occasion was a huge privilege. One could see and feel the pride of the men and women selected to be on parade. The whole day was an example of the British Armed Forces at their very best, unified by their pride to be able to call HRH The Duke of Edinburgh one of theirs. If nothing else it reminded us, as if we needed it, the critical role the Royal Family play in providing the Armed Forces with a sense of purpose, solidarity, loyalty and pride.



Photographs from Colonel Richard Maundrell as a former Equerry

by Colonel Richard Maundrell



Above: HRH presenting the Duke of Edinburgh Operating License to the Queen's University Belfast Officer Training Corps in Northern Ireland in 2012.

Right: Briefing the Colonel at Windsor Castle for the Rifles Reception in 2008.

Below: Speaking on the BBC.



HOUSEHOLD DIVISION UPDATE

by *Lieutenant Colonel Simon Soskin & Lieutenant Colonel (Retd) Jerry Levine*

As we faced our 2nd year under the constraints of COVID, we have all learned to adapt and, where possible, thrive. Household Division units have again been at the forefront of COVID defence – Op RESCRIPT – all over the United Kingdom, with some of our soldiers now actually administering the vaccines. Each Regiment has maintained its' high tempo on both training and operations. At one point in 2021 all 5 of the Foot Guards Regiments had a significant proportion of their 1st battalions deployed overseas.

It had been anticipated that the main ceremonial event of the year was to be a further refinement of the Queen's Birthday Parade. However, the sad news of the death of His Royal Highness, The Prince Phillip, Duke of Edinburgh, former Colonel of both the Welsh and Grenadier Guards, sent HQ Household Division at Horse Guards into overdrive implementing Op FORTH BRIDGE. The wide acclaim that the funeral ceremonial attracted has been covered elsewhere. The Queen's Birthday Parade, although again a much more restrained event than usual, lacked none of the accustomed ceremony and precision. We also welcomed the post-COVID return of the Lawson Cup, the Household Division's inter-regimental athletics competition, which was won by 1st Battalion Welsh Guards.

Details of the Army's integrated review (IR) were finally announced in November 2021, under the title '*Future Soldier*', describing how the British Army will adjust over the next three years. The Household Division will reconfigure to take its place within the Army's new order of battle in a series of roles that should preserve the best of what the Household Division does in London, while also keep us up to date as a fighting force. All 7 cap-badges endure. The Household Cavalry Regiment (HCR) will reduce in size slightly, while the Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment (HCMR) remains the same. The 1st Battalion Scots Guards will stay permanently in the Light Mechanised Role, while the other 4 regiments will adopt a slightly different rotation:

one in London as our single SCPD battalion, two in the Field Army as Light Role battalions and the 4th a new Security Force Assistance (SFA) battalions. 5 smaller Public Duties Teams will replace The current 3 Public Duties Companies will be replaced by 5 smaller ones: one from each Field Army bn and two from the SFA bn. As the battalions rotate through the roles each will adopt a slightly different sized structure. To sustain all 5 Foot Guards regiments at an equivalent size over time we will post more people between the different regiments – giving them more opportunity for role and location – but not so much that our battalions lose their individual identity and culture.

The Household Cavalry Regiment has continued to prepare to adopt the new AJAX and ARIES vehicles, despite further delays and setbacks postponing the advent of an operational STRIKE brigade. The Mounted Regiment has moved back to weekly rotations of full-scale ceremonial Queen's Life Guard mounts on Horse Guards parade. Early 2022 sees all the horses return to Knightsbridge after 2 years away to prepare for a full ceremonial season. Over 40% of the horses and many of the troopers will be having their first experience of a Queen's Birthday Parade.

1st Battalion Coldstream Guards continues to live in Victoria Barracks, Windsor, returning to London District from the Field Army on 15 February 2021 and finding 2 of the 3 guards on the refined Queen's Birthday Parade on 12 June 2021. While continuing their SCPD role throughout the year, they sent a company to the Falkland Islands and currently have a company in Jamaica on Ex RED STRIPE. They will continue SCPD throughout 2022, street lining on the Queen's Birthday Parade with No7 Company finding No 6 Guard. In August 2022, the battalion will change to the Lt Role Infantry structure, joining 4 BCT in February 2023.

1st Battalion Scots Guards moved to Catterick in Summer 2021, as part of the first STRIKE brigade in BOXER, while completing its Op SHADER deployment. Concurrently, F Company Scots Guards trooped their Colour in front of Her Majesty the Queen, under command of 1st

Battalion Coldstream Guards. 1st Battalion Scots Guards will remain a Light Mechanised battalion in the FS structure. They will remain in Catterick for 4 years at a time, rotating to Cyprus for a 2 year tour once every 6 years, from 2027.

The 1st Battalion Irish Guards made a unit move from Cavalry Barracks, Hounslow to Mons Barracks, Aldershot, replacing 1st Battalion Scots Guards, and re-joining London District in February 2021. Since then, they have sent a company to the Falklands Islands and will soon send a company on anti-poaching operations in Zambia (Op CORDED). They will be presented with new colours in 2022, which they will troop in front of Her Majesty on 2nd of June, initiating the Platinum Jubilee.

The 1st Battalion Welsh Guards moved from London District to 11 Brigade in February. They also sent a company to the Falklands in the spring and on OP SHADER in the summer. The Battalion was also involved in OP RESCRIPT and OP ESCALIN. One company will remain deployed on OP SHADER until Summer 2022, with another deploying on OP CORDED in Spring 2023. The Regiment also marks the 40th anniversary of the Falklands War in 2022.

The London Regiment becomes the 1st battalion London Guards on 1st April 2022 ending some years of gradual evolution from its many antecedent regiments. HQ company and each of their three rifle companies will become a Foot Guards company: Grenadier, Coldstream, Scots and Irish. The battalion as a whole will support the various regular

battalions on operations and training starting with a detachment to the Falklands in August 2022 and then Ex ROMAN STAR in Italy in the autumn.

Guards Training Company in Catterick continues to produce outstanding Guardsmen, each intake now apportioned broadly equally between the regiments to ensure that each regiment remains properly manned in the future. Recruiting and recruit training has been so successful over the last two years that, after years of poor inflow, our battalions are now full to their Future Soldier structures at guardsman rank. Some gaps remain at LCpl and LSgt but these should reduce as guardsmen promote.

Household Division and Parachute Regiment Centralised Courses (HDPRCC) continues to prepare our soldiers for Infantry Battle School Courses and Special Forces selection. However, HDPRCC's primary job is to qualify Guardsmen for promotion to LCpl, with capacity to qualify 160 per year. Our current focus is to evolve the structure of this course, so it better meets our changing post-IR needs.

6 (Guards) Platoon of B Company, 3 PARA is on Op SHADER in Iraq as we go to print. From being 50% manned by Parachute Regiment soldiers in 2021, it is now nearly completely manned by Household Division soldiers. Browning Platoon, a pan-Household Division construct run by Nijmegen Company to run pre-P Company training, has produced 20 candidates successfully passing P Company in 2021.

From the Archives



Aldershot Command Searchlight Tattoo 1929.

The Integrated Review

by Lieutenant General Roly Walker DSO,
Regimental Lieutenant Colonel

Introduction

In November 2021 the results of the Integrated Review and how it will shape the British Army were released, under the title '*Future Soldier*'. This was set against how Global Britain will treat and react to threats in a new, more competitive age. It focuses on securing Britain's interests, both at home and overseas, and in the next three years *Future Soldier* will transform the British Army to meet expected challenges and be better prepared for a broad range of potential conflicts across the globe.

The Household Division will reconfigure and take its place within the Army's new order of battle. Throughout the planning process, the Major General has striven to protect our collective and shared heritage without any loss of cap badges. He has secured a series of roles that preserve the best of what we do in London, enhance our future and importantly keep us relevant as a fighting force. He has done an excellent job.

The Household Division

To understand where we will fit in to the new organisation, you first need to know what happens to the remainder of the Household Division after October 2022. There will be a small reduction in size to the Household Cavalry Regiment in Bulford. The Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment at Knightsbridge remains broadly unchanged. The Foot Guards remain as five, distinguished and evenly sized regiments but they will be administered in one of only four new Divisions of Infantry and grouped with the Parachute Regiment.

Geographically, the five battalions of Foot Guards will remain where they are stationed now. Two battalions in Aldershot (1 GREN GDS and 1 IG), two in Windsor (1 COLDM GDS and 1 WG) and one in Catterick (1SG). Rotating through three distinct roles, two on more than one occasion during a 16-year cycle, at any time there will be two Light Role (LR) battalions in the Field Army, both in the 1st Division, a single battalion in London District and one battalion in the Security Force Assistance

(SFA) role. Separately and not involved in the rotation or roles described above, 1 SG will remain a Light Mechanised battalion based permanently in Catterick, with two years in every six spent in Cyprus, starting in 2027.

Next Autumn, after the Queen's Birthday Parade, 1 IG are the first to take on the SFA role, for 4 years. With a much-reduced establishment, this new role requires a substantial readjustment to the battalion's ORBAT although the formation, concurrently, of two Irish Guards Public Duties Incremental Companies (PDICs) will partially compensate. In this new role the battalion will focus on military capacity building around the world. In 2027 they will handover to 1 COLDM GDS.

Familiar to those who served in BAOR, the new lexicon for combined arms brigades is a Brigade Combat Team (BCT) and the two Foot Guards LR battalions will each spend up to four consecutive years at a time within 4 (Light) BCT. The LR and SFA roles in the Field Army will provide many, diverse opportunities, some overseas and offer greater variety for Guardsmen of all ranks to build upon their core soldiering skills.

The commitment of one battalion to State Ceremonial and Public Duties (SCPD) in London (one less than now) will be matched by a reduction in SCPD output, mainly over the Autumn and Winter months, the tempo determined by the Major General and based upon the troops he has available. This commitment will be for two years and the incumbent battalion will be supported by five PDICs, slightly smaller than now, including Nijmegen Company (apart from 2025-26). At varying points in the cycle, all five regiments will find PDICs and I believe this will be a marked improvement with more efficient use of the manpower available. In this 16-year cycle, no battalion will now spend more than 4 years on SCPD, half the time at present. This is good for retention.

Furthermore, the Household Division will be aligned to the 2nd Battalion Rangers in Keogh Barracks, Aldershot, so Guardsmen will be able to serve there having passed the aptitude process. The Guards Parachute Platoon remains open to those willing to test themselves on P Company. For those extra Regimentally employed and

progressing upwards, rewarding opportunities at Catterick, Harrogate, Brecon and Sandhurst will be unaffected. Also, I expect the steady flow of Grenadiers serving with the United Kingdom's Special Forces to continue. The upshot is there will be much more movement of Grenadiers across all these organisations, offering more variety and giving all ranks opportunity for a more fulfilling and diverse career.

Another key aspect of *Future Soldier* is closer integration between the Regular Army and the Reserves. For the Foot Guards this means a much closer relationship with the London Regiment. The Defence Council, through the Army Board, has directed that the London Regiment be redesignated 1st Battalion London Guards and for the four senior regiments of Foot Guards to each raise a Reserve company to serve in the London Guards.

The Grenadiers

As planned, the 1st Battalion leaves London District in February 2022. Following an intense work-up, from June 2022 elements will then deploy on Op SHADER, the UK's support to operations in Iraq for 12 months. Thereafter, for another 18 months or so, the 1st Battalion remains in 4 BCT, until early 2025, afterwards returning to London District and more SCPD for a further two years. In 2027 it again returns to the Field Army in the LR. Overall, for the next 9 years this means little significant change in the size or shape of the Regiment until 2030, when the 1st Battalion is then forecast to take on the SFA role.

For now, Nijmegen Company remains a PDIC in Wellington Barracks and is still due to be presented with New Colours in 2024, trooping them afterwards on the Queen's Birthday Parade. In 2025 it then moves to Aldershot to be co-located with the 1st Battalion for 2 years, still in the SCPD role. When the 1st Battalion returns to 4 BCT in 2027, Nijmegen Company will return to Wellington Barracks as a standalone PDIC again.

After due consideration, from April 2022 the existing G Company LONDONS, based in Kingston (South West London) will be redesignated as Ypres Company, Grenadier Guards, serving in 1st Battalion London Guards. We selected this name quite deliberately, following the same criteria used

for the naming of both the Inkerman and Nijmegen Companies. A similar redesignation will take place for the Coldstream, Scots and Irish Guards. Ypres Company will be the senior company in the London Guards, and those serving in G Company today will shortly transfer into the Grenadiers, thereafter wearing the grenade and adopting all our customs and traditions. They will become Guardsmen. This is the biggest change for the Regiment to come from the *Future Soldier* programme and it will need to be thought through quickly and comprehensively, so that it works well and benefits all. I am tasking the Regimental Adjutant to form a small implementation group to work with Regimental Headquarters London Regiment to make it so.

Finally, I turn to the Regimental Band. It has built up an enviable reputation and is deemed one of the best in the British Army. Although now officially part of the Corps of Army Music, its connection to the Regiment runs deep and I am pleased that the Band remains unaffected by this Review.

Summary

Although this outcome appears complex and there will be challenges ahead, I firmly believe that the result offers balance across the Household Division and assures our Regimental future. The rotation allows Grenadiers to develop more specialist knowledge and skills, serving in the Field Army for longer, with all the associated opportunities this brings. Importantly, the cards are stacked in favour of our central skill as light role infantry and our ceremonial skill-set will be assured through the continuance of Nijmegen Company, which all new, young Guardsmen will continue to join after they complete their basic training at Harrogate and Catterick.

The Integrated Review was perhaps the deepest and most far-reaching Defence Review since Options for Change in the early 1990's, which resulted in placing our 2nd Battalion into Suspended Animation and the formation of Nijmegen Company. Fortunately, we are not facing such drastic cuts this time; indeed, we are set to get bigger.

Lieutenant Colonel James Shaw, Brigade Major Household Division

Lieutenant Colonel James Shaw started as Brigade Major in February 2022. By his reckoning, based off the photos of all Brigade Majors in his office going back to 1873, he is the nineteenth Grenadier Brigade Major. There is never a quiet day in the Brigade Major's office but if Lieutenant Colonel Shaw did find himself daydreaming, he would quickly be reminded of his duties by the photos on the wall of his first Company Commander (Lieutenant Colonel Simon Soskin,

Brigade Major 2012–2015); second Commanding Officer (Brigadier (ret'd) David Russell-Parsons, Brigade Major 2003–2004); and most of all Major General Bernard Gordon Lennox (Brigade Major

1971–1974)!

2022 will be a busy year with the Queen's Platinum Jubilee which includes the first QBP back at Horse Guards since 2019. Along with the QBP will be a pageant with a large military marching contingent. Keeping with the theme of photos on the wall in the Brigade Major's office, is the photo of Field Marshal Charles Guthrie (Brigade Major 1975–1977) who was tasked with organising the Silver Jubilee; a tough act to follow!

Lieutenant Colonel James Shaw commissioned into the Grenadier Guards in 2003. At Regimental Duty he served as a Platoon Commander and Company Second Command in No 2 Company deploying to Bosnia, Iraq and Afghanistan and later on commanded The Inkerman Company from 2013–2015. On the staff he completed three tours in the MOD including ADC to the Chief of the Defence Staff (Jock Stirrup) in 2010; SO2 Northern Ireland in the Operations Directorate and an SO2 in the Army Staff. His final appointment at Regimental Duty was Senior Major from 2019–2021.

James is married to Charlotte and they live in Surrey with their two children. In 2019 their son Harry was lost to cancer aged five. Following Harry's death, they set up Harry's Giant Pledge which has raised £600,000 for childhood cancer research.



From the Archives



Dublin 1886 – Have bears got smaller?



Regimental Adjutant's Report

by Major James Gatehouse,

For the second year in a row, many of the traditional events planned by Regimental Headquarters for 2021 were either badly interrupted or cancelled, as a result of the ongoing impact of the Coronavirus pandemic. So, in May the traditional gathering in London on Black Sunday was cancelled, replaced by another short but poignant video of Remembrance, circulated for all to watch instead at home, produced very professionally again and viewed by an international audience across many time zones and as far afield as California and Tasmania. I hope you have seen this already, but the QR Code at the end of my report provides a permanent link, even now. In July, with ongoing lockdowns, travel restrictions and concerns about new COVID variants rampaging through the population, Grenadier Day in Aldershot was cancelled for another year. Finally, towards the year-end, the First Guards Club dinner was eventually held in November, at the Ironmongers' Hall in the City, but after a six-month delay.

For the more active, the steady drum beat of activity across the Regiment did continue during 2021 and much was achieved. The 1st Battalion, Nijmegen Company and the Regimental Band have all been extremely busy and, consequently, Regimental Headquarters also has been running fast to support them. Over the Winter months of Christmas 2020 and into the New Year, the Queen's Company was deployed in the Falklands, a most rewarding experience for all involved. Then, with fewer Public Duties in London and a reduced commitment for State Ceremonial over the Spring and Summer months, the 1st Battalion spent a lot more time away on exercise, honing its skills in the field, in preparation for a testing deployment to Kenya in July.

This training was punctuated by the very sad news of the death of His Royal Highness, The Duke

of Edinburgh, in April. Prince Philip had been our 22nd Colonel from 1975 to 2017 and we recall His long and outstanding association with the Regiment elsewhere in this Gazette. The Royal Funeral at Windsor Castle was a most poignant occasion, more so because of the special and unique circumstances in which it took place. It involved many Grenadiers and leaves a deep and lasting impression on all who were present on the day. All members of the Bearer Party were honoured with awards in the Royal Victorian Order, but within 24 hours they were on exercise in Sennybridge!

Nijmegen Company represented the Regiment on the Queen's Birthday Parade, held again at Windsor on a lovely, sunny day in June. This was another visual demonstration of some of the challenges imposed on us by the Coronavirus, with Guardsmen required to maintain a 2-metre distance, rather than standing shoulder-to-shoulder. On the following day the Queen's Company, accompanied by the Regimental Band, provided a large Guard of Honour in the Quadrangle for the visit of President Biden. It was blisteringly hot but, with the Royal Standard of the Regiment on parade for the first time in over two years, a very special day.

Away from the serving Regiment, the Regimental Council and Trustees met rather more often than usual in 2021, to cover their normal, routine business as well as to scrutinize the far-reaching impact of the Government's latest Defence Review, known as the Integrated Review, on the Army and in particular on the Household Division and the Regiment. The Lieutenant Colonel's letter to the Regiment on this important subject is reproduced in this Gazette.

Looking ahead, 2022 will bring fresh excitement and challenges. In February, the 1st Battalion resubordinates away from London District to the Field Army and in June starts to rotate companies through the OP SHADER commitment in Iraq. The Regimental Band and Nijmegen Company will remain in Wellington Barracks, fully focused on Public Duties and State Ceremonial. Both will be intimately involved in the Platinum Jubilee celebrations in June, which start with the

Queen's Birthday Parade on 2 June. Tickets for both Reviews sold out within 90 minutes of being released and there was sufficient demand to have filled Wembley Stadium! We are fortunate to have a Grenadier as the new Brigade Major at Horse Guards. Meanwhile, Regimental Headquarters is now preparing for Black Sunday which will take place in Wellington Barracks on 15 May, the First Guards Club dinner at the Cavalry & Guards Club on 16 May and Grenadier Day in Aldershot on 16 July. More details on these events will be sent out in due course.

In 2022 we will be celebrating a notable anniversary. On 24th February 1942, King George VI appointed HRH The Princess Elizabeth as our 19th Colonel, in succession to HRH The Duke of Connaught. We hope to celebrate the 80th anniversary of Her first inspection of the Regiment on 21 April with a small parade in Windsor Castle.

Also in 2022, we will commemorate some other important anniversaries. In 1882 the 2nd Battalion was engaged at the Battle of Tel-el-Kebir in Egypt, sixty miles by foot from Cairo and this is now one of the Regiment's battle honours. The corridors of Regimental Headquarters are lined with cases full of medals, many awarded to Grenadiers who had served on this expedition to Egypt, led by General Sir Garnet Wolseley. It contained a Brigade of



The Regimental Adjutant on Moby, apparently in control!

Guards, clothed for the desert in scarlet serge jackets, blue tweed trousers and pith helmets. They were commanded by the same HRH The Duke of Connaught as I mentioned earlier, who was a son of Queen Victoria and would later become our Colonel for 37 years. He was the last Royal Colonel

to have commanded Grenadiers in battle.

More poignantly for many and bringing you back to the present, ten years ago in January 2012 the 1st Battalion deployed again to Helmand on OP HERRICK XVI. As Alan Ogden writes¹ "*during 239 days in Afghanistan the combined British, Danish and Afghan Battle Group was engaged in 402 SAF contacts, suffered 117 IED strikes and made a further 241 IED finds. 28 men were killed in action and a further 149 wounded.*" Much more has been written about this tour, in which five Grenadiers lost their lives, including LCpl Ashworth VC, but the chaotic withdrawal from Afghanistan last year by coalition forces and the rapid takeover of the country by the Taliban will mean that this anniversary is more keenly felt than ever. Many of the bereaved and those wounded are still being supported by The Colonel's Fund.

During 2021 there were a series of generous gifts made to the Regiment, of medals and other items of property of Regimental interest. We are most grateful for each and every one and it is worth noting that we take great care of all Regimental property and currently have underway a programme of repairs and restoration of paintings and pictures, to ensure that they will remain in good condition and thus appreciated by many more generations of Grenadiers to come.

In 2021 we bade farewell to the RQMS, WO2 Wiseman, on promotion and he was replaced by WO2 Roper, from Sandhurst. We have also bade farewell to LSgt Haughton, who leaves the Regiment for pastures new and in his place we have welcomed LCpl Fanning, as Regimental Affairs NCO. In December the Temporary Equerry changed over, Captain Ted Bennett replacing Captain Jonny Palmer-Tomkinson, who is now training snipers in Saudi Arabia before he leaves the Army later in 2022.

The pipeline of new people joining the Regiment as Regular soldiers remains healthy. The addition to Regimental strength of Ypres Company of 1st Battalion London Guards, a Reserve battalion, from April onwards will be another challenge that we must embrace. The Lieutenant Colonel's letter

¹ *Grenadier Guards – An Account of Operations 1996–2015*, Nine Elms Books 2018. On sale from Regimental Headquarters.

about the Integrated Review explains this change in more detail and I will report further next year.

Regimental Headquarters is a hive of activity and all are welcome to visit. If you do, you will notice that the front of Wellington Barracks, the buildings which overlook the Square, is being given a much-needed facelift. We hope that the plastic sheeting that still shrouds the building will be removed in time for Black Sunday and I hope to see many of you then.



Director of Welfare's Report

For Year ending
31 December 2021

by Major James Gatehouse,
Regimental Adjutant

Organisation

Provision of welfare support for Grenadiers and their families, irrespective of age, rank or length of service remains a core activity of 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 (LSgt Davies) and the Regimental Casualty Officer (Mr Matt Ellmer). All are intimately involved in the implementation of welfare support.

The Regimental Association

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

1. Supplementary Benefits

In 2021, £5053 was distributed to 11 individuals who qualified for this allowance, at a rate of £430 per annum.

2. Christmas Gifts

In 2021, Christmas gifts of £30 per head were given to 189 worthy applicants, nominated by the Association branches. In addition, each of

our three In-Pensioners at The Royal Hospital Chelsea received a Christmas Gift. The total of all gifts was £5745.

3. Individual Welfare Grants

Net grants totaling £23,368 at the year end were made to support 47 requests for assistance, for such things as home improvements, mobility aids, brown/white goods, debt relief and other miscellaneous items. The majority of these cases are referred to us through SSAFA.

Recently, the President of the Association asked his Executive Committee to review all the above, to ensure that they remain appropriate and fit for purpose. I will report on any changes next year.

The Colonel's Fund Background

The Colonel's Fund was established in 2007 (as part of the Grenadier Guards Charity) with HRH The Duke of Edinburgh, our 22nd Colonel, as Patron. This followed the first (of what would be three) operational deployments to Afghanistan, where the Regiment sustained seventeen fatalities and many more were seriously wounded, sadly some with life-changing injuries. Since then other Grenadiers have sought our support and assistance, suffering from previously undiagnosed complex PTSD, mental health issues and as a result of the effects on them of traumatic blast injuries.

The Fund supports all Grenadiers whose wounds resulted from an operational or peacekeeping tour, including those to Ulster and Bosnia. No one is turned away and the Regimental Casualty Officer, formerly a Warrant Officer in the

Regiment, is employed full-time by the Fund. He is kept extremely busy, visiting and supporting the bereaved families and wounded Grenadiers all around the UK; identifying where help is needed, liaising with the NHS, Social Services and other military charities to ensure that we provide those in need with the support and assistance they require, in a timely manner.

Management

The Colonel's Fund is supervised by a Steering Committee, appointed by the Regimental Trustees who hold overall responsibility for the management of all Regimental Charitable funds.

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

The Steering Committee meets on a quarterly basis to review the Fund's activities, the assistance being provided by the Regimental Casualty Officer and the grants awarded. 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.

Recent Activity

In 2021, there was no let-up in the activity of The Colonel's Fund although, as in 2020, the Coronavirus forced us to adapt some of the ways in which the Regimental Casualty Officer conducted his visits, both to protect him as well as those he supports. Nevertheless, he made 1026 visits, some in person and some electronically by Zoom and other calls, driving over 15,000 miles in the process. Overall, he is actively supporting 18 bereaved families and 49 wounded Grenadiers, most with their own families now, including 4 more new cases taken on during the year.

The Regimental Casualty Officer leads on the delivery of the support outlined above and he continues to do an outstanding job, with great sensitivity and compassion. He is the 'fixer', mentor,

counselor and friend to our seriously wounded and the bereaved.

In addition, a separate specialist trauma psychotherapist provides invaluable support to a handful of individuals with very complex injuries and needs. She reports directly to Captain Bennett and the Regimental Adjutant.

Fundraising, investments and grants

Donations to The Colonel's Fund are regularly received at Regimental Headquarters and many individuals are very kind and generous. All are hugely appreciated. In particular, again I would like to thank Major Andy Green and Matt Ellmer for their heroic efforts on the Hadrian's Wall walk, as well as all who accompanied them for all or part of the way. They raised just over £15,000 and this is reported on elsewhere in the Gazette.

As at 31 December 2021, the market valuation of the Fund's investments, managed by Cazenove Capital, and cash at bank was £2,805,234. Despite regular drawdowns to cover expenditure and grants, the value of investments has increased by a net 6.6% over 12 months, a relatively healthy position reflecting supportive global markets, successful fundraising and continued close scrutiny of all costs by the Steering Committee.

In 2021, the total paid out from The Colonel's Fund, covering welfare grants and all costs was £156,470. Grants, all carefully considered, were awarded for mobility aids and home improvements, employment training, to supplement loss of earnings and for counseling.

All involved in the management of The Colonel's Fund are very conscious of the long-term commitment the Regiment has made to look after the bereaved families and our wounded in the best way we can. Therefore, to ensure that our ability to support both individuals and families can be sustained, regardless of investment returns which might not always be so positive, fundraising activities will continue.

The Household Division Welfare Fund

This fund remains in suspended animation although The Major General naturally reserves the right to revive it.

The Colonel's Fund Highlights 2021

*by Captain Charlie Bennett, Chairman of
The Colonel's Fund*

Events

The RCO was asked to assist the BBC to identify a suitable person to be interviewed for their programme that was aired immediately before HRH The Duke of Edinburgh's Funeral. Mandy Bainbridge, mother of LSgt David Greenhalgh, KIA on Op Herrick 11, spoke movingly about the Colonel's Fund and the support that she has received, as well her meetings with HRH The Colonel.

The Ashworth family were invited to Strategic Command, Northwood, for a naming ceremony in honour of their late son LCpl James Ashworth VC, where a briefing room was named in his memory. This was organised by Major Alex Budge. The Commanding Officer, the Regimental Adjutant, and the RCO hosted the family, together with Captain Mike Dobbin, MC DSO and members of the Regiment who served with the Recce Platoon on Op Herrick 16.

Fundraising

During August former Pl Sgt Carl Shadrake along with his wife, Angie, and two daughters, Penelope aged 7 and Zara aged 5, walked the length of Hadrian's Wall, a distance of 93 miles! They were supported by Major Andy Green, with the RCO and Mrs Averil Ellmer. Together they raised over £15,000 for the Colonel's Fund.

A dinner took place in November at The Cavalry & Guards Club to raise funds in support of the Yukon 700. The expedition is led by Lieutenant Colonel Guy Denison-Smith and Major Jon Frith. Yukon 700 has been designed as an epic and ambitious adventure, testing both physical and mental endurance. In June 2022 a team of eight Grenadiers, five of whom have life changing injuries, will take to open canoes and paddle 700 kilometres along the Yukon river between White Horse and Dawson City in northwest Canada. So far Yukon 700 has raised in excess of £65,000 for

three military charities.

Generous donations to the fund in 2022 have got off to a flying start, thanks to a kind introduction by The Colonel.

Examples of the Fund's support made in 2021

Gdsm A was diagnosed with PTSD after Op Herrick 11, and went through a challenging period, before returning to work in the Battalion tailor shop. His PTSD worsened to the point where he was medically discharged in June 2016. He now lives with his partner and two daughters in a house provided through an affordable rent scheme run by Haig Homes. We have funded his art program as this helps him cope with his PTSD. He established the PALS Battalion, a Community Interest Company, an enterprise that enables veterans to join forces to assist in local projects.

Gdsm B, the father of young twin boys, was Killed in Action on Op HERRICK 16 in 2012. His parents are now the legal guardians and are raising his children for him. The Fund supports the family and have contributed towards a residential break with other bereaved members of the Household Division.

Gdsm C was diagnosed with PTSD after an incident on Op HERRICK 16 in 2012. This resulted in his medical discharge and subsequent issues adapting to civilian life. We provided him with the materials which have enabled him to become an accomplished artist. He has appeared on the Sky Arts TV program 'Landscape Artist of the Year' where he magnificently made it to the semi-finals. Amongst other notable successes, his work has appeared on a commemorative coin minted by the Royal Mail on behalf of the Royal British Legion.





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]

**Regimental Headquarters Grenadier Guards, Wellington Barracks,
Birdcage Walk, London SW1E 6HQ
0207 414 3225 regltreasurer@grengds.com**



Yukon 700 Challenge – June 2022

by *Guy Denison-Smith*

The Yukon River meanders through one of the last great wildernesses on the planet, passing hundreds of miles of vast forests, barren tundra and jagged mountain peaks. Mapping is almost non-existent. Locked in ice for 9 months of the year, at its widest the river is 22km and at its narrowest 300m with currents varying between 6 to 14mph. Their greatest dangers will come from the river's false channels and tributaries and hidden obstacles. Wildlife, in the form of bears, elk and wolves, must be treated with respect.

In June 2022, 8 Grenadiers, serving and retired, will set off for the Northwest Canadian Territory of Yukon. Once there, the team, 5 of whom have life changing injuries, will take to open canoes and paddle 700km along the Yukon River between Whitehorse and Dawson City in Northwest Canada. The team will follow the route of the original settlers and prospectors who first ventured into this wilderness in the early 19th Century. Using open canoes much like these first pioneers, although made of Kevlar not wood, they will be completely self-sufficient throughout, carrying everything they need with them. For 7 days they will navigate their way through the Yukon waterways for approximately 16 hours per day, camping overnight on islands.

Yukon 700 has been designed as an epic and ambitious adventure, testing both physical and mental endurance. It will showcase the amazing courage and fortitude of a team of Grenadier Guardsmen some of whom were injured, both physically and mentally, whilst serving their Queen and country. The veterans served in numerous conflicts around the world, from Northern Ireland to Bosnia to Iraq and Afghanistan. The injured members of the group have suffered a variety of wounds, physical and mental, ranging from amputations to severe sight impairment and PTSD. They share in common not just the bonds of

comradeship but a determination not to be defined by their injury or disability, and that – if well supported and motivated by all of us in the greater community – they can achieve great things. All, and many others, will continue to require support on their recovery journey throughout their lives.

The team are raising money for three charities: The Grenadier Guards Colonel's Fund, SSAFA and Combat Stress. If you would like to donate, you can at <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/yukon-700> or you can send a cheque, made out to the Grenadier Guards Colonel's Fund, to c/o Regimental Accountant, RHQ Grenadier Guards, Wellington Barracks, Birdcage Walk, London SW1E 6HQ.



Lieutenant Colonel Gerald Johnston, flanked by Corporals from Nijmegen Company, enters dinner.



Matt Elmer, Regimental Casualty Officer.



Top Left: Captains Richard Openshaw and Ruadhri Duncan. Top Centre: Major Tom Hargreaves, OC Nijmegen Company. Above: Captain Ben Stephens receives a bottle of Champagne from Major Jon Frith.

As part of our fundraising effort, in October 2021, a very successful fundraising dinner was held at the Cavalry and Guards Club. 137 guests attended. We were supported by Henry House of Sotheby's as our auctioneer. There were many fabulous (and generous) auction prizes donated for both the live and silent auction. The evening raised close to £40,000 which was way above our expectations, and we are so grateful to the generosity of all our guests. We have now funded the expedition fully and all additional monies raised will be split evenly between of 3 chosen charities.

The Team is led by Captain Jon Frith and supported by Lieutenant Colonel Guy Denison-Smith and Rob Burton. The wounded team members are Lieutenant Garth Banks, Paul Richardson, Dougie Adams, Tony Checkley and Alex Harrison.



Top: Lieutenant Colonel Guy Denison-Smith. Middle Left: Major and Mrs Nick Davies. Middle Right: Major Jon Frith, Expedition Leader. Above: Captain Garth Banks and Major Andy Green.

** At the time of writing, we have raised over £73,000 of which the expedition requires approximately £20,000 and the remained will be split evenly between our three charities.*



Letter from The Commanding Officer

by *Lieutenant Colonel James Greaves*

The Battalion achieved much in 2021, at times during difficult and trying circumstances. With the international focus almost uniquely on COVID 19, it could be easy to overlook some of notable events of the year. Nevertheless, as we look to an immediate future in 4 Light Brigade and Operations in the Middle East, the Battalion and Nijmegen Company can reflect on a year well lived. Three themes stand out; first, the importance of conducting demanding military training following the delivery of support to the national effort against COVID-19, the second was the immaculate solemnity of all Grenadiers, particularly the Queen's Company, as they carried our former Colonel, His Royal Highness The Prince Phillip, Duke of Edinburgh to be laid to rest in Windsor, and, finally, watching the Battalion engaged in close quarter fighting against 2 RIFLES as part of Exercise ASKARI STORM in Kenya. In each of these varied tasks that span the full spectrum of a Foot Guard Battalion, the Guardsmen excelled. And this year, as much as any other, has demonstrated that the 1st Battalion remains one of the pre-eminent fighting infantry battalions in the British Army. Given our proximity to the Royal Family, with 366 years of faithful and loyal service, also allowed us the great privilege to viscerally demonstrate our pride in this relationship.

The year began with the Queen's Company still in the Falklands, providing the regular infantry backbone for the islands' defences, meanwhile those left in the UK began to refocus efforts on green soldiering following support to COVID mobile testing teams in late 2020. The year progressed through the undulating waves of COVID-19 restrictions which saw the Battalion move from concentration to dispersion and back again. In those moments of unity, the Battalion and Nijmegen Company fought hard to maintain their soldiering skills, deploying on Battle Camps in Brecon, Salisbury Plain and Aldershot. Skills that

were put to the test when the Battalion deployed to Kenya later in the year.

Following the formal resumption of ceremonial duties, the Battalion was chosen to launch the first set of Public Duties, and were also the first Battalion trusted to deliver large Guards of Honour soon after returning to the drill square: The Queen's Company led the Guard of Honour for President Joe Biden in Windsor, and The Inkerman Company for Sultan Mohammad bin Zayad Al Nayan, the Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi, on Horseguards.

The year finished in Kenya with the Battalion chosen to spearhead a new and more demanding form of infantry training, acting as a free-thinking and free-playing enemy named 'Taskforce HANNIBAL' to challenge 2 RIFLES' training for Very High Readiness. Without hyperbole, our companies pushed them to very edge of their capabilities and, some might contend, a little beyond.

It has also been a year of momentous events. In April the Battalion, and The Queen's Company in particular, were centre stage as our former Colonel His Royal Highness, The Prince Phillip, Duke of Edinburgh was laid to rest in Windsor – an event of significant emotion for the Regiment and a solemn duty, performed to the very highest of standards. For those intimately involved, a moment never to be forgotten.

We have seen the Colonelcy of the Regiment restored to Her Majesty, an auspicious moment as we mark in April 2022 the 80th Anniversary of Her Majesty's relationship with the Regiment, one which She began as our Colonel in those dark and troubled early years of the Second World War.

We have also been subject to a Defence review, in this case 'The Integrated Review', which will be the most significant change to the Household Division since 'Options for Change' in 1992. The Grenadier Guards are fortunate that in the short term very little will change, but we will find ourselves in 4 Light Brigade as we deploy to Iraq in the middle of 2022 for a 12-month tour of duty. The Battalion will remain based in Lille Barracks, Aldershot and although our future structures will see the Battalion and Nijmegen Company shrink a little, the Battalion will no longer bounce in and out of London District on a 2-year cycle but spend up four years in the Field Army, between two-year stints

in London District. Our Guardsmen will also have significantly more chance for adventure with 2nd Battalion the Ranger Regiment, the Household Division-tied Ranger Battalion and with those who seek to go further with UK Special Forces. Whilst those more traditional opportunities presented by the Guards Parachute Platoon and a platoon of mechanised Grenadiers with the Scots Guards are preserved. Future Soldier, as the Review is known to the Army, will have some frictions but there are more opportunities than negatives.

Looking forward, 2022 marks a decade since our last deployment to Afghanistan and LCpl James Ashworth's Victoria Cross, it is coincident with 80 years of our relationship with Her Majesty The Queen, it is the beginning of a year of operations for the Battalion in Iraq, and it will be a year where

we can finally meet as a Regimental community after two years of isolation. It therefore seems right and proper that we seek, as Grenadiers, to celebrate and commemorate lives lived and lost. We will acknowledge not only that which is past, but that which is in our future. More details will follow, but this year, beginning on Grenadier Day, will see efforts to bring together those serving now, and the wider Regimental family as a whole community.

My final note would be one of gratitude to our Guardsmen and attached arms. Their achievements stand out, but they are not theirs alone; my thanks also go to the families and friends who support them. Without this critical element, we could not continue to ask as much of our people as we do. All Grenadiers should be proud of their individual and collective successes; it is truly humbling.



The Queen's Company

by Major James Taylor

2021 has encompassed operations, training and major State Ceremonial for The Queen's Company. The Company has met every challenge during a packed year with professionalism and enthusiasm.

The Company began the year deployed on Operation FIRIC in the Falkland Islands. These were the last months of a very successful tour for which four members of The Company were awarded commendations by the Commander of the British Forces South Atlantic Islands. After completing a successful joint exercise alongside the Royal Navy ship HMS Clyde and Typhoons from the RAF's 1435 Flight, The Company went on to complete platoon level ranges, and conduct the first civil-military engagement exercises since the outbreak of the coronavirus pandemic.

After returning to the UK in February and taking leave, The Company joined the rest of the battalion in a series of testing training exercises in Brecon, where we spent considerable time



The Captain conducts President Biden to inspect The Queen's Company Guard of Honour.

digging trenches and even managed to capture an Irish Guardsman who had got lost and wandered into our defensive position whilst on a navigation exercise. All training stopped however, when The Company was called upon to carry out its solemn duty at the funeral of His Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh, whose death had greatly saddened us all. A large contingent from The Company was employed on the funeral, most notably as the bearer party for His Royal Highness, but also as marching detachments, Colour Party and training support. We were much gratified to later learn that twelve members of The Company were to receive



The Bearer Party of The Queen's Company carry the coffin of HRH The Duke of Edinburgh to the Land Rover.

the Royal Victorian Medal or be made Members of the Royal Victorian Order.

After further State Ceremonial in support of the visit of President Biden, where The Company found the Guard of Honour, we returned to training, this time in preparation for our upcoming operational deployment to Iraq. With much of the Battalion deployed to Kenya over the autumn, The Company was free to pursue a testing programme of urban warfare training, with exercises in Aldershot, Hythe and Caerwent, alongside driving, medical and specialist training courses. In December, The Company also managed to deploy a section to Hawaii to take part in the US Army Jungle Operations Training Course. This testing course both trained our soldiers in American jungle tactics and allowed our instructors to teach the US Army and Marine Corps British jungle drills. The course was an amazing opportunity and the soldiers who were lucky enough to deploy thoroughly enjoyed the experience.

2022 promises to be an even more exciting year. With the Battalion's return from Kenya,

the Commanding Officer confirmed that The Queen's Company will lead the Iraq deployment, deploying to Erbil in June. The first months of 2022 therefore will be extremely busy as we complete a comprehensive pre-deployment training package. This prospect has lifted the spirits of the whole company and we very much look forward to challenge of the coming months.



Queen's Company members of Ex Grenadier Honolulu.



No 2 Company

by Major Tom Hendriksen

No 2 Company started 2021 knowing it would deploy to Kenya on Ex ASKARI STORM later in the year. Having focussed on re-mastering the basics in a heavily restricted C-19 environment, there was hope that we could train freely and build on the solid foundations established. However, it did not pan out quite as planned. A very cold January saw the Company deploy on Battle Camp 1, Ex CYPHER WARRIOR, where we had the opportunity to conduct a week of Company training before combining with the rest of the Battalion and Nijmegen Company. The BG phase saw the troops integrate with Challenger tanks on a gloriously snowy day; a tremendous experience for all involved.

Having realised the benefits of being contained in a Company bubble on exercise, we had a couple of months of dispersed training, interspersed with Corsham Tunnels (see separate article) and time in Longmoor to further develop Urban tactics up to Company (-) level, including fighting at night. The recently refurbished Longmoor Village and challenges of the subterranean limestone mines of Corsham saw many hard lessons being learned, as



Corsham Mines.

well as individual and team drills advanced. The progression saw the troops go from zero black-light experience to conducting a company attack in black-light with sim-union. Challenging, rewarding and demanding training that successfully improved all ranks in No 2 Company.

April arrived extremely quickly, along with the news of HRH The Prince Philip's death. As we were not required for the much reduced COVID-compliant funeral, and found ourselves on Battle Camp 2, Ex CYPHER CENTURION in Brecon, we ceased training for the day, watched the funeral online and held a Company Parade as the Nation stood still to reflect on our former Colonel's life and service.



No 2 Company launching an early morning attack onto a Trench System (SPTA).



No 2 Company Parade at SENTA for HRH The Prince Philip's funeral.

With the arrival of Spring and anticipated return of the Ceremonial side to Public Duties, we returned from Brecon to Spring Drills (having already conducted the less familiar Autumn and Winter Drills). It concluded with the Major General's Inspection which saw all ranks of No 2 Company perform to the highest standard in turn out, conduct and bearing. What followed was a number of week-long Guard duties throughout the Summer.

A break from London, saw the company on a trip to Norfolk (during the Euros) for Live Fire Tactical Training (LFTT) up to Platoon at Night. For those not knocked by the high pollen levels, the ranges were challenging and the culmination of our training for previous 12 months; from the bayonet range up to the platoon actions, the Company worked hard and performed well.



Thetford LFTT.



Having enjoyed their first experience, No 2 Company returned to Corsham mines a couple more times, for our final element of conventional training before switching our focus to Task Force



The Major General talking with members of No 2 Company.



Cultural experience with the Samburu tribe.

Hannibal (TFH (new OPFOR)), our role in Kenya. Battle Camp 3 was notably different to the previous ones, the focus switched to small team actions, empowering guardsmen and lance corporals to work at reach, to an intent and without the need to regularly report back; learning to operate comfortably without the full battle picture and trusting the troops to achieve their task. A visit from BATUK's TFH lead and Warminster's Project Hannibal Intelligence Corps Staff Sergeant, we began the mindset change required for Kenya... the Kenya exercise that took a little longer to arrive than planned!

With September suddenly available due to Op PITTING, the notable activities conducted by the Company were supporting Lord Wandsworth College CCF (particular mention to Company Sergeant Major Swan and Sergeant Davis) as they prepared to be presented their CCF Banners which saw around ninety cadets turned into mini-Guardsmen (nearly) over a few parade afternoons.



No 2 Company cool off in a natural pool during some downtime in Kenya.

Mr Hodson arranged a London Challenge Day, and short exercises were planned locally, at late notice, to maintain the troops' training levels.

Once in Kenya, No 2 Company Group were sent to the heat of Archer's Post to play TFH on the Rifles' company level, <72 hour exercise rotation. Whilst there, we received a visit from The Major General

where he had an opportunity to catch up with the Company. Mid-exercise adventurous training (AT) followed, before joining The Inkerman Company Group and Battle Group Headquarters (-) in the Lolldaiga Mountains. A prolonged stay (planes again) saw a further round or two of AT, assisting local schools with critical maintenance and building work, and a Cultural Experience over 3-days in the Samburu Game Reserve. The year finished with full ceremonial duties back in full swing as No 2 Company look forward to 2022 where we will be the Op SHADER Company at Readiness, based in the UK surging troops forward to Iraq when required.

Key Company personality changes in 2021:

- Company Headquarters; CSM O'Brien (now RQMS(M)) handed over to CSM Swan. Capt Chris Wright and Captain Tom Parkes (LONDONS) both covered Company Second in Command. CSgt Moffatt took over as PaySgt.
- 4, 5 & 6 Platoon; Lieutenants Fisher and Hodson were joined by Sgts Davis and Moore as they rotated through the third PI Comd post.



Support Company

by Major Alex Bayliss

The most popular New Year's resolutions are always about self-improvement; live healthier, exercise more, smoke less etc. and while smoking less might be trickier, what better way to get 2021 under way than with a platoon cadre? The company deployed to Rollestone Camp, Salisbury Plain, at the end of January with four weeks of lessons, exercises, and live firing to be conducted. Throughout the cadre, those guardsmen with the potential to join Support Company were put through their paces by their experienced non-commissioned officers. Noting the gap in training caused by COVID, getting back into the field and behind the weapon systems was a vital step in re-establishing our skillset. It was also a good opportunity for all to gain exposure to the roles of

the other platoons and it is always surprising how much technical information an infantry soldier is required to learn and put into practice. The event culminated with a firepower demonstration with anti-tank weapons, mortars and machine guns laying waste to tank hulls on Salisbury Plain.

In April, the world was shocked with the death



The Mortar Platoon in Salisbury during the cadres.

of the Duke of Edinburgh. The Battalion were front and centre in the ceremonial events that followed. The Corps of Drums stepped up admirably to fulfil their role and both Sergeant Truman and Colour Sergeant Money were prowling the rehearsals to ensure that standards were upheld by the Royal Navy and the Royal Air Force. Meanwhile, the remainder of the Company were on a two-week defensive battle camp in the Brecon Beacons. It proved an

excellent opportunity to understand the capabilities of our optics and to show the Battalion more broadly the capabilities we could bring to bear. The long-range sights of both Recce and Anti-Tank sections were indispensable at detecting the enemy at long ranges and calling in fires (all digital). For the newly filled platoons, it was a first chance to put their skills into practice in a battlegroup setting – so successfully that the enemy were destroyed and regenerated three times.

Individual platoon training filled much of the summer, with the Sniper Platoon conducting sniper training in Lydd, the Recce Platoon constructing false walls in urban observation posts (OPs) in Longmoor and the Mortar Platoon making the most of live firing opportunities. The Corps of Drums were busy representing The Battalion in their ceremonial role, as well as continuing their machine gun training. As COVID restrictions eased the opportunities for interesting roles came thick and fast: the Corps of Drums were able to play at Goodwood Revival, Drum Major Rodda found himself in Belize with the Regimental Band, and Sergeants Wilsher and Truman found themselves on a short deployment as part of a training team in Bosnia, conducting marksmanship training and sampling the local moonshine.

Perhaps the most enjoyable period of the year



Sgt Truman prowls the drill square.



Sniper Platoon conducting live firing.

for the Company was the much-anticipated deployment to Kenya to ‘fight’ the 2nd Battalion, The Rifles, (2 RIFLES) under the guise of Taskforce HANNIBAL, the new concept for the ‘enemy’ in British exercises. The Recce and Sniper Platoons launched the Battalion’s efforts as they warmed up companies of 2 RIFLES on battle lanes in Archer’s Post before reuniting with the rest of the Battalion further south in Lolldaiga to prepare to fight the full 2 RIFLES Battlegroup as part of the final exercise. The Taskforce HANNIBAL construct is significantly more free than previous enemy doctrines and it allowed more freedoms to stress-test the doctrine of the British Army. Small and composite groups formed of anti-tanks, recce, artillery observers and mortar fire controllers operated in depth to cause maximum disruption. Stay-behind observation posts proved particularly difficult for the Rifles to identify and destroy. LSgt



The Recce Platoon in an urban observation post.

Atanga and his detachment's 72-hour stay behind observation post was the most notable; at one point they found themselves in the middle of the 2 Rifles forward elements who had begun digging-in only metres from their position.

Kenya concluded as the Christmas season began in earnest and we were lucky to be able to enjoy those customs that have traditionally marked the end of the year, be it Hanging of the Brick, Guardsmen's Christmas Lunch, and the Battalion Carol Service. And as we enjoyed the social life of the Battalion, we could all reflect on what has been a successful and busy year – with some extremely privileged and special moments. We can only hope that 2022 brings as much variety – with a last gasp of ceremonial duties, a month on exercise in Thailand and a deployment to Iraq in December it looks unlikely to disappoint.



The Inkerman Company

by Major Hugo Cartwright

When the 8th Company of the King's Royal Regiment of Guards was raised by Lord Wentworth in Bruges, over four years before any of the ancestors of the other companies in the 1st Battalion, little did that exiled band know what 2021 might offer for the Company; but we can rest assured that they knew that it would be glorious in some way, shape or form, as indeed every year has been for that illustrious band of warriors now known as the Inkerman Company. This year the Company has provided mobile testing teams to support the nation's efforts to mitigate the effects of COVID-19; carried out copious amounts of ceremonial duties; conducted three week-long battle camps to build our fighting skillset; and deployed for two months to Kenya to exercise 2 Rifles ahead of their year on readiness – the first iteration of a truly free-play enemy and one in which the Company demonstrated itself (to steal a description of Lord Byron) 'mad, bad and

dangerous to know'. The year culminated for the Company with Guards over the Christmas period, delivered in style and with full tans courtesy of our Kenya trip.

The first half of the year was initially one of hard training back in barracks and the Company deployed with the rest of the Battalion on a series of Battlecamps in Brecon and on Salisbury Plain to 'reboot' our green soldiering skills. The subsequent return to isolation and dispersion as COVID-19 gripped the nation again proved an unwelcome distraction, but one we had become familiar with managing. It was thus a relief when life finally returned to a sense of normality and the Battalion returned to Camp ready to resume ceremonial duties properly. The Company had the singular honour of doing the first Guard of Honour at Horse Guards since the COVID-19 crisis began, in this case for Mohammed bin Zayad Al Nahyan, the Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi – a performance described by the Garrison Sergeant Major as the best one he had seen on Horse Guards in his whole career – something which stands as a testament to the professionalism of the men of the Company and the work of Company Sergeant Major Thomas and Drill Sergeant Oliver to get to such a standard so quickly.

Once the Guard of Honour was over, all eyes turned toward Kenya which was perhaps the most singular and novel of our activities this year, perhaps with a slight exception of hitching a ride on the RAF Puma's 50th Anniversary Tour of the country to conduct an air assault onto the Aldershot training area. The familiar style of light infantry exercise in Kenya is changing as the Army aims to deliver more demanding and more realistic training that seeks not just to assure quality but drive innovation in a more coherent and deliberate fashion. The Inkerman Company were fortunate to be the first full Company to act the role of this free-play enemy and assume the somewhat bold title of 'Taskforce HANNIBAL', though we were hopefully less ill-fated than our namesake even if we did end up dealing with a lot of elephants by dint of our location.



A Taskforce HANNIBAL raid on a Rifles HQ.

The essence of the HANNIBAL doctrine is 'manoeuvre warfare' as expounded by American and particularly US Marine Corps intellectuals in the late 1970s and early 1980s and focussed on devolved command and control and true mission command. We had used a battlecamp earlier in the year to do some training for the HANNIBAL task and we experimented with tactics and the styles of command and control. The dangers of data access on mobile phones became swiftly apparent as the men of the Company stalked each other on the Aldershot training area as much by using dating apps, geo-tagging from uploaded photographs, and

loose chatter on Whatsapp! as they did by captured radios and maps – an amusing but salutary lesson for all.



The Company formed up at the end of the Exercise.

Although flights to Kenya were delayed by the evacuation in Kabul, it was in some ways a blessing and we were able to get into the thick of the exercise much earlier than would otherwise have been the case. The Company fought three battles against 2 Rifles until No 2 Company joined us and we became a Grenadier Battlegroup under the HANNIBAL moniker. With 70 men against over 1,000 in the 2 Rifles Battlegroup the Company was able to hold its own and deliver some strong reminders that the Grenadier Guards are not so named for nothing. Perhaps the most notable incident of these early scraps was the reversion of all Company communications to Whatsapp! after an observation post had been destroyed and our radios had been captured. It proved a remarkably effective, incredibly flexible and a very democratic means to fight the Company and the first time one could truly claim we had an all-informed net. The impact of true mission command was undoubtedly on display as the Guardsmen ran amok through the length of the 2 Rifles Battlegroup including a daring fire-team raid on their Battalion Headquarters led by LCpl Russell (which won him a free dinner at The Aviator courtesy of The Sergeant Major) and a raid by 10 Platoon on their A1 echelon which 'destroyed' the majority of their vehicles, opened all the taps on their water bowsers, emptied all of their jerry cans and forced the exercise to pause for 12hrs whilst the Rifles Battlegroup was resupplied. The men of the Company had performed so well that even as the ex-SAS directing staff (attached to the Battlegroup to support the enemy approach) said farewell to the Battlegroup he could not resist

finishing his speech with a rousing statement of 'Rule Britannia!'. (For those whose regimental history is a work in progress – the 3rd Battalion and by succession The Inkerman Company were granted the singular honour of being able to play 'Rule Britannia' prior to the National Anthem at Retreat due to their illustrious service at sea).

On return to Nanyuki Camp the Company went back into routine and awaited flights home. As the last Company to fly back we were able to conduct another round of adventurous training at the sites near Nanyuki, and 12 Platoon were able to break free north and spend a couple of days helping at Restart Africa, an orphanage run by Mary Coulson (mother of Billy Coulson). All the while this was going on, Company Headquarters was plotting a bigger expedition to take the Company to the coast.

And so, the Kenya experience concluded with a week in Kilifi, a beautiful town with Swahili routes on the coast just north of Mombasa. A week of sailing and windsurfing, in which Gdsm Appiah learned to swim, blended with supporting the local university on an ecology project to replant and protect local mangrove swamps and aiding a community project to clean up the area's beautiful beaches provided a great balance of activity. The evenings were spent in the bar or on the beach, reflecting on a great year and a tough but rewarding exercise. We even managed to conduct an informal Company memoranda (perhaps an oxymoron) on a dhow as we took the Company out for evening under sail.

Our return from Kenya came just in time to have the customary Christmas events that mark the



Memoranda on a dhow.

passage of time in the Battalion – and was enjoyed by all. We are now of course looking forward to what 2022 has to offer and with just over 10 months until the Company deploys to Iraq in December, there is much to be done and to be enjoyed.

Throughout this exciting year we have also been pleased to celebrate those personal and family milestones that are so important, and which allow us to flourish. This year the Company has had the privilege of watching 4 members of the Company promoted to LSgt (2 of whom received instructor recommendations), 8 promoted to LCpl with some fantastic performances, and of witnessing two marriages and welcoming the arrival of 5 babies. We have also said farewell to Major Paddy Rice (vice the author), Captain Ted Bennett (replaced by Lieutenant Will Martin), Company Sergeant Major Mann (replaced by Company Sergeant Major Thomas), Mr New and Mr Villiers Smith and will be saying a few more farewells in the Spring as we bolster the Companies deploying to Iraq in June.

N.B One of our particular aims this year is to reinvigorate our understanding of the Company's history and to reinvest it. Amongst other things, we are looking to establish an interest room for the Company with pictures and artifacts that tell the story of the Company from 1656, we are looking to write and publish a pamphlet on the history and customs of the Company, and we are looking to march a sapling oak from Boscobel to Lille Barracks for planting. If anyone reading this is keen to help then please get in touch.



The Inkerman Company playing games in the pool in Kilifi.



Nijmegen Company

Wellington Barracks, London

by Major Tom Hargreaves

Having enjoyed a lockdown Christmas together on Queen's Guard and Windsor Castle Guard, Nijmegen Company were as ready as any for a return to normality, and for *Scipio* to grace the forecourt once more. It was not to be for some nine months, but in the meantime the Company were anything but idle.

The year started with a vigorous shake out on exercise with the 1st Battalion on Salisbury Plain, yielding rewarding low-level training before integrating as part of a Battlegroup. For the Gdsm in the Company it was their first taste of tactical manoeuvre above Section level. The Company's high spirits were doused not by the blizzard conditions, but by the spectre of enforced-isolation,

as Section after Section succumbed to quarantine. Never daunted by innumerable odds, the Company fought on until the final attack, when the Order of Battle was Company Headquarters (complete); commanding 4 Pl Headquarters (Lieutenant Sean Marren and Sgt Coulbert); commanding LCpl McCulloch's Section. It was this 'forlorn hope' that executed an audacious right flanking action to destroy three enemy Infantry Fighting Vehicles across open ground in a manner that did Sgt Robinson and Lord Carrington proud.

Spring saw the departure of CSgt Sutton and heralded the arrival of CSgt Mooney as Pay Sgt, before bidding farewell to WO2 (CSM) Oliver to be Drill Sergeant at Battalion, welcoming WO2 (CSM) Mann from the Inkerman Company to oversee preparations for the Major General's Review. Sgt Hayden's departure for the Rifles in Chepstow brought Sgt Wilson over from the Inkerman Company, and the Company said a final farewell to Sgt Haynes as he left the Army for a career in Health and Safety Assurance. During this time of



A scene evocative of Bastogne - survivors of Nijmegen Company at the end of Ex Cypher Warrior: From Left to Right: Gdsm Hambleton, Sgt Coulbert, CSM Oliver, Major Tom Hargreaves, Lieutenant Sean Marren, Captain Fred Ide.



Nijmegen Company stepping out – Sgt Haynes on his final ceremonial duty, a Guard of Honour for the Chief of the Indian Army Staff.

upheaval, the Company had the honour of being on Guard over the week of the Duke of Edinburgh's funeral. Lieutenant Will Martin and the Windsor Castle Guard were able to pay their final respects while turning out the Guard as our former Colonel was borne to St George's Chapel.

Nijmegen Company was then bound for Troop Training, unusually held in Hounslow as guests of the Irish Guards. The unfamiliarity of marching on grass was the first obstacle for many to overcome, followed swiftly by the arrival of bagpipes and whooping Scots Guardsmen during *Black Bear*. As a cruel motif played out once more, many of those who dedicated weeks to training were forced to isolate days before the parade, springing new faces into the ranks at the last safe moment. The Windsor Birthday Parade will be one to remember for all who had the privilege to march past Her Majesty The Queen in the Quadrangle that day. Hardly breaking step, Nijmegen Company were almost immediately thrust back onto the square to provide a Guard of Honour for the Chief of the Indian Army Staff.

The Company's route up Birdcage Walk to Horse Guards was the first time troops had marched to music on the streets of the capital in over a year.

Some members of the Company, however, marched to a different tune during April and May. Under the Company Commander, Major Tom Hargreaves, hopefuls from across the Household Division came together as the 'Browning Platoon' to train for P (Pegasus) Company, the arduous physical course qualifying soldiers to serve in airborne forces. With Lieutenant Alex Fetherston-Godly as Platoon Commander, the course developed candidates mentally as well as physically, exposing them to new challenges such as working at heights, and making them comfortable 'the uncomfortable'. The training paid dividends, and 12 candidates from the Platoon, (including Lieutenant Fetherston-Godly, Gdsm Mullins and Thorne from Nijmegen Company) passed P Company in Catterick, qualifying them to serve in the Guards Parachute Platoon in 3rd Battalion, the Parachute Regiment.

After a short spell of leave, Nijmegen Company



Three Peaks Challenge.

turned their sights on Pirbright Ranges for the annual marksmanship competition. Gdsm honed their skill on the rifle, sharpshooter and General Purpose Machine Gun, with the aptly named Gdsm Barrell winning the silverware. The challenges then got more arduous, with a series of contests planned to develop team cohesion and mental resilience. The first was a charity 2-Miler event, in which every Section in the Company ran 2 milers in fighting order (34lbs/16Kg) round St James' Park for 24 hours. Each Gdsm ran 16 miles over the period, and with not a single drop-out many pushed themselves far beyond what they thought possible, raising money for the Colonel's Fund and Great Ormond Street Hospital in the process.

After a week or so of rest to stretch the hamstrings, a team from each Platoon then set out to conquer the 3 Peaks Challenge, working North to South. Setting off in pitch darkness up Ben Nevis, the teams were greeted once more with blizzards and little visibility. Next, at Scafell Pike in the Lakes, with the sun setting on their backs, the teams picked their way up slippery, rocky paths to summit in good time with weary legs. The final peak, Snowdon was shrouded in darkness at around 0400 when the ascents began. Using the challenging Pig Track to enable a swifter route, all teams quickly encountered gale force winds and driving rain. With zero visibility and dangerous conditions, each team took the decision to return down the mountain,

with some getting within 500 yards of the summit. Having shown discretion, tenacity and leadership, LSgt Austin's team from 5 Pl were judged winners of the competition.

Having flexed its muscles in athletic pursuits the Company turned to Barossa Training Area to dig into some fieldcraft; developing navigation and tactical skills which for many had been untested since passing out of training. For once the weather was kind, and instructors and Gdsm alike were able to concentrate on the very basics of their role. Life in London District never takes one far from the Timebeater's Drum, and September heralded the return of ceremonial Guard Mounts on Queen's Guard after many false starts. It was almost certainly a unique moment (certainly in

living memory) for the Regiment to have an entire Company of Gdsm on the forecourt for their first Guard Mount; they revelled in the experience and, as always, set the standard for the Household Division.

The new normality of two-day Guards became a comfortable, familiar rhythm for the Company through the Autumn, and once again while some marched to music, others toiled in the Land of Nod and up Snake's Pass to airborne glory, as Lieutenant Sean Marren led another Browning Platoon to success on P Company, replenishing the dwindling numbers of the Guards Parachute Platoon with Guardsmen.

As the days grew shorter, the Company welcomed the arrival of Sgt Morris to 6Pl, returning from 1st Battalion Scots Guards, but bade a sad farewell to Lieutenant Will Martin at the Company smoker, as he departed for the Inkerman Company (via Browning Platoon, winning a hattrick of maroon-bereted Platoon Commanders). Christmas was celebrated with the customary Christmas Lunch, this year enjoyed with No 7 Company, Coldstream Guards, which was rather a brave decision by someone. Although it was a rather more restrained affair than sometimes (under the watchful eye of the Quartermaster), the author is pleased to note that Nijmegen Company carried the day by a good handful of brussels sprouts!



14th Company

Infantry Training Centre,
Catterick

by Captain T I W Sinclair, 2ITB Training Officer

As the rest of the country begins to look to a future beyond COVID with the promise of restrictions being lifted, so too, within 14 Company training has begun to return to 'normality'. Whilst there are some elements of COVID policy that linger, there is now a welcomed perspective within the ITC that life must go on. Neither training, nor the morale of Trainee Guardsmen or Permanent Staff should continue to be compromised as a cost of risk averse COVID policy. Importantly, this has allowed the reintroduction of elements of the course which enrich the programme, previously suspended due to the pandemic. For example, the London Visit has returned during the early stages of training as an invaluable insight where all Trainee Guardsmen are introduced to the unique customs and traditions of the Household Division



Adventure Training week, another element of training re-introduced 'post-Covid'.

and their respective Regiment.

Additionally, the return of filled stands, charged with proud family and friends for all pass-off parades is a positive contrast to the eery, vacant stands of all pass-off parades in lockdown. In June, The Commanding Officer took one such parade as the Inspecting Officer accompanied by The Sergeant Major. This was particularly appropriate given that The Sergeant Major's son, Gdsm Bailey was passing out with the rest of Guards 22 Platoon. It was unsurprising that during the inspection phase, the inspecting party took particular care to ensure a thorough inspection of every element of Gdsm Bailey's turn-out. On this occasion, he passed with flying colours!

Recently, the only two words that may surpass the repetition of 'COVID' amongst commanders at the ITC has been 'Integrated' and 'Review'. Amidst ambiguity surrounding the impact the Integrated Review will have on the Field Army, at the ITC the result is clear; roughly half the number of recruits will be admitted into the infantry from the next training year, beginning in April 22. Frustratingly, the Army's recruitment policy will not change to reflect this – competition will not increase for the fewer places available as entry standards will remain consistent.

However, for 14 Company this change brings opportunity on two fronts. Firstly, the reduction in numbers will allow more focussed training for each individual Trainee Guardsmen which will improve the overall quality of soldier. This will become increasingly important as the Integrated Review's squeeze will mean each Guardsmen must count for more when they reach their Battalion. Secondly, the reduced RAP (Recruit Allocation Plan) facilitates greater opportunity for members of 14 Company without a training platoon. Of note, Lieutenant Maddan and LSgt Heale completed Ex GRENADIER HONOLULU in Hawaii (the former building his reputation as a niche Jungle Warfare course specialist), Sgt Williams continued to utilise his JWI qualification by supporting the Scots Guards on Ex MAYAN STORM in Belize and there were spots available on Ex FROSTED BLADE. Certainly, twelve months ago all this would not have been possible given the frenetic pace of platoons forming up within the Company.



Trenches complete on DEFENCE Ex – a right of passage for all infantryers.

Another noteworthy change is the implementation of the updated version of the Combat Infantryman Course (CIC 21). With a more streamlined programme, a greater emphasis on physical training and longer, more arduous field exercises, the new course should equip recruits more successfully for the demands of the Field Army. 14 Company are at an advantage given that the new programme is currently being trialled by the line infantry as our guineapigs; plans are in place for the Foot Guards course to be fully rolled out by May 22.

It has also been good to see so many visitors to Catterick on the All-Arms Pre-Parachute Selection Course. Of note, Captain Fetherston-Godley (who has become very familiar with the Catterick Training Area), Lieutenant Marren

and Lieutenant Martin along with Gdsm Thorne, Mullins, Chapman, Smith, Hall and Rolfe have all successfully completed the course this year. The Household Division now boasts the highest overall pass rate across the rest of the Army on AA PPS.

I have thoroughly enjoyed my time as a Platoon Commander at 14 Company since my arrival last Autumn. In particular, the augmented autonomy to design and implement challenging and imaginative training, co-ordinate the instruction of the next generation of Guardsmen, manage a group of tenacious and fiercely competent Section Commanders all whilst relishing existence in God's Own Country. It has been a synthesis of rich satisfaction, occasional exasperation, interminable hard-work and at times hilarity. In sum, a posting out of Battalion, I would unreservedly recommend to any junior officer.

Platoon Commanders:

Captain Sinclair, Lieutenant Maddan.

Platoon Sergeants:

Sgt Hendy, Sgt Beasley, Sgt Elliot, Sgt Williams.

Section Commanders:

LSgt Wint, LSgt Blatchely, LSgt Aspinshaw, LSgt Kelly, LSgt Rosser, LSgt Simmons, LSgt Dovey, LSgt Munro, LSgt Smith, LSgt Pugh, LSgt McKenna, LSgt Austin, LSgt Brady

Barrack Roomer Instructors:

LCpl Elder, LCpl Mortiboy.



Grenadiers from Guards 16 PI and Guards 21 PI having just passed off the square.



Band of the Grenadier Guards – A Year in Review

by Musician Dan Griffiths

One of the many attractions for potential recruits to British Army Music has always been the variety of opportunities on offer. Whether that be adventurous training in the Lake District, performing in front of members of the Royal Family at one of London's many landmark venues, or travelling across the world as representatives of not only the British Army but also of Great Britain as a whole. For the Band of the Grenadier Guards, 2021 has incorporated all the above. The principal task this year saw the band leading the procession for the funeral of HRH Prince Philip the Duke of Edinburgh. The band also traveled far afield to Belize to assist with Belizean Government independence celebration events and defence force training (see separate article).

With the ongoing threat of the pandemic still looming, the start of 2021 saw members of the band deployed to the Royal Hospital Chelsea. As



LCpl Sophie Henderson on OP RESCRIPT in Royal Hospital Chelsea.



Musn Jess Redman performing for the pensioners while on OP RESCRIPT at RHC.

part of OP RESCRIPT band-members volunteered to assist with the COVID-19 testing programme as well as assisting NHS staff with the vaccinations of the Chelsea pensioners.

Each year the bands of Household Division Bands (HDiv Bands) individually prepare for the upcoming state ceremonial season. This refresher training, commonly known as *'Spring Drills'*, is followed by a series of inspections by the Regimental Adjutant, the Commanding Officer (HDiv Bands) and finally by the Major General Commanding London District. This ensures that the bands meet the high standards of musical excellence, drill and kit in order to perform at state ceremonial occasions.

From the outset June was set to be a busy month for the band with numerous state ceremonial



The Director of Music and Bandmaster at Royal Ascot.



The Woodwind Quintet at the National Army Museum for Armed Forces Day.



Regent Hall – Christmas Concert.

events. This included performing in the presence of HM The Queen at a Guard of Honour when she hosted the President of the United States of America, Joe Biden at Windsor Castle. The annual Queen’s Birthday Parade was once again held in this familiar location too In the same month the band prepared a week’s worth of bandstand music

WO2 (BSM) Dave Buckles who began his career in the Grenadiers in 1990, climbing the ranks and eventually ending up as Band Sergeant Major. Stepping into his shoes is WO2 Wen Gregson,



Musn George Hirst at the RBL Centenary at Westminster Abbey.

and static pieces for their performances at Royal Ascot The band’s Brass Quintet and Woodwind Quintet also provided music for the Armed Forces Day Celebrations across London. Towards the end of the year, the fanfare team had the honor of marking the centenary of the Royal British Legion at Westminster Abbey in the presence of HM The Queen and HRH The Princess Royal.

Throughout the year, there were a number of changes of personnel within the band. The band said a sad farewell to



Director of Music making a presentation to WO2 Dave Buckles on the occasion of his last guard.



The Band of The Grenadier Guards performing at Stansted House.

who takes up the position as the first female Band Sergeant Major in the Household Division.

The band also bid farewell to, LSgt Ben Beavis. After 11 years in the Grenadiers, he has now assigned to the Band of the Irish Guards. LSgt Philippa Mathews assigned too this year (on promotion to Sergeant), to the British Army Band Catterick. Also, after a successful four years, Musn Sasha Brunyee has now relocated to the Army Outreach Team in Woolwich.

There are number of keen and fresh faces among the ranks of the band too. Having finished his initial trade training (ITT) in November, Musn Joshua Gilding, formerly a percussionist for Youth Brass 2000 and Virtuosi GUS, has already completed his first duty. The band also welcomes flautist, Musn Hannah Faulkner directly from ITT. Hannah joined RCAM having completed her BMus from the University of Sheffield. This Christmas saw both new musicians performing their first concert with

the band at Regents Hall in Oxford Street, London.

The band have also welcomed a trio of familiar faces from across HDiv Bands. Having spent 7 years in the Irish Guards Band and recently appointed as HDiv Staff Arranger, Sgt Chris Shelton joins the horn section. As a talented multi-instrumentalist, Sgt Simon Duggan picks up his clarinet as he joins from the Countess of Wessex's String Orchestra. Finally, LSgt Rob Wing brings a wealth of experience to the tuba section following 9 years served with the Band of the Welsh Guards

It's fair to say that when it comes to British Army Music, no two years are the same. Given the climate of uncertainty the band is proud to have risen to the challenges of 2021 and once again played a part in the national effort against COVID-19. As we have begun our staggered and hopeful return to normality the band looks forward to what challenges 2022 will bring.

Band of the Grenadier Guards – Beautiful Belize by the Sea

by *LSgt Connor Deacon*

Belize! This Central American, Caribbean facing nation was at the centre of the Band of the Grenadier Guards most recent deployment in September 2021.

After a tough 30 hour journey, the band finally arrived. Not only to be greeted by colleagues from British Army Training Sub Unit Belize (BATSUB),



Musn Ryan Coates gives a cornet lesson to a BDF musician.



LSgt Ian Shepherd and Musn Sasha Brunyee mentoring the BDF band bass section.

but also a local downpour so strong, it had shoes squelching, shirts clinging, and chinos soaked; the band deployed to support the British High Commission in helping Belize celebrating their 40th anniversary of independence (in September 1981, Belize received independence from the United Kingdom but remained within the Commonwealth); train and assist the Belize Defence Force (BDF) Band; and support the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst's (RMAS) first overseas commissioning short course.

After a few days of acclimatising to the heat and humidity, the band members had their first interactions with the BDF Band before formal training commenced. Led by the BDF Band's charismatic Director of Music, Captain Kevin Campbell (alumni of the Royal Military School of Music Overseas Course in the late 90's), the BDF band members were enthusiastic, engaging, and ready to absorb all the knowledge the Band of the Grenadier Guards could impart. The training package included giving musical demonstrations as a wind band, instrumental tuition, sectional rehearsals, and individual musician assessments.

Alongside the band's musical training, Drum Major Kristien Rodda, 1st Battalion Grenadier Guards, led a group of three BDF members in a tailormade Drum Majors course. Drum Major Rodda focused on drill, bearing and precision and by the end of three weeks, the two separate training packages came together. For the first time in decades, the Belizean Drum Majors took a turn to lead the BDF band (with the support from members of the Band of the Grenadier Guards). The BDF Drum Majors took turn to lead the band through their newly learnt manoeuvres around Price Barracks with Drum Major Rodda overseeing their every movement, a fantastic achievement.

In supporting Belize's 40th anniversary celebrations, the Band of The Grenadier Guards performed alongside the BDF



The Band of The Grenadier Guards Cornet Section – Camp Price.



Belizean Independence Day performance – Belmopan.



Band of The Grenadier Guards – Tour Photo – Camp Price.

Band at three events: The Patriot’s Concert, The Flag-Raising Ceremony (both events in Belize City) and the 40th-Anniversary Parade (in the capital city, Belmopan). Covid-19 restrictions had a big impact on these joint performances, forcing all to be virtual or televised, with only dignitaries and other VIPs in attendance. The band performed Belizean music such as *My Homeland by the Sea* and *I Love to Tell the Story*.

The band was proud to take part in all celebrations, but it was particularly poignant to witness Belizean citizens being honoured during the Patriot’s Concert. This event was part of the National Honours and Awards act, which recognises the service of citizens to the nation through great diligence and sacrifice. It is in this spirit of service

that the Belizean government extended its awards ceremony to include those who had risked so much for the benefit of their fellow Belizeans in the fight against the pandemic.

It was an honour for the band to provide musical support to the RMAS’s newly established Marne Company, as they finished delivering their first overseas commissioning course to members of the BDF, Coast Guard and Police Force. The VIPs attending the parade were H.E. Froyla Tzalam – the Governor-General of Belize, Lieutenant Colonel Simon Westlake (Royal Marines) – Defence Attaché to the Caribbean and Major General Duncan Capps – Commandant RMAS. The band send their heartfelt congratulations to all those commissioning on such a great accomplishment.

Once all of this hard work was completed, band members took the opportunity to experience some cultural aspects of Belize. Visiting the Mayan ruins of Altan Ha was a fantastic way to understand the vast history of this amazing country. Some members of the band also participated in adventurous training activities such as the caves in the Nohoch Che’en Archaeological Reserve and snorkelling in the second largest barrier reef in the world (off the coast of Caye Caulker). Experiences such as these will be cherished by all involved and the band look forward to hopefully visiting Belize again in the future.



Captain Ben Mason gives a presentation to the former Gov General, Sir Colville Young.



The Tribute to Patriots Concert – Belize City.



Atop the Altar at the Altun Ha Mayan Ruins.



Update from The Royal Military Academy Sandhurst

by Captain Chris Pollard,
Adjutant New College

2021 saw a welcome transition as the year progressed, with the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst (RMAS) able to gradually move out of the stringent COVID-19 restrictions that had marked the previous year. These culminated in the summer and winter term with two Sovereign's Parades with Regimental representation and other external guests, signifying the Academy opening its doors once more to friends old and new from all over the world. The Prime Minister attended as the Sovereign's Representative in Aug 21, and spoke to those commissioning about the changing character of warfare, driven by fast-paced technological change. He highlighted the role Sandhurst has to play in training the one utensil he identified as unchanging in the face of change; leadership, and the ability to inspire, improvise, rally, and think ahead. Those joining the Regiment in 2021 and beyond have a host of new challenges they will have



Prime Minister Boris Johnson inspecting the CC203 Sovereign's Parade in Aug 21.

to lead their Guardsmen through – we hope that their experiences and training at the Academy have equipped them well for this task. The December parade, attended by HRH The Princess Royal as the Sovereign's Representative, saw over 650 personnel on parade; the largest ceremonial event held in the UK since 2019 thanks to the impact of COVID-19 on the Queen's Birthday Parade.

August saw the annual churn of directing staff, as Cadre 19 handed over the baton to Cadre 21 and with it the responsibility for identifying and training future Grenadier officers. We have said farewell to

Company Sergeant Major Archer (who takes over as Drill Sergeant in the 1st Battalion), CSgt Jones (Company Sergeant Major The Queen's Company), and CSgt Dunk (Pay Sergeant Support Company). We thank them for the immaculate service they have provided the Academy over two years, and for the formative role they have had in shaping those junior officers who have joined the Regiment during their tenure. They have been replaced by CSgt Pitters and CSgt Dent, who join CSgt Langridge from Cadre 20 as instructors with Sgt Parkes



HRH The Princess Royal inspecting the first full three-intake Sovereign's Parade in two years for CC211 in Dec 21.

instructing in the CIS Wing.

Elsewhere in the Academy, Captain Martin Howlin has handed over his SO3 G7 role to Captain Scott Roughley, and now starts the transition to civilian life as he marks the end of a remarkable career in service to the Regiment. Major Daz Westlake will continue as SO2 G4 until later in 2022, while Captain Ollie Staunton has moved on from the Academy from his Platoon Commander role and Captain Richard Phillips has arrived to take over as Adjutant Sandhurst Support Unit.

Looking to the future, earlier in 2022 the Household Division and Parachute Regiment Centralised Courses (HDPGCC) at Pirbright played host to the pre-course for the RMA Sandhurst Instructors' Cadre, drawing over 30 candidates from across the five regiments of Foot Guards and the three battalions of the Parachute Regiment, as well as individual augmentees invited from other parts of the Army. WO2(RQMS) David Roper, who has served at RMAS as a Colour Sergeant in 2012 and a Company Sergeant Major in 2017, designed and headed the course.

The fast-paced course, run over only a week, was designed to assess a candidate's potential suitability

as a Sandhurst Instructor and to educate them on the requirements of the RMAS Cadre. A combination of delivering lessons, giving lecturettes on current affairs, and demanding fitness put all attendees outside of their comfort zone and ensured the very best were selected for the RMAS Cadre. From the Regiment, Sgt Davis, Sgt Elliot, and Sgt Moore were successful in being selected by Lieutenant Colonel Foot Guards Lieutenant Colonel Simon Soskin to attend the RMAS Cadre. We wish them the very best of luck and look forward to finding out if they are successful later this year.

Ensigns commissioned into the Regiment in 2021

CC202

Apr 21: 2nd Lieutenant Alex Villiers-Smith

CC203

Aug 21: 2nd Lieutenant Toby Cairns

CC211

Dec 21: 2nd Lieutenant Will Coleridge,
2nd Lieutenant Ed Harborne,
2nd Lieutenant Freddie Hobbs,
2nd Lieutenant Charles Craven



Grenadiers at Sandhurst on the occasion of the Regimental Selection Board – July 2021.

From Left to Right: CSgt K Dunk, CSM R Archer, Captain J Palmer-Tomkinson, Major J Gatehouse, Lieutenant Colonel J Greaves, Captain C Pollard, Captain F Ide, CSgt D Jones, CSgt D Langridge.

with kind permission Tempest Photography 01276 691550

Late Entry Officers Lunch

by Major Ty Bearder, Grenadier Guards

On Friday 28 January 2022, 29 Grenadier Late Entry Officers arrived Lille Barracks for a lunch which provided us with a fantastic opportunity to meet with old friends and, to make some new ones. After a reception drink in the Officers' Mess, The Commanding Officer, the Late Entry Officers and The Sergeant Major moved to the Sergeants' Mess for a photo opportunity to capture the event before sitting down for the Lunch which was held (by kind invitation of The Sergeant Major) in the Sergeants' Mess Lille Barracks.

The Commanding Officer, Lieutenant Colonel James Greaves opened the lunch by addressing all present with a speech covering the Integrated Review and what it will mean for the Household Division and the Grenadier Guards. He also provided an update on recent Regimental activities and what the future holds for those serving within

the Regiment, those posted externally and the future Grenadier Guardsman. The address created much positive conversation which continued throughout the lunch and into the early evening.

With the lunch being held in the Sergeants' Mess Lille Barracks, it provided the Late Entry Officers a chance to see some of the artefacts which had been presented to the Mess during their time and to reminisce about their time as a Sergeants' Mess member as well as their careers. The Lunch proved to be a resounding success with 32 members being seated for a four course meal provided by the Industry Partner (SODEXO) who have just returned to normal service. Every member of the SODEXO team was thrilled with how the service went and grateful for all the positive comments they received throughout the day, they are looking forward to the next one.

Thank you to everyone who attended the Late Entry Officers lunch, the next one will be held in early 2023.



The FIRST or GRENADIER REGIMENT of FOOT GUARDS

at 31 January 2022

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

Her Majesty The Queen

Regimental Lieutenant Colonel	Lt 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	E	Bennett
Director of Music	Capt	BS	Mason
Regimental Quartermaster Sergeant	WO2(RQMS)	DA	Roper
Honorary Regimental Archivist	Capt (Retired)	AGH	Ogden

THE REGIMENTAL TRUSTEES

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 Lieutenant General CRV Walker DSO
 Lieutenant General (Retired) Sir George Norton KCVO CBE
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 The Earl of Derby DL
 Captain (Retired) CAG Bennett

Chairman, The Colonel's Fund Committee
 Editor, The Grenadier Gazette
 Regimental Archivist
 Regimental Adjutant (Director of Welfare)

THE REGIMENTAL COUNCIL

Regimental Lieutenant Colonel
 President, Grenadier Guards Association
 Representative of the Regimental Trustees
 Commanding Officer, First Battalion
 Officer Commanding Nijmegen Company

Maj(Ret'd)	J	Gatehouse
Maj(Ret'd)	A	Green
Capt	E	Bennet
Capt	O	Staunton
WO2(RQMS)	D	Roper
LSgt	G	Davis
LSgt	M	MacMillan
LCpl	B	Fanning

15th Company REGIMENTAL HEADQUARTERS

NOMINAL ROLL

REGIMENTAL BAND

Capt(DoM)	B	Mason
WO2(BM)	P	Anderson
WO2(BSM)	W	Gregson
CSgt	J	Burton
CSgt	M	Dichello
CSgt	J	Rowles
Sgt	S	Duggan
Sgt	M	Gray
Sgt	G	Hall
Sgt	S	Moore
Sgt	C	Shelton
LSgt	P	Batai
LSgt	S	Bradbury
LSgt	O	Duffield
LSgt	M	Langmaid
LSgt	L	Narhkom
LSgt	I	Shepherd
LSgt	N	Turner
LSgt	R	Wing
LCpl	C	Barbe
LCpl	D	Byrne
LCpl	M	Denney
LCpl	R	Dewey
LCpl	R	Ellard
LCpl	S	Henderson
LCpl	A	Higginson
LCpl	S	Jolly
LCpl	K	Lawson
LCpl	J	Pearson
LCpl	M	Thomas
Musn	R	Coates
Musn	H	Faulkner
Musn	J	Gilding
Musn	D	Griffiths
Musn	M	Hayes
Musn	C	Hibberd
Musn	G	Hirst
Musn	A	Kucharczak
Musn	K	Kucharczak
Musn	J	Perkins
Musn	J	Redman
Musn	A	Rouse
Musn	L	Wrycraft

14th Company

INFANTRY TRAINING CENTRE (CATTERICK)

Capt	T	Sinclair
Lt	R	Madden
Sgt	M	Beasley
Sgt	R	Elliott
Sgt	J	Williams
LSgt	C	Austin
LSgt	J	Brady
LSgt	C	Dovey
LSgt	A	McKenna
LSgt	C	Munro
LSgt	A	Pugh

LSgt	M	Rosser
LSgt	J	Simmons
LSgt	C	Smith
LCpl	J	Elder
LCpl	K	Mortiboy

BATTALION HQ

Lt Col	J	Greaves	Comd Offr
Maj	B	Powell	Snr Maj
Capt	S	Macdonald-Smith	Adjt
Capt	R	Harding	Int Offr
Capt	J	Silver	Ops Offr
Capt	G	Davis	RCMO
WO1(RSM)	D	Bailey	The Sgt Maj
WO2(RQMS)	A	O'Brien	RQMS(M)
WO2(TQMS)	M	Lloyd	TQMS
WO2(DSgt)	R	Archer	DSgt
WO2(DSgt)	D	Oliver	DSgt
CSgt	C	Fiddy	Int SNCO
Sgt	A	Martin	RCMO's Asst
LSgt	T	McQueen	Master Tailor
LSgt	D	Lyons	Pioneer Sgt

CORPS OF DRUMS

Sgt(DMaj)	K	Rodda
Sgt	J	Childs
LSgt	J	Ramsbottom
LSgt	L	Seer-Boylan
LCpl	A	Kenny
LCpl	J	Greenslade
LCpl	R	Evans
LCpl	A	Walker
Dmr	D	Barton
Dmr	L	Boon
Dmr	H	Coe
Dmr	A	Dean
Dmr	R	Hunt
Dmr	T	Lester
Dmr	J	McCrudden-Callaghan
Dmr	N	Mendez
Dmr	J	O'Connor
Dmr	K	Pharaoh
Dmr	M	Ransby
Dmr	M	Reader
Dmr	J	Roberts
Dmr	L	Sleath
Dmr	O	Treacher
Dmr	C	Vincent
Dmr	J	Walker
Dmr	H	Woolley

THE QUEEN'S COMPANY

Maj	J	Taylor
Capt	R	Mackworth-Young

NOMINAL ROLL

Lt	H	Crawford
Lt	W	New
Lt	S	Tusa
WO2(CSM)	D	Jones
CSgt(CQMS)	B	Middleton
Sgt	S	Beekman
Sgt	A	Matthews
Sgt	J	McCormack
LSgt	H	Aspinshaw
LSgt	J	Brunt
LSgt	K	Ellis
LSgt	R	Griffiths
LSgt	M	Hadfield
LSgt	S	Hubball
LSgt	D	McKenna RVM
LSgt	E	Orlowski
LSgt	G	Parker RVM
LCpl	E	Brunt
LCpl	L	Chater
LCpl	A	Hazell
LCpl	J	McCulloch
LCpl	G	Nesbitt-Whyte RVM
LCpl	L	Reynolds
LCpl	L	Teague
Gdsm	C	Bingham
Gdsm	L	Bott
Gdsm	B	Brown
Gdsm	T	Campuzano
Gdsm	F	Cox
Gdsm	C	Cushen
Gdsm	M	Dean
Gdsm	E	Devine
Gdsm	J	Dwyer
Gdsm	J	Emony
Gdsm	R	Ernest
Gdsm	J	Firth
Gdsm	T	Flynn
Gdsm	J	Fomebu
Gdsm	M	Gale
Gdsm	L	Gould
Gdsm	R	Gray
Gdsm	T	Gyesi
Gdsm	C	Hammond
Gdsm	S	Heard
Gdsm	S	Hill
Gdsm	J	Horrocks
Gdsm	J	Howell
Gdsm	B	Hunt
Gdsm	T	Hunter
Gdsm	R	Jenkin
Gdsm	D	Julien
Gdsm	G	Lancashire
Gdsm	W	Leach
Gdsm	J	Lear
Gdsm	J	Little
Gdsm	C	Mason RVM
Gdsm	L	McGann
Gdsm	J	Mercer
Gdsm	A	Oluade
Gdsm	J	Osborne
Gdsm	J	Patterson
Gdsm	P	Pelikan
Gdsm	J	Pickin
Gdsm	M	Ransby

Gdsm	A	Ryan
Gdsm	S	Sanders
Gdsm	D	Sanderson
Gdsm	K	Sheridan
Gdsm	L	Simpson
Gdsm	O	Sneath
Gdsm	A	Speller
Gdsm	W	Stark RVM
Gdsm	H	Tucker
Gdsm	S	Tudor RVM
Gdsm	J	Vaughan
Gdsm	C	Whincup
Gdsm	E	White
Gdsm	J	Williams
Gdsm	J	Young-Hastings

NO. 2 COMPANY

Maj	T	Hendriksen
Lt	T	Hodson
2Lt	T	Cairns
WO2(CSM)	L	Swan
CSgt(CQMS)	B	Moffatt
Sgt	L	Davis
Sgt	J	Moore
LSgt	J	Alexander
LSgt	R	Bailey
LSgt	A	Blatchly
LSgt	B	Chipchase
LSgt	E	Fairley
LSgt	G	Fielding
LSgt	S	Howcroft
LSgt	C	Key
LSgt	P	Kirk
LSgt	T	Smith
LSgt	A	Trott
LSgt	C	Willis
LCpl	S	Beckett
LCpl	L	Burdett
LCpl	K	Duck
LCpl	S	Edwards
LCpl	E	Jackson
LCpl	C	Poole
LCpl	J	Purdie
LCpl	R	Spendley
LCpl	B	Steele
LCpl	A	Szysko
LCpl	D	Thomas
LCpl	N	Walker
Gdsm	K	Agbo
Gdsm	J	Armstrong
Gdsm	B	Beck
Gdsm	J	Bennett
Gdsm	E	Bird
Gdsm	D	Bramwell
Gdsm	J	Cahill
Gdsm	E	Cox
Gdsm	R	Dering
Gdsm	L	Dewey
Gdsm	R	Dignan
Gdsm	J	Dines

NOMINAL ROLL

Gdsm	W	Elliott-Turner
Gdsm	J	Evans
Gdsm	M	Gerber
Gdsm	F	Goodege
Gdsm	R	Harvey
Gdsm	A	Heads
Gdsm	A	Jackson
Gdsm	F	Jones
Gdsm	M	Kimberling
Gdsm	S	Lacey
Gdsm	W	Massingham
Gdsm	N	Mathers
Gdsm	J	Miles
Gdsm	A	Miller
Gdsm	B	Notton
Gdsm	A	Packham
Gdsm	S	Pal
Gdsm	H	Perkins
Gdsm	L	Phillips
Gdsm	O	Phoenix
Gdsm	J	Pitts
Gdsm	A	Pritchard
Gdsm	B	Reynolds
Gdsm	B	Smith-Ketteringham
Gdsm	E	Somerville
Gdsm	C	Speirs
Gdsm	R	Spilling
Gdsm	T	Tasee
Gdsm	B	Thorne
Gdsm	P	Walpole
Gdsm	E	Ward
Gdsm	N	Wilkinson
Gdsm	T	Williams
Gdsm	J	Wools

Gdsm	C	Goold
Gdsm	N	Huxtable
Gdsm	L	Prentice
Gdsm	A	Smith
Gdsm	M	Turley

Anti-Tank Platoon

Capt	J	Sayers
Sgt	J	Plant
LSgt	N	Atang'a
LSgt	M	Grove
LSgt	M	Morewood
LSgt	A	Wates
LCpl	T	Coles
LCpl	T	Hayton
LCpl	S	Swart
LCpl	J	Wilson-Fraser
Gdsm	J	Exley
Gdsm	Z	Ivetic
Gdsm	A	Keane
Gdsm	M	Vella
Gdsm	S	Ward

Mortar Platoon

Capt	T	Reames
Sgt	H	Foxcroft
Sgt	C	Price
LSgt	P	Brady
LSgt	N	Fray
LSgt	A	Kirkham-Wingate
LSgt	C	McClendon
LSgt	L	McTaggart
LSgt	O	Rosser
LCpl	M	Campuzano
LCpl	C	McClendon
LCpl	J	Rhodes
LCpl	C	Smith
LCpl	K	Tracey
Gdsm	N	Dexter
Gdsm	D	Garrett
Gdsm	R	Hurst
Gdsm	S	James
Gdsm	J	Ledington
Gdsm	B	McKendrick
Gdsm	S	Molinari
Gdsm	K	O'Sullivan
Gdsm	J	Theobald
Gdsm	J	Wright-Farrow
Gdsm	A	Wyde

SUPPORT COMPANY

Company Headquarters

Maj	A	Bayliss
WO2(CSM)	A	Stott
CSgt(CQMS)	K	Dunk
Sgt	M	Shaw
LSgt	W	Farmer
LCpl	C	Hamnett
Gdsm	S	Rainsley

Reconnaissance Platoon

Capt	M	Osmond
Sgt	N	Truman
LSgt	D	Bearder
LSgt	C	Dunphy
LSgt	J	Fairley
LSgt	A	Smith
LSgt	P	Singlehurst
LCpl	J	Holdsworth
LCpl	T	Lowry
LCpl	T	Preston
Gdsm	C	Chambers
Gdsm	J	Cloete
Gdsm	L	Cooper
Gdsm	S	Cowen

Sniper Platoon

Sgt	J	Browning
LSgt	R	McKnight
LCpl	J	Buck
LCpl	M	Culloty
LCpl	P	Leason
Gdsm	S	Clancy
Gdsm	O	Davies
Gdsm	J	Fisher
Gdsm	R	Harper
Gdsm	J	Manning
Gdsm	J	Melling
Gdsm	G	Westwood

HEADQUARTER COMPANY

Company Headquarters

WO2	D	Bennison
WO2(CSM)	J	Thompson
CSgt(CQMS)	C	Friess
CSgt	M	Parker
LSgt	L	Richards
LCpl	L	Jallow
Gdsm	J	Aldous
Gdsm	C	Campbell
Gdsm	C	Drew
Gdsm	T	Goodwin
Gdsm	T	Iqbal
Gdsm	J	McBride
Gdsm	S	Showell

Quartermaster's Platoon

Maj	T	Bearder
CSgt	L	Findler
Sgt	L	Humphries
LSgt	O	Bibby
LSgt	M	Ceesay
LSgt	K	Elasii
LSgt	T	Timmins
LCpl	I	Jones
LCpl	R	Martindale
Gdsm	U	Atuanya
Gdsm	J	Holding
Gdsm	C	Howarth
Gdsm	S	Sambells
Gdsm	D	Taylor

MT Platoon

Capt	M	Cox
CSgt	L	McLoughlan
Sgt	T	Hayward
LSgt	S	Freeman
LSgt	JR	Oliver
LSgt	D	Smith
LCpl	L	Hazell
LCpl	Z	Pincott
LCpl	N	Reilly
Gdsm	L	Ashford
Gdsm	P	Dixon
Gdsm	L	Gaunt
Gdsm	S	Howells
Gdsm	S	Keane
Gdsm	S	Martinez
Gdsm	J	McDonald
Gdsm	L	Neal
Gdsm	A	Wiggins

CIS Platoon

WO2(RSWO)	B	Cobb
CSgt	A	Harper
CSgt	A	Saxton
Sgt	M	Jallow
LSgt	D	Hankey
LSgt	A	Mabert
LSgt	M	Morris
LSgt	E	Oyengo

LCpl	M	Lyon
LCpl	A	May
LCpl	L	Scanlon
Gdsm	K	Adamson
Gdsm	C	Faram
Gdsm	G	Filer
Gdsm	L	Hardman-Howarth
Gdsm	D	Nicholls
Gdsm	C	Reid
Gdsm	M	Southall
Gdsm	C	Tweed
Gdsm	O	White
Gdsm	B	Whitfield
Gdsm	K	Yalley

Training Wing

Capt	J	Palmer-Tomkinson
WO2(CSMIM)	L	Walton
CSgt	S	Cathcart
CSgt	G	Hudson
CSgt	M	Parker
CSgt	H	Sutton

Regimental Duty Staff

Sgt	A	Bush
LCpl	T	Millington
LCpl	S	Rose

Welfare Office

CSgt	T	Mercer
LSgt	J	Lloyd

THE INKERMAN COMPANY

Maj	H	Cartwright
Lt	W	Martin
WO2(CSM)	D	Thomas
CSgt(CQMS)	N	Smith
Sgt	R	Blakeney
Sgt	M	Ogden
Sgt	SP	Wells
LSgt	G	Barry
LSgt	M	Bunyan
LSgt	J	Dexter
LSgt	J	Hewson
LSgt	J	Heslop
LSgt	J	Hubbard
LSgt	B	O'Hanlon
LSgt	R	Punter
LSgt	S	Roberts
LSgt	N	Thompson
LSgt	R	Woodrow
LCpl	D	Barham
LCpl	S	Bond
LCpl	F	Clare
LCpl	S	Flitton
LCpl	H	Fripp
LCpl	A	Halford
LCpl	M	Licence
LCpl	K	O'Brien
LCpl	J	Perrett

NOMINAL ROLL

LCpl K Purdy
 LCpl F Russell
 LCpl C Shaw
 LCpl G Soutter-McKee
 LCpl I Stark
 LCpl O Taylor
 LCpl E Whiston
 Gdsm K Adams
 Gdsm L Amis
 Gdsm M Appiah
 Gdsm J Belshaw
 Gdsm J Brace
 Gdsm R Button
 Gdsm B Caller
 Gdsm A Coull
 Gdsm D Cunningham
 Gdsm J Edgar
 Gdsm C Fielding
 Gdsm A Fitzgerald
 Gdsm E Gilbert
 Gdsm K Gyamfi
 Gdsm J Hall
 Gdsm S Hambleton
 Gdsm A Hayes
 Gdsm A Hirst
 Gdsm C Hodgkins
 Gdsm M Holding
 Gdsm G Indge
 Gdsm G Jones
 Gdsm C Judd
 Gdsm J Kilpatrick
 Gdsm C Lloyd
 Gdsm C Lordhale
 Gdsm M McColl-Bailey
 Gdsm J McKinneley
 Gdsm J Moe
 Gdsm E Morgan
 Gdsm J Morris-Jowett
 Gdsm M Mott
 Gdsm J Navunisaravi
 Gdsm M Palmer
 Gdsm B Phillips
 Gdsm L Playfoot
 Gdsm V Ratulailai
 Gdsm S Renshaw
 Gdsm J Robson
 Gdsm C Scott
 Gdsm S Smart
 Gdsm K Studley
 Gdsm D Taylor
 Gdsm R Watson
 Gdsm A Williams
 Gdsm R Wilson
 Gdsm C Yare

Lt S Marren
 WO2(CSM) G Mann
 CSgt(CQMS) M Mooney
 Sgt L Coulbert
 Sgt M Morris
 Sgt M Wilson
 LSgt J Austin
 LSgt A Cooper
 LSgt S Emmett
 LSgt J Heale
 LSgt A Jones
 LSgt F Mabasa
 LSgt P Thomas
 LSgt A Turay
 LSgt A Wilson
 LCpl H Beckett
 LCpl B Berry
 LCpl C Bird
 LCpl A Coe
 LCpl A Cox
 LCpl L Debattista
 LCpl T Dell
 LCpl M Dolman
 LCpl A Hardman Haworth
 LCpl E Sargent
 Gdsm O Agathocleous
 Gdsm A Aiken
 Gdsm E Asbrey
 Gdsm J Bailey
 Gdsm J Barrell
 Gdsm O Baxter
 Gdsm N Beardmore
 Gdsm H Bell
 Gdsm J Bennett
 Gdsm S Bojang
 Gdsm M Bonaccorsi
 Gdsm R Bounds
 Gdsm M Bowey
 Gdsm K Bowman
 Gdsm J Burman
 Gdsm A Bursill
 Gdsm J Campbell
 Gdsm B Candon
 Gdsm C Cherrington-Wood
 Gdsm R Cherubin
 Gdsm J Clarke
 Gdsm S Cowin
 Gdsm J Cox
 Gdsm J Dadson
 Gdsm N Daniel
 Gdsm C Davidson
 Gdsm N Davies
 Gdsm D Dulka
 Gdsm L Ellis
 Gdsm B England
 Gdsm W Finch
 Gdsm G Flaherty
 Gdsm K French
 Gdsm D Gardiner
 Gdsm J Glover
 Gdsm D Gonzalez-naylor
 Gdsm C Hughes
 Gdsm F Hurst
 Gdsm H Jackson

NIJMEGEN COMPANY

Maj R Thompson
 Capt A Fetherston-Godley
 Capt L Odlum
 Lt S Fisher

NOMINAL ROLL

Gdsm	D	Jordan		Lt Col	S	Soskin	Lt Col Ft Gds, HQ HDiv
Gdsm	S	Long		Maj	J	Brown	MOD A Block
Gdsm	A	Stanko		Maj	A	Budge	ICSC(Land)
Gdsm	J	Gerber		Maj	R	Da Gama	Coy Comd Left Flank Coy, 1SG
Gdsm	J	Gethins					
Gdsm	L	Gooderham		Maj	M	Dobbin DSO MC	MOD A Block
Gdsm	T	Goveia		Maj	M	Dobson	MA to MS, APC
Gdsm	A	Hand		Maj	I	Farrell	XO, LONDONS
Gdsm	B	Hardcastle		Maj	J	Frith	ICSC(Land)
Gdsm	D	Hawley		Maj	C	Gilmore	SO2 Reserves, Dept of CGS
Gdsm	M	Hopkins					
Gdsm	L	Hughes		Maj	S	Gordon Lennox	SO2 Ft Gds Officers, APC
Gdsm	S	Kendall		Maj	W	Harries	PJHQ
Gdsm	P	Martin		Maj	W	Harris	SO2 Recruiting Ops, Recruiting Gp
Gdsm	L	Matthews					
Gdsm	B	Paintain		Maj	J	Hathaway-White	MA to Dir Sp, Army HQ
Gdsm	C	Parker		Maj	B	Jesty	Bn 2IC, 1SG
Gdsm	D	Patton		A/Maj	H	Lawn	QM, LONDONS
Gdsm	J	Pawlett		Maj	P	Rice	COS 51 Inf Bde
Gdsm	J	Phillips		Maj	A	Shirreff	MOD A Block
Gdsm	J	Reet O'Neill		Maj	C	Stevenson	MA, PJHQ
Gdsm	B	Rolfe		Maj	N	Strachan	ICSC(Land)
Gdsm	J	Saunders		Maj	B	Tracey	ICSC(Land)
Gdsm	F	Sawyer		A/Maj	O	Wace	SO2 Training Lessons, LWC
Gdsm	J	Scarrott					
Gdsm	I	Shahry		Maj	D	Westlake	SO2 G4 Infra, RMAS
Gdsm	O	Smith		Maj	C	Williams	ICSC(Land)
Gdsm	D	Smith		Capt	G	Barnes	MOD A Block
Gdsm	S	Thody		Capt	S	Brooks MSM	SO3 Ft Gds Rec (Coord)
Gdsm	C	Thompson		Capt	J	Byrne	Welfare Offr, 1WG
Gdsm	N	Trown		Capt	C	Dougherty	SO3 Army Youth Outreach Team
Gdsm	S	Williams					
				Capt	T	Hargreaves	AMA to CFA
				Capt	E	Harmer	SO3 G7 6 Div
				Capt	F	Ide	ADC to DCDS
				Capt	J	Lalley	Trg Offr, 1 YORKS
				Capt	D	Moore	Welfare Officer, ATC Pirbright
				Capt	C	Naughton	MOD A Block
				Capt	R	Phillips	NATO - ACO
				Capt	C	Pollard	New College Adj, RMAS
				Capt	S	Roughley	MT Pl, RMAS
				Capt	F	Tracey	SO3 Networks, Army HQ
				Capt	K	Varmuza	SO3 Ops & Deployments, Home Command
				Capt	A	Wilson	MOD A Block
				Capt	C	Wood	AMA to 16 Bde Comd
				Lt	A	Heywood MVO	PI Comd, 1SG
				Lt	T	Winstanley	AFC Harrogate
				WO1(DMaj)	J	Bennett	Army Snr Drum Major
				WO1(RSM)	M	Hughes	COMLAND Comd Sgt Maj
				WO1(RSM)	R	Shepherd	RSM Specialist Weapons School
				WO1(RSM)	R	Wiseman	RSM ARRC Sp Bn
				WO2(DSgt)	V	McLean MVO	DSgt ATC Pirbright (3 Regt)
				WO2(CSM)	S	Perry	CSM Sp Coy, 1SG
				WO2	J	Stenton	JCTTAT JFC
				CSgt	S	Castel-Nuovo	MRTC
				CSgt	S	Dent	CSgt Instructor, RMAS
				CSgt	C	Green	HQ LONDIS Master Tailor
				CSgt	M	Hall	Royal Brunei armed forces

**GRENADIERS AT
EXTRA-REGIMENTAL EMPLOYMENT**

Lt Gen	C	Walker DSO	DCDS				
Maj Gen	J	Bowder OBE	GOC 6 Div				
Col	P	Ashfield DSO MBE	US National Defence University				
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	A	Butcher MBE	SO1 Rangers, 6 (UK) Div				
Lt Col	G	Gask	J3/5/7 Branch Head, British Embassy Riga				
Lt Col	R	Green MBE	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	J	Seddon	CO Oxford UOTC				
Lt Col	J	Shaw	Brigade Major, HQ HDiv				

NOMINAL ROLL

Lt Col	J R	Green	CO Wales UOTC	Capt	M G	Osmond	Recce PI Comd, Sp Coy,
Lt Col	J C M	Greaves	Comd Offr, 1st Bn	1st			Bn
Lt Col	D J	Alkin	SO1 C4ISR, UK Strategic Comd	Capt	E C	Bennett	Temporary Equerry to HM The Colonel
Lt Col	E J	Paintin	SO1 Ops & Engagement, HQ Regional Comd	Capt	L P	Odlum	Coy 2IC, Nij Coy
Lt Col	J A	Seddon	CO Oxford UOTC	Capt	S R S	Macdonald-Smith	Adj, 1st Bn
Lt Col	R E	King-Evans	Comd Somalia Army Trg Advisory Team	Capt	A C	Fetherston-Godley	PI Comd, Nij Coy
Lt Col	J E N B	Shaw	Brigade Major, HQ HDiv	Capt	R G L	Mackworth-Young	The Second Captain
				Capt	T I W	Sinclair	PI Comd, 14th Coy
Majors				Lieutenants			
Maj	S C	Gordon Lennox	SO2 Ft Gds Officers, APC	Lt	S E	Marren	PI Comd, Nij Coy
Maj	B J R	Jesty	Bn 2IC, 1SG	Lt	H J T	Winstanley	AFC Harrogate
Maj	B M E	Powell	Sen Maj, 1st Bn	Lt	A G	Heywood MVO	PI Comd, 1SG
Maj	W H L	Harries	PJHQ	Lt	R A D	Maddan	PI Comd, 14th Coy
Maj	N A	Strachan	ICSC(Land)	Lt	W D J	Martin	Coy 2IC, Ink'm Coy
Maj	M O C	Dobbin DSO MC	MOD A Block	Lt	S J	Fisher	PI Comd, Nij Coy
Maj	P J	Rice	COS 51 Inf Bde	Lt	S J A	Tusa	PI Comd, The Queen's Coy
Maj	A W E	Bayliss	Coy Comd Sp Coy, 1st Bn	Lt	T J	Hodson	PI Comd, No 2 Coy
Maj	J D	Brown	MOD A Block	Lt	H C L	Crawford	PI Comd, The Queen's Coy
Maj	R C	Da Gama	Coy Comd Left Flank Coy, 1SG	Lt	W T W	New	PI Comd, The Queen's Coy
Maj	T R	Hendriksen	Coy Comd No 2 Coy, 1st Bn	Ensigns			
Maj	J R	Taylor	The Captain	2Lt	A O	Villiers-Smith	PI Comd, Ink'm Coy
Maj	H C	Cartwright	Coy Comd Ink'm Coy, 1st Bn	2Lt	T	Cairns	PI Comd, No 2 Coy
Maj	J	Hathaway-White	MA to Dir Sp, Army HQ	2Lt	W D D	Coledridge	PCBC
Maj	C J	Stevenson	MA, PJHQ	2Lt	C H J	Craven	PCBC
Maj	M W S	Dobson	MA to MS, APC	2Lt	R F M	Hobbs	PCBC
Maj	A H M	Budge	ICSC(Land)	2Lt	E G	Harborne	PCBC
Maj	C M B	Gilmore	SO2 Reserves, Dept of CGS	LATE ENTRY COMMISSIONS			
Maj	W L R	Harris	SO2 Recruiting Ops, Recruiting Gp	Lieutenant Colonels			
Maj	A J P	Shirreff	MOD A Block	Lt Col	G	Gask	J3/5/7 Branch Head, British Embassy Riga
Maj	C A G	Williams	ICSC(Land)	Lt Col	J A	Keeley MBE	Staff Quartermaster, ITC (Catterick)
Maj	B R N	Tracey	ICSC(Land)	Lt Col	A	Butcher MBE	SO1 Rangers, 6 (UK) Div
A/Maj	O M	Wace	SO2 Training Lessons, LWC	Majors			
A/Maj	R E	Thompson	Coy Comd Nij Coy	Maj	T	Bearder	QM, 1st Bn
Captains				Maj	I M	Farrell	XO, LONDONS
Capt	T H R	Hargreaves	AMA to CFA	Maj	J	Frith	ICSC(Land)
Capt	K M D	Varmuza	SO3 Ops & Deployments, Home Command	Maj	D	Westlake	SO2 G4 Infra, RMAS
Capt	C J	Naughton	MOD A Block	A/Maj	H L	Lawn	QM, LONDONS
Capt	R E L	Phillips	NATO - ACO	Captains			
Capt	C J	Pollard	New College Adj, RMAS	Capt	S	Brooks MSM	SO3 Ft Gds Rec (Coord)
Capt	G W J	Barnes	MOD A Block	Capt	J	Byrne	Welfare Offr, 1WG
Capt	J M B	Silver	Ops Offr, 1st Bn	Capt	M	Cox	MTO, 1st Bn
Capt	O S B	Staunton	RHQ Plans Officer	Capt	D	Moore	Welfare Officer, ATC Pirbright
Capt	R H J	Harding	Int Offr, 1st Bn	Capt	S	Roughley	MT PI, RMAS
Capt	E R	Harmer	SO3 G7 6 Div	Capt	G E	Davis	RCMO, 1st Bn
Capt	J C	Palmer-Tomkinson	Trg Wing, 1st Bn	Capt	C	Dougherty	SO3 Army Youth Outreach Team
Capt	A J K	Wilson	MOD A Block	Capt	J	Lalley	Trg Offr, 1 YORKS
Capt	C A	Wood	AMA to 16 Bde Comd				
Capt	F C N	Ide	ADC to DCDS				
Capt	T J D	Reames	Mortar PI Comd, Sp Coy, 1st Bn				
Capt	J A	Sayers	Anti-Tank PI Comd, Sp Coy, 1st Bn				
Capt	F S N	Tracey	SO3 Networks, Army HQ				

WARRANT OFFICERS

Warrant Officers Class 1

WO1(RSM)	D	Bailey	Sgt Maj, 1st Bn
WO1(DMaj)	J	Bennett	Army Snr Drum Major
WO1(RSM)	M	Hughes	COMLAND Comd Sgt Maj
WO1(RSM)	R	Shepherd	RSM Specialist Weapons School
WO1(RSM)	R	Wiseman	RSM ARRC Sp Bn

Quartermaster Sergeants

WO2(TQMS)	M	Lloyd	TQMS, 1st Bn
WO2(RQMS)	A	O'Brien	RQMS(M), 1st Bn
WO2(RQMS)	D	Roper	RQMS RHQ

Drill Sergeants

WO2(DSgt)	R	Archer	Drill Sergeant, 1st Bn
WO2(DSgt)	D	Oliver	Drill Sergeant, 1st Bn

Company Sergeant Majors, Regimental Duty

WO2(CSM)	D	Jones	The Queen's Company
WO2(CSM)	G	Mann	Nijmegen Company
WO2(CSM)	A	Stott	Support Company
WO2(CSM)	L	Swan	Number Two Company
WO2(CSM)	D	Thomas	The Inkerman Company
WO2(CSM)	J	Thompson	Headquarter Company
WO2(CSMIM)	L	Walton	CSMIM

Other Warrant Officers Class 2

WO2	D	Bennison	Headquarter Company
WO2(RSWO)	B	Cobb	RSWO, 1st Bn
WO2(DSgt)	V	McLean MVO	DSgt ATC Pirbright 3 Regt
WO2(CSM)	S	Perry	CSM Sp Coy, 1SG
WO2	J	Stenton	JCTTAT JFC

From the Archives



1926 2nd Battalion QM's column on manoeuvres.

Commanding Officer's Silver Bugle Competition

by Major RE Thompson

On a gloriously warm day in April 2021 The Commanding Officer, Lieutenant Colonel James Greaves stepped out of the Officer's Mess at Lille Barracks to try and bring a sense of normality back to what had been a disrupted Spring Drills programme due to the COVID pandemic crisis. Colonel James was dressed immaculately in Frock Coat and accompanied by the author (equally well dressed), to judge best bugler in the Corp of Drums for the chance to lift the Silver Bugle in 2021.

The Competition had been eagerly awaited by the Corp of Drums. LCpl Greenslade had recently won the Major General's Silver Bugle which warranted the Battalion to elevate one of their own to prevent a single Drummer having to double hat as Major General's and Commanding Officer's Silver Bugler. LCpl Evans and Drummers O'Connor and Walker were formed up on the Drill Square eagerly waiting for the arrival of the Commanding Officer for the day to begin.

The competition started with an inspection of the three hopefuls in Home Service Uniform, followed by Regimental History questions. The turnout, as was expected, was of a high standard with little to separate the contenders. There was



The winner – Dmr O'Connor.

also a high degree of knowledge on Regimental History and Regimental customs which left the three contenders with just three points between them all. LCpl Evans had taken an early lead on Regimental History but Drummer Walker was the best turned out. The stakes were therefore high as the inspection party moved into the crucial musical phase of the competition.

Drummers were judged on three separate calls they are expected to play regularly in line of their duties. The General Salute, Memoranda and Last Post, the Retreat would be used in the event of a tie. These calls were each judged on tempo, pitch, sound and rhythm. The Major General's Silver Bugler gave perfect examples of each of these to the inspection party before the hopefuls stepped up to the mark for the blind judging. The high level of professionalism within the Corp of drums was on display with some quality playing. There had to be a winner at the end of the day though. The Silver Bugle in 2021 went to a highly deserving Dmr O'Connor who played with clarity and exacting tempo, although he was second in turnout and regimental history, it was the standard of his musical ability which won him this prestigious accolade.



The judges hard at work.

The All Arms and International Pace Sticking Competition 2021

by WO2(RQMS) D Roper

On 10 June 2021, the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst once again played host to the world famous All Arms and International Pace Sticking Competition. With global COVID-19 restrictions still in effect, teams from certain countries (including the ever-popular Pakistan Military Academy team) were unfortunately unable to attend this year, but at least with the UK returning to some form of normality the stage was set for the infamous foot drill battlelines to be drawn once more. Crucially, the sun was – mostly – shining and spirits in the beer tent sited in the field outside Old College Headquarters were as high as they've ever been after a year's absence of the competition.

As a former World Champion Sticker, I personally had the privilege of being selected to judge the contest this year. Along with the president of the judging panel, Lieutenant Colonel Adi Hunter MBE COLDM GDS and fellow panel members WO1(RSM) Iain Forat SG and WO2 Dean Hughes WG, we set about the task of ranking the teams as they took it in turns to show us what they could do throughout the day. Of particular interest for everyone in attendance, military and civilians alike, was the appearance of no less than three teams of veterans from the Royal Hospital Chelsea, resplendent as ever in their red coats and with one of their teams having an average age of over 70.

The expectations from the crowd were particularly high as the Grenadier team, the reigning champions, took to the runway at the north-eastern end of the ever-imposing Old College Parade Ground. Stepping off under words of command from team captain and driver WO2(CSMIM) Luke Walton with all the style and panache one would expect



The Grenadier Guards Pace Sticking Team 2021 marching in slow time. From Left to Right as pictured: CSgt(CQMS) Matthew Parker (Headquarter Company), Sgt Jay Moore (No 2 Company), WO2(CSMIM) Luke Walton (Headquarter Company) and World Champion Sticker LSgt Matt Hadfield (The Queen's Company).

of Sergeant's Mess members drawn from across the First Battalion of the First Regiment of Foot Guards, the team didn't disappoint right from their first collective thirty-inch pace.

It was clear to see the team was well-rehearsed and in sync even as early in their run as the right marker, seasoned sticker CSgt(CQMS) Matthew Parker (Headquarter Company) took his post on the inspection line to allow the remaining team members, Sgt Jay Moore (No 2 Company) and LSgt Matt Hadfield (The Queen's Company), to fall in. The Grenadier team put on an immaculate display of precision and unity in the art of turning a stick throughout their run, ultimately earning themselves the unanimously agreed win from the whole judging panel and the honour of being presented with the top prizes from RMA Sandhurst Commandant, Major Gen Duncan Capps CBE (late RLC).

Not only did the Grenadier team as a formed unit perform well above those of the others present on the day (including teams from the other Foot Guards Regiments, teams of Sandhurst instructors with their 'home-turf' advantage and teams from units from across the British Army), but LSgt Hadfield was also bestowed the esteemed honour of Best Individual Pace Sticker, the much-vaunted 'World Champion' title.

Perhaps unsurprisingly – but no less deservedly – for a Regiment that has prided itself on immaculate turnout and bearing from all its soldiers for over 360 years, the Grenadiers put on the best possible showing at this year's Pace Sticking Competition, retaining their All Arms Champions title and possibly even setting the conditions for a first-ever three-year winning streak in 2022.



WO2(RQMS) David Roper casting a critical eye over a team from the Royal Hospital Chelsea.

Photos Credit: Nathan Lewis, Tempest Photography

Investiture into the Royal Victorian Order for members of the Bearer Party

by Lieutenant Alec Heywood

On 10th November members of the Bearer Party for The Duke of Edinburgh's funeral were invited to a private investiture into the Royal Victorian Order – a dynastic order of knighthood established by Queen Victoria in 1896. Her purpose was to create an order which did not require ministerial agreement, allowing the British Sovereign to bestow awards to personnel deemed to have given personal service to the crown. It is open to all living citizens of any Commonwealth realm.

For the Bearer Party, the investiture took place

at Windsor Castle. As we lined a long state room, Prince Charles took time to speak with each of us – including guests – and presented the 8 coffin bearers with Royal Victorian Medals, and the Company Sergeant Major and Officer Commanding the Bearer Party were made Members of the Victorian Order. With the Brigade Major and Garrison Sergeant Major also in attendance, we were reminded that our role had been one small part of their enormous orchestration of a ceremonial funeral. It was a privilege to be part of their delivery, and to receive our awards alongside them.

Importantly, the investiture reinforced the unique circumstance of having been part of the Bearer Party at a royal funeral. Of note were the moments of great solemnity, such as entering into the private chapel to say final prayers for the Duke of Edinburgh with The Dean of Windsor.

Following this, we had moved the coffin through state corridors – lined by members of his staff – and away, for the last time, from the private quarters of the castle.

The original private chapel had been Queen Victoria's place of worship, and after a fire in 1992, it was of course The Duke of Edinburgh who took command of the Restoration Committee. It was appropriate for those carrying away his coffin to feel, first-hand, his religious roots – perhaps demonstrated best in his continuous support for Her Majesty, his charity work and environmentalism.



Permanent Joint Headquarters Conference Room Named After LCpl Ashworth VC

by Major Mike Dobbin, DSO, MC

The Permanent Joint Headquarters at Northwood has a tradition of naming conference rooms after Victoria Cross recipients. Major Will Harries and Captain Alex Budge ensured that the newest of

these facilities was dedicated and named in memory of the most recent Grenadier VC recipient, LCpl Ashworth VC. On 5 August 2021 The Chief of Staff for Operations, Major General Nick Borton, hosted a small gathering of Grenadiers to mark the event. After a short tribute, LCpl Ashworth's parents, Dwayne and Kerry Ashworth, unveiled the framed citation and photograph. As we approach the tenth anniversary of Op HERRICK 16, on which LCpl Ashworth was killed, this was another important event to ensure that the courageous actions of those who have paid the ultimate sacrifice are remembered long beyond the lifetime of those who soldiered alongside them.



Update on the Regimental Bibliography and an Unexpected Gift

by Captain Justin Davies, formerly Grenadier Guards, and Yeoman of the Guard Kevin Kitcher

Compilation of the Regimental bibliography continues. The compilers are extremely grateful to those who wrote in with additions and suggestions to the list. Our latest list can be found at <https://www.grengds.com/regimentalhistory>. Please do not hesitate to let us know if you are aware of a book by or about Grenadiers which we should add by contacting us at grenadierbibliography@gmail.com.

One welcome addition to the bibliography came from an unexpected source. Major General Mike Scott, formerly Scots Guards, very kindly gave us a slim volume titled *Notes for Officers on Joining the Grenadier Guards*, printed at Windsor in 1915. He was not sure why he had it. The suggestion was made that he might once have harboured a secret desire to be a Grenadier. It was short-lived.

By September 1915, the weight and rate of casualties in the two Battalions serving in France was exhausting the reserves of Grenadiers. At the same time, it had been decided to form a



The Regimental Adjutant demonstrating the definition of 'peculiar forms of clothing when in plain clothes'.

Guards Division and to raise a 4th Battalion, Grenadier Guards. As the Regimental Historian, Lieutenant Colonel the Rt. Hon. Sir Frederick 'Fritz' Ponsonby noted, 'The creation of a Guards Division was not regarded without misapprehension by some of the older officers of the Guards. The reputation that had been so dearly won by the original officers, non-commissioned officers, and men of the

regiments of Guards, at the expense of thousands of lives, might possibly be thrown away by their successors. The flooding of the army with new recruits might produce an entirely new stamp of man. Was the system alone good enough, were the traditions alone strong enough, to produce the fighting man who had hitherto, rightly or wrongly, been associated with the regiments of Guards?'

It was presumably with this in mind that the 44 pages of notes for new officers, many of whom would not have previously considered joining the army let alone the Brigade of Guards, were prepared and printed. The Notice in the preface states, 'These Notes are to help Young Officers on joining, but they must at once make themselves thoroughly acquainted with the Standing Orders of the Brigade of Guards and Regimental Standing Orders etc.', as all young officers were and are, then and now. The notes are a thorough introduction and contain practical instructions regarding dress, parades, Guard mounting and dismounting, duties, including Picquet Officer, returns, drills, compliments, musketry, conditions of service and pay of the men etc.

War or no war, new officers were to join with two Tunics, even though King's Guard had been mounted in khaki since 27th August 1914. Though State Balls were in abeyance for the duration of the war, Regimental Standing Order 120, still applied: 'At State Balls Officers will wear their swords, except when dancing, when they may take them off the slings. Officers will not reverse when waltzing at a State Ball.' Much else remains refreshingly the same except that officer's servants were to shave their upper lips, the Ensign's night round at St. James's Palace was not to be before 2.15 a.m. and officers were to be presented to the Royal Family on appointment to the Regiment. The enduring edict that 'Officers wearing a Brigade tie will tie it showing the blue on the top of the knot' was issued and, above all, 'On no account will young Officers wear any peculiar forms of clothing when in plain clothes'.

Nijmegen Company Three Peak Challenge

On 27th Sep, 35 members of Nijmegen Company confidently set off from Wellington Barracks to try and complete the Three Peaks Challenge. The plan was to set off from the base of Ben Nevis in teams of 8 at 0600 and to finish, having descended Snowdon, at 0600 the next day.

We arrived in the dark the evening before, with Ben Nevis looming above us, to stay at a hostel for the night. We woke early and set off in our teams, superbly supported by CSgt Mooney and his stores team who had supplied a vast amount of food and drinks.

LSgt Austin and his team set off at a blistering pace and were up and down Ben Nevis in just over 3 and a half hours. All teams were back down around the 4-hour mark, with the Company Headquarters' team loyally bringing up the rear.



Clear skies on the climb up Ben Nevis

After a quick resupply and a change of socks, the teams were off on the drive to the Lake District to climb Scafell Pike. So far, so good for completing the challenge within 24 hours. However, it was not to be that easy as we soon found out.

Troubled by traffic, the teams struggled to make good time down to Cumbria. To make matters worse, whilst navigating the narrow lanes of the Lake District one team beached themselves on a hidden ditch and could not carry on with the challenge, forcing them to spend, I am sure, a not



Clouds start to roll in on Scafell Pike

too unpleasant night in a country pub to await their recovery.

Three teams arrived at 1800 at the bottom of Scafell Pike. The ascent was more difficult than predicted, and although legs were still relatively fresh, the loose scree and poor footing made the going tough. Despite planning to complete two peaks in daylight, it was not until night-time when all three remaining teams summited Scafell Pike.

Returning to base camp and setting off around midnight, the opportunity to finish within 24 hours was slipping from our hands. A long drive and poor weather meant our arrival at Snowdon was delayed until 0330, meaning an ascent and descent of just two and a half hours.

As we set off for the final peak with heavy legs, the rain was coming in sideways and visibility was poor. Near the summit, the path took us onto a ridge line where we were battered by gusts and rain, forcing the teams to take cover against the rocks. The visibility became so poor that we were losing the path and a decision had to be made. Just 500m from the summit, the wise decision was made to turn back.

Although disappointed not to complete the challenge in its entirety, the members of Nijmegen Company achieved a great feat and learnt a lot about grit and resilience in harsh conditions. A special mention must go to Gdsm Reet O'Neil who carried the Medical Bergen the whole day and was mountain goat-esque in his ascent up the mountains.



Back row: Major Charlie Williams, Captain Ollie Wace, Captain Jonny Silver, 2nd Lieutenant Hugo Crawford, Captain Tristram Reames, Captain Mark Osmond, Captain Jake Sayers, Lieutenant Simon Fisher, Captain Felix Tracey, Lieutenant Seb Tusa, Lieutenant Will Martin, Captain Robbie Thompson, Captain Ben Tracey, Lieutenant Alex Fetherston-Godley, 2nd Lieutenant Henry Turnbull.

Front Row: Captain (Retd) David Bartholomew, Simon Gammell Esq, Lieutenant Colonel (Retd) Guy Denison-Smith, Lieutenant Colonel James Greaves, Major (Retd) James Gatehouse, Lieutenant General Roly Walker, Richard Openshaw Esq, Maj Ben Jesty, Captain (Retd) Gabriel York.

Grenadier Guards Past v Present Cricket Match at Burton Court

by Lieutenant Seb Tusa and 2nd Lieutenant Henry Turnbull

After an enforced fallow year, the Thursday 15th July 2021 renewal of the Grenadiers Past versus Present was met with great anticipation, the oakleaf littered outfield of Burton Court once again providing the perfect setting for the match.

With the bowling line up of the Present team deemed to be rather strong, an amicable deal was struck between the two Captains, Colonel Rich Green (Past) and Lieutenant Seb Tusa (Present), which happily followed with the toss being won by the Present. The present team was promptly put into bat, hoping to set a decent total in the 20 overs that followed – a hope that rather quickly turned into something short of a reality.

A sturdy performance from the opening pair of

Captain Mark Osmond and Lieutenant Simon Fisher gave the Present a strong start until the pace of Lieutenant Will Martin took two wickets in the fifth over leaving the Present team scratching their heads, the score sitting at 35-3. Seb Tusa was at this point seriously regretting donating the Present team’s top bowler, Will Martin, to bolster the numbers for the Past. Indeed, all the more so



Match Tea provided by Pocket Rocket.



Lieutenant Simon Fisher taking wickets.

after being dismissed by Lieutenant Martin for a second ball duck.

With the run rate suppressed, the Past looked as though they had the game under control, but a fantastic knock from Lieutenant Alex Fetherston Godley, supported by Captain Jake Sayers and Captain Felix Tracey, propelled the Present forward. The batsmen might have run away with the game were it not for excellent spells from David Barty who finished with 2-10 and Gen Roly Walker with 2-6. This brilliant bowling kept the Present down to a first innings total of 116-8 – a total that for the Present team felt like it might be difficult to defend.

Thankfully, the Temporary Equerry, Captain Jonny Palmer-Tomkinson, had arranged a fantastic tea through Pocket Rocket – with the addition of Berry Bros – in which the rosé was in such plentiful supply that the Present felt it could only add to their chances of pulling off an unlikely victory.

After tea it was time for the Past to take to the field. However, with opening bowler, Captain Jonny Silver, taking the first wicket with the second ball of the innings and some brilliant bowling from the Adjutant, Captain Robbie Thompson and the Commanding Officer, Lieutenant Colonel James Greaves, the Past found themselves on 17-2 after six overs. Next in to bat, needing to steady the ship for the Past, took the form of Lieutenant Colonel Rich Green, who soon made the pitch his playground as he punished the bowlers and turned the game for the Past. Even with the added fielding help of the oak trees he smacked the ball around the park before being dismissed for 49 by a cracking ball from the Adjutant. Sportingly, Captain Thompson had just reminded Colonel Rich to check the scoreboard!

The Past now stood at 94-5 from 17 overs, and with 25 to win from 3 overs, the game was hotting up. General Roly and Major Ben Jesty looked like they were primed to get the Past over the line until an unfortunate blow to the hand (for both) ended in their dismissal and for the latter, another broken finger. Some tight bowling at the death from the Captain, Seb Tusa, and wicket-keeper, Mark Osmond, meant the Past were left just eight runs short by the final ball of the match.

Whether they were watching or playing, a great afternoon was enjoyed by all. With such a close result, we look forward to welcoming everyone back next year for another clutch contest between Grenadiers Past and Present.



Captain Tris Reames, Captain Jake Sayers, Captain Jonny Silver, Lieutenant Seb Tusa.

Exercise Frosted Blade 36 – Team Grenadier

by *Lieutenant Sebastian Tusa, Team Captain*

With the 2020/21 Army Winter Sports season cancelled altogether due to the pandemic, the return of Exercise Frosted Blade, along with the deployment of a team of 8 Grenadiers to Val D'Isère, was met with keen anticipation: a 5-week long ski-racing & development exercise, culminating in the Infantry's Alpine Skiing Championships.

After a challenging final leg of the 18 hour car journey out to the French Alps, with heavy snowfall requiring snow chains to be fitted in difficult conditions, the team safely arrived in Val D'Isère and set about the administration needed to be on first lift on Monday morning. Of course, this was not before everyone had the chance to experience some of the resort's finest establishments, under the wise counsel of Frosted Blade veteran, Colour Sergeant Pearce.

Two members of the team, Gdsm Mason and Gdsm McGann, were complete beginners and after four weeks of instruction they would be expected to embark upon an icy race-track, at times reaching speeds approaching the national speed limit, thus requiring immense bravery and determination for the even the most experienced of skiers, let alone a complete novice.

Across all abilities, once split down into their respective groups, the team found the first week to be a challenging one: record-breaking early season snowfall and a surprising lack of appetite for coffee stops from the instructors provided the perfect storm with which to break-in the team's ski legs; building the essential stamina that would be required for race-week at the end of the exercise. Indeed, a taste of what was to come for all three hundred infantrymen deployed on the exercise was sharpened into focus when the Men and Women's FIS Alpine World Cup arrived in Val D'Isère. This brought the world's best skiers to compete in Slalom, Giant Slalom, Super-G and Downhill on the iconic *Face de Belvedere* and *OK Orange* pistes – the very stage where the Infantry championships

would be held in early January.

With just under three weeks of daily training came enormous improvement throughout the team, the latter weeks were blessed by increasingly warm weather, sunshine and excellent snow conditions to begin 'gates training'. As the festive period beckoned, training continued. Christmas Eve played host to a fancy-dress Team Dual Slalom race, in which the Grenadiers' efforts were notable, but left certain room for improvement in the main event.

After an enjoyable Christmas and the New Year seen in, the time soon came for the team to don the Regiment's smart new bespoke race-suits and take to the race piste. On the Primary Hill in which the author, 2nd Lieutenant Crawford, CSgt Pearce and Gdsm Garrett raced, the team competed with determination across all disciplines, consistently managing three skiers in the top 40 racers in the competition. The four man A Team placed 8th overall. A 4th place finish as a team in the final race – the Super Combined (competed over Slalom and Super-G) – was the best result from the A Hill.

Over in Tignes, the Development Hill saw LCpl Licence lead the B Team of Gdsm Wilkinson, and novices Gdsm Mason and McGann. With little over 6 weeks' collective experience between them on skis, they achieved some fantastic results: 4th Place overall in both the Team Slalom and Giant Slalom, with LCpl Licence finishing as the 8th highest seeded skier in the development stream, earning himself a start bib on the Super Combined race on the primary hill on the final day. Gdsm Wilkinson placed in the top 15 in both Slalom and Giant Slalom, whilst Gdsm Mason and McGann both achieved finishes in the top 20 of their novice class, a huge achievement as novice skiers.

In the standings, the Grenadiers placed 4th overall, narrowly missing out to the third placed Irish Guards, with 1st and 2nd claimed by 1 LANCS and 4 PARA respectively. Although disappointed not to win any silverware, this felt like a highly commendable result for the team, and we all finished hoping for an opportunity to return next year.



Grenadier Sailing 2021

by *Captain Sam Macdonald-Smith*

Despite the lingering effects of the pandemic, 2021 has been a bumper year for Grenadier Sailing. The Household Division Yacht, Gladeye, has been in use almost every week of the year and the Grenadiers have not missed the opportunities to get soldiers on the water.

The regiment were straight out of the gate after a COVID delayed start to the sailing season. A crew predominantly from the Mortar Platoon sailed Gladeye from her home port in Gosport down the coast as far as Plymouth at the end of May. In doing so they all gained their Competent Crew qualifications and started building their sea miles to further qualifications.

In June, a small team of Grenadiers competed in 'The Guardsmen's Regatta' in Seaview. Colonel Alex McKay and his crew swept all before them by winning every single race over two days. In an effort to level the playing field, the event organisers decided that for the last few races of the regatta experienced helms had to surrender steering duties

to some of the novice crews. Unfortunately for the rest of the Division, the Grenadier crew had already made this change and continued to dominate the field with Gdsm Howells at the helm. Majors Charlie Williams and Mike Dobson also put in a strong showing in an 'Officers at extra-regimental duty' boat. The event was a fantastic chance for members of the Blue-red-blue brotherhood to socialise and compete. Plans are underway for even more Grenadier participation and success next year.

Hot on the heels of the Guardsmen's Regatta was the Household Division Yacht Club Regatta



held in Cowes at the end of July. The Grenadiers Officers Mess was strongly represented with three crews in the single day regatta. Lieutenant Colonel Jim Green had to cope with his novice crew (2nd Lieutenant Tom Hodson) falling asleep in between (and occasionally during) races but still put in a respectable performance. Captain Ted Bennett and his crew were awarded a trophy for being the 'fastest Subaltern or Captain'; whilst your correspondent returned results of 10th, 8th, 6th and 4th to be awarded a prize for the 'most improved'.

At various points throughout the year, Gladeye has played host to a crew of Grenadiers. From May to November, a total of 24 Grenadiers have trained on board and earned their competent crew qualifications. Although some would describe sailing as a cushy week away from work, having to scrape frost off the decks on a wintery Wednesday morning in late November certainly meets the



testing requirements of Adventurous Training. With plans afoot for Gladeye expeditions to France in 2022 and Ibiza in 2023; those who have braved UK conditions this year will have plenty of opportunities to further their experiences in warmer and more exotic waters in the future.

Household Division Squash Tournament

by WO2(CSM) Thompson HQ Coy

On Tuesday 16th November 2021, it was time for the annual Household Division Squash Tournament. The tournament was held at the Aldershot Garrison Sports Centre and was attended by the Grenadier Guards, the Coldstream Guards, the Irish Guards, the Welsh Guards and

the Household Cavalry.

The timing of this tournament meant that the bulk of our 1st Battalion were deployed on exercise in Kenya so we were somewhat restricted as to our participants. Despite this, the Regiment was well represented by Major Proudfoot, WO2(CSM) Thompson, LSgt Timmins, LSgt Oliver and LCpl Thompson.

In the morning's team competition, we won a few games but unfortunately did not win overall; that honour went to The Household Cavalry.

The afternoon session was the individual competition. Again we won a few games between us, but none of us managed to progress to the final which was won by the Welsh Guards.

The tournament lived up to its reputation – all participants had an exhausting but enjoyable time. As ever, it was a privilege to represent the Regiment in the tournament and show our dedication to the event.



A Picnic on Mount Kenya

by Captain Mark Osmond

As the sun began to set on our clashes with **A2RIFLES** in the Kenyan bush, attention turned towards our journey home or rather our lack of confirmed flight details! In true British Army fashion the cookhouse rumour mill went in to overdrive with whispers of delay after delay, and regular shows of indignation at the RAF's unwillingness to provide an accurate timetable (I will divest the RAF of responsibility in this case as we were flying with a charter carrier).

After the delay was finally confirmed we all recognised that we had a fantastic opportunity to enjoy Kenya under the guise of 'cultural development' or what most people would call: a holiday!

Mount Kenya looms large over Nyati Barracks in Nanyuki and it wasn't long before the young thrusting members of Support Company were asking if we could run an expedition to climb it. Having been put in touch with a local guide we set things in motion on an extremely compressed timeline, brilliantly assisted by the Quartermaster and Motor Transport Officer who were no doubt becoming slightly tired of the whims of the junior officers!



A view of the jagged peaks from Old Shipton's.

Frustratingly we were limited to 10 people per expedition, so it was left to members of the Reconnaissance and Sniper Platoons to 'prove the route'. After the inevitable transport-not-turning-up serial, we were kindly driven to the start line by some members of the Battalion who were supposed to be enjoying a lie in.

Our primary concern with the trip was altitude sickness, we hoped to do a rapid ascent in just over 24 hours which would mean leaving the barracks in Nanyuki at 1900m above sea level (asl) before driving to the start point at 3300m asl and then summiting at 4985m asl. With this mind, and with our shoulders sore after the exercise, we regrettably handed over our bergens to a team of porters, needless to say we were all devastated!

On the first day whilst our impressive group of porters steamed off ahead we moved 'pole-pole' (slowly-slowly in Swahili), guided by Sammy, our incredibly enthusiastic guide. Whilst we didn't cover a great deal of distance the altitude made it tough work with lethargy and light headedness being common symptoms on the climb. As we approached our camp for the night we began to see some strange gerbil-like creatures scurrying around in the rocks. These Hyraxes were the most unusual creatures, and something none of us had seen before.

We hadn't been quite sure what to expect on the accommodation front, although we were all pleasantly surprised. Old Shipton's Camp (4200m asl) is the staging post from which we would conduct our summit attempt the next morning. Whilst it was slightly rat infested, one of which managed to find its way into Gdsm Goold's bergen, it was fairly comfortable with bunk beds and a proper loo. Our porters also doubled up as our chefs and they prepared some wonderful hearty meals during our stay, foot breads and stews fuelled us and kept us warm in the perishingly cold evenings.

We woke at dawn for our summit attempt, declining the opportunity to trek through the night for a dawn summit. We reasoned that it would be considerably more enjoyable to trek up in daylight and it would give us all a few extra hours



The steam rises from a hearty meal.

to acclimatise. Very sadly one of the team had to be taken back down the mountain due to altitude sickness, fortunately our only casualty on the expedition.

After the previous day's pea-soup conditions we were rewarded with a bluebird morning for our

final climb. The jagged mountain and its snow-capped peaks were looking resplendent as we hauled our carcasses upwards. After a few hours of toil and numerous breaks we finally reached the trekker's summit, Point Lenana (the true summit of Mt Kenya requires a technical climb). The views across central Kenya were truly awe-inspiring. As we dallied around on the summit, taking photos and sharing port we eventually realised something strange...no one else had come up to the summit to spoil our fun. The guides confirmed that we had the mountain to ourselves, a very special experience indeed.



A stunning background.

We then trekked back down to Old Shipton's for another night, before making our way back to the finish point the following day. We thanked our guides, porters and chefs for their incredible support and wisdom, and in turn their leader Sammy gave a heartwarming speech thanking us for our custom. We were the first expedition that he had taken up Mt Kenya since the beginning of the pandemic, a truly shuddering thought considering that this was his, and many of the porters, primary occupation. With little in the way of social security they said it had been an incredibly difficult 18 months.

Frustratingly, further planned expeditions had to be cancelled for health and safety concerns – the explanation that Grenadiers are 'twice the man' sadly does not rub with the enforcers of Army policy.

But, this was 'Adventurous Training' at its best: remote, once-in-a-lifetime, and pushing our people out of their comfort zones. A wonderful few days that we'll never forget.

Our expedition was organised by Nickson Mwaura of Jaribu Outdoors. Their contact details can be found at: www.jaribu.co.ke.



The team. From Left to Right: Sammy, Gdsm Goold, LCpl Preston, Gdsm Manning, LSgt Singlehurst, LSgt Fairley, Sgt Browning, Captain Osmond, LCpl Lowry, Gdsm Cowen.

Battalion Rugby

by LCpl Rees

When posted into an infantry battalion at the height of national pandemic, with normal routines disrupted by working from home and self-isolation, it can prove hard to settle in. However, in any environment, playing team sports can help to break down barriers and introduce new arrivals. As an attachment posted to the 1st Battalion Grenadier Guards, it proved to be the best way for me to integrate into a new posting in what would otherwise have been very difficult circumstances.

From my experience, joining Battalion rugby teams has helped me and all the other players, regardless of all ability or rank, to find their voices while also building confidence in themselves and their fellow teammates. This has been no exception with the 1st Battalion Grenadier Guards. As a newly promoted LCpl, joining the Battalion rugby team quickly gave me a voice within the unit. I soon found myself with the confidence to speak up and contribute, first with other players on the pitch, and then with other members of the Battalion. Within the unique context of Battalion Rugby, especially on the pitch, you might find a Guardsman or a LCpl with the confidence to communicate freely

with, or even lead, senior ranks and officers all the way up to a Company Commander. This is a particular benefit of playing with the Grenadier Guards, who are excellent at this. Once you have your rugby kit, everyone has an equal part to play.

To ensure we had the interest, commitment and talent to put a team together, trials were held. The number of players who attended demonstrated the value and enjoyment that being part of a rugby team can offer. More than 40 players of all abilities and experiences came together from the Battalion to express their passion and interest to play this great sport. The trials themselves consisted of basic skills and game play, but the experience also served as a great opportunity to make new friends. The trials demonstrated that the Battalion has a strong cohort of committed players needed to sustain a successful team. This proved evidential when the Battalion got to the final of the Army South 7s Championship, and subsequently qualified for the Army National 7s Championship, which we unfortunately could not partake in due to other Battalion commitments. We also played in the London International 7s, a civilian tournament which has teams enter from all around the world.

Courage, discipline, loyalty and selfless commitment are all essential qualities that you look for in your team mates on the rugby pitch. Moving forward, I am confident that this team will go from strength to strength. In the short term we can do this by continuing to play friendly and competitive matches. However, from experience the best environment for a team to prosper is on tour, which we hope to occur in 2022.



Getting an overlap in the Army South 7s Championship.



A dashing group of Grenadier rugby players ready to reach the final!

Exercise INFANTRY NORDIC SWORD 21

by Lieutenant S E Marren

Nordic skiing combines altitude and extreme cold with high intensity cardiovascular exercise, and is regarded as one of the most physically arduous sports in existence. Encompassing cross-country skiing and biathlon, it was the focus of Exercise INFANTRY NORDIC SWORD 21 (Ex INS 21). Ex INS 21 was the Infantry Nordic's annual training camp from 26 November–17 December 2021, in preparation for the Divisional and Army Championships in January 2022. It took place in Idre Fjäll, Sweden, which boasts some of the greatest cross-country skiing tracks in the world as well as, crucially, a world-class biathlon circuit. The Grenadier team consisted of Lieutenant Marren, LSgt Parker, Gdsm Bailey, Gdsm Flaherty, Gdsm Hughes, and Gdsm Reet-O'Neill, and was the first Grenadier team to deploy on a Nordic Skiing exercise for over 15 years.

The aim of the exercise was to learn the fundamentals of cross-country skiing and biathlon, before then competing against other teams in the Infantry and the wider Army. Both disciplines of skiing were exciting prospects for our novice team, as they promised to improve fitness and develop marksmanship; two skills vital to any soldier. The training programme was fast paced and generally

consisted of two sessions a day, which would either be two ski sessions or one ski session and a range session. Ski sessions were led by civilian instructors, most of whom had international or Olympic experience, and were streamed to ensure that individuals were progressing at the correct rate. Range sessions involved shooting at targets from 50m in the prone and standing unsupported positions, which became progressively more difficult once we started skiing loops of the stadium before getting on the point.

After learning the basics of classic and skate skiing techniques, and how to fire and zero our biathlon rifles, the team geared itself towards the 4.5km biathlon relay and 15km individual classic races that would be the culmination of the training camp. Impressive shooting and uphill skiing in the 4.5km biathlon relay saw the Grenadier team come 9th out of 30 teams, which was a fantastic effort for our first unofficial race. A particular mention goes to Gdsm Reet-O'Neill who was the fastest junior novice in the Infantry. The following day saw the Grenadier team come 9th out of 18 teams in the unofficial 15km individual classic race, with Gdsm Bailey putting in a particularly impressive shift on the uphill segments.

Feeling confident for the Infantry and Divisional Championships in January 2022, which were due to take place in France, the team was bitterly disappointed to learn of the cancellation of the remainder of the Nordic Skiing at the beginning of the new year. Owing to the impact of the Omicron variant and subsequent French travel restrictions, it was assessed that the competitive phase of the ski season would be unable to take place. However, despite this unfortunate end, the Grenadier team had a thoroughly enjoyable four weeks in Idre Fjäll. The training camp provided a rewarding opportunity for the team to learn the fundamentals of cross-country skiing and biathlon, and improve their fitness and marksmanship. Whilst we may not have been able to compete this year, we established our presence in the Infantry Nordic arena and look forward to returning to train and compete for many more years to come.



Team Grenadier.

Band Sergeant Major – Warrant Officer Class 2 Wen Gregson



Born in the former British Crown Colony of Hong Kong, WO2 Gregson lived and studied in Singapore and the United States of America before joining the British Army in 2002.

A professional saxophone specialist by trade, she has served in the Band of the Royal Corps of Signals and the Band of the Welsh Guards, both as Principal Saxophonist, covering the full range of Regional and State Ceremonial Public Duties, Short Term Training Teams and numerous overseas engagements. She has represented the British Army at the World Saxophone Congress as member of the NATO Saxophone Orchestra (France, 2015) and the Household Division Saxophone Quartet (Croatia, 2018) - the latter being the first time a British Army ensemble had been invited to perform in Congress history.

In addition to regimental duties, WO2 Gregson has also served in the following appointments:

- Phase Two Training Instructor at the Royal Military School of Music, Kneller Hall.
- Staff Assistant, Army Bands Tasking Authority at Regional Command, Aldershot.
- Training Development Team Warrant Officer at Headquarters Corps of Army Music (now Royal Corps of Army Music), Twickenham.
- Army Music Warrant Officer under Head of Capability, Combat Service Support, at Army Headquarters, Andover, where she served as the first Establishment Advisor and was responsible for the organisational and personnel structure of all Regular Army Bands.

In 2021, She was appointed Band Sergeant Major of the Band of the Grenadier Guards at Wellington Barracks, London.

WO2 Gregson studied with the internationally renowned composer, conductor and music educator, Dr Jack Stamp, and with Dr Keith Young, former Principal Saxophonist and Soloist of the United States Air Force Band at Washington D.C.. She holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Music and a Master of Arts degrees in Saxophone Performance. She is also a Chartered Management Institute (CMI) accredited Chartered Manager.

WO2 Gregson is married to Stephen, a professional musician and Associated Board of Royal School of Music examiner, and mother to Anna.

From the Archives



The Band c.1880.

A German tribute to a British Grenadier

by Alan Ogden

Just before the end of the Second World War in Europe, an armoured car from the 1st Household Cavalry Regiment was destroyed by a mine as it approached the village of Kuttenholz. All three of its crew were killed outright. The following day – 1 May 1945 – the leading Sherman tank of 2 Squadron 1 Battalion Coldstream Guards hit a mine in the same village. All five members of its crew died; the remains of only three were recovered and buried by their comrades in the nearby village of Harsefeld. Later they were reinterred and buried in the British Military Cemetery at Becklington, just to the south of Soltau.

As the 75th anniversary of the end of the war in Europe approached, Frau Debbie Bülau and her team of co-researchers in Kuttenholz identified six other British soldiers who had been killed in action in the same area. One was Guardsman Clifford Wray, aged 25, of the 1st Battalion who had been killed in the fighting around Sandbostel. In March 2021, thanks to the generosity of an anonymous donor, three stone slabs inscribed with the names



Guardsman Wray's name is inscribed at the top of the right hand memorial stone.

of the 14 men were erected in a small ceremony in Kuttenholz.

Frau Bülau, who works as a volunteer at the former notorious prisoner of war camp Stalag X-B which was liberated by the Grenadier Guards, contacted many of the family members of the long-deceased soldiers and a memorial service was held in April, albeit with Covid restrictions. She told a British newspaper that she felt the soldiers 'should be remembered. They should not be anonymous anymore... people should know that they died here. All of them were brothers, husbands, sons. They should get their personality back...they shouldn't be forgotten'.



Suffolk Challenge in Support of Yukon 700 – the Long Ride

by Ben Stephens

All bad ideas have a habit of coming to me when I have a drink in my hand. And so it was when the idea was sown over a glass of wine discussing the Yukon 700 adventure with Lieutenant Colonel (ret'd) Guy Denison-Smith. As I ride and race bicycles it seemed sensible to raise some money on

two wheels. The not so sensible idea was to ride 700 km – the length of the expedition, in one ride... nonstop. The idea stuck and in June 2021 up went the fundraising page, no backing out now. 700km nonstop over the August bank holiday around a corner of Suffolk. How hard could it be?

Late August arrived and the time came to swing a leg over the crossbar and set off for ride a little longer than the usual. Would the stars align and keep body, mind and bike in one piece for the duration? Only one way to find out, and that was clip in and start turning the pedals. Just as I did, the sky turned black and a soaking ensued. Not the ideal way to start, but I figured its better than getting wet sat in a canoe paddling down a river in



the middle of nowhere and I wasn't going to come across any bears. As the hours passed and the Km ticked by there was the occasional pause for water bottle replenishment and pockets of food to restock. The key to such endeavours is to keep drinking and eating while rolling along even when you don't feel like it. The joy being once you're moving you can eat anything, so a varied diet of things forbidden by a cyclist attempting to remain skinny goes out the window. Stuffing in chocolate cake whilst riding along is one of life's little pleasures especially when it makes no difference to your waistline.

Day turned into night, and the Km continued to tick by. The moon rose and the temperature dropped requiring a pause for warmer clothing. Riding throughout the night is an adventure in itself as you pass through villages and along lanes all shutting up for the night. Cars disappear and the

night's inhabitants become inquisitive. Foxes, badgers, and deer all appear out of nowhere in the glow of the bike lamp. Still no bears or elk! Dawn eventually comes, 18 hours in with 8 hours of darkness my body is tired.

However, starting at midday on the previous day was by design. The idea is to trick the natural rhythm of your body clock, so that as the sun comes up your body moves into awake mode without realising it never went to sleep in the first place. It works, briefly, as the slither of sun bursts onto the horizon and I feel energised again. But all too soon the size of the task hits me – I'm 500km in and realise I still have what would normally be a good day on the bike (200km) still to push. Energy bars and gels to keep the body fuelled are becoming nauseating, so a diet of bacon butties and peanut butter sandwiches are offered up along with bottles of sweet tea and the odd double espresso. At this point I am praying to the cycling gods the body holds up, especially that bit that's been on a saddle for longer than usual.

Throughout the night and into the day friends come and go to ride along to alleviate the boredom. Supporters appear at the pub, where my logistics team were based, to cheer me on whilst waving pints at me as I regularly ride by. With 600km on the clock, I can smell the finish line. 'Just keep turning the pedals – it will come' I repeat to myself. Time drags, the body is protesting, its been over 24 hours and everything is screaming 'Enough'. At last, the magic 700km rolls over on the bike computer screen. I ride to the pub where it all began and step off. The legs shut



28 AUG 2021	
@ 12:12	
RIDE HOURS	KM
26:40	7003
— SPEED —	
AVG	MAX
263	577
— ELEVATION —	
M CLIMB	M DESC
4697	4800

down; hands help me to my feet. Celebrations are a blur. The sores will dissipate, the stiffness will ease, the bike has been faultless, the puncture gods have been kind, and sleep comes. None of it would have been possible without a huge amount of support to keep the show literally on the road. Huge thank you to team Stephens and of course the many of you who donated. It was a warm sight to see

some old and bold willing me on; Charlie Bennet, Jock Lloyd-Jones, Tim Breitmeyer, Guy D-Smith, Alistair Watkins to name a few. With £12k raised, the expedition should be able to head down the river with a paddle or two and a decent supply of bear spray. 700km, in 26 hours 40 mins...could be worse...could be in a canoe! Good luck to the Yukon 700 expedition.



On patrol.

Exercise GRENADIER HONOLULU

by *Lieutenant Ralph Madden*

Last year a section of Grenadiers found themselves deep in Hawaiian jungle on the US Army's Jungle Operations Training Course. The start of this tale begins in a somewhat unconventional but very modern way with a message on Instagram submitted by LSgt Aspinshaw to the Lightning Academy to see if he might be able to attend one of their courses.

The Lightning Academy belongs to the US Army's 25th Infantry Division, which is based on Oahu, Hawaii's most populous island. Its remit is to run several of the Division's more specialised courses, including the US Army's only jungle course.

Perhaps surprisingly they were incredibly enthusiastic about the idea, and the momentum to

send soldiers to attend the Academy grew rapidly and before we knew it we had deployed a section to Hawaii on what was for all of us the biggest adventure of our Army careers thus far.

Our month in Hawaii began with some much required acclimatisation to the weather, familiarisation and refamiliarisation with American weapon systems and jungle navigation, and some exploration of the island including an excellent battlefield tour of Pearl Harbour. The highlight of this battlefield tour, which coincided with the 80th anniversary of that momentous day, was a visit to the memorial at the battleship USS Arizona which was sunk during the Japanese attack killing 1,177 US servicemen. The memorial is built in the harbour and straddling the rusting hull which you can still see just below the waterline with the housings from the gun turrets still poking above the surface.

The opening of our Jungle Operators Course saw us lined up alongside roughly 100 US personnel,



USS Arizona Memorial.

predominantly from the US Army, but also the US Marine Corps (USMC). The course draws from all arms, and due to the range of tactical experience and knowledge focuses largely on methods of moving across the terrain, particularly rope work. This was vital for manoeuvring through the Hawaiian jungle as Oahu is covered in very steep, volcanic terrain. We were assessed on numerous knots and several rope systems used for extracting casualties from deep gorges, rappelling down cliffs and conducting river crossings. The rank range was particularly great, ranging from private first class to full colonels. This was the cause of slight embarrassment in the third or fourth day when it emerged that one of the Americans that a couple of our Guardsmen had been gently mocking turned out to be the commanding officer of a logistics battalion!

Much to our dismay, Oahu was beset by terrible weather over the duration of the course which caused flooding and power cuts. The instructors couldn't remember such heavy rain or low temperatures. This turn of events though not what we had desired was certainly something that played to British strengths. Those more used to the customary Hawaii weather found themselves less than amused. Fortunately, the weather improved in time to finish the course with a stretcher race through the jungle, an event infamously known as the 'Green Mile'.

On the conclusion of the course, we planned and delivered an introduction into British jungle tactics

to our American instructors over the course of five days. Jungle tactics of the depth done by the British Army is an area that has not been formally taught or developed in the US Army since the Vietnam War. This phase was particularly beneficial as it allowed our junior non-commissioned officers an invaluable opportunity to deliver lessons to allied soldiers and it felt that jungle tactics was a meaningful way in which we could contribute to the US Army's jungle capability.

With five days left in Hawaii, we bade farewell to Camp Lightning to conduct some hard-earned R&R. We initially stayed in the centre of the island which was well placed to explore all corners of Oahu. The northern beaches were particularly stunning with extreme swells in December which attract the world's best surfers to the surf competitions that run on them. Other notable parts were the epic waterfalls in the steep interior and, of course, Waikiki Beach. Of course you can't please everyone and as we sat drinking cocktails in amongst the humdrum on Waikiki, having spent a month in Hawaii courtesy of the Colonel-in-Chief, one individual (who will not be named) bemoaned the extra few days of R&R instead of flying home for Christmas leave.

It was all in all a phenomenal experience in a remarkable place and with freedoms not always present on military trips. Meanwhile, the ability to work closely with our greatest ally and at the lowest level was a significant privilege – and we could not have been better looked after whilst we were there. I for one hope that this is not the last time the Grenadiers visit the Lightning Academy!



On the beach.

Fun in the Sun! The Household Division Support to the Cayman Island Regiment (CIR)

by Major Cameron Proudfoot, Scots Guards

On 28 Jan 21 a short term training team (STTT) deployed to The Cayman Islands in order to provide Phase 1 training to the second Cayman Islands Regiment intake of reservist volunteers. The STTT also provided guidance and mentoring to the CIR's Officers and SNCO's that make up the various headquarters of the Regiment. The STTT comprised of 3 Officers, 4 SNCO's and 7 JNCO's from across 5 regiments (1GREN GDS, 1WG, 1 COLDM GDS, HCR and HCMR) and was OPCOM to GOC LONDIST.

In late 2018, the then Minister for Armed Forces, Mark Lancaster, wrote to the Governors of the UK Overseas Territories in the Caribbean offering Defence support should they wish to establish Reserve Defence Regiments. The purpose of the Regiments would be to improve the resilience of the Overseas Territories to respond to natural disasters, notably hurricanes (annual hurricane season in the Caribbean is June to November). The

Cayman Islands officially responded to Ministers letter requesting support, and he visited in October 2019 to officially announce the initiative with the Governor and Premier. An Operational Needs Analysis team deployed to Cayman and the Turks & Caicos Islands in November 2019 to scope requirements, with a report produced outlining project delivery plans to establish Regiments with the ability to conduct Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) operations. Cayman intend to reach Initial Operating Capability (recruit, train and equip 50 personnel) by 31 August 2020 and Full Operating Capability by 31 August 2021.

The Cayman Island Regiment (CIR) was originally formed to further enhance the islands' capability in reacting to natural disasters, a frequent problem during typhoon season. It can also reinforce local agencies as and when required.

The CIR will also be taking on additional ceremonial duties of their own, for events such as parades and Guards of Honour for visiting dignitaries to the island.

Delayed Departure

After a weeklong delay the team were finally able to depart flying out on the Airbus A400M with the cargo. First stop was an overnight stay in Bangor. Then onto Cayman.

On Arrival, the flight was deemed to be a 'dirty flight' therefore the team was required to isolate for 14 days on arrival. We were met at the airport and transported directly to The Palms Heights Seven Mile Beachfront Hotel. We were promptly briefed and guided to our respective rooms.

Any isolation period is uncomfortable despite the 5* accommodation. Food was good initially then became monotonous towards the end. The team kept busy with daily PT challenges (Best 5km & best 1hr run) lots of ground covered up and down the corridors in the rooms. Scheduled Teams Meetings were attended for



Grenadiers deployed on the STTT.
From Left to Right: LSgt Brady, WO2 (DSgt) Bennison, Major C Proudfoot SG (Coy Comd HQ Coy), LSgt Ayiera (HQ Coy Clerk).



View from rooms on to Seven Mile Beach.

collective PT, Quiz nights and updates/co-ordination to collaborate on the forthcoming training package.

Due to the additional days that the team ended up staying at RAF Brize Norton, we were able to conduct planning and preparation of individual lessons whilst there. With this done and the time in isolation the team were ready to hit the ground running as the course was already into its second day.

Training

The CIR, like any newly formed organisation, is finding its feet and has little resource in terms of real estate and staff manpower. The current ORBAT of the Regiment, is made up mainly of reservists, but does have some full-time members. The Commanding Officer and RSM are ex-British Army and the Troop Commanders have all recently



Pistol SAA lesson.

been on the Sandhurst Reserve Commissioning Course. The two focus areas for the CIR are HADR training and Drill as this will drive much of what they are required to do over the training year. The STTT had the required qualifications and experience to deliver the training program. HADR and Drill provided the pillars of the program and the rest was drawn from the phase one training program at ATC Pirbright.

Training requirements were:

- First Aid/BLS/Casualty Exchange
- Map Reading and Navigational Exercises
- Pistol Lessons
- HLS Security
- Communication
- Basic Water Rescue
- Drill (Basic foot drill & Pass Out Parade)
- Daily PT



Map reading lesson.

Each member of the team was made a lead for a topic and was responsible for ensuring the lesson plans and training material was available for the two week course. After each day the team completed a daily 'wash up' where they discussed and reviewed the lessons with the PI Comds and the DSgt.

Final Exercise

The final exercise lasted for 48hrs. The exercise incorporated Hazard Management Cayman Island (HMCI) Emergency Medical Services (EMS), Police, Red Cross and Police Helicopters. All the organisations gave CIR a 30–60 min talk on their capabilities and how they would work with CIR, particularly HOTO procedures and casualty



CASEVAC Drills being practiced during the final exercise.

exchange prior to the exercise.

With these organisations participating in the exercise scenarios, it provided further realism and understanding to the recruits. Equally the more of these organisations who participate in CIR exercises, the better cohesion would be achieved when real situations arose. Tasks including Cordons, protection of Critical National Infrastructure and stabilisation operations to prevent looting. These were not covered in detail but are all relevant within HADR events.

All civilian agencies that were involved with the exercise were there to allow early interaction and understanding of their capabilities for the Recruits. This would in turn mean that when something did happen, they already had the basic knowledge and training to ensure that the situation would be done safely, quickly and efficiently. The civilian agencies that were involved were:

- **Police Helicopters.** They provided the most support to the training and Exercise. They lifted one section onto the exercise as well as carrying out two MEDEVAC serials. Thus, ensuring the

new recruits understood the relevance of them in many areas, but more so in both evacuation and control during any HADR situation.

- **Police Firearms Response Unit.** The Police FRU supported the exercise during the Vehicle Check Point (VCP) scenario. Afterwards they gave the recruits a talk about how they would interact together.
- **HMCI.** The HMCI delivered an inter-operability presentation to the recruits.
- **CPERS/Detaining.** The Police were included in the serials and the recruits were co-located with them, so if there was an issue the Police immediately assisted.
- **Vehicle Check Points (VCP).**

The Pass Out Parade

At the end of the training package a Passing Out Parade was completed. Where throughout the duration of the course a firm eye had been on the preparation of the Parade. With drill being the backbone of all lessons, where possible, ensuring the Recruits could show off their skills as this would be for many be a monumental event in their lives, and opportunity to show themselves off to friends and family. The spectacle was conducted in front of the Governor and the Premier of the Cayman Islands and a generous crowd. During the parade each successful recruit was awarded with a CRI rank slide. The music for the Parade was supported by the CI volunteer Band and was televised on the Island main cable channel simultaneously.



The Pass Out Parade.



The Corps of Drums at the Goodwood Revival 2021

by Sgt J Childs, *The Drum Sgt*

In September the Corps of Drums of the 1st Battalion Grenadier Guards were delighted to be invited to perform at the legendary and historic Goodwood Revival Circuit in West Sussex.

The whole Corps deployed, and we were able to enjoy the full weekend engaging with car and motorcycle enthusiasts from all over the country who had come to watch the legendary racing. It seemed as if we had been transported back into the 1960s, and everywhere you looked men, women and children of all ages were dressed up, looking immaculate, with retro hair, makeup and clothing. It was the closest thing to a time machine.

Our daily performance was a march through

the festival in full Home Service Clothing, with crowds splitting around the Corps as we made our way across the spectators' area. The performance seemed to go down well and as we stopped to play each march we would be asked for encores. On the Sunday we were unleashed on the track as we marched as part of a celebration in honour of the key workers who have done so much to keep our country standing over the course of the last two years of COVID-19 induced disruption.

When not performing we were able to visit the paddocks and walk round all the legendary cars which would have competed during the circuits original periods between 1948 and 1966 including Ford GT40s, Shelby Cobras and Mustangs and Norton motorcycles. For the petrolheads among us it was truly fantastic. It is definitely an event we would love to play again!

Project Browning: Grenadier Success On All Arms Pre-Parachute Selection

by Lieutenant SE Marren

The Guards Parachute Platoon symbolises the long-standing connection between the Household Division and the Parachute Regiment and operates within B Company, 3 PARA. Volunteering to serve in the platoon remains a rewarding opportunity for Guardsmen and requires completion of All Arms Pre-Parachute Selection, more commonly referred to as P Company. Notoriously challenging, P Company is conducted over three weeks, culminating with ‘Test Week’, a series of eight tests conducted over five days. Following a spate of unsuccessful attempts in recent years, the Household Division established *Project Browning*, a six-week preparation course that runs twice a year and aims to select and develop a strong cohort of Guardsmen for attendance on P Company and its mandatory screening phase. Since *Project Browning’s* inception in May, 12 Guardsmen and

Troopers have gone on to successfully pass P Company in the latter half of 2021, with five of these being Grenadiers – more than the last three years combined.

The most recent iteration of *Project Browning* was run by Lieutenant Marren from 2 August–10 September 21 and set out to build upon the success of the first iteration run by Captain Fetherston-Godley in May. The six weeks consisted of a screening week, two weeks of build-up training in Aldershot, followed by two weeks of confirmation training in Catterick and a one-week taper. Focusing on loaded marches, interval training, and strength and conditioning workouts, the training programme provided a strong foundation to develop mental robustness and determination whilst promoting rest and recovery. After initial screening was complete, the Aldershot phase enabled candidates to familiarise themselves with the different types of events they would encounter on P Company, such as fast loaded marches with 35lbs of weight and fartlek runs interspersed with ‘pain stations’. The Catterick Phase then enabled the Guardsmen to build upon their progress in Aldershot by exposing them to the harsh undulating terrain and routes that they would encounter on P Company and to noteworthy features such as the Land of Nod and Stretcher Hill. Physical training aside, the course also focused on improving confidence at height, using the trainasium at Fox Barracks to conquer fear on the shuffle bars and the ten-metre diving board at the Garrison Pool to simulate jumping from height and following orders under pressure. A particularly useful technique for bolstering performance at such heights was visualisation, which enabled Guardsmen to conquer their fears by visualising themselves overcoming the fear that they were facing.

The end of the *Project Browning* phase saw a tightly-knit body of motivated Guardsmen that were determined to succeed on the mandatory screening phase that preceded P Company. Taking place in the rolling hills of North Devon, the team ventured down to Okehampton to begin the two week process. Having been exposed to the conduct and makeup of many of the events they would likely face, the screening phase offered little surprise to the Guardsmen. The output tests consisted of an



Confidence at height training.



Gdsm Hall, Gdsm Smith, Lieutenant Marren and Gdsm Humphreys WG complete P Company.

to pushing through the more difficult events and counteracting the mind and body's natural inclination to tell you to stop. The weekends off were essential for rest and recovery, and by the time we reached Test Week, the end was in sight. Despite hobbling to the start line, Test Week kicked off with an achievable 10-Miler, before our confidence at height training was put to the test on the trainasium. The next couple of days saw the completion of the log race, steeplechase, 2-miler, stretcher race and milling. The milling, whilst a relative breeze for MMA enthusiast Gdsm Humphreys, left Lieutenant Marren, Gdsm Hall, and Gdsm Smith rather shaken! However, it ultimately spelt the end of our P Company journey and paved

the way for us to proudly be awarded our maroon berets. Shortly after the completion of the course, Gdsm Hall (Nijmegen Company) and Gdsm Smith (The Queen's Company) were posted to the Guards Parachute Platoon and deployed to Belize.

8-mile tab in 1 hour 55 minutes carrying 35lbs and a 1.5 mile run in under 9 minutes 30 seconds, both of which were convincingly achieved by all. The remaining serials in the training programme included brief introductions to log and stretcher races, and several sprint sessions up the unavoidable mile-long incline at the beginning of the training area. Whilst down time was spent in lockdown, plenty of time was permitted for stretching and recovery to ensure that niggles were proactively managed and injuries prevented.

Project Browning has been crucial to the recent success of the Household Division on P Company. It provides a model that sufficiently prepares and develops Guardsmen and Troopers for the challenges and rigours that P Company presents. Most importantly, its enduring and successful implementation will ensure a constant flow of Grenadiers to the Guards Parachute Platoon for years to come.

The completion of the mandatory screening phase saw the cohort finally move up to Catterick to attempt P Company on 26 September 2021. Despite nursing sore legs and various niggles, the team was eager to begin the three-week ordeal of earning their maroon berets and their spots in the Guards Parachute Platoon. The first two weeks, referred to as the 'beat-up' phase, involved several fast tabs, runs, bayonet lanes and section attacks, that were all designed to progressively degrade the body in the lead up to test week. It was in this phase that all the training conducted during the *Project Browning* phase came to the fore, as mental robustness and determination proved crucial

the way for us to proudly be awarded our maroon berets. Shortly after the completion of the course, Gdsm Hall (Nijmegen Company) and Gdsm Smith (The Queen's Company) were posted to the Guards Parachute Platoon and deployed to Belize.

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Mount Kenya 1971 – The First Visit by the Grenadiers

by *Captain Alan Ogden*

Fifty years ago, the 1st Battalion flew out to Kenya from Chelsea in January 1971 for a month's training. As part of the program, all three rifle companies made the ascent to Point Lenana (16,355 ft) after the Recce platoon had proved the route.

A small team went on to assess the possibility of climbing Peak Nelion (17,022 ft) at a later date,



but Captain Alan Ogden decided that the 15-pitch rock climb and abseil descent was too difficult for inexperienced climbers. In 1976, Major Alex Heroys and his more experienced team made a successful ascent with Captain James Hogg and L/Sgt Garmory reaching the summit of Nelion before they made a rapid descent to avoid an approaching blizzard.



Recce group. From Left to Right: 2nd Lieutenant David Midwood, Captain Alan Ogden, Sgt 'Crud' Ashcroft, Dmr Moss.

'Cape Faraway – One who saw it'

by *CSgt W. H. Hampson*
Orderly Room Clark 2nd Battalion Grenadier Guards

The South East Trades being reached, this time in the Pacific instead of the Atlantic Ocean, we began to feel the heat more and more as we approached the tropics.

One day, about this time, I was the subject of a practical joke invariably played. After scanning the horizon, I saw in a north-westerly direction what appeared to be land, and after another look, I went up to the mate doubtfully: 'I say Mr Goodman,' I enquired, 'Isn't that land away to leeward?' The answer came apparently most thoughtfully, 'Aye lad, Cape Flyaway.'

I ran down and acquainted my mess mates that

we were in sight of land and that it was called Cape Flyaway, and I was astonished when my information was received with a roar of laughter, that I hastened to observe that I was sure I was right as the mate had just told me so.

This rather increased than diminished the mirth; on asking what was the meaning, for I was in high dudgeon, I was politely informed that the land of my imagination was nothing but clouds and that whenever anyone fancied they saw land where it existed, it was called Cape Flyaway. I was most disgusted at being the butt of a practical joke, but soon learnt to laugh with the rest.

Selected by Philip Wright from *The Brigade of Guards Magazine* June 1888.



WASHINGTON DC

Letter from Washington

by Colonel Piers Ashfield

Amidst the latest round of COVID restrictions, the family and I moved out of our Army Quarter and headed to Washington DC for a planned three-year tour in May 2021. Many will be familiar with the process; three months before we moved to the US, we had to select certain family treasures to store for three years and what should accompany us on our latest adventure. Enabling the removal team to achieve this, whilst observing the necessary social distancing, led to the inevitable first world problems of having dinner jackets as hand luggage on the flight and arriving in the sweltering Washington DC summer complete with a UK winter wardrobe!

I had been posted for a year to the National

War College in Fort McNair, Washington DC and then subsequently to the Chief of Staff of the US Army's outer office staff as one of his two Military Assistants. Before World War II, each service delivered advanced military education through postgraduate colleges set up by and for the respective services. These service colleges still exist and the excellent work of the Army War College in Carlisle, Pennsylvania, is likely to be familiar to many. However, the 20th century imposed a need for closer ties between force and diplomacy, between American military services and the industries that arm them, and among the American military centres of higher learning and research. This requirement ultimately led to the creation of the National Defense University in 1976, which incorporates the College of International Security Affairs, the Eisenhower School for National Security and Resource Strategy, the College of Information and Cyberspace, the Joint Forces Staff College and the National War College.

The National War College is primarily concerned with grand strategy and the use of resources necessary to implement that strategy..." Its graduates will exercise a great influence on the formulation of national and foreign policy in both peace and war...". The curriculum emphasizes the joint and interagency perspective, with 59 per cent of the student body composed of equal representation from the land, air, and sea (including Marine and Coast Guard) Services. The remaining 41 per cent are drawn from the Department of State and other federal departments and agencies, with international fellows from 32 different foreign countries. The College has deep relationships with



The student-author in front of the National War College.

organizations throughout Washington to produce a varied programme of speakers, which has included the US National Security Advisor Mr Jake Sullivan amongst various Senators, Congressmen and business leaders.

An element of my curriculum is American Studies. This course focusses on America’s meaning and purpose, liberty, equality, individualism, democracy, constitutionalism — and the government’s efforts to live up to those values that creates the central tension of American life. This focus is driven by late General Powell’s direction when he was Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, to “show them America warts and all”. The course has taken us across the US, from Native American tribe members in Montana to the origins of the American Revolution in Boston and the border crossing points in Texas, with many more regions



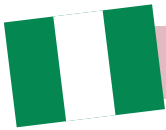
The National War College in the snow for the first winter in three years.



Playing cowboys during the Montana Field Trip.

planned for later in the year. Whether debating health care, taxes, immigration or war, Americans often invoke their founding values to challenge various perceived injustices, dividing most acutely over what brings them together. Oscar Wilde said that Britain has “really everything in common with America nowadays except, of course, language”. In truth, language is one of the few things that we have in common with America. Still, as the BBC correspondent Jon Sopel suggests, *“if only they didn’t speak English in America, then we’d treat it as a foreign country – and probably understand it a lot better.”* I have already been exposed to an extensive range of perspectives and fostered excellent personal relationships and networks that I hope will continue beyond my time in the US.

There is a sweet irony to have been a child who once felt that the longest ten minutes in life were the last ten minutes of class before returning to the sports field. To now feel the most incredible luxury is to be back at school and have the opportunity to listen to and savour some fascinating insights from a plethora of leading academics, politicians and military service members. The experience has been fantastic so far (notwithstanding I do not have my results as I write this post!). The privilege of returning to full-time education at this stage of my career and life is one of my most cherished benefits of military service.



NIGERIA

Operation TURUS, Nigeria

by *Simon Gordon Lennox*

I was selected to be Chief of Staff of Operation TURUS at very short notice in late September 2021. My original plan – on relinquishing the Foot Guards Desk in Glasgow – was to deploy to Kabul over a similar timeframe before starting a role in Andover, with the latter enabling a move South. However, the withdrawal of Forces from Kabul, and the delayed restructuring of several areas of Army HQ meaning my Andover role has evaporated under the Integrated Review left me in slight limbo. The irony of this happening to a Desk Officer on departure from that role is not lost on me! Hasty PDT, and a spot of leave saw me arrive in the Capital Abuja on the 4th November, with a familiar dry heat (it averages about 34°C out here) and some insane driving, I was set to go!



Op TURUS is providing UK military support to the armed forces of Nigeria and the Multi National Joint Task Force (MNJTF) based in N'Djamena, Chad, to counter Violent Extremist Organisations (VEOs) in North East Nigeria and the Lake Chad Basin. The operation was initiated to provide support following the kidnapping of the Chibok girls in 2014. It has since developed to support

operations in Nigeria, Cameroon and the Lake Chad Basin to counter Boko Haram, the Islamic State West Africa Province (ISWAP) and the Islamic State West Africa (ISWA). The operation covers an area approximately seven times that of the UK, with almost four times the population, and may expand further to include additional areas of Littoral West Africa and the Gulf of Guinea in the future. Our headquarters is based in Abuja, with a small staff (15 UK Military) controlling and coordinating activity forward for Chief Joint Operations (CJO) and our Permanent Joint Headquarters (PJHQ) in Northwood.

Operation TURUS has subsumed the British Military Advisory and Training Team (BMATT) which had delivered predominantly low-level tactical training to the armed forces of Nigeria over the past 20 years. Planning and delivering training support is now a large part of the operation but we are also working closely with other government departments to support UK security and interests in the region. Our activity requires a strong partnership with the British Defence Staff West Africa, British High Commission staffs, US, French and other national and military representatives and most importantly with host nation armed forces. At desk level, the 'Line of Effort' leads (Air, Land, Intelligence Fusion and Exploitation, Counter IED, Strengthening Defence, Strategic Communications and Human Security) engage daily with Defence Headquarters and single Service senior commanders and staff within the host nations to ensure our activity is demand led and supports the UK being a, and in certain locations the partner of choice.

This is my first real experience of working with the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) and whilst there are many differences it is very interesting to see the passion that they have for what goes on out here. I look at their detailed knowledge borne by a typical three-year tour with slight envy against our own generalist approach, especially as we as a Military entity out here are transitioning from 2 year accompanied tours to those of the more conventional 6-month rotations.

Mine is a 6-month tour as with all of the others deployed to the headquarters, with the exception of the Commander (Col Rory Shannon MBE late

SG). As always, there is a requirement to prioritise time and effort and recognise that you can't achieve everything. Thankfully there is a great team out here, comprising representatives from the Army and RAF as well as locally employed staff and liaison officers. The Household Division presence is strong, and in a variety of forms. The RQMS, WO2 Qaimuri WG (formerly a Section Commander on mine when at Guards Training Company) is with us for a few more months, and it is splendid to have another familiar face in Maj Cammie Proudfoot SG, fresh from his time commanding Headquarter Company in our own 1st Battalion. Indeed, there seems to be an extraordinary amount of Jock Guards in the expat community. There is a Nigerian Guards Brigade in Abuja and they have an operational Guards Polo ground, frequented by Capt (Retd) Folarin Kuku who served in The Queen's Company on Herrick 6 and was ADC to (the then) Maj Gen George Norton. The locally employed staff we have are fantastic and provide much needed continuity. Our local drivers are particularly useful as local traffic can be exceptionally frenetic, although we all self-drive most of the time (I confess I find driving out here great fun!).

We all occupy a compound centred around a fairly passable swimming pool. We are on Operations, so unlike pretty much everyone else, it is a 7-day week

(although Sunday is a little more relaxed for some more than others!). We cook for ourselves which can result in some desperately odd concoctions, are subject to a curfew and alcohol isn't as free flowing as it was in the past (two-can rule). But there is still a fairly vibrant social life – the 'BVI', or British Village Institute, hosts events in the evenings most weeks and the other Governmental Departments have a healthy number of those with families out here. We avoid leaving Abuja without various extra security measures, which makes visiting training locations a very deliberate event with many a resource deconfliction required.

It is a rewarding posting out here, as I've never conducted this kind of blend of Operational and Defence Engagement activity before – perhaps I never shall again. The Nigerian people have without fail been very welcoming, and the 'BMATT' brand remains extremely strong indeed and still opens many a door. The amount of planning autonomy the Line of Effort leads are given is refreshing and a reflection of true empowerment, providing a fantastic opportunity for any Captain or Major looking to turn their hand at Defence Engagement, and I thoroughly recommend an opportunity to serve out here. I will concede, that I shan't miss discussing budgets quite as much as we do, however I suppose that is the nature of the beast!





SOMALIA

Op TANGHAM, Somalia

by Lieutenant Colonel Rupert King-Evans

In March 2021 the author deployed on a 12 month operational tour of Somalia on Operation TANGHAM, commanding the UK's Somali National Army Training and Advisory Team in the town of Baidoa, 250 kms inland from the capital Mogadishu. Somalia has an estimated population of around 15 million, of which over two million live in Mogadishu. It is a culturally homogenous and overwhelmingly Muslim country which in antiquity was an important commercial centre and is the most probable location of the fabled ancient Land of Punt. In the late 19th century Somalia was colonised by European powers and the remnants of what would have been statuesque colonial buildings now lie in ruins around the Baidoa airfield.



The author opens the new UK granted 25 metre range.

The 40 strong UK contingent live inside the airfield with perimeter security provided by the Ethiopian National Defence Force, who have been deployed in Baidoa since the African Union Mission Somalia expelled Harakat al-Shabaab al-Mujahideen the 'Youth Movement', more commonly known as al-Shabaab, in 2011. At around 450 metres above sea level, the terrain is predominantly arid scrubland with thorn brush and acacia trees, which stretches unbroken all the way to Archers Post in Kenya almost 1000 kms to the South West. The climate is hot and dry with this year's rainy season being

shorter than usual.

Baidoa is an urban centre of around 500k people in Somalia's South West State, but the population has doubled over the last two years as al-Shabaab activity and the famine in Somalia has worsened. Upwards of 500k internally displaced people are now encamped inside and around the city in makeshift camps with more arriving daily. Despite valiant work from the UN's World Food Programme and other agencies, conditions are poor and insurgent activity and famine is driving nomadic communities into the urban centres in increasing numbers.



Internally Displaced People surround Baidoa.

Al-Shabaab is a Somalia-based jihadist fundamentalist terrorist group active in East Africa and Yemen. The group is engaged in combat against the Federal Government of Somalia and the African Union Mission to Somalia; it is also suspected of having links with al-Qaeda in Islamic Maghreb and Boko Haram. Their activities generally extend to attacking South West State Government officials, Army, Police and other security actors whilst extorting the local population through taxation on the main supply routes. Given the poor state of the Somali Armed Forces, they have effective freedom of movement outside of all urban areas and appear well equipped with weaponry including Heavy Machine Gun, RPG and an effective IED capability.

Somalia is of course famous as the location of the USA's infamous *Black Hawk Down* incident in 1992. The British Army's presence in modern times began in 2012 under Op BACKWELL, supporting the African Union Mission to Somalia which had just pushed al-Shabaab out of the urban centres

and re-established Mogadishu as the centre of Government. In 2014 UK activity was expanded to include delivering advice and training to the Somali National Army in Mogadishu and by 2017, the UK had begun to train Somali National Army soldiers or 'Askaris' in Baidoa. The team in Baidoa now deliver collective training and specialist courses to the Somalis as well advising and mentoring the co-located 60 Sector and 8 Brigade HQs.

The Somali Army in and around Baidoa are in at least weekly contact with al-Shabaab and have an extraordinarily high casualty rate with almost 30 having been killed locally during the author's time in theatre. Having now trained 1405 Askaris and completed the training of the ten companies within 8 Brigade, we have recently begun to train 9 Brigade, based North of Baidoa, by contracting airlifts to bring them in. Although living only 100 kms away, many of the askaris have never left their towns which are effectively under siege from al-Shabaab. The UK supports the Somali National Army in four areas, training, equipping, accommodating and advising, all funded through the Conflict, Security and Stabilisation Fund. Training is delivered by way of an eight week Company Collective Training course. This is based on the *Back to Basics Battlecraft* syllabus and covers shooting, medical, C-IED, patrolling, offensive action and Patrol Base routine. We also run specialist courses in intelligence, logistics, officer and SNCO development, staff training and enhanced medical

skills to generate capability. The UK also grants non-lethal aid in the form of kit and equipment. This includes personal issue clothing and equipment, tactical communications and vehicles.

Somalia itself is a verdant and beautiful country with a warm and friendly people. Butterflies are everywhere and there is an



Faces of the Somali Army.

extraordinary variety of birdlife. The UK Enclave itself is overwatched by a Greyish Eagle Owl whose favoured roost is a tree in an adjoining compound; Somali Sparrows, Bristle-crowned Starlings and Dodson's Bulbuls frequent the vehicle park and Grey-headed kingfishers perch on the Hesco walls. Ethiopian Dwarf Mongoose and White-tailed Mongoose are also regularly observed after dark. Occasional visits to HQ British Forces Somalia based in Mogadishu International Airport afford the opportunity to visit the beach where the Indian Ocean crashes against the rocky shoreline and where Pied kingfishers hover over the breaking waves and wading birds feed in the shallows. The climate is pleasantly warm, lacking the punishing heat of Iraq and Afghanistan and here in Baidoa there is very little noise or light pollution giving spectacular views of the night sky.

For those looking at options for their next operational tour, Op TANGHAM should be first on the list. The opportunity to visit this fascinating country and to conduct activity that genuinely makes a difference and saves lives is a fantastic way to spend six months and must be unparalleled in locations where the British Army is deployed.



A Somali Instructor watches an Askari fire AK47 on the UK granted 25 metre range.



A Greyish Eagle Owl overwatches the UK Enclave.



LATVIA

Lieutenant Colonel Gordon Gask, MBE

How did a Gdsm in No 3 Company in 1984 end up planning NATO Deployment Support Operations in Latvia in 2019 – 2021!

Lieutenant Colonel Gordon Gask MBE retires from regular service in May this year. He enlisted into the Regiment in Aug 1983 completing basic training at the Infantry Junior Leaders Battalion in Shornecliffe followed by a 12 week ‘confirmatory phase’ of training at The Guards Depot. A fellow recruit who has survived a parallel career spanning 38 years accompanied him on his first day in the 1st Battalion, Gdsm Neil England. Fast forward to the present day and Lieutenant Colonel Gask finds himself the branch head of the Operations, Plans and Training branch of the NATO Force Integration Unit in Latvia.

On arrival in the 1st Battalion in Cavalry Barracks Hounslow, he was ‘dispatched’ to No 3 Company having failed to meet the height requirement imposed by the late Steve Dehnel’s measuring stick!



State Ceremonial duties in London District very soon became routine and the prospect of deploying to Germany and a new role very exciting. Newly promoted LCpl Gask quickly adapted to the new responsibilities of living and fighting from an AFV. The Battalion deployed on Op CARA CARA later that year and returned to familiar ground in South Armagh. On its return to Germany it found itself becoming the first Armoured Infantry Battalion with the introduction of the MCV 80 soon renamed as Warrior. As a footballer of reasonable note, he was a regular member of the Battalion squad where in the Munster Major Units League the Battalion team acquitted themselves very well.

Promoted to LSgt in 1988 a tour at the Guards Depot followed during which time he missed the 1st Battalion’s deployment to IRAQ in the First Gulf War in 1990. On his return to the 1st Battalion in Wellington Barracks in 1991 he found himself in number 1 Pl of The Queen’s Company and the Watchful eye of CSM Vern Overton. The 1st Battalion at this time was managing the fallout from the decision place the 2nd Battalion into suspended animation. The arrival of The Inkerman Company had resulted in the loss of No 3 Company and rivalry between the rifle companies was intense, the unintentional outcome was probably an increased level of performance, that and a longer queue outside the Sergeant Majors office. In 1993 the Battalion deployed again to South Armagh and this time Sgt Gask deployed with The Queen’s Company to Crossmaglen. A very busy and hard tour of duty tested all ranks across the Company and the Captain, Nick Davies and CSM, Skid Dorney were both exemplary in the way they maintained operational effectiveness of the company in difficult conditions. Although this deployment is generally looked back on with a sense of pride and satisfaction in the professional manner in that all members conducted themselves it is also tainted by the sad loss of Gdsm Daniel Blinco.

A tour of duty at the Royal Military Academy followed in 1996 and as a CSgt Instructor his first glimpse of life outside the Household Division. By the turn of the century, he was now the CSM of the Queens Company having completed a spell as the CQMS and a deployment to Northern Ireland and overseas training exercise in Jamaica, called



KENYA 1994 – Platoon Sgt 1 PI The Queens Company.

rather ironically EX Red Stripe!. The 1st Battalion were now based in Pirbright as part of the newly formed 12 Mech Bde. This would be the start of the future rotation between State Ceremonial tasking in LONDIST and Field Army tasking with 12 Bde. Later that year the Battalion moved to Windsor, during this time under the command of Brigadier David Maddan managed to defy all odds, defeating the restrictions placed on UK training by the outbreak of Foot and Mouth and deploy to Norway completing an arduous training exercise.

As the Regimental Quartermaster Sergeant (Main)) he served under both Dave Beresford and Andy Green before he was appointed as The Sergeant Major 1st Battalion in June 2004. Under the guidance of Brigadier David Russell-Parsons the Battalion deployed to Bosnia in 2004/05 and then Iraq early in 2006. At this time, no one appreciated fully the operational exposure that the 1st Battalion would experience in the coming years. Commissioned in 2006 Captain Gask was assigned to the Infantry Training Center at Catterick as Second in Command of The Guards Training Company and responsible for training team manning and exercises. It provided the opportunity to move the family home to Richmond North Yorkshire where it has remained.

On return to regimental duty as the Regimental Careers management officer the battalion was in Wellington Barracks immersed in State

Ceremonial Duties. The Commanding officer, now General Roly Walker viewed the management of the balance between the provision of ceremonial commitments and operational readiness as a priority and the subsequent return to Afghanistan and Helmand Province in 2010 justified this stance. This operational tour again proved to be a testing environment, which enabled the Battalion to further enhance its reputation recognized by individual honours and awards but at a cost. This tour of duty saw the Battalion sadly lose 5 soldiers including the Sergeant Major, Daz Chant, a close friend and colleague and severe injury to several other officers and soldiers.

A return to Afghanistan in 2013 as Quartermaster saw the Battalion under command of Gen James Bowder. The Battalion took over a new Area of Operations from a Danish Battle Group and although this tour would prove to be the Battalions last in Afghanistan it did not offer any rest bite in its challenge. The environment that the Guardsman operated in was physically and mentally demanding requiring the highest levels of personal discipline and leadership. The commitment and professionalism that the all ranks of the Battalion demonstrated was widely recognized and was rewarded with awards across the chain of command, most significantly the brave action conducted by LCpl James Ashworth who was posthumously awarded the regiments fourteenth Victoria Cross.

In 2014 he was selected to attend the Intermediate Command Staff College at Shrivenham. Whilst on the course he was awarded the MBE on her Majesty's birthday honours list in recognition of his service during his appointment as Quartermaster of the 1st Battalion during the previous year including the deployment to Afghanistan. On completion of Staff College, he was assigned to the Allied Rapid Reaction Corps at Innsworth. As the staff officer responsible for the lead element of the HQ deployed manning state a busy two-year period followed with deployment to Lithuania and Latvia and an early introduction to the international environment of NATO.

A return to the regimental fold followed as company commander of Headquarter Company in spring 2016. The post was additionally responsible for the role of Battle Group Logistics Officer and



BGLO in Kenya 2017.

under the leadership of Colonel Alex Mackay the Battalion prepared to take up the role of spear head element of the NATO Very High Readiness Joint Task Force. Preparatory exercises in the UK and in Latvia culminated in a final evaluation exercise in Kenya.

Selected for an overseas staff appointment in the UAE as the operational safety officer for Joint Force Support Middle East in Jul 2017 he deployed to RAF Minhad near Dubai. Responsible for operational safety audits across all UK Defence sites in the Middle East it proved to be a busy and very rewarding deployment. On return to the UK later that year he was assigned to the School of Infantry as the Deputy Chief of Staff. Infantry training both at initial entry and advanced career courses was under scrutiny as a result of recent operational experience and Infantry recruitment concerns all courses were reviewed. In the post of DCOS he was directly involved in the delivery of a variety of new equipment that supported a modern approach in training and in equipping new Infantry recruits with modern on the man kit enhancing the recruits training experience.

Selected for promotion to Lieutenant Colonel in Oct 2018 he deployed to Latvia as the branch head operations/plans and training. Little did he know that the previous visits to the Baltics whilst at the ARRC or as the BGLO in the 1st Battalion would provide valuable experience in readiness for a final tour of duty accompanied with his wife Claire in Riga. The deployment by nature has been isolated, beside the Defence Attaché at the UK Embassy initially there were no other UK military staff in Latvia. The unit comprising of 42 staff and international in design is responsible for the early coordination and integration of allied forces arriving into the Baltic Sea Region. It provides real time situational awareness for NATO command structures and enables host nation support in their reception and staging of arriving forces. The team he headed including five different nations across land, maritime and air provided both a professional challenge and real time purpose given its proximity the Russian border. On completion of his tour of duty he was awarded a silver medal from the Latvian National Armed Forces Chief of Defence. The award is in recognition of his dedication and commitment to the NATO Force Integration Unit in support of the defence of the State of Latvia.

Gordon and his wife will retire to the family home in Richmond North Yorkshire before planning a future overseas adventure.



RIGA 2021 – Lieutenant General Leonids Kalnins (Chief of Defence) presents Lieutenant Colonel Gordon Gask MBE with the Latvian National Armed Forces Silver Medal in recognition of his support to the Latvian National Armed Forces.



TURKEY

Life in Turkey

by *Captain Richard Phillips*

Time flies when you're having fun is probably a bit of a cliché when starting an article in the Grenadier Gazette. I'm sure the phrase time flies when you're locked down on the Aegean Coast for six months isn't. It has been one year and two months since my wife and I started packing up our house in Kingston and flew to Izmir, Turkey. Even though Covid 19 peaked during our time here I was still extremely conscious of balancing extracts about work and play. Working in a NATO HQ in a tourist destination, on the west coast of Turkey, the two intersect quite often. I thought it best to approach this article as a bit of a reminder. To anyone who has been worked like a trojan slave in Andover or Battalion HQ there are still posts that exist where, at 1400, you can be ROC Drilling Multi Corps Graduated Response Plans (GRP) in Eastern Europe and by 1700 you are BBQing chicken wings and kofte on the beach whilst surveying turquoise water considering whether to take a short dip before or after said sustenance.

Cordelia, my wife, and I arrived in a sweltering City



Straight from the office to the beach.

in a country that I had never been to for a posting that I knew very little about. I was allocated an RLC Captain, Gary Millen, to guide me through my first three weeks. This was a happy coincidence as I knew Gary from the Battalion's tour in Iraq in 2018 where he had been attached with a bomb disposal team. It became quickly apparent that arriving in July meant that I had to abide by the somewhat strict rules on when summer leave must be taken according to the busy NATO calendar filled with hundreds of national and seasonal holidays. After a few days of 'move and track' and other G1 essentials I was ordered on 3 weeks leave. Luckily for us the Aegean coast has a lot to offer in July. A caveat for the workaholics amongst you, I have tried my best for this not to read as a travel diary for Turkey's Hotspot destinations rather a broad experience of a NATO posting. We started in Çeşme and Alaçatı, small fishing villages which overlook the Greek Island of Chios. These have become havens for influencers and Turkish socialites desperate to be seen in one of the brusque and rather gauche beach clubs, however, if you delve into the back alleys, you can find delightful fish restaurants and rather good Turkish Chardonnay. As July rolled hastily into August we headed down the coast for a week of scuba diving in Fethiye before a weekend in Şirince where the local wine tastes like pomegranate juice. In early September our first summer break ended and work was to begin.

NATO LANDCOM HQ is the Multi Corps Land Component Command or the Land Component Command. The name and purpose of the HQ seems to be a constant debate in all departments however the key tasks stay consistent. The organisation and writing of the GRPs and overseeing Land Domain Advisory Teams (LDATs), Combat Readiness Evaluation Teams (CREVAL) and a plethora of other smaller tasks related to the NATO Deployable Land Elements (DLEs). The G5 Policy Branch, where I was placed, had it's fingers in every pie thanks to the unwavering drive of various US Lieutenant Colonels, or OF4s in NATO lingo. The US OF4, in general, is apparently a creature that does not sleep, rarely leaves the office and exists solely on Coca-Cola Zero and cigarettes. The examples in G5 are extreme cases and the repercussions of their work ethic are felt daily in the department. Work

kicked off with tidying up the Commanders Intent, a 10 page document, and then helping write the first draft of LANDCOM's input to the Defence and Deterrence of the Euro-Atlantic Area or DDA paper. As you can only imagine the acronyms and abbreviations have given me a permanent tic – 'we don't abbreviate in the Guards!'. Proceedings continued like this well into late summer until October when the seismic changes that Covid was having on the rest of the world were acknowledged by Turkey and we succumbed to a 2nd lockdown. Having only experienced the pretty stringent 1st lockdown in the UK I was interested to see how Turkey and LANDCOM would approach it. The city almost entirely shut down, shops opened at specific times with specific groups admitted, leaving one's house was banned and patrolling police numbers, which are already high, increased dramatically. LANDCOM implemented a 50/50 manning policy whereby 50% of an office would work from home, the other 50% would remain. Unfortunately all G5 work is done on NATO SECRET computers and this cannot be transferred onto any laptop so many of us had to resign ourselves to weeks at home in balmy weather with very little to do. The Samos-İzmir earthquake occurred at this time and it saddens me to say that the effects of this were drastically exacerbated by the lock down and the stubbornness of the Turkish government to accept International aid. The shockwaves were extreme and we as a contingent were very lucky to be living in modern earthquake proof houses and apartments.

During this time I developed an amateur anthropological interest in the Turkish local populace. I will not bore anyone with all the details but I shall touch on the Turkish approach to seasonal temperature changes which is quite an interesting phenomenon. Temperatures peak at around 45°C in the city centre and in the sloping foothills where we live. Turks can be seen in suits, jeans and gilets in the PM. As the temperatures drop society reacts rapidly. Sub 40°C full

jumpers and men rubbing and blowing their hands in the morning can be witnessed whilst swimming pools and beach clubs start to close. By sub 30°C all pools have shut, all beaches are unoccupied at all times and full coats are donned. By the end of December when the weather actually starts to turn and there are lows of 4°C and 5°C Turkish locals look more like members of Captain Scott's expedition to the South Pole. Yabancı, literally translating as *foreign*, as we are called, already stand out because of our pale complexions. In the lead up to winter we look like deranged lunatics in swimming shorts and flip flops surrounded by people wearing thick coats, jeans and boots.

A delightful Christmas in the UK with family was followed by an indolent 2 and a half month stint in Clapham Junction due to Covid restricted flights. Cordelia and I returned to our Turkish house to find it a knocking shop for stray cats, of which there are hundreds, as I had not shut one of the garden doors properly. The HQ was ramping up work in preparation for Loyal Bonus part 1. A multi corps HQ exercise in Istanbul and, I realised, the more savvy division heads were also laying down foundations for the months of July and August when the entire HQ would reduce manning for summer. The exercise was a marked success for the lower tiers of the HQ and moral was relatively high as we all returned to Izmir. Flights were 'turned back



Summit of Mount Ararat.

on' and I was sent to a very interesting Conference in Valencia. Our Turkish Chief of Staff hosted an explanation of the details of SACEUR's Strategic Plan for Europe (SSP) to various other Chief's of Staff of NATO HQs. Valencia is a delightful city bloated by heavy Rioja and oily Ibérico. Reading Laurie Lee's *A Moment of War* over a large platter of paella gave the 4 day visit some interesting historical context.

In June, summer leave loomed and with Covid restrictions lifted in Turkey on 1st July, plans were drawn up. No question of us returning to the UK we climbed Mount Ararat with a Turkish climbing company. 15 people in total with 6 from the HQ and 3 from BAE Systems in Ankara. The highest mountain in Turkey at 5137m the ascent and descent were completed in just under 5 days. Every single British person succumbed to severe altitude sickness or stomach upset from drinking glacier meltwater. Only 5 of us in the whole group summited. A pyrrhic victory for us and for mountaineering in general, there are now 15 less people that will follow this hobby in the future. In August, Cordelia and I, alongside most of the HQ, drove down the coast, through the fires, to Kaş, Kalkan, Datça, Marmaris and Bodrum for sun, sea and swimming pools.

It is now October and with the No.5 board results in the end is nigh. It has been an extremely interesting posting sadly curtailed in all aspects by Covid 19. Work has been reduced, fun has been reduced and cultural pursuits have been reduced and yet so much fun has still been had. Although the



What goes up must come down!

crimson of my tunic and pitch black of my bearskin call to me daily this posting has made me realise there is more to life than impeccable drill and smart turnout. NATO postings afford us a glimpse at the highest levels of planning involved in dissuading Russia and China's posturing alongside the chance to live in countries we may never visit. Don't be the person that says 'don't bother everyone will pick that job' be the person that just puts it down... someone has to do it.





Third Regiment of Foot Guards repulsing the attack of the Old Guard on 18th June 1815 by Richard Simkin: NAM (out of copyright).

How the Regiment became the Grenadier Guards – The True Story

by Gareth Glover

I am sure that every Grenadier Guard has been told how they gained their name at Waterloo, but may also be aware that there has been a long running dispute with the 52nd Foot (now a battalion of the Rifles) over who should rightly have gained the honours for defeating the French Imperial Guard at Waterloo.

I have recently thoroughly researched all of the available evidence on all sides, including the French claims, for a book published in November 2020 entitled *The Great Waterloo Controversy, The Story of the 52nd Foot at History's Greatest Battle*. From this research, using all of the very latest research, it is very clear that not only the 1st Foot Guards (as they were at Waterloo), but Adam's Brigade

(including the 52nd Foot) and Chasse's Dutch/Belgian troops all had a hand in defeating separate parts of the badly coordinated attack by the French Imperial Guard, which arrived piecemeal in three separate bodies. Space does not allow for a full expose of all of this information in this article, so let us concentrate on the attack defeated by the 1st Foot Guards and why they were really granted their title as 'Grenadier Guards' in commemoration of their deeds.

Napoleon had seen that the mass cavalry charges had failed to break Wellington's centre and the cream of his horsemen were exhausted by 6pm and were little more than a spent force. His line infantry on both wings had also been deployed in major attacks and had failed signally to break through. His remaining options were diminishing rapidly. In Napoleon's estimation, Wellington's army must be thoroughly exhausted and worn down and this was the perfect moment to launch a final blistering attack by his elite, the Imperial Guard, to carve a path through the weakened allied centre, causing it

to collapse and rout.

Unfortunately for Napoleon, his calculations were not to be as straightforward as that, as from 4pm, he no longer only had Wellington's army to contend with. Marshal Blucher's Prussians had finally arrived and launched a furious assault on the village of Plancenoit in Napoleon's right rear, the French Emperor had been forced to deploy a significant number of troops to hold the Prussians back. These included Lobau's Corps, five thousand men of the Young Guard and two battalions of his Old Guard there to finally stabilise the situation.

Napoleon's options were now very limited indeed, he could either order a full retreat in order to fight another day, or he could launch one final attack on Wellington's army, which he was certain was near to collapse. Defeating Wellington's forces would allow him to turn his entire remaining force against the Prussians, whom he was confident of beating. Ever the adventurer, he characteristically chose to roll the

dice one last time. Napoleon ordered his remaining Old and Middle Guard units to launch an attack on Wellington's right centre, confident of victory.

The French Version

To properly understand what occurred during the attack of the Imperial Guard, we have first to examine what the French sources actually say happened. Napoleon only had 14 (or 15 – see below) battalions of Middle and Old Guard which he could utilise. Some historians argue that in 1815, the Middle Guard were not officially reinstated and therefore all of these units were deemed as Old Guard, but it is clear whether reinstated or not, that the French Army still continued to refer to them as Middle and Old Guard in 1815.

There is also some confusion regarding the 4th Chasseurs, who certainly fought at Ligny on 16 June with two battalions, however one source, General Petit, states that following the heavy casualties



French Chasseur of Guard Knotel.



French Grenadier of Guard Knotel.

they suffered at Ligny, they were amalgamated into one battalion for Waterloo. We must however be circumspect in accepting his statement as fact. The official returns give losses for the two battalions of the 4th Chasseurs as 229, which averages a loss of 115 per battalion. The regiment mustered 1,071 officers and men before Ligny¹, meaning that even with the casualties deducted, each battalion still averaged around 421 men each. Given that few of the other Old or Middle Guard battalions greatly exceeded 500 men each, it seems very unlikely that it would have been deemed necessary to amalgamate the two battalions, as the joint battalion at 841 men would have been the strongest battalion of the Guard at the battle by far. I therefore believe that the 4th Chasseurs still acted as two separate battalions at Waterloo.

Napoleon knew that he had very little time in which to gain a victory, otherwise certain defeat was staring him in the face, so how was the advance organised? The Middle Guard was stationed a few hundred yards or so nearer to the battlefield than the Old Guard and hence would be able to deploy first. General Petit clearly states that:

*It was the custom of the Old [and Middle] Guard always to march the left at the head; the Chasseurs therefore always marched before the Grenadiers, and the last regiments were the Grenadiers. So the 4th Regiment of Chasseurs marched first, then the 3rd, then the 2nd.*²

Napoleon is not always the most reliable of witnesses, particularly when he was seeking to place all of the blame for a disaster on some poor subordinate. However, at times he can be more honest and forthright about his failures and the Guard attack would appear to be one such occasion, as his statement could only bring criticism upon himself and is therefore more likely to be his honest view of matters:

*Some regiments drew back, I noticed this.... Realizing, that I still needed another quarter of an hour to rally my whole Guard, I put myself at the head of four battalions and advanced...*³

General Gourgaud closely follows Napoleon's statement, but goes further, describing how:

*The Emperor...marched with the four first battalions. ...A quarter of an hour after, the other eight battalions arrived ...*⁴

However, it must be said, that Marshal Ney, who was prominently involved in this attack records that:

*A short time afterwards, I saw four regiments of the Middle Guard advancing, led on by the Emperor.*⁵

General Pelet who was in the attack commanding the 2nd Chasseurs states:

*the 3rd and 4th Regiments of Chasseurs during the attack, agree that these regiments had received only a few musket shots and a few cannon balls that were fired from their left. Michel [overall Commander of the Chasseurs of the Guard] and Mallet [Commander of the 3rd Chasseurs] fell dead with the first divisions. General Friant was seriously injured. These four battalions heroically endured a terrible fire.*⁶

This clearly indicates that the Chasseurs were acting alone, naming only senior officers of Chasseurs as casualties, and importantly he goes further:

All agree that the regiments of Grenadiers were several hundred feet behind and could not take part in this attack. We are forced to admit that this heroic attack went very badly. ...Firstly we did not

1 Figures from Andrew Field's *Grouchy's Waterloo* pp 279.

2 Petit pp 322.

3 Napoleon (De Chair) pp 535.

4 Gourgaud pp 106-7

5 Marshal Ney's own memorial of the campaign.

6 Pelet, Carnet de la Sabretache pp 50.

*wait for the arrival of the Grenadiers... we did not wait for the end of the deployment executed under fire from the enemy, to make a simultaneous attack. All attacks were isolated and disconnected.*⁷

The belief that the Grenadiers advanced some short time after the Chasseurs is corroborated by General Poret de Morvan who commanded the 3rd Grenadiers, who wrote in the third person:

*Already in the first line of the Imperial Guard, the brave Generals Friant [commanding the Chasseur attack] and Michel [commanding the Chasseurs] had been wounded... and Colonel Malet [commanding 1st Battalion 3rd Chasseurs] was killed...the column, led by Poret de Morvan [3rd Grenadiers], who ascended the plateau to the pas de charge under a terrible fire, came to revive the first line'.*⁸

I have underlined this final phrase, which serves to confirm that the Grenadiers came up after the Chasseurs, effectively as a second wave to the attack. This struck the allied line further to the east (on the other side of the tongue of land where the Lion Mound now stands) and was therefore invisible to most of the British troops who had fought the Chasseur attack.

Quite rightly, many historians have pointed out that it is pretty certain that the 1st Foot Guards faced the four battalions of the 3rd and 4th Chasseurs of the Middle Guard and it is certain that they defeated Chasseurs and not Grenadiers. So how could this confusion have occurred?

We must first take note of the problems with identification. The French fought as usual in their greatcoats with their white belts over them, making distinctions between units very difficult even at close range. However Imperial Guard units could be relatively easily distinguished from the soldiers of the line regiments, as they wore a blue greatcoat rather than the standard grey or brown. It was also easier to identify Middle and Old Guard

uniforms from the Young Guard as they generally wore bearskins rather than shakos. Indeed, the only quick and easy method of identifying the difference, was that the Grenadiers had a brass plaque on the front of their bearskin, which the Chasseurs did not. However, in the heat of battle, in the half light, with the swirling smoke and with no prior knowledge of Imperial Guard uniforms, having never met them in combat before, I believe that most British eyewitnesses simply saw a bearskin through the smoke and presumed that they were Old Guard Grenadiers.

The 1st Foot Guards Version

We have a number of accounts by officers of the First Guards and I include here a small selection. Lieutenant Colonel Alexander Lord Saltoun of 3/1st Guards returned to the battalion from Hougoumont in the late afternoon, to soon find himself in command of the brigade as all ten officers senior to himself had been killed or wounded. He subsequently wrote to his wife claiming all of the success of defeating the Guard for his regiment and making it out to be little more than a picnic:

*About ½ past six⁹, Napoleon made his last desperate attack at the head of his Old Imperial Guards upon our brigade. It was a thing I always wished for and the result was exactly what I have often said it would be. To do them justice they came on like men but our boys went at them like Britons and drove them off the field in less than ten minutes.*¹⁰

However, far more of the eyewitnesses from the 1st Foot Guards claim to have seen two large columns, one of which they defeated and they readily admit that the latter was defeated by Adam's Brigade. Lieutenant Colonel John Reeve of 3/1st Guards helps to set the scene:

When the French Imperial Guard made their attack about 7 o'clock pm the 1st Brigade of Guards

⁷ Ibid.

⁸ Paul Dawson *Waterloo* pp 363

⁹ The attack by the Middle Guard occurred later, at around 7.30 to 8pm.

¹⁰ Glover, *Waterloo Archive Volume VI* pp 109.

were lying down in a line of four deep resting upon their arms and as far as my recollection carries me, occupied the position which I have marked upon the plan¹¹, being covered by some broken and gently rising ground in their front. They had been thus situated for about the space of 20 minutes previously to the enemy's last attack, all firing in their immediate front having ceased. The enemy, advanced in two parallel close columns of infantry of the Imperial Guard in a front of Grand Divisions preceded by a very strong line of sharpshooters¹² who came on in a most gallant and determined manner, shouting and keeping up a most destructive fire. On the enemy's columns arriving within about 30 paces of our line they halted, but from the warm reception they met with, instead of deploying they commenced firing several file deep evidently in confusion; at that moment we charged them — they began to waver; went to the right about and fled in all directions.¹³

Ensign Joseph St John of 2/1st Foot Guards, wrote of the attack:

...they opened another tremendous cannonade for some time, we then heard musket balls whizzing over our heads and our division alone took ground to the left just on the ridge of a hill, where the French Imperial Guards were, we were then ordered to lay down till the Imperial Guards came up close. The prisoners of them all say that Bonaparte came up to them and said his last hope was in them and that if they broke our front the plunder of Brussels should be their reward. When we laid down, the Imperial Guards thought we were gone and they came up very fast, the moment they came near we jumped up and poured in such a volley upon them that they could not stand it and from that time there was a complete defeat of the French, it was a second Leipzig¹⁴ with [the] slaughter.¹⁵



1st Foot Guards (detail) from *The Battle of Waterloo* by Dennis Dighton: © Creative Commons.

11 Not extant.

12 Few mention skirmishers in front of the squares.

13 Glover, *Letters from the Battle of Waterloo*, pp 160.

This confirms that the Second Battalion were involved in the fighting, however, Colour Sergeant Charles Wood 3/1st Foot Guards makes it clear that his battalion stood the brunt of the fighting:

He [Napoleon] then sent against us his Grenadier Imperial Guards; they came within 100 yards of us and ported arms to charge; but we advanced upon them in quick time, and opened a brisk file fire by two [the third and fourth ranks could not fire] ranks, they allowed us to come within about 30 yards of them, they stood till then, looking at us, as if panic struck, and did not fire, they then, as we approached, faced about and fled for their lives, in all directions. They did not like the thought of the British bayonets, for we had just commenced the charge, they ran very fast, but many of them fell, while we pursued, and with them one stand of Colours; and I have the honour to wear a colonel's sword of the French Imperial Guard.¹⁶

Lieutenant Henry Powell of the 2/1st Foot Guards explained how the brigade formed unconventionally into four deep line and drove the first column of Imperial Guards away, but finding a second Guard column advancing on their right, he is honest enough to admit that the British guardsmen were forced to hurriedly retire to the ridge line.

In less than a minute above 300 were down. They now wavered, and several of the rear divisions began to draw out as if to deploy, whilst some of the men in their rear beginning to fire over the heads of those in front was so evident a proof of their confusion, that Lord Saltoun, ...holloaed out 'Now's the time my boys'¹⁷. immediately the brigade sprang forward. La Garde turned and gave us little opportunity of trying the steel. We charged down the hill till we had passed the end of the orchard of Hougoumont, when our right flank became exposed to another

heavy column... who were advancing in support of the former column. This circumstance, besides that our charge was isolated, obliged the brigade to retire towards their original position.¹⁸

Lieutenant Thomas Henry Davies of 3/1st Foot Guards also claims that the first column was driven off with heavy loss.

When the French Imperial Guards advanced to the attack, the same manoeuvre was repeated by the British Guards and the French Guards, whose attack was made in column, were broken and driven back with great slaughter; the field being literally covered with their dead.¹⁹

Almost all eyewitnesses from the 1st Foot Guards claim that they endured a firefight with the Imperial Guard for five to ten minutes, they then carried out a bayonet charge, driving them down the forward slope. They then fell into some confusion themselves, coinciding with the appearance of a Second Column on their right flank. Some witnesses claim that they remained well down the forward slope, quickly rallied and then turned to their right to face the new column. Others however, admit that they ran back to the ridgeline and only reformed once there, hastily preparing to receive the Second Column. The latter version, from the evidence, must be the truth, as the 52nd could not see the Guards at all when they descended into the valley against this second column, nor when they marched horizontally across the front of the allied position. All of the evidence leads to the fact that the British Guards must have retired to reform behind the ridgeline, those who claim otherwise must be mistaken or are lying to avoid admitting that the 1st Guards fell back in such confusion.

In summary, for the British Guards to have continued a prolonged firefight, advanced with

14 The Battle of Leipzig (or Battle of the Nations) was fought between 16–19 October 1813 and involved over 600,000 soldiers leading to 100,000 casualties, but over a wide area. The fighting at Waterloo was more intense on a local scale.

15 Glover, *The Waterloo Archive Volume VI*, pp 107.

16 Glover, *The Waterloo Archive Volume VI*, pp 129.

17 Such phrases, such as 'Up Guards and at them!' are more often attributed to the Duke of Wellington.

18 Siborne, *The Waterloo Letters*, pp 254.

19 Siborne, *The Waterloo Letters*, pp 257.

the bayonet, charging well down the forward slope and then hurriedly returning beyond the ridgeline, all before the head of the Second Column arrived on the ridgeline, means that this second column was AT LEAST fifteen to twenty minutes behind the First Column.

The Naming of the Grenadier Guards

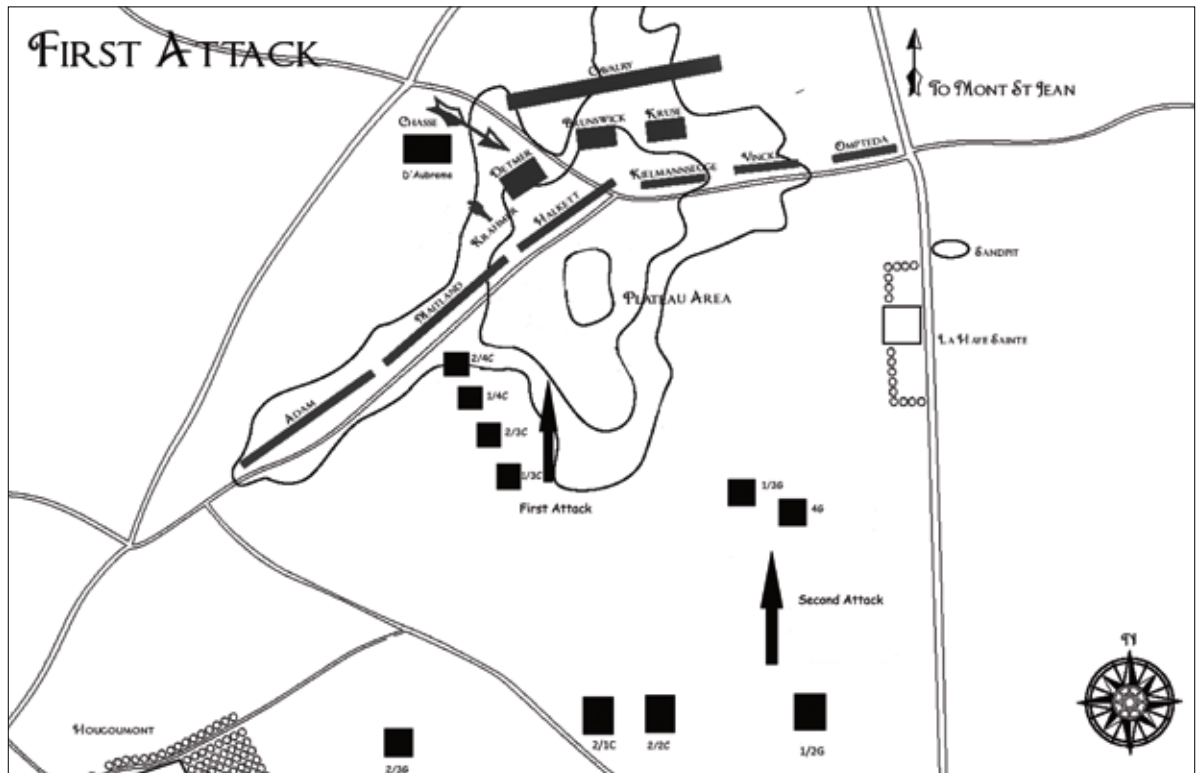
The Duke of Wellington returned to his quarters in the village of Waterloo physically and emotionally exhausted and his attempts at getting some rest was disturbed by Doctor Hume in the early hours, who came to him to inform him of the death or maiming of dozens of close colleagues and personal friends.

The Duke was clearly emotionally broken by this battle and his comment that *'thank God, I don't know what it is to lose a battle; but certainly nothing*

can be more painful than to gain one with the loss of so many of one's friends' simply reflected the melancholy that overwhelmed him following such terrible carnage.

Despite all of this, the Duke was up at dawn, sitting at his desk to write a despatch for the Prince Regent, declaring the victory, which he did not name, but heading his paper as usual *'Headquarters Waterloo'* and the name stuck, over *'Mont St Jean'* as the French termed it, or *'La Belle Alliance'* as the Prussians preferred, both of which were more correct geographically. Having finished a draft, Wellington rode to Brussels and having checked it over one more time, before giving it to his aide de camp Major Henry Percy, to carry to London.

Wellington was renowned for his terse battle reports, which barely covered the salient facts of the battle and rarely singled out individuals



First Attack.

or regiments for specific praise²⁰. His Waterloo despatch was no different and many hoping for a mention were to be bitterly disappointed. His description of the actual battle is particularly short, dealing more with the operations that culminated in the Battle of Waterloo and those of his Prussian allies, than any detailed account of the battle itself. Indeed, d'Erlon's attack and the stout defence by his heavily outnumbered infantry on his left wing is completely ignored, beyond a brief mention of the subsequent charge of the British heavy cavalry and the capture of many prisoners and one [sic] eagle.

The subsequent huge French cavalry attacks on the allied right centre receives no comment and the final defeat of the Imperial Guard only receives a cursory mention, which does not even hint at the Imperial Guard being involved at all. There is no mention of either Maitland's Guard Brigade, Adam's Light Brigade or Chasse's troops, nor indeed are the subsequent charges of the British light cavalry brigades alluded to. Indeed, it is perfectly fair to say that Wellington really pleased no one with his despatch. The only mention of the Guards was in relation to the defence of Hougoumont, which does get a short paragraph, but of course Wellington personally viewed it as the key to his entire position, no matter what some recent historians think of that.

So having written so little on the battle itself, how was it that Lord Bathurst was standing up in Parliament only five days after the battle, announcing that the Imperial Guard had been defeated by the British 1st Foot Guards and prompting the Prince Regent to announce that he was renaming the regiment the 'Grenadier Guards' in commemoration?

Henry Bathurst, the 3rd Earl Bathurst, was Secretary of State for War and the Colonies. His

eldest Henry Lord Apsley was in Brussels as a civilian in June 1815, and another son Seymour, was an Ensign in the 1st Foot Guards and served at the Battle of Waterloo. Henry wrote to his father from Brussels on 19 June and he probably had the letter sent in the official despatch bag, it certainly would have been in London by 22 June. This letter has been readily available to anyone who wanted to find it in Bathurst's correspondence. In it Apsley states:

The Duke has forgot to tell you in his despatch that the French not only left all their cannon, baggage etc, but that they threw away their arms and knapsacks. Such a sight as the field of battle was never seen. Bonaparte ... led the Imperial Guard in person. He was met by the 1st Regiment of the Guards, which threw them quite over. Seymour was in this affair.²¹

The mail would easily be in London from Brussels within three days and on 23 June Earl Bathurst stood up to announce the great victory in Parliament. Within his long speech of thanks, he announced that:

*Towards the close of the day, Bonaparte himself at the head of his Guards, made a desperate charge upon the British Guards, and the British Guards instantly overthrew the French.*²²

The similarity between his son's letter and Bathurst's speech makes it clear where he got the information from.

In July 1815 the Prince Regent issued a proclamation naming the 1st Foot Guards, 'Grenadier' in recognition of their defeating the French Grenadiers of the Imperial Guard. It read:

War Office 29 July 1815²³

²⁰ The number of regiments mentioned fell throughout Wellington's wars. At Busaco in 1810 he picked out no fewer than 22 regiments for praise; at Fuentes d'Onoro in 1811 he mentioned 16; at Salamanca in 1812 only 2 regiments are named; at Vitoria in 1813 again only 2; at the Pyrenees in 1813 he did mention 15 regiments but this describes operations over some five days; at the Nivelle he did not mention any regiments specifically, at the Nive in 1813 he mentions 2 and at Toulouse in 1814 he mentioned 6. In his Waterloo Despatch covering both Quatre Bras and Waterloo he mentions 7 regiments.

²¹ Glover, *The Waterloo Archive Volume VII*, pp 266.

²² Hansard *The Parliamentary Debates from the Year 1803 to the Present Time Volume 31*, pp 973

²³ *The London Gazette* issue 17045, page 1537.

His Royal Highness has also been pleased to approve of the 1st Regiment of Foot Guards being made a regiment of Grenadiers, and styled *'The 1st or Grenadier Regiment of Foot Guards'* in commemoration of their having defeated the Grenadiers of the French Imperial Guards upon this memorable occasion.

Observant readers may have noticed that neither Wellington nor Lord Apsley had mentioned that they had defeated the Grenadiers of the Imperial Guard and Earl Bathurst did not say this in his speech to Parliament, so where did that claim come from?

A number of officers of the 1st Foot Guards actually wrote directly to the Duke of York immediately after the battle (many dated 19 June). This is explained by the fact that the Duke of York was then Colonel of the 1st Foot Guards and

officers were obviously 'toadying' up to him. One such letter, emanating from Lieutenant Colonel the Honourable James Stanhope stated:

The most gratifying event of the whole day was the desperate attack, made about seven o'clock by the Imperial Guard, headed by Buonaparte in person. His Grenadiers attacked the Guards, and had soon cause to find they would not sup in Brussels...²⁴

Such letters to the Duke of York, brother to the Prince Regent are undoubtedly the reason that the Prince decided to rename the Grenadier Guards in recognition of their feats. It is true that the 1st Foot Guards played a very significant role in the defeat of the Imperial Guard, but it is also certain that they did not defeat the Grenadiers, but the Chasseurs of the Guard.

²⁴ Glover, *The Waterloo Archives Volume I*, pp 133.

'A Damned Good Lot' Major Peter Bromley-Martin, the formation of the Parachute Regiment, and the valiant death of Captain Michael Bolitho

by Alan Ogden

A cold winter's day, somewhere in wartime England. Forty young men are clustered around three officers, one wearing the unmistakable star of the Coldstream Guards, one a grenade and one an unbadged side-cap. Welcome to L Troop, 11th Special Air Service battalion (11 SAS), later to become 1st Parachute Battalion, the founding battalion of The Parachute Regiment¹.

It is November 1941 and 24 year-old Lieutenant Michael Bolitho, Coldstream Guards², has arrived at Lower Croft Camp, Bury, to join 38-year-old Captain Peter Bromley-Martin, Grenadier Guards³, who has been there as a Troop commander since February, when he qualified for his wings at the Central Landing Establishment (CLE) at RAF Ringway after a three-week fieldcraft course at STC Lochailort⁴.

Not all of his parachute training had gone to plan; 'I went right through the top of a bloody great tree which frightened me out of my wits!' and in his last jump, after 'propelling my once portly person through the mine chute of a Whitney bomber...I landed heavily in 6 inches of water. They saw the splash in the hangars half a mile away'⁵.

11 SAS had been formed on 21 November 1940

¹ Curtis, Reg (1998) *Churchill's Volunteer*, Avon Books London. Author second from left back row

² TNA HS9/174/3

³ Record of Service, Bromley-Martin, P: prior to the outbreak of war, he had served for 7 years with the Royal Fusiliers and then two years with the TA; granted an Emergency Commission in the Grenadier Guards in 1940.

⁴ Special Training Centre for Commandos on the west coast of Scotland. Commanding Officer Lt Col Brian Mayfield (SG), Maj Bill Stirling (SG), Lt David Stirling (SG), RSM John Royal (SG)

⁵ Bromley-Martin's letters to RHQ Grenadier Guards, 13 and 28 February 1941.



L Troop 11 SAS.

With kind permission Airborne Assault (www.ParaData.org.uk)

when No 2 Commando was re-designated, with a Headquarters, a Parachute Wing and a Glider Wing. Initially the battalion retained its Commando structure of eight-man sections, but this was soon increased to 10 because the numbers conformed to a Whitley aircraft 'stick' of parachutists.

In January 1941, the whole unit was paraded on Shaw Heath in Knutsford and the Commanding Officer asked for volunteers for a dangerous mission. Every man stepped forward. After a short period of intensive training, a raiding party of seven officers and 28 men under command of Major 'Tag' Pritchard (X Troop) was dropped near the Tragino Aqueduct in the hills between Naples and Bari during the night of 10 February 1941 (Op COLOSSUS). Not all the stores were dropped, and one aircraft dropped its stick in the wrong valley but enough explosives were collected to destroy the aqueduct which supplied fresh water to the major naval ports of Taranto and Brindisi.

X Troop then had to march 50 miles in five days, across difficult, mountainous terrain in wintry condition to RV with a submarine, HMS *Triumph*, which would take them back to Malta. Travelling in three separate groups, they were all captured over the course of the next few days; most had only managed a few miles over the mud encased terrain as they evaded civilians and the Carabinieri.

The manpower shortage left by the loss of X Troop was quickly made up with a draft of Guardsmen from the commando centre at Achnacarry who joined Bromley-Martin's L Troop. The troop included Grenadiers like LCpl Cadwallader 'whose face was as wide as a Chinaman, rosy cheeks, punched nose, and fair hair'; Sgt Whitley, 'just twenty years old, brisk and fresh, full of energy, who answers only with a terrific salute, Sa... Sa... Sa'; and Gdsm Sambourne, 'a gentleman, with spectacles, for enigmatic reasons in the ranks'.⁶

Always intrigued by advances in military

⁶ Kellas, Arthur (1995) *Down to Earth*, Pentland Press, Bishop Auckland.

technology, Churchill visited the CLE to assess the progress of his new pet project, Airborne Forces. The dropping display was far from perfect, so another demonstration was laid on for the King and senior military officers near Windsor. Under continuous pressure from Churchill who hankered after a force of 5,000⁷ compared to the actual number of 500, the Chiefs of Staff issued a Joint Memorandum in May 1941 recommending the expansion of 11 SAS into a parachute brigade of three battalions in an infantry rather than commando role.

Ironically, it was that same month that the German *Fallschirmjäger* division dropped into Crete en masse; they lost some 4,000 men killed and 2,500 wounded from a single, small formation of just 12,000 men. These were elite soldiers, and expensive ones, moreover, with highly specialized skills and training. They could not be easily replaced. Consequently, apart from Special Forces, the German High Command decided to abandon the concept of largescale drops.

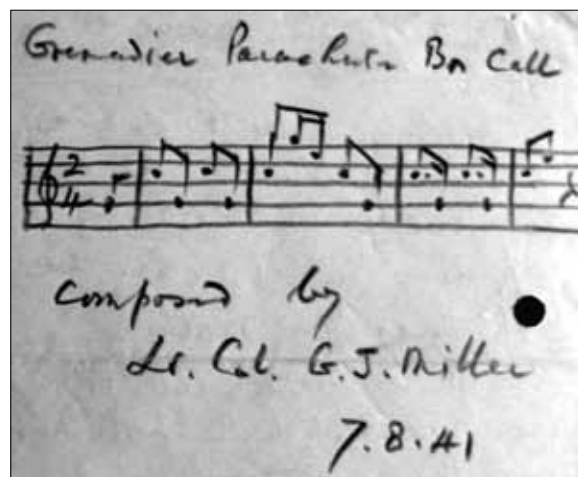
Meanwhile, the pace of 11 SAS training intensified, and the speed of their marches increased. At the end of one such march, each troop was dismissed and collapsed on the grass verges to rest. Not so Bromley-Martin's L Troop at the rear of the column: they finished the march with rifles at the slope and smartly halted, turned left and stood at ease. It was an impressive show and the Commanding Officer congratulated them, much to the irritation of their colleagues.

On the 25 August, 11 SAS duly reorganised into a conventional headquarters and rifle company structure similar to the war establishment of an infantry battalion, albeit with lower manning levels. A fourth rifle company was temporarily established and some of the companies also carried a temporary extra platoon. Three weeks later, the unit name changed to 1st Parachute Battalion of 1 Parachute Brigade, a designation that marked the coming of age of British Airborne Forces.

In response to 'a rather fast ball bowled by his new commanding officer' for a regimental call for the new battalion, Bromley-Martin arranged for the Director of Music of the Grenadier Guards,

the legendary Lieutenant Colonel George Miller, to compose the bugle call for the 1st Parachute Battalion. He quickly obliged.

In early November 1941, another Grenadier arrived, not in Lancashire but in Storey's Gate in London, where GHQ Home Forces was located. It was the newly promoted Major General Boy Browning as Commander Para-Troops and Airborne Division. With him were two more Grenadiers, Lieutenant Colonel John Goschen as AA&QMG and Major Sir Richard des Voeux, GSO2 (Ops)⁸. It was a meteoric rise for Browning given that he had finished commanding the 2nd Battalion Grenadier Guards as recently as 1 August 1939.



11 SAS bugle call.

For Bromley-Martin, now fondly regarded as one of the founding fathers of para-troops, the future looked rosy. He was among fellow Grenadiers who shared his fervent belief in the efficacy of airborne forces and the days of persuading the military establishment to believe in arming Icarus were over.

Almost immediately, preparations for Operation BITING began, an audacious plan to obtain cutting edge German *Würzburg* radar technology from a heavily guarded installation on the Brittany coast. Browning appointed Major Johnny Frost (later of Arnhem fame) as the commander of the raiding party (C Company, 2nd Parachute Battalion) and

⁷ Minute PM to Ismay 6 June 1940

⁸ Later killed at Arnhem when commanding 156th Bn.

chose Bromley-Martin to be its liaison officer with Divisional HQ.

From the start, Frost had reservations about the outline plan as the company structure had been replaced with one of specialist teams thereby reducing his ability to respond to the unexpected. Bromley-Martin took him to see the GSO1 but to no avail. At this stage Frost was still in the dark about the target, so Bromley-Martin decided to take him into his confidence and explained that he needed to comply with the plan as it had been specifically devised to overcome the German defences at Bruneval.

An integral part of the plan was to send Donald Priest, a government scientist from the Telecommunications Research Establishment (TRE) along with the raiders. Arriving for lunch at Syrencote House, Browning's new Divisional HQ near Salisbury, he was welcomed by Bromley-Martin and after being shown an aerial photograph of the parabolic dish on the cliff top at Bruneval, was asked if he would like to come along. He replied in the affirmative with alacrity and left with an offer to return as soon as possible for a short course in parachuting. Within hours, the staff of Combined Operations, horrified by the idea that one of Britain's key TRE radar scientists could be killed or captured by the Germans, withdrew Bromley-Martin's offer and arranged for Priest to accompany the naval extraction force instead.

The raid went ahead on 27 February 1942 and the radar equipment, five German prisoners including a technician and all but six of the raiding force were successfully extracted, including the wounded. It had exceeded all expectations. Churchill summoned Frost and other members of the raid to address the War Cabinet which was also attended by Mountbatten and Browning. One man, Bromley-Martin, was conspicuous by his absence. He had fallen foul of Browning.

In a letter from the GSO1 Airborne Division, dated 23 March 1942, Bromley-Martin was informed that Browning and his staff were of 'the firm opinion... that you are not fitted by experience, temperament

or efficiency to hold the appointment of Brigade Major 1st Parachute Brigade (*Ed* – his appointment had already published)' and furthermore 'you are not competent to represent the Airborne Forces at HQ Combined Operations...for reasons which came too clearly to light during Op BITING'. Browning himself had told Grenadier Regimental HQ that 'this officer immediately gave the show away and I and the Divisional Staff were almost driven off our heads by his stupidity, tactlessness and muddle-headedness'⁹.

Notorious for his moods and 'explosive temper'¹⁰, Browning presumably objected both to Bromley-Martin's affable and in hindsight over-enthusiastic invitation to Priest which had caused such consternation in Mountbatten's Combined Operations HQ and to his premature induction of Frost into the Top Secret details of the target in an attempt to keep him on board. The only olive branch proffered to the disgraced Grenadier was an interview with Major General Colin Gubbins of the Special Operations Executive (SOE).

It was with some relief that, having had his temporary rank of Major regranted, Bromley-Martin arrived in Cairo in October 1942 to take up a new job as GSO2 Airborne Forces Middle East. His first 'customer' would have been Brigadier Shan Hackett's 4 Parachute Brigade¹¹ at Kibrit which had been assigned to the phantom 4th Airborne Division, part of Op CASCADE, a deception plan to keep the Axis guessing as to the strength of the Allies in the region.

Meanwhile, in March 1943 Browning had been appointed Major-General Airborne Forces and Airborne Adviser to Eisenhower, the Supreme Allied Commander Allied Forces HQ (Algiers), who was preparing for the invasion of Sicily. Arriving in Cairo on 12 April on a whirlwind tour of North Africa, Browning conferred with Montgomery before going on to Transjordan to inspect Hackett's brigade. There is no record of an encounter with Bromley-Martin, so it was either a case of let bygones be bygones or one of 'out of Browning's sight, out of Browning's mind'.

9 Record of Service, Bromley-Martin, P.

10 Meade, Richard (2010) *General 'Boy'*, Pen & Sword, Barnsley, p.56.

11 151st (Indian) Parachute battalion, 10th Parachute Battalion (being trained) and 11th Parachute Battalion (just formed).

In September the following year, Bromley-Martin popped up as attached to the British Army North Africa (BNAF), an administrative command supplying logistics and airlift to the newly arrived Allied armies in Italy. He ended the war working for SOE as GSO2 Special Ops HQ AAI (Allied Armies in Italy, formerly 15th Army Group). It was an admirable outcome for an officer who had dedicated so much of his time and energy to the concept of airborne forces despite the brush-off dealt to him by Browning.

Michael Bolitho did not remain with L Troop and returned to regimental soldiering with the 4th (Motor) Battalion attached to 6th Guards Tank Brigade at Frome before joining SOE in May 1942 as a weapon training and explosives instructor at the Special Training School (STS) in Arisaig¹². Major Donald Hamilton-Hill takes up the story in *SOE Assignment*¹³:

‘Gubbins told me of a Top Secret plan for the invasion of Western North Africa, TORCH. He said that I would be wanted to carry out a special task in connection with this new landing. I must choose a reliable French-speaking team of three volunteer officers who were thoroughly trained in explosive sabotage and anti-sabotage and defusing work.

I chose three of our best men at Arisaig – Captain Michael Bolitho of the Scots Guards (sic); Captain Williams of the South Wales Borderers and another. I asked them to come to London to see me and asked them if they wished to volunteer for an unknown operation. They did so happily. I sent them back to Arisaig with the brief on explosive training and told them to get terribly fit. They knew nothing of TORCH. Then, disappointment once again; only one man was wanted for this task and Gubbins said that it must not be me. I offered it to Bolitho¹⁴, and he jumped at it. He was duly promoted, and I sent him off to Norfolk House in St. James’s where General Eisenhower had his TORCH Headquarters. Michael came back to see me next day. Though he

would naturally divulge nothing of his task, he said, “It’s a pretty tough one”.



HMS Walney. Crown copyright National Archives.

Codenamed Op RESERVIST, the plan was for two Lend-Lease former US Coast Guard cutters, originally designed to patrol the Great Lakes during the time of Prohibition, to wait until Allied troops had landed either side of Oran and encircled the city and then crash through the defensive boom of two lines of roped-together coal barges which straddled the entrance to the harbour and land nearly 400 American infantry to secure the port for the disembarkation of tanks and artillery¹⁵. Two 6-men sections of 2 SBS in their folboats, using baby torpedoes still in their trials stage, were to breach the boom if the cutters failed to do so and then find opportunity targets in the harbour.

At 3.15am on 8 November 1942, the small taskforce under the command of 53 year old Captain Fred Peters, RN, DSO, DSC and bar, steamed at full speed towards the harbour. Protected by a smoke screen laid by two motor launches, HMS *Walney* charged the boom and managed to slice her way through; close astern came HMS *Hartland* carrying nearly all the 3rd Battalion of the 65th Infantry Regiment.

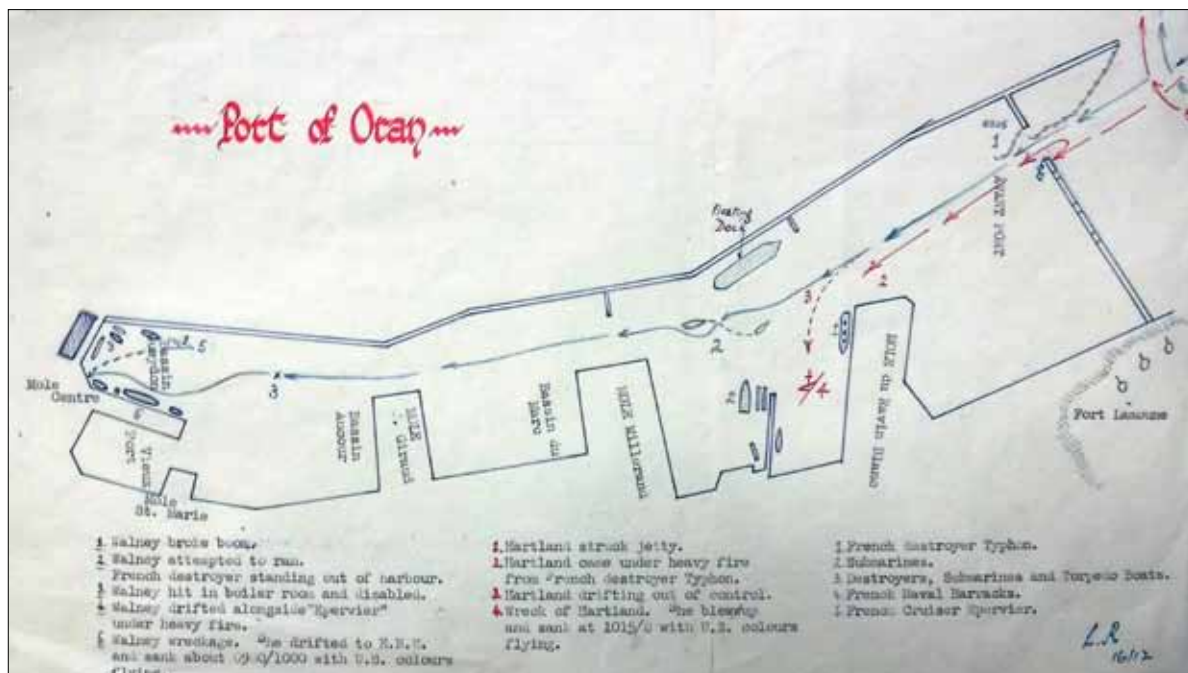
Then, as the smoke began to clear and with surprise lost, enemy searchlights swept the harbour and the shore batteries opened up. Proceeding up harbour, *Walney* met a French destroyer which she attempted to ram unsuccessfully and was raked by

12 TNA HS9/174/3

13 Hamilton-Hill, Donald (1973), *SOE Assignment*, William Kimber

14 TNA ADM 1/11915 Lt Col Guinness (SOE) 9 Oct 1942 letter to Captain Peters RN refers to sending him ‘an officer to help train the party – a French speaker and expert in explosives’.

15 Reardon, Mark J. Death at the Hands of Friends: The Oran Harbor Raid during Operation TORCH. *Army History*, no. 78, 2011, pp. 6–26. *JSTOR*, www.jstor.org/stable/26298929. Accessed 30 July 2021.



Crown copyright National Archives

two broadsides. Bolitho was standing forward of *Walney's* 3-inch gun when it received a direct hit¹⁶. The next shell hit the engine room and the ship began to drift. A few minutes later she came under fire from a French cruiser.

Hartland, caught in the searchlights, came under murderous fire: with both its guns knocked out and the ship engulfed in fire, it nevertheless managed to reach its objective half way down the Quai de Dunkerque. The captain, blinded in one eye by shrapnel and shot in the shoulder and leg, finally gave the order to abandon ship around 4am¹⁷. The SBS's folboats had been riddled with bullet holes but Lieutenant Eric Lunn's section was unscathed and assisted in the rescue of the ship's crew and its assault force of American soldiers.

Walney's SBS detachment, led by Captain Harry Holden-White, had managed to slip their folboats into the water and entered the harbour. As a French destroyer headed to the harbour entrance, Holden-

White fired a baby torpedo at it and later claimed 'a probable hit'. Meanwhile, on the bow of *Walney*, the 3rd Battalion officers were throwing grenades and loosing off their tommy guns at a nearby French submarine which had turned its gun in them. By now the range had closed to a Napoleonic distance of 50 metres, so when a 5.7-inch shell hit the *Walney's* bridge, everyone was killed save Peters and an American journalist. Within minutes, she capsized; 13 of her crew and Peters, wounded in an eye and shoulder, made it ashore on a Carley float and were detained.

Op RESERVIST had failed badly. 189 US soldiers were killed and another 157 needed medical attention. 79 British sailors died on *Walney* and another 33 on *Hartland*. 12 US personnel aboard *Hartland* were killed or wounded. Among the naval wounded were 86 Royal Navy and 20 attached US personnel. Almost everything that could go wrong had gone wrong. It later transpired that,

16 TNA HS9/174/3 Memo ADLI to MA dated 24 December 1942 states that, according to Lt Col Bobby Guinness (GSO1 MO1), Bolitho was last seen alive 4 mins before *Walney* was hit. The report came from Captain the Hon Cyril Douglas-Pennant RN who was COS to C-in-C Expeditionary Forces at AFHQ in Norfolk House.

17 TNA ADM 1/11915 Captain Billot's report of 9 December 1942 on loss of HMS *Hartland*

five days before the operation was to take place, intelligence reports indicated that the plan had been compromised, most probably by a senior Free French Officer who had Vichy sympathies.

Peters was awarded the Victoria Cross for 'leading his force in the face of point-blank fire... the *Walney* reached the jetty disabled and ablaze and went down with her colours flying'. Freed by American troops two days later, he was repatriated to the UK in an RAAF Sunderland. After encountering fierce headwinds and then heavy fog, instrument failure caused the aircraft to crash into Plymouth Sound, flipping over and splitting apart one and a half miles from shore. Unhurt, the pilot Flight Lieutenant Wynton Thorpe, found Peters still alive and tried to tow him to safety as he swam to a breakwater. After about an hour in the water when it became obvious that Peters was dead¹⁸, Thorpe finally gave up in exhaustion.

On his return to Cornwall, Holden-White was asked by Mountbatten, still Chief of Combined Operations HQ, to take part in an interview with the press to extol the success of the raid on Oran. In honour of all the men of Op RESERVIST he had seen die, he refused. Fortunately, his citation for a well-deserved MC remained intact and was gazetted in 1944.

Up until now, Michael Bolitho's mission has remained a mystery. Why was a weapon training and fieldcraft instructor from SOE's STS at Arisaig – with no experience in clandestine operations behind enemy lines – sent on the Oran raid? And why did he have to be French-speaking?

The clues lie in SOE's LOMRAY file which covers their support of military operations during TORCH. Vichy North Africa was the preserve of the fledgling OSS¹⁹ with whom SOE had signed a 'hands off' agreement²⁰ earlier that year. Once the Allied landings had taken place, both clandestine organizations agreed to work together under

Lieutenant Colonel Eddy of the OSS. Under this new arrangement, SOE would be allowed to establish its own advance HQ in Oran. To that end, a minute of 2 October mentions the provision of an SOE Liaison officer to the Eastern Task Force. Lieutenant Colonel Bobby Guinness, the senior SOE staff officer (Plans) with AFHQ, wrote to Captain Peters RN on 9 October that 'one officer can be provided both to train the (SBS) party and finally to accompany it overseas. He will be a French speaker and an expert in explosives. He has been given instructions to report to you at Room 205, Norfolk House'.²¹

Colonel Julian Paget in his history of the Coldstream Guards wrote that Bolitho's task was to blow up the boom but 'as he was swimming towards his target, a bullet hit the explosive charge he was carrying with the inevitable result'. This does not ring true for the SBS detachment had no need of his assistance or expertise to carry out their task which, in any case, he was unqualified to do as he had no folboat training. Furthermore, one man with explosives could not have possibly destroyed two lines of coal barges.

The most likely explanation is that SOE was smuggling Bolitho, disguised as a member of the SBS party²² with the Central Task Force, into Oran to avoid informing the OSS. Once he had landed, he would have had instructions to contact French officers or SOE agents. Following the completion of his task, he could join SOE's BRANDON Mission, which had travelled with the Eastern Task Force and set up camp on 11 November at Ain Taya near Cape Matifou with a brief to organize resistance in Tunisia and Algeria. Alternatively, he could have joined Colonel David Keswick's MASSINGHAM Mission which landed at Cape Matifou a week later with a brief to operate in Corsica, Spain, Southern France, Sardinia, Sicily and Italy.

18 <https://www.submerged.co.uk/capt-frederick-thornton-peters-vc/> Accessed 8 July 2021

19 The Office of Strategic Services, the forerunner of the CIA.

20 In June 1942, under an agreement reached between OSS General Bill Donovan and SOE's Sir Charles Hambro, French North Africa was designated a joint French-US intelligence territory. This was an attempt to alleviate tension between the two organisations and to assist Donovan who was being targeted as an unwelcome arriviste by US Military Intelligence (Source: Dorrel, Jr., Major Thomas W (2008) *The role of the Office of Strategic Services in Operation Torch*, Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, p. 43.

21 TNA HS 6/979

22 TNA ADM 358/1449 Bolitho is shown as SBS on an Admiralty signal.

The Grenadier (1913)

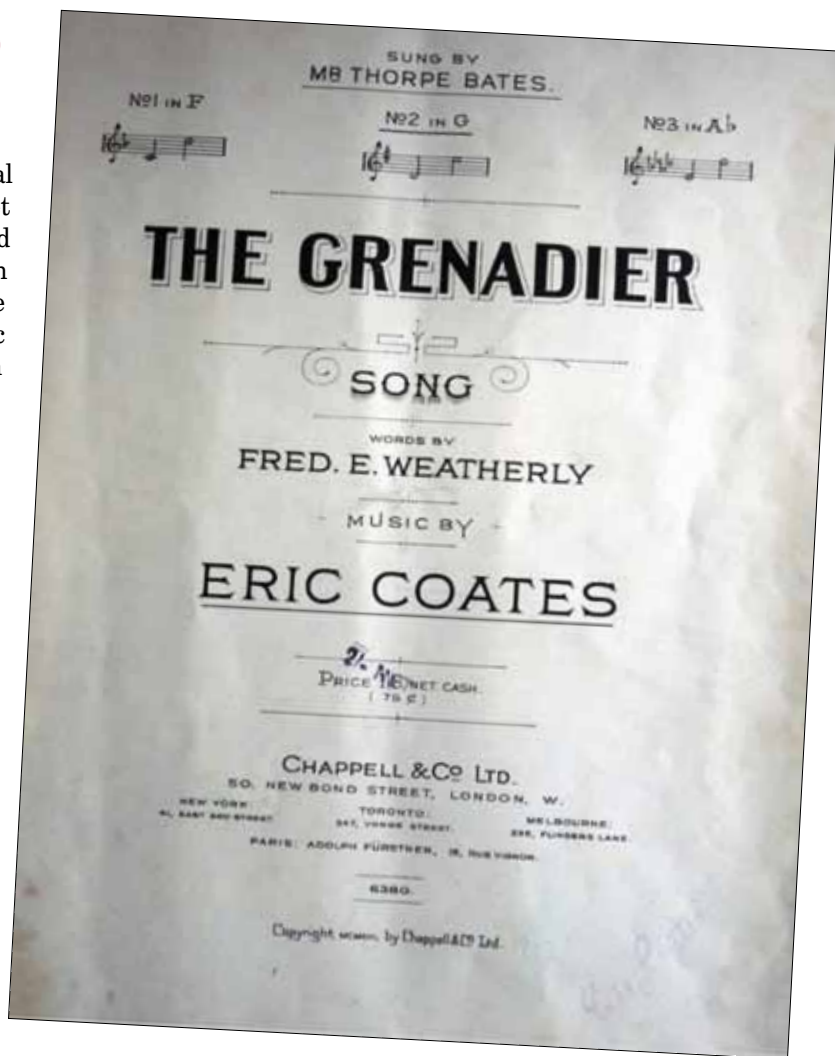
by our Music Correspondent

In the library at Regimental Headquarters, there is the sheet music of a long forgotten song called *The Grenadier* and just discernible in the bottom right hand corner of the title page is the feint signature of Eric Coates, the great master of British light music in the 20th century, best remembered for his jaunty *Knightsbridge March*, his stirring *Dambusters March*, *By the Sleepy Lagoon*, later adopted as the music to Desert Island Discs, and, for those of us of a certain age, *Calling All Workers*, the unmissable theme tune to Music While You Work. Born in Nottingham in 1886, Eric studied the viola at the Royal Academy of Music and then embarked on a musical career, playing with various orchestras both in England and on the Continent.

In parallel with his music making, the young Coates began writing song scores and in 1909 after the first performance at the Proms of his four Old English songs, he wrote the score for *Stone-Cracker John*, a song about a West Country roadman with lyrics by Fred. E. Weatherley.

I sits by the roadside with great regularity
 And I cracks up the stones for the Highway
 Authority
 Oh, whack for the riddle oh, I earns all my pay,
 For I cracks 'em and whacks 'em for
 ninepence a day,
 So I do, now,
 Yes I do, now,
 All for ninepence a day.

Born and brought up in Somerset, Frederic was nearly forty years older than Eric and combined his love of writing lyrics with a career



A youthful Eric Coates and a middle-aged Frederic Weatherley.

as a barrister. On his death in 1929, *The Times* wrote 'his fertility was extraordinary, and though it is easy to be contemptuous of his drawing room lyrics, sentimental, humorous and patriotic, it is certain that no practicing barrister had ever before provided so much innocent pleasure'. Best known for his lyrics for the religious ballad *The Holy City* (1892), the ever popular *Danny Boy* (1910) set to the Londonderry Air, and the haunting and sad First

World War ballad, *The Roses of Picardy* (1916), his collaboration with Coates in *Stone-Cracker John* made it an instant success and *The Grenadier* and *Betty and Johnny* quickly followed.

How fortunate that two such talented Englishmen joined forces to give us *The Grenadier* which readers can listen to on <https://listn.to/track/eric-coates~coatescmmma-e-cln-songs~the-grenadier>

When I'm on guard at the Admiralty,
Where I've got no right to be,
I can't see the Fleet sail down the street,
'Cos there ain't no fleet to see!
It's up and down with my bearskin on,
My arms straight down my side,
When I want to be free like a Tar at sea,
Out on the rolling tide.

Six paces to the front, six paces to the rear,
That's the way I earn the pay of a British Grenadier,
But cheer up, my hearty, (Says I to myself) Don't fear!
Stay where you are, for you can't be a Tar as well as a Grenadier.

When I'm on guard at the Barrack Yard,
And the troops go marching by,
It makes me queer when the drums I hear
And see the colours fly!
But it's up and down with my bearskin on,
As straight as a prim old maid,
When they've got the route and I want to be out
With the lads of my old brigade.

Six paces to the front, six paces to the rear,
That's the way I pass the day of a British Grenadier,
But cheer up my hearty, (Says I to myself) Don't fear!
When it comes to a fight you'll be there alright, you'll be there, my Grenadier!

But you'll admit that the hardest bit
Is when the girls go by,
And I can only look at them
From the corner of my eye;
For I've got to keep my eyes to the front,
My arms straight down my side,
Oh, it's mighty hard to be on guard
And for them to be denied.

Six paces to the front, six paces to the rear,
That's the way you earn the pay of a British Grenadier,
But, cheer up, my pretties, come along, little girls, come here;
Tow-row-row-row, I'm off guard now, you can kiss your Grenadier!

An Update on the Grave of CSM Albert Leach DCM MM

by Major Philip Wright, OBE

In 2020 Jane King (a registered volunteer with the Imperial War Museum's War Memorials Project) was informed that the application she made on a personal basis to the Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC) for Albert Leach to be added to their Casualty Register had succeeded. This means that he is now officially recognised as having



Leach after.

been a World War I casualty, and that his grave will be cyclically inspected and maintained in perpetuity.

After a site visit to his grave at Weedon Cemetery, CWGC officials decided that one of their stones was needed to supplement the existing headstone, so that his grave will be more visually identifiable as being a war grave. The CWGC stone due to be installed on the grave is a Gallipoli-style tablet that will be set within the kerbs of the existing private memorial, rather than a standard shaped CWGC gravestone.

The stone has been ordered, but as all such items are manufactured by CWGC at Beaurains in France for sites across the world, the process of ordering, delivery and installing is expected to take 6–9 months, so the stone will be hopefully in place by spring this year.



Leach in france august 1918.

Epitaph on a Hampshire Grenadier in the Graveyard of Winchester Cathedral

Selected by Major Philip Wright, OBE

In Memory of Thomas Thetcher

A Grenadier in the North Regiment Hants Militia, who died of a violent fever contracted by drinking small beer, when hot, the 12th May, 1764, aged 26 years. In grateful remembrance of whose universal goodwill towards his comrades, this stone is placed here at their expense as a small testimony of their regard and concern.

Here sleeps in peace a Hampshire Grenadier
Who caught his death by drinking cold small beer.

Soldiers beware from his untimely fall
And when ye're hot, drink strong or not at all.

This memorial being decayed was restored by the officers of the garrison, A.D.1781.

An honest soldier never is forgot
Whether he die by musket or the pot.

This stone was placed by the North Hants Militia when disembodied at Winchester on 26th April 1802 in consequence of the original stone being destroyed.

From the Brigade of Guards Magazine Dec, 1893.



Barrack Yard looking North (Main) and South (Inset).

Grenadiers in Knightsbridge

by Our Architectural Correspondent

The northern portion of today's Old Barrack Yard is all that remains of what was once the outer parade ground of a Foot-Guards barracks for some 500 men. The barracks itself stood to the south of the yard, being aligned with Wilton Place where St Paul's Church and school now stand. Those familiar with the Grenadier pub can approach it through the alleyway by the side door.

Originally, stables had been erected on the site and on completion in November 1762, they were occupied by the 2nd Troop of Horse Grenadier Guards (later reformed as the 2nd Life Guards).

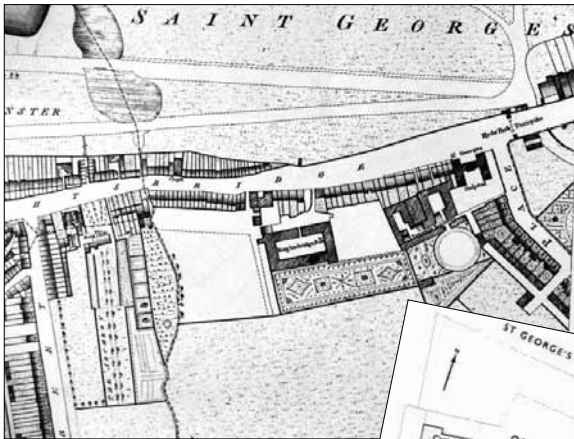
By October 1780 the buildings had been converted for use by the Foot-Guards, the Coldstream Guards being the first to move in. So good was the revamped barracks – 'a treat to any military man'¹ – that it was to have been used as the model for a proposed countrywide barrack-building programme. It was a welcome change for Foot Guards regiments who were usually scattered in packets around the City and its environs² or living under canvas in Hyde Park or St James's Park.

The driving force behind the new barracks was George III's son Frederick Augustus, Duke of York and Albany³, who had been colonel of the 2nd Horse Grenadier Guards since 1782 and colonel of the Coldstream Guards since 1784. Although never a great success on the battlefield despite being made

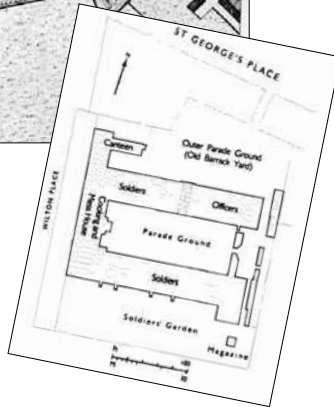
1 *The Times* 19 October 1789

2 Take 1750 – the Grenadier battalions were lodged in the Savoy Liberty, Finsbury, Holborn, Tower Hamlets, Upper Liberty in Westminster, Southwark and the cantonment at Somerset House.

3 *The Grand Old Duke of York. A Life of Prince Frederick, Duke of York and Albany, 1763–1827*, Derek Winterbottom, Pen and Sword Books, Barnsley, 2016



Site of Foot-Guards barracks in 1813 (Above); plan of barracks in 1830 (Right).



Frederick Augustus, Duke of York and Albany.

the commander-in-chief of the British Army by his father, the 'Grand Old Duke of York', as he came to be known in the children's nursery rhyme, proved to be a highly competent and forward thinking military administrator, pushing through a number of reforms in organization, training and logistics that were to prove invaluable in the Napoleonic wars.

The barracks was relinquished by the army in the mid-1830s, and the buildings let as tenements. They were largely demolished in the early 1840s, when St Paul's Church was built on the site of the southern range and the soldiers' garden. The last vestiges of the barracks vanished when the site was redeveloped in 1857-9.

Grenadiers were regularly stationed in the barracks:

- 1st Battalion – 1819, 1826, 1828, 1831, 1835
- 2nd Battalion – 1804, 1805, 1824, 1829, 1833
- 3rd Battalion – 1797, 1821, 1827, 1825, 1827, 1831, 1835

The Wikipedia entry for the Grenadier pub reads '... it was originally built in 1720 as the officers' mess for ... the 1st Regiment of Foot Guards, and located in a courtyard of their barracks. It was opened to the public in 1818 as *The Guardsman*, and subsequently renamed in honour of the Grenadier

Guards' actions in the Battle of Waterloo.' Clearly this was some 60 years before the barracks were completed but what is indisputable is that Grenadiers have patronised it since it opened its doors and invariably been made welcome.



The side lane by the Grenadier leading to Old Barrack Yard.

Springing a Sultan How the 2nd Battalion rescued the last Sultan of Turkey

by *The Assistant Editor*

At the end of the First World War, Britain, together with France and Italy, occupied various neutral zones in Anatolya, the Turkish homeland of the former Ottoman Empire. After the triumphalist Greek landings in Smyrna in 1919 and the deeply unpopular Treaty of Sèvres in 1920, Turkish nationalists rallied round Kemal Atatürk whose armies went on to trounce the Greeks in September 1922. At one point they were poised to invade the neutral zones and it was then that 1st Guards Brigade were sent from Aldershot as reinforcements. Fortunately, war was averted – some say by a margin of only 75 minutes – and negotiations between the parties started in Lausanne.

Now in complete control of Turkey, on 1 November the Nationalists' Grand National Assembly abolished the sultanate. As the signatory of Sèvres, Sultan Mehmed VI's days were numbered as General Sir Tim Harington recounts in his memoirs 'Tim Harington Remembers' (John Murray, London, 1939, pp.128-31).

'...Sir Horace Rumbold (Ed: the British High Commissioner to Constantinople) told me that I must be responsible for the Sultan's life, and that if things became serious the Sultan would let me know through his bandmaster, who would remain loyal to the end. One day...I got a message to say the Sultan's ADC was in the office...it was the bandmaster...(who) then told us that all at the palace had turned disloyal, even the Sultan's doctor, who had been with him for years, and that the Sultan sent me a message asking me to save his life, as he thought he would be murdered at the Selamlık service on the coming Friday¹. I naturally did not want to be accused of kidnapping a Sultan so I had to ask for the request to be put in writing...

Sir,
Considering my life in danger in Constantinople, I take refuge with the British Government, and request my transfer as soon as possible to another place.

Mehmed Vehideddin,
Caliph of the Musselmans
16 November 1922



Mehmed VI, 36th and last Ottoman Sultan.

It was a difficult problem for no one could go near the palace. With Brigadier Julian Steele² and Colonel Colson³ (now Lord Roundhay) commanding the Grenadier Guards, we solemnly sat down to make a plan to get the last Sultan of Turkey out of his palace alive (Ed: the Yildiz Palace). The plan we decided on was that the Sultan and his son, and one or two servants who had remained loyal,

¹ Each Friday the caliph would go to prayers in a different mosque, the name of which was announced the day before.

² Brigadier Julian Steele, CB, CMG, DSO, formerly Coldstream Guards, commanding 1st Guards Brigade.

³ Lieutenant Colonel Edward Colson, CMG, DSO

should be out for a walk in the gardens (6am, I think) on Friday. At that moment the Grenadier Guards should be drilling on their barrack square, which adjoined the Sultan's back gate, but they should be drilling so badly that they had jammed two ambulances together actually outside the gate and at the given moment the gate would be forced, and the Sultan and his son should be put in the leading ambulance, and the rest of the party and a certain amount of kit in the second. I may say that the gate was covered by machine-guns from every angle. My ADC and another officer from the Grenadier Guards were to be on the ambulance with loaded revolvers. Other officers were to be at every turn of the route, supposed to be out for any early morning walk. Lorries full of machine-guns were supposed to be broken down opposite every Turkish palace *en route* in case the alarm were given. A naval detachment of 100 strong, with guns, was to be landed at Dolme Batche⁴ (sic), presumably for practice.

We had to be terribly careful on the Thursday for fear of anything getting out, and only the actual officers in command knew anything.

The Friday arrived; I remember so well eating eggs and bacon about 4a.m., before going off to rescue a Sultan. As it happened, it was the most



HMS Malaya – a ferry to Malta fit for a Sultan.

awful morning, pouring in torrents. The troops and sailors must have thought their officers had all gone mad to think of a parade on such a morning. I believe one wretched Turk, going close to the Yildiz Square on his way to work, was seized by a large guardsman and fairly thrown on his way! I can see all those officers out for their morning stroll as I write, the rain coming down I buckets. I was to receive the Sultan in the naval dockyard and put him on my launch and hand him over to HMS *Malaya* for transport to Malta. I waited for what seemed hours only to find the ambulance with the Sultan had had a puncture! However, it did not matter;

he duly arrived and I handed him over to HMS *Malaya*. In my launch on the way out I perhaps hoped that he might give me his cigarette-case as a souvenir, instead he suddenly confided to me the care of his five wives; this alarmed me to some extent! I never saw them again, however I did act as a post office for some time after he left...I do believe that no one in Constantinople knew for four hours after we got him away, and many went to the Selamnik at noon as usual to see him. I think the Nationalists were very glad when they found he had gone.'



The Yildiz Palace from where the 2nd Battalion lifted the Sultan.

4 Dolmabahçe Palace

GRENADIERS 'AT LARGE'

Rhodesian Bush War 1977–79

by Major Francis Wauchope

I was prompted to write this article by Alan Ogden, our Regimental Archivist, who I have known for years.

I left school in 1976 and had intended to join the army but was always intrigued about the Rhodesian conflict which was well publicised in the British press as were the insurgencies in Portuguese East and West Africa (Mozambique and Angola). At the time the thought of serving in BAOR compared to seeing active service in Rhodesia was not appealing; so I chose to join the Rhodesian Government's efforts to counter the communist insurgency during the height of the Cold War, albeit only a few months after my 18th birthday!

My father was a Fourteenth Army veteran and former ADC to Lieutenant General Sir Harold Briggs of Burma Command in Rangoon as the war ended. Briggs was brought out of retirement to be Director of Operations in Malaya during the Emergency in the 1950s and I mention this as some of the

Malayan Emergency policies were copied by the Rhodesians which I will touch on later.

1. My Interview 1977

I arrived in Rhodesia (formerly Southern Rhodesia and now Zimbabwe) in 1977 by obtaining a free flight on a cargo aircraft from Gatwick to Lusaka in Zambia. I then flew onto Francistown in Botswana and finally a road trip up to Bulawayo and to Salisbury (Harare) in Rhodesia over a period of some four days. I had read about Europeans being arrested in Zambia in the belief that they were planning on joining the Rhodesians so I had researched bird watching in the Okavango and had a few ornithological books in my back-pack to explain my reason for travelling to Botswana; which fortunately I did not have to unpack!

Whilst I had no Rhodesian connections, an old friend of my father held a senior position in a Government Ministry and it was through him that I was introduced and interviewed by the Secretary to the Rhodesian Ministry of Internal Affairs – locally known as INTAF.

I recall that this took place on a Saturday, he was wearing his golf clothes and after the interview I was instructed to report to a small airfield outside Salisbury on the following Monday where I was flown some 80 miles to the town of Mount Darwin. This was close to the Mozambique border where a growing and active counter-insurgency campaign was underway.

At the end of the interview I



Rhodesian Ministry of Internal Affairs Badge.



Mount Darwin District 1978.



Rhodesian General Service Medal.

was told that I was given the benefit of doubt as I had come such a long way and was immediately appointed as a Cadet District Officer!

2. Rhodesian Situation:

The Rhodesian Ministry of Internal Affairs had been previously called the Native Department and prior to the Bush War had been responsible for all aspects of rural government administration. This ranged from the running of schools, medical clinics, tax collection, law and order, cattle dipping, land boundaries etc.

Rhodesia was comprised of some 54 districts each of which was led by a District Commissioner (DC) and an Assistant District Commissioner (ADC). Districts were broken down into areas each commanded by a District Officer.

The country was divided into seven operational areas and Mount Darwin was in Operation Hurricane with its own Joint Operational Command (JOC) made up of senior Army, British South Africa Police (BSAP) and Internal Affairs District Commissioner. Our foe were the two nationalist guerilla factions; Robert Mugabe's Zimbabwe African National Liberation Army (ZANLA) and Joshua Nkomo's Zimbabwe People's Revolutionary Army (ZPRA).

The north eastern border of Rhodesia – a vast and rugged area extending from below Kariba Dam across to the upper reaches of the eastern highlands of the Inyanga mountains, and dipping south far enough to include the capital city of Salisbury and its surrounding district. Within this area lay some of the richest farm lands of the country, as well as a vast number of Tribal Trust Lands and African Purchase Areas.

As the bush war intensified Internal Affairs was at the forefront of the insurgency, taking on a robust paramilitary role and becoming an effective part of the Security Forces.

By 1977 more than eighty members of INTAF had been killed in action and at the time of my arrival I witnessed the swift transition from land rovers to armoured vehicles, the re-arming of all personnel with G3 Rifles, BREN guns, light mortars and an array of rifle and hand grenades. Radios were issued to all patrols and convoys. Colonial Native Department dress was replaced with

combat fatigues and webbing. Notwithstanding international sanctions, the Rhodesians were moderately well equipped and with no shortage of ammunition and were a formidable force. Sadly, much of the administration in districts collapsed and the focus was now on fighting the insurgency campaign.

I should mention that in 1977, up until 1979, the Mount Darwin District, comparable in size to the province of Northern Ireland, was controlled by some 1,800 Internal Affairs personnel, sixty BSAP and the occasional Army unit as and when they could be spared. Many patrols were made up of army or police reservists including the BSAP's Police Anti-Terrorist Units (PATU) who provided invaluable support to the war effort. PATU patrols were largely formed by European farmers and were hardy, bush wise and could certainly shoot straight!



The Author...in his youth!

3. My Experience:

a. Mount Darwin INTAF Headquarters

My first four months on active service I was based at our District Headquarters in Mount Darwin as a watch keeper in our operations room. This was an excellent way to absorb how the district was managed and how all elements of the security forces inter-reacted with each other. I also got to know many of the BSAP officers, including Special Branch, who effectively controlled the counter-insurgency in the district.

Our main focus was managing the Protected

Village scheme or PVs. In 1976 Mount Darwin was one of the first districts to embrace this scheme. The concept was based on the Malayan Briggs Plan, master minded by General Briggs and not my father. The Malayan, or Rhodesian, consolidated or protected villages, where the locals were obliged to live. This meant that food, medicine and creature comforts could be denied to the enemy and, in the event of an incident, civilian movement could be restricted so that follow up operations were not impeded or guerilla tracks interfered with.

A typical Rhodesian PV comprised several hundred African families, who were accommodated behind a double security fence and were garrisoned by a detachment of 20–25 District Assistants under a native NCO or white National Serviceman.

Whilst the security situation was manageable it was not until late 1977 that the war escalated, as the number of guerillas infiltrating the country swelled.

Serious incidents in our district such as PV or European Farm attacks, vehicle ambushes and terrorist murders were taking place, but not daily. The following year matters escalated to the extent that there were multiple daily incidents and security force patrols were routinely contacting guerilla groups.

b. Training at Chikurubi

I was itching to deploy into the bush but was required to complete the Internal Affairs National Service Course, as a volunteer, at their Chikurubi

Training Depot outside Salisbury.

This lasted some five months and was similar to a condensed Brigade Squad and Platoon Commanders Battle Course. Our instructors were largely former regular soldiers drawn from a number of units, even the UDR, and after the initial scrutiny from our drill instructors and the occasional shine parade, we all quickly got down into the business of being taught how to fight the communist insurgents.

There was a huge emphasis placed on shooting and low level tactical procedures and by the end of the course we were all proficient patrol commanders with many of us destined to command much larger numbers of native troops.

I recall on our last operational battle camp that comprised multiple patrols and ambushes that we came close to contacting a ZANLA detachment. The course before ours actually did contact the enemy and accounted for a number of them with no loss to themselves!

c. Protected Villages and District Officer

On my return to Mount Darwin on completion of training I was deployed to the Zambezi Valley to the Mukumbura District to command two of our newest PVs on the valley floor. These villages were extremely remote and the district was the main thoroughfare for ZANLA insurgents entering the country. To do so they had to cross a border mine field and every night you heard mines being detonated, predominantly by animals, who would push down fencing and detonate the various types of anti-personnel mines that were laid. Occasional reconnaissance flights along the mine field in our light aircraft was a sad experience as a significant amount of game was injured or killed.

Each village had a detachment of 25 District Assistants who controlled access to the village. Much of the time was spent patrolling the village and immediate areas around them and setting up ambushes. The nights always appeared to be



Protected Village Scene with Leopard and Puma Troop Carrying Vehicles.



Protetced Village Gun Emplacement.



Rhodesian made Kudu APC.

very long and we were well cut off from any close support. The roads were frequently mined so mine clearances became routine in advance of the many resupply convoys along the narrow dirt roads.

Remote PVs were routinely attacked and in many cases contact with the enemy was broken off by the Rhodesian Air Force who would drop illumination flares which made the enemy flee.

Towards the middle of 1978, as the war was intensifying I was withdrawn from Mukumbura and promoted to Acting District Officer and given command of the Chesa African Purchase Area – an area of approximately 35 miles by 20 miles with a metalled road running through it from Mount

Darwin to Rushinga. The area comprised some 600 small farms that were leased to African farmers and run on a commercial basis.

I operated from a Protected Sub-Office, surrounded by high earthen walls and rings of barbed wire and trip flares with a Headquarter team of some fifty District Assistants. From here we managed the eight PVs in the area and controlled our fleet of armoured vehicles.

Day to day operations were based around the management of PVs and their resupply, patrolling and on a number of occasions supporting planned army sweep operations aimed at clearing out pockets of guerillas which had been identified through intelligence.

Despite the growing intensity of the bush war, morale was remarkably high, although most of us were acutely aware that a political settlement was needed. The relationship between white officers and native troops was never in question and I will not forget the loyalty they showed us.

Once during a vehicle ambush the vehicle I was travelling in was immobilized. The other vehicles drove through the ambush area, our District Assistants disembarked and then swept through the position and chased off the attackers.



Puma Troop Carrier with Escort.

The occupants in my vehicle had taken up firing positions and were returning fire until the contact was over. At which point one of our NCOs from another vehicle approached me with tears streaming down his cheeks. I recall saying to him: "This is not your first ambush – pull yourself together". To which he replied, "Sir, I thought you were dead!" Never have I felt so humbled or foolish!

4. SF Auxiliaries/Monitoring Force

By mid-1979 a number of significant changes occurred.

Following the internally held elections the Prime Minister Ian Smith handed over power to Bishop Abel Muzorewa and the country became known for a brief period as Zimbabwe Rhodesia.

The unpopular Protected Village scheme was disbanded and much of the Chesa APA was handed over to the Security Force Auxiliaries, who were a mixture of captured guerillas or other Africans, enlisted to confront Mugabe and Nkomo's followers in specific areas. This was a Military/Police controlled initiative.

I left Rhodesia in 1979, just before the deployment of the Commonwealth Monitoring Force and the

1980 Lancaster House Agreement and Zimbabwe's independence.

In summary this was an immensely rewarding and often terrifying "extended gap year" and one that I would not have swapped for any other. Little is remembered about the many post war campaigns stretching from East Africa to Malaya, where thousands of British and colonial troops deployed and fought in low intensity operations. Although Rhodesia made its Unilateral Declaration of Independence (UDI) in 1966 and broke away from the crown, it still remains probably our last colonial style conflict, where the government took on guerilla forces that were well supported by communist China and the Soviet Union.

It certainly stood me in excellent stead in both Grenadier Battalions and as a onetime Training Officer at the then Guards Depot.

My last appointment in the Army was as an infantry adviser with BMATT South Africa in 1994 – so it is with some satisfaction that my affair with Africa started in Rhodesia and then ended in South Africa – with many fun and rewarding years in between.



Rhodesian Leopard APC.

OBITUARIES

We will remember them

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

22213706	VG Richardson	Oxfordshire	23969995	PR Avery	Kingston
23509380	R Jackson	Gloucestershire	23458742	R Starling	Suffolk
23865099	C Short	Lincoln	22545816	D Grice	Yorkshire
Major	PM Lambert		24096332	TT Dale	Wigan & St Helens
24141165	TT Bernard	Medway	23252355	D Hallsor	Manchester Branch
22650991	DC Beaumont	Suffolk	22545283	W Wall	Yorkshire
23771696	PT Jones	Gloucestershire	24184468	D Langshaw	Windsor
24598558	M Coates		23688530	JAH Clowes	Wessex
22106978	A Elvy	Northhampton	22213995	BS Taylor	2021
23879968	J Crawford	Nottinghamshire	22545029	D Deakin	Gloucestershire
22545200	RJ Hawkins	Bath	24048770	D A Lockley	North Staffordshire
23252440	RL Tingey	Cambridge	23633647	A Parry	London
23720456	B Woodfield	Surrey & East Hants	23587036	JJ Wright	Norfolk
22955555	J Anderson		23509543	F Holloway	Kingston
22545699	T Horsman	Manchester	23392083	DC Room	London
22854343	D Porter	Gloucestershire	23252487	EGW Leonard	Northamptonshire
23688357	S Collins	Died in 2020	24306022	JHP Youngman	Cambridge
23929471	AA Ferneyhough	Liverpool	24048631	T Bagnall	North Staffordshire
2624998	G Norris	Liverpool	23140725	RE Briars	2021
2625485	R Holmes	Bristol	23552392	R Croucher-Finch	London
23252038	RJ Callan	Manchester	24492967	M Burgess	Kingston
Major	FAO Clark		23688067	D Leatherdale	Gloucestershire
22213837	AF Lock	Bristol	7955217	D Best	Lincoln
	RAB Nicolle, Esq		23509806	K Gash	Lincoln
23252796	R Bell	Bath	23929402	LA Wood	Nottinghamshire
23509458	A Robinson	Manchester	24164807	TJ Yates	Cambridge
24433870	JO Ennis	North Staffordshire	24273983	P Guy	London
2628931	PR Hardwick	Windsor	22213807	E Stott	Manchester
24385390	PA Gingell		2627319	F Winfield	Lincoln
23436357	PE Bonner	Lincoln	22476834	DF Colley	Medway
24000275	A Abbot	Lincoln	23392083	DC Room	London
22612664	AG Collins		23252992	TC Barrett	Lincoln
26212664	J Bedford	Died in 2020	23879801	B Mole	Lincoln Died in 2018
23252172	K Berry	Died in 2020	2613648 (v)	CSL Jones	Worcester & Hereford
23252083	D Bell	Died in 2020	23059809	P Tattersall	Leicestershire
23325437	JV Cutmore	East Kent			
2624346	HA Peers	East Kent			
23252672	JD Killingsley-Smith	Matlock & Chesterfield			
22029239	PA Edge	Reading			
22507987	JD Deacon	2021			
22499692	DC Spencer	Worcester & Hereford			
2629159 (v)	KR Turner	Exeter			

Geoffrey Atkins

by *The Regimental Adjutant*



Geoffrey Thomas Willoughby Atkins died on 6 November 2021, aged 94. He was a gloriously talented sportsman, among the greatest racket-sports players of his generation and he excelled at the explosive game of rackets, the ancient forerunner of

squash. Although he only took up rackets on a whim as a sixth former at Rugby School, his exquisite touch, athleticism and zen-like calmness propelled him to a string of major titles, and he is considered to be one of the outstanding world champions of the postwar era.

Geoffrey Atkins and his twin brother Robert were born into an Indian Army family in Poona (now Pune) in India on 20 January 1927. Their traditional, sporty father Geoffrey Atkins was a lieutenant-colonel in the Punjab Regiment. Their mother Ursula, was a former nurse and an eccentric animal lover, so passionate about her Pekinese dogs that she would feed them the daintiest treats before anyone else was given supper.

The young boys were sent back to England to prep school, where Geoffrey displayed precocious gifts as an expressive, fine-featured child actor, garnering rave reviews when he starred in two West End plays. He was also cast in several films, including two with Robert Donat; *Goodbye Mr Chips* as the Duke of Dorset, and *The Young Mr Pitt*, in which he played Pitt as a boy. The MGM Studio offered him a contract in Hollywood but, to his disappointment, his father vetoed the idea.

At Rugby School, Atkins shone at squash, rugby, hockey and cricket. In his final year, noticing that the school's two rackets courts were often empty, he asked the resident professional, 70-year-old Harry Grey, if he could have a go. He was hooked at once and practised alone for hours, mastering the speed of the ball and the court's angles. He then began playing competitively, with immediate success. "Rackets is a challenging game technically, where anticipation, footwork and precision are essential,

and there is no room for error," he later recalled. "I felt a strong sense of achievement in pulling everything together and playing this difficult game well. There's great exhilaration when you hit the ball in the sweet spot of the racket and see it rocket away for a winner."

In June 1946 he joined the Regiment on a short service commission. While a young officer, Atkins developed his skills as a doubles player and partnered another Grenadier and also his company commander at Sandhurst, Ronnie Taylor, to the Army rackets championship, four years in a row. After leaving the Army (before he could be elected to the First Guards Club), he went on to Queens' College, Cambridge, but did barely any work, instead spending most of his time playing sport and winning Blues in rackets, Real Tennis and squash, in which he twice represented England.

By the early 1950s Atkins was among the world's best, winning the British Amateur Singles in 1952 and 1953, together with the American and Canadian amateur singles titles. In that era the rackets ball was appreciably slower than the modern-day ball, while the natural gut stringing and lighter frames of the Grays rackets then used meant that they could not be strung to the far higher tensions of today. This put the emphasis far more on speed around the court and accuracy than raw power. "Geoffrey's court coverage was seemingly effortless, his footwork absolutely impeccable and his ability to get the ball back to a length was magical," recalled the former world champion Howard Angus. "Given half a chance he would put the ball away with consummate efficiency, not with crushing speed, but guided elegantly to where his opponent was unable to reach it."

On leaving Cambridge, Atkins worked for Dunlop in London, and in 1954 he became the new world champion. Days later, he married Pippa Fulljames, eight years his junior and daughter of the chaplain of Rugby School, where they had met more than a decade earlier. The pair enjoyed their honeymoon aboard the QE2 en route to America, where they settled in New York for several years.

Atkins took jobs in the oil and gas sector and then worked briefly for a food processing firm, with stints in London, Japan and Chicago. During the 1950s and 1960s he won titles around the world, including



twice taking the Tuxedo rackets championship in New York three years in a row. This enabled him to keep two of the splendid gold trophies, his favourites among all his prizes. He was also a canny Real Tennis player, winning the British Amateur championship three times. A

useful golfer and tennis player as well, he was a popular member of the All England Club.

Atkins successfully defended his world rackets title four times, notching up a 17-year reign. He was widely admired for his grace and sportsmanship; win or lose, his laidback, friendly demeanour off-court belied his flinty competitiveness on it.

He only renounced the world title in 1971, aged 44, when work and family commitments prevented him devoting enough time to training but he remained a revered figure – and so fit that even after gruelling matches he would come off court looking immaculate, without a bead of sweat or a hair out of place. His successor as world champion, Willie Surtees, who had moved to Chicago partly to train with him, paid tribute to his focus and determination.

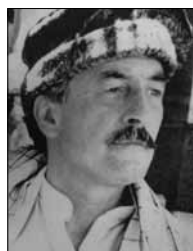
“Geoffrey taught me to treat every single point in World Championship matches as if it was match point,” Surtees recalled, “advice that I adhered to. He also kept a comb in his pocket to ensure his hair remained unruffled between games!”

Atkins eventually returned home from the US, and after working and living in London retired to Hayling Island in Hampshire. There he played golf and continued his racket sports at the nearby Seacourt Club until sidelined by complications from a knee replacement. Mentally sharp right up to his death, he continued to enjoy swimming in the sea and sunbathing on warm days, and was honoured when Seacourt marked his 90th birthday with a gala dinner.

Geoffrey Atkin’s marriage to Pippa Fulljames ended in divorce; tragically she died in a car accident in 1987. He is survived by their children, Nick and Lucinda and seven grandchildren.

Captain Rupert Milo Talbot Chetwynd

by Captain Alan Ogden



Scion of the Chetwynds of Ingestre Manor in Staffordshire and Bearhaven in County Kerry, Rupert Chetwynd died on 26 April 2021 aged 87 after a short illness. The son of a Grenadier, Major Wentworth Chetwynd MBE, he had originally been

destined for the Royal Navy like his grandfather and great grandfather, but after failing to impress the Board of Admiralty, he joined the Grenadier Guards as a National Service officer in 1952 having completed his studies at Stowe.

After two months with 1st Battalion, Rupert was posted to 3rd Battalion stationed in the Canal Zone. Although the battalion enjoyed excellent training opportunities, its operational commitments had been much reduced and life in camp was humdrum. In search of adventure, he joined No. 1 (Guards) Independent Parachute Company, the pathfinder unit for the newly formed 16th Independent Parachute Brigade Group. Having completed his National Service in 1954, he tried stockbroking before joining the well known City advertising company Foster, Turner & Benson Ltd. Creative, persuasive, and persistent, Rupert found the world of advertising a rewarding milieu and went on to found his own successful agency, Rupert Chetwynd and Partners, which later merged with Streets Financial.

In 1975 he joined 21 SAS at the age of 41 and soon became an officer. It was around this time that he began a love affair with the island of Corsica after discovering the unspoilt village of

Campomoro on the Bay of Valinco. It became his main home supplemented by a *piéd à terre* in Chiswick. In 1977, he wrote an unsolicited letter to the US Boeing Corporation outlining his views on the future of transatlantic civil aviation. Having not heard back from them, he moved to Hong Kong with his family where the company contacted him and appointed him a roving sales ambassador for the next five years.

Restless and bristling with ideas, Rupert seized the opportunity when invited to become involved with the Guildford Surgical Team (GST) and their project to treat Mujahedeen fighters who had been wounded in the war against the Soviet Union which had invaded Afghanistan in 1979 and to assist the multitude of refugees who had fled their homes. Donning *Shalwar Kamees* and with the support of Afghan Aid UK, he helped organize the infiltration and extraction of medical teams into the war-torn country; between 1985 and 1992 over 260 foreign medical personnel operated on and treated some 4,300 patients.

In 1997 Rupert teamed up with his former Parachute Company Commander, Peter Stewart-Richardson Coldstream Guards, to start the Afghan Mother and Child Rescue (AMCR) project. Their aim was to build and equip a mother and child health clinic at Rokha in the Panjshir Valley, a project made considerably more difficult as a result of the Taliban capturing Kabul the previous year; suddenly the valley was under siege and the only way in and out was by UN plane, ex-Soviet helicopter, horse or foot. Since both men were oblivious to danger, discomfort and hardship, it was an environment in which they thrived and their shared qualities of dedication, resilience and compassion ensured that Rokha came to fruition. Several other clinics followed in Kunduz, Takhar and Badakhshan provinces.

It soon became apparent to Rupert that charitable donations from Middle East donors were being syphoned off for fundamentalist political activities. In addition, he discovered that a German charity, which was associated with AMCR, was in the business of supplying arms to drug traffickers. As if that was not depressing enough, many of the medicines donated by US manufacturers and other international donors were sold on long before they

reached those in need. With his late mother Bridget Chetwynd as his literary icon – she had written several successful novels – Rupert chronicled his findings in *Yesterday's Enemies: Freedom fighters or Terrorists* (2005), a detailed account of the GST and AMCR's humanitarian activities together with the story of his tenacious investigation into the financial and political chicanery practiced by various charities.

As a result of his experiences in the Middle East and Central Asia, and his first hand encounter with the mechanisms of terrorist funding, Rupert then became involved with The Institute for Statecraft, an Edinburgh-based foreign policy think tank where Christopher Donnelly, the former head of the UK Defence Academy's Advances Research and Assessment Group, was co-director specializing in dealing with new security threats and responses. As well as writing for Abdullah Faliq's *Arches*, the Cordoba Foundation's quarterly magazine, he became a senior adviser to the Beirut-based Conflicts Forum which had been founded in 2004 by Alistair Croke CMG and was at the forefront of attempts to draw Hamas, Hezbollah, Islamic Jihad and other Palestinian groups into the political process. At one stage, Rupert played a key role as an alternative channel of communication to Erskine Childers, the then President of Eire, and Tunku Abdul Rahman Putra Al Haj when Prime Minister of Malaysia.

Prior to Op HERRICK 11, Lieutenant General Roly Walker DSO, then commanding 1st Battalion Grenadier Guards, invited him to address the officers and senior NCOs on the lessons he had learnt in Afghanistan. In 2010 he was one of a number of experts and fieldworkers who signed an open letter to President Obama, calling on him to explore a political settlement that included the Taliban for 'the military campaign is suppressing, locally and temporarily, the symptoms of the disease, but fails to offer a cure. Military action may produce local and temporary improvements in security, but those improvements are neither going to last nor be replicable in the vast areas not garrisoned by western forces without a political settlement'.

In his last years, Rupert was busy writing *My Kingdom of Corsica: Paradise Revealed*, an

engaging account of how he and his family had arrived on the island some 50 years ago in their campervan and embarked on a Robinson Crusoe existence on a plot of land on which they later built a home. In parallel he was also writing *My Name is Legion...for We are Many: Flotsam and Jetsam*, an autobiography arranged by memorable encounters with people and places in a life characterized by boundless enthusiasm, eccentric choices, a passion for good causes – some won, some lost – and a humorous disregard for convention.

Rupert was married twice, first to Antonia Clark, with whom he had five children – Rupert, Dominic, Crispin, Alexander, and Persephone – and secondly to Luciana Arrighi, a Brazilian-born Italian-Australian artist who is an Award-winning set, costume and production designer. They had two children, Alalia – better known as Monster Chetwynd, a leading British contemporary artist known for her exuberant performance pieces – and Aaron, an architect based in Stafford who found his vocation while building a family yurt in Campomoro.

Lieutenant Colonel Richard Seymour Corkran OBE

by *Lieutenant Colonel R G Cartwright LVO*



Richard Corkran was the last of several generations of Grenadiers in his family, including his maternal great grandfather, Colonel Horace Ricardo and his grandfather, Major General Sir Charles Corkran. However, Richard's passage into the Regiment was

not a conventional one. In 1952 he left Bedford School and went to the Army Apprentices' College at Arborfield. Championed by Grenadier friends of his grandfather, Arborfield was followed by officer training at Eaton Hall and then Sandhurst.

Richard's army service was particularly varied. Commissioned into the Grenadier Guards in 1956

he joined the 2nd Battalion, followed in 1957 by the 3rd Battalion stationed in Cyprus during the EOKA emergency. In 1960, after a spell in the Guards Training Battalion, Richard re-joined the 3rd Battalion as their Signals Officer. In 1962 he volunteered for service in the King's African Rifles in Kenya. It was quite an experience as he was often the only British officer in a remote station, but it was an experience he loved. He served with 5th Battalion King's African Rifles, the Military Training School and, after Kenyan independence, 3rd Kenya Rifles. He acted in a variety of roles: Administrative Officer, Training Officer and Adjutant. He threw himself into this secondment heart and soul, initially becoming a colloquial Swahili speaker and then graduating to linguist, which led to him instructing in Swahili at the Military Training School – Idi Amin was one of his pupils. Richard, on his retirement from the army in 1991 was, for some 15 years, the Honorary Secretary of the King's African Rifles and East African Forces Association. He is credited with a long overdue modernisation of the Association. He organised their reunions and started 'Rhino Link', their newsletter. Rhino Link drew an increasing following and generated considerable correspondence. It still does and is now a glossy biannual magazine with a circulation of 300.

Richard returned from Kenya to the Regiment in 1965 and completed a staff appointment in 4th Guards Brigade in Germany in 1967, before returning to the 2nd Battalion in Wuppertal. 1967 was a significant year for Richard as, in October, he married Jane Paget, a marriage that was to be a source of great happiness to him for the next 53 years. Jane gave wonderful support to Richard in all his accompanied postings, even in the difficult conditions of Northern Ireland in the late 1970s. In Wuppertal, to Richard's delight, the Army quarters in Germany had cellars and it was only then that Jane discovered his interest in railways. Knowledgeable about the history of railways around the world, he had an extensive library on them. In Wuppertal he very quickly set to and built a model railway and Jane, realising that if you cannot beat them, join them, rapidly became adept at building miniature stations and villages for his layout. At dinner parties all the men would often disappear to

the cellar after their port to 'play trains'.

Having attended the Staff College at Camberley, Richard returned to the 2nd Battalion and command of the Inkerman Company which was to go to British Honduras as an independent company group in 1971. Soldiering with Richard was interesting, demanding, and great fun. The small garrison in British Honduras did not know what to expect of the Grenadier Guards. Richard had given me the nickname of Killer after a battalion exercise in Otterburn, a nickname that was not earned but was sufficiently incongruous to have stuck. With his mischievous sense of humour, Richard entered 'Killer' in the 'Name - Known as' column of the list of names that preceded our arrival in British Honduras. How disappointed the expectant members of the Garrison were! While in British Honduras Richard, an Open University Foundation Student, studied earnestly during quiet periods. He had a sharp mind and a flair for maths and technology. The tour ended with a threat of invasion by neighbouring Guatemala and a dramatic deployment to the border. Fortunately, nothing came of Guatemalan sabre-rattling, but it was certainly dramatic at the time. Richard's rifle company was happy, wonderfully trained and returned to England having benefited enormously from the experience.

From British Honduras Richard and Jane went to Singapore where Richard had a key job in the British Army Staff working under another Grenadier, Colonel Peter Thwaites, in the tri-nation ANZUK headquarters. Richard was in his element there and it was a job that became even busier when the British Army Staff was disbanded and Richard became the Brigade Major of 28 Infantry Brigade, a formation that was started from scratch with unknown staff and poor accommodation.

Richard, Jane and a 13 month old Claire returned from Singapore at the end of 1974 when Richard became the Senior Major of the 1st Battalion. In 1975 he gained his Open University BA Honours Degree, an interdisciplinary degree which covered all manner of subjects. His love of technology was on display at their home in Berkshire where the family lived for 34 years. He constructed a swimming pool entirely by himself (apart from digging the actual hole). The walls were reinforced

by earth and embedded bottles - many wine bottles amongst them! He devised a method of heating the pool water by painting old radiators black and passing water through them and what seemed like miles of black hosepipe heated by the sun, thence into the swimming pool - remarkably like modern ground source heat pumps.

Alexandra was born in 1976, the year in which Richard attended the National Defence College at Latimer before being selected for promotion and command of the 8th Battalion of the Ulster Defence Regiment based in Dungannon, East Tyrone - arguably one of the more difficult commands in the British Army. He made a great success of his command and transformed the Battalion, deservedly earning their respect.

The family returned to England and Richard to a series of staff jobs in London at the Ministry of Defence, Headquarters London District and with the National Employers' Liaison Council (NELC). Above all, it was with the secretariat of NELC that he made his mark. The Council was a new organisation and key to getting employers to understand the Territorial Army and the reserves. Richard was awarded an OBE for his work in 1991, the year he retired from the Army.

On retirement, Richard worked part time for the Foreign Office for a few months and then was appointed Chief Executive of the Berkshire County Blind Society (now Berkshire Vision), a job that he absolutely relished. His tenure there has been described as a veritable tour de force, when he focused on bringing as much comfort, companionship and care to the Society's individual members as he could. He also built up the activities and outings for visually challenged children. On retiring to Sussex, Richard ran the Saltdean and Peacehaven Blind Club and was, for a spell, a Trustee of the Sussex Blind Society. He always enjoyed helping others and bringing plenty of laughter into their lives, with his slightly eccentric sense of humour.

Richard died in March aged 84 having suffered from Alzheimer's disease for several years. Many of his characteristics are summarised by the words displayed in a frame on his desk at the Blind Society and then at home in his study:

The Glory of Life is to love, not to be loved, to

give, not to get, to serve, not to be served; to be a strong hand in the dark to another in their time of need, to be a cup of strength to any soul in a crisis of weakness; this is to know the Glory of Life.

Colonel Fra' Matthew Festing OBE DL

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



Matthew Festing died in Malta just short of his 72nd birthday on 12th November. Educated at Ampleforth he then went on to St John's College at Cambridge. I knew Matthew way back in the days of the 2nd Battalion's tour in British

Honduras when I was Adjutant and he a platoon commander, where he avoided the daily "run and walks" as much as possible. He then became the Intelligence Officer. Neither of us, I recall, particularly liked British Honduras or Belize City, for that matter; he would say it was "all quite beastly". Part of his duties entailed being the editor of "The Grenadier" battalion newsletter, which came out monthly. He had a very good sense of humour which was apparent in the column he wrote answering questions from a certain "Mr Mouse" which invariably culminated with the final response from Matthew – "get knotted".

I much regret having to write this obituary, not least because he would have made a far better job of it himself and in the process have had us all in fits of laughter. It was his wit and repartee which drew many of us to his side at lunch or dinner. A keen observer of Regimental life he was a regular contributor to the Officers Mess Lie Book frequently making fun of the Adjutant and anyone who was pompous or who had pretensions well above their station. The Garrison Commander did not avoid the occasional witty barb.

For the last fifteen years or so Celia and I

would, in September, drive to Birks, Matthew's beloved home in Northumberland where we would fish on the North Tyne over the weekend and he would join us for a picnic lunch. The highlight of the weekends would be Matthew's story telling invariably about his father or more recently the shenanigans of Rome, which have been amply covered in the Daily Telegraph and other publications. Nevertheless in 1993 he was justly proud of being elected Grand Prior in the Grand Priory of England in the Sovereign Order of The Knights of Malta. He was the first since the Reformation some 450 years previous. He was then voted 79th Prince and Grand Master in 2008. He was only the second English Grand Master since its foundation in the 11th Century. In the process he was required to take vows of chastity, poverty and obedience. Matthew always said that "chastity was relatively easy, poverty no problem but obedience was almost impossible". Ever modest about his exalted rank, he used to be tickled pink however when more self-aware British grandees had to bow in his presence in Rome. I laughed when I saw the portrait painted by his brother Andrew. It shows a rather disapproving Matthew. He adopted this pose because he deprecated the self satisfied expressions of most sitters of portraits, and it amused him to be contrary. I recall Mathew showing us his Austrian Order of The Golden Fleece awarded to him in 2011: he was particularly humbled by this singular honour being the only the second English recipient for nearly two centuries.

Matthew's father, the Field Marshal, was a Rifle Brigade officer with an impressive lineage of soldiers and at one stage in the early 1950's commanded British Troops in Egypt where two Guards Brigades (1st and 32nd) were stationed. So impressed was he by the Foot Guards that he resolved that his eldest and in due course his youngest son, Matthew, should join the Grenadiers. His mother, Mary, came from an old Northumberland family, the Riddells of Swinburne Castle and so the county became very much the family home.

Matthew's career in the Grenadiers was a short one, but he much enjoyed attending First Guards club dinners. At one he sat next to Prince Philip and their natural affinity was apparent to all. He then joined Sotheby's as a consultant which he

continued until his duties in Rome precluded it. In Northumberland he joined the Territorial Army and was second in command of 6th Battalion of the Royal Regiment of Fusiliers. For his service in the Territorial Army he was awarded the Territorial Decoration. He later became the County Commandant of the Northumberland ACF. Matthew had the common touch and was always at ease with soldiers and cadets because, of course, he made them laugh. He was a great mimic of the Newcastle dialect and could recite the two sides of a conversation to much hilarity. He was awarded the OBE for his time as County Commandant and he stayed with us for his investiture and well I remember the entire resources of the Regimental Tailor and equipment repairer being devoted to his service dress and Sam Browne belt. The latter had been his father's but even then it had to be extended!

I remember once when I was on exercise with 19 Brigade at Spadeadam a MoD training area not far from Birks I drove over for supper; it was only half an hour away. After a jolly meal Matthew asked how was I going to return to which I replied by the main road. "Oh No you mustn't do that there is a cross country route, which I know well". So enthusiastic was he that he volunteered to take me back to Spadeadam in his land rover. And so we set off with my own land rover and driver following behind. It took us two hours to get there with various detours and I remember thinking that he hadn't been that good on navigation in British Honduras, but it was a thought too late!

Matthew was a wonderful friend to Celia and me and we will sorely miss him as will those Grenadiers who knew him. We will forever have happy memories of our weekends at Birks and the Villa Pagana, his much loved retreat near Portofino



whilst Grand Master. He is buried in the historic Grand Masters' crypt in St John's Co- Cathedral in Valletta where eleven of his predecessors pre 1798 were interred. It is worthy of note that no Grand Master has been buried in Malta since 1798, perhaps a greater honour than the Golden Fleece.

James Higgins MBE

by *The Regimental Adjutant*



James Richard Clinton Higgins died on 1 October 2021, aged 98, one of the last few members of the Regiment to have served in the 4th (Tank) Battalion in Normandy in 1944.

He was born in Patna on 12 January 1923, his father serving in India at that time with the Lincolnshire Regiment. James was educated at Shrewsbury and rowed in the VIII. On his 19th birthday he enlisted into the Regiment, the earliest age then permitted for young men after over 2 years of war, and he was promptly sent to the Guards Depot at Caterham for 2 months to complete the Brigade Squad, before moving on to Sandhurst. Granted an Emergency War Commission in September 1942, he was then posted to the 2nd (Armoured) Battalion at Warminster, part of the recently formed Guards Armoured Division, equipped with Covenanters and training on Salisbury Plain.

The 2nd Battalion continued its training throughout 1943, moving first to Thetford and then, in June, to Helmsley in Yorkshire, exchanging to Shermans. In April 1944, under a veil of secrecy, the Division was moved towards the south coast and shortly afterwards, as a relatively experienced troop leader, James was transferred across to the 4th (Tank) Battalion, part of the independent 6th Guards Tank Brigade, in command of a troop of Churchills.

On 18 July 1944, fortunately in good weather and without any enemy interference, the Battalion

crossed the Channel in tank landing ships, landing at the Gold and Juno Beaches. It then spent about 10 days in the beachhead, in the fields and orchards east of Bayeux, preparing the vehicles and examining enemy equipment that littered the countryside. On 28 July it received the order to move and, after a pretty chaotic and confused approach down narrow, winding lanes in pitch darkness, the following morning they reached the ridge overlooking Caumont. At 8am on 30 July, following a massive preparatory bombardment of the enemy positions by artillery and heavy bombers, the leading tanks of the 4th Battalion *“rumbled forwards slowly over the skyline and drove down into the valley below, the commanders peering through the thick early morning mist, they could see the smoke billowing upwards from Sept Vents and farther to the left they could just pick out the outline of Lutain Wood”* [the two initial objectives, both occupied by the enemy]. The Battalion had to pass through gaps in several minefields before fanning out to assault its objectives and at this point James Higgins’ vehicle struck a mine and erupted in flames. He vividly remembered spending the night in nearby woods, with little protection, while the battle raged around him. In a new vehicle, he was in action, more or less constantly over the next fortnight as the Brigade pushed further south through the close, bocage country, against heavy, cleverly concealed opposition. On 11 August he was wounded again, this time more seriously by a sniper, which resulted in his evacuation from the battlefield and many months were spent recovering in hospital, first in Aldershot and then Ringwood. Many years later he would vividly remember and describe the appalling noise, heat and smell of the battlefield.

After the war James left the Regiment to pursue a career in the film industry. He began this at MGM, licensing films to mining communities in South Wales. Although not perhaps an auspicious start, he later became a legendary figure in the UK film distribution sector, working for Paramount/CIC during the 1970s and then taking charge of United International Pictures (UIP) UK during the 1980’s. He oversaw the release of many hugely successful films in the UK, among them *E.T.*, the *Indiana Jones* adventures, *Jaws*, *Grease*, *Back to the Future* and *A Fish Called Wanda*. He was close to Cubby Broccoli

during the Roger Moore and Timothy Dalton era of James Bond films, a period when 007 was helping to keep the UK industry afloat. Barbara Broccoli is recently quoted as saying, *“James Higgins was a legend, a true gentleman and a dear friend. He will be sorely missed by all of us who knew him.”*

He retired from UIP in 1990 and then, from 1991-98, he was president of the Society of Film Distributors, the industry trade body. He was heavily involved in charitable work for the Film and TV Charity (previously the Cinema and Television Benevolent Fund). As a final accolade, in 2012 he received the *Outstanding Contribution to the Industry Award* at Screen International’s marketing and distribution awards.

Fondly known as *“Gentleman Jim”* he retained a very keen interest in the business and was always available for advice. *“He was a man of integrity and great courtesy, quietly influential, with a very dry sense of humour and great fun”*. A self-deprecating figure, he accepted early on that distributors were destined to stay out of the limelight. *“No one ever hears of the distributor and no one has any idea about what the distributor does. He is a very underrated character in the development, success or failure of a film”*, he once commented. Nevertheless, a special lunch was held by distribution executives to honour him on his 90th birthday.

In 1992 he was appointed MBE for his contribution to the British film industry and, more recently, he was awarded the Legion d’Honneur.

His wife, Wendy, predeceased him. He leaves his three surviving children, Christopher, Abigail and Tessa, his seven grandchildren and three great grandchildren.



Ewen Brodie of Lethen CVO

by *The Regimental Adjutant*



Ewen John Brodie was born in Scotland on 16 December 1942, the son of Major David Brodie of Lethen and his wife, Diana. One of his uncles was the Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police. He was educated at Wellesley House and then Harrow, before

being selected for a Short Service Commission in the Regiment, which commenced in November 1961.

He joined the 1st Battalion, then commanded by David Fraser, in London District. It had the comparative misfortune of being based in Tidworth where it would remain until it moved to the new Chelsea Barracks in October 1962. Ewen is remembered by his contemporaries as a fit, smart and rather wild young officer and he was very popular. It was a busy time and one recalls, “we were both Ensigns in the Queen’s Company and spent a great deal of time on Public Duties in London. I recall one stretch when we were on duty every day for six weeks. The Adjutant [David Fanshawe] had to juggle the few officers available pretty deftly, but one might come off Bank Picquet in the early morning and then go straight on to Queen’s Guard or the Tower Guard a few hours later”. In 1962 Ewen was the Ensign of Number Five Guard on the Queen’s Birthday Parade.

At this time young officers walking out of barracks in London were always expected to be dressed in a suit with stiff collar, bowler hat and carrying a furred umbrella. Clearly caught out once too often by his next Adjutant, David Gordon Lennox, the latter remembers the Commanding Officer wisely suggesting that although some more lively young officers would more often catch his eye, they would also often be the best in wartime. Ewen was always up for a challenge. In August 1963, while on exercise at Dartmoor, there was a conversation over dinner in Okehampton Camp about who might be the fastest up a nearby tor and back. Bets were made and the race promptly run, all returning “puffed

and muddled, to rousing cheers”. Who won the race is not recorded, nor did it matter. In November 1963, the 1st Battalion moved to Gort Barracks in Hubblerath, as part of 4th Guards Brigade.

Shortly afterwards, Ewen left the Army and joined IBM, working first and for many years in London before moving to Glasgow. He retired in 1976, principally to run the family estate at Lethen, which is located just to the East of Inverness and straddles the Findhorn. He loved fishing and shooting and he dedicated a large part of the rest of his life to the running of the estate with his wife, Mariota at his side, where he was very active and “hands on”. He also spent time sheep farming in the early years and he felt very strongly about conservation, sustainable fishing and forestry. He was an active member of many committees such as The Nairnshire Farming Society, the Timber Growers Association, the River Findhorn District Salmon Fishing Board as well as the Atlantic Salmon Trust.

He was highly respected in many walks of life. He always achieved a very honest and open contact with people and, to the end of his life, he remained a source of great knowledge in the many areas which interested him.

He was Lord Lieutenant of Nairnshire from 1999-2017, a role he took very seriously and one which he thoroughly enjoyed, particularly as this allowed him to remain very much involved in local affairs. It was a period during which there were four other Grenadier Lord Lieutenants. He was appointed CVO in 2015.

Ewen Brodie was predeceased by an older sister, Marion, and his younger brother, James. He is survived by his sister Janet, who lives in Australia. He leaves behind his wife, Mariota and their three daughters and six grandchildren.



Sir Peter Petrie Bt CMG

by *The Regimental Adjutant*



Sir Peter Charles Petrie, 5th baronet, died on 28 October 2021, aged 89. He was known as one of the smoothest of diplomats, spending most of his career in the more sophisticated capitals of the Western world, his last appointment as Ambassador

to Belgium from 1985-89. He then became foreign affairs adviser to the then Governor of the Bank of England and another former Grenadier, Robin Leigh-Pemberton, and subsequently to his successor, Eddie George. For the next decade Sir Peter became well known in the higher reaches of international banking, especially in Europe and he was used by the Governor in a quasi-diplomatic capacity.

He was born on 7 March 1932, the son of the historian, Sir Charles Petrie, 3rd Bt and Peter was educated at Westminster then Christ Church, Oxford, where he read classics. He was commissioned into the Regiment in April 1955 and promptly sent out to join the 2nd Battalion in Egypt, at that time commanded by Lt Col the Hon Miles Fitzalan Howard MC, later the Duke of Norfolk. The battalion was based in Golf Course Camp at Port Said, according to one young officer, a dreary location wedged “between the station and the jail. I could hear the screams of the prisoners who were chained to heavy balls. The bed bugs and lice were awful”. Nonetheless, Peter must have made a positive impression because he was soon the Intelligence Officer and had been sent with Support Company down to Aqaba, a tiny village on the edge of the Red Sea where Israel, Saudi Arabia and Jordan all meet. “It is very, very hot and the flies are appalling”. There were other excursions as far as Khartoum and Kenya and, with two Guards Brigades in the Canal Zone, there were more guards on the Queen’s Birthday Parade at Moascar, than there were on Horse Guards.

Fortunately, the days of the British Army in Egypt were numbered and Anthony Eden had

directed that there be a phased withdrawal. The Commanding Officer had persuaded the military authorities that the 2nd Battalion should be the last to leave Egypt, on the dubious grounds that the Coldstream and Scots Guards had each played a greater part in the Battle of Tel-el-Kebir in 1882. The final withdrawal was scheduled for 1st April 1956 but the Foreign Office intervened, saying that the last British troops could not leave on April Fool’s Day! On the night of 2nd April, the entire battalion departed, in secrecy, returning slowly by sea to Pirbright, via Tripoli.

Later in 1956, having left the Army, Peter took the Foreign Office exam and his first posting abroad was to the UK Delegation to NATO, then still in Paris, where he met and married Countess Lydwine von Oberndorff, whose family had an extended cousinage in New York, Paris and The Hague. They were a very well-connected couple! After Paris there were postings to New Delhi, Kathmandu and then to the UN in New York, followed by Bonn and six years in Paris before the final move to Brussels.

Many colleagues thought it a pity that Peter did not rise still further in the Diplomatic Service, but his duties at the Bank of England enabled him to play an active part in financial diplomacy. He was also able to take on the honorary appointment of British Chairman of the Franco-British Council from 1997–2002.

He was appointed CMG in 1980 and, in 1988, he succeeded to the baronetcy on the death of his half-brother. In 2006 he was appointed Chevalier of the Legion d’Honneur. Sir Peter retained his youthful appearance and energy until late in life. He continued to split his time between London and Normandy, where he and his wife enjoyed country pursuits. They had two sons and a daughter.



Captain Ian Thorne

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



Ian Thorne died on the 17th June after a prolonged illness. He was born into a staunch Grenadier family, his grandfather being General ‘Bulgy’ Thorne and his father, Major George Thorne and two uncles also wartime Grenadiers. After leaving Eton,

he went to Sandhurst where he passed the ‘Edward Bear’ parachute course but I doubt it ever crossed his mind to join the Parachute Regiment as he was always a committed Grenadier. Ian then went up to Trinity College, Oxford where he met Sir Basil Liddell Hart who inspired him to take a lasting interest in Military History. That interest continued throughout his life and although he never published a book he wrote many essays and commentaries on strategic subjects of the 19th and 20th Centuries of which he had acquired an enviable knowledge. His prodigious library at Kneesall would match that of any leading military historian.

Quite soon after commissioning, in 1965 he was attached to the Welsh Guards in Aden during the insurgency and there among his operational duties he joined the battalion choir as a worthy bass. He used to recount an occasion when on patrol he would send an instruction around the patrol and in order to confirm their acknowledgement he would pass his silver pencil so that when it came back he could be satisfied all had got the message. However on one occasion the pencil that returned was chewed stub of a wood pencil. He swiftly abandoned the practice! He served mostly in the 1st Battalion of the Grenadiers where he tended to observe the tactics of the battalion through the prism of grand strategy which was not always appreciated by his superiors.

During 1971/72 he served in Northern Ireland with the 1st Battalion and whilst there all the subalterns were required to write a paper called *the Young Officers Winter Essay* on a subject normally set by the Senior Major. Ian submitted his one page

which consisted of one sentence “this question does not make sense; therefore I am not going to attempt to write a response”. His view was shared by us all but no one else dared say so.

In the same year he went Oman to serve as adjutant with the Northern Frontier Regiment so he had seen rather more operational service than most of his contemporaries. He might well have been a brilliant officer in wartime but he realised that he was not entirely suited for the Army of the 70’s and left in 1972. For a short time, he applied his first-rate mind to Defence policy at Conservative Central Office but in 1974, after inheriting the 4,000 acre Kneesall Estate in Nottinghamshire through his mother’s family, he threw his energy into estate management and devoted the rest of his life to country affairs.

Determined to diversify the estate, he soon established a number of projects including a café, a children’s nursery and an equestrian centre. He was a keen manager of woodlands and was Chairman of the Timber Growers Organisation seven years and then Chairman of the Royal Forestry Society in Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire for three. He was President of the Newark and Nottinghamshire Agricultural Show from 1998 to 2002 and was High Sheriff for the shrieval year of 1986 to 87 and at about that time I stayed with him at Beauchamp Barn, a lovely home he designed himself. He was involved in many other Nottinghamshire charitable organisations.

Ian was always a generous host and held several parties in the garden at Beauchamp Barn for local dignitaries and friends. His main recreations were cricket and shooting. Known as just ‘IDP’ (Ian David Peel), he played for I Zingari and Eton Ramblers where he was a popular player. In his earlier days he was a keen player for the Guards Cricket Club at Burton Court. He used to say he had 30 days a year on each sport. He was a liveryman of the Cook’s Company.

In 1990 Ian wrote a book, entitled ‘*Purple Patches*’ which was charming, pithy and witty, quite an achievement. It included his thoughts on various issues; landownership, shooting, Nottinghamshire and military history. It epitomised his love for the countryside and its pursuits and he would do all in his power to encourage others. Above all he loved

the Kneesall estate but he also had a strong affection for Thoresby, the connected estate that his cousin Hugh Matheson inherited. Hugh wrote of him:

“...for 45 years he behaved with the greatest respect and support for the Thoresby Estate and community. It is our honour that his remains will rest in his ground in Thoresby oak made by the Thoresby joiner”.

He married Paula in 1992 and leaves a daughter,

Davina, who is an award winning film producer co directing the Channel Four hit series ‘*Britain’s abandoned playgrounds*’ as well as Event Managing for world class companies. He also leaves a stepdaughter and stepson who in 1992 won the Olympic Silver Medal for Great Britain in the 4x400 metres in Barcelona. We convey our thoughts and sympathy to all his family.

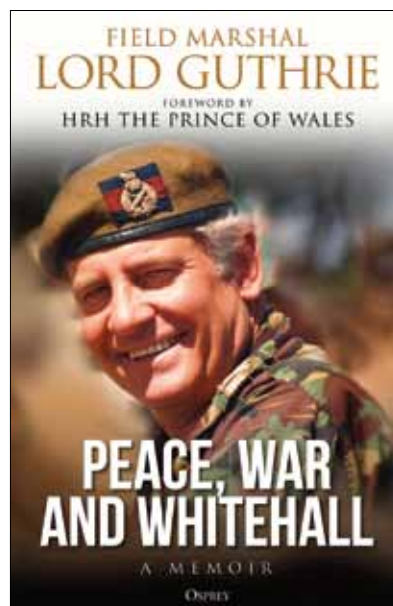
BOOK REVIEWS

Peace, War and Whitehall A Memoir by Field Marshal Lord Guthrie

A few years ago, my indomitable grandmother’s response to the news that my own memoir was being published was understandably sceptical: who would want to read that, she wondered, you’ve only been in the Army for five minutes and haven’t done anything important. If anything, she was even more incredulous when she saw that the finished book had stretched the briefest snapshot of service to more than 300 pages. In every respect the opposite could not be truer of *Peace, War and Whitehall* Field Marshal Lord Guthrie’s memoir of an extraordinary 42 years of service during which he has commanded at every level in the British Army, from Second Lieutenant in the Welsh Guards in 1959 to Chief of the Defence Staff (CDS) at the turn of the millennium. Who wouldn’t want to read that, would be the natural response and it is indeed a wonder, and slight sadness, that for such a career this is a relatively brief and episodic book.

Lord Guthrie wryly acknowledges at the outset that he was on record 20 years ago saying he was sick of Generals writing their memoirs and would never write his own. This reticence seems to stem in part from his own time with the SAS and the omerta which (just about, still) governs its members but equally from an instinctive

and admirable reticence to bloviate. We should, therefore, be grateful to his family, friends and the Welsh Guardsmen who persuaded him to change his mind and belatedly put pen to paper because the result is an accessible, entertaining and informative memoir that avoids the pitfalls of those seeking to write their own versions of history and reads more like an after dinner speech than a lecture with as much for the aspiring junior officer as for the student of strategy and generalship and more in the way of wry, amusing asides than grandiose pronouncements. The seriousness of the Balkan conflict and the delicate Northern Ireland



peace process sit somehow comfortably alongside jokes about Benedict Cumberbatch and outsize cowboy hats.

The sheer scope of the Field Marshal's experience is remarkable. In his early recollections the Second World War is a palpable presence – his commanding officers in the Welsh Guards during his formative years 'had all conducted themselves with courage and distinction in the Second World War' and were garlanded with DSOs and MCs and nicknames hard-earned in the fighting in Normandy. His first operational deployment was to Aden in 1965 as to which he all too accurately observes that if any lessons were learnt they were soon forgotten 'events 40 years later in Basra sadly proved that'. Vignettes from his time in Northern Ireland and with the British Army of the Rhine are particularly valuable and instructive – the arduousness and brutality of the worst years of the 'Troubles' soberingly recalled – but in between we take in the New Hebrides and the Silver Jubilee celebrations in London. There are serious lessons to be learnt from Lord Guthrie's experiences but an appealing lightness of touch with which they are delivered. There is a heartening seam running through the Field Marshal's memoirs which while never suggesting anything other than utmost professionalism, decries taking things too seriously and working too hard – I suspect some of today's frantically busy junior and staff officers may read this and wish they had been working for him and it is a testament to a generosity of spirit that his own staff and subordinates appear to be universally recalled with praise and gratitude.

Peace, War and Whitehall is written in a tone of fond recollection and warmth with refreshingly little in the way of gossip and political score-settling, but that is not to say the Field Marshal pulls his punches. For example, as CDS, he concedes, that in the optimism of the end of the nineties and early noughties we failed to track the threat of a rising China whose 'ruthless policy of co-option, coercion, concealment and mendacity poses the single greatest threat to world peace'. One wonders what the Field Marshal would make of the recent appointment of the first CDS from the Royal Navy in the twenty years since he was succeeded by the 'taciturn' Admiral Boyce: the two aircraft carriers which

were approved during Strategic Defence Review of 1997 are flagged up as unaffordable mistakes and 'sitting ducks in the face of our enemies' growing technological advances'. There is no doubt that HMS *Queen Elizabeth* and HMS *Prince of Wales* (as the Royal Navy cannily named its two carriers) provide excellent photogenic content for official social media accounts, but how effective they may prove at deterring an increasingly assertive China remains open to question and the contrast between the 1997 strategic defence review – of which Lord Guthrie concludes it 'could have been a lot worse' – and the parlous state of the Army in particular following the 2021 Integrated Review is stark. Elsewhere Lord Guthrie recalls how 1990s Options for Change had 'left the British Army in a vacuum, with no clear focus' and the Royal Armoured Corps halved in strength which might seem like an alarmingly familiar predicament today.

Indeed, if there was any sadness to this book, for this reader at least, it was to wonder whether or not the Army described even in its latter stages is already a thing of the past – whether a critical mass point has been passed that, combined with a lack of political will, means the optimistic, expeditionary Army which Lord Guthrie commanded has receded as much into history as the one he joined over 60 years ago. At the heart of it all is Lord Guthrie's reflection that 'People join the services, as I did, for travel, adventure and excitement, and to go to war to defend out national interests and lay down their lives if needs be ... Nobody flourishes just sitting around in barracks, in a naval base or on an RAF runway. It's like asking a teacher not to enter a classroom, or a lawyer to keep away from a courtroom'. This memoir is as much about travel, adventure and excitement that the Field Marshall enjoyed as anything else and should provide encouragement that one can reach the very top of one's profession without losing that sense of fun.

Patrick Hennessey
Published by Osprey Publishing

Patrick Hennessey is the author of *The Junior Officers' Reading Club: Killing Time and Fighting Wars* (published in 2009)

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

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

ASSOCIATION FEATURES

LSgt 'Barney' Cresswell visits Windsor Castle

by WO2(RQMS) D Roper

Your author had the honour of meeting former-LSgt Bernard 'Barney' Cresswell and his family at Windsor Castle in January 2022. In collusion with Barney's family and representatives from SSAFA, we in Regimental Headquarters had been planning the trip as a birthday surprise for Barney and his reaction to seeing us gathered at the Henry VIII Gate didn't disappoint. The 96-year-old Grenadier and former SSAFA (Hampshire) volunteer was visiting Windsor Castle for the first time in nearly 80 years since he was part of the garrison tasked with guarding the historic fortress during WW2.

Barney joined the Grenadier Guards in 1943 and found himself patrolling the grounds of Windsor Castle soon after. Barney said: "We'd finished three months of basic training and then were posted to the Castle Garrison. We lived in the stables; we didn't do static guard duty, which was a separate unit, we

used to patrol around the corridors."*

Barney didn't think of the importance of the role he and his fellow Guardsmen were playing at the time: "I've learned since that there was a big scare on at the time that German paratroopers might land on the Castle and try to hold the Royal family. I suppose being a young squaddie, it didn't enter my head, you're just doing what they said to do. You're just given your orders and you get on with it."*

Nearly eight decades after the fact, Barney had a chance to reflect on his wartime role: "You're part of history, aren't you? And of course, She [HM the Queen] became Colonel of the Regiment. I've always been proud and I'm a Royalist anyway, I'm quite proud of that."*

After his stint guarding Windsor Castle, Barney was sent to France, landing in Normandy on 18 June 1944 – 12-days after D-Day – for which he was awarded a Legion d'Honneur. He and his unit walked most of the way through Europe, serving in Berlin during the aftermath of the war until he left the army in 1947. Barney then served as a police officer for 30 years and volunteered for SSAFA at the Hampshire branch for 29 years after that before finally retiring in 2021.

Barney is clearly a very modest man who, throughout his life of public service with the Grenadiers, the police and with SSAFA, you can tell just got on with his job and did it extremely well. I know I can speak for the whole Regiment when I offer a particular thank you to Barney and all those who served alongside him during a defining time in our nation's history.

*With kind permission SSAFA PR team



Ex-Grenadier Guard Bernard 'Barney' Cresswell, 96, and his family shown around by RQMS David Roper Picture credit: Alex Welirang/SSAFA.

The Chant Gymnasium Infantry Training Centre (ITC) Catterick

by *Lieutenant Colonel J A Keeley MBE*

Having taken over as the Staff Quartermaster at the Infantry Training Centre Catterick just as the Coronavirus pandemic struck in March 2020, the Recruits were soon to be sent home as 'lockdown one' was put into place at a national level. The next six weeks were spent planning and instigating a COVID safe return to training for them.

As the lockdown was eased and with numerous COVID restart planning and risk mitigation meetings behind us, the Recruits returned to training in May 2020 having had a six week break. One of the many issues that had come to light was how to carry out physical development safely, particularly strength and conditioning training, in a confined gym area. It did not take long to realise that with nearly 2500 Recruits in training the ITC would struggle to deliver this type of training in the facilities available to it.

Unsure of what the future would look like with regard to the pandemic and with an evident and concerning risk to training output, in July 2020 funding was made available by the Army Recruiting and Initial Training Command (ARITC) to put in place a new outdoor 'COVID safe' gymnasium. Following 11 months of planning and a four-month build period the gym was ready to be opened.



The new Chant Gymnasium.

As the build period was mid-way through it struck me that every building and facility within the ITC was named after legendary infantry soldiers, from the likes of Sgt Ian McKay VC who had been KIA on Mount Longdon with 3 Para in the Falklands in 1982 to more distant heroes such as Sgt Alfred 'Harry' Hook who had received a Victoria Cross for his actions at the battle of Rorke's Drift in 1879. A discussion took place with the ITC chain of command and after applying suitable levels of influence it was decided that the gym should be named after a modern day legend, WO1 (RSM) Darren Chant, Grenadier Guards.

Having discussed the handover timeline with the Defence Infrastructure Organisation and the Project Manager it was apparent that if everything aligned, the project would be finished and ready to be handed over for use the week of 4th October 2021. Having looked through the ITC diary it became clear that the perfect time to conduct the opening ceremony was Friday 15th October which was the day of a Guards Company Pass Out Parade for which the Inspecting Officer was the GOC London District and Major General Commanding the Household Division, Major General Christopher Ghika CBE, who was invited to open the Chant Gymnasium on the same day.



Lieutenant Colonel Keeley giving his eulogy.

With the sun shining and not a cloud in the sky the conditions were set for a simple but poignant opening ceremony which was attended by Darren's widow, Sheenie and his 11 year-old son, George along with a scattering of Grenadiers and other friends of



The Major General.

service consisted of a eulogy which I gave, a response by the Major General followed by a blessing from the Padre.

My reading not only made reference to the fact that Darren had risen to the rank of WO1 and had been appointed Sgt Major of the 1st Battalion. It also referred to the fact that he was such a natural figurehead and carved from the very rock that forms the foundations of a regiment. A synopsis of Darren's career, reproduced below with a photograph of the man himself was unveiled by the Major General and is

the Regiment. The ceremony was supported by the Army School of Ceremony Drums Course under the watchful eye of WO1 James Bennett, a Grenadier himself and Senior Drum Major British Army. The

on display at the entry to the gymnasium where his legacy will be on felt for decades by aspiring future Infanteers and Guardsmen that pass through the Infantry Training Centre Catterick.



Sheenie and George with Matt Ellmer by their side.



Sheenie, George and Darren.

WO1 (RSM) Chant was born in Walthamstow on 5 September 1969. He completed his basic training at the Guards Depot, Pirbright, in 1986 and was deployed to South Armagh, Northern Ireland, in 1993. After an attachment to the Pathfinder Platoon from 1997 to 1999, he returned to the 1st Battalion Grenadier Guards before being posted to the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst (RMAS) as a Colour Sergeant instructor until 2003. At Sandhurst WO1 (RSM) Chant quickly made a name for himself with his straight-talking, no nonsense approach to training and soldiering.

After two years at Sandhurst, WO1 (RSM) Chant re-joined the 1st Battalion Grenadier Guards. As the Company Sergeant Major of The Inkerman Company he deployed to Bosnia from September 2004 to June 2005 as part of NATO's, and latterly the European Union's, peacekeeping operation.

On return from Bosnia he was posted back to RMAS as a Company Sergeant Major from August 2005 until December 2006 where he met his future wife. After a year at RMAS he returned to the 1st Battalion Grenadier Guards, firstly as a Liaison Officer for the Battalion while deployed to Afghanistan on Operation HERRICK 6 in 2007.

On return to the UK he took up the post of

Regimental Quartermaster Sergeant (Technical). In the summer of 2008 he was appointed Sergeant Major and moved with the 1st Battalion Grenadier Guards to London and on to pre-deployment training. In September 2009 he deployed to Afghanistan on Operation HERRICK 11 as the Sergeant Major of the 1st Battalion Grenadier Guards.

WO1 (RSM) Chant was the Senior Warrant Officer within the Battalion. In this position he was a natural figurehead for all the Grenadier Guards and was unflinching in his pursuit of the highest possible standards. WO1 (RSM) Chant was carved from the very rock that forms the foundations of a regiment. He was a role model for those beneath him and was an invaluable colleague for anyone that worked alongside him. The day before WO1 (RSM) Chant was killed it was announced that he had been awarded a commission in the Grenadier Guards as an officer. It is a tragedy that he was due to be informed of his success on the day he was killed.

WO1 (RSM) Chant had risen to the highest possible level within the regiment. After the tour it was his aspiration to go to the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst as Academy Sergeant Major. It was then his intention to commission and join the Grenadier Guards' Officers' Mess.

Walking Hadrian's Wall with The Shadrake Family

by *Matthew Ellmer*

Having successfully completed Alfred Wainwright's 192 mile Coast to Coast (C2C) Walk in September 2020, agreement was given by the Colonel's Fund Steering Group for another fundraising challenge in 2021. Carl and Angie Shadrake had already suggested that they, along with their two girls, Penelope (7) and Zara (5) would like to walk from East to West along Hadrian's Wall. It was soon agreed that we would walk the 83 mile route in eight days and that my wife Averil and my C2C walking partner Andy Green, would complete the group.

With some COVID restrictions still in place at the beginning of 2021 we adapted our training to meet with Government guidelines and began our daily exercise and training routine. As restrictions eased we started to meet for longer and more challenging walks in order to prepare ourselves as fully as we had done the previous year.



Carl, Angie and their girls enjoying the 3D street art on the north bank of the River Tyne in Newcastle.

On Wednesday 11th August Averil, Andy and I drove to Carlisle, parked up and caught a train to Newcastle. Carl, Angie and the two girls had done the same a little earlier and we all met in Wallsend that evening for dinner. After unpacking and our still familiar routine preparation, we all met up with Lieutenant Colonel Stumpy Keeley, the Staff



From Left to Right: Andy, Carl, Angie, Penelope, Zara, Averil and Matt about to set off from Segedunum Roman Fort and Museum.

Quartermaster at ITC Catterick who had driven up to join us for the evening and how nice it was to see him.

After a good hearty breakfast, the following day we departed by taxi and made our way to Segedunum Roman Fort, the recognised start point. After looking around the museum and making a few purchases from the shop (including walk passports) our **Day One** 6.5 hour 12 mile journey to Keelmans Lodge and the Big Lamp brewery in Newburn began.

Our route followed the River Tyne and took us through Newcastle City Centre along

the embankment and under some magnificent bridges. We stopped for a brew and saw some amazing 3D street art work. Leaving the sights and sounds of Newcastle in our wake we arrived at our accommodation and were later met by Captain Charlie Bennett, Chair of the Steering Committee for supper and a pint or two of Big Lamp brewery ale.

Day Two took us to the Robin Hood Inn at East Wallhouses and we completed the 10 miles in just over 6.5 hrs. Charlie walked with us and spent most of the morning talking to Carl about his experiences in Afghanistan, the injuries he sustained during two tours of duty and the loss of his brother Jamie on OP HERRICK 16.

The walk was relatively steady and just after Close House Golf Course (occasional home to Lee Westwood) we stopped at a café in Heddon-on-the-Wall and Charlie kindly treated us all to coffee and cake. Further along our route the girls were entertained by Averil who took them into a cornfield for a game of hide and seek. Sadly, despite their best efforts, Averil was found! Walking over rolling grassy countryside we passed Vindobala Roman Fort and arrived at our very pleasant Inn for the night where passports were stamped. Andy enjoyed his log cabin and we our very comfortable rooms. After a really good dinner provided by our very hospitable hosts, we all enjoyed a good night's sleep.



Charlie (left) with us for the start of our second day.



Hide and Seek.



With Tommy in Heddon-on-the-Wall.

Day Three from East Wallhouses to Wall saw us walk almost 10 miles in a little over 6 hrs. This was Charlie's last day with us and also the first where we got to see parts of the remains of the Wall in its full glory. We also saw some good examples of the Vallum, the large ditch dug on the Wall's southern side. At the half way point we came across another welcome café where Charlie gave the girls a sugar rush of ice cream, lemonade and marshmallows with cream. It was no surprise that 30 minutes later the girls were running all over the place! We arrived at the Hadrian Hotel where Jo, Charlie's wife was waiting to take him to Scotland. After bidding them farewell and carrying out some routine admin we enjoyed another good dinner and a well-earned full night's sleep.



A Milecastle en-route to East Wallhouses.



Typical Day Four ground.

Day Four from Wall to Once Brewed was nearly 14.5 miles which we completed in 9 hrs. A day of more demanding walking and the first time that we experienced rain. The wall was much more in evidence today and some of it in large sections. After another stamp at Housesteads Roman Fort was added to passports and towards the end of the day we passed Sycamore Gap and the lone tree made famous in the film 'Robin Hood Prince of Thieves'. Vallum Lodge Guest House provided a very warm welcome, good food and comfortable beds.



Robin Hood and the Sherriff of Nottingham at Sycamore Gap.

The 10 miles to Gilsland on **Day Five** was completed in 7.5 hrs. We began with another hearty breakfast and Zara chose boiled egg and soldiers, Roman Soldiers! Heading off we soon started to climb and before too long reached the highest point of the entire walk – 345m at Winshield Crag. Some short but quite steep climbs and descents followed further stretches of the Wall and passed many Forts, Turrets and Milecastles. In the late afternoon we met Colonel Michael Craster and his



Colonel Michael and Fiona Craster with the Shadrake family.

wife Fiona who had driven over from Northumbria, kindly donated to the walk and gave the girls some much appreciated sweets. After a coffee and chat we headed off for the final stretch of the day and in the late afternoon reached Brookside Villa B&B. Dinner involved a round trip of two miles but the walk was worth it, for the food and the Guinness.

Gilsland to Walton on **Day Six** saw just over 9 miles of walking which we completed in 5.5 hrs. We were re-routed in parts due to the restoration work being carried out to some of the original path. Our guide book said that this would be the last day we would see sections of the Wall, so we took the time to take in as much as we could. It was also the first time that we got to see Scotland. We arrived at Walton and were taken to our overnight accommodation in Brampton by pre-booked taxi. Oakwood Park Hotel is steeped in history and was used as a hospital during the First World War. This was acknowledged by a framed letter from Sir Winston Churchill which hung in the entrance corridor. Our rooms were stunning as was dinner in the impressive dining room. Penelope and Zara sat at the head of the table.

Returning to Walton by taxi **Day Seven** from Walton to Carlisle was 11 miles which we completed



Penelope pulling and Zara pushing their Dad along the Solway Firth.

in 5.25 hrs. We had the welcome company today of former LSgt Josh Tuicicia and his daughter Gabriella. Walking through fields and by the River Eden, we passed through a number of villages and found a nice and conveniently placed honesty shed where we stopped for lunch. We arrived at Carlisle found and booked into our B&B and for dinner Andy and I went out to collect an Indian takeaway which made a nice change.



Setting out from Walton with Josh, rear right and Gabriella front left.



Carl, Angie, Penelope and Zara at Bowness-on-Solway – ‘nuff’ said.

Day Eight saw us set off from Carlisle to Bowness-on-Solway, some 16.5 miles which was completed in 8.75 hrs. It proved to be a long slog, first through the city following the river and out through rolling fields and villages before reaching

a final stretch of long straight road and the Solway Firth. At 1745hrs we crossed the finish line, marked by a small shed and completed the final stamps in our Hadrian’s Wall passports. After a grand total of 93.19 miles we arrived at the very comfortable Wallsend B&B for a deserved beer with dinner (and a quiz night) at the Kings Arms.

Carl and Angie’s two daughters are undoubtedly super stars and a credit to their parents. They completed this walk without complaint and proved to be delightful company throughout. We all enjoyed the experience and would recommend the walk to anyone who might be interested.

Our aim was to raise a £15k to help our injured soldiers and bereaved families and can confirm that we reached our target.

Thank you to everyone who donated. From a personal point of view, I see first-hand the positive effect that your donations have on all those the Colonel’s Fund enables me to support and I will continue to serve them in the best way I can on your behalf.

The Sergeants’ Mess at Caterham



Theresa Day, who will be known to many, is a member and former secretary of the Reading Branch and also sat for some time on our Executive Committee. Theresa’s Grandson’s girlfriend qualified as a vet last year and is now working in the Sgts’ Mess – what a coincidence she tells us – she remembers going there lots of times many moons ago and thought those once familiar with Caterham might like to see the Mess as it is today.

A Short Update from the Regimental Casualty Officer

by *Matthew Ellmer*

2021 was been another busy year for me and the Colonel's Fund, but in a different way due to COVID 19. I now help to look after 74 Grenadier veterans and 18 bereaved families.

COVID 19 changed many people's lives and has sadly taken many too. I had to adapt my support as I could no longer carry out face to face visits. The answer was communication by other means including phone calls, texting, media messaging, video calls, Zoom, Teams and WhatsApp. I have a routine list of calls to make either weekly, fortnightly or monthly and of course when required. When restrictions started to ease visits began again on a need rather than a want basis, but are now back to normal and in line with Government guidelines.

On a personal note back in March 2020 I walked every day during the first lockdown and started to post daily pictures on Facebook. Some people said this helped them as the photos cheered them up. I have kept this going even now I am back travelling around the country.



Out on one of my daily walks.

The Hadrian's Wall (HW) fundraising walk was a real success despite restricted training opportunities. Once restrictions were lifted we began a more challenging build-up programme. Along with Andy Green and my wife Averil, former PL Sgt Carl Shadrake and his family were training

for the walk too. I joined them on one occasion when Carl and his family took me around the local area in Aldershot. A more detailed report on our HW walk adventure appears elsewhere in the edition.



My training walk with the Shadrake Family.

During the summer I was asked to nominate five wounded Grenadiers to take part in the 2022 Yukon 700 challenge. After discussions with Major John Frith and Lieutenant Colonel Guy Denison-Smith we selected, interviewed and chose Garth Banks, Paul Richardson, Dougie Adams, Tony Checkley and Alex Harrison. I'm sure we will see much more about their expedition in the next edition of the Gazette.

I continue to support Association Branches by giving presentations about my work and after a visit to the Wigan Branch, by the end of 2021 I will also have spoken to the March and London Branches at their Christmas lunches.

In 2022 I am looking forward to our Regimental Remembrance Weekend in May where our bereaved families can once again come together. I have also planned a weekend in June where I will be taking on the Yorkshire 3 Peaks challenge with those wounded, bereaved and Grenadier veterans that have been involved in our previous mountain events. At the time of writing I am also planning my next long distance walk, the John Muir Way, walking from the West coast to the East coast of Scotland.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all Grenadiers, their families and friends who have raised money for the Colonel's Fund which as we all know does a great job supporting wounded and bereaved Grenadiers and their families.

Thomas Holland

This Squad Photograph, taken 70 years ago was sent in by 22672284 Thomas 'Dutch' Holland. Tom asked that it be published in the Gazette and that if anyone would like to get in touch with him he can be found at friarsoak123@gmail.com or on 01444 248240.



My Grenadier Memories

by *George Hughes*

I joined the Regiment on 5th May 1958 at Caterham Barracks, then the Guards Depot, having signed on although National Service was still in place. I was 21 years old, and had completed a five-year apprenticeship as a wall and floor tiler. The tradesmen I worked under were very professional, and taught me to take pride in my work and accept nothing less than perfection. I know that this helped me a great deal during my time in the Regiment. Our squad instructor was LSgt Jonny Williams, a man who I later came to greatly admire. He was fair, firm and would not accept anything short of excellence.

On the first day we fell in as a squad at the back of the accommodation blocks. Our squad instructor asked if anybody had any knowledge of marching. Having been in the Army Cadets from the age of 14, I put my hand up. "What rank were you?" he asked. "CSM", I replied. "Oh, senior to me then" he said. I knew I had made a big mistake. I was taken out in front of the squad, who were told that I was going to demonstrate how to march. He gave the word of command and I stepped off. I only got two paces when I heard screaming, telling me to get back in the squad. I don't remember much about the rest of the day.

There was one member of the squad who was unable to march in the conventional way. He would march with left arm and leg going forward and right arm and right leg going back at the same time. We were sure that he would get us back-squadded. LSgt Williams was determined that would not happen. To this end, each evening he would take him onto the square with another instructor and eventually they got him to march correctly. He turned out to be a brilliant guardsman.

When we were due to leave Caterham we expected to be going to Pirbright, after a short leave. However, we found that we were to join the 1st Battalion at Chelsea Barracks as they were shorthanded. We soon settled into the more relaxed way of life doing public duties. What a relief we thought, having heard what Pirbright was like. That relief was short lived, as some time later we

were sent off to Pirbright. Boy did we pay for that short rest period in London.

Eventually we got back to London and public duties. At this time of course the sentries were posted outside the railings at Buckingham Palace. On one occasion, in the early hours of the morning, I was on stag with the squad member who couldn't march properly. When I turned about on the patrol to march back facing him, he went into tick-tock mode, left arm and leg together. Fortunately, I was able to stop the patrol. Back in the Guard Room I asked him why he did that. His reply was "I was bored, so I thought it would give us a laugh". He never did it again, to my knowledge.



My first guard at Buckingham Palace. I was terrified, as you can see.

Having been promoted to LCpl there were more odd occurrences to follow. There was an occasion while changing the sentries at Buckingham Palace a lady with a cine camera failed to move out of our way. The crowd had moved closer to the railing so she had nowhere to go. Needless to say, I went

straight into her, the lens of the camera leaving a big scrape up my rifle, and she went on her backside. I was not a happy bunny. I don't suppose she was either.

On another occasion, while advancing to the post in the gardens at Buckingham Palace to relieve the sentry, I noticed there was nobody there. I went cold and thought there is nothing in the manual that tells you what to do when you lose a sentry. As we got to the sentry box the missing guardsman appeared from behind, doing up his fly's. He had obviously decided to relieve himself. I am not able to write here what I said to him, but it wasn't very complementary. I later thought, it's my job to relieve him but then again maybe not.

In the winter it was very cold outside on stag, as I am sure it is now. I don't know if they still do, but the guardsmen then would wear their pajama pants under their tweeds, tucked into their socks and secured with an elastic band. Once while changing the sentry at the front of Buckingham

Palace, I noticed 2 to 3 inches of blue and white pajama pants hanging out over a man's boot. He had failed to secure it. I then had the unenviable task of putting it right – very embarrassing.

When we left London, we moved to Kandahar Barracks, Tidworth on Salisbury Plain. There were many exercises and forced marches to knock us back into shape. I think this was the run-up to Exercise Starlight in Libya. At this time, I was due to get married so had to march in and get 'leave'. I marched in and stated my application to Major Courage. He asked me if I had met her mother to which I replied "Sir" he then asked if I got on with her – "Sir". Then he asked if I thought it would last. A bit puzzled I asked if he meant the marriage or getting on with the future mother-in-law. There was screaming to my right "Just answer the question". I did marry her, 61 years ago. Now approaching 62 years. Thank you, Sir

I come from a family with a long military background. During WW1 my father fought at the Somme, having joined the 6th Liverpool Rifles at 16 years of age. He was later transferred to the Royal Horse Artillery. One of his duties was to ride the limber horse. He also volunteered in WW2 and my brother was a Grenadier. I also had an uncle who was a Grenadier. I recall being told that he was a Pioneer Sergeant. During my service I wore his Grenade, having obtained leave to do so, until a hole appeared in the bowl due to polishing. I still have that Grenade.

My time in the Regiment taught me a lot of things, many of which I still apply to my everyday life. It gave me the confidence and knowledge to set up two businesses, a Security Company and a Private Investigation Agency.

I currently volunteer at Chester and District Federation of the Blind which is a charity for blind and partially sighted people



Our wedding day – with thanks to Major Courage.

based in Ellesmere Port, Cheshire. It gives me an enormous amount of satisfaction helping others less fortunate than myself. I also do a lot of charity work via my Masonic Lodge. Something else the Regiment taught me.

As a member of the Liverpool Branch, I am proud to say that we are still going strong, under the guidance of our current and very able secretary, and the other committee members. During the past eighteen months or so they have worked tirelessly in the background, planning and arranging events and great credit to them all.

Some years ago Liverpool Branch members were invited to afternoon tea at Lord Derby's Estate. Kindly arranged by our Branch Secretary who has the golden touch, it was a splendid afternoon which everybody really enjoyed.



Judith and I with Lord Derby.

I am proud to say that some years ago whilst attending Black Sunday, I had the privilege of being introduced to HRH The Duke of Edinburgh, our late Colonel. It was nice to have a little chat with Him and he was very interested in the dealings of our Branch. Knowing I was from Liverpool, he told me about his trip to The Albert Dock with The Queen and some humorous remarks were made. I had met Him previously at Garden Parties at Buckingham Palace.

On another occasion at Black Sunday, about four



Being introduced to HRH The Duke of Edinburgh.

years ago, we spent the Saturday evening at the Royal Hospital Chelsea. We were well received and regally entertained and organised once again by Mrs Julie Champion. While at the Hospital I was pleasantly surprised to meet with my old CSM, Ray Huggins. He joined Judith and I for a drink and we exchanged stories for a while. That really made my night. The following year I was told that he was in the infirmary, so I got permission to go and see him. What a lovely man.



Meeting with my old CSM Ray Huggins at The Royal Hospital, Chelsea.

The Guards Parachute Association Memorial Statue

Courtesy of WO1 (RSM) J Farrell MBE, Scots Guards and Guards Parachute Company and with kind permission of the Guards Parachute Association

In 1941 Major General 'Boy' Browning, a former Grenadier, was appointed to command Britain's first Airborne Division. He staffed his HQ with guardsmen and took a close interest in the selection, training, shaping and development of his parachute force that would define the airborne role and character to the present day.

From the inception of the parachute role in the British army many guardsmen volunteered for 'special duties'. The mere fact that they were prepared to go to extremes to seek out something different, put these guardsmen in a league apart. The discipline they applied to all aspects of their soldiering and their natural esprit de corps were values deeply embedded in the Parachute Regiment that developed from these early volunteers.

As well as volunteers for airborne forces, there was no shortage of volunteers for Special Forces. David Stirling (Scots Guards) was accompanied by 6 officers and 60 other ranks from the Brigade of Guards when he joined 8 (Guards) Commando, the forerunner of L Detachment 1st Special Air Service Brigade.

At the end of WW2 in a flurry of re-organisations, 1st Airborne Division was disbanded while the 6th was sent to the Middle East and Palestine. A re-structuring to 2 Brigades in the Division saw the formation of 1 Brigade with 2/3 Battalion, 8/9 Battalion and 1 Battalion, which was to be designated a Guards battalion.

In 1946 Lieutenant Colonel John Nelson DSO, MC (Grenadier Guards) was appointed to command the Battalion and arrived in Palestine to find that the only guardsmen present were he and his adjutant. It was some months before Guards reinforcements started to arrive in numbers, but by 1948 the Battalion was 95% guardsmen.

The unit had a reputation for containing a high proportion of decorated soldiers, including Sgt John

Kenneally VC (Irish Guards) who won his award in North Africa in 1943.

The Palestinian crisis involved the 1st Guards Battalion in numerous skirmishes with terrorists and the whole gamut of IS duties, including the distasteful harbour duties at Haifa. On return to the UK, 6th Division was reduced to brigade strength, renamed 16 Parachute Brigade, and the Guards battalion reduced to an independent company.

The Guards Independent Parachute Company was assigned the role of pathfinding for the Parachute Brigade and immediately started perfecting the drills it would use and develop for the next 27 years. In a largely national service army the company was unique in being the only all regular unit in the army.

The company served with 16 Parachute Brigade in Germany on border patrols, the canal zone, in Cyprus during the EOKA campaign and from there was involved with the rest of the Parachute Brigade in the Suez campaign. While most of the company went by sea a small party of nine guardsmen and five sappers under Captain Murray de Klee (Scots Guards) parachuted in with the French. One man in the party was shot through the stomach on landing and one was entangled in telegraph wires. They achieved their tasks and linked up with the British main force in time for Endex. The French showed their appreciation of the patrol's work by the award of the Croix de Guerre to Capt de Klee and one of the sappers was mentioned in dispatches.

In 1958 the company found themselves again in the Middle East with the Parachute Brigade when King Hussein of Jordan requested British assistance to help stabilise his country which was on the verge of revolution.

Although there was actually no trouble during the three months the brigade were there, the company was prepared to extract the royal family and others from Amman and get them out of the country.

The early 1960s were marked by a change in role. Hitherto they had acted as an additional rifle company or a recce unit following the pathfinding. Now the Company was to take on armoured recce with ferret scout cars as the add-on to its pathfinder role. Exercises proceeded across the UK, in Libya, Cyprus Greece and Germany. The Company also had a brief foretaste of things to come when they

visited the Far East and undertook jungle training and jumped from Pioneer aircraft.

For most of its existence the company had been based in Pirbright Camp, separate from the majority of parachute brigade units and under the administrative control of London District. The Pirbright ranges and training areas provided a perfect training ground for the Company and was ideal for the 2-week hardening and selection courses that every Guards officer and soldier underwent prior to being considered fit and suitable to go forward to P Company. Few who passed the rigours of the hardening course ever failed. By the 1960s the Brigade of Guards still had eight full strength battalions, the 2 regiments of Household Cavalry and a large number of additional men manning the Guards Training Centre and various formation and regimental establishments. The Company therefore had the pick of perhaps 10,000 men. They could afford to be fussy.

The Company at that time was organised into three pathfinder/armoured recon troops, each commanded by a captain; an anti-tank troop equipped with 106 mm anti-tank guns; later replaced by the Wombat. A normal infantry company headquarters was supplemented by a REME armourer, tel technician, a small LAD, Pay Sergeant and Signals NCO. The company strength was 88 all ranks.

They were supremely fit and skilled and were unbeatable in the annual Evelyn Wood 10-mile march and shoot competition open to all units. After winning it 5 times in succession the competition was withdrawn and a special permanent cup was minted and awarded to the Company. The Company also punched well above its weight in rugby and athletics.

On New Year's Eve 1963 the Parachute Brigade was recalled from leave and returned to Cyprus, this time to keep the Greeks and Turks apart. After six weeks the Company was withdrawn and given another task. It was to take up the next two years, enhance its reputation as never before and take many of its soldiers in a different direction.

22 SAS was desperately stretched in 1964 with operations in the Radfan and Borneo. To compound matters their Rhodesian squadron was withdrawn when Rhodesia declared UDI. They needed back-

up, fast, and this came in the shape of the Guards Parachute Company who were rushed through specialist training in six weeks and sent to Malaya for jungle training before operations against the Indonesian army in Borneo. In all, the Company completed two six month tours involving several cross border operations and, a number of contacts, including a notable ambush where Lance Sergeant Wally McGill, (Scots Guards) won the MM.

In the late 1960s and 70s the Company completed a veritable Cooks tour of exercises far and wide. They also began to train in free-fall and HALO to boost their pathfinding capabilities. Soldiers were sent to the French Parachute Training Centre at Pau in Southern France. The weather there was perfect for parachuting with most days sunny and relatively windless. Unlike the RAF the Nord Atlas aircraft was handed over to the Army apart from the pilot's cabin. Gum-chewing Army dispatchers would casually line up the pilot over the DZ and point to the door as the green light and klaxon came on. A 50 jump course with up to 60 seconds delay was an excellent foundation for the later RAF HALO courses and was completed in about 4 weeks.

In 1970 the Company were swept along with the rest of the army with the Northern Ireland campaign and completed their first tour in Belfast under command of 2 PARA. This was to become almost an annual event, interspersed by exercises abroad until in 1975 it was announced that the Company was to be axed in the latest round of defence cuts. The company held its final parade at Pirbright on 24th October 1975. The salute was taken by Field Marshal Sir Gerald Templar.

The Guards Parachute Company marched off into history, but not guardsmen parachutists. A large proportion of the company members found their way to Hereford and joined G Squadron 22 SAS, but that was not the end of the road, for further outlets for guardsmen to wear the maroon beret were to develop in the future. The lessons of the Falklands campaign had far reaching results and one was that it had been recognised that the Scimitar and Scorpion troops of the Blues and Royals had provided an invaluable element of mobility and firepower. The upshot was that in the late 1980's a troop of Scorpions from the Life Guards were attached to 5 Airborne Brigade. There was no

shortage of volunteers to man the new unit and a steady stream of troopers set off for P Company. Guardsmen were back in the parachute role.

In the late 1990's the Guards Division further strengthened its long and close relationship with airborne forces when a Guards platoon was formed and now serves as 6 (Guards) Platoon B Company 3 PARA. The platoon has served with distinction in Iraq and Afghanistan and has counted among its ranks such exceptional soldiers as the late LCpl James Ashworth VC. In 1975 on the disbandment of the Guards Parachute Company the Guards Parachute Association was formed. In days where so many associations are folding through apathy and lack of interest ours is well over 700 strong and still growing. The spirit is as strong as ever and every man is proud to say "I was a Guards Para".



Joe Farrell reunited with Derek Thompson who was chief instructor on his Hardening Course for the Guards Parachute Company Selection in 1967. Out of 81 candidates, 13 passed. "Derek was an exceptional Soldier, Father, Husband and Man".

The implementation of a Guards Parachute Association statue at the National Memorial Arboretum was the idea of our Chairman Jim Heycock (Welsh Guards, 1st (Guards) Independent Company the Parachute Regiment and G Squadron 22 SAS) which he initiated some three years ago.



Barry Lawson and Paul Morris (GREN GDS), George Nicol and Joe Farrell (SCOTS GDS).

On Friday 8th October 2021 through his hard work, and that of many others, including Dave McAlister (Scots Guards), the determination to gather together the required funding, it was unveiled. The statue is of Derek (Black Tom) Thompson (Grenadier Guards). His widow Lee was consulted throughout the process and the whole family including all the grandchildren attended the ceremony at Alrewas.



Members of the current Guards Parachute Platoon, former members of the Guards Parachute Company and the Reverend Canon Alan Hughes MBE TD with the Major General.

The Story of the Statue Derek (Black Tom) Thompson 1942-2004

*With kind permission of the Guards
Parachute Association*

Derek joined the army in 1960 and saw his first active service in the Cameroons with 1st Battalion Grenadier Guards in 1961. In 1962 he applied to join the Guards Parachute Company, and in April of that year passed out as a qualified parachutist and was posted to the Company in Pirbright. He rapidly built himself a reputation for toughness in a unit known for stamina and durability, and with his heavily swarthy complexion was promptly dubbed 'Black Tom'; few soldiers are known by their Christian names among their mates and although he was universally known as Tom, the 'Black' was added to distinguish him from other Thompsons in the unit. Despite his somewhat formidable appearance, he was a generous, humorous, and scrupulously honest character who was ever popular wherever he served.

In May 1964, while on jungle training in northern Malaya, he contracted leptospirosis and

was casevaced, critically ill, to Singapore where his condition deteriorated to the point where his newly married wife Lee was hastily flown out of the UK to be with him. At one stage he briefly came to and found a padre at his bedside preparing to give him the last rites. The padre was given short shrift, and Tom against all odds started to make a slow and difficult recovery. His illness had, however, taken so much out of him that he left the army.

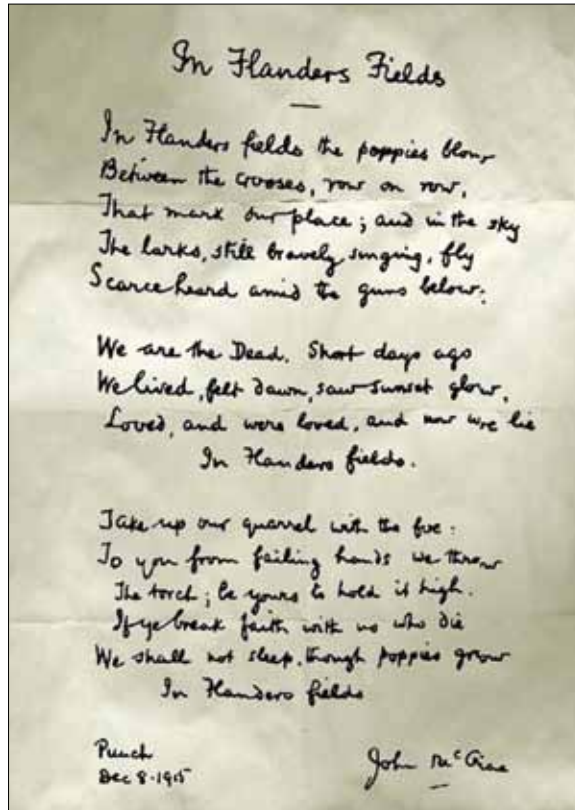
A short period in civvy street convinced Tom that he should be back in the army, and true to form within a year he had amazingly regained sufficient fitness to rejoin the army, and even return to the extreme rigours of duty in his beloved Guards Parachute Company. By 1967, Tom had been promoted to LSgt and on 24 April was present at the Queen's review of 16 Parachute Brigade at Long Valley Aldershot when the brigade jumped before HM The Queen and HRH Prince Philip. The iconic photo of Tom was taken as he headed to the company RV after parachuting onto Long Valley DZ. It was not long after that Tom decided he should leave the army for good as he had never fully recovered from his spell of jungle sickness. For the remainder of his working life he was employed as a fireman with Fords of Dagenham. Tom died in December 2004 at the age of 62.



Above Left: Derek Thompson at Long Valley. Above Right: Derek Thompson today at the National Memorial Arboretum.

Reminiscences of a Grenadier in Flanders

by Ross Donaldson



'In Flanders fields the poppies blow'.

I may be getting old but not quite that old. No, these reminiscences are from more recent times, when chance had me working with a number of companies straddling the old front line in Belgium. Zonnebeke, Poperinge, Ypres, Langemark and Passchendaele, villages that were then the scene of dreadful carnage are now home to producers of frozen vegetables, dairy products and Belgian biscuits, to name but a few of the things that fill our supermarket shelves here in Britain.

Of an evening, if we had no customers to look after, I would often visit the many Commonwealth War Grave cemeteries in the area. My initial interest was, of course, the Grenadier connections

but whilst there are many Grenadier graves, with my then limited knowledge of specific actions, they were just my predecessors killed in action.

My interest soon moved to my family history as my maternal grandfather had served, and thankfully survived, with the Royal Army Veterinary Corps. Archive films of the horrors that the horses suffered and the recent 'War Horse' theatre and film depictions paint a graphic picture of what he, a devoted horseman, must have endured.

This led me to discover that his brother-in-law, my grandmother's brother had died in the very early months of the conflict. Having joined the 8th (King's Royal Irish) Hussars – another horseman in the family! – who were stationed in the old Horse Barracks in Norwich long enough for him to be enticed into joining them. He served a total of 12 years, including service in South Africa, was invalided home with TB, recovered and emigrated to Canada.

On the outbreak of war, he answered the call of one Lieutenant Colonel Hamilton ('Hammie') Gault, late Coldstream Guards, retired to Canada who was forming, and financing, a regiment to serve King and Country. The result was Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry (PPCLI), the last military unit to be privately financed and placed at the service of the Country. One significant requirement for volunteers was that only time-served men should apply, as it would simplify training considerably. It is said that every regiment in the British Army except one, was represented, but which one I know not.

Sadly, great uncle Walter joined, trained, shipped to England in 1914, sailed for France that December and was killed at Bellewearde Ridge on 5th May, holding back the German advance. The Patricias held them successfully but the Regiment was reduced to 150 men when they were finally relieved to withdraw to Ypres.

This much I gleaned from a letter to my Grandmother from the Regiment in Canada, and some research into their archives, but I could find no mention of where he had been buried. For this I turned to the Commonwealth War Graves Commission who were most helpful.

A brief aside here that in those days (1979) before the computerised revolution, to get information

from the CWGC. you rang up, gave whatever information you had such as name, initials, regiment and asked if they had any record of death or burial. One heard the phone being put down on a desk and footsteps walking away. A few minutes' silence followed, you wondered if the line had been cut. Then the sound of footsteps returning, phone being picked up, "Do you know what year he died?" "Sorry, no I don't" – "OK I'll go and have another look". Phone being put down – footsteps going away – more silence – footsteps returning – phone being picked up "Yes, I have found him." I have no idea what the footsteps were walking on but it certainly sounded like that brown lino stuff that we all came to know, and polish, so well.

Today the system and the website they have is excellent and one can download certificates of burial, often with some historical background and even photographs of the Cemetery concerned.

Sadly, in great uncle Walter's case the news was that he had no known grave but was commemorated on the Menin Gate in Ypres.

So it was that one evening I made my way to Ypres and sure enough there was his name on one of the panels with the names of all the other Patricias. Together with the many thousands of other men from many regiments who have no known grave. The Grenadier panel holds a very long list of names.

The words 'no known grave' are a chilling reminder of how the war virtually went nowhere in four dreadful years. In the first few months of war, as 1914 came to a close, before there was any inkling of the vast number of deaths that were to come, casualties were frequently buried in the nearest convenient place – sometimes just a few yards from an Aid Post or a Casualty Clearing Station and often the graveyard of the local church.

Repatriation does not seem to have even been considered. One such Church at Zillebeke holds the graves of 22 British and ten Canadians killed in November and December 1914. Of Grenadier interest is that there are six of the Regiment here, one of which was Major Bernard Charles Gordon-Lennox, Colonel David Gordon-Lennox's grandfather and father of General 'Geordie' Gordon-Lennox. Colonel David explained to me when I told him I had visited and paid my respects, that when they found his body, there was not a mark

on him – probably killed by the huge blast of an exploding shell nearby. General Sir Evelyn Webb-Carter made mention of two other Grenadiers buried in the same Churchyard in his article in last year's Gazette.

Some cemeteries are huge and some are very small. Tyne Cot Cemetery is the largest in the World. Others were started beside Aid Stations and contain sometimes only twenty or thirty graves. Many of these sadly never survived and were obliterated by the constant bombardment as the line moved back and forth – often over less than a mile – for four years. Just one of the reasons why so many have 'No Known Grave'.

Across the whole of the Flanders battlefield, monuments and memorials abound. They take many forms, from huge pillars of granite and marble, the great Menin Gate, the remains of the concrete German Blockhouses in the centre of Tyne Cot Cemetery, all of which are often busy with visitors, passing traffic and in recent years, coaches of school children, to more modest structures and peaceful Gardens of Remembrance where relatives of the dead can quietly reflect and pay their respects. Most of these are Regimental, Divisional and even National which, while impressive and sincere are, of their design, somewhat lacking in atmosphere.

Occasionally one can find one with that extra punch which really brings home the horror that existed for so many men and 'The 'Brooding Soldier' monument is one. Erected in 1923 at 'Vancouver Corner' in the village of St. Julien, it marks the battlefield where 18,000 men of the Canadian 1st Division withstood the first gas attacks of the war on 22nd and 23rd April 1915. 2,000 died and lie buried nearby.

It depicts the head and shoulders of a Canadian soldier 'resting on arms reversed'. I defy anyone to not feel moved when you stand beneath it.

Somewhat off the usual visitor route is St Georges Memorial Church, in a side street in Ypres. Built in 1929 to commemorate over 500,000 British and Commonwealth troops who died in the three battles of Ypres. Of significant interest to Guardsmen is the East window, dedicated to the Guards Division and supporting Corps. The Royal Artillery, Royal Engineers, 1st and 2nd Life Guards, Royal Horse Guards, the Guards Machine Gun Corps. and the



'The Brooding Soldier'

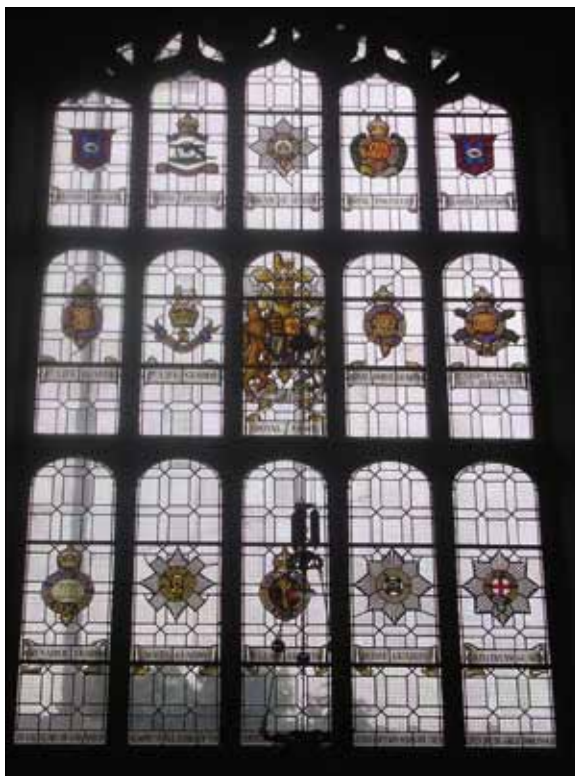
five Regiments of Foot Guards surmounted by two images of the "Ever Open Eye", in slightly more artistic detail than the one we use today!

The Church also contains several brass Memorial Plaques to individuals and Regiments, including one which bears the inscription: *In Memory of all the Officers, Warrant Officers, NCO's and Men of the Grenadier Guards, who lost their lives in the Ypres Salient during the Great war 1914-1918*

Even these days, a hundred years after the end of that war, fresh memorials appear. This impressive Highlander only appeared about sixteen years ago. The inscription reads: *Near this spot in November 1914 the 1st Bn (Royal Highlanders) as part of 1st (Guards) Brigade halted the Prussian Guard at the 1st Battle of Ypres.*

It is situated on the edge of Polygon Wood, a scene of fierce fighting over a significant piece of high ground, a few hundred yards from two huge Australian Cemeteries. It is also virtually beside a small restaurant café much favoured by my business friends, many cycling clubs (usually for retired Belgians) and the Belgian Army 'Bomb Squad' who often have time to stop here for lunch as they patrol the area. The Belgians do like their lunch break.

It is just not possible to get away from the War anywhere and the 'Bomb Squad' is a permanent unit in the area. Rusty 'ordnance' is continually being found. Farmland has a way of somehow pushing it to the surface and the Bomb Disposal teams are there to deal with it. Farmers find it lying in the soil when they are working their land and



The Guards Division Memorial Window in St Georges Memorial Church, Ypres.



Memorial Plaque to the Grenadier Guards in St Georges Memorial Church, Ypres.

when possible, lay them beside the road, where they can be dealt with.

One evening I had just been looking round a comparatively small cemetery, almost entirely of men of the Royal Welch Fusiliers and as I walked back along the lane I spotted an object, about fourteen inches or so long and about five inches in diameter just lying there! It was obvious what it was and I gave it a wide berth. Smaller ammunition



Black Watch (Royal Highlanders) Memorial on the edge of Polygon Wood.

such as rifle and machine gun bullets, and small mortar bombs are actually lodged in the cavities in the roadside concrete telephone pillars. The Disposal Team are always looking for these ‘deposits’ to take them away for safe disposal. (But not until they’ve had their lunch!).

Ceremonies, parades, bands playing and organised tours are all very fine, fitting and essential but to really feel the depth of the horror that engulfed the Western Front for four long years just stand, alone, in one of these cemeteries at dusk, surrounded by several hundred headstones.

This was graphically brought home to me one evening while I was looking for the grave of another family connection in Klein Vierstraat Cemetery. As I walked down the rows I was surrounded by the wail of a piper playing a lament. As if that wasn’t emotional enough, when I looked around I realised I was the only person in the cemetery. If you have never had ‘the hairs on the back of your neck stand

up’, you cannot imagine what it feels like. I’m not ashamed to say that as the lament went on in the gathering gloom, without any apparent piper present, I thought it time to withdraw to my car. I think that was the longest 50 yards I have ever walked. Yes, I did manage to stay at ‘the walk’ but only just.

As I quietly closed the gate behind me the lament stopped. Then from behind the gardener’s tool shed way down in the far corner of the cemetery, a figure appeared, carrying a set of pipes. I’m sure my heart stopped for a couple of seconds but then I realised he looked real enough so I got a grip of myself and went to talk to him. Seems he was practicing for a big parade he was attending a few days later. I must confess I was very glad to see him.

Pause to read the short inscriptions requested by loved ones on each headstone. But so many have no family inscription because it marks the grave of a man who could not be identified. We must not forget, in these days of mobile phones, all manner of communications, TV news, videos, Zooming and the RBL Pilgrimages for relatives, that hundreds, probably thousands of parents, wives, children and ‘sweethearts’, (as they were called then), never really knew what happened to their husbands, boy-friends or sons and where these strange sounding Belgian villages where they were buried, actually were. And they died themselves, never really knowing.

It is difficult not to feel the sadness of the area but at least the cemeteries and memorials are well tended and roses now grow amongst the headstones. Belgium bequeathed the land in perpetuity to Great Britain, it’s Commonwealth and its Allies. The Commonwealth War Graves Commission continues to maintain these places, keeping grounds and headstones in wonderful condition employing local people, who see it as an honour to do so. If a cemetery containing, often thousands, of our men can ever be called pleasant, ours are.

Not so the German cemeteries. Belgium was not inclined to be so generous with land and the three German cemeteries contain many more graves in much smaller plots of land than ours. Because of the shortage of land, the graves were brought together in what amounted to three mass graves but are referred to as “Kameraden Graben”

(Comrades Graves). Langemark German Cemetery, one of the three for instance, holds 44,000 thousand German dead compared to Tyne Cot which holds 12,000 of ours, in about one third of the area. If you are tempted to visit Langemark, try to go there on a bright sunny day. On a dark wet winter day, it is not a good experience. Dark, foreboding and very Teutonic!

As a footnote, it is sad to relate that John McCrae who wrote the poem 'In Flanders Fields' and spent much of the war as a surgeon at 'Essex Farm' Hospital just outside Ypres, died near the end of the War at a rear area hospital in France with pneumonia and is buried in a small CWGC plot in the local churchyard in Wimereux, just north of Boulogne.

I hope this will be taken as the title says, as personal reminiscences, of an aging Grenadier

who fortune (and work) took to the Flanders Battlefield, and not a definitive account of any specific happening. There are myriad books, War Diaries, films and analyses by worthy writers and historians to cover them and so much is available on the internet with a couple of 'clicks'.

To close on a lighter note, I was fortunate enough to attend a very elaborate parade at Tyne Cot Cemetery in 2014, to commemorate the outbreak of the War, in the presence of HM our Colonel in Chief, our late Colonel and the Belgian King. While being taken in a Belgian Army shuttle bus from the meeting point to the parade I found myself standing beside another Guardsman sporting the Brigade Tie. I politely asked what brought him to the event, to which he replied "I'm Earl Haig's grandson, and you?" to which I could only reply, "I'm just a Grenadier with very good connections."

Enlisting

by *John Knight*

I left school at 15 with little in the way of qualifications and worked unskilled in a factory for a couple of years. I was seventeen and thought that I knew everything when I had never been further afield than the south coast. I was about to learn differently.

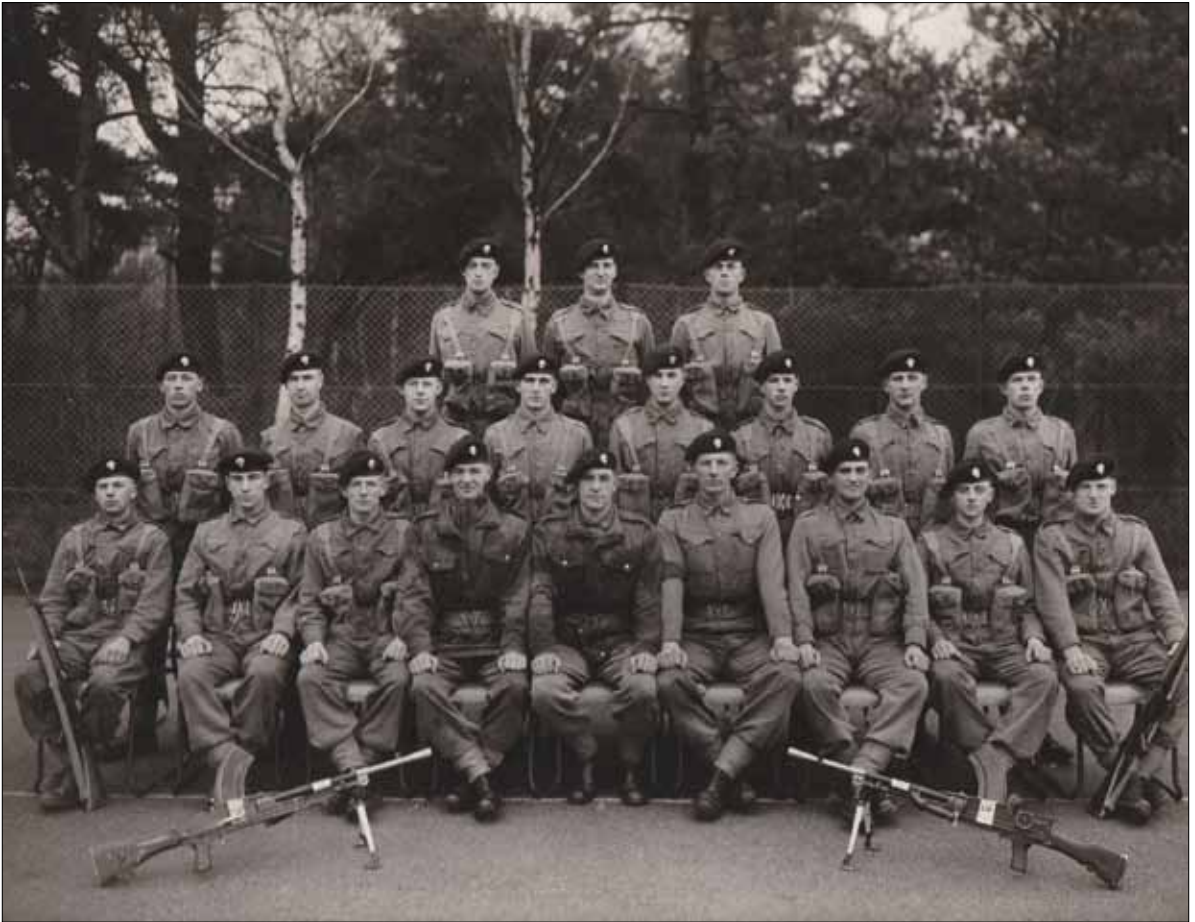
I would have escaped National Service but with no other career prospects I decided to enlist in the British Army. I don't remember my reasoning but went along to the recruiting office in Surbiton intent on enlisting in the Royal Military Police. Fortunately, I was interviewed by a Grenadier Colour Sergeant who convinced me that it would be a far better prospect to join the First or Grenadier Regiment of Foot Guards. That was all to the good for I would have made a rotten policeman. Either way, I had no clear idea of what being a soldier really meant.

It was 21st October 1959 the day that I had been instructed to report to The Guards Depot, Caterham. A travel warrant covered my journey by train to West Croydon, from there I was to take the

bus. It should have dawned on me that something might be amiss when the bus conductor, with a laugh, refused to accept my fare. "We don't take fares from you blokes".

On arrival I found that The Depot was next door neighbour to St Lawrence's Hospital, a hospital for patients suffering mental illness. It's probably not politically correct to remark that I was not the first to wonder which establishment was the appropriate location for me. Jumping forward for a moment, when I left the Regiment, I started work in a Labour Exchange as a clerk and, after I had been there a while, inherited the job of making a weekly visit to one of Her Majesty's Prisons to interview inmates that were due for release. I remember thinking how much easier it appeared to be a prisoner rather than a recruit in The Household Division but, back to The Depot...

Stepping across the line of the barrack gates I was hailed (shouted at) by a large man in khaki, shiny brasses, and highly polished boots. I didn't know it at the time, but his forage cap, chevrons and sash indicated that he was a Sergeant in the Irish Guards. He shouted again for "Runner". Out of the guardroom at a rate of knots exited another soldier who stamped his feet and stood straight.



Sgt C Elkins 21 Platoon 13 Coy March 1960, I am the man on the extreme right (as you look at the photo) of the middle row.

“Receiving room” was the shouted order and at which the soldier about turned and marched, very quickly I thought, down the barrack road. “Follow that man and don’t lose him” was the instruction to me. Thankfully I managed to keep up.

I’ve no clear memory of the Receiving Room. I do remember that I was the first to arrive of what was to be Sgt Speak’s squad. All I do remember is that in short order I was to lose all my civilian clothes in favour of a basic issue of military uniform. Denim jacket and trousers, shirt, tie a web belt and worst of all ‘drawers woollen’ for underwear. These were made of very itchy woollen fabric and were knee length. The waistband was loose fitting and not elasticated. Inside the waistband was a linen facing and along the top of that facing were three

horizontal loops, two at the front and one at the rear. These loops were essential as they were the only means of keeping the underwear up when one threaded their braces through them before buttoning braces to trousers.

Unfortunately, I wasn’t issued with braces until sometime later. I can’t begin to imagine how many others have experienced the horror of holding up one’s trousers with a belt alone only to find that the waistband of the underpants slips down inside the trousers to somewhere near the knees. It’s a fashion that thankfully has never caught on. I don’t think that Human Rights had been invented then but if they had been I’m sure that mine would have been deemed to have been violated. I pity the recruit that would have been ill advised enough to

make such a complaint though.

Meal times were an education too. One marched to the messroom carrying knife, fork, spoon, and mug in the left hand and held behind the back. Right arm swinging to shoulder height. The Master Cook was Scots Guards and had a distinct aversion to recruits. If the recruit also happened to be from the Grenadier Guards, then so much the worse for him.

I did lose my name a couple of times during that first 12 weeks. Probably on my first drill parade my trousers were not properly pressed. I found myself reported for having 'idle trousers'. On the second occasion I hadn't properly brushed the bluebell from my cap badge. The chemical reaction turns the brass rather an attractive shade of green. I was reported for wearing a green object on my forage cap which "on closer inspection proved to be a cap badge".

Like the vast majority of those recruits I survived my first 12 weeks and moved on to Pirbright for the pleasures of the sand jump, assault course and all that that entailed.



On Queen's Guard 1962 at St James's Palace, on the right once again.

Tom Brassey



Tripoli in the Fifties – this is Tom Brassey (left, ADC) and Miles Fitzalan Howard supporting General Rodney Moore in North Africa before he became Major General Commanding the Household Division.



And later in the 2nd Battalion transferring to Victoria Barracks from Chelsea Barracks London 1954 – Michael Mickinley Macleod (front right) and Tom Brassey (front left), both carrying the Colours.

Meeting The Minister For War

by Ross Donaldson

The notes from the Yorkshire Branch in last year's Gazette, with the photograph of John Fear meeting John Profumo, must have jogged the memory of many a Grenadier, both from his visit to Pirbright and later from the time he visited the 'new' Chelsea Barracks in November 1962.

That day, word went round, probably from Part 1 Orders, that the Minister for War would be paying us a visit and for those taking lunch in the cookhouse, the Order of Dress would be Best No2 Dress, as he was expected to make this one of his points of interest, prior to taking his own lunch in the Officers' Mess.

Not surprisingly, most of us thought that was a bad idea so we headed for the NAAFI for a pie and chips.

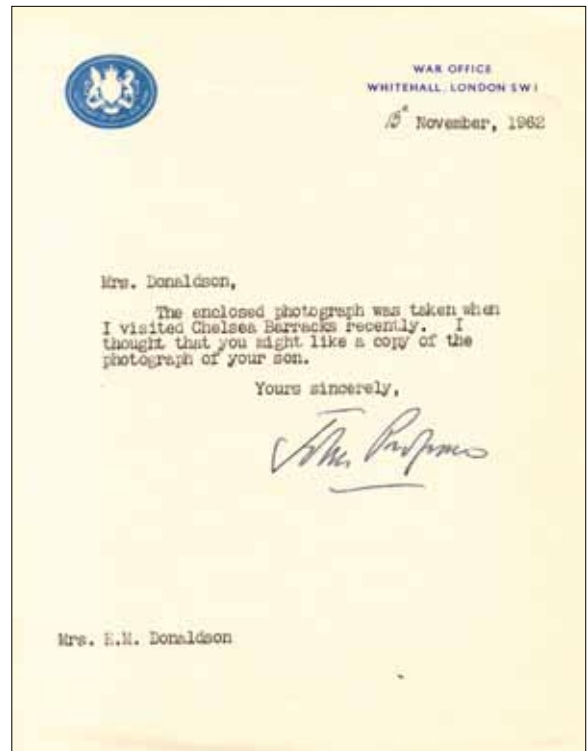


Guardsman Donaldson in the NAAFI queue with the Minister for War.

Well, the place was packed. All of us in 'denims'. Presumably the cookhouse was empty which is perhaps why the NAAFI was a late addition to Mr P's tour?

The loud hubbub of many hungry Grenadiers tucking into NAAFI's best suddenly went quiet as the door opened and there was the massive figure of Sergeant Major 'Dobbo' Dobson calling us to attention and there appeared Mr Profumo, plus a full entourage of senior figures looking even more surprised than we were!

As with John Fear's father, my mother received a short letter with a photograph taken of me in the NAAFI queue. I'm not sure which of us has the most cynical smile – or what we were both looking at?



The letter from Mr Profumo for the family album.

A couple of months after this Mr Profumo was gone and the rest is history, as they say, together with several books, a film and a TV series.

THE O.F.G.

by Reg Sargeant

The annual O.F.G Society meeting took place at Carden Park Hotel and Golf resort over the period 12th – 14th September 2021. This year was a special one for us as we celebrated 25 years of meeting up, playing golf and having some banter with a few beers in between.

The event was well attended by 24 former Grenadiers and 26 guests. As usual our charity donations were ably *encouraged* by our fines master Neil Trebble and totalled £1475.00. This year's collection was given to Neil's son Anthony towards his sponsorship for a marathon in aid of MIND and good luck to him.

The golf was, as always, a very competitive affair with the following taking the major trophies:

John Wall – Paul Griffiths (The Griff Trophy) and the Founders Cup

Pete Silcox – The Dougie Blackford Trophy

Peter Greenwood and Ron Smith – The Blind Pairs

John Proctor – The Best Guest

The Memorial Cup was awarded to a guest.

The handicap secretary has already adjusted the above handicaps for 2022!

We look forward to our next event at the Vale of Glamorgan between 11th and 13th September 2022. Our captain will be Jeff Burns who will be sending further details to RHQ. If any serving or former Grenadiers wish to join us you are more than welcome:

https://www.facebook.com/groups/246023475441786/?multi_per_malinks=4807089572668464¬if_id=1632305534985146¬if_t=feedback_reaction_generic&ref=notif



The Society at Carden Park, September 2021.



OFG 22 - 11th to 13th September 2022
Vale of Glamorgan Resort
CF72 8JY

Double Room - £270 or Single Room £360

Private Dining and Prizes included

STARTERS

Leek and Potato Soup (v) Crispy chive and leek hay
Confit Pork Belly and Proscuitto Terrine (g) Apricot and pink peppercorn chutney
Roasted Vegetable Tian (v) (g) Smoked aubergine baba ghanoush, baby leaf salad

MAINS

Grilled Chicken Supreme (g) Scalloped potato cake, roasted root vegetables, Rosemary jus
Grilled Sirloin Beef Steak Fondant potato, green beans, carrots, Yorkshire pudding, gravy
Parmesan Crusted Cod Loin Caper crushed new potatoes
Sweet Potato, Carrot and Hazelnut Nut Roast (v) Spicy sauce romesco, courgette ribbons

DESSERTS

Welsh Amber Tart (v) Orange and honey custard tart with honeycomb, orange marmalade, toffee
Chocolate Ganache Tart (v) Cocoa nibs, white chocolate, raspberry coulis
Black Cherry and Almond Frangipane Tart (v) Fondant drizzle, candied almonds, morello cherry coulis

11th - 12:00 - National Course

12th - 11:30 - Lakes Course

13th - 08:30 - National Course

Deposit of £ 35 to be paid by 29/11/21 Remainder by 30/06/22

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, Salford, Bristol, BS31 3EZ



Branch Headquarters – The Riverside Inn, The Shallows, Salford, Bristol, BS31 3EZ.

The Bath Branch meeting routine is bi-monthly. Meetings are informal, held on the second Wednesday of that particular month and start at 1930hrs. However, we like to meet in the bar at 1900hrs. As always we offer a warm welcome to all who would like to attend, should you wish to join us then please do so. Further Branch meetings for 2022 are May, July, September, and November.

This year's annual report is somewhat strange to relate given where we have been with the COVID 19 Pandemic. As you are aware it has impacted on every part of planet Earth and been very devastating. As with many of our Branches it clearly and unfortunately has limited our capability

to lay on events for our members as would normally be the case. With the situation improving and the implementation of the vaccination programme our Branch has had a better second part of the year which has helped us reunite and get back to some form of normality, giving us the confidence to move forward.

We are very grateful to our committee for their support and effort in continuing to make things happen even though much of it initially was Zoom generated. We were able to hold the Branch AGM and facilitate weekly and monthly meetings and were delighted that we were joined by several members at some of them which lasted nearly two hours; they proved to be very humerous and enjoyable occasions. Our continued focus was on communication within the Branch where phone calls were made and updates received. Consequently we were able to feedback to a wider audience of members.

Christmas 2020 and Easter 2021 were made a little bit extra special by facilitating a small gift and card sent out to our members. The introduction of 'On The Gate' and 'Off The Gate' produced by our Branch Welfare Officer **Paul (Henry) Cooper**, with the input of our committee, on a monthly basis was a huge asset to our members, it was a very clear and informative document which covered updates on the COVID 19 situation and the ever increasing number of scams. **Paul** is to be congratulated on his efforts in keeping us well informed and upto date on these issues. A huge thank you to the Branch committee, **Major Grant Baker**, **Lieutenant Colonel Jerry Levine MBE**, **Vince Dunne**, **Simon Tattersall**, **Paul Cooper** and **Andy Davy** for their individual support throughout the various periods of lockdown – a clear demonstration of our Grenadier Spirit.

Sadly it is our duty to report that on Friday 22nd January 2021, in the early hours of the morning, we lost Branch member **22545200 Raymond Hawkins**. Raymond served in the 1st Battalion from 1952 until 1955. He was a very proud Grenadier and a very active member of the Branch for many years. He passed away peacefully at his

home in Glendale, Tunley, Bath. On 6th March 2021 we lost **23252798 Roger Bell**. Roger was born in 1938 and joined the Regiment when he was 19. Roger was also a very proud Grenadier and carried this with him all his life. He held office in the Branch and always attended the Spring and Christmas Lunches where he enjoyed meeting up with old friends and reminiscing about times gone by. One of Roger's favourite moments was when he had tea at Buckingham Palace in the presence of Her Majesty The Queen, in particular he loved the cucumber sandwiches. Lest We Forget.



23252798 Roger Bell at the beginning of his service with the Regiment.

Their funerals were restricted in numbers but the Branch was able to attend with the Branch Banner and Coffin Drape being used on both occasions. This was greatly appreciated by both families and was facilitated by **Simon Tattersall** and **Paul Cooper**.

On the 16th July 2021 we were able to hold our first function of the year in the form of the 'Chairman's Pandemic Thank You Dinner' held to recognise the Branch committee, their support and what they had been able to achieve during COVID 19. The venue was Little Nannies Restaurant at Pucklechurch, Bristol, and was attended by our President and committee. It was a fine evening of good food and wine with the usual banter in very pleasant surroundings. The food was delicious and the company was great with the committee in fine form. It was fantastic to be able to get back together after such a long time. During the evening **Simon Tattersall** presented **Mrs Eileen Cooper** with

a gift on behalf of the committee for laying on a splendid event.

3rd August 2021 saw the Branch Chairman **Vince Dunne** & Welfare Officer **Paul Cooper** head up to London to attend

the Governors Review of the Cheslea Pensioners at the Royal Hospital. The attendance was limited but the occasion was tremendous and it was a great privilege for them both to have been able to attend and see such stalwarts turn out so smartly and form up on parade with such dignity and panache.



Vince Dunne and Paul Cooper at The Royal Hospital, Chelsea.

in particular our Treasurer **Simon Tattersall** who liaised with the Riverside Inn and arranged the event.



The Branch committee at the Chairman's Pandemic Thank You Dinner.



Number 4 Guard waiting to be inspected.

A fine Sunday afternoon on 22nd August saw 25 members of the Branch make their way to the home of our Branch President **Major Grant Baker** and his wife **Lucinda** for the Presidents Luncheon. It was a splendid afternoon and thoroughly enjoyed by all. The venue was outstanding, the weather was great, as was the food, wine and company. We were also able to hold an impromptu raffle and auction, the proceeds of which brought a smile to the face of our Treasurer complimenting those of our prize winners. We would like to thank Major Baker and Lucinda for laying on such a wonderful event. Lucinda was presented with a bouquet of flowers as a mark of our appreciation.



Major Grant Baker and Lucinda enjoying the afternoon with their guests.

Our second meeting of the year was planned for 29th September but up popped the fuel shortage. Instead, the committee reverted once again to Zoom and were able to plan November's diary and then communicate the details to our membership.

The next Branch meeting was held on 3rd November at the Riverside Inn, after which we were able to enjoy a pie and chip supper followed by a raffle. To end the evening on the spot, one question quiz, hosted by one of our stalwarts, **Lester Cruse** was held. **Andy Davy** won £10, donated by Lester for coming up with the closest answer to the question posed; it was a most enjoyable evening.

November 11th saw Branch members on parade at the Remembrance Service at 'Firs Field' Coombe Down, Bath. **Lieutenant Colonel Jerry Levine**

MBE was the parade marshal and some 100 people turned out for a very poignant parade. Sadly, on this occasion the children of local school who would normally have attended were unable to do so due to COVID 19 restrictions. Hopefully next year this will not be the case.



Branch Members at the 'Firs Field' Remembrance Service.

12th November saw a small group of Branch members led by **Glenn Shattock** and **Andy Davy** head into the City of Bath for a most enjoyable curry night. A big thank you to them both for organising the event.

Recruitment is still very important to the Branch and **Andy Davy** our Branch Recruitment Officer plays a big part in it. His energy and enthusiasm is something to be seen and would like, through this article, everyone to know that should you wish to join our Branch or even just pay us a visit then please do not hesitate as our door is always open. We are indebted to Andy for such outstanding work.

Lieutenant Colonel Jerry Levine MBE has done a sterling job keeping us all up to date with Regimental and Battalion activities. His monthly updates are very informative and eagerly anticipated. A big thank you to Jerry for this and his continued support to our Branch, it is all hugely appreciated.

As we come to a close this year, we are very busy planning our 2021 Branch Christmas Lunch which is fully booked. We also reflect on how the year began and the uncertainty it held. As restrictions eased we were once again able to enjoy a busy programme

and our committee records its grateful thanks to everybody for demonstrating that true 'Grenadier Spirit' which has shone through in bundles. We also thank **Major Andy Green** and **LSgt Glen Davis** for always being there for us.

We would also like to thank **Matt Allen, Colin Knight, Veronica** and **Bruce Baylis**, Branch Secretaries in the Western Area for the continued support to their Branches – it is greatly appreciated.

Finally, a huge thank you to our President **Major Grant Baker, Lieutenant Colonel Jerry Levine MBE, Vince Dunne, Paul 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.

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 RMDORNEY, 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 N HAYMAN

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

2021 proved to be just as frustrating for the Bristol Branch as 2020. With the ongoing pandemic much of the year was spent either in lockdown or under strict social distancing rules. Consequently, there was no Branch activity at all. We did however hold several Committee meetings via Zoom which has proved to be a fantastic tool in keeping our members connected, we have also held monthly social meetings which have proved to be

very popular.

We held our AGM via Zoom in early March 2021 and this was very well attended, the online platform allowed those members who would not normally attend our meetings to participate. At the AGM our Chairman, **Mike O'Gorman** stood down due to work commitments and our Vice Chairman **Brian Womack** was duly elected as Mike's successor. **Colin Page**, a long serving Committee member was elected to fill the vacant Vice Chairman's role. Our Vice President **Keith Jones** was elected as Branch Welfare Officer, a position that had been vacant since **Reg Bleaden** stepped down in 2019.

Other positions remain unchanged with **Matthew Allen** continuing as Branch Secretary for a 13th Year and **John Rogers** remaining as Branch Treasurer. **Keith Sperring**, who along with his Wife **Elaine** has been a fantastic supporter of the Bristol Branch for many years was, at the Branch President's suggestion, elected on to the Committee. All at the Branch would like to thank **Mike** for his hard work and diligence during his time as Chairman and wish him well for the future.

We were hoping to hold our Branch Lunch towards the end of 2021 but as the pandemic continued to grip the country and despite restrictions being lifted somewhat the Committee felt that there would be little appetite among the membership for a large gathering and made the decision to postpone the lunch until Spring 2022 when we will hold the function at the BAWA club in Filton in early April 2022.

During 2021 two of our Branch stalwarts moved away from the area, **Roy Godwin** to Melksham in Wiltshire and **George Lippiatt** to Essex, both Roy and George had served on the Branch Committee for many years and



Tony Lock, a former Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer and Vice President of the Bristol Branch.

both will be missed by us all. Also we sadly reported the deaths of **22213939 Dave Jocelyn** who passed away in December 2020 and Branch Vice President **22213837 Tony Lock** who passed away in March 2021.

Tony, a former 3rd Battalion man joined the Regiment in the early 1950's as a National Serviceman. After his two years' national service Tony was placed on the reserve and recalled to the Colours in 1956 due to the Suez crisis. After Suez the 3rd Battalion were posted to Malta and then to Cyprus where Tony finished his service. He had been a very well respected member of the Bristol Branch for many decades and served as Branch Chairman from 1995 – 1996, as Branch Secretary from 1996 – 2002 and as Branch Treasurer from 2009 – 2018. Tony was made a Vice President of the Branch in 2016.

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: ijdsutton@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 1900 hrs

After the relaxation of restrictions, we had our first Branch meeting for nearly two years in October 2021. An opportunity to meet face to face instead of telephone-only contact. Our Welfare Officer **George Smith** has done an amazing job phoning round members on a regular basis ensuring they were safe. We then all met at the beginning of December for an early Christmas lunch at Morley Hayes giving us an opportunity to relax and catch up.

In remembrance of a former Grenadier our Assistant Chairman **Terry Allcock** and Welfare Officer **George Smith** have attended to a grave

at Chaddesden Cemetery. It belongs to **Thomas Wright** 1899–1924 and his wife. It had fallen over and was in disrepair. After getting in touch with the War Grave Commission for permission they cleaned, repaired and reset the grave. Although many years have passed 'Once a Grenadier always a Grenadier'. Lest We Forget.



The Thomas Wright grave in disrepair.



George and Terry at work.



Thomas Wright's grave respectfully repaired.

With little Branch activity throughout the year **23929468 George Smith** has given a brief account on his experience as a Grenadier and hopefully will bring back some forgotten memories.....

In 1963 as a young lad at the age of 17 I found myself out of work due to my then state of affairs. My parents supported me but at the end of the day you need to bring money into the house. On a cold wet day in August, I was looking in the window of the Army recruiting office in Derby. An Army Sergeant who was just entering asked me inside out of the rain. He must have felt sorry for me as he bought me a sandwich and a cup of tea and listened to my plight before offering me a way out of my situation by joining the Army.

That Sergeant was **George Lippiatt** who is still with us today and looking back he did me a big favour in introducing me into the family of the Grenadier Guards. After a few forms and a medical I found myself with the Queen's shilling and a travel warrant to a far-off place called Pirbright, somewhere in the south of England and armed only with a jam sandwich, 4s 6d (22½ p) and 3 park drives but no matches. As a young lad away from home on my own for the first time, getting across London via the underground to get to Waterloo was a bit of an ordeal before I caught the train to Brookwood.

I was not the only one getting off that train that day, there were others that were told very politely to find a seat on the bus that would transport us to Pirbright camp. A very nice chap with a few stripes placed us in a receiving room where we were given a bed with sheets, blankets and pillows – a bit new to me as we never had these at home. Later he walked us up to a cookhouse where we had a slap-up dinner, better than the jam sandwich I had at 11 o'clock that morning. A strange place I thought with all the screaming and shouting. After a few days we had a medical, education test and dental treatment and after selection, placed into a squad. This is where I experienced different accents from the lads I shared a room with and that all the NCOs used words I had never heard before.

It was then a case of kit being issued by a mountain of a man, **Eric Barker** who was known as Caesar, who also became a great friend later in life. Everyone had £3 a week regardless of engagement

which was spent on buying cleaning and shaving kit, whether you shaved or not. It was here that we were introduced into the NAAFI shop, endless nights of Regimental history and shining parades, but fortunately I was very lucky to have a trained soldier who showed us how to prepare and clean our kit. A skill that still remains with me today. The endless screaming and doubling everywhere, PT and running came to an end when we started fieldcraft. Of the 36 that joined only 12 remained to go on the passing out parade and I am still in contact with some of them 60 years later. We are just one big family.

The 1st Battalion where we were posted was in Gort Barracks near Düsseldorf, Germany and it was here that we learned to drink, looking back we were the fittest alcoholics ever. Fortune struck again when I was taken under the wing of a couple of old sweats that kept me out of trouble. From Gort Barracks we moved to Wuppertal, it was here that I found I hated the cold and freezing winters – and still do.

During this time, we were posted to the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus for a six month tour that I loved. I then returned to Germany for a short period before moving back to Caterham. A nice place but too far from anywhere unless you had a car. Public Duties and training were all part of the daily routine until we were posted to Sharjah in the Persian Gulf for nine months discovering the heat and different challenges. This was a great posting but so difficult for men with families and young children.

Returning back to the UK, firstly to Caterham then on to Chelsea where public duties were on the agenda until Northern Ireland reared its head. My first tour staying at Magilligan Camp in Derry, commonly known as Dodge City.

Returning to Chelsea it was not long before we were posted to Munster and trained with 432s, certainly different from Public duties. Northern Ireland troubles remained so more tours were required. During one tour I was posted to Pirbright for two years to find it a lot different from the days when I joined. I then returned to the Battalion which by then had moved back to Chelsea.

After a further two years and making many Grenadier friends it was time to move on and I

left as a Sergeant in 1976. To this day I am still in contact with so many of them, we meet regularly and pick up from when we last saw each other as if it was yesterday – one big family.

Hopefully the Derby Branch will be back to some normality soon and will hold regular meetings and events throughout 2022.

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

Activities, within our reporting year, commenced on Sunday 8th November 2020 and we started with our local Remembrance Sunday Parade. COVID restrictions remained in place for the parade at Hythe War Memorial, which meant that an invited list of just 30 persons were able to take part in the parade. Most organisations were only able to field one person to represent them, but the East Kent Branch had five of our Branch members there as one of them was also representing the Lord Lieutenancy, three of them were representing the Royal British Legion and were also part of the organisation and security element of the parade, and the fifth one carried our Branch Banner as the main representative of the East Kent Branch.

On parade were **Major (Ret'd) Dennis Bradley BEM DL**, **Joe Moran** (President of the Hythe RBL and organiser), **Councillor Major (Ret'd) Keith Miles** (Hythe Town Councillor and Chairman of the Hythe RBL), **Ian Bell** (Vice Chairman of the Hythe RBL and organiser), **Bob Goodson** (Secretary of the East Kent Branch and

Banner Carrier for the event). A totally different parade to that we were used to, but a poignant and meaningful act of remembrance none the less.

With no relaxation of COVID restrictions, our November Branch meeting and our Christmas Function, in December, had to be cancelled.

The New Year started and we immediately faced the challenge of how we were to audit the Branch accounts when we were unable to physically mix. The Treasurer devised a plan and set up duplicate copies of the Income or Expenditure receipts for each of the auditors to check; one account being the original, the other a copy of the original. The auditor with the master printout of the account then signed it as a true and accurate record. The master account and printout was then collected and taken to the other auditor who was able to check it against the one he had, then sign it too. We were therefore able to submit our return to RHQ without delay or a need to break COVID rules.

Our last Branch meeting was in March 2020, and with no indication that we were going to be allowed to mix in any great numbers for some time, our Secretary decided to introduce Zoom meetings. He quickly sent invitations and connection details, for our first virtual meeting, to members and to the widows of former Branch members. We had a good uptake and the meeting went very well. As we only had the free licence to Zoom, we were restricted to 40 minute meetings, so to maximise what we could cover during that time, all attendees were emailed a copy of the meeting agenda and the minutes of the previous meeting. This allowed attendees to refresh themselves on what had been covered in the previous meeting and know what was to be covered in the next and we therefore didn't need to go over it again during our restricted online time.

We repeated that process for our March Annual General Meeting and our May and July meetings as Government rules still prevented our mixing in numbers.

Then, on Monday 19 July 2021, England was free to mix again, and Government restrictions were lifted. 'Hallelujah, Praise The Lord' cried the masses.

On Saturday 24 July 2021, just 5 days after legal social distancing and meeting restrictions were removed in law, Branch Members attended the

Centenary Celebration of the formation of the Royal British Legion (RBL), Hythe and Saltwood Branch. The Hythe and Saltwood Branch was formed on 30 June 1921, just a few weeks after the RBL itself was formed (15 May 1921) when four men representing different ex-servicemen organisations laid a wreath at the Cenotaph war memorial in London, with the aim to support those who fought for their country and their families and to remember all those who made the ultimate sacrifice. The Vice Lord-Lieutenant **Brigadier (Ret'd) Trevor Minter OBE DL** represented HM The Queen. Members known to have attended were:

- **Major Dennis Bradley BEM DL** (parade organiser)
- **David and Carole Grassham** – VIP guests of the Mayor, attending as representatives of the Branch
- **Kevin Goodwin**
- **Bob Goodson**
- **Brian Buckland and Diane Foad**
- **Peter and Linda Marsh**
- **Mike and Anne Durup** – Associate Member
- **Joe and Eve Moran** – Associate Member and President of the Hythe and Saltwood Branch of the Royal British Legion
- **Major Keith Miles** – Associate Member and Chairman of the Hythe and Saltwood Branch of the Royal British Legion
- **Ian and Pat Bell** – Associate Member and Vice Chairman of the Hythe and Saltwood Branch of the Royal British Legion



Band of the PWRR.



Some of our Branch members and ladies in attendance. From Left to Right: Peter Marsh, Linda Marsh, Diane Foad, Brian Buckland and Bob Goodson.

The Band of the Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment (PWRR) marched from the top end of the High Street down to the Town Hall, then the band and the Shornccliffe Military Wives Choir gave a concert outside the Town Hall. All performed to an enthusiastic crowd, who had been freed from the shackles of COVID restrictions and, hopefully, the majority of whom had received at least one, if not their two COVID vaccinations. Following the concert, a buffet was held in the Town Hall and Branch members were guests of the Right Worshipful Town Mayor of Hythe.

Grenadier Day, scheduled for a July 2021 date, still fell foul of the COVID situation as a decision was made earlier in the year to cancel it.

Attention in the Branch then turned to our Annual Dinner that was to be held on Saturday 11th September 2021. In January 2020, we paid our intended venue (The Grand, Folkestone) a deposit for the Annual Dinner we were planning to hold in September 2020, but because of COVID restrictions, had to cancel that year. Staff at The Grand were very good and agreed to carry that deposit over to September 2021. Unfortunately, in the early part of 2021, The Grand went into liquidation and administrators were appointed. Despite us immediately registering as a creditor, on several occasions visiting the locked building, writing, emailing and telephoning, no contact or

response was forthcoming. It transpired that 'The Grand' consisted of several companies, the one that owned the fabric of the building and which was now insolvent, plus several tenant companies that operated within that building. Our deposit had been paid to one of the tenant companies (Seaside Hosts Ltd), but all staff of that company had since been taken off furlough and dismissed. We therefore had no chance of contacting anyone there and whilst we could have instructed solicitors to try and file a claim against the sole active Company Director, we arrived at the decision it was likely we would have paid out more that we might be able to claim. RHQ were consulted and it was agreed that we should file a loss of the deposit in our Income and Expenditure report at the end of year.

The committee therefore set about finding a new venue and we were privileged to be able to secure use of the Masonic Hall in Hythe. They had their own caterers (Ashford Outside Catering) and we quickly set up a meeting with them to plan the event.

Gavin Bull, our good friend and regular entertainer who performs under the stage name 'One For The Road', came to our rescue as he had a free date in his calendar and was able to play background music throughout dinner, then entertain us for dancing. As always, he was excellent.

Our Guest Speaker was **2nd Lieutenant Alex Villiers-Smith**, who at the time was the Regiment's newest Ensign. He was charming, confident, amusing, interesting, factual and the delivery of his message was done in a way that we have not heard before. This helped ensure that his audience was listening intently to what he was saying. On top of that, he kept to the brief that our Secretary had given him on how long to speak for and he arrived at the venue before all of us. The five minutes, before the five minutes, before the five minutes before parade rule has obviously affected him very early in his military career. He is welcome to come again; even if he is not the Guest Speaker.

The catering and service at the Masonic Hall was first class and the food was absolutely delicious. It was perhaps the best we have ever been served at our Annual Dinners. Our Secretary was inundated with messages and calls from attendees to say how much they had enjoyed the evening and to comment on how good the speaker, service and food had been.



Tables laid for dinner.



Brian Buckland and the Branch Banners.



Our selection of starters – Italian Meats, Stilton and Garlic Stuffed Mushrooms and Sliced Melon.

With a little bit of luck and a little bit of 'It's not what you know, it's who you know' in play, we hope we might be able to return to the Masonic Hall for our next Annual Dinner. We have already booked it for our Christmas Function, but that will be another story and for next year's Gazette.

As has been stated, since January 2021, we had been having virtual meetings using Zoom. This permitted several members and the widows of former members, to join in when they otherwise wouldn't physically be able to attend.

Now that Government restrictions on social distancing and mixing were a thing of the past, we held our first physical Branch meeting on Sunday 19th September 2021. To retain a connection with as much of our membership as is possible, the Chairman and Secretary decided that from September 2021, we would facilitate Zoom and physical attendance within the same meeting. Whilst this suggestion proved popular with both those that virtually connect and those who attend, reality on the day was that the Broadband signal doesn't reach into the room where we hold our meetings. We will investigate a possible solution for future meetings as we feel it will also be a useful connection mechanism for regular attendees who on occasion can't physically get to a meeting, for one reason or another, but who could still attend the meeting using Zoom.

Our Branch meetings continue to be held in the Function Room at the Hythe Sports & Social Club (HS&SC), but sadly, our after meeting luncheons can no longer be held there. Instead, with effect from our November 2021 meeting, we retire to the bar of the HS&SC after the meeting, have a drink, await the arrival of the other diners then walk a very short distance to the Masonic Hall in Windmill Street, Hythe where their bar is open and luncheon is then served. Given the standard of their catering for our Annual Dinner, diners are in for a treat. Branch members have agreed that any profit we raise from future after luncheon raffles we hold, will be donated to The Colonel's Fund (Grenadier Guards) to help support the excellent work that charity does.

It is always a sad duty to record the death of Branch members, but we end this report by advising that during the course of this reporting

period we have lost two. **2624346 Horace Albert Peers**, better known to his friends as **Harry**, who died on 24th April 2021 and who, at 97 years of age, was our oldest member and our sole surviving WW2 veteran. COVID restrictions meant that there was a limitation on numbers able to attend his funeral, but some members, along with Harry's family and other friends were able to do so. **Bob Goodson** carried the Branch Banner at the funeral. Our other loss was **22551536 Brian Waterhouse**, an Associate member and former Warrant Officer in the Scots Guards, who died on 24th Jun 2021, aged 85.

ESSEX

(Formed 1946)

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

Vice Presidents: MW GILES, Esq; G COURTAULD, Esq DL; Major TH BREITMEYER, DL; Captain CIT WHITE-THOMSON; Mr R KEEBLE

Chairman: Mr C WILLIS

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

Tel: 07730075126

Email: essexbranch@grengds.com

Treasurer: Mr M LAND

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

2021 has been a much better year all round for everyone. As we cautiously ventured out of the lockdown and the COVID vaccine rollout continued at a fast pace, we started, as did other Branches, RHQ and Assn HQ, to plan a much needed social calendar of events.

The first few months were very quiet due to the pandemic. Obviously, the health and safety of all our members took priority. So, we cancelled our first planned lunch and the AGM and instead started to plan events further ahead.

After speaking to Branch members, it was decided that an afternoon get together would be much appreciated. So, on a beautiful Thursday afternoon in July, 18 members got together for our annual summer garden party at The Secret Garden Centre in Chelmsford. We've used this venue several times before and again they were super hosts and

provided us with an excellent spread. What made it even more special was that the Branch covered the cost. It was great to see members together again chatting and enjoying being outdoors.

With so much media coverage about a possible winter lockdown, we went ahead, (with fingers crossed) and planned our Branch annual Christmas lunch. After sending out a newsletter and speaking to members for recommendations and their views on holding a lunch, we had a change of venue to a more central location, The White Hart, Little Waltham – an award-winning Pub. On Sunday 5th December, 36 members and guests met for a really superb Branch Christmas lunch. We filled the dining room with festive cheer and the pub didn't disappoint. Beautifully decorated dining room, courteous staff, and excellent grub. Empty plates all round. An excellent afternoon which everyone thoroughly enjoyed.

We are all hoping 2022 will be back to normal, not only for us but all Association Branches and the Regiment. We are planning and aiming for a full calendar of social events with two lunches, a Summer garden party, an informal get together by the Essex coast, a visit to Colchester Garrison, Regimental Remembrance Day, Grenadier Day and hopefully the unveiling of the fully restored grave and memorial to Grenadier Sgt Jesse Jones. (Peninsular War and Waterloo.)

On behalf of everyone at the Essex Branch, we would like to thank all at Assn HQ for the work they do for us. In particular **Sgt Haughton** and **LSgt Davis** for their excellent social media work. This has been invaluable in helping to ensure our newsletters have a lot of Regimental news and other historical events, all of which our members enjoy.



GLOUCESTERSHIRE

(Formed 1949)

President: Colonel LCA RANSON, TD

Vice Presidents: Captain G. L. BANKS: Sir H ELWES KCVO: WJ EYKYN Esq: Captain A FERGUSON-CUNINGHAME: DAE GEORGE Esq.; Captain EC GORDON LENNOX: Lt. Gen. SIR J KISZELY KCB MC DL: C MALET Esq: Major S MARCHAM MBE: Lt. Col. JG PEEL TD D.; Captain JGL PUGH: Colonel GW TUFNELL CVO DL: Maj. Gen. Sir EVELYN WEBB-CARTER KCVO OBE DL: Major THE LORD ANDREW WIGRAM MVO

Chairman: David Errington

Tel: 07572 811972

Email: daveerrington@virginmedia.com

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 37th annual report with **Colin Knight** as Branch Secretary, he is indeed a glutton for punishment or a very foolish man.

Our Nominal Roll holds well, the advent of communications via the internet is credited for this as the Branch endeavours to make full use of technology. We are extremely fortunate to have an excellent assortment of Associate and Honorary members, not forgetting our widows who together support the Branch well.

Remembrance Sunday 2020, the annual parade at Winchcombe which for some years now has been led by our President **Colonel Lance Ranson** was cancelled as was the Festival of Remembrance Service at Cheltenham Town Hall.

Our 2020 annual Christmas Social at the Cheltenham Victory Club was also cancelled. However, 20 Christmas Gifts were sent with a Regimental Christmas Card to our more senior members and those unfortunately not experiencing the best of times.

Thanks must go to our 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 per year, sales and proceeds have held well, in fact slightly increased. **Graham** is incredibly determined in this field as Social Secretary.

March 2021 was to be the month of the Annual General Meeting at which members were to be informed that their Branch was in good form from both a financial and membership and interest point of view. However, due to the lockdown imposed the meeting was cancelled. We were though able to hold two committee meetings by Zoom. Wonderful technology but well short of attending an actual live meeting.

When the Corona virus struck, shortly after lockdown, our Secretary started to forward a daily lockdown virus related humorous email to the 173

members with email facilities, later reducing the transmission to every other day. In total 250, yes 250 separate transmissions were made. Of course, this would not have been possible without the enthusiasm of the membership as they sent in a constant flow of potential material for publication. Thanks are given to everyone for their efforts.

From feedback it is apparent that many members forward on these transmissions to their respective families and friends; it is thought that the transmissions in the end reached well over 1000 recipients.

Many planned events had to be cancelled and they included the March, May and July 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 visit to Sandhurst, our Garden Party, Christmas Social and the Cenotaph Parade together with a Remembrance Service at Cheltenham Town Hall.

In August, a party attended a local Gurkha restaurant for a taste of Nepalese food. Thanks go to **Graham Barton** for arranging this.

Early September saw a large party assemble at Lydney Town Hall for complimentary tea, coffee and hot buns. This was followed by a trip on the Forest Steam Railway. Afterwards, members attended a pre-arranged lunch at a local pub with a marquee set up in the grounds just for us. An extraordinarily successful day in bright sunshine thanks to **Derek Knott** who made the arrangements.

We did manage to hold a Members Meeting in September, numbers sadly depleted though due to the petrol shortage.

October saw our annual President's Formal Luncheon at the Hatherley Manor Hotel. We were well pleased with the



The Hatherley Manor Hotel, Gloucester.



The Branch Committee. From Left to Right: Derek Knot, Colin Knight, Ivor Jones, Graham Barton, David Errington, Elaine Knight, David Hewer, Roy Dowle, Jean Stublely and Colonel Lance Ranson.

attendance on a lovely sunny day. The event was subsidised by the branch but we were disappointed that no one attended from the Regiment.

We concluded the year with our annual Christmas Social at the Victory Club in Cheltenham. In attendance was the Gloucestershire Constabulary Male Voice Choir to entertain us.

The Branch can pride itself, for yet another year, with regard to our welfare effort. Despite being without an appointed Welfare Officer, members when asked, have rallied round and undertaken visits. There are members unfortunately languishing in care homes, where as we all know, visits are limited. Many of the ladies have been personally given or sent bouquets of flowers and the chaps a few bottles of the hard stuff or even a M & S voucher.

The Branch believes that it is the only one sending Birthday Cards to every member to whom a date of birth is recorded, which is the majority. The scheme is now in its 12th year and is well received by the membership. It is now run by **Roy Claridge** (Welsh Guards). Thank you Roy for ensuring the smooth running of this much appreciated task.

Those without Email have had three newsletters sent to them by snail mail during the past 12 months. Keeping in regular touch with the entire membership, the committee believe is one of the main ingredients of the continued success of the Branch.

It is firmly believed that by having a strong Nominal Roll, albeit including Associate and Honorary members and Widows, it enables the Branch to have a marketing list to ensure that from time to time, functions arranged can be confident of support. This is of course in normal times.

The committee have always been ready to help when asked. It is the teamwork, enthusiasm and variety of ideas, together with an open mind, which maintains our camaraderie. They are indeed the backbone of this successful Branch.

During 2022, virus restrictions permitting, meetings will be held every other month commencing in March. They will begin at 1930hrs and normally conclude at about 2145hrs or even later.

During the interval complimentary hot pies will be served, as this has proved to be extremely popular in the past. Having an interval allows

time not only to consume the pies, also perhaps purchase an extra drink, it also affords the time and opportunity for the attendees to have a chat with each other and network. This formula appears to have worked well and it is intended to continue now meetings can be arranged.

To make meetings more interesting the committee will endeavour, from time to time, to arrange a guest speaker, which helps to hold the interest in members attending. Subjects covered in the past have been interesting and varied. We have had two presentations on the preparation of Wills and Powers of Attorney which were of considerable interest.

The Branch has a presence on Facebook, monitored by our Chairman **David Errington**, ably assisted by **Mark Evans** (Welsh Guards). This must be one of the more positive ways forward. Any member wishing to gain access to the site should follow the usual procedures.

Colonel Lance Ranson our President, as always, is continually active giving the Branch dedicated support throughout the year. We would like to thank him for his continued leadership and guidance.

The Branch is looking forward to the challenges ahead and is confident to suggest that there may be many during 2022. To this end we intend to adapt to the new world while retaining the traditions of the former.

This report concludes by thanking **Major Andy Green** and the small staff at Regimental Headquarters, including **LSgt Glen Davis** – we wish him well in his new role. We also remember **Sgt Rob Broomes** and wish him well in his new appointment. Like them and despite the ongoing difficulties, the Gloucestershire Branch will continually endeavour to strive to keep the spirit of the Association alive.



KINGSTON & DISTRICT

(Formed 1935)

President: Brigadier GK BIBBY, CBE

Vice Presidents: Major (QM) DR ROSSI, MBE

Chairman:

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

The Branch seems to have come through the worst of this pandemic and are now, at least to some extent, free to do much more than has been permitted over the last couple of years. The Branch has not come through totally unscathed, however and whilst there is no evidence that the virus was involved, we have lost four from our already tiny membership. **Reg Burton, Peter Avery, Stan Hollaway and Martin Burgess.** They have all gone on to a far better place and may they rest in peace. We will remember them.

For many years the Branch had enjoyed the hospitality of The Royal British Legion Club in East Molesey, using their upstairs bar for our meeting place. During the lockdown there was a fire upstairs leaving the bar unusable. Due to summer holidays members do not generally meet in August but with COVID restrictions relaxing, several members met informally at the club to enjoy a drink and catch-up face to face for the first time since March 2020. Subsequently in both September and October the bar was deemed to be usable again and it was possible to hold normal monthly meetings.

During the reporting year and with all the restrictions in place it hasn't been possible to arrange any Branch events, but members have stayed in touch by whatever means possible. At the Branch October meeting members expressed the wish that a lunch that had been cancelled in April 2020 due to COVID restrictions be rearranged. That has been done but will not go ahead until after the end of the reporting year.

With the Branch's ageing population, evening meetings in the dark hours had been a problem for some. At the October Branch Meeting our Secretary had enquired whether members might wish to consider meeting at lunch time as an alternative? It was agreed to trial that in November and the Secretary would host the first such occasion at his home.

Members are looking forward to normal service being resumed for Regimental Remembrance Day. Since the last Grenadier Day **Liz Howell** had worked hard in acquiring stock for the Branch stall in the fervent hope that we will meet at that great event in 2022.

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: Mr P HALES

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)

As we all know it has been a difficult time over the past two years for all Veteran Associations to function due to the social distancing rules laid down for our protection.

It has not been possible to meet indoors except for Christmas, but the Summer months enabled us to meet outdoors for tea, cakes and Pimm's, in our Chairman's Garden where we enjoyed the banter that veterans love and the chance to relive memories of exciting times we enjoyed as young Guardsmen.

We also recall the happy memories and the times spent with our former comrades who have passed

away over the past few years.

We were very sad at the passing of our past Chairman of many years **Mr John Morrey** who died on 6th December 2019 after a lifetime of service to the Branch. John was our last surviving member to have served in the 2nd World War where he was a tank driver.

We owe so much to him and we are pleased to say that we were able to give him the proper military funeral that he so deserved.

Sadly, shortly after John our President of many years **Robin Murray Philipson DL** also passed away but due to lockdown restrictions no one from the Branch was able to attend his funeral. His family will be able to hold a memorial service when times are less restricted.

Roy Jones has taken on the role of President, and **John Cowley** is happy to continue as Chairman with **Pete Hales** (our youngest Branch member at 53!) has taken on the roles of Secretary and Treasurer.

Kitty Lowe will remain our social secretary and we hope to be able to enjoy the wonderful dinners and buffets that her talents have provided us with on many special occasions.

Over the past few years, we have represented the Regiment at various ceremonies including being part of the Guard of Honour for Her Majesty The Queen on her Maundy Monday visit.

John Cowley is also Chairman of the Whitwick Branch of the Royal British Legion and so has represented the Regiment on many occasions to celebrate 100 years of service to veterans.

In 2020 Market Harborough unveiled a blue plaque in honour of **Jack Gardener** the British Heavyweight Boxer who also served in the Grenadier Guards. **John Cowley** and **John Russell** had the honour to represent the Regiment at the ceremony. His family were very pleased to see us and made us most welcome.

Although small in size and in a predominantly Coldstream area the Branch is thriving and continues to look at new ways to entice any younger Grenadiers who may have settled in the Leicestershire area to come along to our meetings and enjoy a wonderful Sunday Lunch. Circumstances permitting this will already have kicked off with a Valentine themed dinner in

February 2022 and hopefully we can continue to maintain the long history of our Branch.

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: 84jamarshall@gmail.com

Treasurer: Mrs A MARSHALL

Meetings: Held on the third Tuesday 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

Again, the last year has been anything but normal! Our meetings had all been suspended and the Branch secretary, **Anne Marshall** who kept in touch with members through various channels, assuring them that she was at the end of the telephone should assistance be required.

Even during these difficult times, we have been pleased to welcome some new members, who we are now, finally, able to meet as we have commenced our coffee mornings again. These are held in the café at Pennells Garden Centre on the third Tuesday of each month commencing at approximately 11am. The Sunday lunch meeting will be reassessed in the Spring and, COVID permitting, we hope to start these again soon.

Sadly, we have lost several members during the last year: **23865099 C Short**, **24000275 A Abbott**, **23436357 P E Bonner**, **22612664 A G Collins**, **23879801 B P Mole**, **23509806 K Gash**, **7955217 D A Best** and **2627319 F Winfield**. We will remember them.



LIVERPOOL

(Formed 1920)

President: THE EARL OF DERBY

Vice Presidents: Mr C YATES; Mr G HUGHES

Chairman: Mr R THOMSON

Secretary: Currently Vacant

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



2624998 George Norris.



With Charles Yates (left) in happier times.

With the world seemingly in a total lockdown there is not too much to mention in our report this year. Our Centenary Dinner and Dance was cancelled and our Annual Festive Afternoon that we hold every year in December was cancelled too. In January 2021 our AGM was held over a Zoom where all existing committee members were happily reselected.

In February, on behalf of the Branch, **Julie Champion** attended the funeral of **WO1 Andrew Ferneyhough MBE**. Andy was introduced to us by SSAFA and briefly joined our Branch in 2017.

2624998 George Norris. Our dear friend George passed away peacefully in his sleep on Tuesday 23rd February in hospital. He had pneumonia and although he had been in hospital since 8th December, it was only on 14th February that he caught COVID-19. He was the most wonderful husband, father, granddad and friend. Once a Grenadier, always a Grenadier he was a very lovely man who will be missed by everyone. A military style funeral was planned and should have been held on Friday 12th March at 4.20pm at Walton Lea Crematorium, Chester Road, Warrington WA4 6TB but as his family caught COVID they had to go into isolation and the date was moved to Thursday 31st March. Branch Members **Linda Jones, Glenys Taylor, Bob Thomson, John Gregory, Brian Russell and Brenda Shannon**, were able to attend, **Barry Taylor and David Yates** attended from the Wigan Branch with their Banner. **Musician Alex Hugsley** from the Band of 4 LANCS was also present and played Last Post.

In July, Branch members were invited to the Not Forgotten Summer Garden Party Drive-in

at Knowsley Hall. It was a beautiful evening and at long last some of our members had finally got together after 18 long months apart. With delicious food, fantastic live entertainment and the beautiful grounds of Knowsley Hall our Branch members had a lovely time.



At Knowsley Hall in July.

Congratulations were in order in July when **Gill Hughes**, granddaughter of **Les Edge**, ran away to Gretna Green and finally tied the knot with her beloved **Chris**. The Branch was all so happy and proud of them and sent some beautiful flowers to congratulate the new **Mr & Mrs Barrett** on their return home.



The newlyweds.

In September, **Julie and Nick Champion** attended the AGM at Wellington Barracks. It was a very formative meeting with exciting plans for the year ahead and so lovely to catch up with everyone.

Branch meetings began back in our usual hotel in Liverpool on Thursday 16th September. We are happy to say we had a great turn out and it felt so good to catch up with all that's happened over the past 18 months and great to have an exciting agenda planned from HQ for 2022.

Our Branch met up twice this year with the Wigan Branch at the kind invitation of **Barry Taylor**. First, in September when **Matt Elmer** visited to give an update on all he and **Major Andy Green** do for the welfare of the Association, from

climbing mountains to walking the country from Coast to Coast and along Hadrian's Wall. It was an inspiring evening and there was talk of future similar plans to look forward to. This was followed by a delicious fish and chip supper and a raffle; we all went home with great prizes. Thank you to **Glenys Taylor, John**

Gregory, Linda Jones, Brain Russell and Bob Thomson, for their support at this event.

Secondly, we ended our year with a visit to the Wigan Branch Annual Dinner. It was a lovely evening with exceptional company. Thank you to **Barry and Adele Taylor** for another wonderful evening and including us in your celebrations.

2021 was a unique year and our Secretary is so grateful for the continuing support, commitment and generosity of all of our members and their families. **Julie** would especially like to thank **Linda Jones**, our treasurer, for keeping the books in order,



From Left to Right: **Brian Russell, Bob Thomson (Liverpool Branch Chairman) and George Hughes.**

Barbara Pennington for always inspiring her in everything she does, **Barry Taylor**, our Northern Area Representative, for always being at the end of the phone to answer all her questions and finally, all at the RHQ, with special thanks to **Major Andy Green** for his patience and guidance. 2021 has been a year of uncertainty and strange times but through it all the Liverpool Branch has remained committed and enthusiastic, with hope that 2022 can be a more normal year for everyone.



Liverpool and Wigan Branch members enjoying the Annual Dinner and Dance.

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; 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



Our secretary's real estate.

During lockdown it has been very hard to know what our members are doing. Our Welfare Officer, **Mike Bunch**, spent hours on the telephone calling everyone he could to find out how they were and keeping spirits up.

In March we started Zoom Meetings. The first one was very hit and miss as members, including our secretary, had never done it before, but as the months went on we managed to finally see and speak with each other at the same time. Members that did not have access to a computer were asked to send their stories in; and we received lots of jokes, funny stories and recipes to put into our Review.

In the spring **Les Cox** asked members to send in photos of their gardens and changes they may have made whilst being stuck at home. He put photos of his in but everyone else must have been shy.

As no one knew if Grenadier Day was on or not, sales items had to be ordered for the Branch stall and so we went ahead and ordered canvas prints stretched over a wooden frame – and yes Grenadier Day was cancelled and so Les had a room full of canvas frames and boxes of towels, **Jan** was pleased!

As we could not celebrate our Centenary and **Phil Lanes'** 30 year service due to the Government

restrictions, a plan was hatched with RHQ for the Regimental Lieutenant Colonel to present **Phil** with his branch service award. **Les Cox** also had 15 limited edition prints produced of our Centenary Christmas card, four of these were going to be presented to the new and former Presidents and Chairmen. At the same time, he gave one to RHQ to be hung in the office. (The rest were sold through our online shop). Everything was going to plan – drinks were arranged to be served in the Library afterwards and yes you've got it; meetings indoors were banned, we could only meet outside in small numbers and then the weather chipped in – cancelled again!

With the lockdown in full swing a decision was taken to cancel the Christmas Draw at the UJC and yes, **Phil's** presentation. It was like being in one of the soaps on TV, will **Phil** ever get his presentation?

When we heard that Nijmegen Company was

going to be on Public Duties over Christmas and because of pubs being closed it meant that Messes would be shut in the barracks too. Situation desperate – so we went on line to our members and also on the Grenadier Facebook page and asked for donations to buy some beer so they could have a drink together at Christmas.

Well the response was so fantastic we managed to buy 720 cans of Lager and Cider with the added bonus of some bottles of beer that the Tring Brewery had donated too. So, on 23rd December Les Cox drove the lot down to Wellington Barracks in his new car with the suspension creaking, to find that everyone from the company had gone on duty!

Phone calls were made and the Sergeant of the Guard came over from St James's. When he was told what was there for them he thought it would just be a couple of cans – until I opened the back of the car and his eyes grew wider and wider.



Nijmegen Company at Windsor.

More calls were made a good few Guardsman turned up to collect the stock and lock it away. They all had a drink with their Christmas dinners. A sincere letter of thanks was sent to the Branch President, **Lieutenant Colonel Robert Cartwright** from **Major Tom Hargreaves**, Officer Commanding Nijmegen Company, Grenadier Guards.

The Branch shop on our website: londonbranch-grenadierguards-association.net is doing well selling towels, scarves, baseball caps and our new addition canvas framed prints in two sizes.



Nijmegen Company's Christmas present.



Nijmegen Company's Tower Guard.



St James's Palace canvas print.



A selection of our baseball caps.

Over the lockdown we have lost members of the Branch and sadly we were unable to be represented at their funerals due to the government guidelines. So it is our sad duty to record the deaths of the following members since our last report:

Major N Boggis-Rolfe
Major F Clark
 22213037 G Turton
 23325437 J Cutmore
 23633647 A Parry
 23392083 D Room
 23458742 R Starling
 23552329 R Croucher-Finch
 24213983 P Guy
 Mrs V Pardoe
 Miss S Grant MVO MBE
 Mr D Crouch

Major Frank Clark was a London Branch Vice President and also the author of 'We Were Brothers in Arms' a book that we have been serializing in the Review of the Branch's newsletter booklet. **Frank** was a tank commander who fought with the 2nd (Armoured) Battalion of the Regiment as part of the Reconnaissance Troop throughout the battle for North West Europe. His reminiscences, many of them first person accounts by him and others and extracts from official histories, cover Operation GOODWOOD, the largest tank battle after the Normandy landings; the close quarter battles of the Bocage; the liberation of Brussels; the costly fighting across the canals and dykes leading

to the capture of Nijmegen Bridge; the Arnhem debacle; the Battle of the Bulge; and finally the Rhine crossing and fight for the Rhineland. It is a fascinating recollection.

Alwyn Parry's son **Darren** remembers that **Alwyn** always enjoyed attending Grenadier Day with his wife **Patricia** and their three children **Lorraine, Gregory and Darren** and after **Patricia** passed away in 2011 **Alwyn** found Grenadier Day, annual and Christmas meetings a great comfort and because of this the Grenadiers have been a big part of our lives and will continue to be so.

23633647 Alwyn Thomas Parry

The Queens Company, 1st Battalion Grenadier Guards

06 July 1939–24 July 2021

If anyone met **Miss Sybil Grant MVO MBE** they might think she was just like any other lady you would bump into along the road but they would be very much mistaken. In 1950 at the age of 15 **Sybil** joined the Civil Service and started work in the typing pool. For the next 50 years she worked tirelessly for the Army, becoming PA to no less than 14 Major Generals and even to this day she is still held in high regard by the hierarchy of the Army. **Sybil** joined our Branch as an Honorary Member and over the years participated in numerous activities with us. **Sybil** left the Branch a generous legacy in her will.

Roy Croucher-Finch served in The Queen's Company in 1957 and over the years had been a great supporter of the London Branch. He also attended many visits to Windsor Castle, Founders Day, and one garden party at Buckingham Palace with **Janet**. They also attended the Ceremony of the Keys at the Tower of London and afterwards had a buffet in the Yeoman Warders own private bar. **Roy** was a great believer in supporting the Branch, not only by buying most of the items that they had for sale but also by his generous donations to the Branch funds.

After a long illness, **Roy** passed away on Sunday 10th October 2021 and on the 22nd November 2021 he was laid to rest surrounded by his family at Hanworth Cemetery. It is said, 'Once a Grenadier always a Grenadier', **Roy** asked that at his funeral

there should be no flowers but donations should be sent to the London Branch, Grenadier Guards Association.

On a happier note, the following new members have joined the Branch since our last report: **22672284 T Henry**, **24185883 G Walker** and **24026561 S Munro**. New Lady Members are **Mrs M Taylor**, **Mrs B Room**, **Mrs C Clapton** and **Mrs W Knowles**.

More so this year than in other years our thanks go to **Major Andy Green**, **LSgt Glen Davis**, and **Sgt Robert (Rodders) Haughton**, and everyone at RHQ. Whether colleagues were at their offices at RHQ or working from home during the lockdown, they still gave us all the help we asked for. It may have taken them a little longer but we always received an answer or were pointed in the right direction. Thank You.

MANCHESTER

(Formed 1913)

President: Lieutenant Colonel CE KITCHEN, MBE

Vice Presidents: Mr F GREEN; Mr RA FALLON

Chairman: Mr M COTTRELL

Secretary: Mr RA FALLON, 58 Newhouse Road, Heywood, Lancashire, OL10 2NU

Tel: (01706) 360818

Email: robert.fallon@talktalk.net

Treasurer: Mr J PARRY

Meetings: Held on the first Wednesday of each month, (except August) at the Fairfield Golf & Sailing Club, Kings Road, Audenshaw, Manchester. M34 5FA at 8pm

Facebook: Manchester Grenadier Guards Association

Well, where do we begin? Lockdown started in March 2020, only 4 weeks before our Annual Dinner and Dance. Since the start of COVID we have had to abandon two Annual dinners and one Christmas dinner, so at the time of writing we are looking forward to our 2021 Christmas dinner.

During the long period of lockdown our intrepid secretary **Bob Fallon** and his wife **Pamela** have had a tumultuous time. Whilst out walking with his group of walkers he began to experience a shortage of breath, and on return they insisted he go to see his GP. Two ECG's and an angiogram later

he was referred to Manchester Royal Infirmary where he underwent a 2 1/2 hour operation to have multiple stents fitted. On discharge he was told that he would need further treatment for his aortic stenosis, and they would do that after 12 weeks. His appointment for treatment was arranged for Wythenshawe Hospital on 19th October when they repaired his aortic valve. You would think that his luck would change for the better, but oh no.

On 19th January 2021 whilst walking into Bury town centre he caught his heel on the kerb and fell over, putting his left arm out to break his fall he broke his left wrist. On 4th March he had his plaster removed and began physio to regain flexibility, but on 19th March whilst shopping he came out of a store carrying a 10 litre drum of emulsion in his right hand. It was dark and there were two flights of steps, almost at the bottom he missed his footing and fell forward, throwing the drum of paint to the right he put his left arm out again to break his fall and you can all guess what happened, yes, he broke the same left wrist again only this time in three places. The break was so bad they had to operate and fit a plate with screws into the wrist. We are glad to report he is now okay. However, it didn't stop there.

On 9th April 2021 his wife **Pamela**, whilst helping her grandson, started to feel a pain in her left shoulder, within minutes the pain had spread to her left arm and she was starting to have difficulty breathing. Following all the instructions on COVID about not ringing 999 unless absolutely necessary, **Bob Fallon** rang 111 and that was a mistake. It took eight minutes for them to answer the phone and they started to ask all sorts of questions about our status regarding our Jobs. The lady on the other end of the phone then said the ambulance would be with us within 11 minutes. The paramedics were brilliant and after monitoring her heart they said she needed to go to hospital, whereupon they took her to Fairfield hospital, Bury. She was only there for about 20 minutes before they told her they did not have the specialists or equipment to treat her there and she needed to be taken to Manchester Royal Infirmary (MRI).

The emergency staff at MRI were waiting for her and she was taken straight into theatre, where she had a couple of stents fitted. We have to thank the

NHS because her pain started at 1130 and she was in a ward having a cup of tea at 1730. They kept her in for observation for four days and she is still recovering at home.

What we need to point out is that through all of these troubles **Bob and Pamela Fallon** have continued their duties as the Branch welfare officers, ringing round the older members checking that they are okay, and attending funerals and supplying the Branch coffin drape when needed.

When the prime minister lifted restrictions the Branch was able to have their AGM on Wednesday 7th July 2021 and all the members who attended said it was good to be back together.

The Branch, with the kind permission of **Mr David Cohen**, are organising a Garden Party and Family Fun Day to celebrate Waterloo Day on 18th June 2022. This will take place at **Mr Cohen's** estate at Old Tabley Hall Farm, near Knutsford. As it is a private estate, numbers and cars will be limited, so you will need to book in with **Bob Fallon** giving him your name and contact details. We are arranging for Link-4-Life to look after and entertain the children and grandchildren so the adults can enjoy themselves. There will be stalls, food and drinks available on site with lots of tables and chairs for those who need them. The party will be from 12 noon until around 1800 and at around 2pm the Scots Guards Association Pipes and Drums will make a grand entrance down the main driveway.

Two members of our branch celebrated their Diamond Wedding Anniversary this year and here is a brief account of their story.

Neil and Barbara Davies

On all fool's day 1st April 1955 a young 18 year old **Neil Davies** presented himself to the Guards Depot Guardroom, Caterham for initial training. Somehow he managed to survive both Caterham and Pirbright and in November that year he arrived at Victoria Barracks, Windsor, to join the 3rd Battalion. Now fully trained up he became a member of **Sgt Peter Lewis's** Anti-Tank Platoon with lots of Windsor Castle Guards, Trooping the Colour, 1956 Tercentenary Parade and Knights of the Garter Ceremony. Shortly after these there was trouble in the middle east in the form of the Suez

crisis. Consequently, the 3rd Battalion handed over to the Welsh Guards at Windsor in November and were then embarked to Malta initially and later to Cyprus, where the Battalion enjoyed, for those that remember, a very wet Christmas indeed. **Neil** was demobbed on 31st March 1957 and returned to live in Stockport, Cheshire, where he was appointed as a Probationary Constable with Stockport county borough police on 1st July 1957.

It was there he met **Miss Barbara Whittle**, who was working as a telephonist on the police switchboard. She obviously fancied him because they were joined in holy deadlock, sorry, that should be wedlock, in December 1960.



Left: The wedding party in December 1960. Right: 2020.

Four children, 10 grandchildren and five great grandchildren later they are still together 61 years later.

Bryn & Cecelia Jones

Bryn writes – oh my, how time has flown, it only seems like yesterday when I first met my dear **Celia** in 1959. I had just been demobbed from the Army having served with the 2nd Battalion. I had signed up for 3 years with the Colours, and 4 years with the Army reserves in January 1956. After training at Caterham and Pirbright, I was posted to Victoria Barracks, Windsor and took up Public Duties at Windsor Castle. Later, I was posted to Lydd camp in Kent, and then the Battalion was flown from Abingdon Air Base to Limassol, Cyprus to help deal with the EOKA emergency. Whilst there most of our time was spent patrolling streets, villages, countryside areas and also up in the Troodos mountains, which I enjoyed. The Battalion

returned to Lydd Camp later in 1958. I was then demobbed in 1959 and in 1961 I married my dear wife **Celia** at Eccles parish church, in Manchester.



Bryn & Cecelia.

We have a son and daughter along with four grandchildren, and we were blessed with a great grandson a week after celebrating our diamond wedding. I have been an active member of the Household Division Association for many years, serving for the last few years as the welfare officer. **Cecelia** and I must thank **Bob Fallon** for arranging the very nice Diamond Anniversary card and frame, with a lovely portrait of Her Majesty the Queen along with her congratulations in print.

Since the last gazette report, we have lost another seven members, although none of them were as a result of COVID 19. They are: **Alfred Boardman, Derek Beckley, Gary Howard, Ronnie Callan, Tony Robinson, Derek Hallsor and Brian Taylor.** May they all Rest in Peace.

We would like to say a big thank you to **Andy Green, Glen Davis** and all the other members of the team at RHQ, not forgetting the recently departed **Rob Broomes.**

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.

At a risk of repeating what has happened in the Past there is so little change, and whilst there has been a period without lockdown there has been an increased spike in infection rates. Are we really better off, safer, free from the fear of infection, able to do what we want to? In some cases, yes we are but within the Branch there is still a strong feeling of caution. This may well be an age related approach but it is becoming more prevalent within the general population, certainly in this part of the country.

So we report on another year of disruption. As always, our report starts at Remembrance Day 2020 and the involvement of individual members at varying locations. Branch secretary **Chris Whitebrook** was at Peterborough Cathedral in the morning. A very strange ceremony restricted in numbers and by social distancing. The Branch wreath was laid on behalf of all the members at March by **Des Pritchard**, that is to say that it was placed in the garden at the Town Church, prior to being moved to the War Memorial at a later stage. Regrettably there were fewer opportunities at organised parades due to the pandemic, but there was still the opportunity for private remembrance.

Although our hosts, at the Conservative Club in March had accepted all of our bookings the subsequent lockdown meant that we could only hold a re-arranged Annual Luncheon. Although limited in attendance a successful event took place. Due to the necessary pre-operation isolation of **Colin Dale** neither he or his wife **Dorothy** could be present. Pre-luncheon prayers were, on this occasion, offered by our Chairman's mother **Sarah Matson de Laurier.** Happily, the operation

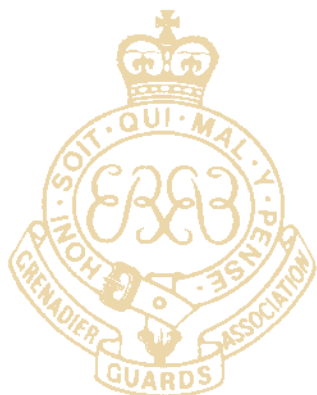
for the removal of cataracts was successful. Our Branch President, **Major Andy Green**, sadly was not available due to another event. He wasn't over happy to learn that the table to which he would have been assigned actually won the table quiz and the subsequent prizes. Better luck next time, Sir. The Raffle, organised by our treasurer, **Morag Whitebrook**, assisted by Chairman, **Edward Salmon** rounded off a most enjoyable day when there was a reluctance for people to leave.

Continuous phone calls and correspondence between Branch members are keeping all updated and positive, and as a Branch we look forward to future Branch events.

The Branch wishes to express appreciation and thanks to **LSgt Glen Davis** and the RHQ team for all of their invaluable assistance, so readily given, throughout the year.

And finally an anecdote from Branch Member **John Cross**:

In 1959 whilst on demob leave from the Grenadier Guards, I went on holiday to Butlins at Clacton on Sea. I was with friends and as we went into the Dining Hall for our first meal my Blazer Badge caught the eye of a couple of girls. One of the girls had a brother who served with the 2nd Battalion Grenadier Guards, he was Roy Stocker who later served with the Royal Protection Squad of the Metropolitan Police. This young lady, named **Sandra** whom I married eventually, and we celebrate our Diamond Wedding Anniversary on 3rd March 2022 after 60 happy years. To this day I am not too sure who was responsible – the Grenadier Guards or Butlins?



MATLOCK & CHESTERFIELD

(Formed 2020)

President: Mr DW RAWSON, BEM

Vice-Presidents: Mr MF CARNALL

Chairman:

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 1QL

Another year of COVID19 has meant our Branch has been unable to have either face to face meetings or re-commence its normal fundraising and social activities. Branch meetings have yet to be held at our new venue in Parwich but have continued throughout 2021 via teleconferencing. This gave members the opportunity to catch up with colleagues and be updated on Association and Branch business.

Sadly, **Derek Killingsley-Smith**, our former Chairman, passed away on 3rd May 2021. **Derek** retired from his position at the 2020 AGM due to ill-health. As reported in last year's Gazette **Derek** was a true stalwart of the Grenadier Guards holding a variety of positions throughout the Derbyshire Branches. His funeral took place and was well attended at the church in his home village at Crich. His wife, **Kate**, has been well supported by her family and friends and is looking forward to attending Branch meetings as soon as we are able to meet face to face.



The late **Derek Killingsley-Smith**.

Our AGM took place on 29 October 2021 again via teleconferencing. All existing post holders were re-elected for 2021-22. Another new member

has joined the Branch, **25097170 Gdsm Dean Brennan** – he has moved from Manchester and wishes to support Branch activities whenever his daytime work allows.

On Remembrance Sunday Vice President **Michael Carnall** attended and laid a wreath at Chesterfield War Memorial.



Michael Carnall with his granddaughter Jessica.



John Wright enroute to Edensor Remembrance Service.

Other wreaths were laid by **Bill Rawson** at Bakewell, **Fred Knight** at Parwich, **John Wright** at Edensor Church (part of Chatsworth, the **Duke of Devonshire's** estate).

As you may be aware **John** usually sends us photographs of his attendance at a memorial service from Australia. This year he

and his wife were unable to visit relatives there and so he attended Edensor to lay a wreath on the WW2 Memorial located within the church. Also in attendance were the **Duke and Duchess of Devonshire**. After the service the vicar went outside the church to bless three WW1 graves. As **John** watched from afar the **12th Duke of Devonshire** went up to John and asked him what his thoughts were. **John** went on to explain that in 1963, as a police officer, he had been one of seventy policemen on guard when **President Kennedy** visited his sister **Kathleen's** grave. **Kathleen** had married **William 'Billy' Cavendish, Marquess of Hartington**, son of the **10th Duke of Devonshire**. Sadly, in 1944 four weeks after they married, **'Billy'** was killed in action. **Kathleen** died in a plane crash in 1948.

We are all hoping to meet up for pre Christmas drinks to cement our friendship and support of both the Branch and each other moving forward into 2022.

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 WHETTON

Secretary: Mr AT WEST BEM

Email: gdadtony@gmail.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.; 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 in March and September

The Norfolk Branch started 2021 still facing COVID restrictions so the March AGM was conducted via Zoom. With restrictions eased in the second half of the year the Branch was able to attend social events, hold the much delayed annual luncheon in September and a 'live' meeting in October. Currently the Branch has 59 members with 51 being Grenadiers. It is a sign of the times that there are now substantially more Branch members using email rather than Royal Mail.

The Zoom branch AGM in March was conducted efficiently and the remotely gathered members who were by then experienced 'Zoomers' were quickly able to progress Branch business. The October meeting was held in the form of a breakfast event at the Stower Grange Hotel, Drayton. Those gathered at the very early parading time of 0900hrs tucked into a full English or kippers before the meeting proper was called to order by the President, **Captain Allen** and his gavel. It was refreshing to see and talk to Grenadiers in the flesh, without the ceilings, bookcases and intermittent Norfolk Wi-Fi so prevalent in the previous Zoom gatherings.

In June **Ross Donaldson** arranged an advance party of some 18 Grenadiers to test the water at a Dining Club dinner at Stower Grange, albeit with some COVID restrictions. The post operation report indicated that all was well with the food and the processes in place.

On 7th August a contingent of Norfolk Grenadiers was kindly invited over the border into Suffolk for a summer picnic at the Dullingham home of **Captain Jock Lloyd-Jones** and his wife **Etta**. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed themselves and there were no

reported mishaps in the swimming pool.

The Branch annual luncheon was held at Stower Grange on 12th September and drew Grenadiers from across Norfolk and Suffolk to an excellent meal and raffle all arranged by **Terry McClenahan**. **Captain Thompson** from the 1st Battalion was able to get to the luncheon to give interesting regimental briefing just before he was due to fly out to Kenya.

In late August we learned of the very sad death of **23587036 John Wright**, who served in the 3rd Battalion (1958 to 60) in London and Cyprus.

As the year drew to a close branch members were beginning to feel more able to attend events and meet up after a rather dreadful period where COVID dominated everything. The Branch also recognises the sterling effort of those at Regimental Headquarters who continued to work and service the needs of the Association and keep us up to date on all things Grenadier.

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 by reporting the deaths of two of our members in September 2021, **Charles Leonard**, and **David John Robinson**.

Born on 26th November 1935, **Charles Leonard** lived and worked abroad after leaving the Regiment. Charles told a story that he once took part in the Queen's Birthday Parade without a rifle which was all down to a mix up as he was excused rifle duties and was not supposed to be on

the parade. **Charles** always supported the Branch and will be dearly missed.

Born on 13th March 1946 **David John Robinson** (Robbo) was a long standing and staunch member of the Branch and would organise all our trips and activities.

Robbo joined the Regiment in 1966 at the Guards Depot, Pirbright. After he completed his training, he joined No 3 Company and was deployed to Sharjah for 11 months. He completed three tours of Northern Ireland and Kenya and he was also posted for a number of years in Germany as the Brigadier's driver. He then went to the 2nd Battalion for a short period of time before leaving the Regiment.

Robbo will be sadly missed by the Branch; his funeral was attended by most of our members. **Bob**



The Guard of Honour at the funeral of Dave Robinson.

Fallon and **George Smith** from other Branches also attended which was very much appreciated.

During the funeral **Charles Manners** our President read out the poem Farewell My Friends by Rabindranath Tagore, which was appreciated by all on such a sad day:

Farewell My Friends it was beautiful

As long as it lasted

The journey of my life.

I have no regrets whatsoever said

The pain I'll leave behind.

Those dear hearts who love and care

And the strings pulling at the heart and soul.

The strong arms that held me up when my own strength let me down.

At the turning of my life I came across good friends, friends who stood by me

Even when time raced me by.

Farewell, farewell my friends I smile and bid you goodbye.

No, shed no tears for I need them not

All I need is your smile.

If you feel sad do think of me,

for that's what I'll like

When you live in the hearts of those you love

Remember then you never die.

COVID changed many of our lives and sadly took many too. We did have several meetings using Teams and Zoom which were successful, but several our Branch members were not able to join mainly due to 'technical difficulties'. We are now having face to face meetings, this is great news and the Branch is beginning to feel like normal again.

Keith Hudson our Welfare Officer has been very busy checking in on Branch members and keeping in constant contact with everyone which has been greatly appreciate. The Branch secretary has been attempting to keep everyone up to speed with all Regimental correspondence from RHQ that has been received.

We had our annual visit to the National Memorial Arboretum in October 2021 and laid a wreath in



David Robinson and Keith Hudson during one of our many visits to the National Memorial Arboretum.

memory of fallen Grenadiers. The weather driving up to the Arboretum was awful, however once we arrived the sun came out and we had a great day.



By the Northamptonshire bench at the Guards Memorial.



Four proud Grenadiers.

Steve Dunstan and his wife **Dawn** have been to and slept out overnight at the Tower of London to raise money for Veterans on the streets.

Like many events around the country our Summer ball, The Waterloo Dinner had to be cancelled. We will be having our next Waterloo ball at the Conservative Club in Corby on 25th June 2022 and cannot wait.

Jon and **Marilyn Farrell**, **Sean Craddock** and **Tammy Clark** took part in the Ride to the Wall. It was cancelled in 2020 but everyone was determined that it was going to take place this year. The weather was not good for them but they still had a great day.



The Tower at night.



Tammy and Marilyn at the Ride to the Wall.



Tammy and Sean at the Ride to the Wall.

On Sunday 14th November, **Tony McDermott** and **Keith Hudson** attended the Corby War Memorial and laid a wreath on behalf of the Branch.

Matt Ellmer has been very busy again this year with a lot of charity events and on top of that he was also asked to be the Chairman of the Royal British Legion Branch in Thrapston. **Matt** attended the Service of Remembrance in his hometown of Thrapston and other members attended their own local services across the county.

Our Christmas dinner and draw was held on 11th December at the Conservative Club in Corby.

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.

This is a two-year report, perhaps a first for The Grenadier Gazette, not because the Branch company clerk was idle last year but because

the Branch's report was hi-jacked by a gremlin somewhere amongst the rolling presses of Ipswich or, more likely, somewhere in the London – Suffolk ether.

In November 2019, members of the Branch again attended with pupils from Packmoor, Stoke on Trent, school a wreath laying ceremony at **LSgt John Rhodes VC DCM and Bar Grenadier Guards, Memorial**. This is located on the site of the school that he attended in the late 1890's. Needless to say the school has been rebuilt twice since the days of **John Rhodes VC**. The memorial was erected by the Branch some 20 years ago. Branch members had the pleasure of being joined, on this occasion, by serving Grenadiers who had lived in the area.



Branch Chairman, Keith Wright, with serving Grenadiers at the Rhodes VC Memorial.

During November members joined their friends from the Shropshire Branch at The Lord Hill Hotel Shrewsbury for their, as usual, excellent Christmas lunch. Sadly, this was the last time that the event was to be held at this splendid venue as it was due to be demolished to make way, inevitably, for housing development.

Early in November the Branch held their usual monthly meeting and luncheon at the Trentham Hotel in Stoke on Trent. Very few members were able to attend due to various maladies and it was, therefore, decided to defer the Christmas Party until the New Year. Later in December Christmas Gifts were distributed and gratefully received. It was very noticeable though, that the roll of

recipients, sadly, gets shorter every year.

Towards the end of January, the delayed Christmas party took place at The Upper House Hotel in Barlaston. The property was once the home of Josiah Wedgwood, the potter of great distinction. What remains of the once famous factory is about a mile away from the hotel in a very rural setting. A wonderful meal and service were much enjoyed by all who attended, this was evidenced by the size of the 'tip' that materialised when the cap was passed around. The Branch took great pleasure from and much enjoyed the company of their president **Sir A E H Heber-Percy KCVO**, who arrived following his tour of Mid Staffordshire. The Branch certainly hopes to visit this first-class establishment again.



Branch delayed Christmas luncheon.

It was with great sadness that, in February, the news was received that **23633085 George Higginson** had passed away, he had made a valiant and brave effort to attend the Branch Christmas party in January. As is turned out **George's** funeral and wake were the last occasion that members of the Branch were to meet together in 2020.

And then it arrived – COVID 19 with all the dreadful implications that were to follow. The Branch then did what the 3rd Battalion did in the early 1960's, and went into 'Suspended Animation', sadly the 3rd Battalion and the Branch were still there at the end of 2020. As a result of this, Branch activity for the rest of the year, has been restricted to the laptop, telephone, envelope and the odd cheque.

Sadly, in July, **24125379 Christopher Deaville** passed away and went off to the great parade ground in the sky.

It is as well that last years' Branch Report was hijacked by a that gremlin and that it did not appear in the 2021 edition of the Grenadier Gazette and that it now appears above as the Branch has very little to report for the current year. So at least North Staffordshire can take up some space in this splendid journal.

On November 11th 2020 members, once again, paraded at **John Rhodes' VC DCM and Bar** old school and, along with pupils from the school, the Branch Chairman, **Keith Wright**, placed an Association wreath on his memorial. Members also paraded at the Stoke on Trent Remembrance Parade on Remembrance Sunday when **Jeff Almond** placed a further Association wreath on the **John Rhodes' VC DCM and Bar** memorial stone. Other members attended memorial services in their own towns and villages. Christmas gifts were again distributed during December sadly, and inevitably, the list of recipients gets shorter each year.

A Branch Luncheon was held towards the end of November and then it was back into lock-down and the Branch went into suspended animation once again. It was with much regret that during the year members attended the funerals, standing outside, of three Grenadier comrades – **24433870 James Ennis**, **24048770 Dennis Lockley** and **24048631 Thomas Bagnall**. We were, fortunately, able to furnish a wreath and Banner for the coffin on each occasion which was always appreciated by the family. The Branch was also able, albeit at long distance, to deal with a couple of welfare cases.

At last, in early September, the Branch was able to meet up again at their favourite watering-hole, the Trentham Hotel, where a brief meeting and extended lunch was enjoyed by all along with much catching up. A further meeting and lunch was held, at the same venue, on 19th October when, amongst other things, a proposed Christmas event was discussed.

So ended another quiet year for the North Staffordshire Branch.

The Branch send their very best wishes to all members of the Grenadier family and thanks all at

Head Office for their continuing help, cooperation and support during a very difficult period.

Footnote: *The Association Editor offers his apologies to members of the North Staffordshire Branch and wider Gazette readership for his oversight last year. He is very grateful to David Robins for pointing out the error and for this year's report that sets the matter straight.*

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

(Formed 1914)

President: VACANT

Vice Presidents: SIR ANDREW BUCHANAN, Bt, KCVO; Mr. G SEVERN; Mr RL SHARPE; Mr GE HALLAM, MR J SMITH

Chairman: Mr AM DUTTON

Secretary: Mr S HILL, 4 Ousbridge Crescent, Carlton, Nottingham, NG4 3BL

Email: nottinghambranch@grengds.com

Treasurer: Mrs MJ GREENBERRY

Meetings: Held on the second Friday of each month at The Victory Club, Church Drive, Daybrook, Nottingham, NG5 6JG, at 1900hrs

Thanks to a few dedicated members, this Branch continues to survive and had its first face to face meeting in over 18 months on Friday 13th August 2021, combining an AGM and social gathering at our regular venue.



Unknown, Steve Hill, Adrian Sherratt, Arthur Dutton, Patrick Martin, Chris Dunne, Jeff Smith and Bill Withers.

Sadly, we are fewer each year, not just in actual attendance but also following the passing of well-

loved members and partners and those that are becoming too infirm to continue their attendance in person, though we know that they are with us in spirit.

During the COVID 19 lockdown period, our team of caring members have been in regular touch with each other, checking that they are managing to get hold of food and other essentials. The fighting spirit lives on in all times of crisis and many members have rekindled old and sometimes forgotten friendships over the past 18 months. Long may it continue.

You will see above, several new names occupying the Branch officer positions and we have several more not listed here but who are also new to Branch appointments. Our new Chairman **Chris Dunne** has taken on his first major role this year, and in his late 70's he is no spring chicken, but this is a sign of the times in most Branches.

The author of this report is 62 years old. Along with his wife he is one of the youngest members of the Branch and not a Grenadier or even a Guardsman for that matter. He did though serve for 24 years in a Corps and is married to our Treasurer who is the daughter of one of our late Chairmen. They felt that they couldn't lose touch with the Branch after her father **John Raynor MBE** passed away some 10 years ago. The Branch quickly roped them in to help with their administration.

As a Branch, like many others, we have a dwindling membership and are constantly thinking of how to address this issue. One decision we have made is to make our gatherings much more interesting, much more than turning up to hear a secretary read the minutes and a stropky member or two question the odd minor insignificant point. Some other boring stuff for 45 minutes followed by a couple of sandwiches and another pint and then home again wondering why did I bother? We plan to change up and make all of our meetings a proper social event that we, our wives and possibly our friends and families will want to come along to.

After a quick five-minute address from our Chairman on what the committee has decided is going to happen and a vote or two, the rest of the evening will be dedicated to enjoying each other's company. Not only will we plan lunches, breakfasts and visits to various places of interest, paying

attention to how members will get there and get around once there, but also on ‘how will this bring in those lapsed members and other Guardsmen who say it’s just a club for the old timers?’ Like most clubs and associations, we have our work cut out, but we’re up for the challenge and we would like to be writing this report next year with good news about our events and membership growth.



As a final point, we need to say a great big thank you to a stalwart member who has been both assistant secretary and secretary for longer than

most of the remaining members can remember – **Geoff Hallam** and his partner **Joyce**. Both have been behind so much that the Branch have done for so many years. Unfortunately, ill health for **Geoff** now means that he has had to handover the reigns of Branch secretary to **Steve Hill**. The photo above shows **Malcolm Greenberry** (left) and **Steve Hill** (right) presenting **Geoff** with a Grenade Tie Pin as a token of thanks from the Branch. The photo below shows **Geoff**, **Michelle Greenberry** (our treasurer) **Joyce** and **Steve**.

OXFORDSHIRE

(Formed 1936)

President: Major DPG IRVINE, MRICS

Vice Presidents: THE HON Mrs RS TYSER, 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

With the exception of the Household Division Carol Service, which only one Branch member, **Roy Ibson** attended and at which apparently everyone had to wear masks, were not allowed to sing, and which he very much enjoyed, we had to wait until September before we could join together and socialise once again.

The Reading Branch annual lunch was held at the Chequers Hotel in Newbury and eight of our members and friends attended. It was an excellent lunch and our thanks go to **John Southern** the Reading Branch secretary for all his hard work in organising the occasion which allowed us to meet with friends for the first time in 18 months.

Peter Brooks was the only Branch member to join with the Royal Regiment of Fusiliers on their annual pilgrimage to remember the first Battle of the Marne. Peter laid a wreath at the British memorial at La Ferte on behalf of the Grenadiers

that fell at Mons, the retreat from Mons and the battle of the Aisne whose names are among the 3500 men who have no known grave there. He also attended the main ceremony at Mondement and the lunch of Friendship at La Fere Champenoise.

Also in September **Pat** and **Barrie Padwick** from the Henley Guards Association organised another **Bill May** afternoon skittles event at the Hungerford British Legion Club and the sum of £123.00 was raised in aid of The Lung Foundation. Our thanks go to the ladies of the Association who laid on a great buffet for those that took part.

Our annual lunch, the first to be held for two years, was again held at The Holt Hotel, Steeple Aston where over 70 members and friends sat down to a superb lunch. Sadly, for the first time ever we had no WW2 veterans attending. **Keith Lewis and George Evans** (Welsh Guards) were unable to attend due to health issues but the Secretary said that they will always be in our thoughts and that he had sent each of them Get Well cards on behalf of the diners.

Major General Sir Evelyn Webb Carter KCVO, CBE told many light hearted and very amusing stories of our late President's life that he had enjoyed whilst serving with him in the Regiment. **Major Gatehouse** brought us up to date with Regimental affairs. It was especially interesting to learn that there were now three female Guardsmen serving in the Regiment. **Janet and Roy Shayler** ran a self-funding raffle where the diners donated all the prizes and raised the grand total of £260.00 for Branch funds.



Rob Broomes looking for his seat at our annual lunch.

Our final event was The Henley Guards Association annual lunch which was held at the newly renovated Springs Golf Club at Wallingford, again we must thank **Barrie and Pat Padwick** for all the hard work they put in to organising this event. 25 members and friends sat down to a superb meal with spectacular views overlooking the golf course. This year we welcomed the new President **Major Greenley** and his wife for the first time.



David Wright and Peter Cook collecting at Tesco for The Poppy Appeal.

November saw our usual Poppy Appeal themed stall at our local Tesco store. **Peter Cook, Roy Shayler, David Wright** along with Branch friends **Jackie and Tony** collected the magnificent total of £12,562.50 for the Royal British Legion.

On the welfare front a lot of members have had and recovered from the usual old age ailments but no one has succumbed to the dreaded Corona virus. All our widows had a personal visit from the secretary who presented them with their Christmas cards and gifts.

Sadly, we have to report the loss of **21006076 Gerald Morris, 23144356 Michael Brown and 22213706 Geoffrey Richardson**. Lest we forget.

Finally, our thanks go to our President **Major D P G Irvine MRICS**, our Vice Presidents, **Mr Colin Hessey** our accountant and all members and friends who gave us their support over the last 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 P STAMP

Meetings: No Monthly Meetings

Facebook: Guards-Association-Reading-and-District-Branch

2021 was admittedly another strange year but the Branch made the best of it and stayed in contact by phone, Email and letter with all our members and had the opportunity to get together for some long awaited gatherings.

We are pleased to report we lost no one to the virus. We did however lose two members to natural causes. **Captain William (Bill) Palmer** died in October 2020, our last officer rank member of the Branch who served in WW2. Another stalwart member **Philip Edge** passed to that great drill square in the sky in May aged 91. The Branch was represented at both funerals.

We have stayed in touch with all our Branch members through the hard work of our welfare officer **Robin Kellow** ably supported by his girl Friday **Theresa Day**. They have worked tirelessly to see that all stay positive and in good spirits.

We did carry out Branch events in 2021 to make up for lost time.

We held our AGM on Sunday 5th September, the day after the Association AGM in London.

This year for the first time we held it in the Royal British Legion Club, Newbury and were made very welcome. A carvery lunch was laid on for all who attended the meeting which gave us all a good chance to catch up on the personal news we had missed out on over the past eighteen months.

At the AGM all officers were reinstated for the ensuing year, with the exception of our stalwart treasurer **Jim Veary**. Jim had decided the time was right for him to hang up his quill and abacus

and take a back seat. We were very fortunate that our great supporter **Paul Stamp** volunteered to take the reins in the post ably assisted by his good lady, **Linda**. Paul held the post of treasurer in the Branch for many years back in 1995 until 2003. We are delighted he accepted the post and know the coffers will be in safe hands with him in the driving seat.

Jim's departure was not left unmarked and in the absence of the President, our Chairman **Robin Kellow** presented him with a suitably engraved silver salver in recognition of long and faithful service.



Jim Veary receives his Salver from the Chairman Robin Kellow.



Members of the Branch at the AGM.

It was good to start up the inter Branch skittles tournament again at Hungerford RBL on the 19th September the skittles trophy being won for the first time by a lady. **Sue Gibbons**, a good supporter of the Branch.

26th September saw the Branch at a new venue for the 2021 Branch annual lunch – an event that had not happened for two years, so it was lovely to all be back together on such a jolly occasion. We dined at the Chequers Hotel, Newbury originally a 16th century coaching inn, now newly renovated and proving an excellent choice for lunch.

The food and service was of a very high standard and enjoyed by all. Numbers were slightly down on previous years but not too noticeable to the casual observer. We sent a car to transport to and from the Royal Hospital Chelsea, three In-Pensioners all who had joined us before on this occasion and they commented how much they enjoyed joining us, they were; Allan Goddard (Grenadier Guards), John Devlin, (Irish Guards), and Monica Parrott (WRAC).



John Devlin, Monica Parrott and Allan Goddard.

Captain Robin Brodhurst was our non-regimental guest who entertained all gathered with a short talk on Waterloo, comparing the part played by the Guards against that of the Light Infantry. He closed by kindly proposing the toast to the Regiment.

The afternoon closed with a gigantic raffle and all retired fat, full, clutching prizes and very content. Our secretary sank into an armchair exhausted but very pleased with a job well done.

As we write, we are preparing for a joint Guards Associations Christmas Lunch and Draw at the Chequers Hotel, Newbury. To date we have 55 booked in and it is shaping up to be a great day out.

In 2022 the Branch hopes to follow the lead of Headquarters and intends to hold the AGM early in the year on 20th March directly after theirs.

We are all greatly looking forward to holding Grenadier Day in 2022 and it will be good to have all the Branches at Lille Barracks the home of the 1st Battalion once more.

During 2022 – the year of The Queen’s Platinum Jubilee – the Branch is aiming to hold a bumper tea party at the home of the President. We shall invite all local Guards Branches to join us in celebrating what will be a wonderful achievement. God Bless Her Majesty.

SUFFOLK

(Formed 1926)

President: Colonel DHC GORDON-LENNOX

Vice Presidents: FA WALLACE, Esq; Mr AE JONES D.R MIDWOOD,ESQ, MR BH TAYLOR

Chairman: PGD T del C NISBETT, Esq;

Secretary: Mr G REINCKE, BEM 54 Highfield Road, Sudbury, Suffolk, CO10 2QJ

Tel: (01787) 379158

Email: ggasuffolk@gmail.com

Treasurer: Mrs L MILLICHAP

Tel: 01284 753601

Email: lindamillichap09@gmail.com

Meetings: Contact the Branch Secretary for further details.

Unfortunately, our hopes for 2020/21 at the time of writing the notes for the last Gazette were again dashed by the continued effect of the COVID19 pandemic. However, we are pleased to report that we have not received any worrying reports from any of our members.

It is our sad duty to report the loss of our previous secretary and treasurer, **22650991 Derek Beaumont** who died on 1st January 2021

after losing his battle with cancer. **Derek** was a Suffolk man through and through. He was born in Aldeburgh on 9th February 1934 and moved to Ipswich when he was nine months old. Although his childhood saw nights spent in air raid shelters whilst Ipswich was heavily bombed, his early years were normal, the Scouts and the Ipswich football team.

At 16 he had enlisted as a police cadet and an old friend dissuaded him from joining the Military Police and recommended the Grenadier Guards. He served with The Queen's Company and was on duty at the State Funeral of Queen Mary, The Queen's Coronation in 1953 and The Queen's first Birthday Parade. His National Service ended in March 1954 when he left in the rank of LSgt. Derek joined the Police until 1979 when he left as an Inspector with 25 years' service. We did not find out until after his death that he had been awarded The Queen's Commendation for Bravery in 1966 for diving into the Ipswich docks to try and save a drowning man. The Suffolk Branch has much to thank **Derek** and his late wife, **Janet** for during their stalwart service. May he now rest in peace.

We also have to report the death of **Major Miles Lambert** on 4th January 2021. He was the Company Commander of Number Two Company in Wuppertal in 1966 and the Officer Commanding the Guards Independent Parachute Company. Miles regularly supported the Branch at dinners and garden parties and will be remembered by many members who attended. We sent his family all our condolences.

Sadly, **2623306 Major Frank Clark** died on 11th March 2021. He had been Chairman of our Branch for many years. He joined the regular army during the Second World War and followed his father's footsteps into the Regiment where he saw active service with the Guards Armoured Division in North West Europe. In 1944 he was in the lead reconnaissance tank of the 2nd Armoured Grenadier Guards in Operation Market Garden. His tank was destroyed by a mine in 1945 and he suffered spinal injuries but he recovered and continued to serve. After the war he transferred to the Ordnance Corps and later the Intelligence Corps. As a German speaker and an imagery analyst he spent over 12 years in the Far East where he took part in the

Korean and Malayan Wars. He retired after 37 years army service and went on to write several books on social and military history including "Through Hell to Immortality" about **Sgt Alfred Ablett, VC, DCM** and "Born to the Grave by Heroes" about **Sgt Major William Middleditch**. In 2016 he was awarded an MA for Military History Studies by the University of Buckingham at the age of 92.

On 18th October 2021 we were notified by his son of the death of **22621961 Ray Collins** on 20th December, 2020.

On 19th December 2020 our secretary met **Ken Goodall** and his wife **Janis** at Sternfield Church, near Saxmundham, to lay a poppy wreath at the resting place of **24464123 Gdsm Glen Norman Ling** who was one of three Guardsmen killed whilst on foot patrol in Crossmaglen, Northern Ireland on 21st December, 1978. He was only 18 years old and **Ken** was a member of the bearer party at his funeral. He has returned to pay his respects as often as he can ever since.



Ken Goodall at the resting place of Glen Ling.

In 2020 we held a very successful, socially distant picnic at the home of our President. We are pleased to say that we received an invitation this year to hold a similar event in the garden of **Captain and Mrs Jock Lloyd-Jones'** home near Newmarket.

It was held on Saturday 7th August 2021 and like last year everybody brought their own picnic, tables and chairs but we also had barbeques up to temperature so that individuals could cook their own meal.



Our Garden Party Group.

Having set up and with people arriving the heavens opened but we had Plan 'B' available, the snooker room, large enough to seat 50. Having moved inside and sorted ourselves out the sun reappeared and we were able to move back into the garden. **Captain Lloyd-Jones** took passengers for trips round the block in his lovely 1924 Bentley and the children swam in the swimming pool while we all enjoyed the opportunity to get together in wonderful surroundings.



Food and drink all round.



The 1924 Bentley.

We were pleased to meet **Mick Draper** and his wife, the ex-Cambridge Branch Secretary and **Ross and Pauline Donaldson** from Norfolk and thank them all for coming. After a group photograph the Chairman made a small presentation to **Captain and Mrs Lloyd-Jones** for their kind hospitality.



Etta Lloyd-Jones.

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 OBE; Lieutenant Colonel RM DORNEY, MBE, MStJ; Lieutenant Colonel HMP de LISLE; Lieutenant Colonel: Lieutenant Colonel TJ TEDDER; Lieutenant Colonel DJ WEBSTER; Lieutenant Colonel GR WHITEHEAD, RVM; Lieutenant Colonel SIR JOHN SMILEY, Bt, , 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: To be confirmed via grengds.com website

Sadly, we start by having to report the loss of members since the publication of the last Grenadier Gazette. They are **2626449 Cyril Jack Dorey** who died on 26th November 2020. **23252083 David Bell** died on 3rd December 2020. **23720456 Brian Woodfield** died in January 2021. **Mrs Ereena Dawes** died in January 2021 and **Mrs Ruth Denton** died in April 2021.

Like so many other Branches our year has not been very busy what with COVID-19 we have again had to cancel almost everything we had planned for the year. Although we are pleased to report that we have started to gradually introduce a couple of things. Our Branch BBQ was held at **Andy & Babs Reid's** house on 25th July 2021 with 18 members attending and it was great for everyone to be able to catch up in person as we had not seen each other for so long.

After having to cancel three times due to COVID restrictions we finally had our annual dinner at the Alton House Hotel, Farnham, Surrey on Saturday 4th September with 53 people attending, a thoroughly enjoyable evening had by all.

Our Branch weekend away on the Isle of Wight took place between Friday 16th and Monday 18th October at the Hotel Maria in Sandown. The



Our President Colonel Euan Houston OBE and Chairman Andy Reid chatting to the serving Grenadiers and their wives.



Colonel Euan presenting flowers to our Secretary Mrs Babs Reid on behalf of the Branch.



Andy Reid presenting flowers to Mrs Joanna Houston on behalf of the Branch.



Members relaxing after dinner.



Members enjoying the entertainment in the Hotel Maria after dinner.

weather was kind and allowed us to enjoy our days out. We had entertainment in the hotel in the evening after dinner and lots of dancing. A fun weekend had by all.

Although not having any meetings of any kind throughout the year **Babs Reid** has been contacting all our members on a regular basis via email and letters and our Welfare Officer **Mr Dennis Waby** has been making phone calls to some members who we have not heard from for a while, just to make sure they were OK, coping and asking if anybody needed any help with anything.

At the moment we intend to start our meetings on a monthly basis starting with our Annual General Meeting in March 2022 if COVID allows. Time and venue to be confirmed and as soon as we know we will put it on the Grenadier website.

WALSALL

(Formed 1974)

President: Major J COLEMAN

Vice Presidents: Mr G PHILLIPS

Chairman: MR P SMITH Esq.

Secretary: Mr J COOPER, 3 Pine Street, Walsall, West Midlands, W53 3AG

Tel: (01922) 315020

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.

Due to the age of our members and dwindling numbers it was decided to reduce the number meetings during the year. They now take place as follows: January (AGM), May, June, July, August, September, December (Christmas Social).

Our meetings will take place at 12 noon on the second Monday of the Month, at the Royal British Legion Club, Short Heath, Willenhall, West Midlands.

The Branch AGM was held in January 2021 with all Officers being re-elected.

In August our Chairman and his wife arranged a casual get together for lunch at Calderfields Golf and Country Club. Members who attended agreed that it was an enjoyable occasion, the cost of which was covered by the Branch.

Another lunch was arranged in December 2021 at the same venue for our Christmas Social, again the cost being covered by the Branch.

Sadly, we have to report the death of **22858575 R. Hodson**.

On Armistice Sunday a wreath was laid by **Bill Cooper** at Bloxwich Cenotaph and another 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 **LSgt Glen Davis** for their continual help and advice.

WESSEX

(Formed 1949)

President: Lieutenant Colonel AC McC MATHER, CVO, OBE

Vice Presidents: Captain CR ACLAND; MAJ T BARNES-TAYLOR MBE, JTS BOWER, Esq; Major PH CORDLE, Captain CTF FAGAN, MBE, DL; Lieutenant Colonel A HEROYS; CJ HOPE, Esq; MFMO JODRELL, Esq; Lady CLAIRE LINDSAY; Colonel JC Lloyed MBE, Captain (QM) BE SHEEN; THE RT HON SIR HUGO GW SWIRE, KCMG, MP

Chairman: Mr D BAKER

Secretary: Mrs J MASLIN, 16 Nightingale Drive, Broadway, Weymouth, Dorset, DT3 5SU

Tel: (01305) 814555

Email: janmaslin@gmail.com

Treasurer: Mrs A CREW

Meetings: Meetings for 2022: Held at the Conservative Club, 22 Christchurch Road, Ringwood, BH24 1DN. (Mondays from 12.00 noon – 25th April, 18th July, 17th October, and Christmas Draw Friday 2nd December).

Lunches: (Mondays from 12.00 noon – 21st February, 20th June, 21st November) at a venue to be determined during the year.

Like all aspects of normal life, events and meetings within the Branch and elsewhere have had to be curtailed since March 2020. It would be such a relief to everyone that with the COVID booster programme gathering momentum, we had the confidence to go forward and have some semblance of normality back into our lives.



Lieutenant Colonel Anthony Mather and his wife Gaye sharing a joke with our Secretary Janice Maslin, Treasurer Ann Crew and Chairman Derek Baker at the garden luncheon in August.

It was a great shame that Grenadier Day had to be cancelled again but it is hoped that with the event in 2022 being held at Lille Barracks, it will signal the return of this popular event.

Our garden luncheon held in August was a wonderful day for the Branch. It was the first time we had been together as a group since the on-set of COVID and it was a great opportunity for us to meet and have a good chat with each other. It took place at the home of our Branch President **Lieutenant Colonel Anthony Mather** and his wife **Gaye**. The weather was not overly kind to us but this did not dampen the occasion in any way. Food was excellent and our thanks go to **Edward** and **Sophie** who looked after us all so well.

During these difficult times we have been in touch with members on several occasions either by email or telephone. We had a very positive response from those we spoke with and will continue to do this for the foreseeable future.



Alan Maslin visiting Geoff and Ann Grigg at their home in Weymouth.

We held our first Branch meeting in September and it was nice to be together again as a group. It was decided at that time that our normal evening meetings will now take place at lunchtime. It was felt this would be more convenient to our members as concerns regarding night driving had been expressed.

Our Branch luncheon was held in October again at the Dudsbury Golf Club Hotel & Spar in Ferndown. It was well attended and with an excellent meal and very attentive staff a good time was had by

all. A big thank you goes to **Ann Crew**, Branch Treasurer, for liaising with the venue which made it such a success. We will also be returning there in September 2022.

We were delighted to have as our guest speaker **Colonel Tim Purdon LVO, OBE** late Welsh and Irish Guards and late Lieutenant, Her Majesty's Body Guard of The Honourable Corps of Gentlemen at Arms. He reflected on his career with some jovial remarks and was very well received. We were also pleased to welcome back **Major Alex Bayliss**, Officer Commanding Support Company, who gave us an update on Regimental matters. Afterwards we held a raffle and are pleased to say that we made £140.00. Thank you to everyone who took part.



Guest Speakers **Colonel Tim Purdon** (2nd from the left) and **Major Alex Bayliss** (3rd from the right) deep in conversation at our annual luncheon.



Branch members enjoying our luncheon at The Dudsbury.

We had our first lunchtime meeting at the Conservative Club, Ringwood, in October and it was deemed a great success. Members had felt for a long time that we should look to changing the times and we will now follow this pattern into 2022 along with our lunchtime get-togethers.

It is with great sorrow that we have to report the deaths of **23252083 David Bell** in December 2020, **Ann Sperrin** the wife of **Mike Sperrin** in May 2021 and **23688530 John Clowes** in August, 2021. May they Rest in Peace.

We would like to thank **Major Andy Green**, **LSgt Glen Davis** and all the staff at RHQ for their continued support during this difficult time, it is much appreciated. Also to our Branch President, **Lieutenant Colonel Anthony Mather** supported by his wife **Gaye**, and all Branch members who we hope will be able to join us throughout the coming year.

If you live in the Wessex Area and would like to come along to one of the Branch meetings, please do so, we would be delighted to see you – new members would always be welcome.

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.

CANCELLED – What a horrible word that is! Unfortunately, it's a one that we have become all too familiar with over the last couple of years. Black Sunday, Grenadier Day, Branch lunches, Branch dinners, Branch meetings – all cancelled.

Well, here at Wigan, St. Helens we have cancelled

the word cancelled! It no longer exists, is no longer in our vocabulary. We are getting back to normal so that word will not be used again.

We started on 24th August with a get together and presentation by our Regimental Casualty Officer **Mathew Ellmer**. Around 50 Branch members and friends gathered at The Village Club in Culcheth and what a great evening it was. Everyone was enthralled by **Matt's** presentation and we are all now much better informed about his very important role. Afterwards everyone enjoyed a fish or steak pie supper and a good old fashioned catch up. **Matt** even met up with some of his old colleagues from his service days.



Standards and Banners on Parade on Remembrance Sunday.



Bob McLellan and Dave Welling on the heel.

A good way to make new friends is to be involved in the local community. As a Branch we were on parade, with our Branch Banner, in St. Helens to celebrate Battle of Britain Day. We were supporting our local branch of The Royal Air Force Association along with other Regimental associations and organisations.

Of course, being involved with and supporting each other is a two-way thing. This year we suffered the loss of one of our members **24096332 Terry (Dumpy) Dale**. His funeral was held on 27th July with a service at St. Thomas' Church, Golborne and interment at Wargrave Cemetery, Newton le Willows. We had a fantastic turn out for a lovely man with nine standards on parade from associations which included the Royal Air Force Association, Royal Artillery Association, House Cavalry (Life Guards), our local Veterans' Association, The Royal British Legion, REME and, of course, our own. Last Post and Reveille were impeccably sounded by a young lady **Janet** from our local brass band. Many thanks to all who attended and, in particular to **Brian Finney** from the Royal Air Force Association who took our Branch Banner on parade as **David Yates**, who usually carries it was away on business.

Our last formal duty of the year was, as always, Remembrance Sunday on 14th November with the Branch parading in Leigh. **David** was on parade with our Banner supported by members of the Branch. **Barry, Dave Welling, Bob McLellan** and our soon to be 97 year old **Eric Radcliffe** were present and supported by **David's** good lady **Susan**. **Barry** laid our Branch Wreath at the Cenotaph whilst **Eric** laid a Royal British Legion Cross.

Formal duties aside it was on to 9th October and our ever popular annual dinner and dance. Once again 50 Branch members and friends of the Branch enjoyed a wonderful evening at the Village Club with great food, great entertainment and a chance to once again catch up. We didn't have the pleasure of a Regimental guest this year but with the Battalion so busy it was understandable so **Barry** promoted himself and took on the role!

The year will end for us on a high note



Eric Radcliffe and Barry Taylor.



Eric with Susan Yates winding down after a busy Remembrance Sunday morning.



Barry with guests at our dinner.



Some of our guests enjoying dinner.



Some familiar faces.

with our Christmas Lunch in December. A very informal affair for members, families and friends of the Branch. The usual stuff – raffles, games and a good ‘scoff’. It’s important to remember what an integral part our ladies play in the running of the Branch and heartfelt thanks go to them. Without bias we mention **Adel Taylor** and **Susan Yates** in particular. It was particularly good to have our

many friends with us and, especially **Barry's** old mate **Morris Robinson BEM** free of his duties as Chairman of the Medway Branch.

As we all know we lost **Rob Broomes** to recruiting in Northampton and **Barry** and **Adel Taylor** managed to attend his farewell at Wellington Barracks presenting him with a gift as a token of thanks for all his help and support during his tenure as Association NCO. Good luck **Rob** and congratulations on your well-deserved promotion.

Of course, we now have **Glen Davis** who seems to be settling in well and we look forward to a good relationship with him – (so far so good **Glen!**)

As always, many thanks to all at Regimental Headquarters for all the support given to the Branch by The President **Colonel Aubrey-Fletcher**, The Regimental Adjutant **Major Gatehouse**, our General Secretary **Major Green**, **LSgt Davis** and not forgetting everyone else at RHQ with a special mention to **'Rodders' Haughton** – we wish him well.

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; Mrs Sylvia Bullion; Mrs JS GILBERT

Chairman: Mr RA DOBSON,

Secretary: Mrs S BULLION, 9 Hawker Court, High Street, Langley, SL3 8LU

Tel: 07598956392

Email: mickysylv238@hotmail.com

Treasurer: Mrs C WHITE

Meetings: first Wednesday of each month @ 13hrs.

All Meetings are held at the Grenadier Club, Maidenhead Road Windsor, SL4 5EY

Sadly, the Branch closed its doors on the 19th December 2020 due to COVID-19 as per Government guidelines. This meant that all functions were cancelled including our Annual Christmas Dinner and Branch raffle. The Club remained closed until June 2021.

The Committee held a meeting in June to agree the re-opening of the Branch and Club.

Strict guidelines were followed with temperature checking, mask wearing, and hand sanitiser provided for members.

2nd June saw our first Branch meeting of the year, it was lovely to see everyone back and the Annual General Meeting was booked for the following month.

The Branch Annual General Meeting was held on 7th July, **Terry Booth** stood down as chairman and **Roger Dobson** was re-elected to this position. There were several changes to the Branch Committee, **Bob Gilbert** our Branch secretary and his wife **Sue** our Treasurer both stood down. **Bob** was the Branch secretary for over 20 years and will be sadly missed as will **Sue**. New officers were elected, **Sylvia Bullion** as Branch secretary and **Caroline White** took up the position as treasurer. **Sylvia Bullion** was the Welfare Officer, but due to her new role, it was agreed that **Reverend John Wasley** would take over this post, we wish them all well.

It was agreed that the Branch meetings would be held as usual on the first Wednesday of every month until October; when it changed to the afternoon so that members and their wives could also attend. The first afternoon meeting was a great success and was well attended. A big thank you to **Sylvia Bullion, Sheila Howell and Irene Deacon** who very kindly provided and baked cakes for the afternoon tea.

A presentation at the Branch meeting was held for **Bob and Sue Gilbert**. This was carried out by **Tony Steel BEM** who served with **Bob** and is a long-standing friend. We presented Bob with an engraved crystal brandy decanter and two glasses. **Sue** was given a bouquet of flowers and information



Bob's presentation.



Bob Gilbert with Tony Steel BEM

on three 'Grenadier Dahlias' which would arrive later in the year.

September saw the return of the Corps of Drums monthly band practice. Branch members often come to the Club to listen and get together – a list of dates is published in the Club for those who wish to pop in.

In October the Club held Line Dancing again, this is always supported by the Branch and Club members and again very well attended.

5th November saw our Branch and Club 'Turkey and Tinsel' weekend away organised by our Branch secretary, **Sylvia Bullion**. The coach picked everyone up at 10am and we boarded the ferry and set sail over to the Isle of Wight; the weekend was beautiful and warm, a huge success and thoroughly enjoyed by all that attended.



Turkey and Tinsel – members and guests enjoying the celebrations.

On Sunday 14th November a few Branch members attended the Service of Remembrance at Holy Trinity Garrison Church in Windsor. **Alan Urvoy** represented the Branch carrying the poppy wreath. After the service members met up at the club with members from other local Associations, it was lovely to hear everyone reminiscing about the good old days.



Alan Urvoy

It is with deep regret that we report the sad loss of the following members: **23862962 Mick Bullion BEM**. Mick, also known as 'Corporal' to his friends joined the Regiment in 1961 with our Chairman, **Roger Dobson**. Mick had been a long-standing member of the Branch serving in several capacities including Bar Chairman, Welfare Officer and Chairman from 2017 to 2019. **2628931 Peter Hardwick** and **24184468 David Langshaw**.

The Club continues to open every Friday for bingo and we have now started Sunday evening bingo sessions which are proving to be a big success, especially as everyone has been locked down for some time. Sunday lunchtimes remain popular as do quiz nights on the last Wednesday of the month with a fish and chip supper. Line dancing is also held every couple of months.

Our thanks go to the loyal Branch and Club members, and ladies, for their support over the last 12 months helping to keep the Branch active. We are very much looking forward to holding more events for the Branch and Club in the New 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

2021 has been another year put on hold for our Branch due to COVID. We have kept in touch with our members on a regular basis during this time. We look forward to resuming regular meetings in 2022.

24164949 **Stuart McKinnon** has kindly provided us with his memories of the driving instruction he received during his time in the Regiment whilst stationed in Hong Kong in 1975. He writes:

On a Monday morning at 0830hrs I started my driving course at Lei Mun Yu Barracks in Shau Kei Wan along with two other colleagues and a Corporal (an armourer) from the attached REME team. The course saw us using long and short wheelbase vehicles both GS and FFR.

It took us into open countryside up in the New Territories and closer to home in built up areas, to say it was an intensive driving course, was an understatement as less than five days later at 1610 hours, I took my test in downtown Hong Kong. Getting back and going in front of the OC Hong Kong Royal Corps of Transport, I was told "Cpl McKinnon, two things, you only just passed, but the main thing is you *have* passed, so go forward now and improve on your skills and learn from your mistakes"

I suppose Cpl Yue Kee of the HKRCT was a good instructor as my Army driving skills stood me in good stead years later when I was head hunted from Harrods to take on a chauffeuring job for London's

most prestigious Chauffeur Hire Company. Those skills along with my Grenadier charm, paid dividends in more ways than one.

To my surprise, and it's a small world, there were three directors of this company, **Mr Miles Manderson**, a retired theatrical impresario, **Lord Brian Rix**, another treader of the boards and famous for his Whitehall farces and a fellow Radio Amateur, and another boyhood hero of mine, someone I looked up to in my younger years as an Air Cadet, **Sir Douglas Bader**. Sir Douglas living some 40 feet away from the offices in Petersham Mews, South Kensington where I worked.

The chauffeuring role involved working for many different organisations, but mostly contracts with the BBC and the IBA, driving many a famous person and too many to bore you all with. The pinnacle was driving the pop group whose name you may know – ABBA! Also, when arriving back in Sussex one night with **Bryan Ferry** (Roxy Music) I was invited to stay for the party, wow that was a gig, and many, many more.

So you see, even the Commanding Officer's Driver Operator can be trumped, and I have to say what a good time it was. My grateful thanks also to our in-house MT section at that time in Stanley Fort, with **Mush Goddard** giving me guidance. Until retirement kicked in I spent most of my working life as Retail Security.



Stuart McKinnon – before.

It is rather ironic that following on from my various skills gained as a Grenadier, my interest in

Vintage Military radio spilled over into owning an Ex-Military vehicle.

This opportunity arose in 1999 when the MOD withdrew all its Land Rover series vehicles, and a company called J T Leavesley (Fradley, Lichfield) were awarded the disposal contract for vehicles, trailers and spares and many brand new Old Stock we call BNOS. So appropriately another company was born called MVS (Military Vehicle Spares). They had all manner of service vehicles and spares graded A, B and C quality.

I opted for Grade A, and duly paid out £2200 plus VAT for my 1980 FFR air portable that many of you will have seen in recent times at Grenadier Day, fully kitted out with HF and VHF working radio equipment. You may ask well what good is that, you can't use it, well, yes I can as a licensed radio amateur (radio ham) I get on quite a few bands, not only locally around the Greater Midlands area, but much further afield, with HF radio. Not only voice but also that black art of Morse telegraphy, and you would be surprised to learn that there are many veterans out there who are ham operators and who also use Ex-Military radio equipment to achieve that goal.

I have of course my normal ham shack that is festooned with Kenwood and YAESu radio kit to

name but two, and one or two Linear amplifiers to achieve the all important DX contacts in many far reaching points around the world. Mind you it helps having a 60ft. Strumech versatower in the garden with a 3 element retractable beam!

Recently the editorial team from 'Land Rover Owner International' came to visit and spent several hours on location not only interviewing me about my Grenadier driving experiences, but also about the workshop that so carefully restored the vehicle, taking it step by step, and sourcing those rare now hard to find series bits and pieces, the photographer taking around 500 photographs!

Great fun, and for all those signalers out there, my collection of radios range from WW2 to present day, and 99% in a working condition, there are still bits on the surplus market and on online trading platforms.

Our standard bearer **Jack Snead**, supported Wolverhampton RAFA Remembrance Day on 12th September.

On 9th October 2021, **Jack Snead** Chairman and Banner Bearer and **Jenny Snead**, Branch secretary, were invited to the rededication service of Tettenhall War Memorial in Wolverhampton. The service was conducted by the Rector and the rededication carried out by the Bishop of Wolverhampton. The Mayor of Wolverhampton, **Councillor G Brackenridge**, laid the wreath. The Band of the Mercian Regiment accompanied the service.



Stuart McKinnon – after!



Regimental Standard Bearers – including Jack Snead at RAFA.



Local military personnel including Mercian Regiment Band.

We have sadly lost one member this year, **23586044 Jim Webb**. Jim was a loyal associate member and a Welsh Guardsman who joined the Wolverhampton Branch when the Birmingham Branch closed some years ago. We made sure he had a good Grenadier send off, with our Banner bearer **Jack Snead** and Welsh Guards standard bearer **Mick Astley** both present.

We would like to thank **Andy Green**, **Glen Davis** and the team at RHQ for their support during this year.



Regimental Standard Bearers and Jack Snead during Last Post.

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; 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.

Due to COVID restrictions much our usual activity could not take place but we did hold our AGM on Sunday 12th September. The Pear Tree Inn was unable to accommodate us so we chose the Portobello Inn instead and enjoyed a pub meal afterwards.

Our Committee was elected as follows:

Chairman: Bruce Baylis.

Vice Chair: Patricia Smith.

Treasurer: David Morgan.

Secretary: Veronica Baylis.

Minute Secretary: Sean Hinton.

Luncheon Master: Bruce Baylis.

Coach Master: Ken Allen.

Welfare Officers: Bruce Baylis and Terry Hewlett.

Funeral Co-ordinator: Terry Hewlett.

Fund Raising Committee: Patricia Smith, Ken Allen, Pat Allen and Kath Hinton.

Completing our current committee members: **Derek Turney** in an advisory capacity, **Ken Allen**, **Ken Jones**, **David Wilks** and **Steven Marriot**.

It is with great sadness that we have to report the following deaths:

Ann Jones, the wife of **Ken Jones**, died after a long illness on the 16th December 2020. Her funeral took place on 5th January at Leigh Church. **23969863 Terence Bernard Rice** who used to live in our area but had not been with the Branch for many years. The family did not ask for our involvement with the funeral arrangements.

23391595 Bob Hudson who was a Branch Member although he had moved to Lincolnshire some years ago. **Bob** had specifically requested to be returned to Worcester for his cremation which took place on Friday 10th January at Worcester Crematorium and was attended by several Branch members. **Chris Lane**, a local Grenadier but not known to the Branch.

22499692 David Spencer passed away very suddenly on the 15th May. He had been with the Branch for many years and was our treasurer from 1987 to 2015. David's funeral service was held at St Mary's Church, Longdon, Tewkesbury on Friday 11th June at 1130 and was attended by several Branch members, a Guard of Honour was provided outside the church. David leaves a wife Diane and daughter Sarah and her family.



David Spencer (right) with Derek Turney – Christmas Lunch 2014.

22429998 Harold Evans passed away at the Lawns Nursing Home after a long illness on the 7th June. Harold was an Associate Branch member,



Harold Evans – Christmas Lunch 2016.

having served with the Welsh Guards as well as the Corps of Royal Engineers. Harold's funeral service was held on Monday 28th June at Worcester Crematorium and was attended by several Branch members. He leaves his wife Joan and

daughters Collette and Nicky and their families.

22719877 John Bartlett had been in a nursing home for some time and passed away peacefully on 26th July. John had been with the Branch for many years and was a very active committee member in charge of selling Branch goods. John attended all meetings until he became too poorly to do so around five years ago. John's wife **Betty**, passed away on 18th July 2018. He leaves three sons, Chris, David and Allen and their families.



David Williams – County Standard Bearer for the RBL



John Bartlett with some of the musicians prior to the Band Concert at Worcester Cathedral, September 2018.

Following John's funeral, we attended the wake where the family took some photographs.



Guard of Honour. From Left to Right: Ron Haywood, Clive Wright, Gordon Elkin, David Westbury, Terry Hewlett, Ken Allen, Sean Hinton and Bruce Baylis.



Branch members outside the church, from left to right
Back row: Clive Wright, Bruce Baylis, David Westbury, Terry Hewlett and Sean Hinton.
Front row: Carol Wright, Mary Westbury, Gordon Elkin, Margaret Hewlett, Ken Allen, Pat Allen, Kath Hinton, Veronica Baylis, Clinton Haywood and Ron Haywood.



Left side of the table front to back: Carol Wright, Mary Westbury, Clive Wright and David Westbury. Right side of the table front to back: Gordon Elkin, Veronica Baylis and Bruce Baylis.



From left to right around the table: Pat Allen, Ken Allen, Sean Hinton (standing) Clinton Haywood, Ron Haywood and Kath Hinton.

Due to COVID, we have not been able to undertake any visits until very recently. **Bruce and Veronica** have visited **Joan Evans** on a few occasions, she is keeping quite well following the loss of Harold. Veronica managed to take this lovely photo of Joan and Bruce.



Left: Bruce Baylis with Joan Evans.
Right: Bruce and Veronica Baylis with Betty Seale (note Ray and Betty's wedding photo on the cabinet)

Betty Seale had a fall and is not very mobile at the moment. On a recent visit daughter Lis took this photo of Bruce and Veronica with Betty.

Members of the Branch took part in the Remembrance Service at Worcester Cathedral on Sunday 14th November 2021. **Ken Allen** laid the wreath at the Memorial.



Ken Allen (second from the left) lining up to lay the wreath.

As always, we do try to keep in touch with Branch members which is difficult at the best of times but especially so during COVID. We did, however manage to see a few of them when we delivered the Gazette in person to those living in the Worcester and Malvern area. Through our yearly Newsletter and the Gazette, we like to keep members and their families updated on what's been happening within the Branch, and at the same time sending our very best wishes, especially to those who are not in the best of health. *Please do contact us on 01905 422569 if there is anything we can be of help with.*

As usual, we would like to extend our very sincere thanks to our loyal members, their families and friends for their continuing support to the Branch by attending our functions, although this has been very restricted due to COVID. Without their continuing input we would not be able to carry on as we are. It is of great importance for the future of the Branch.

Our thank goes out to **Major Andy Green and Sgt Glen Davis** as well as the rest of the team at

RHQ, for their help and support throughout the year.

In the absence of Branch events, here are a few funny extracts from the late Ray Seale's book 'Grenadiers of Worcester and Hereford.

23252267 George Rose – Extract from 'My Story'.

My father was pleased that I was going into National Service. Before I left he told me to have my hair cut, a good short back and sides, and gave me the advice 'never try to beat the system, and keep your nose clean'. Strangely, he said, whenever possible, go to Church on Sundays'.

My first Sunday was spent carrying coal all over the Depot, finishing at about 1600 hrs, just in time to wash for tea and prepare kit for the following day. Most of the squad had finished by dinner time. The following Sunday, I persuaded another squad member to come to church with me. We were given the order 'Those men for church, fall out'. Church finished at 1130hrs with the rest of the day to ourselves. So, that's what my father meant by 'go to church on Sundays'!

23252630 Geoff Allen – Extracts from Life at the Royal Mews 1956 to 1959.

Two of the stables were out by the road leading to the Castle and I had my ponies in there for a period one summer. Each day members of the public going up to the castle used to stop, talk to us and admire the horses, many of these being visitors from America and Europe. A long established practice, which I managed to keep going, was to sell dubious 'souvenirs' from both the army and royal connections. A favourite scam was to get sand from the fire buckets, or from the castle builders yard, then put it in small plastic bags and sell it to the Americans as 'sand off Anzio Beach Head'. You often wondered how some of those planes took off from Heathrow with such loads of sand on board.

On Saturday the Polo games were played on what was called the second pitch. If any members of the Royal Family came to watch, a temporary marquee was erected with an awning for the guest to sit under.

On this particular day it had been raining heavily all morning and a huge mass of water had formed on the top of the awning. By the time the game had started the sun came out and it got very warm.

The Queen and her guests, which included Princes Alice of Athlone, the Queen Mother and a couple of Royals from the Middle East, were sitting just outside the awning. Young Prince Charles, about 10 at that time, was walking around with his Father's polo stick in his hand. He noticed the bulging awning and decided to give it a hefty poke resulting in the Queen and most of her guests getting a good soaking; all were very annoyed to say the least! Charles was last seen being hauled into a Land Rover by his nanny and whisked back to Windsor Castle. **2628518 Ray Seale** – Extracts from 'Management: A Corporal's Life' in his own words.

We had a small café-type restroom sited on the highway by the side of the camp in line with the Guardroom, which was built on stilts at the front. I was having a hard-earned brief respite in the rest room when someone drew my attention to the Guardroom. There was a huge guardsman, with a fire axe, happily cutting down the Guardroom. The axeman was well known for his immense strength and occasional revolts over matters of discipline.

I remember the weather being very cold and the guardroom stove was in use. Having enjoyed this spectacle with the other for a little while, I was reminded that I was a Corporal, and, not only a Corporal but the Corporal-in-Waiting. It appeared that in the absence of the immediate presence of the Company Police Staff I should do something about it.

Responsibility lay heavy on me! I dare not shirk it; my Sergeant was sick and so I marched out, full of fear and trepidation – was this fair to one with my experience? As I reached the villain, he stopped, looked at me and said 'Corporal'. I said in my best and the firmest voice I could muster 'Stop cutting the Guardroom down'. He replied by raising the axe above his head and, although I am over six feet in height, he appeared to be at least three feet taller!

He said in a reasonable voice 'Corporal, why don't you **** off before I cut you in half! He appeared to be quite capable of this – so again with great authority, I said, addressing him by name, 'will you please cut the Guardroom down'. The reply was most unexpected. He said 'don't think you can come here telling me what to do. If you want the ***** Guardroom cut down, do it your ***** self' then promptly marched off, throwing down the

axe. A very relieved Corporal-in-Waiting returned eventually to the café to be met by incredulous comrades who wanted to know how I had mastered such a villain and survived – as I told them, it was all down to management skills!

Another very funny story, which we came across in the book 'The Guards and Caterham – The Soldier's Story'.

The late **King Hussain** distinguished himself as an officer cadet as Sandhurst, where he came under the care of a senior Guards instructor, neither seeking nor receiving any privileges to reflect his royal status. The disciplinary coded at the academy was leavened, however by the humour which is characterised of Guards' training.

On parade, 6ft 4ins Grenadier **Company Sergeant Major Victor King** paused before the 5ft 4ins King Hussain and growled 'King Hussain, Sir, there are two kings on parade, you, Sir, and me, Sir, and we both know who is the more important king, don't we, Sir!' And everyone on parade that day, not least CSM King, knew the answer.

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: BRIAN MATLESS

Secretary: MICHAEL SPENCER, 52 The Grange, Woodham Village, Newton Aycliffe, County Durham, DL5 4SZ

Tel: (01325) 321218 **Mob:** 07793590201

Email: michael-spencer2@sky.com

Treasurer: MICHAEL SPENCER

Meetings: Contact the Branch Secretary for further details.

As 2020 ended members escaped lockdown for a fantastic day at Newcastle Airport courtesy of The Not Forgotten Association for The Jingle Bell Rock Drive. They enjoyed a live performance of classic Christmas songs from the comfort of their cars, some of which were decorated with baubles and lights. We were supplied with Bluetooth radios to tune in, joined in games like Singo Bingo, and served a festive lunch and mulled wine. Tooting of

car horns to the music and dancing and all having a good laugh.



Jingle Bell Rock knees up!

2021 is the 73rd year since the Branch was formed. **Major The Lord Hotham**, father of our current President **The Lord Hotham** was a founder Vice President of the Branch on 19th November 1948. The challenges of the last year have been great with the need for increased support to members, especially those struggling with loneliness and isolation. The Branch needed to step up a gear and introduced a series of projects to ensure we kept in contact with members to bring cheer and support.

Once again 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.

For the second year in a row, members enjoyed the televised coverage of Trooping the Colour which took place in the Quadrangle of Windsor Castle. This ceremony marked the Queen's first Birthday Parade since the death of HRH Prince Philip. This ceremony was performed by the Household Division and The Queen's Colour of F Company Scots Guards was trooped. HRH The Duke of Kent, Colonel, Scots Guards accompanied the Queen.

Scarborough was due to host this year's Armed Forces Day National Event from 25th to 27th June 2021, but unfortunately like many other major events, it was postponed until 24th to 26th June 2022.

On 20 July 2021, **22545283 William Wall** sadly passed away of natural causes at the respectable age of 87. He was an extremely proud Grenadier who was passionate about everything associated

with the Regiment. He was fortunate enough to relieve his times in the Regiment through his son **24863233 Michael** who also joined the same Battalion 34 years later.

Bill joined the Regiment on his 18th birthday for National Service on 8th March 1952 and started his basic training at the Guards Depot, Caterham. He subsequently moved to Pickering, N Yorkshire to complete his Infantry soldier battlefield training before joining the 2nd Battalion based at Chelsea Barracks, London.

Bill completed various ceremonial duties from guarding the Bank of England, to standing guard at Buckingham Palace. He was a street liner for the State funeral of Queen Mary on 31st March 1953 and was in Buckingham Palace Guardroom during Her Majesty's Coronation later that summer.

During his service, his diligence was duly noted, and he was subsequently promoted to Lance Corporal and managed the Officers' Mess. **Bill** was so well received in there that he was

quickly promoted again to Lance Sergeant and moved with the Battalion to Port Said, Egypt.

During his time in Egypt supporting the Suez Campaign he was appointed Provost Sgt and given the acting rank of Gold Sergeant in which he performed his duties with great pride and perfection.

After his discharge from the Regiment he remained an active past member, supporting his local branch of the Association and actively attending Black Sunday parades and attending Sgts' Mess Past and Present functions.

He got to know so many famous Grenadiers over the years, his claim to fame was that he presented the Colour for the very first time to a young **2Lt B C Gordon-Lennox** on his first



22545283 William Wall - a proud Grenadier.

ever ceremonial parade. He followed all his son's platoon staff with great interest from watching **Lieutenant Colonel Neil England MBE** rise from a LSgt Depot Instructor to **Lieutenant Colonel James 'Stumpy' Keeley MBE** rise from LCpl to Lieutenant Colonel and who he briefly met whilst attending functions. He always spoke highly of them all and enjoyed visits from friends of his son. He hosted the late **Sgt Mathew Telford** one weekend in the early nineties and spent hours talking avidly to him about the Regiment and was deeply affected when he was sadly taken too soon in Afghanistan, 2009.

Bill leaves behind a legacy of sayings and stories that will remain with all that knew him forever, his values and standards were of the highest order and will always be remembered and missed by those that knew and loved him.

Considering the continued risks of COVID 19 and the potential difficulty of venues to host meetings we held a Virtual Annual General Meeting again this year on 11th September.

Both the Chairman-elect and the Treasurer unfortunately decided they were not able to fulfil the roles. **Brian Matlass** has since volunteered to take on the role of Branch Chairman. The position of Treasurer remains vacant currently. Our President **The Lord Hotham**, the Secretary and the Committee agreed to stand for the ensuing year.

On October 24th we returned to Swinton Park Hotel, Masham for our Annual Lunch. This was met with great delight by our members after a break of two years. While there were reduced attendees present, there was still a buzz of chatter in the dining room as all had much to catch up on. We were pleased to receive our guest of honour **Lieutenant**



A great escape – all together again after two years.

Ralph Maddan 16 Platoon Commander, Guards Training Company, 2 Infantry Training Battalion, Infantry Training Centre, Catterick Garrison. After an excellent lunch, Lt Maddan gave an account of the Regiment whilst they have been away on Operations this year. He also spoke about the work of the Association.

Once again to maintain some camaraderie and socially distanced support to the members the Secretary asked if they were willing to send any recollections and memories each had of their military services to provide some anecdotes of times gone by, which many members reading the Gazette may recognise.

23509986 William John Fear has provided further anecdotes of his service following his basic training recollections in last year's Gazette. He now describes being whisked off to Cyprus via Hendon and Blackbushe airport in a DC 6B Aircraft which took two attempts to take off. He was told this had occurred years later by **The Lord Hotham**, our President, who was on the same Eagle Airways flight. On arrival in Cyprus, they were kitted out in Khaki Drill (KD) and started getting accustomed to the heat, some of the training was to practice with SLR rifle, Guard mounting for the Battalion's return to the UK. This amused the RAF boys who would watch from Nicosia Airport just across the road.



Getting used to the heat!

John was in No 1 Company and the Company Commander was **Major PJC Ratcliffe** who John seemed to follow in his future postings he recalls. They were transported on exercise from Cyprus to

Libya and boarded a TLCs for the three-day journey to Tripoli. Life on board was chaotic and the food more so. Have you ever had curried cornflakes? He was based at Tarhuna, inland from Tripoli where they conducted various exercises, all very new to the new Guardsmen just out of the UK – rifles jammed with sand, barrack rooms needing cleaning of sand every day, water they could only drink with tablets added and not so great toilet facilities! At the weekends they were allowed to go to the coast at Tripoli and had a very pleasant break, swimming, eating and drinking at the Tank regiment NAAFI.

After completing their training in Cyprus in preparation for London public duties, the Battalion departed for the UK on the troopship Dilwara which was another experience for these new Guardsmen, stopping off at Malta before docking at Southampton. They boarded the train to Waterloo, marched through London to Wellington Barracks where they were paid. Then it was off to ‘the green, green grass of home’ on leave. John was then posted to the Guards Depot at Caterham as a BRTS, which he had reservations about, especially when he was called in for Christmas duties! Nevertheless, he began to enjoy his job and recalls that in his first squad he had a young Londoner called **David Sweeney** who after completing his basic training was posted to the 2nd Battalion where he did very well, achieving the rank of Gold sergeant, no surprise to John at all. In fact, **David Sweeney** was chosen as one of the bearer party for Sir Winston Churchill’s funeral, together with **Sgt W Williams** and **Sgt B Sharrocks**, both of whom John served with at Caterham and Pirbright.



23757888 David Sweeney on the left.

John enjoyed his time in the Grenadier Guards and says he met some wonderful people, some of you reading this may remember him from your service days.

Ged Walsh recalls his Dad, **4131279 Jeramiah Walsh** (Cheshire Regiment).

He was part of their 2nd Battalion that landed and disembarked from a Landing Ship Tank (LST) on Gold Beach and was part of the Normandy Battle, carrying on throughout to Arnhem, ending the war liberating prisoners from camps in Germany.

He suffered with external shrapnel injuries and the mental scars left in his mind meant that he hardly ever discussed any events or memories he must have had between D-Day 6th June 1944 until December 1945 when he returned home thankfully.



Machine Gun training centre, Chester.

He also mentions “His grandad’s brother (**2503**) **George Lawson** D Coy 1st/5th Bn Cheshire Regiment, who was only 17 and died on 21st September 1916 in his first action in a battle on the Somme. Ged and his wife **Sandra** drove one of our uncles to Ypres, found the information needed then drove on to Delville Wood Cemetery, Longueval to find his gravestone as nobody had ever been there as it had only been discovered a few years earlier. That was around 2000 and since then our Uncle has died but he was so happy that we had found the

grave of **George**, had visited him and laid him to rest at last”



Ged's dad is the first of the three on the back row.

On Sunday 14th November, after the restrictions of last year, the more able-bodied members commemorated Remembrance Sunday at Ripley War Memorial where a Book of Remembrance was read, followed by a Service at All Saints' Ripley. Members enjoyed lunch at The Station Hotel, Birstwith afterwards.



All Saints' Ripley "We will remember them".

Our Vice President **24551831 Tony Daniel**, who has recently relocated to Lowestoft following his marriage to Linda in October, attended their local Remembrance Parade.



Lowestoft Sea Front.



Tony Daniel on parade.

As reported earlier **Bill Wall** was a pillar of strength for the Branch and a first-rate gentleman. Our thoughts are with **24863233 Michael Wall** and his family.

Mrs June Rylatt passed away on Wednesday 4th August. June was a staunch supportive member of our Branch who again will be sadly missed by us all, but always remembered.

Our thanks to **Major Andy Green, LSgt Glen Davis** and the Regimental Headquarters team even more than in previous years as they have overcome the challenges of the past year with enthusiasm.

After another unusual year for all of us, we are hoping that 2022 will see many of our traditions return to normal. On a personal note, the Secretary would like to conclude this report by thanking all our loyal members, their ladies and our friends of the Branch who continue to support us.

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

Well, we have made it – 50 years. We were formed on 16th September 1972 at the Royal York Hotel in Toronto, Ontario, Canada.

Present on that occasion were **Frank Wright, George Walters, Colin Cowell, Joe Harding, Titch Turp, Harry Allen, Pete Crawshaw, Jim Bonham-Lovett** and **Ray Brown BEM**. Unfortunately, **Ray Brown** is the only member of that group still around. The others having passed on to a better place.

Preparations are on going for a dinner at the Royal York Hotel as close to 16th September 2022 as possible. A special edition newsletter will also be printed to celebrate this occasion. Any suggestions for inclusion in the newsletter will be much appreciated.

COVID 19 restrictions had previously prevented

us from getting together, but as restrictions were eased, three members were able to meet in Cambridge, Ontario for lunch.



Lunch in Cambridge, Ontario. From Left to Right: Tony Walmesley (GREN GDS) and Bernice, Eileen, Ann and Ray Hawkins (COLDM GDS) and Ray Brown (GREN GDS).

This year, the recipient of the Betty Pickering Memorial Award is **Dave Ainsworth**. **Dave** has been fighting cancer and is now in remission. Instead of feeling sorry for himself, he and other BRB brothers in England, formed a page on Facebook named Operation LONGSLOG, where they walked many miles and raised over \$10,000. The results were so good that they have decided to do this annually. **Dave** and his good lady will be presented with this award at a later date and a photo will follow.

We have lost two stalwarts this year, **Bill McDowell** (COLDM GDS) received the Betty Pickering Memorial Trophy last year, and **Dave Keen** (WELSH GDS). We held a Celebration of Life for **Dave** in October.

Finally, we would like to thank **Andy Green, Rob Broomes** and **Glen Davis** for all their help over the past year and wish **Rob** all the best in his new endeavour.



ASSOCIATION DIARY OF EVENTS 2022

APR	2	Bristol Branch Lunch, The BAWA Club, Southmead, Filton, Bristol, BS34 7RG	15	Sgts' Mess P&P Club Dinner, Lille Barracks, Aldershot, GU11 2NQ.		
	10	March Branch Annual Lunch, The Conservative Club, 14 Creek Road, March, Cambs, PE15 8RD	5, 6, 7	Household Division Beating Retreat, Horse Guards Parade, Whitehall, London, SW1A 2AX.		
	19	Her Majesty's Review Rehearsal, Windsor Castle, Windsor Berkshire, SL4 1NJ	16	Grenadier Day, Lille Barracks, Aldershot, GU11 2NQ.		
	21	Her Majesty's Review, Windsor Castle, Windsor, Berkshire, SL4 1NJ	22	AGM, Sgts' Mess Wellington Barracks.		
	23	Manchester Branch Annual Dinner and Dance, The Airport Inn Hotel, Altrincham Road, Wilmslow SK9 4LR.				
	24	Wigan Branch St George's Lunch, The Village Club, Culcheth, Warrington WA3 4LY.				
MAY	1	Worcester Branch Centenary Tea. The Pear Tree Inn, Smite, Worcestershire, WR3 8SY.	SEP	11	Norfolk Branch Lunch, Stower Grange Hotel, School Road, Drayton, Norwich NR8 6EF.	
	6-7	Blackpool Reunion, The Norbreck Castle Hotel, FY2 9AA.		12-16	Regimental Battlefield Tour, France, Belgium & Holland.	
	15	Regimental Remembrance Day, Wellington Barracks, The Guards Chapel & Horse Guards Parade.		23	March Branch Sausage & Mash Lunch, The Conservative Club, 14 Creek Road, March, Cambs, PE15 8RD.	
	16	First Guards Club Dinner, Cavalry & Guards Club, 127 Piccadilly, London, W1J 7PX		23-27	Berlin Reunion, Hosted by Andrew Daniels.	
				24	Support Company Reunion, The Slug and Lettuce Public House, Bristol Harbour Side. Hosted by Keith Smith.	
		25	Wessex Branch Lunch, Dudsbury Golf Club, Ferndown, Dorset, BH22 8ST			
JUN	2-5	Her Majesty the Queen's Platinum Jubilee Celebrations.	OCT	15	Wigan Branch Annual Dinner, The Village Club, Culcheth, Warrington WA3 4L.	
	2	The Queen's Birthday Parade, Horse Guards Parade.		NOV	10	Field of Remembrance, Westminster Abbey, London, SW1P 3PA.
	9	Founders Day, Royal Hospital Chelsea, Royal Hospital Road, London, SW3 4SR.	12		Festival of Remembrance, Royal Albert Hall, London, SW7 2AP.	
	13	The Garter Service, Windsor Castle, Windsor, Berkshire, SL4 1NJ.	13		Remembrance Sunday.	
	15	Finance and Executive Meeting, Regimental Headquarters Grenadier Guards.	DEC		9	March Branch Christmas Lunch, The Conservative Club, 14 Creek Road, March, Cambs, PE15 8RD.
	19	Yorkshire Branch, The Queen's Platinum Jubilee Celebrations Lunch, Hazelwood Castle, Paradise Lane, Hazelwood, Near Leads and York, Yorkshire LS2 9NJ.			11	Wigan Branch Christmas Lunch, The Village Club, Culcheth, Warrington, WA3 4LY.
	25	Northamptonshire Branch Dinner, Corby Conservative Club, Cottingham Road, Corby NN17 1S2.				
	JUL	10	Wigan Branch Meeting, followed by Buffet Lunch, The Village Club, Culcheth, Warrington, WA3 4LY.			

*This list covers events which have been notified to the General Secretary prior to publication.
If you wish to add an event please email LSgt Davis at assncco@grengds.com*



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