

The Grenadier Gazette

2023



Issue No 46

Price £12.50





THE REGIMENTAL JOURNAL OF THE GRENADIER GUARDS



QUEEN ELIZABETH II AND THE GRENADIER GUARDS IN HER OWN WORDS

Compiled by Major Philip
Wright OBE
Pages 7-12



YUKON 700

by Guy Denison-Smith and
Ben Stephens
Pages 90-93



THE BATTLES OF MONTE CAMINO

by the Assistant Editor
Pages 103-121



GUARDSMEN OF THE SKY

by Colonel Piers Ashfield
DSO, MBE
Pages 204-207

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The GRENADIER GAZETTE is published annually in March.
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 Printed by Healeys Print Group, Ipswich

Inside front cover: Her Majesty Camilla The Queen Consort appointed Colonel of the Grenadier Guards on 21 December 2022.

Back cover: The Queen Consort outside the Officers’ Mess. With kind permission © Tempest Photography.



Foreword

*by Major General JMH Bowder,
OBE*

It was a huge honour to assume the role of Regimental Lieutenant Colonel last summer. I well remember my first encounter as an ensign with the then Lieutenant Colonel. To a young man he seemed extraordinarily august and intimidating. As a result, I cannot quite escape the sense of imposter syndrome having picked up the baton. Of course, it helps to be among friends. Moreover, I have been set up for success by my predecessor. I am very grateful for his enlightened stewardship during the past five years, as well as for his continued support as a Regimental Trustee and member of the Regimental Council since last June.

Having seen much of the broader Army as a brigade commander, as a divisional commander and now as a member of the Army Board, my return to the Regimental fold has reminded me of quite how special the Regiment is. We have much to celebrate – albeit in a humble, understated way! And of course, it has never been in our Regimental

character to be complacent. We will continue to maintain the highest of standards, move forward and get ever better.

These exemplary standards were there for all to see during Op LONDON BRIDGE last September. Amid the sadness of losing a Sovereign with such a close personal relationship with the Regiment, I could not have been prouder of the contribution of so many Grenadiers. From the bearer party to the band, to multiple guards of honour, to those that supported HM's lying-in-state, to the tailors, storemen, and drivers behind the scenes, so many members of the Regiment distinguished themselves. Having joined the Regiment in 1996, it took me until the week of Her Majesty's funeral to fully understand the closeness of the bond between the Regiment and the Sovereign. We will work hard to maintain this with HM The King, beginning with the presentation of the King's Company Colour in April and the Coronation in May.

We recently celebrated the appointment of our new Colonel, Her Majesty The Queen Consort. Although early in her tenure, she has already visited the 1st Battalion in Aldershot. It was a great success and was much enjoyed by all those involved.

The 1st Battalion goes from strength to strength with James Greaves handing over command to Gerald Johnston just before Christmas. I am very grateful to James for everything that he did for his soldiers and officers and wish him well for what comes next. The Battalion continues to balance operational commitments in Iraq, with an ambitious array of adventurous training, before returning to Kenya later in the





year. A busy and demanding programme, indeed. Alongside these collective endeavours, there are also noteworthy examples of individual excellence. In particular, the continued success of Grenadiers on Special Forces selection and P Company during the past 12 months. Clearly success begets success here, and it is to the immense credit of all of those involved.

Beyond the 1st Battalion, it is great to see the Band and Nijmegen Company maintain their characteristically high standards within LONDIST, whilst the accelerated integration of Ypres Company (London Guards) into the Regiment has gone well. We welcome them.

Finally, I am indebted to the continued heroics of The Regimental Association and The Colonel's Fund. In particular, the amazing achievement of the 'Yukon 700' expedition in 2022. The team comprising Grenadier

veterans – some with physical or mental injuries – raised more than £50,000. Gluttons for punishment a number of them intend to try again this year. Let's get behind them.



The Commanding Officer, Lieutenant Colonel and President of the Association at Grenadier Day.

Editorial Notes

by Brigadier David Russell-Parsons OBE DL

This year has been one of the most extraordinary periods for the Regiment in recent history, from the Platinum Jubilee, ongoing operations in Iraq and Her Late Majesty's funeral, and the astonishing switch between both latter commitments. It also heralded the appointment of Her Majesty the Queen Consort as our new Colonel to whom we extend a very warm welcome on behalf of all our readers. The Editorial Committee overseeing this journal aims to do justice to all these Regimental achievements, as well as maintaining a style which readers enjoy and providing an archive of contemporary Grenadier activities for future generations.

The Committee very much welcomes Lieutenant Colonel Stumpy Keeley as the Association Editor (as well as his main role as Regimental Treasurer) and is much impressed by how quickly he has settled into curating news of the Association branches and garnering a selection of stories of wide interest. We have very much enjoyed compiling the front half as well, including Philip Wright's masterfully crafted insight to Her Late Majesty's personal interaction with the Regiment, first as Colonel and then as Colonel-in-Chief.

This is to thank all those committing their time and skill again to an impressive total of wider contributions. We think we have another record

total this year. A big welcome to Ypres Company and thank you for posting your news for the the very first time. We would very like to invite to submit more each year showing the span of all your activity. We are very grateful to General Sir Evelyn Webb Carter, our Grenadier Brigade Major as the inside man on both the Jubilee and the Funeral, the Yukon team for such a colourful report and Alan Ogden for overseeing such a wealth of material as well as contributing two fascinating historical articles himself.

The core Regimental Headquarters team under the direction of the Regimental Adjutant (a prolific contributor in his own right) has been superb in trawling for and securing such an impressive scope of Regimental activity and maintaining the emphasis on Grenadiers past and present. And we should also acknowledge the huge efforts made again by the Battalion (and another brave Commanding Officer in volunteering for a probing interview by the Assistant Editor), Nijmegen Company, and the Band, especially with all the additional effort of ensuring the Regimental rolls are 100% accurate.

A huge thank you to everyone who works in this special Gazette team. And thank you for the helpful feedback and majority views on maintaining the size and style of our current journal. We maintain a wary eye on others, debating advantages of switching to various styles adopted by other Household Division Regiments, and we think the current format serves us all best.

Lieutenant Colonel Gerald Johnston, Commanding Officer, 1st Battalion Grenadier Guards

In conversation with the Assistant Editor

A third generation Coldstream Guardsman – his grandfather served in the 1950s, his father was a regular officer for 17 years and similarly his Uncle – Gerald Johnston had no difficulty in choosing his career. “I was born in Hanover in 1980 and spent the first ten years of my life with the

Army, so, what with family tradition, I was destined to join!” Another influence was his Coldstream godfather, Lieutenant Colonel Martin Somervell, ‘a mentor and inspiration’ who had spent time both at Regimental duty and in the Guards Independent Parachute Company.

After finishing his studies, Gerald took a year off travelling around the world before going to RMAS. Commissioned in 2003, his first posting was with No.7 (incremental) Coy and then to the 1st Battalion, at the time in Lille Barracks. From there he deployed to Basra as a platoon commander with No.2 Coy where “I hit the ground running and learnt an awful lot in a very short time”.

On return to the UK, Gerald went to Pirbright



Lieutenant Colonel Gerald Johnston.

as a platoon commander during which he managed to squeeze in and pass P Company and meet his future wife. In January 2007, he went to Helmand on HERRICK 7 as second-in-command of No.3 Coy which was embedded with a Danish Battle Group to the North of Lashkar Gah in Helmand Province. 2008 he returned to Afghanistan, again in Helmand, this time commanding the recon platoon in the Coldstream Battle Group in a place called Babaji. A gritty tour, it was somewhat of a contrast when, on return, he became Regimental Recruiting Officer and Assistant Equerry to HM Queen Elizabeth II.

Taking up the post of Adjutant of 1st Bn Coldstream Guards in 2012, he found himself back in Afghanistan when they were deployed as the Kabul Security Force, a very different environment to that of his previous tours. Intermediate Staff

College followed and then his first staff job as an SO2 (Bde Ops officer) with HQ 7 Inf Bde which, much to his delight, involved travelling to and coordination of activity in West Africa (Nigeria, Ghana and Sierra Leone) and the US. He also supported the delivery of operations in Iraq and Afghanistan and in support of the civil authority at home.

Moving back to the battalion, Gerald took over No. 3 Coy and deployed to Belize on a battalion training exercise. On return, he was given the additional task of redesigning and delivering leadership and management training to the battalion and commanded No.3 Guard on the Queen's Birthday Parade. His next staff job was Chief of Staff of the Tactical Training Group based in Warminster, which was responsible for the training of command posts from Battle Group up to Corps. When lockdown kicked in, he supported the extraction of personnel from Kenya and the redesign of Collective training to ensure it could carry on. With some dedicated moonlighting, he also obtained a degree in International Studies during this time.

After attending the Advanced Command and Staff Course and gaining a Masters in Defence Studies at Shrivenham, Gerald completed a short stint at the MOD before taking over command of 1st Bn Grenadier Guards. He is proud of his family's Grenadier connections – "Great Uncle Henry (Wills) was a Grenadier and Uncle Andrew (Coldstream Guards) married into Major General Lionel Harrod's family. It helps me move from Nulli Secundus to First or Grenadier Regiment of Footguards!"

The forthcoming Coronation of HRH The King will be his first major ceremonial event with the Regiment and of particular resonance with his family for his grandfather carried the Colour at the Proclamation of Queen Elizabeth II.

He is married to Emmajayne, a Customer Proposal Manager for a Global Biologics Contract, Development and Manufacturing Organisation, and they have a four-year-old daughter called Honor.

A TRIBUTE TO QUEEN ELIZABETH II

Queen Elizabeth II and The Grenadier Guards in Her Own Words

*Compiled by Major Philip Wright OBE,
formerly Grenadier Guards*



Cecil Beaton portrait of HRH Princess Elizabeth April 1943.

As Colonel of The Regiment

21st April 1942: Shortly after her appointment as Colonel of the Grenadier Guards, the Regiment presented Princess Elizabeth with a blue enamel and diamond brooch in the form of the Regimental Cypher just before detachments from the six service battalions of the Regiment together with the Training and Holding battalions paraded in the Quadrangle at Windsor Castle. The Princess thanked The Lieutenant Colonel, Colonel J.A. Prescott:

‘I cannot tell you how delighted I am with this very beautiful brooch, and I ask you to accept my most grateful thanks.

It is a great honour and privilege to have been appointed Colonel of the Grenadier Guards, and I shall do all in my power to uphold and foster the great traditions of the Regiment which I have already learnt to love’

In reply to a letter from Field Marshal the Earl of Cavan, the senior Grenadier officer of the day, congratulating her on her appointment, she wrote:

‘I am very proud indeed of this appointment and I hope that I may be able to be a help to the Regiment in the future.’

July 1945: The 19-year-old Princess wrote separately to the Commanding Officers of the three battalions in North-West Europe.

1st (Motor) Battalion:

‘Please assure all who serve in the battalion’s ranks that they have been much in my thoughts during the past year in which they have accomplished so much and so worthily upheld the name of the Regiment. To those who will in due course return to civilian life, I wish God speed and good luck. Those who have served in war are a fine example to the Grenadier who joins today, in whose hands lies the standard of the Regiment in the days before us.’

2nd (Armoured) Battalion:

‘...please tell all ranks how proud I have been to hear of their outstanding performance since they landed in Normandy a year ago. With its comrades of the 1st Battalion, the Grenadier Group of the Guards Armoured Division has established a record of accomplishment which has never been surpassed in armoured experience. With such a background, many of you will feel regret at the decision which has brought to an end a notable chapter in the history of the Regiment. But I know that the standard and spirit of the Grenadiers is unchanging, and I send you all my congratulations and good wishes.’

4th (Tank) Battalion:

‘...to say with what pride I have followed their movements from the very day they landed in Normandy. Their remarkable first achievement, when, with the 6th Airborne Division, they formed the spearhead of the advance into Germany, set a standard in ardour and skill which is not likely to be surpassed. After such a performance I am sure that many will feel regret at saying farewell to the weapons in which they achieved such mastery. I would ask them all to recall that whatever be their new role they still remain Grenadiers, and I send to them all every possible good wish.’

7th June 1951: In 1951 the King was suffering from ill health and the Princess deputised for him at the King’s Birthday Parade at which the 3rd Battalion were trooping the Colour. Riding *Winston*, she took the salute wearing a full-dress red tunic for the first time. Subsequently the Major General received the following message:

‘Will you please inform all ranks that the King was delighted to hear my report on the excellence of the King’s Birthday Parade today. I was very proud to deputise for the King and take the Parade for the first time.’

As Colonel In Chief of The Grenadier Guards



HM Queen Elizabeth II – Trooping the Colour 1953.

14th April 1953: Presentation of a new Queen's Company Colour, the Royal Standard of the Regiment in the Quadrangle of Windsor Castle.

‘King Charles II, whose bronze effigy now surveys this parade, decreed that a Colour should be given to the First Company of his First Regiment of Guards and that that Company should be known as The King's Company. Since that time, a new Colour has been given by successive Sovereigns to their own Company. I am proud to carry on this tradition, which has been maintained for nearly three hundred years by my predecessors. It gives me special pleasure in view of my close association with your Regiment as its Colonel for ten years. As its Colonel-in-Chief I still follow all its activities

with great interest. I now commit this new Colour to your Charge, confident that you will guard and honour it as the symbol of your loyalty and devotion and my personal trust in each one of you as a member of the Company which bears my name’.

5th July 1960: Inspection of 3rd Battalion and Farewell Parade at Buckingham Palace.

‘I do not think there can be anyone here today who does not feel a pang of sorrow and regret as we say goodbye to this historic battalion. Through being your Colonel for ten years, I have had a closer link with the Grenadiers than any other regiment and that is why I have invited you here today. For over 300 years, since it upheld King Charles II during his exile, your battalion has devotedly served its Sovereign and its country, from early service as Marines, which has given it a unique link with the Royal Navy, to the present day. Twice your forebears have had to fight their way back to the sea on foreign soil, showing impeccable discipline, withstanding fatigue as well as holding off the enemy at Corunna and Dunkirk. The same dogged courage that finally routed Napoleon's Guards at Waterloo carried the battalion through the bitter trench warfare of 1915 and earned for it the nickname of the “Plumbers” in Tunisia in 1943. More recently you have shown your resourcefulness and hardiness in the mountains of Cyprus. These exploits and many more are in our minds as you step aside from the active scene.

I gladly approve your leaving behind a company, which will stand on the left flank of the Regiment to preserve the individual spirit of the 3rd Battalion. I think that this company, which carries such a great responsibility on its shoulders, should bear the name of one of the most resolute and daring engagements in which your battalion ever took part. I therefore name it “The Inkerman Company”, confident that it will ever maintain the steadfastness and courage which was displayed by the

battalion in that battle.

To all ranks of the 3rd Battalion, I say Farewell and God Speed and I welcome The Inkerman Company to the very special place it will now hold in the Regiment.'

6th June 1967: Presentation of Colours to the 1st Battalion in the garden of Buckingham Palace.

'It comes as a surprise to me that I have been first your Colonel and then your Colonel in Chief for 25 years, so I have many memories of the Grenadiers and Grenadier occasions. I remember in particular the historic Tercentenary Parade of the three battalions at Windsor in 1956. This was a moment to conjure up three centuries of devoted loyalty and service to Sovereign and country.

Only a few days ago I passed through the same countryside in Normandy where in 1944 the 1st Battalion, as part of the Guards Armoured Division under the command of the present Colonel [Major General Sir Allan Adair Bt, GCVO, CB, DSO, MC] added to the fame of the Regiment in the fierce fighting that followed the invasion of Europe. Circumstances today are very different, but I know that you will meet every new challenge as only Grenadiers can.

I have great pleasure in again presenting you with new Colours and I warmly congratulate you on your splendid turnout and drill. I look forward to seeing these new Colours carried away with the same traditional courage and steadfastness for the protection of the realm and maintenance of a just peace.'

26th May 1992: Presentation of Colours to the 1st and 2nd Battalions on Horse Guards.

'As the old Colours were marched past me and off parade, I was reminded of the diversity of duties undertaken by the Regiment since I presented them to you in 1978. Battalions

have been in West Germany and Berlin, in the Sudan, in Kenya, Canada, Cyprus, Belize, and the Falklands and Companies played an active part in the Gulf War. In addition, smaller parties of Grenadiers have served in Cyprus, Hong Kong, throughout Western Europe, in the Gambia, in Oman, Nigeria, Zimbabwe and Cambodia.

At home, your tasks have been no less exacting. A Grenadier battalion has been to Northern Ireland six times since, including one on a two-year tour: and for eleven of those fourteen years one or more of the Grenadier battalions have been committed to their public and security duties in London. It is a fine record both of service and flexibility, of which you can be very proud of indeed.

Having seen you on parade today, I am confident that, wherever you may be, you will uphold the standards and style which have made the Grenadier Guards a very special example. I know that all who served under these Colours will do their utmost to uphold those standards in all the variety of duties they will be called upon to perform. I wish you all the best of good fortune.'

15th May 2001: Grenadiers of Nijmegen Company

'In 1992 I presented new Colours to the 2nd Battalion. Only two years later the Battalion was placed in suspended animation and thus ended a proud organisation dating back to 1686. However, the Colours of the 2nd Battalion were brought back into service when the Nijmegen Company was formed and it is those Colours which have just been marched off Parade.

The formation of Nijmegen Company ensured that the customs and history of the 2nd Battalion are maintained. It also commemorates one of its hardest-fought battles in the Second World War, when a most important bridge was captured and a

Dutch town liberated. Naming the Company after this battle pays tribute to the courage and bravery shown on that day and it will keep alive the friendship forged by the 2nd Battalion with the town of Nijmegen fifty-seven years ago. This friendship continues to this day and I am pleased that veterans of that battle are with us on this occasion.

The Company was formed to carry out Public Duties in London, but I am glad to know that it is also a well-trained fighting unit, ready to play its part wherever its services are needed. This is in the best traditions of the Grenadier Guards and I have no doubt that you will always live up to the quality, style and standards of this great regiment.

It is in this confidence that I present you with these new Colours today and I look forward to seeing this new Queen's Colour trooped on my Birthday Parade next month.'

12th June 2006: At a Garden Party held in the gardens at Buckingham Palace, to celebrate the 350th anniversary of the founding of the Regiment.

'I am delighted to have this opportunity to send my warm best wishes to all members of the Grenadier Guards past and present, on the occasion of the 350th anniversary of the formation of the Regiment, and my acknowledgement of their unbroken loyalty to the Crown ever since. For the past 64 years I have taken a keen personal interest in all that my Grenadiers have achieved in peace and war. I deeply appreciate their devotion and the valuable service they have rendered to their Sovereign and country.'

11th May 2010: Presentation of Colours to the 1st Battalion at Buckingham Palace.

'The Colours that I am presenting to you this morning, represent the spirit of the Regiment past and present. Since 1992 when I presented the Colours which have just been

marched off parade, the 1st Battalion has completed exceptional and very active service in many parts of the world. Sixteen tours in Northern Ireland followed by very demanding operations in in Bosnia and Iraq.

More recently and more demanding still the battalion has completed two tours of Afghanistan with great distinction. Attempting to establish political stability and good government takes a special kind of courage and commitment and puts extreme pressure on all ranks at all times.

From all accounts, the battalion has done exceptionally well in meeting these challenges and has more than lived up to the very high standards set by the Grenadier Guards over three hundred years. Every one of you can be immensely proud of this record of courage and determination.

Sadly, this demanding service has resulted in inevitable casualties. No amount of pride can offset the endless worries of families and friends left at home. To the wounded and their families and to the families of those who have been killed, the whole country owes an immense debt of gratitude and sympathy.

The Colours that I am presenting you this morning represent the spirit of the Regiment, past and present. The Battle Honours which are embroidered on the Colours are a memorial to all those who have given their lives.

You have my best wishes for the future and I look forward to seeing my Colour trooped at the Birthday Parade next month.'

26th June 2013: Inspection of The Queen's Company, Presentation of new Colours to Nijmegen Company and Centenary of the Association, all in the gardens at Buckingham Palace.

'Grenadiers of The Queen's Company, Nijmegen Company and the Regimental Association: it is a great pleasure to see so

many of you here today. I last inspected The Queen's Company in 2003 and since then it has been at the forefront of operations in Bosnia Iraq and most recently in Afghanistan. In all these theatres my Company has served with great distinction, especially so in Helmand Province recently. It has been a demanding period indeed for Guardsmen of all ranks within my Company and for all those families who have so closely supported them. You should be rightly proud of your achievements.

I last presented New Colours to Nijmegen Company in 2001: since then, the Company has been at the forefront of Ceremonial Activity in London and Windsor and has remained the source of reinforcement to the 1st Battalion. Nijmegen Company had a particularly busy Diamond Jubilee and I look forward to seeing all ranks of the Company

on the Birthday Parade next year trooping the Colour that I have presented to you today.

The Regimental Association was founded 100 years ago to meet the needs of former Grenadiers and Branches have grown in number to 43, including those in Australia and North America. As Patron, I know that you continue to work tirelessly to support the welfare of those in need. The Regimental Association is the very embodiment of the Regimental Family and I trust that it will thrive equally well over the next century too!

This Grenadier Day is a unique occasion, and I know that your Colonel, Prince Philip, is sorry not to be here today with us but he has asked me, on behalf of us both to wish all Grenadiers, be they young or old, all good fortune in the future.'

All the Queen's Men.... Her Majesty The Company Commander: Her Colour, Her people, Her care

*by Major Johnny Hathaway-White,
Captain of The King's Company*

"It is a great honour and privilege to have been appointed Colonel of the Grenadier Guards and I shall do all in my power to uphold and foster the great traditions of the Regiment which I have already learnt to love." So wrote the 16-year-old Princess Elizabeth in February 1942 on Her appointment as Colonel of the Regiment, launching an association which would last 80 years. Just eleven short years after becoming a Grenadier that same Princess, now a monarch, looked on as members of The King's Company bore her father's coffin through the funeral rites. Her last duty before Her father's committal was to lay on his coffin the camp Colour of The Captain of The King's Company. A small act, this symbolic consignment of The King's Company King's Crest marked a

turning point in her relationship with a particular band of Grenadiers. Her Majesty had transformed from being the Colonel of the Regiment writ large by moving even closer still; She became one of its Company Commanders.

When those proud Englishmen who followed the Stuarts into exile pledged their undying devotion to Charles the Second, forming a Regiment to guard their Sovereign, there was within this band a small elite. As The Kings Regiment of Foot Guards established its twelve companies King Charles gave orders that the command (or *Captaincy*) of the first Company be reserved for Himself which Company would, henceforth, be known as The King's Own Company. The King vested the executive authority for the daily administration of the Company in a trusted and favoured subject, the appointment being designated the Captain Lieutenant (quite literally to hold or '*tenant*' the Captaincy in *lieu* of the King). Shortened, nowadays, to simply *The Captain*, this appointment has persisted for 366 years with 136 Captains leading the Company on the Sovereign's behalf.

It was as the fifteenth Company Commander that the uncrowned Queen Elizabeth II presented the new Queen's Company Colour Royal Standard of



CSM F.J. Clutton, MM. 2/Lt The Viscount Bryne. QMS C.A.D. Hayes.
 Lt A.D.Y. Naylor-Leyland, AMVO.
 Major A.G. Heywood, AMVO, MC
 Her Majesty The Queen.
 Capt. P.D. Rancefort-Duncombe.
 2/Lt B.H.R. Hudson-Davies.

Her Majesty with the Officers and Seniors of the Queen's Company, after the Presentation of the Queen's Company Colour, the Royal Standard of the Regiment at Windsor.

the Regiment to Her Company in the quadrangle of Windsor Castle on 14 April 1953. The issue of the Royal Standard to the Sovereign's Company's is a custom as old as the Regiment itself. In 1656 the King issued a Colour bearing his cypher to The King's Own Company and when a parallel Regiment of the Foot Guards was formed under Colonel John Russell in England in 1660 again, the King preserved the first Company as his own and issued a Colour bearing his cypher to it. When the two Regiments were merged in 1665, it was the Royal Cypher embroidered on the crimson silk of Russell's that set the pattern for the centuries to come. The Colour, gifted by the hand of the monarch, is now paraded only in the Sovereign's presence, though in years gone by it was used to mark the position of the Company in battle – in 1710 King George II's

initial Colour was “*shot to pieces*” at Malplaquet. Every monarch since Charles II has presented their Company with their Colour, has processed past their Colour at their coronations, observed it through the smoke of battle and in the ceremonies and rituals of state. In death, our Sovereigns have had the Colour laid at their feet upon their catafalques and, finally, lowered in a solemn salute at their funerals. As the Sovereign's Company Colour is there at the very outset of a reign, so it is at the very end; a physical representation of the monarch's deep connection with their principal Regiment of Guards, and a connection which runs deeper still with their own Company within it – a constant in the Guards' direct

service to the crown. Her Late Majesty addressed The Queen's Company at Windsor Castle in 1953 saying; “*I now commit this new Colour to your charge, confident that you will guard and honour it as the symbol of your loyalty and devotion and my personal trust in each one of you as a member of the Company which bears my name.*” The Colour represented Her constant presence and command.

Such was Queen Elizabeth II's “*personal trust*” and interest in Her Company that Her famous personal touch was never far away. Her Late Majesty's concern for and knowledge of Her Company were, as always, deeply appreciated and impressive. She paid close attention to the BBC Panorama programme ‘*Taking on the Taliban*’ that followed The Queen's Company for part of the battalion's first tour in Afghanistan, and caringlly



Her Majesty presenting the Queen's Company Colour, the Royal Standard of the Regiment in the Quadrangle.

monitored the Company's actions and casualties across the Op TELIC and Op HERRICK era. Invited to dinner whilst a young Queen's Company subaltern, Major James Taylor had the privilege of sitting next to Her Majesty whose purpose in extending the invitation was to hear from one of Her platoon commanders about the challenges of operations, and of the welfare of casualties within Her Company after Op HERRICK 11. Such was Her attention to detail in this regard that when Colonel Martin David (The Captain 2006 to 2008) was due to be awarded the Military Cross Her Majesty intervened. Having selected an investiture date he subsequently received a very apologetic telephone call from the Palace: *"Her Majesty has noted that you are due to be awarded your Military Cross at an Investiture presided over by HRH The Prince of Wales. She kindly requests that you arrange to attend at a later date when She might present the Military Cross to The Captain of Her Company in person"*. Whilst others were similarly recognised for their actions, Her Majesty had insisted on delivering the personal touch to Her Company's Captain.

Her Majesty's close interest implied a more ardent duty upon Her various Captains to keep in regular communication with the Palace. Few may know that the Company submits to its Company Commander a leather-bound photo album (embossed with the Royal Crest) every Christmas. This album contains photos of the Company's year as well as 'The Captain's Statement', a brief annual report to the Company Commander. Close interest was paid to the album by Her Majesty, such that not so long ago a message came back from Her Majesty enquiring specifically as to the name of one photographed individual and a request for details of precisely what he was up to – a *"must try harder"* on the captions, perhaps! If nothing else, this serves to highlight the genuine attention Her Majesty paid. More casually than this Yuletide submission, Her Majesty often exchanged communications with the Company. Major Grant Baker (The Captain 1989 to 1992) scribbled a Company update on a humble, pencil-written 'bluey' from the sands of the Gulf in 1991, receiving a reply in kind and, more recently, Major Simon Gordon-Lennox (The Captain 2015 to 2018) sent a short update from Kenya in 2015, and Her Majesty brought up details from the note in conversation at dinner in the Cavalry and Guards club many months later. Her Majesty's enthusiasm for The Queen's Company never dwindled, from the very start of Her command in 1953 She was in constant touch. The Captain also writes to the Company Commander to inform them of significant deployments, and the same was the case when Major James Taylor (The Captain 2020-22) informed Her Majesty of Her Company's deployment to Iraq this year. It is poetic that shortly after Her passing, as members of Her Company were desperately scrambling back from operations to perform their final and solemn funeral duties, the last letter arrived issuing Her Majesty's thanks and wishing Her Company luck on the tour.

Another element of Her Majesty's character that was always much in evidence with the Company was Her famous sense of humour and ability to make light when things weren't quite going to plan. Whilst carrying The Royal Standard in high winds as a young Ensign, Colonel Piers Ashfield found the fabric of the huge Colour ripped from his grip, its flight dragging him forward and away from the

Guard of Honour. Any concern over Her Majesty's potential displeasure was kindly washed away when she smiled and simply remarked that She thought he was going to blow away. The Sovereign reviews their Company at least once a decade and with so many reviews over such a long reign it is almost inevitable that not all of them could have gone entirely smoothly under Her Late Majesty's command. With Lieutenant Colonel Carew Hatherley as the Captain (2002 to 2004), the Company was reviewed at Windsor Castle. Even before the Company had marched on, things started to go awry. As guests arrived in the quadrangle hundreds of bees swarmed amongst them, causing chaos. Unbeknownst to those suffering this onslaught, Her Majesty, accompanied by the Regimental Colonel HRH The Duke of Edinburgh, was watching from a window in fits of laughter as ushers and Regimental officers attempted to restore order. This incident gave rise to the famous photo of the both of them, still in hysterics, stepping out of the castle (the Colonel in Grenadier uniform). Whilst the review went smoothly thereafter, the customary photograph that followed (of the Company Commander and Her Company) took quite a while. The Company, in place in good time on the tiered stands, had had quite a wait. Her Majesty and the Colonel, both still in a buoyant mood, gave the rather slow photographer "*a proper ribbing*" on the Company's behalf, much to the amusement and satisfaction of all present. At one review a Guardsman inexplicably managed to stab himself with his bayonet (!). As if further evidence of Her Majesty's well-informed attention to Her Company was required, during the photograph She turned to the Captain and enquired after the condition of said Guardsman. Awkwardly, it seems Her Majesty was ahead of the curve and that the Captain himself was not yet fully aware of the incident!

Monarchs early in the Regiment's history had an easily-maintained familiarity with their Company born out of constant proximity; Charles II saw the Company permanently billeted near him in Bruges in the 1650s; George II himself threw the Company into action at Dettingen in 1743 (choosing to have that act illustrated in Wootton's painting of him at the battle); but much later even, King George V chose His own Company for the Prince of Wales to

commission into in 1914. Queen Elizabeth II reigned in a different time, however. A period where smaller units would deploy across the world for extended periods during the nation's transition out of empire, where a standing Army was arrayed throughout Europe in anticipation of the Russian advance. An era that saw British troops conducting security operations on home-soil in Northern Ireland, then the Balkans and, more recently, a relentless rotation of deployments in Iraq and Afghanistan. Throughout all of this, with the Regiment abroad so often and on Public Duties so intermittently, it would have been all too easy for Her Majesty to have been a distant and purely titular Company Commander – She chose to make sure that this was not the case. Our longest-serving Grenadier, Her Majesty was an engaged, interested, compassionate, knowledgeable, and diligent Company Commander to the very last. It was the Company's great honour to have served under and with Her Majesty, and its greatest honour was to bear Her coffin throughout Her funeral ceremonies and escort Her whilst moving through London and on the final journey in Windsor. Her Queen's Company Colour was present with Her throughout, marking the Company Headquarters; the Sovereign's Person.

As The King's Company steps off under its new Company Commander, it looks forward to receiving the new King's Company Colour from the Sovereign's hand, and to parading that Colour in the time-honoured manner. In 2023, as in 1953, the same Captain and Sovereign's Company personnel who executed the funeral of the late monarch will guard and serve the new during the coronation, with the Royal Standard of the Regiment marking the Sovereign's authority and their Company's constant presence alongside them. During the coronation of Queen Elizabeth II Brigadier Tony Heywood (The Captain 1951 to 1953) was posted within Westminster Abbey, alongside the Ensign bearing The Queen's Company Colour. When Her Majesty passed them, despite all that must have been racing through Her mind on that grandest and most special of occasions, She smiled and said simply "*My Grenadiers*"; because of all the Sovereign's Grenadiers, it was The Queen's Company men that really were truly Hers.

Op LONDON BRIDGE – The Brigade Major's Perspective

by Lieutenant Colonel J E N B Shaw

Deliver in procession the Coffin bearing Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II from the Palace of Westminster to Westminster Abbey for the State Funeral Service and from Westminster Abbey to Wellington Arch for the onward journey to Windsor.

The enormity of the task hit me as I displayed the mission at the London funeral procession brief four days after Her Majesty's death. The brief was in the Guards Chapel, every pew packed with the entire hierarchy of the Household Division from Lieutenant General to Colour Sergeant. The mission we had been set was the most important of our military careers and perhaps the greatest duty of our lives.

Four days earlier a phone call from the Garrison Sergeant Major at 1220 on Thursday 8 September gave me one of the biggest shocks of my life when he asked the simple yet enormous question: 'Is everything quiet in the headquarters?' I knew instantly there was only one reason why he would ask that question and with that the most intense 11 days of my life began.

By 1330 Headquarters London District had assembled for our first planning meeting as we and the whole nation absorbed the terrible news that Her Majesty's health had deteriorated, and all members of the Royal Family were rushing to Scotland. Priority was the recall of essential troops: the king's Troop Royal Horse Artillery, half of whom were on summer leave, who needed to fire the Death Gun Salute within six hours of Her Majesty's death; the Bearer Party from the Queen's Company, Grenadier Guards, deployed on Op SHADER in Iraq; and numerous bands and other elements deployed all over the world. At 1830 Her Majesty's death was confirmed and by 1900 the HQ assembled for our second planning meeting. The Major

General started the meeting with a minute's silence and noted we would have little time to reflect on Her Majesty's passing until after Her State Funeral in 11 days. During the silence I had a very big lump in my throat and an equally large butterfly in my stomach at the prospect of the task ahead.

Friday 9th September (D-Day). D-Day: the day to mark the start of the operation was set as Friday 9th September rather than Thursday 8th September which gave us an extra 24 hours. The Death Gun Salute, 96 rounds to mark Her Majesty's 96 years, was the first task. Firing would commence in Hyde Park at 1300. The King's Troop worked flat out through the night moving from their base in Woolwich to forward mount in Wellington Barracks (their last Gunners arriving at 0400 having been recalled from leave). At 1200 they stepped off for Hyde Park. Many of us watched their departure which was another lump in throat moment as the enormity of the task, to signal the death of Her Majesty, registered as they rode out. A huge crowd had already formed outside Buckingham Palace and at 1300 the first boom reverberated through London and continued every 10 seconds for 16 minutes to mark Her Majesty's 96 years. This was replicated to the second at saluting stations across the nation and world.

The second task for D-Day was rehearsing the Proclamations at St James Palace and the Royal Exchange. St James Palace was already a hive of activity with the BBC and miles of cabling being prepared to cover the events. The Earl Marshal, Garter King of Arms, Heralds and Pursuivants were rehearsed by the Garrison Sergeant Major. It was the first time we heard 'God Save the King.' Royal Exchange was wonderfully British with the rehearsal for a thousand-year-old constitutional process being conducted at 2200 as revellers spilled out of pubs and nightclubs. Special credit must go to the State Trumpeters who had been in Canada that morning and flown back just in time for the rehearsals.

Saturday 10th September (D+1). The Proclamation commenced just before 1100 at St James Palace. On parade was Number 7 Company

Coldstream Guards, the first King's Guard in 70 years and all who had attended the rehearsal the night before. Outside Friary Court a huge crowd had assembled which spilled onto the Mall and beyond. At 1059 and 26 seconds I gave a signal to the State Trumpeters which initiated the Proclamation process. The Garter King of Arms proclaimed God Save the King which was met by cheers echoing around the Mall and a second gun salute from the King's Troop. From St James it was a dash by Police escort to Royal Exchange. St James Street and Pall Mall were packed, and we moved along most of the Embankment at high speed on the wrong side of the road! Arriving at Mansion House just before 1200 it was a quick switch to the Lord Mayor's procession and onto Royal Exchange. The City Proclamation was broadly similar though notable moments included the State Trumpeters echo fanfare with trumpeters split between the Mansion House balcony and the Royal Exchange Steps creating a deeply moving sound through the City. The Lord Mayor of London announcing three cheers for His Majesty the King was met by great cheers from the huge crowd assembled around Royal Exchange.

The frenetic pace of the Operation was illustrated on 10th September (and everyday). In normal circumstances the Proclamations might be 'if for

the day.' For Op LONDON BRIDGE it was one of many events that day. From Royal Exchange it was a rush back to the London Military Operations Centre (LMOC) in Wellington Barracks, a quick change, and then on with preparing briefs, checking orders and the myriad of other tasks. Our daily routine started at 0730 with a brief to the Major General and the last formal meeting was 2100. 10 September finished with the detailing conference, chaired by myself, where we confirmed the 4500 Troops assigned to Ceremonial activity from across the three Services.

Sunday 11th September (D+2). A full day in the LMOC getting plans set for the D+5 Funeral procession from Buckingham Palace to Westminster Abbey. D+5 brief and recce in the Guards Chapel for all taking part.

Monday 12th September (D+3). D+5 rehearsals in Wellington Barracks. In the plan the D+5 procession had no band or music. This part of the plan lasted less than five minutes when we established marching a large procession without a time beater was not an act of war! The Major General made some quick calls and within five minutes we had approval from the Comptroller and two Bands on the square.

At 1400 a mental switch was required from D+5



State Gun Carriage Processional Group – led by the Major General Commanding the Household Division flanked by the Brigade Major, ADC and Lieutenant General Walker.

to D+10 as we delivered the D+10 London State Funeral and Procession brief and recce. The Major General opened the brief by telling the assembled audience that over four billion people would view the State Funeral and procession.

The Guards Chapel was packed and after the brief over 250 personnel moved by coach/foot to recce the route from Westminster Abbey to Wellington Arch.

Tuesday 13th September (D+4). A busy day. 0300 start for the D+5 Early Morning Rehearsal. Another unreal and special moment parading through the night and hearing Beethoven's magnificent funeral marches for the first time. Debrief at 0700, change, then straight into the LMOC for briefs and paperwork. 1330 a Wildcat helicopter arrives to fly me to HMS Collingwood to assure the Royal Navy Gun Carriage training. A very surreal moment flying out of Wellington Barracks on 'Brigade Major One.' Torrential rain at HMS Collingwood just up the coast from Portsmouth. The State Gun Carriage was lined up with 142 Naval Ratings. The practice coffin was fixed in place by the Reserve Bearer Party from the Queen's Company and the Massed Pipes and Drums, all 196 of them, at the front of the Gun Carriage. The command was given to slow march, over 100 pipers kicked in, and the gun carriage processed forward. For me it was one of the most moving parts of the entire 10 days seeing the Gun Carriage and Pipes for the first time. I found another huge lump in my throat, and it was a full minute before I could speak! I was impressed by what I saw and could report back the Royal Navy were in fine form. After an hour 'Brigade Major One' returned and we started the flight back to London. By now the rain and cloud was so bad we had to fly low level through Hampshire, and I found myself looking up at houses above me. At one point I faced the possibility of landing in a train station car park and getting the train to London, but the Army Air Corps pilots did a fantastic job and made it back to Wellington Barracks. The final part of the day was the return of Her Majesty to Buckingham Palace at 2000. Assembled in the Buckingham Palace Quadrangle were: the Large Guard of Honour from 1st Battalion Coldstream Guards, commanded by Major Will Bird with both the Regimental Sergeant Major and Drill Sergeant acting as Conducting Warrant Officers; the Field Officer in Brigade

Waiting, Colonel Jeremy Bagshaw; the Garrison Sergeant Major and me; and the Bearer Party having only returned from Iraq 24 hours earlier. The Bearer Party looked about as nervous as I have ever seen a group of people: white with fear, each of them in their own place as they prepared mentally for the task ahead. We also bumped into the Duke of York who took time to speak to the Bearer Party and wish them luck moments before Her Majesty's return. Over Buckingham Palace were dramatic storm clouds and the rain fell. We could hear the vehicle move getting closer with the helicopter overhead which switched to clapping and polite cheers as Her Majesty made Her way down Constitution Hill and into Buckingham Palace for the last time.

Wednesday 14th September (D+5). Our first major ceremonial move: the procession from Buckingham Place to Westminster Hall. A Household Procession made up of around 500 personnel with Her Majesty drawn on the King George VI Gun Carriage. A beautiful sunny day in London and a successful move to Westminster Hall setting the standard for the rest of the Operation. Lying-in-State commences. Wonderful to see almost every serving Guards Officer in Wellington Barracks.

Thursday 15th September (D+6). 0030 is the start for the full overnight London Funeral procession and rehearsal going from the removal of the coffin in Westminster Hall, through to the transfer at Wellington Arch. Despite it being the middle of the night there were still large crowds from the roughly 2000 per hour cycling through Lying-in-State. With 3314 troops involved in the procession and lining the route, there were genuine concerns as to whether all would get to the right start point at the right time pointing in the right direction. But these concerns were not required with 101st Logistics Brigade doing an outstanding job getting all troops to London, and HQ London Central Garrison and HQ London District getting them to the start points on time. It was the first time we had seen the procession and with some relief we confirmed the plan would work. A very long night finishing with the debrief at 0700.

Friday 16th September (D+7). Focussed switched to Windsor with the Windsor Funeral Procession brief and recce in Victoria Barracks. With 1100

troops on parade the Windsor procession was smaller and easier to manage but still on a large scale. The route was long starting at Shaw Farm Gate on the Albert Road, moving up the Long Walk, through the Castle and finishing at the Chapel.

Saturday 17th September (D+8). The Windsor EMR. For those attending both the London and Windsor elements the rehearsal started where the London rehearsal finished which was the transfer of the coffin at Wellington Arch. We mounted coaches at 0030 and moved under Police escort to Windsor arriving on a surprisingly cold evening. The procession stepped off and it was an eery experience moving in the dark along rural roads and the long walk. The end of the rehearsal marked the end of the briefs, reces and rehearsals. With this was a chance to relax (slightly!).

Sunday 18th September (D+9). A busy day conducting final checks. A definite sense we were set and ready to go. My son's ninth birthday.

Monday 19th September (D+10). One of the biggest days in our nation's history. Every world leader present and the whole nation watching. I think everyone on parade from the Chief of the Defence Staff to the most junior Guardsman was nervous. Unlike every Birthday Parade or Queen's Guard we'd done before, this was so important and special, which took it to a new level. At 1044 the first procession stepped off from Westminster Hall to the Abbey. Marching with the Major General and ADC, we were directly behind the Pipes and Drums which gave off the most magnificent sound as we slowly processed with the State Gun Carriage. The State Funeral was very special with the Archbishop of Canterbury's words ringing so true. Although hugely privileged to be in the Abbey, attention was focussed outside hoping the procession was forming up and ready. At 1215 the Garrison gave the order 'The Funeral Procession, by the Centre, Slow March' and off stepped the mile long group; Mounties at the Front and Uniformed Civilian Service at the rear. Many parts stick out including seeing all of Her Majesty's staff stood outside Buckingham Palace, curtsying and bowing as the coffin went past, and the King's Troop minute guns booming through London. Wellington Arch was spectacular with the whole procession formed up facing into the State Gun Carriage. The Royal

Navy Piping Party piping commands and the Bearer Party transferring Her Majesty. The hearse departed, swiftly followed by the King and Royal Family followed by four coaches containing those of us needed in Windsor. The drive out was breathtaking seeing the vast crowds lining the route, in places three lanes deep. We were on the fast route to the assembly area at Shaw Farm Gate which would get us in place around 30 minutes before the hearse. On arrival there was time for a much-needed comfort break before joining the Windsor procession which was already formed up. Having started the move at 1044 at Westminster Hall the Windsor Procession stepped off just one minute late at 1407.

The Windsor procession was different as the crowd was much closer and you got to see all the emotions (crying, clapping, cheering and mostly filming on their phones) as we processed along the Long Walk. On the first crest we got to see the vast crowd spread out in front of us which was amazing to see. The route up the hill into Windsor Castle was lined with flowers left by the public. There were so many flowers the whole route smelt like being in a florist. Inside the Quadrangle the King and Royal Family were waiting and we continued through the Castle. On Castle Hill the Pipes kicked in and it was deeply moving with the sound echoing off the walls and knowing our final journey with Her Majesty was at the end. In Horseshoe Cloister we formed up around the Chapel steps with 165 Grenadiers present marking the relationship between the Sovereign and the Regiment. For the final time the Bearer Party, who had been magnificent throughout, carried Her Majesty into St George's Chapel. The doors shut and our job was done.

Did we follow the plan? Yes, and it was followed line by line from page one to appendix 3 to Annex O on the last page. I used my Brigade Major's Op LONDON BRIDGE file which has sat in the bottom right drawer of the desk for generations. The plan is updated and back in the drawer.

Did it work? Every aspect of the plan worked. In small areas, mostly around coordination, a bit of refinement was required but the level of detail in the plan was remarkable. Going into the London Funeral Procession brief I had no idea how we

would move 250 personnel on the recce around London (which in itself was a big task.). But this was not a problem because someone at some point over the years of refinement had recognised this and a plan had been written in an annex with all the detail I needed!

I want to finish by recognising all the Brigade

Majors, Garrison Sergeant Majors, SO2 Ceremonials, Superintending Clerks and all who went before us in HQ Household Division. Your work, over decades, ensured that when the responsibility to deliver Op LONDON BRIDGE fell on our shoulders, we had a plan that worked. The success of the Operation is as much theirs as it was ours.

Platinum Jubilee Pageant – Sunday 5th June 2022 – The Brigade Major’s Perspective

by Lieutenant Colonel J E N B Shaw

1 800 Troops from across the three Services and Commonwealth Countries. 250 horses and the six guns from the HCMR and King’s Troop RHA. A procession so long, when the lead element reached the Queen Victoria Memorial outside Buckingham Palace, the rear rank was only just passing the Cenotaph some 1300m behind. The Jubilee Pageant was a huge challenge faced by HQ Household Division and one of the largest parades since the 1953 Coronation. On top of this, it was just one of four elements that made up the Jubilee weekend.

Detailed planning began in February with several meetings chaired by the Department for Culture Media and Sport to set the parameters. Within the Jubilee weekend the Pageant was seen as the most complicated event, as the Queen’s Birthday Parade and the Service of Thanksgiving and Party at the Palace had relatively set templates to follow plus the numbers involved in the Pageant made it the most logistically challenging. It was also expected the Pageant would draw the biggest crowds with over one million spectators lining the route (the Queen’s Birthday Parade drew the biggest crowd well in excess of a million people).

The Pageant itself was a huge event. Split into four acts, the military had the great honour of leading the whole procession as Act I *For Queen and Country*. Act II *The Time of our Lives*, and Act III *Let’s Celebrate*, consisted of 10,000 participants and stretched for over two miles while stationary; luckily HQ Household Division did not have to

organise this bit! The finale, Act IV, saw the crowd lining the route move onto The Mall for a balcony appearance of HM The Queen.

With the outline scheme of manoeuvre set, detailed ceremonial planning could begin. At this point the Garrison Sergeant Major, WO1 Stokes, took control of the requirement to take an idea and turn it into an instruction that would get 1800 Troops around a two-mile route with +/- 30 seconds tolerance to meet the broadcasting timelines. Many hours were spent working through complicated marching tables and checking the route. While totally normal to us, members of the public frequently spotted the Garrison Sergeant Major out on The Mall with his pacestick, accompanied by his orderly, LCpl Flint, armed with a measuring wheel, as they both measured the route to a yard! Or, to be exact, 3163 paces.

Before the Pageant could go ahead two further problems needed to be solved: when to rehearse the event and how to get 1800 Troops into London. The rehearsal had to fit around the Queen’s Birthday Parade build up and the rehearsal for the Service of Thanksgiving at St Paul’s. In the end there was no choice but to cram everything into one week of early morning rehearsals (EMR): the Service of Thanksgiving at 0400 on Monday 30th May; the Pageant at 0300 on Tuesday 31st May with the Queen’s Birthday Parade only two days later on Thursday 2nd June.

The challenge of moving 1800 Tri-Service and Commonwealth Troops into London was executed in an excellent way by 101 Logistics Brigade. A sizeable task with Troops moving from three concentration areas (Royal Navy: HMS *Collingwood*; Army and Commonwealth: Pirbright; Royal Air Force: RAF Halton) via various convoy marshalling areas into Wellington Barracks. Once

at Wellington Barracks, the Garrison Commander London Central Garrison, Lieutenant Colonel Ady Hunter (Coldstream Guards) and his team, had the mammoth task of receiving troops, feeding them, getting them to an area to change and then onto the parade square at a specified time to move onto the procession.

The EMR was the first big test of the plan. Would 1800 Troops get to London on time? Could Wellington Barracks process that number? Would the procession timings work and meet the 30 second margin specified by the BBC? Although confident the plan would work it was still with some uncertainty that HQ Household Division went into the EMR.

At 0516 the procession launched under the watchful eye of the Standing Joint Commander for UK Operations, Lieutenant General Ian Cave, Commander Home Command. All questions were answered. The 1800 Troops arrived on time, having started their journeys the previous day, with the prospect of at least 24 hours away from their home barracks; Wellington Barracks could process all the Troops; and the timings worked though more focus was needed marshalling the procession to maintain correct distances. With a sigh of relief that the Pageant plan worked, the focus switched back to the Queen's Birthday Parade just 48 hours away.

Sunday 5th June 2022. Rain was the main worry on the day of the Pageant but, as it did throughout Her Majesty's Jubilee weekend, the rain held off to ensure a dry parade. All 1800 Troops were poised. The King's Troop set off first for Hyde Park to warm up the horses, Next was the HCMR riding down from Hyde Park Barracks to the mounted assembly area on Birdcage Walk. The marching detachments moved to their forming up point on Constitution Hill which cleared the Square at Wellington Barracks for the Commonwealth detachments.

At 1408 the Gold State Coach, the central focus of the military procession, left the Royal Mews and moved slowly, flanked by The Queen's Bodyguard, Yeoman of the Guard and The Watermen, to join the mounted procession on Birdcage Walk. On a signal from the Adjutant in Brigade Waiting, Colonel Tom Bonas, once the Gold State Coach was between the First/Second and Third/Fourth Divisions of the Sovereign's Escort, the great procession moved

off. Led by the Major General and his party, the procession moved up Great George Street to Whitehall. Behind followed Silver Stick, Colonel Crispin Lockhart, commanding the Household Cavalry on his last parade before retirement. The Sovereign's Escort and Gold State Coach with the King's Troop complete with six guns bringing up the rear of the mounted procession which stretched over 300m. Behind them were 1500 marching troops supported by eight bands to maintain the pace.

Large crowds cheered the procession as it moved at walking pace along Whitehall to Trafalgar Square. At Admiralty Arch the Garrison Sergeant Major confirmed we were to time and within our 30 second window for the live broadcast with the procession going live on television as the Gold State Coach passed through Admiralty Arch. Along the Mall the nation and world witnessed spectacular footage of the Gold State Coach and mounted procession with a long line of marching troops following behind. At the Queen Victoria Memorial the Major General's Party processed into the cauldron of 8000 spectators in the stands with an immaculate salute to the right given to the inspecting officer, The Prince of Wales. For 19 minutes the procession moved through the saluting point until all Troops were clear. The mounted procession escorted the Gold State Coach back to the Royal Mews then proceeded via Grosvenor Place back to Hyde Park Barracks; the marching troops into Wellington Barracks.

With that, for the military, the Jubilee weekend was over. Months of planning and hard work had pulled off a spectacular demonstration of military precision across four national state events. After four amazing days witnessed by millions of people it was a strange feeling to dismount, change into civilian clothes, and head home.

The Jubilee Pageant had one final act. With no announcement the Union flag slowly lowered over Buckingham Palace and was replaced by the Royal Standard. Minutes later the doors to the balcony at Buckingham Palace opened and Her Majesty The Queen appeared on the balcony looking resplendent in green. Her Majesty's third balcony appearance of the Jubilee was met by a roar from the crowd on The Mall and the cheers from a grateful nation.

The Queen's Company Escort for the Funeral of HM Queen Elizabeth II

*by Captain Sean Marren, Second Captain,
The King's Company*

During the sombre days of National Mourning that followed the death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, The Queen's Company 1st Battalion Grenadier Guards was privileged to provide not only the Bearer Party for their late Company Commander but also the Escort for Her final journeys. Consisting of Officers and thirty-two rank and file, the Escort was responsible for guarding Her Late Majesty's coffin during both the march to Her Lying-in-State from Buckingham Palace to Westminster Hall, and the Windsor Funeral Procession.

Following a busy day of briefs, and after a hectic return to the UK from operations overseas for many, The Captain of The Queen's Company (as the sub-unit's field commander is known), Major Johnny Hathaway-White, formed up the Escort for the first time in the evening of Sunday 11 September and emphasised the historical significance of the nine days ahead, setting out his expectations. He stressed the close relationship the company had enjoyed with Her Late Majesty, firstly since her appointment as Colonel of the Regiment in 1942,



and more so since her accession to the throne in 1953 when she became the company's commander. He then ultimately reminded the team that there was only one standard expected to do Her Late Majesty justice – excellent.

The next morning the Escort were on the Wellington Barracks Drill Square for their first rehearsal. Under the meticulous eye of Garrison Sergeant Major Andrew 'Vern' Stokes, a funeral march pace of 75 paces per minute was relentlessly practised with the assistance of a metronome and the drum; slower than quick time but, awkwardly, faster than slow time. The Escort also rehearsed the 'Reverse Arms' drill movement, which they would be holding for more than 40 minutes on the following day's full-dress early morning rehearsal.

The procession of Her Late Majesty from Buckingham Palace to Westminster Hall to lie-in-state on Wednesday 14 September was the first significant ceremonial event of Op LONDON BRIDGE'S England phase. Commanded by The Second Captain of The Queen's Company, Captain Sean Marren, the two columns of the Escort formed-up at Wellington Barracks and marched to the Grand Entrance of Buckingham Palace to flank the funeral gun carriage of the King's Troop Royal Horse Artillery, drawn by a team of black horses. The Escort presented arms in a Royal Salute whilst the Bearer Party carried Her





Late Majesty's coffin from the Bow Room, carefully placing Her on the gun carriage. The Second Captain, having turned the Escort about, ordered the reverse arms before the procession stepped-off for Westminster Hall.

The procession saw the Escort guard the coffin down the Mall and across Horse Guards Parade, passing a wholly mute, solemn crowd, before cheers and celebration of Her Late Majesty's reign rang out down Whitehall; a moving affair. The Escort finally passed the tri-service Guard of Honour seeing within it the familiar sight of Nijmegen Company, the whole Guard commanded by their Company Commander. The procession turned into Westminster's New Palace Yard where, having then formed-up in front of the gun carriage, The Second Captain ordered a 'Present Arms' whilst the Bearer Party carefully handled the coffin and carried Her Majesty into Westminster Hall. Inside, The Captain and CSgt Middleton, the Company Pay Sergeant, were positioned with The Queen's Company Colour Royal Standard of the Regiment. During the service that followed, with Her Late Majesty's Coffin placed upon the catafalque, The Captain carefully flourished and laid the Colour at Her Majesty's feet, assisted by the Pay Sergeant – a special moment that would dominate the cover of The Times the following morning.

A brief period of respite followed before the Escort, now commanded by The Captain, were straight back to drilling, reconnaissance, and rehearsal for the Windsor Procession of the State Funeral. The final mass rehearsal prior to the State Funeral, an early morning rehearsal in Windsor,

saw the Escort conduct a bleary-eyed full run out of the 1.5-mile Procession Route at three in the morning. This provided the opportunity to mentally prepare for the long hold of reversed arms on the day of the funeral, and for The Second Captain to become well acquainted with carrying the famously unwieldy Queen's Company Colour. The only issue at this stage, however, was that the colour was still in Westminster Hall, where it would remain until the funeral day, and the practise colour was both smaller and lighter than its real counterpart!

The pace of life meant that Monday 19 September, the day of the State Funeral, came around much faster than anticipated. The Second Captain and the Pay Sergeant were up first that day and headed to Westminster Hall to recover The Queen's Company Colour. They then moved to Windsor, where they would link-up with the remainder of the Escort in the field kitchen at Victoria Barracks for a hearty breakfast augmented by Starburst sweets but critically, as is Grenadier custom; Mars Bars. This ensured energy levels were peaked for the long and critical effort to come. There followed a brief period of down time, final kit preparation, and a much-required window in which The Second Captain could better acquaint himself with the Queen's Company colour.

The Queen's Company Colour was presented by Her Late Majesty to Her Company in a private ceremony at Windsor Castle on 14 April 1953, and the heavily embroidered silk alone is nearly 7 feet square. It is only to be carried when the Regiment is in the presence of the Sovereign, so the State Funeral marked the final occasion at which it would present and lowered to Her. To ensure that The Second Captain was up to the task, The Captain and The Inkerman Company Commander, Major Hugo Cartwright, accompanied Captain Marren to the Victoria Barracks gym to practise the infamous lowering manoeuvre, which is unique to this particular over-sized colour. The twenty or so minutes afforded for practise were thus crucial to ensure that its last appearance in the presence of Her Late Majesty was immaculate.

Members of the Escort crowded around shared screens throughout Victoria Barracks to watch the solemn and spectacular execution of the funeral's London phase with a sense of increasing anxiety



On arrival at St George's Chapel, the Escort formed up on the grass on the North side of the West Steps, at a right-angle to the Guard of Honour found by the Inkerman Company, who were in a half-circle facing the chapel entrance. The Escort presented arms and the Colour was lowered for a final time as Her Majesty coffin was carried by the Bearer Party into the Chapel, for the committal.

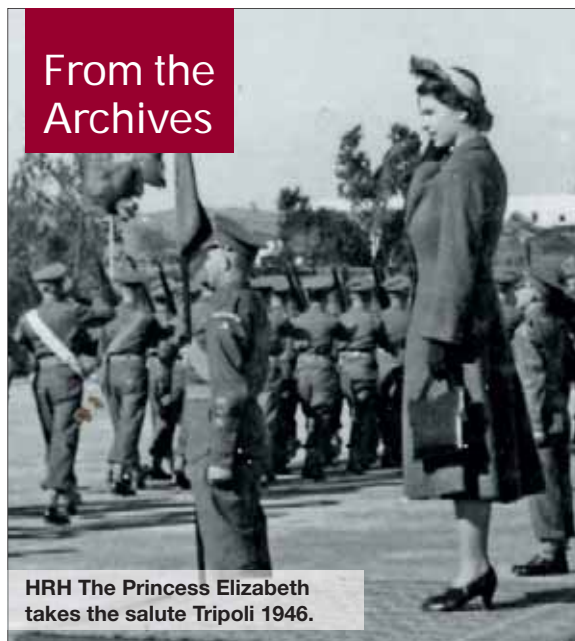
The conclusion of the State Funeral marked a poignant end to the sombre, incredibly busy, but proud period. A sense of emptiness pervaded the air

with every inch of the funeral's progress towards Windsor – it would soon be the turn of the Escort to once again take on responsibility for Her Majesty's person for Her final journey. Commanded by The Captain of the Queen's Company, with 2Lt Hal Wheatley as the Subaltern and CSgts Middleton and McCormack as the Senior Sergeants, the Escort set off for Shaw Farm Gate. During the funeral of a Sovereign, it is The Second Captain's privilege and duty to bear The Queen's Company Colour as the ensign, despite his seniority. Upon arrival, the two files of the Escort parted to make way for the pallbearers and the arrival of the State Hearse. After a long stand, the State Hearse finally came into view and The Captain readied the Escort before ordering the Royal Salute, with arms presented and the colour lowered in salute, to receive Her Majesty's hearse into the protective formation the Escort had formed. The Captain then turned the Escort about to face the direction of march, reversed arms, and awaited the Garrison Sergeant Major's booming 'Funeral Procession, Slow March'.

The Procession initially marched down Albert Road, before turning right on to The Long Walk, with The Queen's Company Colour positioned front and centre of the State Hearse, and the two files of the Escort flanking it. Huge crowds lined either side of the Long Walk, and whilst only a fraction of the billions of eyes watching across the world, the twenty-deep crowds provided all the motivation required to keep arms rigidly reversed, and for The Second Captain to keep the cumbersome colour in the carry for the hour-long march!

in Lille Barracks on our return, and all those that played a role over the previous ten days entered a period of profound reflection. For some members of The Queen's Company, who had returned from Iraq to take part in proceedings, it was straight back to Erbil to continue with Op SHADER. For those based in Lille Barracks, it was straight back to day-to-day routine. Despite this swift return to normality, however, one thing is for certain – the Sovereign's Company will never forget its longest-serving Company Commander.

From the Archives



HRH The Princess Elizabeth takes the salute Tripoli 1946.

The World on Their Shoulders – An account from Her Majesty's Bearer Party

by 2Lt Freddie Hobbs, *The King's Company*

When members of The Sovereign's Company landed in Gatwick Airport, few had fully grasped the enormity of the task ahead. The squat buildings peering out the morning mist were a stark contrast to the dusty expanse of Iraq we had become accustomed to. Each member of The (then) Queen's Company had always been aware of our solemn role in Op LONDON BRIDGE, but to know that we would be the ones to perform these quietly-planned duties was rather surreal. Her Late Majesty was our Company Commander; this role was our final duty to Her and we were the Grenadiers representing our Regiment in front of the whole the nation.

Whilst we were airborne other cogs began to turn. So once gathered in the UK we could immediately commence briefs, recces and training; while rest became a (much) lower priority. We started in the newly installed gym in Lille Barracks, Aldershot, using boxes, bedsheets, and Olympic bars to replicate the Catafalque, Royal Standard and Rollers respectively. Although rudimentary, this approach was essential for ensuring that the basics were understood and committed to memory early. We progressed to a replica Catafalque in Hyde Park Barracks and the Drill Square of Wellington Barracks for the

procession route between Buckingham Palace and Westminster Hall.

These run throughs culminated in three Early Morning Rehearsals (EMRs), the crucial preparation before the Lying-in-State Procession and the Funeral, Funeral Procession and Committal Service. Held before most residents of London or Windsor had stirred from their beds, these offered an opportunity to march the routes for real, highlight any frictions and ensure that details could be refined. Twice marching almost two miles at 0300 through empty central London in full Home Service Clothing to a melancholy and repetitive melody was a bizarre experience. Combined with bearskin-

obscured vision and the cyclical nature of your existence, in the darkness it was easy to slip into a dreamlike state, briefly forgetting the significance of what you were doing. That is, until a misplaced step, a cough or a bead of sweat running down your face jolted you out of it. The Windsor EMR was slightly less hallucinatory, though our tense route into the castle belied the infamous stairs that awaited us.

Continuous practices normalised both the locations we were in and the people we were alongside; the Lord Chamberlain, the Speaker of the House of Commons or the Archbishop

of Canterbury. Often it would only be after an interaction that you would be informed how important an individual might be. In such an environment it was immensely reassuring to have several experienced late Grenadiers in other ceremonial roles. Alongside the pallbearers, they



were a steady hand and a kind face to turn to. Our thanks are extended to them particularly, as well as all who did so much to make our lives more manageable.

Our thanks particularly also go to all members of the Royal Family we interacted with. They were immensely kind and accommodating, particularly before moving Her Late Majesty into Buckingham Palace the night before the Lying-In-State Procession. It was touching to get a sense of the family behind the events, and the difficulty in sharing such a private and emotional aspect of your life in such a public manner.

The Procession was the first occasion where we were on the world stage. It is hard to comprehend the concept of the scrutiny of 4 billion pairs of eyes, especially when it feels, in a rather surreal way, like they are watching your 'command appointment'. Our comfort was to trust in our collective preparation and personal presentation. This really sunk in as we exited Buckingham Palace's sheltered quadrangle onto the forecourt and we got our first glimpse at hundreds of thousands of people who had come out to pay their respects. Throughout the procession it was emotional to see how deeply so many had felt about their monarch, as well as truly realise the gravity of our duty in front of so many people saying goodbye.

In Westminster Hall we had a long stand the many Members of Parliament commenced the Lying-in-State procession. Whilst this was occurring the mission critical cap-orderlies, like any good Grenadier, seized the initiative and secured a private tour of the Speakers' House, by the Speaker himself. They revealed this on the transport back, prompting good-humoured congratulations.

The culmination of all our preparation was, of course, the Funeral, Procession and Committal Service; the most complex of our duties. There were many intricacies and nuances: the sailor-drawn gun carriage; a variety of stairs and corner; and the two distinct phases in London and Windsor. During brief periods of respite in side-rooms we mentally ticked off the moments of particular technicality, before gathering ourselves, looking to our next cue and preparing to march back into the view of a myriad of lenses. Key moments were checked off in sequence: the awaiting sailors; the 'about-

turn' to move out of Westminster Abbey; the long procession requiring intense concentration to keep time with a difficult rhythm; the careful move onto the hearse and our swift move up to Windsor where the chapel steps awaited us, intimately familiar from rehearsal yet still daunting. Each event came to pass, and soon enough we were sitting drinking tea and watching a live stream, trying to make sense of what we had just done.

Throughout all our experiences the thought of Her Majesty's seventy years of service and dedication helped us all to set aside the stress and pressure to focus on performing our individual roles. It was our immense privilege and honour to be entrusted to carry out and be part of the events. The ceremonies gave crucial closure to all Her subjects and admirers across the globe. We will be eternally grateful for our involvement, and they are experiences that will live with us all for the rest of our lives. However, with the events of those two weeks fresh in our memory, we immediately were looking onwards; many of us returning to Operations in Iraq immediately to re-join members of His Majesty's Company.



From the
Archives

HRH The Princess Elizabeth inspects
4th Tank Battalion Grenadier Guards.



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Regimental Adjutant's Report

by Major James Gatehouse

In Regimental Headquarters we started 2022 with a sense of growing optimism and excitement. With all its disruptions, the Coronavirus pandemic was behind us and our working patterns reverting to near normal. The forecast of events for the Regiment was busy, with plenty to look forward to and, a year later, I have picked out a few highlights.

In February, the early impact of the Integrated Review began to be felt, as the 1st Battalion left London District to join the 4th Light Brigade Combat Team, a formation in the Field Army. There was some concern about the number of bearskins that we would handover to the Micks, while at the same time holding back enough for Her Majesty's Review, but otherwise all was well. The Review was due to take place in the Quadrangle at Windsor Castle on 21 April, to celebrate the appointment of Her Majesty The Queen, then a young Princess, as our Colonel on Her 16th birthday in April 1942. All elements of the Regiment would gather there and a special Muster Roll had been commissioned to capture this unique moment of 80 years as a Grenadier. Sadly, as the day neared, Her Majesty felt unable to attend but graciously allowed us to continue without Her. It was a memorable day in Windsor, bathed in sunshine and the entire Regiment gathered for a historic photograph on the Long Walk, using the Castle as a backdrop. Also both Messes were photographed in front of the Equerry's Entrance, inside the Quadrangle.

In May, we started to absorb and integrate a company of the London Regiment, newly affiliated to the Household Division and hereafter known as Ypres Company, the name commemorating the fierce battles fought in Flanders during the Great War by both Grenadiers and the antecedent regiments of the Londons. In June, the Queen's Company deployed to Iraq on Op SHADER, the first rifle company to depart as part of this year-long commitment (which warrants an operational medal). Those remaining in London embarked on the hugely complex Platinum Jubilee weekend.

Importantly, the Queen's Birthday Parade had returned to Horse Guards, after an absence of two years in Windsor and Nijmegen Company provided Number Four Guard. I was riding on that Parade; the last time had been as Adjutant of the 1st Battalion in 1991 and I hadn't really been near a horse since then! Fortunately, on the day there were no incidents and Nijmegen Company looked immaculate. Later, as we marched past The Queen who was standing on the balcony of Buckingham Palace, overlooking the Procession, it felt to all like a very special, significant moment.



Mounting at Knightsbridge before the Queen's Birthday Parade.

Grenadiers were again at the heart of the concerts and other processions over that magical weekend, watched by a global audience of many millions. For those who qualified for the Platinum Jubilee Medal, by 5 or more years length of service, will never forget those hectic few days, whether they were on duty in the Capital or watching from further afield.

In early July, Grenadier Day returned to Aldershot after the enforced break. We had devoted much



The President and General Secretary of the Association with the Director of Music on Grenadier Day.



The unveiling of Grenadier Place in the old barracks at Caterham.

time and effort into ensuring that the day would be different from previous years and a great success, with lots of interesting and exciting events in the arena for families of all ages to enjoy. Fortunately, the weather was glorious. Later that month, on a duller, rather wet day in Northern France, we buried an unknown Grenadier killed on the Somme in 1916 with full military honours. It was a very poignant and solemn act of remembrance for all involved and the contrast was striking.

In early August, after a magnificent lunch with the Suffolk Branch, I returned to the barracks in Caterham again, after a break of 30 years, to unveil several road signs to prominent Guardsmen. It is a place alive with memories for many, it was the final home of the 2nd Battalion before being placed into Suspended Animation in 1994; so worth visiting if you ever served there. Much is unchanged.

The death of Her Majesty in September and subsequent events are well covered by many others in this Gazette. For Regimental Headquarters, we were exceptionally busy throughout the fortnight, issuing Home Service Clothing to almost every officer in the Regiment, coordinating our three vigils on the Lying-in-State (where more than 75 officers participated), equipping and briefing marshals and attending briefings and recesses too numerous now to remember in any detail. Time passed by in a blur and I am incredibly grateful to all in this small team for everything they achieved, all with a ready smile. For me it was an immense privilege to be on duty

for the final vigil in Westminster Hall and marching in the processions in London and Windsor. I have received many letters of praise for the parts played by the magnificent Bearer Party as well as many others. One recently received from a former, much respected Commanding Officer, sums them up. He wrote "The unsolicited testimonials I've heard from people over the last few months make it quite clear to me that the Regiment can seldom, if ever, have stood higher in public esteem than it does today". He is absolutely right and we can all be extremely proud of those serving in the Regiment today who were on duty then.

Additionally, we must never forget the trials and achievements of our forbears, so I draw your attention to some of our more distant and now rather overlooked Regimental anniversaries that occurred in 2022, including the Battle of Tel-el-Kebir (2nd Battalion in Egypt, 1882), the conclusion of the Boer War (2nd & 3rd Battalions in South Africa, 1899-1902) and the deployment of a Guards Brigade to Constantinople (2nd Battalion in 1922-23); these were times when young Grenadiers died while on duty overseas, often from fever and disease as much as from enemy action. The medal cases in the corridors of Regimental Headquarters are a testament and daily reminder of them.

Turning to more recent operational tours, 2022 marked the 10th anniversary of the 1st Battalion's deployment to Nahr-e Saraj North on Op HERRICK XVI in 2012. During 239 days in Afghanistan, our combined British, Danish and Afghan Battlegroup was engaged in 402 SAF contacts, suffered 117 IED strikes and found a further 241 IEDs. These statistics now seem extraordinary but there were also many casualties. 28 men were killed in action (including 5 Grenadiers) and 149 more were wounded, so last year was a very poignant and emotional one for many families. Furthermore, as Director of Welfare, I know that plenty more have since turned to us for help, struggling in particular with PTSD. Many of these Grenadiers are still now being supported by The Colonel's Fund, which fills a vital gap in the care otherwise available to them from the NHS. Even now, it is never too late to request our support.

Finally, there have been a few arrivals and departures. After 10 years, Major Andy Green retired

as Association General Secretary and Regimental Treasurer in February and we are all immensely grateful for his hard work and utter dedication to the Regiment over a very long, distinguished career. He is succeeded by Lieutenant Colonel James 'Stumpy' Keeley, recently retired but relishing the fresh challenge. Again, early in 2022, WO2 (RQMS) David Roper handed over his appointment to WO2 Dwaine Oliver, moving on promotion to become the Superintending Clerk in HQ Household Division. WO2 Oliver has been another powerhouse and was recently selected for promotion to WO1. He leaves

Regimental Headquarters in early 2023, returning to the 1st Battalion as Sergeant Major. I am truly grateful for the efforts of everyone else in my team; all are stars!



Farewell to Major Andrew Green at the AGM of the Association.



Director of Welfare's Report

For Year ending
31 December 2022

*by Major James Gatehouse,
Regimental Adjutant/Director of Welfare*

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 (Lieutenant Colonel James Keeley), the Association NCO (LSgt Davies) and the Regimental Casualty Officer (Mr Matt Ellmer). All are intimately involved in the implementation of welfare support, through either the Association or The Colonel's Fund.

The Regimental Association

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

1. Supplementary Benefits

In 2022, £4662.50 was distributed to 11 individuals who qualified for this allowance, at a rate of £430 per annum. Sadly one recipient died during the year.

2. Christmas Gifts

In 2022, Christmas gifts of £35 per head were

given to 166 worthy applicants, nominated by the Association branches. In addition, both our In-Pensioners at The Royal Hospital Chelsea received a Christmas Gift. The total of all gifts was £5880. The obituary for our third In-Pensioner, Ray Huggins, who sadly died in 2022 is in this Gazette.

3. Individual Welfare Grants

Net grants totaling £40,176 at the year-end were made to support 78 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 and all are scrutinized carefully. This figure was up substantially from the £23,368 paid out to support 47 individuals in 2021.

Last year the President of the Association asked his Executive Committee to review all the above, to ensure that they remain appropriate and fit for purpose. This is ongoing. It is also worth noting that the Association continues to attract legacies and donations and we are immensely grateful for each and every one.

The Colonel's Fund

This is reported on separately by Captain (ret'd) Charlie Bennett, Chairman of The Colonel's Fund.

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 in 2022

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

The fund was established in 2007 with HRH The Duke of Edinburgh as Patron. This followed the first (of what would be three) operational deployments to Afghanistan where in total the Regiment sustained 17 fatalities and many more Grenadiers were seriously wounded, some with life changing physical injuries. More have since sought our assistance, suffering from complex PTSD and other traumatic mental health issues.

The fund supports all Grenadiers whose wounds resulted from an operational or peacekeeping tour. Our Guardsmen served in numerous conflicts around the world, from Northern Ireland to Bosnia to Iraq and Afghanistan. No one is turned away and the Regimental Casualty Officer is employed full time by the fund. He supports our 80 wounded Grenadiers and 18 bereaved families.

Matt Ellmer, a former senior non-commissioned officer who served 28 years with the Regiment, serves as the Regimental Casualty Officer. Matt is their 'fixer', mentor, counsellor, and friend'.



Matt Elmer being presented the English Veterans Award by the late Lieutenant Colonel RM 'Skid' Dorney MBE.

Matt has forged links with other service charities, government agencies and the NHS so that we know where to turn when help is needed.

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

Chairman	Captain Charlie Bennett
Members	Colonel Euan Houstoun OBE Colonel Richard Aubrey-Fletcher Major The Lord Valentine Cecil Captain Alan Ogden
Secretary	Major James Gatehouse, Regimental Adjutant

The Steering Committee reviews the Fund's activities and grants on a regular basis, whilst day to day management is carried out by the Regimental Adjutant and Regimental Casualty Officer who work closely together. Grants are made for mobility aids, home adaptations, employment training, to supplement loss of earnings and for counselling.

Matt had a busy year, and his dedication is exemplary. During 2022 he has taken on three new Grenadier cases. He provides regular visits to 44 Guardsmen and families, and a further 22 on request. 14 are no longer requesting visits. In September he won the Community Award at The English Veterans Awards. This reflects that Matt

not only goes above and beyond for our Guardsmen, but also that he is active in the wider community. Although Matt's main effort is the support of our wounded, he finds time to fill the role of Chairman of the Thrapston and District Royal British Legion. He travels the country to give presentations to organisations and schools to promote awareness of the Royal British Legion as well as educating children on 'Remembrance' and what it means to the community and people who have been affected by the loss of a loved one. Furthermore, through his annual long-distance walks, he has raised over £60,000 for The Colonel's Fund. At a recent reception for The Yukon 700 donors, the wife of one of the canoeists summed it up perfectly. "Without The Colonel's Fund and Matt, we would not be here now".

The work of the Fund would not be possible without the extraordinary generosity of so many truly magnificent donors. Since the

start the Fund has raised £4,956,698 and made total welfare grants of £886,110. In 2022 the fund received donations of £65,382, plus legacies of £60,300. In addition, the Yukon 700 expedition, led by Lieutenant Colonel Guy Denison Smith, Major Jon Frith and Ben Stephens raised an outstanding £95,000, from which The Colonel's Fund received £55,896. We are humbled by these

wonderful donations, by the fund-raising activities by individuals and Branches, and by these legacies. The number of our veterans who need our support continues to grow. Your generosity is hugely beneficial and is directly channelled to provide the care required by this important part of our Regimental family.

Dear Charlie Bennett,

I am writing to say thank you to all involved within the Colonel's Fund. Time and again, through the help and support of the RCO, Matthew Ellmer, the Colonel's Fund have supported me financially.

This has been both humbling and comforting to know that despite having been medically discharged some nine years ago now, I still feel very much a part of the regiment and I hope that through my sporting achievements that I have gone some way to repaying that support and doing the regiment proud.

The recent support of £750 was unexpected and it was through the RCO when I was fundraising that he contacted me and offered the support of the Colonel's Fund.

To add some context to the fundraising, as of January of this year, I was called up to the England amputee football national team. Undoubtedly, one of my proudest achievements since losing my leg.

Unfortunately, at present, the England amputee football association is a registered charity as the sport develops and so it is currently reliant on the players and staff fundraising, until we reach a point where the Football Association can back us financially.

The fundraising goes towards covering the costs of our hotels for the training weekends, the hiring of the facilities at Reaseheath College in Nantwich, where all our training weekends and home fixtures take place, the costs of staff, food, flights to international fixtures and major tournaments and all the team's kit and equipment.

With myself, I took the approach that if I am to ask people to donate to such a cause, I should do something to earn it and so, earlier this month, I stepped into the boxing ring with another above knee amputee in what was the first bout of its kind in the UK.

I have loved the challenge that boxing has thrown at myself, through switching stances due to the prosthetic leg, the balance and stability issues, the lack of movement and power from my right arm following the gun shot to it when I was injured, and the fitness levels required.

I can proudly say that, after going the full three rounds and in front of so many former Grenadiers, who came along to support me, it was my hand raised by the referee, having won the fight on points.

The weekend prior to stepping in the ring, I also made my international debut for England in a win over Ghana. Coming on as a player for the England team for the final 15 minutes was a dream I have held since I was a 5-year-old boy!

I am currently in the provisional squad to go to the World Cup in Turkey, although I am also realistic in that to make the final squad will be difficult, given the talent we have, but regardless, I couldn't be prouder than to represent my country in the sport I have loved since I was a boy.

I hope that through all the sports I have experienced since losing my leg, that it can motivate other wounded Grenadiers, both now and in the future, to remain positive and to keep progressing.

Yours thankfully

Mark Smith

30 May 2022



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.

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

Beneficiary details

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

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Letters from the Commanding Officer

2022 – That Was The Year That Was

by *Lieutenant Colonel James Greaves*

A wiser, and more senior Grenadier than I once noted to me that the accident of timing, especially in command, is one of the many elements that can change the shape of the Battalion's programme of events; so it was that the second half of 2022 was determined by The Late Queen's funeral. It was an extraordinary time for all involved and much commentary has covered the event more eloquently than I can muster. Suffice it to say it was an incredible moment in my own life: to be in command of the Battalion at the time was a great honour and privilege. In capturing my thoughts here, I hope that my predecessors and all Grenadiers Past and Present, can consider their own thoughts and feelings about Op LONDON BRIDGE.

Other than covering Op LONDON BRIDGE, I

will also cast back through 2022 to offer a review of some of the other impactful moments; the rise and rise of the Browning Platoon providing the baseplate for Guardsmen to attend P Company, those Grenadiers putting themselves forward for the Army Special Operations Brigade (also known as Ranger Battalions) and Op ELECTUS, the selection pathway for UK Special Forces; Op SHADER Mission Specific Training as the Battalion assumed the responsibility of that operational deployment in June for 12 months; the visits of Admiral Sir Tim Fraser KCB ADC, the former Vice Chief of the Defence Staff, and Lieutenant General Sir Ralph Wooddisse KCB CBE MC; and the overall health of the Battalion, both in terms of numbers and its home station at Lille Barracks.

Having dropped the two eldest of my three sons for the first day of term, I was in the car returning to camp at lunchtime on 8 September 2022. Listening to the news, it struck me that events were moving quickly; I called the Senior Major to ask for a conference at 1400. At that meeting, it was increasingly clear that the Battalion was already thinking ahead. We knew what our processes were should the worse happen. We checked our recall plan for The Queen's Company from Iraq and that we had the relevant replacements prepared for immediate deployment. After the announcement



Visit of Admiral Sir Tim Fraser KCB ADC.

that evening, I spoke to James Shaw – the Battalion would be prepared to offer its complete support to London District (detached from 4 Light Infantry Brigade) for the duration of Op LONDON BRIDGE. And so began a flurry of events and activity. I could not have been prouder of the way the Battalion responded. No matter what the task or request, everyone rose to the occasion. From the Tailor's shop, whose work I cannot praise enough, to the Sergeant Major, the Regimental Quartermaster Sergeants, the Drill Sergeants, the Quartermaster's Platoon, Battalion Headquarters, and All Ranks; everyone knew what needed to be done and the pace at which it must be completed. Seldom did I hear a compliant or purge; only total support and a level of focus and application that comes with such a unifying event. The 19 September passed into history; Her Majesty's Grenadiers played a central role in bearing Her Majesty to Her final resting place. Only after the event did one pause to reflect the span of activity played by Grenadiers. Those officers who travelled from far and wide to take their post during the Lying in State and on the day itself, with Grenadiers from General Sir Roly Walker KCB DSO, the Regimental Lieutenant Colonel, Colonel Piers Ashfield DSO MBE, the Brigade Major and others too numerous to mention. There is no doubt that the Regiment rose to the occasion and played its role with the solemn dignity befitting our shared history with the Royal Family.

The Battalion, under Future Soldier, which seeks to broaden the opportunities available to All Ranks, has grasped a number of these options with both hands. It is fascinating to watch the excitement and momentum build when young soldiers chose a new path, especially if it is one less well trodden and that comes with some serious physical and mental exertion. The Browning Platoon has been well run and managed by Major Hugo Cartwright. With P Company jumps and a stint at 16 Brigade under his belt, he knows exactly what is expected of those P Company aspirants. With a carefully moderated training programme and lots of encouragement and enthusiasm to get through the difficult times, the Grenadiers have been very successful in getting through the hardships posed by the P Company staff. Young officers have enjoyed success with three passing in 2022 and three Other Ranks

also crossing the threshold. By mid-2023, there will be a Grenadier Platoon Commander and five Guardsmen in the Guards Parachute Platoon in 3 PARA. Similarly, there has been interest in the Pathfinder Platoon - a junior non-commissioned officer unfortunately had to withdraw following an injury in late 2022, and a junior Captain is attending its Selection cadre in early 2023.

The Army Special Operations Brigade is growing in prominence. Future Soldier has tied the Foot Guards and Parachute Regiments to 2 Ranger to help fill its ranks with high quality officers and Other Ranks. Six Grenadiers have passed the aptitude test and three have taken up appointments in that organisation. With a focus on filling the training and employment space between conventional and Special Forces, their remit is broad. There is little doubt that on posting, there will be some fascinating tasks available. For those willing to go a little further, Op ELECTUS still offers the ultimate challenge to those willing to give it a go. With the first non-commissioned officer badged in nearly two decades, the floodgates have opened. Two more non-commissioned officers have applied for early 2023 Selection. Officers continue to lead the way, with two Captains badging into 22 SAS in 2022. More seek to attempt selection in 2023.

The Battalion was extremely fortunate to be offered the opportunity to fill Op SHADER 15 and 16, beginning in June 2022 and ending in Jun 2023. These two six-month deployments are centred on a Company group based in Erbil, with a smattering of G1-9 personnel across the rest of the Middle East Combined Joint Operational Area which includes Kuwait, Jordan, Baghdad and Cyprus. As part of the collective training package, the Battalion deployed to Thetford on two separate Mission Rehearsal Exercises, overseen by the Mission Readiness Training Cell (MRTC). Our preparation was thorough on both occasions; with the King's Company taking the first rotation, supported by Number Two Company, and the second rotation led by the Inkerman Company, supported by Support Company. The MRTC staff were hugely impressed with all elements of the pre-deployment process; so much so that the Battalion was praised for being the best in the previous three years for its junior leadership, command and control and willingness

to engage positively with the MRTC staff and learn new operational tactics rapidly. As one of the few remaining operational deployments for a Light Role Infantry Battalion, our message was simple; be relentlessly professional when deployed and we will do all that we can to get as many people through the operational theatre as we can.

The Battalion hosted Commander Field Army, Lieutenant General Sir Ralph Wooddisse in late summer 2022. During his visit he was able to chat to both the Officers' and Sergeants' Messes and was compelling on how the Battalion was held in high regard following our move from London District in February 2022 to 4 Light Infantry Brigade. He commented on the multifaceted nature of threats facing the UK and the importance of well-trained Light Role Infantry Battalions. On 20 October, the Officers' Mess hosted Admiral Sir Tim Fraser for a fireside discussion on leadership and on the global landscape of world events and how the UK might best position itself. It was a fascinating talk; we were truly fortunate to host a recently retired VCDS who had commanded at every level to three-star, including an aircraft carrier. His basic contention on leadership – remain humble, don't become complacent and master the management of one's time.

Lille Barracks, due in most part to Major Ty Bearder's efforts, has received long overdue infrastructure investment. The new fence surrounding camp is a much-needed upgrade and a major set of works. The sentry box on the front gate remains a work in progress, and it is likely in the next few years the entrance point for both pedestrians and vehicles will receive a full upgrade too. A brand-new gym has also been built that can house a full Company conducting PT. This fantastic upgrade allows us to change the current gym into a dual-purpose facility housing both rehab and boxing equipment. The gym was formally opened by the Major General on Grenadier Day. On the same day, Major General James Bowder unveiled Prince Philip Way, the main road running through camp. The Officers' Mess, following a lick of paint and an update of paintings, prints and photographs from Regimental Headquarters now feels like a home; our thanks to James Gatehouse who spent many hours advising, and subsequently hanging

said pictures. Ty has also upgraded the inside of the main cookhouse and done sterling work with the contractors and Master Cook to improve the food and facilities. Specifically, Gdsm can book their meals in advance on their phones and either collect or eat in, a real win. With further purchases of BBQs and outdoor seating tables for each of the blocks, Gdsm can cook for themselves in the summer and enjoy relaxing afternoons when the programme allows.

Happily, the Regiment remains very well recruited. With our very public facing role keeping us in the press, the recruiting hopper and training pathway keeps us going in the right direction. Combined to Grenadiers being well represented at the Infantry Battle School, Brecon, the Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst and other training establishments across the country means that our diaspora is well balanced and shows the regard in which Grenadiers are held across the Field Army and training arena.

I can't list all the successes that our team have had, but some are worthy of mention. The Sergeant Major received his Meritorious Service Medal from CGS, General Sir Patrick Sanders KCB, CBE, DSO, ADC at Sandhurst and LSgt Booth won the Cutler's Sword for being the best Drummer in the



The Sergeant Major receiving his Meritorious Service Medal from CGS, General Sir Patrick Sanders.

British Army. Other notable successes were three high level commendations. Gdsm Gilbert was the recipient of a CGS commendation following his actions at a Road Traffic Incident, and Captains Jonny Silver and Tris Reames received three-star commendations for their work as Operations Officer and Officer Commanding Mortar Platoon respectively.

2022 was a year that will be rightly remembered for Her Majesty's funeral, but from a Battalion

perspective it was also a year that covered a multitude of tasks, including a return to a full set of Regimental events and an operational deployment. It was with a heavy heart that I handed the mantle of command to Lieutenant Colonel Gez Johnston, whom I wish every success for a demanding 2023, including the Coronation and a return to Kenya to be the exercising Battlegroup prior to assuming a period of heightened Readiness in early 2024.

The Year Ahead

by *Lieutenant Colonel Gerald Johnston*

The Battalion finished 2022 in good order, a position, in no small part, down to the efforts of my predecessor James Greaves to whom I am incredibly grateful for an excellent handover and, importantly, for setting our people up for success moving forward. As we step into this New Year, three main focal points stand out for the Battalion for 2023: the completion and handover of Op SHADER; the delivery of three significant high profile state ceremonial events and the validation of the Battalion in Kenya on Ex HAKA STORM, ensuring we are demonstrably credible for alignment to high readiness in 2024. Underpinning all of this and pivotal to our continued success are our Guardsmen who have a critical role to play in each of these three endeavours.

Since taking command in mid-December The King's Company have been replaced in Iraq by the Inkerman Company under the command of Major Hugo Cartwright. They will lead operational output in Erbil until April when Support Company takes the helm under Major Rufus Harding. Alongside operational taskings both subunits will also set the conditions for the relief in place with 1st Battalion, The Yorkshire Regiment, who take over from us in June. More broadly whilst much of the remainder enjoyed some hard-earned leave, elements of the Battalion have been deployed to stand in for ambulance drivers during the strike windows over the Christmas period and others have taken part in the annual trip to the Cresta Run with many

more gaining new qualifications on the Battalion Ski Trip to Val Thorens in late January.

The Battalion was delighted by the announcement that Her Majesty The Queen Consort has become our new Colonel. Her recent visit at Lille Barracks on 31 January was incredibly special, particularly for a select number of the Battalion to whom she presented Long Service and Good Conduct medals and the Operational Service Medals for Op SHADER. We very much look forward to building on this new relationship.

On their return from Post Operational Tour Leave we were very lucky to have Lady Mary Fagan visit to present the King's Company along with elements of Number Two Company with their Operational Service Medals for Op SHADER. Her husband, Captain Christopher Fagan, was also in attendance to present the Fagan Award to two outstanding leaders in sports within the Battalion; LSgt Seer-Boylan for developing the Battalion's Brazilian Jiu Jitsu team and LSgt Dunphy for his leadership of the football team which currently dominates the local league.

Looking ahead the Battalion has involvement in three major State Ceremonial events The first is the Presentation of the new King's Company Colour, The Royal Standard of the Regiment which takes place on 27 April at Buckingham Palace alongside the presentation of colours to the Life Guards, the Royal Navy and the Royal Air Force. The second event is the Coronation of His Majesty the King on 6 May with Grenadiers both on parade and in support of this historical occasion. The third event is the inaugural King's Birthday Parade on 10 June with Grenadiers from the 1st Battalion providing

detachments for Street Lining. Our involvement in all three events is incredibly exciting and a wonderful opportunity for all those involved. Critically it is important for the Foot Guards to continue to demonstrate our value both on parade at major national events but also in the profession of arms.

Concurrent to the continued delivery of Operations and State Ceremonial activity the Battalion will focus on the preparation for Ex HAKA STORM (replaces the ASKARI STORM Series) our validation exercise that runs throughout October and November in Kenya later this year. This includes the deployment of Number Two Company in March to reinforce the 1st Battalion Coldstream Guards on Ex ASKARI STORM where they too are being validated for readiness in 2024. The Battalion first comes together as a collective in June once Op SHADER is completed and on the eve of the first major event of our validation pathway with our Command Post Exercise which will test the Battlegroup Headquarters before we deploy

to Kenya under the watchful eye of the Collective Training Group.

We will deploy as a Battlegroup to Kenya in late September. The exercise will test our people physically and mentally against an enemy that will reflect, as close to as possible, the current threat. Given all that we have seen coming out of Ukraine, there is much to take in to prepare and we are all looking forward to the challenge. There will of course be extracurricular activities beyond the hard work of the exercise itself with opportunities at the end for our people to get some Adventurous Training in and hopefully a Battlefield Study headed up by the Captain.

An exciting and diverse year full of challenge and adventure lies ahead which I know our Grenadiers will match with professionalism, tenacity, determination, and style. However, bearing in mind Robbie Burn's line that 'the best laid plans of mice and men often go awry', my report for 2023 may bear little resemblance to this forecast!



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The King's Company

by Major Johnny Hathaway-White,
The Captain

2022 was a landmark year for The King's Company. Busy and extremely varied, the past 12 months have seen the Company's responsibilities range from Public Duties in London to operations in the Middle East and, of course, its solemn duties to Her Late Majesty in September's Op LONDON BRIDGE.

With a deployment to Iraq on the horizon, 2022 saw The Queen's Company dovetailing Public Duties with rigorous Operation Shader-focused pre-deployment training. The programming and logistics of constant and swift changes from green to red and back to green, which whilst troublesome for the Second Captain's and Company Sergeant Major's spreadsheets, was prescient of the challenge to come in September. Amongst this busy schedule, however, the Company still found some time to mount a ski expedition to Val Thorens where a large number of first-time skiers took to the slopes to test their courage.

Relief from the Public Duties cycle came in March when 1st Battalion Grenadier Guards resubordinated from London District to 4th Light



Isotonic drinks after a physically challenging day on the slopes of Val Thorens.

Brigade Combat Team, allowing the Company to devote all its attention to final preparations for Iraq. An intensive period of training under the careful eyes of the Mission Ready Training Centre ensued, who oversaw All Ranks Briefs, platoon level build-up and the training pathway's culmination; a large-scale company Mission Rehearsal Exercise in Stanford Training Area. Bodney Camp in Thetford simulated the Company's operational destination, Erbil Airbase, with patrols launched into the increasingly unstable and high-threat Norfolk countryside. The weather was wet and cruel at the start of the exercise, and worthy of sun-cream and jungle hats by the end which was exactly the variety of conditions the Company would come to experience over its time Iraq. Having validated as ready to deploy, the Company settled into final preparations. The bespoke nature of the Company role in Iraq required a large number of specialist qualifications; driving Civilian Armoured Vehicles, the use of novel communications systems, thorough medical training, cultural awareness, languages and more. Competence and confidence with the 9mm pistol were a critical focus, a weapon unfamiliar to most, as in the Company's protective role and confined environments it was likely that the pistol would become an individual's go-to tool. All of these final qualifications were achieved, under time pressure, for the Company to be well-set for pre-tour leave.

In June The Queen's Company deployed to Erbil, capital of the Kurdish Region of Iraq. Known in theatre as the United Kingdom Mobility Company, the Company protected and enabled the multi-national coalition's military advisors in their improvement of Iraq's Security Forces, the region's stability, and in securing Daesh's lasting defeat. The UKMC is the largest single element in the UK's contribution to the US-led coalition in Operation Inherent Resolve. Mounted in Civilian Armoured Vehicles (armoured Toyota Land Cruisers which reduce the military signature of patrols), the Company moved across Kurdistan's varied terrain where the threats, whilst well-managed, were ever present. On a

daily basis the Company mounted patrols from its camp within the wider Erbil Airbase, moving and protecting the advisors in a multitude of locations. Tasks to Peshmerga (Kurdish Armed Forces) bases on the Syrian border, government ministry buildings in Erbil, deep to the South of Kurdistan to the cities of Halabja and Sulaymaniyah, and everywhere in between were mounted regularly. Working at increased range, and often with limited mutual support, a huge amount of independence was afforded to junior commanders. Lance Corporal vehicle commanders were often required not only to execute their military duties, but to simultaneously make small talk with one and two-starred officers in their rear seats. The Company regularly received notes and calls of thanks from those it had protected, commenting on the confidence and charm of the soldiers they had met.



Driving conditions were either very good (as here) or very, very bad when the tarmac ran out.

Routine means a great deal to a soldier and the Company Sergeant Major's passion for battle rhythm saw company collective PT conducted at dawn every Monday. Known as 'Best Effort Monday', the company often raised eyebrows with Erbil Airport's morning shift workers who, whilst on their commute, would have to give way to troops in fighting order conducting 2, 3 and 5-mile best efforts and inter-platoon races. Beyond PT, there were sports and games with the Company fielding a UK football team in an international military 5-a-side tournament. A number of extremely talented Ping-Pong players emerged (strictly referred to as Wiff-Waff by the Officers' Mess), and thorough demonstrations of the Sergeants' Mess



The company maintained a high level of fitness in the cool of dawn. Here 2nd Lieutenant Freddie Hobbs, spotting the camera down the road, just manages to catch up with his multiple in time for the snap.

collectively misspent youths at the darts board.

Whilst it is no news that the Iraq tours of today are not nearly as kinetic as the Operation Telic or Herrick tours of recent times, the threat to life was real. The stability of the region remains fragile. Not only was there the threat posed by the lingering and, whilst degraded and dispersed, still capable and motivated remnants of Daesh, but the landscape was often complicated further by the internal wranglings of the competing Kurdish government parties (and their aligned police and militaries), and frictions between the Kurdish Region of Iraq and Iraq's Federal Government. Beyond this, the external influences of an increasingly militant Iran, which launched multiple missile-strikes into Kurdistan over the tour, and the Turkish Armed Forces' occupation of Northern Kurdistan in their operations against militant elements added further complexity. In-depth understanding of all of these factors was key to planning, and to fine-tuning members of the Company's instincts or 'sixth sense' to detect and anticipate a degrading situation so that they could keep the mentors in their charge, and themselves, safe.

Major James Taylor was posted to Northwood in June 2022, temporarily handing care of the UK Mobility Company (but *not*, it must be noted, the Queen's Company) to Maj Tom Hendriksen who covered a period in theatre during which Major Johnny Hathaway-White (as The Captain

designate) completed the individual pre-deployment training package. It was in August that Major Hathaway-White arrived in theatre to assume executive command as The Captain. No sooner was the hand-over complete, but Huw Edwards informed those deployed, via BBC news, of the passing of our Company Commander; Her Late Majesty. On receiving this sad news on the evening of Thursday 8th September, the Company Op LONDON BRIDGE recovery plan was enacted which saw key personnel return swiftly from Iraq to fulfil the Company's primary purpose; personal service to the sovereign. Though reconnaissance and rehearsals had commenced in London within 36 hours of the news being announced, the return was 'a close-run thing'. Securing flights in the middle of the night, whilst deployed in Iraq, and with very few of those who authorise such expense at their desks at such a time proved stressful. The Company hierarchy was told that should the Major General fail to see, in person, physical evidence of the Company's personnel having returned from Iraq by Saturday lunch-time, then he would make the decision to stand-up reserve bearer parties from elsewhere and alter the company's funeral role, deeming it too late to prepare. The Brigade Major unceremoniously thrust The Captain into one of the Major General's meetings in Wellington Barracks (by this stage a hive of activity) on the Saturday morning declaring "The Queen's Company, they're back, Sir!". This was 15 minutes before the General's decision point cut-off!

Written on extensively elsewhere in this Gazette



The Escort protects Her Late Majesty on Her final journey, by this stage approximately 48 minutes into a 42 minute march and still a way to go.

and other publications, the duties of the Queen's Company during Op LONDON BRIDGE are well documented. The bearer party, led by 2nd Lieutenant Freddie Hobbs and WO2 (CSM) Dean Jones, became famous over-night for their immaculate delivery and composure throughout. The Escorts to Her Late Majesty in London (commanded by The Second Captain, Capt Sean Marren) and Windsor (commanded by The Captain), with 2nd Lieutenant Hal Wheatley present in both Escorts, required rehearsal of the awkward 'funeral pace' and long periods with arms reversed. Whilst The Captain, supported by the Pay Sergeant (CSgt Ben Middleton) laid the Queen's Company Colour Royal Standard of the Regiment on Her Late Majesty's catafalque, it is the Second Captain who plays ensign in the final funeral procession. Capt Marren had the deeply uncomfortable and enormously physical challenge of holding the famously unwieldy and phenomenally heavy Queen's Company Colour in 'the carry' for over 50 minutes before being required to flourish it in a final salute at St George's Chapel steps. A huge, and deeply solemn, privilege for all who had the honour of being involved.

Much as the Company's personnel returned to the UK swiftly for the start of the funeral preparations, the return to theatre was similarly brisk. Again, within 48 hours the Company's funeral personnel were waking up in Iraq, in the dusty bed spaces they had left just two weeks earlier. An extraordinary sensation and indicative, perhaps, of being 'twice the man'. The Second Captain had been scheduled to return to the UK during the funeral period, and Lieutenant Hugo Crawford had taken the reins of UKMC Second-in-Command out in Erbil.

It was in the latter part of the tour that the company was tasked with more challenging missions, at greater range and increased threat profile. Whilst the Company was one of five similar mobility and protection capabilities (others provided by multinational partners), the Queen's Company's UKMC was deemed the most able and capable by the coalition hierarchy. This saw the Company mount the first company-scale operations



At the gates of an IDP camp. LSgt Parker recruits the tallest IDP he could find whilst LCpl Walker (REME, battalion LAD) shares his phone.

conducted by UK forces in recent memory and escort advisors into more challenging and volatile environments, notably into Internally Displaced Person camps. Here, with over 25,000 occupants, the Company secured safe spaces and escorted

advisors and mentors as they sought to understand Kurdistan's burgeoning refugee issue. Monitoring crowd dynamics, and the known presence of Daesh influence and fighters within these often poorly secured labyrinthine plastic cities, the experience in these environments was a grounding one which brought home the long-term human impact of the region's conflicts over the last decade. It was during this period, in November, that we received formal notification of His Majesty's decree that the Company be redesignated 'King's'. The Company handed over the role in Erbil to the Inkerman Company in mid-December, returning just in time for Christmas.

2022 proved to be an extraordinary year in so many respects; one that will for many reasons, not least the funeral ceremonial, be remembered forever. The King's Company now looks forward to continued service under its new Company Commander and all that 2023 has to bring.

From the Archives



Corps of Drums 1912.



No 2 Company

by Major Tom Hendriksen

2022 delivered the full package for Guardsmen in Number Two Company, starting the year on Queen's and Windsor Guards, then focussing on pre-deployment training for operations, including live fire tactical training and essential Battle Craft Syllabus (BCS), departure from LONDIST and re-subordination to 4 Infantry Brigade, Adventurous Training in the French Alps, more PDT, Mission Rehearsal Training, deployment on Op SHADER, Short Term training Teams to Africa, The Platinum Jubilee, support to the Commonwealth Games on Op UNITY, support to Cadet Summer Camps, Company 'Air Soft' day, provision of the British Army Training Unit Kenya (BATUK) Force Protection Platoon, hosting Cadet Forces in Lille Barracks and the Funeral of Her Majesty - all before the leaves turned golden.

The Company put in a very strong showing on the Final Test Exercise and Mission Rehearsal Exercise in Thetford as we prepared for Op SHADER alongside The (then) Queen's Company. The weather was against us from the start, but all ranks of the Company performed exceptionally well, demonstrating a learning culture throughout and taking in all of the Mission Readiness Training Command's (MRTC) top tips and direction. On completion of the FTX and MRX, mission-ready and deployable, the Company took over as the 'At Readiness' Sub-unit, prepared to surge forward to Baghdad and/or Erbil.

Initially bolstering The Queen's Company on their deployment, the Company had taken over the deployed critical mass by late August/early September and provided the majority of troops deployed in the Op SHADER area of operations working to either the Queen's Company HQ or elements of the Battalion HQ in Kuwait. By the end of the year, almost 70% of the Company was deployed in a variety of roles, across four countries (Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait and Cyprus). Indeed, during Op BRIDGE, the Company Headquarters

conducted a two-week long relief in place to allow the Queen's Company to fulfil their historic role at Her Majesty's funeral.

While not deployed in the latter half of the year, the Company deployed 40 troops to Kenya to provide the BATUK FP Platoon, under the command of Lieutenant Matt Cullen RN and Sgt Jake Williams. The role focussed on securing BATUK's camp, but the platoon took the opportunity to practice low level skills and drills, improve existing tactics, techniques, and procedures and conduct an Urban Operations training package. When time allowed, the platoon took full advantage of the Adventurous Training package to explore the local area. The platoon returned to Lille Barracks with fulsome praise from HQ BATUK for handing over the role in better shape than they found it and embracing every opportunity that the deployment offered.

The later months of the year were focussed on those personnel not deployed on Op SHADER, conducting low level training prior to the Company deploying on Ex ASKARI STORM as backfill for the Coldstream Guards in Spring 2022, whilst 2nd Lieutenant Will Coleridge led a composite Battalion team, including Gdsm Dewey, to a creditable Silver Medal in the Cambrian Patrol, despite their preparation being heavily disrupted by Op BRIDGE.

This year saw Major Tom Hendriksen hand over the Company to Major James Hoy LANCS and CSgt Moffatt hand over the stores to CSgt Thorne. There was a veritable carousel of subalterns, with the departure of Lieutenants Hodson and Fisher to Nijmegen and then Support Company, the arrival and departure of Lieutenant Cullen RM and 2nd Lieutenant Cairns, and the arrivals of 2nd Lieutenant Coleridge, 2nd Lieutenant Denison-Smith and Lieutenant Marsh RM at various stages. Captain Fred Benyon COLDM GDS made a brief, but weighty, appearance as Company Second in Command, the ninth incumbent in the past eighteen months. (*Stop whinging. Adjt.*)



Support Company

by Major Rufus Harding

The last twelve months have seen Support Company participate in both training and operations overseas, in addition to conducting arduous training at home and participating in the funeral of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. As always, it has proven to be a busy and diverse year which I am sure will stand out in memory for members of the Company in the future.

The year got off to a fantastic start in March when the Company had the great fortune to deploy to Thailand on Ex PANTHER GOLD to train with the Royal Thai Army in challenging jungle conditions. While Ex PANTHER GOLD is a joint exercise that has had numerous iterations in the past, this was the first time a Grenadier company had the opportunity to participate. Given the context of COVID-19 at the time, the road to deployment was an uncertain and frequently changing prospect. However, in the end efforts in planning bore fruit and following a long arrival quarantine the exercise



Guardsmen from Support Company carry out jungle training in Thailand on Ex PANTHER GOLD.

was a fantastic experience on multiple fronts. First, it gave the Battalion's Jungle Warfare Instructors (JWIs), led by Lieutenant Fisher and Sgt Browning, an opportunity to construct a joint jungle exercise in a totally new environment – a challenge which they relished. Secondly, it gave other members of the company with less experience of operating in the jungle, an opportunity to learn the basics and put them into practice. Thirdly, it presented an unusual opportunity to collaborate and learn from an overseas partner who the majority had not worked with in the past. And finally, there was the chance to experience Thai culture in Bangkok, which included a tour of the Royal Palaces and a cruise on the Chao Phraya River to take in the sites. Needless to say, such opportunities made great contributions to building teamwork and lasting *esprit de corps*.

By the summer of 2022, with all ranks returned from Thailand, the Company's focus switched back to its conventional soldiering skills with a move to Brecon for all platoons to complete cadres for a new intake of Guardsmen. Platoon Headquarters did a fantastic job of organising challenging training for their soldiers, which towards the end of the exercise included the integration of the Inkerman Company and a platoon from Nijmegen Company. While the exercise did coincide with the extraordinary heat of July 2022 (40+ degrees in Brecon!), thanks to the determination of Captain Reames and a very early morning start, the Company was able to complete a 21km Fan Dance around Pen Y Fan on a glorious mid-summer morning. Thanks to some excellent junior leadership all members of the Company completed it successfully and without incident. Completion of cadres saw the Company return to Lille Barracks prior to some well earned summer leave.

In September our return from leave was marked by the sad death of Her Majesty The Queen. Ranges planned as part of Op SHADER pre-deployment training (PDT) were put on hold with all members diverting their attention towards preparation for the funeral proceedings with purpose. The Company's contribution was varied, with the Company Commander and Company Sergeant Major leading a Grenadier detachment to march alongside other British and Commonwealth contingents in the



The Mortar Platoon at the top of Pen y Fan on Ex FAN DANCE.

procession from Parliament Square to Hyde Park Corner. Elsewhere, significant elements formed a large part of the Escort as well as the Guard of Honour at Windsor Castle, to which the Corps of Drums under Drum Major Rodda provided musical accompaniment. The events marked an incredibly busy period, but one that all members of the Company were honoured to be involved in. The very next day, our focus switched again, with a return to Brecon to catch up with missed live fire ranges for PDT.

In addition to training at home and overseas the Company has also maintained an operational



Sniper Platoon live firing during summer cadres in Brecon.

focus throughout 2022 and will continue to do so in 2023. First and foremost, this has contributed towards the Battalion's twelve-month commitment to Op SHADER. Throughout the year members of the Company have deployed in support of the King's Company and Inkerman Company rotations to the UK Mobility Company in Erbil. In addition, members have deployed to Cyprus, Kuwait and Baghdad in

supporting roles; in the case of the latter working within the NATO Mission Iraq Headquarters.

From January 2023 the Company will maintain a readiness capacity to deploy elements to Iraq should the requirement arise. Later in the year the Company is due to deploy to Erbil to take over from the Inkerman Company for the Battalion's final rotation as the UK Mobility Company from April to June. Because of this commitment, all members of the Company completed PDT and deployed with the Inkerman Company in November to conduct the Mission Ready Exercise (MRX) in Thetford. As well as preparing us for Op SHADER the MRX was also an excellent opportunity to conduct broad training, under the supervision and guidance of dedicated observer mentors. In particular, the delivery of quality and realistic medical training led to considerable improvements throughout the exercise. In addition, junior commanders were given the freedom to plan and deliver orders for vehicle patrols. Many of the commanders were recently promoted LCpls, and it was very rewarding to watch their confidence build over the course of the exercise.

In addition to commitments to Op SHADER, members of the Company deployed as individuals to other theatres around the world. Of note, CSgt Truman deployed to Lebanon under Op REDEFY in May/June to deliver reconnaissance focussed



Team Commander brief during the Op SHADER Mission Ready Exercise in Thetford.

training to the Lebanese Armed Forces. In addition, in Nov/Dec LCpl Molinari deployed to Chad on a Short Term Training Team (STTT) as a French

interpreter. The deployment, which came under the Multinational Joint Task Force in Ndjamena, supported the delivery UK-sponsored combat medic training courses.

It is with great anticipation that the Company looks ahead to 2023. The deployment to Erbil in April will be a major highlight in the first half of the year, concurrently to which we will also be preparing for the Battalion's deployment to Kenya on Ex HARAKA STORM in the autumn. Being the first deployment to Kenya as the exercising Battlegroup since 2016, the exercise presents a major opportunity for the Company to demonstrate its capability and will give purpose and focus to our preparatory training throughout the year. With the benefit of excellent training in Kenya the Company should look forward to finishing the year in a healthy and positive state for whatever challenges come our way.



The Inkerman Company

by Major Hugo Cartwright

Sitting in the mountains of Kurdistan at the heart of what was once the Assyrian Empire lies a city with an ancient citadel, a citadel as old, if not older, than our civilization. That city is Erbil, and on its outskirts, in the old international airport, is a NATO airbase. Above one of the myriad camps in a maze of concrete blast walls flutters a battle flag with an oak tree and the head of a King. And overwatched by that flag are the men and women of the Inkerman Company group for whom this little outpost is home and whose daily business is to move mentors from NATO around the Kurdish Region of Iraq (KRI). The mentors are here to monitor and aid the maturing Kurdish Peshmerga as they establish permanent structures capable of suppressing the resurgence of Daesh for the foreseeable future.

The route to Erbil forms the central storyline of the Inkerman Company's year, a year which has been punctuated by some significant events that go

to the heart of what it means to be a 'Rib', what it means to be a Grenadier and what it means to be British. It has also been decorated by a series of personal triumphs and tribulations for members of the Company as they have become fathers for the first, or second time, as they have promoted and as they have completed their own personal challenges. Finally, it has been a year in which the wider Inkerman community has provided huge support both moral and financial – something which has been deeply humbling.

As we emerged from the depths of Christmas duties 2021 and into the frosty start of 2022, the Inkerman Company's role was to support the Battalion prepare the Queen's Company and Number 2 Company for operations in Iraq and provide the freedom (and manpower) for Support Company to deploy on exercise to Thailand. It was a hardy and illustrious band of men who held the line – manning relentless guards, both in Lille Barracks and in the Royal Palaces to allow others the freedom to train. We were not fully reassembled until a sunny day in Windsor where we gathered as a regiment for a photograph commemorating the 80th Anniversary of our relationship with Her Late Majesty The Queen. Her absence that day was perhaps an early indication of what was to come.



Winners of the Battalion Boxing Competition.

It was also our last serious outing with Company Sergeant Major Thomas, who left us to assume a Regimental Quartermaster Sergeant Post in the Oman (an article to be found in this issue).

With our new Company Sergeant Major, WO2 Hudson, firmly installed, it was not long before our pre-deployment training began, and at breakneck speed. Deployment at the end of November, a whack of Summer leave and a series of formal assessment exercises filled our calendar with bold swathes of colour seemingly removing any spare moment. It was only through what amounted to magical efforts by the Second-in-Command and Senior Non-Commissioned Officers that the various Platform 9 $\frac{3}{4}$ opportunities were found.

Our march to Boscobel is covered separately, but it is worth noting that it formed a centrepiece both in time and in Company activity for the year. It coincided with the launch of our Interest Room, complete with Company mural, and it set us morally and conceptually on the path toward operations. The oak tree we were given on the culmination of the march is now planted at Brookwood Military Cemetery, at the head of the Royal Hospital Chelsea Plot and overlooking the grave of a Grenadier who had served from the Boer War to the end of the Great War and served in every Battalion beginning



The Inkerman Company under the Royal Oak.

with the 3rd and culminating in the 1st. A most appropriate Grenadier to provide some shade too given the very similar journey made by the Inkerman Company. This story does not end yet, and there came in a Christmas card from Boscobel House the promise of another young oak to plant in Lille Barracks on our return – an event we hope can include the Inkerman community writ large.



The Company visit Brookwood Military cemetery as part of Op TEAMWORK.

Our return from Summer Leave came with significant turbulence which the Company managed well – perhaps our natural sea legs came in handy. Training areas and ranges were lifted from us to allow the British Army to train large



Artist in Residence – Gdsm Cunningham paints the Company mural in our new interest room.

numbers of Ukrainian soldiers for the brutal war being fought on her eastern border, and who knows how many are still in the fight as it grinds through frostbitten winter and into the thawing, muddy, morass of early spring – it is of course a region that the Company's name and heritage hark back to and something that we reflected on as we celebrated Inkerman Day in a cold nissen hut in Thetford in November on our final pre-deployment exercise. The Company Sergeant Major's well-guarded little black book of

training contacts, most of whom appeared to be middle-aged ladies, proved extremely handy as we played training area twister to ensure we met all the requirements to deploy.

Our training was further complicated by the sad privilege of forming Her Majesty's final Guard of Honour as she made her way to rest alongside her father and mother. Formed up in an arc in the Horseshoe Cloister, below the steps of St. George's Chapel, with men of the Queen's Company, the Bearer Party and a series of Grenadier ushers, it was an intimate and regimental goodbye – a poignant moment in the history of the Company, the Regiment and the nation. And one suffixed by a 0430hrs coach to Brecon for live firing.

It was a relief for all when the Company finally deployed to Iraq, via a makeshift Inkerman Day in Portsmouth. Since arriving we have hurled ourselves into the task at hand whilst making sure we celebrated Christmas in an appropriate fashion (we are not a million miles from Bethlehem). An open-air midnight mass by candlelight was a particular highlight, as was the baptism of Gdsm Playfoot in the nearby American chapel. The spare moments have been filled with camp improvements and extra physical training – as always with overseas deployments the hunt for the body beautiful is a significant theme.

And so, to the coming year. The Company will return in mid-April and having reassembled after some post-tour leave will likely be involved in the Coronation of the King. At some point we will have a medals parade, which might be a good moment to plant our Royal Oak and gather the Inkerman family together. There will also be a ceremony to lay up the colours of the 3rd Bn which have been discovered boxed in a chapel in Pirbright. Visits to HMS *Victory* and to HMS *Queen Elizabeth* are also in the planning. June will mark a watershed for the Company and the focus will very much be on the Battalion's deployment to Kenya at the back end of the year, though it will do so without a number of loyal servants who will move on to other pastures. We wish them the best of luck. It will also be a farewell from me; from June the Company will be in the safe hands of Major Alexander Budge who will be joining the team from his role in the Standing Joint Force Headquarters.



Nijmegen Company

Wellington Barracks, London

by Major Robert Thompson

Nijmegen Company has achieved much through 2022 and into 2023. There has been the varied but predictable cycle of State Ceremonial and Public Duties with London District. However the year was highlighted with some historical significance that will not be forgotten by any members of the Company. Away from the Line, Nijmegen has been pleased to be able to deploy members of the Company with different battalions of the Household Division across the globe as well as complete the annual training and live fire requirements.

The year started with a good-bye and thank you to the previous Company Commander, Tom Hargreaves, who has embarked on the adventure of Staff College. Tom had ensured that he passed on a Company that was fit and ready for the rigors of a busy ceremonial season. Following a successful Major General's Inspection and before Troop training started in earnest, the Company was able to conduct one of the first Battle Study trips to Europe since the relaxing of Covid restrictions. Capt Alex Fetherston-Godley used his last months in the Army to organise an excellent investigation into Operation Market Garden with particular focus on the Battle for Nijmegen and Nijmegen Bridge from which our Company gets its name. On return from the Low Countries it was time to start training for arguably the largest Birthday Parade in living memory. The Queen's Platinum Jubilee saw Nijmegen Company providing Number Four Guard for the Trooping of the Colour. The entire Jubilee weekend was a highly memorable and enjoyable for all those involved and would grow to further significance with the events of September.

During the summer Nijmegen Company said good-bye to some members of the Company that had made their mark on the young Guardsmen they had influenced but was time for them to rotate away from the ceremonial scene. Lt Simon Fisher moved back to Battalion to become the Anti-Tank Platoon Commander and Lt Tom Hodson to



The Bearer Party for the burial of an unknown Grenadier in the Guards Cemetery at Lesboeufs.

the Mortars. Sgt Coulbert took a posting to ITC Catterick and Sgt Beasley moved back to Battalion to take up the position of Drum Major. Pay Sergeant Mooney was promoted to WO2 and moved to The Coldstream Guards to take up the position of CSM No3 Company. All left their marks on the Company but allowed for Lt Alex Villiers-Smith, Lt Freddie Hobbs, Lt Toby Cairns, CSgt Hendy, Sgt Childs and Sgt Howcroft to all enter the fray.

CSM Mann was kept busy over the Summer



Tri Service Colour Party.

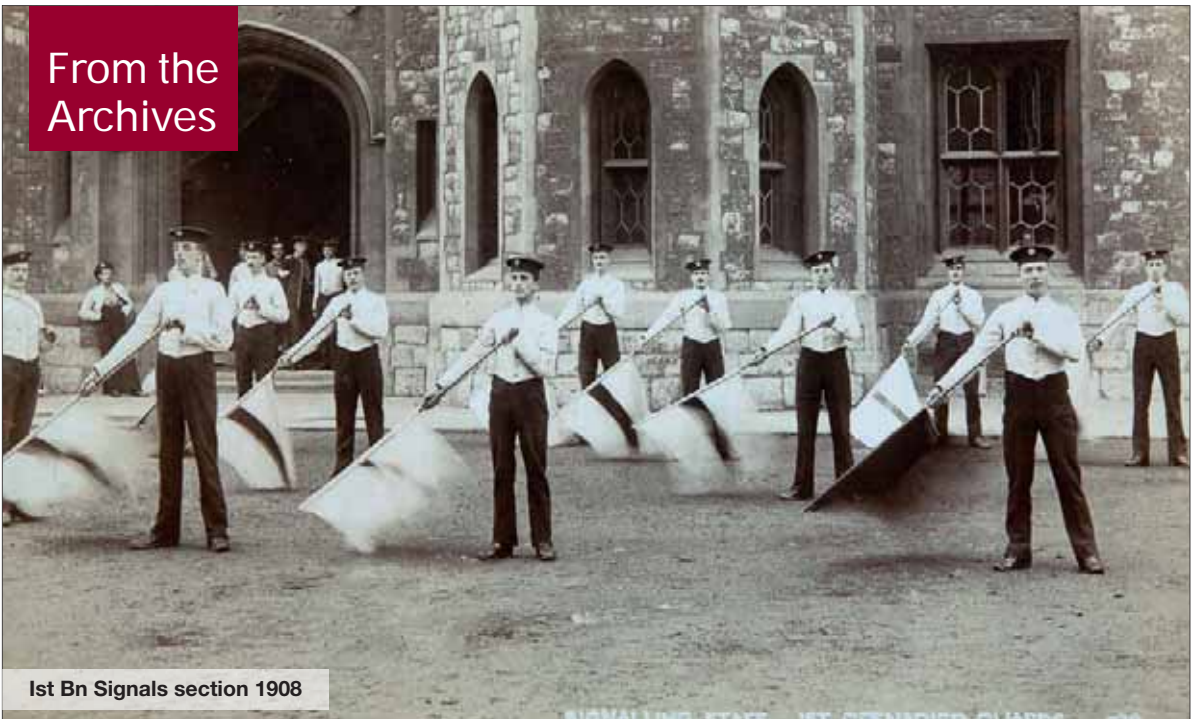


Her Majesty's coffin slowly passes the Guard of Honour outside Parliament. Nijmegen Company offer their final salute.

with ensuring the Bearer Party which Nijmegen maintains was in a state of readiness. The Bearer Party was privileged to be able to conduct both WO1 Ray Huggins and an Unknown Soldier of the Great War to their final resting places with care and dignity. Op LONDON BRIDGE was a

similarly solemn parade but which the Company took great pride in delivering. Nijmegen was asked to represent the Army in the Tri-Services Guard of Honour on Westminster Square. The funeral could not have been a better good-by for the Nation to a sovereign that had given so much in the service of Her country.

Following Op LONDON BRIDGE the return to normal duties and a range package in Longmoor seemed like a slight anti climax but with sections deployed with the Irish Guards in the Falklands Islands and soldiers to prepare to deploy to Jamaica with the Welsh Guards and to Kenya with the Coldstream Guards, there was more than enough to keep the Company occupied and busy. The year finished with the Christmas duty for Nijmegen Company which seemed like a fitting end to a busy ceremonial 2022. There is no doubt that with a Coronation to prepare for and the First King's Birthday Parade in seven decades to practise, 2023 will be as busy as 2022.



From the Archives

1st Bn Signals section 1908

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Ypres Company

by Major Chris Pawlowski,
1st Battalion London Guards

Ypres Company, The London Guards started 2022 with 57 Guardsmen. 23 of these were with the Battalion Recruit Training Wing awaiting their 2 week Module 3 basic soldiering course. 11 had completed their basic 2 week soldiering course so paraded with Ypres Company and were awaiting their Combat Infantry Course. 23 soldiers were fully trained. By January 2023 there was an increase of four soldiers to 61 with the breakdown being 25, 8 and 28 respectively. The Company is hopeful for around another 10 new members in Training Year 2023/24 which will bring it to above 80% strength.



Gdsm Evans and Gdsm Norton completing their recruit training at Pirbright ITG.

Noteworthy visits that the Company made were to Regimental Headquarter in April where the Regimental Adjutant presented the Company with their Camp Colour. This was followed by a visit to the Regimental Library where the Regiments 10 Victoria Crosses were available to see. Regimental Quartermaster Sergeant Oliver gave the Guardsmen in attendance a flavour of what it means to be a Grenadier. The evening concluded with a visit to the Guards Museum and a tour conducted by Gary, the museum curator.

In May the Sergeant Major attended the London



The Regimental Adjutant presents the Ypres Company Colour.

Guards pace sticking competition where Ypres Company were placed second of six teams. For the second year in a row, Ypres Company were awarded the Best Pace Sticker in Guardsman (now Lance Corporal) Hassall.

The Commanding Officer of the 1st Battalion visited in July. He took the opportunity to get acquainted with the Guardsmen of Ypres Company and Kingston Army Reserve Centre. He left making sure that they Guardsmen knew that there were plenty of opportunities to serve alongside the 1st Battalion.

In September, six soldiers from Ypres Company deployed with the London Guards to Ex ROMAN STAR, a joint UK Italian exercise held in the Italian Dolomites. Feedback was that the exercise was a great opportunity to examine other nations Tactics, Techniques and Procedures as well as some abseiling that was for individuals variously exhilarating and terrifying.

Remembrance weekend in November saw Ypres Company active in the community around Kingston upon Thames. Saturday started with Parkrun which was attended by over 1,000 people. Ypres Company soldiers both ran the 5k route and marshalled in uniform. The local community showed their appreciation with a round of applause at the end of the run. This was followed by drill practice with WO2 (Company Sergeant Major) Claxton, formerly of the 1st Battalion. Ypres Company then visited Richmond Cemetery where they took part in the Commonwealth War Graves Commission 'Eyes



LCpl Hassall on PJNCO cadre.

On, Hands On' project. Guardsmen fanned out across the graveyard to examine the state of any standalone Commonwealth War Graves. They were tasked to photograph where headstones had suffered damage and clean where needed. The day concluded in the bar where Lance Corporal Hassall read out Lance Corporal Ashworth's citation for his Victoria Cross. Sunday morning saw Ypres Company march as part of the Kingston-Upon-Thames act of Remembrance. CSM Claxton led the parade which contained

elements of all three services, Cadets forces, youth movements as well as local councillors.

In January 2023, a group of nine reservist Guardsmen, eight of whom were novice 'Judokas', and Ypres Company's Permanent Staff Instructor, Sgt John Welsh Guards, attended the Army Judo skills Course, where they developed their skills at their respective levels. In total, the Infantry won Eighteen medals at the Championships, Nine of which were won by members of Ypres Company, eight of which were won by reservist Guardsmen, and seven of which were won by Guardsmen for whom this was their first competition.

In January 2020, The London Guards descended on Wellington Barracks to be issued with Home Service Clothing and take part in, for most, what would be their first ever Rifle Drill lessons. Whilst there is much work to be done, the Permanent Staff, all members of Foot Guards Battalions commented on the positive attitude of the Guardsmen.

Ypres Company remains a new Company and as such building the talent that it has is essential to the longevity of the Company. With that in mind, congratulations go to Lance Corporal's Hassall and Wooldridge for passing their Corporal's course and taking the first step into leadership roles within the Company.



Ypres Company Grenadier Guards team in action at Army Judo championship.



14th Company

Infantry Training Centre,
Catterick

by Lieutenant Hugo Crawford

The Infantry Training Centre Catterick has finally sailed through the end of the COVID storm and as ever, the winds of change are altering the course of the training undertaken by all Trainee Guardsmen. In time, ITC Catterick will become the 'British Army Soldier Academy North'. Slowly, non-infantry types have begun training in Vimy Barracks with a noticeable number of cavalry cap-badges being spotted around camp. This all points towards a confluence of training establishments which is undoubtedly an option that is being explored by the Army Recruiting and Initial Training Command (ARITC). This reaffirms the need for competent Grenadier representation, leaving recruits with a strong and definite impression of what the Household Division ethos is.

23 newly trained Grenadier Guardsmen have passed out of training in the most recent training

year, spring 2022-2023. Lieutenants Sinclair and Maddan have been replaced by Lieutenant Crawford and Lieutenant Tusa, posting to Guards Company following Platoon Command in The Queen's Company. Lieutenant Crawford took over Guards 20 Platoon, in which he was supported by LSgts Dovey and Austin, passing out three Grenadiers from his platoon in early September 2022. Sadly, following the death of Her Majesty The Queen, their passing out parade was cancelled. In Guards 16 Platoon, under Lieutenant Tusa with close support from LSgt Pugh and LSgt Dovey, five newly trained Grenadier Guardsmen passed off the square in a first passing out parade for newly in post Guards Company Commander, Major Bryn Taylor. Indeed, thanks to the hard work of LSgt Dovey as No 1 Driller, the platoon were able to deliver an immaculate parade to Colonel Foot Guards, Lieutenant Colonel Gareth Light. All five Grenadier recruits received awards for the Major General's Prize for Best Section, with Gdsm Hellwing winning a prize for Best PT, and Gdsm Johnstone for Best Navigation.

Guards Training Company is still afforded the luxury of training as individual platoons, each with



14th Company Grenadier DS. From Left to Right: Back row: LSgt Roberts, LSgt Pugh, LSgt Rosser, LCpl Bramwell, LSgt Dovey, LSgt Brody. Front row: LSgt McKenna, Lieutenant Tusa, Sgt Coulbert, Lieutenant Crawford, LSgt Austin.

its own culture set by Platoon Headquarters. Not only does this allow PI HQ to fully own the platoon—it allows Platoon Commanders the freedom to employ more colourful ideas to illustrate and enhance the retention of training objectives. Section commanders take full responsibility for the standard of their Trainee Guardsmen up until the end of week 12, when they now swap out for a new training team (Platoon Headquarters to remain unchanged) for the remaining 16 weeks of Initial Trade Training (Phase 2). The new format was initially met with firm opposition from the section commanders but, after a successful trial period in the summer – it has been adopted in full. With the removal of black-economy positions, Guards Training Company is now transitioning away from the employment of barrack-roomers, which is a large change for many.

Increasing the visibility of the step-change between the two phases has shown to give recruits a sense of achievement, with new Sect Comd's bringing new skills and methods – which may stop recruits discharging as of right.

The past year-to-date has seen a steady decline in number of training teams being employed. The year's busiest period for Guards Training Company was July and August having 7 platoons in training concurrently (inclusive of Op INTERFLEX). Those numbers have currently dwindled to 4 training teams by January 23. 2022 saw the transition of CIC 18 (Combat Infantryman's Course) to CIC 21, encompassing an adjusted schedule and combination of Urban and Patrols Exercise – which has been highlighted as a significant improvement. As ever, the constant battle to retain our exclusive, bespoke programme to produce Guardsmen at the correct standard of drill continues.

Reduced number of training teams has meant that permanent staff have had significant amounts of 'white space'. With Sgt Coulbert, LSgt Roberts and Simmons being seconded to Op INTERFLEX (the British Armed Forces code for supporting and training of new Ukrainian military personnel). Guards Training Company detached a training team to the Light Dragoons BHQ in order to undertake this, which saw them training over 1,200 Ukrainians. Lieutenant Tusa and Lieutenant Crawford both deployed on Op SHADER as



Using dead ground to outflank the enemy...bayonet fixed!.

Company Second-in-Command, in white space after finishing training with their respective platoons. 2023 will see Trainee Guardsmen leave ITC Catterick without having ever touched a live grenade, an indirect impact due to commitments to Op INTERFLEX.

Indeed, the ongoing commitment of the UK Government to Op INTERFLEX, together with Chief of the General Staff, General Sir Patrick Sander's mobilisation of the Armed Forces as part of Op MOBILISE, in the face of the Russian invasion and ongoing War in Ukraine, have served as a pertinent reminder of the need for highly trained Guardsmen to leave the Infantry Training Centre with a firm and sharp understanding of what may potentially lay ahead for them with the return of war to Europe. As London District ramps up its preparations for The Coronation and The Trooping of the Colour, with the 1st Battalion deploying to Kenya in the latter half of 2023, it appears likely that those newly trained Grenadiers will be quickly in tune with their new regimental motto as 'twice the man'.





Band of the Grenadier Guards – A Year in Review

by Captain Ben Mason and LCpl Glen Philp

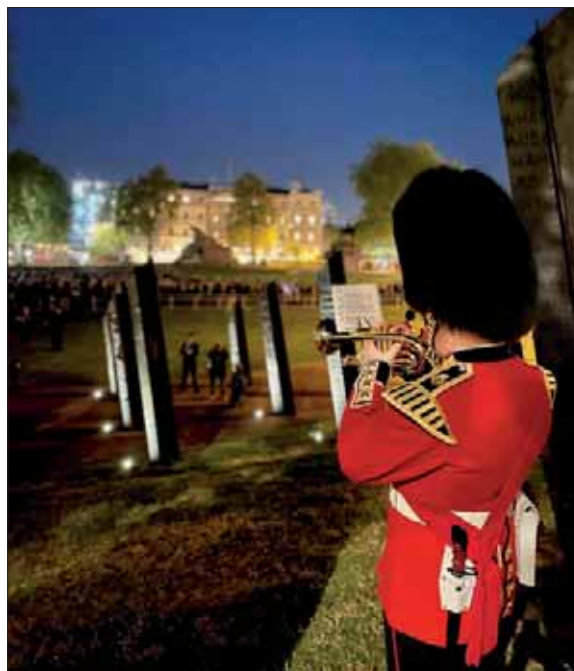
Throughout 2022, the Band of the Grenadier Guards were once again actively engaged in providing first-class pomp and ceremony, through music, across the country and wider afield.

'Spring Drills' (state ceremonial and public duty build-up training) culminated in a successful annual inspection by the General Officer Commanding London District, Major General Christopher Ghika CBE. Following this, alongside the regular public duty performances, the band prepared to embark on a series of concerts to celebrate the Platinum Jubilee.



LCpl Sophie Henderson-Sykes performing 'Place of Peace' – Hinchingsbrooke Arts Centre

The first concert took place in May, where the band joined forces with Huntingdonshire Concert Band at Hinchingsbrooke Arts Centre. The programme of music featured works by Vaughan-Williams, Sir William Walton, Bernstein, Rogers & Hammerstein and many more. An audience pleasing highlight was Musn George Hirst's virtuosic rendition of Harry James' *Concerto for Trumpet*. The concert also featured a vocal solo 'Place of Peace' composed and sung by LCpl Sophie Henderson-Sykes. This was particularly poignant as the piece was based on a poem written by Chelsea Pensioner, Roy Palmer and dedicated to his late wife. LCpl Henderson-Sykes



CSgt Gavin Hall sounding the dawn last post for ANZAC day – Hyde Park Corner © Crown Copyright.

wrote the song with Roy while she was deployed to the Royal Hospital Chelsea during OP RESCRIPT in 2021. The band were very fortunate to have Roy and four of his fellow in-pensioners, in attendance to hear this emotional premiere performance.

In April, the band supported to the annual national commemorations and thanksgiving services to mark ANZAC (Australian and New Zealand Army Corps) Day. The brass quintet played for the dawn service (attended by HRH the Duke of Gloucester) at the New Zealand War Memorial, Hyde Park Corner and CSgt Gavin Hall sounded *Last Post* and *Rouse*. Later in the morning LSgt Lawrence Narhkom sounded *Last Post* and *Rouse* at a service held in the Gallipoli memorial within St Paul's Cathedral.

The beginning of the summer found the band tasked to the annual Royal Hospital Chelsea Founders Day. This event was of particular significance to those in the band who had deployed to the hospital during Op RESCRIPT, forging strong and lasting friendships with the in-pensioners. This was a long-awaited chance for them to show the in-pensioners what they do on a day-to-day basis as a



Founders Day – Royal Hospital Chelsea © Crown Copyright.

state ceremonial musician in RCAM.

After performing at a number of events throughout the Jubilee weekend (including The Queen's Birthday Parade), the band took to the public streets of London again in July, to lead the military contingent at London's Pride event. This year was special, as the LGBTQ+ community commemorated 50 years of Pride events in the UK. It was reported that more than 1.5 million people lined the streets in what was dubbed the 'biggest and most inclusive event in history'. The parade followed the same route that was originally marched half a century ago.

One of the final tasks before a welcome summer break from duties saw the band providing musical support to the Queen's Baton Relay event in Birmingham – as part of the Commonwealth Games celebrations. Traveling via land, air and sea, more than 180 communities in England experienced the Queen's Baton on a route spanning 2500 miles before it finally arrived at the Opening ceremony. The band accompanied the baton along part of the route into Solihull, before giving a short concert in the park. The atmosphere was electric, and the very enthusiastic audience made this event all-the-more memorable.

Returning early from

leave, the Band were honoured to play important and prominent roles in both the Lying-in-State and the State Funeral. Alongside other Grenadiers, on 14th September the band escorted the procession from Buckingham Palace to Westminster Hall in preparation for Lying-in-State. Then, at the State Funeral, the Band shared the huge privilege of leading the final procession through Windsor to Windsor Castle.

The band travelled to the cliffs of the East Kent coast in October to parade through the streets of Hythe, alongside Footguards from The Nijmegen Company. As ever in this part of the world, all the Grenadiers were incredibly well received by crowds in their hundreds and were warmly greeted by members of Hythe Town Council. That same evening the band performed a gala concert at the Leas Cliff Hall, Folkestone, where they were joined on stage by the wonderful Military Wives Choir (Shorncliffe) – celebrating their 10th anniversary of formation. The concert, kindly supported by Folkestone and Hythe District Council and sponsored by The East Kent Branch of the Grenadier Guards Association, was to help raise much needed money for 'The Colonel's Fund, Grenadier Guards'.

The day after this concert, the band were delighted to grace the stage of Regent Hall (the home of the Salvation Army on London's busy Oxford Street) with a concert. featuring an eclectic array of wind band music – as part of the London



The Band with Sir Lindsay Hoyle – Houses of Parliament

Brass Arts Festival. The performance was well supported by an audience made up of Salvation Army representatives, Grenadier Guards past & present and a number of members of the UK Brass Band community (who were visiting London for the National Brass Band Championships of Great Britain).

In early November, the band provided musical support to the opening of the 2022 Constituency Garden of Remembrance at the Houses of Parliament. The event was hosted by the Speaker of the House of Commons, Sir Lindsay Hoyle who was joined by MPs and representatives from around the globe. Despite unpredictable weather, the band played on and led the ceremony with the traditional sounds of Remembrance, including *Solemn Melody* (Walford Davies) and *Nimrod* (Sir Edward Elgar). At conclusion of the service there was a reception where piano music from Musn James Perkins formed the backdrop to canapés, coffee, and conversation. Sir Lindsay then kindly presented the band with bottles of his very own 'Speaker Hoyle's Select Single Malt Whisky'.

Following the normal national remembrance-tide events, the Band enjoyed a short deployment to Germany – in support of the remaining British Forces and the Deutsch-Englischer Club (Anglo-



The Band performing at Paderborn Christmas Market - Germany © Crown Copyright.

German Club), Paderborn. The first few days were spent entertaining children at local schools in Sennelager and playing Christmas carols in the square at Paderborn (with the beautiful back drop of the famous traditional Christmas market). The Band were incredibly well received, and the local people were amazed to see the bearskin caps on parade in Paderborn once again. A real highlight of the trip was providing musical support for the Anglo-German Christmas Carol Service at Paderborn Cathedral.

Listen to the Band's performances here for free...



Here's how:

1. Open the camera app on your phone
2. Centre the QR code that you want to scan and hold your phone steady for a couple of seconds.
3. Tap the notification that pops up to open the link.





Update from The Royal Military Academy Sandhurst

by Captain Chris Pollard,
Adjutant New College

2022 at the Royal Military Academy saw a period of significant change: a new Monarch, new Commandant, and no fewer than two new Prime Ministers. The first half of the year was framed, as it was for all of Defence, by Russia's invasion of Ukraine and the subsequent announcement of Op MOBILISE. The Academy has responded to the Chief of the General Staff's exhortations for a 'generational effort' with a dramatic shift to focus on Combined Arms Manoeuvre over the traditional infantry model in isolation, as well as an increased emphasis on urban operations in favour of stabilisation operations. The result, it is hoped, will be a young officer more adept at operating in the Combined Arms environment that they will

have to tackle under Op MOBILISE, equipped with the tools and strong foundations of teamwork that enable them to operate across a spectrum of capabilities at the lowest tactical level.

The timing of Russia's invasion coincided with the impact of Future Solider following the Integrated Review, which has prompted a full review of the Regular Commissioning Course under Project ADAIR. This ambitious re-write of the programme aims to leave no stone unturned to yield both maximum efficiency to Defence and also maximum benefit to the officer cadets as trainees, leaving them fully-equipped to both join and lead the British Army of the future. Members of the Regiment who have passed through the Academy as either officer cadets or Senior Non-Commissioned Officer instructors will find some familiar stalwart elements of the course in Ex LONG REACH and Ex DYNAMIC VICTORY but will find much of the course significantly changed as the Academy looks to the future.

The changes to the Commissioning Course structure have included a number of ongoing trials seeking to transform the Academy's training and



Sovereign's Parade: HRH The Duke of Gloucester. *With kind permission © Tempest Photography.*



Sovereign's Parade: General James McConville, Chief of US Army Staff.
 With kind permission © Tempest Photography.

outputs. These range across a variety of aspects affecting both permanent staff and officer cadets, including: trialling two Colour Sergeants per platoon in the Junior Term to improve the work life balance for staff, changing platoons at the end of the Junior Term by making officer cadets move around within their company to foster dynamic team-building, and overhauling student assessment and report-writing processes. The new Commandant Maj Gen Z Stenning, in post from Aug 22, has been personally involved with this change programme and is closely engaged with Lieutenant Colonel James Green from the Regiment in his role as New College Commander.

September saw the start of the final term of the year begin under the shadow of the sad death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. Both the Academy and members of the Regiment serving within it answered the call for responsibilities under Op LONDON BRIDGE, from conducting vigils at Westminster

to delivering drill instruction to elements of the vast cohort involved in Her Majesty's funeral. That all of this was delivered concurrently with training over 600 officer cadets amidst a rapidly changing training programme is testament to the commitment of all those involved, particularly those Senior Non-Commissioned Officers from across the Household Division who were committed at reach for a period of time to support drill instruction before returning to their platoons and companies. Their expertise will be needed again in Apr 23 which sees the 200th commissioning event at the Royal Military Academy take place, which will include the presentation of new Colours and a new Sovereign's Banner, a spectacle of even greater scale than usual.

2022 also saw the annual churn of directing staff, as Cadre 21 handed over the baton to Cadre 22 and with it the responsibility for identifying and training future Grenadier officers. We have said farewell to CSgt Langridge (who takes over as Pay Sergeant The Inkerman Company), in time for their deployment on Op SHADER in the second half of 2022. We thank him for the immaculate service he has provided the Academy over two years, and for the formative role he has had in shaping those junior officers who have joined the Regiment during their tenure. Additionally, it is worth noting his significant Defence Engagement contribution during his time with Marne Company at RMAS, deploying on STTTs across Central America and the Middle East, including Iraq. CSgt Langridge been replaced by CSgt Elliott, CSgt Moore, and CSgt Davis, who join CSgt Pitters and CSgt Dent from Cadre 21 as instructors with Sgt Parkes instructing in the CIS Wing.

Elsewhere in the Academy, Lieutenant Colonel James Green oversees all officer cadets training in the Intermediate Term and commissioning from the Senior Term as New College Commander. Capt Chris Pollard and Capt Rich Phillips are the Adjutants of New College and Sandhurst Support Unit respectively. Thanks to the success of Cadre 22 with three new instructors the Academy is flush with Grenadiers, with nine members of the Regiment currently serving across all ranks.

Looking to the future, the RMAS Cadre for 2023 begins Mon 13 Feb 23, with hopefuls from

the Regiment looking to be selected as instructors by Lieutenant Colonel Foot Guards Lieutenant Colonel Simon Soskin to start in Aug 23. 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 2022

CC212 – Apr 22:

2nd Lieutenant Edward Norman
2nd Lieutenant Henry Wheatley

CC213 – Aug 22:

2nd Lieutenant Archie Denison-Smith
2nd Lieutenant Rupert Elmhirst

CC221 – Dec 22:

2nd Lieutenant Bertie Tweed



Letter from The Ironmongers

The pandemic suspended activities between the Regiment and the Company for much longer than expected. However, as befits a company with a history extending over 700 years, the Ironmongers' weathered the storm relatively well.

Ironmongers' Hall was temporarily closed with the Clerk, Colonel Charlie Knaggs (formerly Irish Guards and attached to Support Company of the First Battalion Grenadiers in the 1990's), residing as caretaker, patrolling the empty corridors when not taking his daily exercise in a deserted City. The Hall re-opened for brief periods when permitted by government regulations but opportunities to

arrange formal occasions with the Regiment were limited, not least because we were very aware that the Battalion and Nijmegen Company were heavily committed to COVID related activities.

As we eventually welcomed the new normal, activities gradually resumed including a day on the ranges on an overcast but dry day in early December. 13 intrepid Ironmongers met at Lille Barracks, to enjoy hospitality and 'sharp shooting' on the pistol range.

After a safety briefing from the Range Officer, a Guardsman chaperoned each Ironmonger to load and coach, allowing them to try shooting from various standing and seated shooting positions at targets. Results ranged from very tight groupings to those resembling 'high pheasant' shot patterns.

The Ironmongers were introduced to a range of other weapons such as sniper rifles, SA80s and a mortar station. This was followed by Ironmongers' Simon Hunt and Ben Symes pulling up a sandbag to reminisce about their respective courses at Sandhurst before discovering that they were actually on the same intake. A fact that was soon confirmed when Ben dug out a passing out photo from his mobile in which he was stood next to Simon!

The day ended with lunch in the Officers' Mess, a grade II listed building, where the Ironmongers admired the rich history and regimental memorabilia. The Company would like to thank all Grenadiers for being such excellent hosts.

A little before Christmas 2021, six Ironmongers were entertained to lunch in the Officers' Mess at



Range action shot.

St James's Palace hosted by Major Tom Hargreaves. This was a wonderful opportunity to learn more about the Regiment while dining in splendid surroundings. The visit was enhanced by a full explanation of the pictures and artefacts conducted by the long-suffering Ensign.



Ceremony of keys group shot.

In his capacity as liaison between the Company and the Grenadier Guards, Hadley Newman organised a visit to the Tower of London for the Ceremony of the Keys. This ceremony is said to be the oldest extant military ceremony in the world, an ancient ritual that is held every evening at the Tower of London when the main gates are locked for the night. Following the ceremony, the Ironmongers had the privilege of attending drinks at the Yeoman Warders' Club with hosts from Nijmegen Company, Grenadier Guards. This unique evening received strong endorsement from the Ironmongers so we hope to arrange another visit to the Tower of London and a return match at Ironmongers' Hall.

Like the rest of the nation, the Company was saddened by the death of Her Late Majesty, the Queen, Colonel of the Regiment but also hugely proud of our association with the regiment who played such a prominent role in the State Funeral, Op LONDON BRIDGE. The Master Ironmonger, Julian Verden, was in attendance for the City Proclamation of King Charles III outside the Royal Exchange.

Naturally, the Company's philanthropic work has continued. We are proud supporters of the Colonel's Fund and intend to support it for as long as there is a need. We are establishing links now to the latest

Ypres (Grenadier) Company of the London Guards. The Company runs almshouses for the elderly and are coming to the end of a major project to refurbish the housing scheme in Basingstoke.

The Ironmongers' Charities support education: primary schools across England; championing schools projects, which encourage children to study STEM subjects; provide grants to six universities with materials science departments; and provide support for the study of metal sciences and apprenticeship. They also fund the conservation of historic ironwork or the creation of new decorative iron or steel work. Three recent examples of the latter were the restoration of the large gates between the Embankment and the Chelsea Physic Garden, the renovation of the ironwork balconies at the Royal Society of Sculptors and the Gothic gates at the 19th century Tower Hamlets Market.

As we start 2023, Ironmongers' activities are back in full swing including the Company's Inter-Livery Skiing Competition in Morzine which has just concluded. We look forward to the year's various sporting events including our annual Inter-Livery Sailing Regatta at the Isle of Wight in June.

There is now a growing number of Grenadiers who have taken the Freedom of the Company and of the City of London, and joined the Company. We are always on the lookout for new members who want to belong and who want to give something back to society. Any Grenadier, past and present, who would like to visit the Hall to find out more about their affiliated livery company should contact the Clerk (clerk@ironmongers.org). You will be more than welcome fora brew and a tour of the Hall.





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Death Gun Salute.



HMS Queen Elizabeth

by Lieutenant Commander
Barry Crosswood RN,

Flagship Navigator, HMS Queen Elizabeth

Towering at 56m, stretching to 280m in length and displacing 65,000 tonnes HMS *Queen Elizabeth* is the largest and most powerful vessel ever constructed for the Royal Navy. Two 33 tonne propellers, driven by propulsion plant capable of powering a small town, push the gargantuan vessel and her 4.5 acre flight deck through the seas at speeds of up to 25kts.

A versatile and highly capable ship she operates Lightning II Joint Strike Fighter jets, four of which can be moved from the hangar to the flight deck in less than a minute. Her long-range 3D radar can track a tennis ball travelling at 2,000 miles per hour. As well as state-of-the-art weaponry and communication systems, she boasts a chapel, five gyms, medical centre and a coffee shop.

The second vessel to bear the name her predecessor was active at the height of the Great War in the Dardanelles in support of the Gallipoli campaign and finally as the location for the

surrender of the German Fleet.

As Lady Sponsor, Her Late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II remarked at the commissioning ceremony in 2017 that: “HMS *Queen Elizabeth* embodies the best of British technology and innovation – a true flagship for the 21st century. The most powerful and capable ship ever to raise the White Ensign, she will, in the years and decades ahead, represent this country’s resolve on the global stage”. Her recent global deployment marked a major milestone in regenerating the UK’s carrier strike capability, enhancing our ability to project power anywhere in the world.

During 2021 she delivered the most ambitious deployment for a generation with the largest ship’s company for over 40 years. As the first dedicated 5th generation Strike Carrier our Flag Ship is an extension of Great Britain and her values at a crucial point in our national story. Following this in 2022 she regenerated and trained with expectations to re-establish Carrier Strike Group operations during a deployment to northern Europe. However in an impressive demonstration of resilience across the Carrier Enterprise she was, with 5 days’ notice, re-tasked to pick up a programme of high level strategic engagement on the eastern seaboard of the USA.

Playing host to the Atlantic Future Forum, an

international, multi-Government Department and Industry Partner event, HMS *Queen Elizabeth* was the focal point at anchor by the Statue of Liberty. The Manhattan skyline sat as the unmistakable back-drop to what was a very successful event.

Tasking did not stop there. Following a quick sprint back across the Atlantic, HMS *Queen Elizabeth* commenced her planned deployment activity by regaining Carrier Strike capability with the F-35 fighter jets of 617 Squadron – ‘The Dam Busters’. A visit to Oslo, where we were lucky enough to find a berth right in the centre of the city,

saw the Ship and her Ship’s company deliver even more defence engagement which included a multi-national conference of defence ministers.

HMS *Queen Elizabeth* has provided a totemic figure-head for Global Britain, empowering military and diplomatic representatives around the world. Acting as a force multiplier for British standards and values she embodies the power and meaning of the Nation’s Flag Ship in every way, and in the finest traditions of our Service and our Maritime heritage.

Semper Eadem.

Visit to H.M.S. Queen Elizabeth

by Major James Gatehouse

On Tuesday 9th August, on one of the hottest days of the year, Lieutenant Colonel James Greaves, Major Hugo Cartwright and I attended a dinner on board HMS *Queen Elizabeth* at HM Naval Base Portsmouth, to rekindle the affiliation that exists between the Fleet Flagship and the Grenadier Guards. We were extremely well looked after; Sunset performed by drummers from the Royal Marines in the huge, empty hangar below the flight deck, was followed by an excellent dinner in the Wardroom.

After a forgettable night in a hideous hotel near the dockyard, booked by the Adjutant of the 1st Battalion (who still needs to explain himself), we returned to join an assortment of groups and organisations affiliated with HMS *Queen Elizabeth*, such as the Grocers Company (under the stewardship of Brig Greville Bibby), for a guided tour of the ship and lunch. Four members of Nijmegen Company manned a much admired Regimental stand and the Guardsmen, wearing Home Service Clothing, stood out in the crowd!

HMS *Queen Elizabeth* is the lead ship of the Queen Elizabeth Class of aircraft carriers, the largest warships ever built for the Royal Navy and is capable of carrying up to 60 aircraft. She is named in honour of Queen Elizabeth I, and follows the last ship of that name, a World War era super

dreadnought which joined the Fleet in 1915 and was equipped with 15 inch guns, capable of hurling a shell weighing almost one ton just short of 20 miles. The present ship carries the honours of her namesake, as well as her Tudor Rose, adorned crest and motto (*Semper Eadem* – Ever the same), prominently displayed on the two gigantic islands that control activity on the 4 ½ acre flight deck and coordinate the movements of the carrier group.

HMS *Queen Elizabeth* is three times larger than HMS *Illustrious* and weighs 65,000 tonnes. From the tip of the mast to the keel is 239 feet, higher than Niagara Falls; the ship is 150ft longer than the One Canada Square building in Canary Wharf is tall. Fully manned, with an air wing onboard, she has a crew of about 1500. The flight deck has space for 40 aircraft and 4 aircraft can be moved from the hangar below to the flight deck every 2 minutes. Without a guide, we would have been completely lost in the maze, wandering along the seemingly endless grey corridors on our tour below decks. There are 9 decks in total with numerous steep staircases to catch the unwary; on his way to the Wardroom for dinner, the Commanding Officer discovered that wearing spurs (in Mess kit) was a bad idea. One other point of interest – only two of the officers’ quarters have windows (portholes), the Captain and the Navigator. All others live in dark, air conditioned boxes below decks, but then an aircraft carrier is a hugely complex and functional machine and it was never designed for a gentle cruise!

The nation’s flagship was commissioned in December 2017 and last year she deployed on a landmark seven-month mission, covering 48,000

miles and sailing as far east as Japan and Guam, the route included the Atlantic, Mediterranean, Suez Canal, the Indian Ocean and the Pacific, the most significant peacetime deployment by the Royal Navy in a generation. Queen Elizabeth and her Carrier Strike Group of eight escort and supporting ships, which form a protective ring around the carrier during operations; a submarine, five air squadrons and more than 3700 personnel, worked with allied and partner nations and visited more than 40 countries. Her F-35B stealth jets flew 4000 hours in more than 2000 sorties (more than 23 weeks in the skies), including combat sorties bombing some of the remaining elements of Daesh. There were 3000 deck landings.

Later this year she returns to the North Sea to carry out further vital training and exercises to keep her ready for operations, as the UK's Very High Readiness Strike Carrier. Interestingly, for aficionados of *Top Gun*, the ship has no catapults or arrestor wires and is instead designed to operate short take-off and vertical landing (STOL) capability fighters. The air wing also includes Merlin helicopters for airborne early warning and anti-submarine warfare. The design emphasises flexibility, with accommodation for 250 Royal Marines and the ability to support them with attack helicopters and large troop lift transport, such as Chinook.

The Grenadier Guards have had a longstanding relationship with the Royal Navy which we are very proud of. It started early, in March 1665, when 200 men of the Regiment were in the Downs on board *Royal Charles* and *Royal Catherine*. In June 1665 the British fleet attacked the Dutch and gained a total victory, the enemy losing twenty-two ships and 10,000 casualties for the loss of 800 British. In this action men of the First Guards were engaged, assisting with fighting the ships and repelling boarding parties.

In 1666, England also declared war on France, and that June the British fleet fought an action against the combined French and Dutch fleets, with the main effort directed against the Dutch under *de Ruyter* and *Tromp*, off Dunkirk. The battle was indecisive but, after refitting, the British fleet again met and then utterly defeated the Dutch off North Foreland.

In all these fleet actions men of the First Guards were present and, at this time, we know that many of the Regiment's companies were largely quartered in the ports and outlying districts on which fell most of the onus for maritime defence, as well as for the provision of troops at immediate notice for service as marines. Also, we know that the 21st Company, under Sir Ralph Sydenham, went aboard *HMS Pembroke* on 13th July 1666 and the next day found and took a Dutch ship of twenty-two guns off Berwick, the troops acting as a boarding party.

Above all, we know that the tradition of having fought at sea has, from the earliest time, been associated with our 3rd Battalion and this has forged an enduring link with the Royal Navy, that continues even now. In October 1960, prior to the placing into suspended animation of the 3rd Battalion, there was an exchange of letters between the First Sea Lord, Admiral Sir Casper John and the Colonel of the Grenadier Guards, General The Lord Jeffreys.

14 October 1960

My dear General,

I know that it is a long-standing custom of the 3rd Battalion Grenadier Guards to play 'Rule, Britannia!' before the National Anthem at Tattoo.

There has been a link between the Grenadier Guards and the Royal Navy since the 17th Century, when detachments of the Regiment served in H.M. Ships in the Second Dutch War. I think – and I hope you agree – that it would be a great pity if the ceremonial recognition of this link were to die out when the 3rd Battalion goes into suspended animation, as alas, I hear it shortly will do. I wonder, therefore, if the tradition of playing 'Rule, Britannia!' could perhaps be preserved in the Regiment.

It would give great pleasure to the Royal Navy if this could be done.

Yours sincerely,

C. JOHN

19 October 1960

My dear Admiral,

I very much appreciate your thoughtfulness in recalling the link, forged during the wars

against the Dutch, between the Royal Navy and the Regiment of which I have the honour to be Colonel.

It will be particularly gratifying to all Grenadiers that you should value, and wish to preserve, an association that for nearly 300 years has been greatly treasured not only by the 3rd Battalion but by the whole Regiment, and I am only too happy to ensure that it will continue.

During the 3rd Battalion's farewell parade to the Queen, their Colonel-in-Chief, Her Majesty named one of the companies the Inkerman Company and directed that it be posted to the 2nd Battalion, there to keep alive the spirit and traditions of the 3rd Battalion. It therefore seems proper that this ancient custom should be carried on by the 2nd Battalion when they incorporate the Inkerman Company.

I cannot tell you how moved I was by your letter, and what deep satisfaction it will give the Regiment to know that successive generations of Grenadier Guardsmen will continue to hear

the music commemorating the comradeship formed long ago by their forebears with the men of the Royal Navy.

Yours sincerely,
JEFFREYS

In 1994, as part of the cuts to Army manpower imposed by *Options for Change*, the 2nd Battalion Grenadier Guards was also placed into suspended animation. Nijmegen Company was formed, to keep alive the spirit and traditions of the 2nd Battalion. The Inkerman Company (always known as *The Ribs*), which had been formed out of the 3rd Battalion in 1960, was moved across to the 1st Battalion so that the spirit and traditions of the 3rd Battalion would not be lost. With it the 1st Battalion now preserves the ancient custom in the Regiment of playing 'Rule, Britannia!' before the National Anthem at Tattoo.

Further visits and exchanges are being planned, including a Beating Retreat by the Regimental Band in 2023.

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REGIMENTAL EVENTS

77th Anniversary of the Liberation of Stalag X B Sandbostel

by Captain Ted Bennett

The 75th Anniversary of the Liberation of Sandbostel Camp was held 'virtually' in 2020 due to the pandemic. The re-arranged date fell in April 2022 and Lieutenant Colonel Simon Soskin and I travelled to north Germany to represent the Regiment.

I will admit I knew little of the event until my pre-deployment research, but I quickly learnt of the liberation on 29 April 1945 by No 2 Armoured Squadron, 2nd Battalion and the King's Company, and the strong opposition they faced as they tried to make it to Sandbostel. The camp, originally a Prisoner of War Camp, had grown to incorporate *political déportés*. At the point of liberation there were 14,000 PoWs and 7,000 *déportés* at Sandbostel.



A wreath is laid on behalf of the Regiment.

The ceremony begun with a service at the *Lagerfriedhof Sandbostel* which was the camp cemetery in 1945 with some 200 people in attendance. After the service, and having spotted some brigade ties, we met Janusz Pilchowski who fought in the Warsaw Uprising and was held at the camp. He was a teenager at the time and I found his positive spirit about his experiences profound, demonstrating the resilience of those that were in Sandbostel in 1945. Two of his sons had served in the Household Cavalry and we marked the meeting with a photograph.

At the camp we heard from a number of descendants of those who had experienced life at Sandbostel, before being given the opportunity to lay a wreath on behalf of the Regiment at the camp's chapel. Throughout the day we spent time walking the camp and museum to understand the scale and conditions and were reminded of the importance in remembering events such as these. Our thanks to Andreas Ehresmann and Ines Dirolf for their organisation and invitation to be a part of such an intimate ceremony.



Lieutenant Colonel Soskin and Captain Bennett with Janusz Pilchowski and two of his sons.

A Thorne Reunion

by Major General Sir Evelyn Webb-Carter
KCVO, OBE

General Sir Andrew ‘Bulgy’ Thorne was awarded three immediate DSOs before he was 33 during the course of World War I and in 1940 he commanded a Division in France. He later commanded XII Corps preparing defences of the South East of England and he became GOC Scotland and played a part in the liberation of Norway in 1945.

In 1909 ‘Bulgy’ married and in those days the Regiment gave four large solid silver Grenadier figures to officers who married. Brother officers contributed and their names recorded on silver plates on the plinths. Each figure is 15.5 inches tall and they represent a soldier of the 1st or Grenadier Guards of 1660, 1745, 1815 and 1908.

On ‘Bulgy’s’ death, the figures were left to each of his three sons and the fourth went to his son in law Neville Wigram. All three sons, Peter, Sandy and George served with the Regiment in the War as did ‘Bulgy’s’ son in law. In due course these figures passed down to the next generation with Peter’s



The Thorne family before mobilization 1939.
Back (Left to Right): Diana, Peter, George and Poppy
Front (Left to Right): Sandy, Margaret, Andrew and Pansy.

and George’s figures being passed to Robin Thorne the son of George Thorne. Neville passed his figure (1908) to me in 1997 when I became the Major General, an appointment which ‘Bulgy’ himself had held in 1938-39.

Robin Thorne had decided to gift the 1745 and 1815 figures to the Regiment and so on 1st August a very pleasant lunch party took place in the Officers Mess of the Battalion. Celia and I were also invited and so I brought my figure along to join in the reunion. A further gift was made by Rosemary Chambers whose husband Anthony Chambers had died in 2019. Tony had a large library encompassing his many interests. There were many books on military and Grenadier subjects and Rosemary who was accompanied by her son, Sebastian, has kindly presented these to the Battalion. A most pleasant lunch ensued and a wonderful opportunity for us to hear of the challenges of today’s Army. It was good to see the Officers Mess so well furnished and decorated and so we all left feeling these gifts from the Thorne and Chambers families are in good hands.



Group photo: From Left to Right: Comd Offr, Sebastian Chambers, Evelyn Webb-Carter, Robin Thorne, Sarah Thorne, Rosemary Chambers, Celia Webb-Carter and Hugo Cartwright, the PMC. The two statuettes are displayed on the mantelpiece.

Burial in France of an unknown Grenadier

by Major James Gatehouse

In November 2017, contractors from Dianex, a company responsible for locating and removing ordnance from Great War battlefields in the Somme Region of France, were digging on a site in the immediate vicinity of the Ginchy Telegraph, between the villages of Ginchy and Lesboeufs, in preparation for laying foundations for one of a series of large wind turbines being erected in the area. Unfortunately, they came across human remains and, following the standard procedure when this all too frequently

happens in the area, work was immediately stopped and representatives from the Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC) were called in to inspect the find and exhume the remains. On average, more than 50 bodies are still being recovered by the CWGC in France every year, most dating back to the static, trench warfare of the Great War.

Over the next three years, working around interruptions caused by Covid, the Joint Casualty and Compassionate Centre (JCCC) – a small MOD department based in Gloucester, specifically tasked with the work of trying to identify bodies – studied DNA samples from the human remains and some artefacts found alongside, in an attempt to identify the remains or at least the man's unit. Although they were scant, with the remains were a number of items including a Grenadier cap badge, shoulder titles and a 1915 trench whistle, which would have been issued to an officer or non-commissioned officer. There was also a small silver cup found with the initials 'DJ' engraved on it – on later inspection we believe it more likely that this was a silver cap rather than a cup, about an inch in diameter, which

might have been mounted on top of a walking stick.

The area had been heavily fought over in later phases of the Battle of the Somme in September 1916 and again in 1918. With the artefacts in mind, the JCCC caseworkers decided to focus on 10-15 September 1916 because other Grenadier casualties found before in this immediate area had been killed during this short period and our War Diaries placed elements of both the 1st Battalion and 3rd Battalion's there. The story of the fighting here in September 1916, which involved much of the Guards Division, will be re-told in the next Guards Magazine.

The JCCC searched for the names of men in those two battalions who had been killed or posted missing within the above dates and who have no known grave; a list of 18 potential candidates emerged but, sadly, the DNA sample obtained

from the remains was very poor and only suitable for limited comparisons for inclusion/exclusion purposes. Attempts to identify the remains had failed.

Last Summer I received a call from the JCCC, reporting that unidentified human remains of a Grenadier had been found, near Ginchy, and as more details emerged, we agreed with the CWGC that the burial should take place at the nearby Guards Cemetery Lesboeufs. The village of Lesboeufs was first attacked by the Guards Division as it pushed forward from Ginchy on 15th September 1916, and, after heavy fighting and severe losses to both sides, it was captured ten days later. However, it was lost again on 24th March 1918, during the great German Spring offensive and not recaptured until 29th August 1918.

The CWGC Guards Cemetery originally consisted of 40 graves, mostly of men of the 2nd Battalion Grenadier Guards, but it was greatly increased after the Armistice when isolated graves and other smaller cemeteries from the surrounding battlefields were gathered together. There are now 3138 casualties of The Great War buried or





commemorated there including many men of the Guards Division. Tragically, 1645 are unidentified.

On Wednesday 20th July, on a damp and grey morning in Northern France, we buried an unknown Grenadier in the Guards Cemetery at Lesboeuifs with due ceremony. The Rev'd Martin Wainwright CF, padre to the 1st Battalion Grenadier Guards, conducted a short but poignant service which included readings by Colonel Richard Aubrey-Fletcher, President of the Grenadier Guards Association, and the Regimental Adjutant. Three Musicians from the Regimental Band played Last Post, the Grenadiers March and Reveille flawlessly and they led the Bearer Party, found by men from Nijmegen Company, from the hearse to the graveside. The Bearer Party of six Guardsmen were led by Lieutenant Simon Fisher, accompanied

by WO2 (CSM) Mann. They had rehearsed on the preceding afternoon at the cemetery and, on the day, were immaculate. WO2 (RQMS) Oliver read the Exhortation and Kohima Epitaph. Major Robbie Thompson, commanding Nijmegen Company, and Captain Ben Mason, Director of Music of the Regimental Band, both attended as well. After the service, a small reception was held nearby before we all returned to London, via the Chunnel later that afternoon. The trip was arranged Ms Nicola Nash of the JCCC, who also attended the service and reception afterwards and I cannot give enough praise for the work that she and all who work with her do, on a daily basis.

The Guards Cemetery at Lesboeuifs is a very peaceful place now but it was striking to see that all in the Bearer Party were the same age as many who are also buried there.

For the Fallen

Written in 1914 by Lawrence Binyon

With proud thanksgiving,
a mother for her children,
England mourns for her dead across the sea.
Flesh of her flesh they were, spirit of her spirit,
Fallen in the cause of the free.

Solemn the drums thrill; Death august and royal
Sings sorrow up into immortal spheres,
There is music in the midst of desolation
And a glory that shines upon our tears.

They went with songs into battle, they were young
Straight of limb, true of eye, steady and aglow.
They were staunch to the end against odds
uncounted;
They fell with their faces to the foe.

They shall grow not old,
as we that are left grow old;
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun and in the morning
We will remember them.

They mingle not with their laughing
comrades again;

They sit no more at familiar tables of home;
 They have no lot in our labour of the day-time;
 They sleep beyond England's foam.

But where our desires are and our hope profound,
 Felt as a well-spring that is hidden from sight,
 To the innermost heart of their
 own land they are known
 As the stars that are known to the Night.

As the stars that shall be bright when we are dust,
 Moving in marches upon the heavenly plain;

As the stars that are starry in the time
 of our darkness,
 To the end, to the end, they remain.

*“Remember, then,
 whichever way the balance doth decline,*

*If God is in His Heaven,
 and the Guards are in the line,*

All's Well”.

Statue of HM The Queen at the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst

by Major James Gatehouse

In May 2021 I was invited to visit the studio of Caroline Wallace, the equine sculptor, who is based in the Cotswolds. She had been commissioned by the Sandhurst Trust to create a life-size statue of HM The Queen, in the uniform of Colonel-in-Chief of the Grenadier Guards and mounted on Burmese, the horse many will remember from the Queen's Birthday Parades of the early 1980's.

We spent a lot of time examining an example of our State Saddlery, comprising bridle, gold lace headstall and rein, breastplate and saddlecloth, which had been presented to the Regiment in 1851 by the Duke of Wellington, our 15th Colonel. This equipment is still in use today and it was important to get it copied exactly.

On completion the statue was to be unveiled at Sandhurst in the Platinum Jubilee year, to celebrate Her Majesty's close association with the Academy. It is now in place, sited on the approach road that runs between Old College and the Library, beside the garden fence for Lake House. It looks magnificent. The statue is a fitting tribute to our Sovereign and emphasizes her particularly strong connection with the Household Division.



A maquette is now in the hall of the Cavalry & Guards Club.

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Ex GRENADIER CRESTA POOL 2023

by *Lieutenant Alex Villiers-Smith*

Early in 2023 four of the Regiment's most emboldened Grenadiers headed to the Swiss Alps to compete on the Cresta Run. St Moritz has the only two hand crafted ice runs in the world. One of them is designed so that it is near impossible to fall out whilst hurling oneself down at national speed limits – the Cresta Run is not. It is said if a curling stone was sent down it would come out of the run at the earliest opportunity, usually at the infamous Shuttlecock corner. As such any rider cannot be a deadweight; the toboggan must be ridden.

If not, the run is more than happy to take its price, not just in CHF, but in battered flesh. Those readers of the Chin Dictionary will be familiar with that old 'chin-jury' of 'Cresta elbow'. The full skeleton comprised of scans of injuries sustained on the run are testament to the opening gambit of every beginner's brief: "The Cresta Run is an inherently dangerous sport". Thankfully, as to be expected from any good Grenadier, Gdsm Gray and Lear and Lieutenants Coleridge were no deadweights and went into the danger head on. They adopted the saying slow is smooth and smooth is fast, but cutting out the 'slow'.

The sensation of riding can be compared to a

mixture of the speed and rush of parachuting with the on-edge feeling of rock climbing, but fearlessly they pushed their personal boundaries and reduced their times. Lieutenant Coleridge showed early talent by coming fastest out of the novices over the first two days, with Gdsm Gray and Lear not far behind. Steady progress, the main key to Cresta riding, was achieved by all Grenadiers, and we were fortunate enough to be looked out for by one of the beginner Gurus, an ex-Irish Guards Officer, who continued to give advice alongside the senior Army riders so that when race day finally came the team were primed.

All four riders made it successfully down the run, the only regiment to do so, and came second in the Inter-Regimental Pairs (17/21st Lancers Cup), second in the novice pairs, a testament to the quality of the new talent coming through, and Lieutenant Villiers-Smith won the Junction Open race. A very Grenadier day indeed. Lieutenant Coleridge did so successfully he was invited to join the Army Squad and stay out for the inter services season. Gdsm Gray and Lear were on the fringes but sadly narrowly missed out this year, however, made a notably positive impression to the other Army riders and members of the club.

The Inter-Services season then continued in a similar vein, with Lieutenant Coleridge progressing rapidly, though as commented by tower, also aquatinted himself with the straw-based field conditions of Shuttlecock. Sadly the straw claimed



Lieutenant Villiers-Smith exiting the Cresta Run and entering the straw at the infamous Shuttlecock Corner.

him again in the Silver Spoon, very kindly making way for Capt (ret'd) Rupert Villiers-Smith to pick up second place! However it is not to be overlooked he rode 46s on a traditional and made the all important conversion to flat top on his final day, setting himself up nicely for next season and a journey to top. Not bad considering 4 days before arriving in St Moritz he was in Erbil on Op SHADER.

Lieutenant Villiers-Smith, now in his second season managed to make the progression to top, and was fortunate enough to have been given good enough guidance and coaching to make the Army

team of 6 after only 8 days riding from top. The Army then managed to closely beat the Navy and RAF in the Prince Phillip Trophy, with Lieutenant Villiers-Smith fortunately managing to place 5th overall and 3rd in the Scots Guards Cup.

The advancements and dedication of the novice members of the Grenadier Cresta team bode very well for the future, and we look to next season where the aim is to add to the Army team, bolster wider Foot Guards attendance at the run and of course, to decisively beat the Household Cavalry.

Ex FROSTED BLADE 37 – Team Grenadier

by Lieutenant Charles Craven

This Christmas, the Battalion took a team of eight willing Grenadiers to Val D'Isère to take part in Ex FROSTED BLADE 37, the Infantry's annual alpine racing competition. The trip consisted of five weeks of intense skiing, not to mention the opportunities after skiing, such as visiting Val d'Isère's fine establishments like Cocoricos and Le Chevril. Before the eighteen hours' round trip to the French Alps, it became apparent there had

been a snow dump in resort over the last week; a big relief considering the resort's skiing had not already begun.

The trip started with two weeks' worth of skiing with incredible instructors in groups of roughly twenty. This was an opportunity to not only heighten confidence and technical ability, but to also build stamina for the hard-fought races to come. From there, we developed onto gate training. The competition was broken down into two hills: Primary and Development. The Primary Hill competed in all four disciplines: slalom, giant slalom, super g and downhill, and the Development Hill competed in: slalom and giant slalom. Each discipline becomes less technical with fewer turns and progressively more nerve-racking as speeds and airtime increased. The competition was fought on a team and individual level. One of the attributes required is sheer bravery and determination. These were seen no more than from LSgt Willis and Gdsm Flaherty, two members of our team that were complete beginners, both of which were expected to race down icy tracks reaching speeds beyond the national speed limit. Commendable by experienced skiers, let alone complete novices.

At the earlier stages of our racing development, we were fortunate enough to witness the best skiers of all disciplines previously mentioned race down slopes such as the iconic La Face de Belvedere, the steepest giant slalom course in the world. The viewing certainly sharpened one's focus on the task ahead. With the festive period present all too quickly, we had our first experience of racing in the night slalom. A brilliant slalom relay where two



Ex FROSTED BLADE 37 Team

Back Row (left to right): Gdsm Flaherty, Gdsm Ledington, Lieutenant Hodson, LCpl Moore, Lieutenant Craven, Lieutenant Crawford.

Front Row (left to right): LSgt Willis, Gdsm Miller.

Guards' teams were put forward and placed third and fourth.

After a few days' leave over Christmas, and a memorable New Year back in resort, the time came for the team to don their Grenadier Guards catsuits and ski the fresh closed-off pistes. On the Primary Hill, which Lieutenant Hodson, Lieutenant Craven, LCpl Moore and Gdsm Miller raced, the team finished in the middle of the pack. Considering there was no racing experience beforehand, this was a relatively strong performance. Notably, Gdsm Miller won gold for the female competition. The Development Hill, consisting of Lieutenant Crawford, LSgt

Willis, Gdsm Ledington and Gdsm Flaherty, saw great success with them finishing second in both team giant slalom and team combined, whilst also receiving gold in team slalom. Lieutenant Crawford, a last-minute entry as an injury replacement, managed a first and second in individual slalom and giant slalom respectively. Overall, a superb effort particularly by the development hill with the majority only having four weeks' training. Once race week came to its conclusion, the team packed up and jumped in the vans for the long ride home, reminiscing about the fantastic exercise and plotting our return for the next one.

Ex EAST COAST SMASH 22 – British Army Tennis Tour of the East Coast of the USA

by Captain Sean Marren, Captain of Army Tennis

Shortly after returning from Op SHADER 15 and staking part in the funeral of Her Late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, I deployed on Ex EAST COAST SMASH 22, the Army Tennis Tour to the United States. Having been fortunate enough to attend the previous tour to Arizona on the West Coast in 2019, I kindly received funding from Regimental Headquarters to partake in this year's 10-day tour of the East Coast. The intent of the exercise was threefold: to train and compete against amateur and collegiate teams from South Carolina, Georgia, and Florida, to develop Army A Team Squad members for the 2023 season in a challenging environment, and to promote Army Tennis amongst the wider Corps and Regiments.

Consisting of 10 male and female tennis players from a range of different cap badges, the team met up early at Heathrow on the morning of 30 September, and faced an immediate setback – Hurricane Ian! Despite the cancellation of our initial flight to Charleston, South Carolina, we were able to board an alternative flight to Charlotte, North Carolina, which thankfully landed on-time, despite the turbulence. After a three-hour stormy drive to our hotel in Charleston, and a night with intermittent

power, it was time for our first fixture against The Citadel – The Military College of South Carolina. Following a much-needed training session, and a tour of the 300-acre campus from Sgt Tere RAMC, a member of the team and alumnus of The Citadel, the team played a very competitive match against the Division Two NCAA team, coached by tennis legend Chuck Kriese. Although the team were narrowly defeated, the bar had been set – we knew the level that we would have to compete at if we were to be successful in our other fixtures.

The next stop was Hilton Head – a small island in the Lowcountry region of South Carolina, famed for its golf courses, pristine beaches, and approximately 500 tennis courts. Over the next three days we played against teams from four country clubs on the island, with the Army emerging victorious in all matches. We were hosted brilliantly by all clubs, and of particular note was Sea Pines Country Club, who had advertised our fixture in advance, and provided not only a lively



The author in the zone.

crowd, but also a delicious supper and plenty of refreshments following the match. Wexford Country Club also introduced the team to the United States' fastest-growing new racket sport – pickleball. Played on smaller courts, with smaller rackets and softer balls, the sport is easier to pick up, and less taxing physically. Whilst fun, not all team members were convinced, and efforts quickly reverted to tennis practise.

From Hilton Head, the team then travelled down to Savannah, Georgia, where our next opponents would be another Division Two NCAA Team, Savannah College. Here the team played its best tennis against a very in-form, competitive, and young team. After several three-setters and tie-breaks, fighting off the fitness and consistency of young adults that trained six times a week, we forced a 3-3 draw, and were disappointed to have not clinched victory. With two fixtures remaining, our level of tennis was improving, but the volume of training and matches over a relatively short timeframe had led to various niggles, which several members of the team were desperately trying to manage ahead of our trip to Florida.

After a night in Savannah, we drove down to Daytona, where we played Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University. Situated a stone's throw from the famous Daytona International Speedway, the picturesque tennis centre was host to the toughest opponents we would face. The pace of the

Division Two team, coupled with noticeably hotter conditions, were too much for the team to handle, and resulted in a 6-0 loss for the Army. However, the Embry-Riddle tennis coach kindly put on a joint training session following the match, which led to some competitive minigames, and meant that the morning was not a complete waste of time for the home team!

Following the thrashing in Daytona, and an evening of rehabilitation and stretching, the team travelled to Melbourne for its final fixture against Eastern Florida State College. Despite sore legs, and some more very hot conditions, the team produced an impressive performance, and secured its most notable doubles victory of the tour – the first seed doubles pair's win against a particularly aggressive and competitive Eastern Florida pair. Whilst it was the team's only win that day, the remaining matches were all close and hard-fought, which meant that the last fixture of the tour ended on a positive note, and without any serious injuries!

The final day of the tour saw the team enjoy some rest and recuperation at their final stop, Miami Beach, before flying back to London. Although sad it had come to an end, we all felt incredibly lucky to have been afforded the opportunity to play tennis in such a rewarding and challenging overseas environment, and are grateful to Army Sport for allowing it to happen. I would also like to reiterate my thanks to Lieutenant Harry Randle RA for organising and overseeing the tour, and to the Regiment for supporting my tennis endeavours for a second time. Looking ahead, Army Tennis hopes to build upon its two previous tours to the United States, and set its sights on Melbourne, Australia, for its 2025 overseas visit!



The Army Men's Team after The Citadel Fixture, with some new t-shirts.

Grenadier Sailing 2022

by *Lieutenant Toby Cairns*

Ex TIGER GRENADIER GLADEYE 221 took place in July 2022 under the leadership of 2nd Lieutenant Hobbs, taking five members of the Battalion on an introductory week's training in the Solent. Stopping at the usual haunts (Gosport, Cowes, Lymington etc.) those attending not only enjoyed the remarkable July weather that was to be had throughout the country last year, but also gained their initial sailing qualification which will line them up well to be leaders, mates and more competent crews on more challenging expeditions to come.

Guardsman Elliot-Turner then bravely represented the Grenadiers on Ex ARCTIC EXPRESS 22. As the exercise's name may suggest, this sees a Challenger 72 being sailed from Iceland around the Arctic Circle. Gdsm Elliot-Turner,



Challenger 72 Adventure, at harbour. Iceland, Ex ARCTIC EXPRESS 22.



Gdsm Elliot-Turner at the helm of Challenger 72 Adventure, Arctic Circle. Ex ARCTIC EXPRESS 22.

never having been on a boat before, was quickly introduced to the perils of open water, and the seasickness this can induce. However, battling through personal discomfort in the highest traditions of the Guards, he was introduced to the technicalities of sailing on a large ocean-going vessel operating in four-hour watches. Setting off from Reykjavik, the expedition stopped at Siglurfjordur and Bildudalur, and took in the wider Arctic Circle. Much wildlife was seen, including pilot whales, dolphins, puffins, and multiple lesser-spotted sea birds. The trip also included a visit to Iceland's famous hot springs, national parks and the opportunity to learn more about the Icelandic culture. Such opportunities, though less widely publicised than unit-led trips, are available throughout the year with Regimental support for those of an adventurous and independent spirit.

A particular highlight was the annual Seaview Regatta. Organised this year by our own Captain Macdonald Smith, the event saw 27 participants



Grenadier 2 Crew, Seaview Regatta 22. From left, Gdsm Ward, LCpl Szyszko, Lieutenant Cairns.

from four different regiments of the Household Division take part in two days' Mermaid sailing at Seaview Yacht Club on the Isle of Wight. Largely undertaken by novice crews, the regatta began gently with light winds, enabling basic sailing theory and practical instruction to be given by the skippers. The wind built towards the end of the first day leading to more exciting (and in some cases frenetic) sailing. There followed a splendid Barbecue at the Club, with some elements of the Grenadier team subsequently deciding to explore the local nightlife of Hythe. The second day commenced with good winds, leading to more accomplished racing than on the previous day. Sadly, after lunch the wind faded to nothing, leading the remainder of the day's racing to be cancelled. The Grenadier 1 crew were the overall winners, fighting off some very strong competition from the Household Cavalry Regiment.

On 23rd July, a team of Grenadier Officers arrived at the Royal Yacht Squadron in Cowes for the Household Division Regatta. Led by the Commanding Officer, the team consisted of 3 crews of 3 Grenadiers, each crew bolstered with an intrepid wife or girlfriend providing additional support and much needed glamour. The Adjutant skippered one crew, with the Commanding Officer as part of his crew. This temporary reversal to the chain of command was mostly harmonious with only the occasional; "get that rope cleated! Sir, please". Captain Ted Bennett swept all before him and was rewarded with the exquisite Princess Elizabeth Challenge Cup as the overall winner. Unfortunately, this trophy, although more prestigious, is much smaller than the one he had won the previous year

and is consequently less useful for Officers' Mess games.

Sadly, the final two expeditions of the year had to be cancelled. Ex SCARLET FLOTILLA, a pan-Household Division regatta where each Regiment takes at least one boat on a week-long trip down the South Coast was unable to take place due to Op LONDON BRIDGE. Ex TIGER GRENADIER GLADEYE 222, the second introductory expedition of the year, was regrettably stymied by a ripped sail the week before.

Planning for Grenadier Sailing in 2023 is well underfoot. The Grenadiers will take the Household Division yacht Gladeye for a total of four weeks. Two weeks will be spent in the Solent, again training and qualifying the more junior sailors of the Regiment, while two weeks will be spent on the north coast of France. All expeditions are available to all interested members of the Regiment. We aim to retain the Seaview Regatta trophy and will field a crew for the Household Division cruising rally.



Grenadier team victorious, Seaview Regatta 22. From left, Captain Macdonald Smith, Gdsm Ward, LCpl Szyszko, Gdsm Gould, Capt Bennet, Lieutenant Cairns.

First Guards Club – Past v Present Cricket Match Report

by Captain Ted Bennett

Past – Captain Laing, Captain Bartholomew, Captain Openshaw, Captain Parkes, Captain Yorke, Captain Silver Lieutenant Colonel Green, Lieutenant Colonel Shaw, Major Budge, Major Tracey

Present – Major Thompson, Captain Bennett, Lieutenant Tusa, Captain Odum, 2Lt Coleridge, Captain Sinclair, Captain Martin, Lieutenant Colonel Greaves, Captain Harmer, Lieutenant Fisher, Captain Macdonald-Smith

Present won the toss and elected to bat.

Classic conditions at Burton Court for the Annual First Guards Club cricket. An extremely dry outfield left it open to be a high scoring game. However, 123-8 in the allotted overs was all the Present could manage, despite a valiant innings from the captain. A tense atmosphere created by the fielding Past, coupled with helpful advice from the wicket keeper, proved too challenging for the present mess.

Sadly it was to be too few runs, and the Past scored quickly and efficiently. Good efforts from the Present fast bowlers led to a flurry of wickets, but the total was achieved with 14 balls to spare. Ben Tracey hit the winning runs with a big hit over mid-wicket. This kickstarted match tea and both players and spectators enjoyed the late afternoon sun.

Particular thanks to the Regimental Adjutant and CSgt Mooney, for their eagle-eyed umpiring.



Post-match photograph.

First Battalion - Inter Company Boxing

by Major Ty Bearder, Quartermaster

On Sunday 22 May 2022 at 1800hrs 52 warriors stood in anticipation of what was to become of the Inter Company Boxing draw. There is nothing better than staring at your potential opponent wondering if they had been trained as well as you, excited, waiting to see who you will go to battle with in less than 24 hours. Having been trained by your Company coach, ready to demonstrate your courage, controlled aggression, physical and mental fitness to your peers, subordinates and superiors whilst proudly wearing the colours of your Company, the scene is set for the Inter Company Boxing 2022.

In early 2022 The Commanding Officer stated that the Grenadier Guards would hold an inter Company Boxing Competition. WO2 (Drill Sergeant) Thompson and SSgt Boyd (Royal Army Physical Training Instructor) created an opportunity for potential boxing coaches to become qualified to train their Company teams. Each Company entering a team of Soldiers and Officers who would compete for the coveted Inter Company boxing shield whilst also maintaining their primary

output of training for Operations in Iraq, overseas exercises in Thailand, State Ceremonial and Public Duties and the Battle Craft Syllabus. Monday 23 May 2022 in the Gym in Lille Barrack was transformed into a colosseum fit for the gladiatorial contests which were about to begin, packed with spectators and supporters the bell rings, “seconds out, round one” there is an eerie silence until the first punch is thrown, the crowd erupt as these two soldiers compete to be the best in their weight category. A total of 18 bouts were contested on day one of the competition with a further 15 to be contested on day two.

The Inter Company Boxing Finals night was held on Thursday 26 May 2022 at the Aldershot Combat Centre, 10 bouts at the home of the British Army’s boxing team with boxers ready for combat from every Company within the Regiment, the scene was set, the trumpeters sounded the fanfare, as the dignitaries arrive led by the Commanding Officer (Lieutenant Colonel Greaves), once seated, The Sergeant Major (WO1 Bailey) calls for the Boxers to enter the ring and the spectators erupt. Jab for Jab, hook for hook with a few big haymakers finding their target. The evenings competition was fierce however, the mutual respect for their opponent demonstrated by every boxer was a testament to their coaches’ hard work, the exceptional level of discipline regardless the result and the technical ability of each boxer and their physical and mental fitness was one of the best that I have seen as a boxing Officer (Major Ty Bearder).

The Finalists were; Middleweight – LCpl Taylor (The Inkerman Company) vs Gdsm Gonzalez Naylor (Nijmegen Company), Light Welterweight – Gdsm Prentice (Support Company) vs LCpl Bird (No 2 Company), Welterweight – Gdsm Mullins (The Inkerman Company) vs Gdsm Cox (Nijmegen Company), Light Middleweight – Gdsm Smith (Support Company) vs Gdsm Holding (The Inkerman Company), Featherweight – LCpl



The Commanding Officer speaking to the boors prior to the tournament.



The Aldershot Combat Centre, the home of Army Boxing.

Johnstone (13 AASR RLC) vs Gdsm Miller (No 2 Company), Middleweight – LCpl Whiston (The Inkerman Company) vs Gdsm Notton (Support Company), Cruiser Weight – LCpl Hayton (Support Company) vs Dmr Coe (Support Company), Light Heavyweight – LCpl Liston (HQ Company) vs LSgt Hubbard (The Inkerman Company), Heavyweight – Lieutenant Hodson (Nijmegen Company) vs Gdsm Wilson (The Inkerman Company) and Super Heavyweight – Gdsm Vella (Support Company) vs Gdsm Young-Hastings (The Queen’s Company).

It goes without saying that everyone who entered

the boxing ring during the Inter Company Boxing competition should be proud of what they achieved. The dedication of the coaches and boxers in this year’s competition have set the bar high as we look forward to the inter Company boxing competition in 2023. The Best boxer of the Competition was Gdsm Cox Nijmegen Company, the most Courageous boxer of the competition was Lieutenant Hodson Nijmegen Company. The Inkerman Company were the overall winners and recipients of the inter company boxing shield.



Lieutenant Hodson (Nijmegen Company), being handed the most courageous boxer of the evening award by the Commanding Officer.



The Commanding Officer presenting the Inter Company Shield to LSgt Hubbard (The Inkerman Company).

Band Sergeant-Major Christian Day



WO2 Christian Day began his Army career in 2000, joining the Prince of Wales' Division (Clive) Band on trombone. In 2003, he deployed with the band to Iraq as part of a chemical decontamination team and service support to 34 Field Hospital which had established

a 200-bed facility on a damaged airfield outside

Basra. The hospital treated Iraqi and British soldiers, plus a significant number of civilians. For this service, WO2 Day was awarded the Iraq medal with bar.

In 2006 he was posted to Band of the Scots Guards where he served for a further seven years. A highlight of this time was performing as part of the fanfare team that opened Her Majesty The Queen's Diamond Jubilee concert. In 2013 he took up the role of Staff Accompanist and Academic instructor, working alongside the Phase 2 Recruits as they developed their trade at the Royal Military School of Music. In 2016 he returned to the Scots Guards Band. In 2019 he was appointed Band Sergeant Major to The Countess of Wessex's String Orchestra (CWSO) in Woolwich before taking over from WO2 Wen Gregson at Band of the Grenadier Guards in April 2022.

Lieutenant Colonel 'Stumpy' Keeley MBE



Stumpy Keeley joined the regiment in November 1984 and on completion of his training was posted to the 2nd Battalion in Chelsea. Given his build combined with the fact he was one of the shortest men in Number One Company at the time, he soon became known

to all as 'Stumpy', a moniker that has stuck with him for over 38 years. Stumpy was soon to embark on the first of many Op BANNER tours and went to Ballykelly with the battalion for a two-year tour. The time spent in Northern Ireland eventually amounted to five and a half years of his service. It was on one of his later tours in the Province that he was awarded the Queens Commendation for

Valuable Service whilst serving as a Controller in the Close Observation Platoon. His final 2nd Battalion appointment was as a Platoon Sergeant in Number Two Company, where he had the pleasure of working under the legendary CSM Paul Sellers.

In 1998 Stumpy was selected to be a Colour Sergeant instructor at RMAS. Following a stint as CQMS Nijmegen Company, he then became CSM of the Inkerman Company during the Regiment's final Northern Ireland tour of Belfast in 2001/2002. Following DSgt and RQMS appointments, in 2006 he was appointed Sergeant Major of the 1st Battalion in Windsor, almost immediately deploying to Iraq on Op TELIC 8 that summer and to Afghanistan in 2007 on Op HERRICK 6. Throughout his time as Sergeant Major, he managed to avoid wearing Home Service Clothing and it was on one of the few occasions that he wore it on Black Sunday in May 2008, which coincided with the day that he was commissioned!

On commissioning, he was appointed as Second-in-Command of Support Company prior to taking over as the Battalion Welfare Officer, an appointment for which he was awarded the MBE for providing outstanding support during Op HERRICK 11. His

next appointment was Transport Officer for a year prior to taking over as the QM(T), a role which soon changed to that of Battle Group Logistics Officer for Op HERRICK 16. On return from Afghanistan, he completed his second year as QM(T) prior to taking over as Quartermaster.

In Sept 2015 Stumpy attended the 9 month Intermediate Command and Staff Course at Shrivenham and was posted back to the RMAS as a Staff Officer working in Academy's HQ. In Sept 2018 he deployed for six months to Kabul as a BRITFOR Liaison Officer on Op RESOLUTE SUPPORT, which proved to be a fascinating tour working in a multinational HQ in Bagram Airbase and Kabul City. On his return in March 2019, he became a member of the Directing Staff on the Late Entry Officers Course, another rewarding role with lots of job satisfaction preparing the Army's future

Late Entry Officers. In March 2020, on promotion to Lieutenant Colonel, Stumpy took up his final appointment of Staff Quartermaster at the ITC Catterick.

Stumpy retired from military service in July 2022 having completed over 38 years service, rising through the ranks from Guardsman to Lieutenant Colonel. During his career, he served in Kenya, Canada, Hong Kong, Brunei, the United States, Cyprus, Germany, the Falkland Islands, and Botswana and has been on operations in Northern Ireland, Iraq and Afghanistan. He is married to Samantha and they have a daughter, Alana, who is in her first year reading Musical Arts at Woking University. In his younger days he was a keen boxer and still is an avid spectator of the sport. He enjoys walking his two Cocker Spaniels and on occasions attempts to play the guitar, rather badly.

Major Chris Pawlowski, Ypres Company Commander, 1st Battalion London Guards



Chris has served for over 20 years in the Army, starting with the Exeter University OTC (4 years) where he was studying chemistry to Masters Level. Arriving at RMAS two days before 9/11, he went on to serve for 11 years, initially with the 1st Battalion The Royal Gloucestershire,

Berkshire and Wilshire Regiment on Public Duties as well as on Ex GRAND PRIX in Kenya. One of the highlights of this time was a short notice deployment to Kosovo which The Queen's Company under Major Carew Hatherley was also part of.

On the formation of The RIFLES in 2007, he was one of the Regimental Careers Management Officers, an unusual appointment for a Direct Entry Officer. He has also served in Northern

Ireland and Afghanistan as well as taking part in exercises in Belize, France and the US. On leaving Regimental Duty, he served 2 years in the General Staff during the 2010 Strategic Defence and Security Review. Post Intermediate Command and Staff College, he served his final year of Regular service as an instructor on the Junior Officers Tactical Awareness Course at Land Warfare Centre at Warminster.

As a Reservist he has served for 9 years, 6 of which were with 3rd Battalion The Intelligence Corps where he supported strategic headquarters in London. He then spent 2 years at London Officer Training Corps before returning to the Infantry and taking over Ypres (previously G) Company, The London Guards.

In addition to a Masters degree in Chemistry (Exeter), Chris has a London Business School MBA. He works for Amazon Web Services, the world's largest Cloud Computing provider, in their Defence and Security practice.

He was formerly a half decent runner although, post knee surgery, this is a fading memory, and can 'adequately' ski, scuba dive and ride a horse. He lives in Earlsfield with his girlfriend Jo and young son Luke. They are currently renovating a house in Wimbledon.

Sgt Lamin Deen, Grenadier Guards: An Olympian and World Cup Champion

*by Andrew Dixon, formerly Grenadier
Guards*

By way of introduction, Lamin Deen joined the Regiment in 1998 and was deployed to Northern Ireland in 1999 before going on to Kosovo and Bosnia in the early 2000s. As a Combined Services track athlete and boxer, he was talent spotted and inducted into the world of Bobsleigh in 2007, a move that was to change his life. By the end of his first season, he was selected to be a member of the Great Britain team, in which he remained for 14 years, including 10 years as team Captain. During that time, he competed in eight World Championships and two Olympic Games.

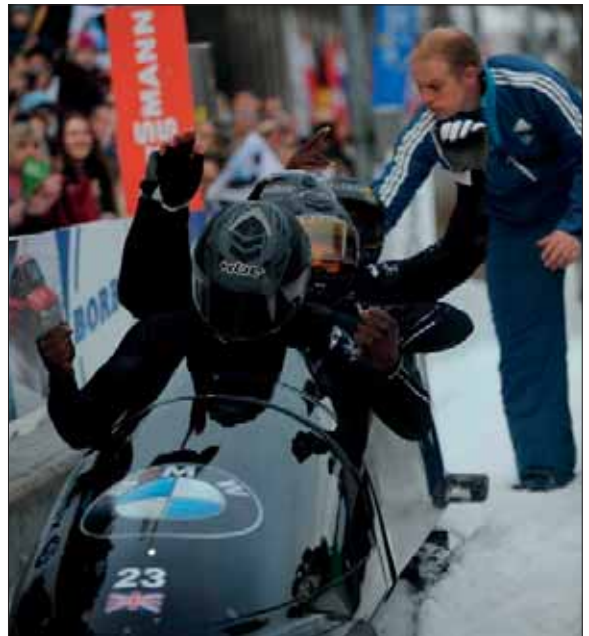


Jungle training: Ex RED STRIPE, Jamaica, 2008.

As a powerful sprinter, Deen in the early days occupied one of the back seats in a bobsleigh. After only three years in the sport as a brakeman, he was selected for the Great Britain 4-man sled due to compete at the 2010 Olympic Winter Games, but while competing in a World Cup event just prior to the Games, he was injured in a severe crash. While convalescing and getting over the disappointment, Deen reflected on his future and concluded that he had more to offer, so made a plan to become a

driver – a huge step taken by very few, particularly after a bad accident. It required him to relinquish his team place and find the necessary funding as UK Sport Development funds were not available for Bobsleigh at the time.

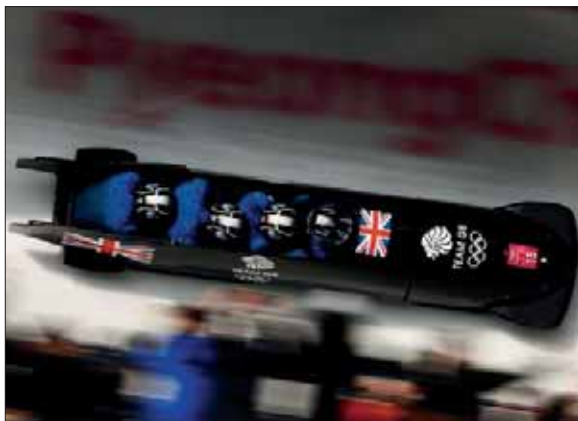
Characteristically Deen was undeterred and embarked on a campaign of fund-raising. He personally raised over half a million pounds while at the same time learning to compete as a pilot of a 2-man sled. Without official backing, he emerged ready to compete for the Blue Riband slot as a 4-man driver. Unable to ignore his performances as a pilot in both the 2-man and 4-man bobsleighs, the British team gave him his first competition drive for Great Britain at the 2012 World Championships, two years after first piloting a Bobsleigh.



Whistler 2017 after winning World Cup Gold and breaking track and speed records.

Medal success soon followed. In 2016 he won five World Cup medals and finished the year ranked 5th in the World. In 2017 he became the first, and to-date the only, GB Bob Pilot to win a World Cup Gold Medal in a 4-Man Bobsleigh. Simultaneously he broke the track record in Whistler by setting the fastest speed ever recorded in a Bobsleigh (156.2 kph).

Participating at the Olympic Games for all athletes is a dream, but winning a medal is unbelievably difficult and everything needs to come together at the right time, and there's only one chance every four years. Deen's Olympic career began at the 2014 Olympic Winter Games in Sochi, but only after a hectic and pressured final week of heavy snowfall, forcing him to drive five times between Igls in Austria and St Moritz in Switzerland, was he able to obtain the required qualification points before the cut-off date. It was a Games for gaining experience for the future which he did with two top 20 finishes. He was now an Olympian. The next target was an Olympic Medal.



'On the wall' at the 2018 PyeongChang Winter Olympics.

As Team Captain at the following Olympic Winter Games in PyeongChang four years later, he piloted the British Number One 2 man and 4-man sleds. This was after a torrid time of bullying and racism in the two-year build up, resulting in the Performance Director, the Swiss Coach, and the Chief Executive of British Bobsleigh, all being stood down weeks before the Games commenced.

Only a short time later at the Olympic scrutineering before the start of the Bobsleigh events at the Games, the Technical Delegate (Swiss) said that Deen's runners on his Bobsleigh did not measure within the rules and he could not compete on them. This was despite the runners having been inspected and measured at all World Cup events leading up to the Games. To find another set of runners on the other side of the

world, in the very short window of time before the end of scrutineering, was near on impossible. The dream of winning an Olympic medal appeared to be over for another four years, but such was his popularity, a fellow competitor lent him a spare set, which although neither his nor of the same standard, enabled him to take part. The true mark of the man was at the press conference following the event: Deen did not make any comment, complaint, or excuse. Indeed, he avoided all questions on the matter in the knowledge that the people he considered his friends together with his fellow competitors all knew it was skulduggery, and whatever he had to say would change nothing. As a follow-up note, the same runners have been used many times since on the World Cup circuit and passed every scrutineering check.

Last season, in the build up to the Beijing Olympic Winter Games, Deen was in the form of his life, with his Driving Stats consistently being in the top three in the world. However, the 4-man Bobsleigh is a team event and without a good start it is impossible to get a good result. Events outside his control conspired to frustrate the team's chances, mainly due to one team member consistently under-performing, another crew member incurring injuries at the wrong time, and the reserve athlete unable to take part before the New Year due to an administrative error (the season starts in October). Yet again disappointment and frustration; the dream was over before the start.

For his entire sporting career, Deen's personal and professional conduct has been outstanding. Although he was subjected to prejudice, unfairness and racial discrimination from the sport's governing body, he behaved in the best traditions of the Army and the Olympics, facing these obstacles with fortitude and stoicism. Despite frequent setbacks, he repeatedly built and recrafted teams, sometimes with limited time and in the most challenging of circumstances. It is a testament to his professionalism and determination that he remained at the top of his sporting discipline, competing in his 8th World Championship in 2021, before missing out on his third Olympics in 2022.

Coming to terms with losing out on a place in the last Olympic Winter Games, Deen embarked on arguably the toughest challenge of his life.

As a man who struggled to pass his military swimming test when in Basic Training, he entered the GB Row Challenge, a 2,000 miles continuous and unsupported row around Great Britain. Two weeks later, in the face of 40 knot westerly winds accompanied by a steep Atlantic swell, *Sealegs* capsized in the early hours of the morning and deposited its five crew in the Irish Sea.

Having got himself back to the self-righting boat, Deen noticed that one crew member was missing. Seeing that he was entangled in mooring ropes and the anchor chain which had come adrift, he swam to their rescue and managed, despite the waves and the darkness, to untangle his fellow oarsman before co-ordinating the rescue with the RNLI. A few days later when I treated them to a little support and hospitality here in Ireland where they were brought ashore, Deen with a smile on his face told me that he wished it had been recorded so that he never had to do a swimming test again.

After repairing their boat, the *Sealegs* team set off again, only to run aground on Muck Island, damaging their rudder. Once more they set off, this time running into bad weather and difficult seas off the Mull of Kintyre. A major operation was launched which saw all the crew airlifted off their stricken boat and taken to Campbeltown hospital. GB ROW Challenge certainly lived up to its claim to

be ‘the world’s toughest rowing race’!

It was 15 years ago that I took a telephone call from Grant Baker, the Regimental Adjutant, to ask if I would ‘mentor’ Deen on his journey to being a World Class Athlete, and keep the Regiment advised of his ‘activities’. During his development, the Regiment maintained their belief and support for him, particularly Brigadier David Maddan, the Lieutenant Colonel at the time, as well as his commanding officers who gave him time away from the battalion to train and compete whenever possible. As financial backers, the Regimental Trustees could not have supported a better man on a realistic journey to Olympic glory, and although the ultimate goal was not achieved, neither they nor he could have done any more. Bad luck and bad behaviour from officialdom played its part, but this is top level sport and no-one knows that better than Deen.

Over the past 35 years, I have managed and worked with many top-class sports personalities from many different sports and was appointed as a ‘World Class Advisor’ to UK Sport for the first 12 years of their ‘World Class Performance Programme’. In that time, drugs, racism, misconduct, cheating and poor management have all too often surfaced in global sport, and many famous athletes have ‘lost their way’ with either success or failure. Deen has been an

exemplary athlete for the entire 15 years, avoiding temptation, always upright in his conduct, possessing the humble ability to treat triumph and disaster just the same. For me it has been an honour to have helped such a worthy and deserving man, and I am proud to have worked with him. He is a true example to us all, a gentleman and an ambassador for Britain and all Grenadiers. As he leaves the army this summer after 25 years of service, he will always be a Grenadier and one that we can be proud of.



Calm before the storm: Cornwall, summer 2021.

Ypres Company Train with Legendary Italian Alpini

by LCpl Gowen

In September soldiers from Ypres Company based in Kingston upon Thames deployed to L'Aquila, the capital of the Abruzzo region in Italy, and home to the 9th Alpini Regiment, part of the Alpini Brigade *Taurinense*. Founded in 1872, the elite Alpini are the world's oldest active mountain troops who wrote their name in the history books during the 'War in Snow and Ice' of 1915–18. The London Guards were reinforced by our Regular Foot Guards colleagues who added invaluable experience and expertise. The aim of the exercise was to provide a retention positive, challenging experience for Reservists, using the multitude of training areas and facilities that the region has to offer.



LCpl Gowen with member of 9th Alpini.

Focusing on command and leadership, the joint NATO exercise built upon progression during the training year. The first week, under the instruction of the Alpini, included rappelling techniques in full CEFO and rock climbing amongst the mountainous terrain around L'Aquila. Following this was a 6km trek up to the summit of Monte Aquila at 2494m. The starting point was near Campo Imperatore, where Mussolini was incarcerated between August and September 1943 until freed by Captain Skorzeny's SS commandos and Major Mors's *Fallschirmjäger* in a daredevil glider mission.

Friday of the first week culminated with a battlefield tour of Monte Cassino, looking at the series of four assaults made by the Allies against German forces holding the Monastery. There are now 4,271 Commonwealth servicemen buried or commemorated at Cassino War Cemetery including members of the Grenadier Guards. On Saturday members of the Battalion visited the Colosseum and were given time to explore Rome.

Following battle prep on Sunday, the final exercise took place during the second week from Monday evening through to Wednesday afternoon. Deployment was delayed allowing everyone to watch HM Queen Elizabeth's Funeral at Rossi Barracks. Designed to test our core military skills



Rock climbing competition at Pasquali Barracks.



Steeping off from the Patrol Base.

and practice new ones learnt during our first week with Alpini, the final exercise was a patrol competition over 36 hrs around the Monte Felice training area in the central Apennines between 1,411m to 1,916m in height.

A detachment of Alpini deployed with each section throughout, affording both parties an excellent chance to better understand how each operate. Carrying full CEFO over the 22 km course, serials included day and night OPs, tracking, handling CPERS, rappelling, and a multiple casualty evacuation. The challenging mountainous environment proved a real challenge for the competing sections.

Although held during an unexpected eventful time, Ex ROMAN STAR delivered an excellent training opportunity for reservists to develop their skills in an arduous environment. Furthermore, working with our Regular counterparts provided an invaluable insight into the professional standards of the Foot Guards. Ex ROMAN STAR was a superb experience, much enjoyed by all and it greatly improved our understanding of working with our NATO allies.



LCpl Gowen, Gdsm Wooldridge, Private Gurung and Gdsm De Silva at summit of Monte Aquila.



Ascent to Monte Aquila

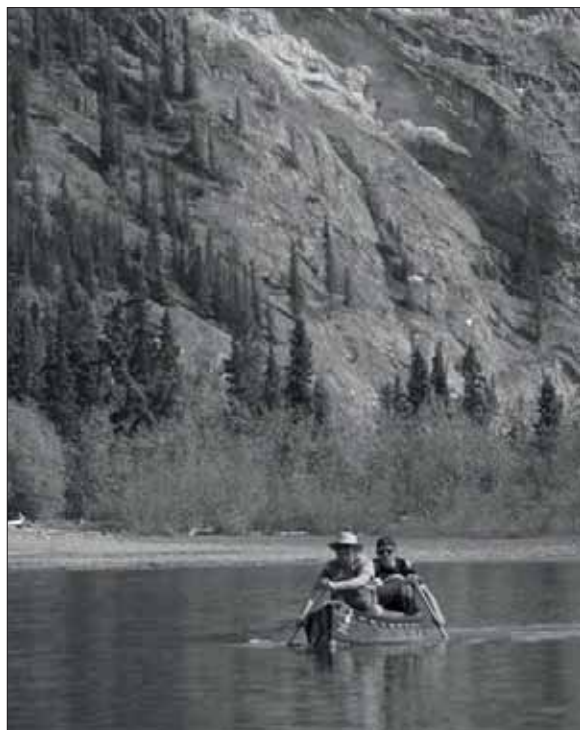


YUKON 700 – 8 Grenadiers, 15 eyes, 13 legs and 100 years’ service...

by Guy Denison-Smith and Ben Stephens,
formerly Grenadier Guards

*“This is the law of the Yukon, and ever
she makes it plain,
Send not your foolish and feeble, send me
your strong and your sane”.*

Robert Service ‘The law of the Yukon’



Paul and Alex – Zig and Zag.

At midday on 8th June 2022, a team of Grenadiers set off in open canoes from Whitehorse in the Yukon Territory, Northwest Canada, down the River Yukon with the dream of getting to Dawson City, some 740 km north having paddled the whole

way unsupported through one of the world’s last great wildernesses. What is remarkable about this adventure is that five members of the team have mental or physical injuries from their operational service in the Grenadier Guards.

The expedition was the brainchild of Major Jon Frith (still serving and the teams only veteran of the Yukon) and Lieutenant Colonel (retired) Guy Denison-Smith (served 1991-2017). It was 18 months in the planning with the ‘sword of COVID’ hanging above us throughout; we didn’t know until 2 months out if we could proceed. Then the green light was given and proceed we did, and the date set for June 2022 when usually as ex-Grenadiers we would be settling down in front of the telly to inspect the Trooping the Colour.

Along with Jon and Guy, the rest of the team was made up with Paul Richardson (PTSD; served 1984-95), Ben Stephens (1990-97), Alex Harrison (blindness; 2003-09), Dougie Adams (PTSD; 2005-14), Garth Banks (double amputee; 2009-14) and Tony Checkley (single amputee; 2009-15). We ranged in age from 32 to 58 and between us have seen deployments in Northern Ireland, Bosnia, Iraq, and Afghanistan across 100 years of service.

Jon and Guy made up the advance party and left for Whitehorse via Vancouver a day before the rest to prepare the canoes, purchase final essentials and gather the teams’ rations. The remainder arrived a day later in time to give everyone a chance to adjust before getting on the river for a training day before the big off. The training day saw us getting to grips with our paddles, working out how to manoeuvre our canoes, keeping our balance and practicing some much needed ‘action on’ drills. Cold water shock (The Yukon is Glacial melt water) was experienced during capsize drills. Basic first aid training, ‘action on’ bear attack, fire lighting and a few other basic survival skills were also dusted off. After all, we were heading off into the wilds where the nearest help would be 24 hrs away at best. Our last evening in civilisation was spent in the aptly named ‘Dirty Northern B*****d’ Bar in Whitehorse where on emerging after dinner we were to discover the sun never sets this far north in June.

Launch day arrived and last-minute admin and purchases were followed by packing canoes and final kit checks; and on the strike of midday, we



The mighty Yukon.

launched our two-man canoes into the current and began the downstream journey North. The first 2 days were hampered by some high winds, the odd squall of rain and the rather long 60km millpond of Lake Labarge; a seemingly endless expanse of water bounded by snow-capped mountains that never appeared any closer hour after hour of paddling such was the size of the surroundings. We began to feel very small in mother natures' wilderness. The distance covered in these early days was limited to 110km, but by the evening of Day 2 we had made it to the northern end of the lake where we were joined by a moose and hordes of mosquitoes. The moose moved on, but the mosquitoes were to become a permanent feature when not on the river. This was also the only occasion where we successfully cast a fly catching a couple of (very) small grayling on a 'little brown job' normally associated with a classic English chalk stream. Thankfully, we had not relied on fishing for our supper!

We woke on Day 3 to blue skies, but it wasn't to last. We set off early, saw our first brown bear and were stalked by an osprey for several kilometres. After our peaceful start to the day, the weather quickly turned. The wind and the rain attacked relentlessly for several hours. "Not quite what I

signed up for" was muttered more than once. Safe to say that the conditions were miserable. Sennybridge ++! We rafted together, hunched up against the elements at the junction of the Teslin and Yukon Rivers. The merging of these two rivers saw water levels rising significantly. The Teslin brought with it higher volumes of water due to the late snow melt and considerable rainfall. These higher water levels turned the river chocolate brown and sped up the current and would continue to cause problems for the remainder of the trip.

Having completed over 120kms, we set camp up on a small island, safe from bears and without



Meet the locals – moose on the loose; bear prints galore.

vegetation so nearly mosquito free. However, we soon realised the river hadn't finished rising. With the water level increasing, we 'staggered on' throughout the night to ensure that we were not washed away. By 5am it was time to abandon our considerably shrinking island and head off whilst we had the time to pack up camp.

Day 4 saw us heading for Carmacks, roughly the mid-point of the expedition and the only significant settlement on our route. The river continued to rise. We reached Carmacks in the late afternoon and grabbed some fresh rations in the guise of burger and chips! Suffice to say that it looked far better than it tasted. After an hour and some quizzical looks from the locals at our abled and limbless motley crew we pushed off into the now very fast flowing Yukon to search for our next camp. No easy task when the islands had mostly disappeared underwater and the steep riverbanks would make extraction difficult for the able bodied let alone limbless.

Day 5 saw our 4 boats head for Fort Selkirk, a distance of around 110km, and the meeting point of the Yukon and Pelly River systems. But first we had to contend with Five Finger Rapids. Nervous energy across the team was noticeable. Of course, this was also the day we put the two amputees in the same boat. With one leg between them, they took on the rapids first. No excuses for the rest of us! We all got through unscathed, albeit with a little luck, and then headed on towards Fort Selkirk arriving in the early evening. We were warmly welcomed by Rita and her family from the Northern Tutchone people. The Fort had been established in 1848 by Robert Campbell for the Hudson's Bay Company and housed a detachment of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police until 1952. Since then, Rita and her family have cared for the site maintaining it as it had been left 70 years' before.

Leaving Rita proudly flying a Grenadier flag we donated to her and wearing one of our caps, we bade farewell to tackle Day 6. The water level was still rising as we headed for the junction of the Yukon and White River. Along the way, we were joined by a moose who had decided to swim across our path, at this point the river being a km wide; a truly sensational sight. We camped that evening at 'Thistle' finding a navigable exit that the local gold prospectors had forged in the dense forest. 'Yukon

Gold' being very much a thing this far north. The evening passed without incident, and we left the following day knowing that we had 200kms left to cover until we reached our final destination.



Last night camp.

However, danger was never far away on our penultimate day! The high and fast water brought with it huge amounts of deadwood and debris; everything from fully grown trees to small logs. This was to be dodged at all costs as we didn't want a damaged canoe. Fortunately, we managed to avoid any major issues. However, that wasn't the end of our troubles on that day as we seriously struggled to find somewhere to camp. After paddling 140kms, we considered pushing on to Dawson City! A 200km day would not have been ideal at this stage of the expedition – but if you can't get off the river there isn't much option. Fortunately, we found a partially hidden landing spot where a logging track met the river. It was the ideal location for our last night in the wilderness. Bear and moose footprints greeted us but we were not going anywhere.

We woke on our last morning with 50kms to go to Dawson City and were joined for breakfast by a couple of inquisitive beavers. With the camp packed up for the last time and the canoes made ready we headed off, arriving elated at our destination by midday. The sense of achievement amongst us was huge. The team had overcome every obstacle together – every man played his critical part. It was for the briefest of moments as if we were all serving again, in a close-knit team, dependant on one another only ever having to think about food, shelter, survival and the task at hand. Living under



The Paddlers' return. From Left to Right: Dougie, Alex, Tony, Guy, Jon, Garth, Ben and Paul.

the never setting sun, in unfamiliar territory, with every sense straining to distinguish if the noises of the wilderness were friend or foe we had come out the other side. We had taken on mother nature and learnt to go with the flow...literally. This was a truly memorable experience for all of us and showed that disabled or not, together extraordinary things can be achieved.

Ultimately the benefits of the expedition can only ring true in the words of the team:

“Stepping back into the military mindset helped me find myself again. That close family feeling, something I’ve not felt since leaving the army”.

“The Yukon 700 was the best trip I’ve been on since leaving the Army”.

“Our time in the Yukon was a mix of exhaustion, mosquitoes, flooding, fireside stories and breathtaking scenery. It was a great team that I think bonded in the hardship of those days on the river”.

“There’s so much good that has come from the trip honestly and I will never be able to thank the Colonel’s Fund enough for making it all happen”.

We were all truly humbled by the level of support we received from so many and for the generosity shown toward our fundraising attempts. Thank you to you all. All said and done we raised enough to donate just shy of £10,000 to both SSAFA and Combat Stress via JustGiving. Through Grenadier ‘family and friends’, we have enough to fund the 2022 expedition in its entirety and another one in 2023.....yes, the madness goes on and we go again!

Watch this space for news on the Yukon 700 in 2023!

YUKON - 2023

In June 2023 Guy, Ben and John will be taking five more Grenadiers that have suffered either mental or physical injuries back out to the Yukon to carry out another epic trip of 750kms in 7 days. This time they will be travelling along the Teslin and Yukon Rivers, to read more about this challenge and donate please follow the QR code.



Ex PANTHER GOLD 2022

by Lieutenant Simon Fisher

In March last year, Support Company (ably backfilled by a platoon from the Inkerman Company) deployed to Thailand to participate in the latest iteration of Ex PANTHER GOLD. Training started early in the year to prepare the company for the jungle conditions it would be operating in while deployed, in what would be a first experience for most in tropical conditions.

After a slightly longer than usual wait in East Midlands Airport, the company landed in Bangkok somewhat jaded after a long flight yet ready to experience Bangkok for a few days of R&R prior to transiting to the north of Thailand to begin training. The few days of mandatory COVID-19 isolation passed seamlessly in Bangkok after which the company were picked up in Ex PANTHER GOLD branded coaches for the long journey north.

The Royal Thai Army welcomed us to with a very smart opening ceremony, the Grenadier reputation for immaculate turnout had certainly preceded us. Thus started the acclimatisation period in which the company was based in Petchabun, conducting a training package alongside our Thai sister company. The lessons were varied and enjoyed by all; a

particular highlight being the jungle survival lesson in which we were taught the basics of living off the land, with a guide through the flora and fauna on offer when deployed. Some were even persuaded to try snake blood, certainly a unique taste I am told. The companies mixed very well, with both Thais and Grenadiers delivering lessons and each platoon making good connections with each other.

Once acclimatised, deployment to the jungle beckoned. High in mountains of north Thailand, the first experience of the jungle environment was a pleasant one for most. Having acclimatised in plus forty degree heat the cooler mountain air was refreshing. The first week in the jungle included navigation routes and contact drill lessons. The Thais were guided through British jungle tactics by the Jungle Warfare Instructors (JWIs), who then offered a lot in return as the local experts.

The exercises progressed from individual navigation through section level patrolling and contact drills to platoon movements through the jungle and platoon actions. The JWIs had worked hard to plan and confirm routes to be used for the various activities and to build a jungle base camp for each platoon to conduct an attack on. The final exercise phase saw the platoons conducting an ambush, a jungle base camp attack and platoon routine drills. All basic yet physically arduous actions were completed to a high tactical standard. The Thai platoons also completed the same actions alongside their British counterparts and certainly taught their accompanying JWIs and chains of command a great deal about how to live as comfortably as possible in the jungle.

The weather turned at times, one particular night saw the Reconnaissance Platoon lie in wait in their ambush in conditions more akin to the Black Mountains than the tropical hills of Thailand. Morale remained high throughout though



Grenadiers and the Royal Thai Army on parade at the exercise opening ceremony.



Guardsmen and Jungle Warfare Instructor on patrol in the Thai jungle.

as the Guardsmen took great delight in in the relative discomfort of their peers. Whether this was individuals falling out of hammocks, being bitten by spiders, or seeing extremely venomous snakes and running a mile, the effect was always the same: initial concern followed by fits of hysterical laughter.

Much too soon, the exercise began to wind down. The British Ambassador to Thailand accompanied

a plethora of Thai Government and Army VIPs to a closing ceremony in the main jungle camp. This was very swiftly followed by many fond memories and gifts shared between the two sister companies.

The opportunity to deploy to Thailand for a month was a privilege for the whole company and all had a wonderful time. Highlights included the unique experience that was exploring Bangkok, the array of lessons learned from the Thai Army, the golf tournaments dominated by Captain Osmond, Sgt Browning and Lieutenant Tusa (with strong showings from Captain Reames) and most importantly the lasting connections made between the Grenadier Guards and the Royal Thai Army.



Grenadiers and the Royal Thai Army on parade.

Bosnia and Herzegovina Short Term Training Team

*by CSgt Nathan Truman, Reconnaissance
Platoon Second in Command
1st Battalion Grenadier Guards*

On 5 Nov 21 a Short-Term Training Team (STTT) deployed to the Combat Training Centre (CTC) Manjaca Range Complex in the Republic of Srpska (Bosnia). The team deployed to run a Range Management and Targetry Employment course for the Bosnian and Herzegovinian Armed forces (BiHAF). The STTT consisted of one Officer and five NCOs generated from the School of Infantry and London District, with 2 Senior Non-

Commissioned Officers being deployed from the 1st Battalion Grenadier Guards. Led by a Captain from the Parachute Regiment, I, along with the then-Sniper Pl Sergeant, Dale Wilsher (1CG) took on the roles of Chief Instructor and G4 lead for the trip. Most of the in-country support was provided by the Defence team operating out of the British Embassy Sarajevo. The three of us deployed ahead to conduct an ad-hoc recce and secure the accommodation for the remainder.

Travelling via civilian air, we moved through Vienna and eventually landed in Sarajevo Airport, Bosnia. We left the airport, heading into torrential rain and apparently the worst floods of the year, expecting to be met by a representative from the Embassy. We had no such luck however and were presented with two sets of car keys and a mobile

phone pre-loaded with an address –The Marriot hotel, Banja Luka. So began the first ‘command appointment’ of the trip, 8 hours of driving on unfamiliar roads, in the dark through awful weather. The platoon commander and Sgt Wilsher in one car, myself in the other, we spent the night meandering our way north, constantly diverting to avoid the worst of the flooding. It wasn’t all bad however, as Bosnian fuel stations stock some of the strongest coffee we had ever tasted!

After arriving to Banja Luka in the early hours of the morning, we got some much-needed sleep, and awoke a few hours later ready to conduct reces of the combat training centre at Manjaca and the surrounding areas. Banja Luca as a city was strange, incredible architecture along the river Vrbas, but tainted with a blanket of grey due to heavy pollution and bad weather. We conducted our preliminary recce using broken Bosnian, hand signals and a translator app to determine the capability of Banja Luka’s hospital, then took the 30-minute drive to the Combat Training Centre (CTC). In the hotel that evening, a US Green Beret team advising the Counter Terrorism police introduced themselves to us, and I was shocked to discover they were keeping all their weapon systems in their hotel room. Even worse when I realised that this small armoury contained a Carl Gustaf recoilless rifle!



The author, together with British trainers and Bosnia partners.

Many of the older generation of Grenadiers will recognise the CTC at Manjaca, as it was used for training and courses during the Battalion’s tour of Bosnia. A basic camp with dated buildings, sheds full of (rusting) American and Russian armoured vehicles, nearly untenable accommodation and a pack of stray dogs permanently stationed there. The training area was vast and provided more than what we would require for the duration of the trip. I wouldn’t advise allowing any Small Arms School Corps guys near it – The ‘grenade range’ was simply a small dip in the ground next to the road, although they assured us it was deep enough to prevent the passing cars being damaged!

After meeting all the relevant points of contact we would be dealing with over the course of the trip, we had been in country for 48 hours. We then had to make the drive back down to Sarajevo Airport to collect the remainder of the team – 3 instructors from the Infantry Training Centre, Catterick. Thankfully the weather front had weakened, and the drive took only 3 hours each way. With the whole team now situated in Banja Luka, we were ready to deliver the course we had designed in the evenings.

No plan survives contact. We had been tasked to teach the BiHAF how to employ a new targetry system, and to assess and improve their range management procedures prior to them becoming a part of NATO’s spearhead force. This requires achieving several standards across the board, safety being one of them. On arrival for day one of the course however, the Bosnians informed us that they had a ‘Distinguished Visitor Day’ (DVD) approaching and wanted to use the new targetry to ‘put on a show’. In the interests of Defence Engagement, we decided to help them with this task for the first week, and then compress our original plan to be delivered in week two. No problem, or so we thought.

The new targetry system had been described to us as a carbon copy of the British Army’s current system – SARTS. Even when removing it all from the shipping crates; it looked like SARTS, smelled like SARTS, sounded like SARTS. This is where the similarities ended however, and it proved to be the single most complicated piece of equipment we had ever seen. Packaged with a Toughbook-style laptop and an empty box where a manual should have

been, the system required we use programming to control all operations of the target, up and down, fall when hit and the like. With a Parachute Regiment Captain and 5 Infantry Non-Commissioned Officers, knowledge of programming language was thin on the ground. This led to a week of long nights in the hotel, searching videos on the correct wording and symbols to input into this incredibly frustrating system.

Thankfully, the instructors from ITC seized the initiative, taking the Bosnian soldiers and delivering an ad-hoc CQB package, using a 'portable' CQB village that had also been provided by the British Embassy – essentially ISO containers broken down, that could be put back up in a variety of ways. They may have been portable, but construction and deconstruction took at least a day a piece. The Bosnian soldiers loved it, and the instructors from ITC performed impeccably.

The Distinguished Visitors Day arrived, and the BiHAF did indeed put on a show. A range demonstration with a Bosnian Captain pretending to operate the targets we had programmed, followed by a clearance of the portable village they had constructed, went down extremely well with the Bosnian Government, and even ended up on state television. Pats on the back all round and then we had a day off to mark Remembrance Day in Banja Luka. A very low-profile ceremony, we laid a wreath at a small war memorial and then went to have

some local 'Cevapi' with the British Ambassador for Bosnia.

It was that evening, after at least one bottle of the local beer, that we realised that we had a few days remaining of the trip and had not yet given the BiHAF any lasting capability regarding the targets – our initial main effort. We asked the question, and it was eventually agreed that we could extend our trip but would need to send two people home. Luckily two of the instructors had prior engagements so we didn't have to draw straws. Now we numbered four and entered our final week in country ready to teach what we had originally set out to. With the Bosnian soldiers granted leave following the success of the visitor's day, we split the remainder in two groups. I took on the Bosnian Officers mess delivering operation of the target system, whilst Sgt Wilsher took the NCOs through basic marksmanship, weapon handling and range management.

Following on from the programme we had created for the visitor day, teaching the officers how to construct range practices was straight forward, almost a 'copy and paste' process. The only difficult part was politely declining repeated shots of 'rakija', a home-grown fruit brandy that would take the paint of walls, let alone allow me to teach! Down on the range however, most of the time was spent trying to stop the Bosnians creating a 'teepee' out of their Vietnam-era M16s and taking ammunition to the point in carrier bags. Eventually progress was made however, and we were happy to leave at the end of the third and final week knowing we had at least imparted some knowledge and capability.

Bosnia was a refreshing experience, being pushed out of our comfort zone, having to find solutions to complex problems not normally presented to infantry soldiers and commanders. Despite the poor air quality and frankly awful weather, it was nice to be able to revisit an area which held history for the Battalion and to help another army in the process.



The training team marking Remembrance Day in Banja Luka.

A Grenadier in Oman

*by WO2 (Regimental Quartermaster Sergeant) Damian Paul Thomas
Land Regional Hub (Oman)*

Throughout my career I have had the opportunity to serve in some amazing countries: Australia, Indonesia, and Japan to name a few. So, when I was given the opportunity to be the first Regimental Quartermaster Sergeant for the Land Regional Hub in Oman, I jumped at the chance. With the support of my chain of command, I was thrust forward to represent the Battalion on the Global Hub platform in a part of the world that is becoming more and more prominent; both for its location and for its training potential.

Oman is widely considered as a friendly nation to the British. In a 6-hour drive South from the capital city Muscat, near a small town called Duqm, it has an untapped resource of a vast training area which can be utilised to experiment with new expeditionary ideas and collaborative training. With over 500 square kilometres of (in parts) flat barren desert, deep wadis, spiky vegetation and just one graded road through the middle, units here are given the opportunity to rewrite the book and trial any idea that can safely be exhausted. I have been part of a newly formed 3-person team (within a 6-person hub) that is responsible for the

enablement and delivery of a safe place to train in and operate from, for any tri-service unit that utilises this space. The team aspires to swell but will remain small (no more than 10) to provide the necessities for units to conduct real expeditionary training from deployment to redeployment; allowing the units to really test themselves to their own limitations. During the past 6 months we have supported several units including a 2 SCOTS battlegroup, 1 LANCs, 661 Sqn Army Air Corp, 40 Commando and 29 Commando. We supply and control the training area, provide local corporate/area knowledge, strengthen relationships with local authorities, maintain all local infrastructure and equipment, deliver their statement of requirements, and support all their in-country needs from G1-9. We are the one constant on the ground.

Duqm is a growing coastal town in the Southeast of Oman. It has a vision to expand and prosper with plans that will see more people come to work, live, holiday and build in the town. It is home to a large deep-water port that regularly docks everything from warships to cruise liners. Here they are mainly repaired and cleaned before sailing to their next destinations. This port enables us to get equipment delivered almost to our doorstep. It also has a large domestic airport with aspirations to develop on a fully international scale. This provides the means to fly troops directly into the estate with minimum road move. The roads are well made to accommodate future traffic and the area has an abundance of dead space to expand into. Near to the town an enormous oil refinery is currently under construction. Once the oil refinery is completed, it is anticipated that further investment into the town will increase, and it will eventually become a vibrant second city of Oman.

Whilst here I have been accommodated in The Renaissance Village. This is a purpose-built resort designed to house, feed, administer and entertain up to 17000 overseas workers. These workers primarily build the oil refinery and are made of up of many nationalities, with most workers being from India and surrounding countries. Some spend over 18 months in 8-person rooms, working 6-day weeks. The tax-free money is too attractive for them to ignore. Daytime inside the village is extremely quiet but the evenings are alive with workers



The Land Regional Hub (Oman) team 2022/23
From left to right: SO2 Enable – Major Morton (AAC), RQMS – WO2 Thomas (1GG), SO2 Deliver – Major Borthwick (SCOTS).

walking around chatting and relaxing after a hard day's work.

Oman is a challenging country to operate in. Military timings must allow for Omani 'Inshallah' (God Willing); which signifies no promises are made and whatever you need to happen will happen – when it happens. My patience has had to increase immensely – Omanis need to have the smallest of detail covered before they deliver, and they have all the time in the world. Every day has a problem for the team to solve. Whether that be an issue with visas, getting people in or out of the country, unloading a ship with snapped loading straps or delivering a toilet to a specific point in a vast desert. It has been surprising that what can be a simple solution at home, can take hours (or even days) to achieve to the same the desired outcome in Oman. Working with Omani authorities is challenging due to the system they operate in – with one decision maker and a ladder of procedures that must be followed to achieve what you need to happen. If one rung on the ladder is missed, then you must return to the start. This can be frustrating at times and was difficult to adapt to. Working here has ensured that I have been tested and educated in my abilities to build enduring relationships, my ability to plan and organise in fine detail and my understanding of logistics at a strategic level. Relationship building is key to get results. Once the trust has been built into the relationship, unlocking things becomes easier, which makes the existence of the Land Regional Hub in Oman vital as the scale of training increases within the country for UK Forces.



Curried goat Christmas day dinner in Duqm.

My 7 months in Oman has been an extremely rewarding experience. I have made many friends amongst the locals and workers alike. I have been taken outside of my comfort zone and discovered that I can indeed be patient (when I have no other choice but to be so). I have also managed a little downtime visiting Dubai, Abu Dhabi and Muscat and have enjoyed spending winter (including Christmas and seeing in the new year) in the relatively mild 30 degrees heat. That said (despite the weather back home being dreadful), I am looking forward to returning home to a Sunday roast, an English breakfast, and a large glass of red wine, Inshallah!

Adventure in the Oman

I spent the Autumn attached to Kohima Company, a conglomerate reservist company formed from 4 LANCS, 4 YORKS and the Queen's Own Yeomanry, on their deployment to Oman on Ex DESERT KHANJAR. We deployed as Task Force Hannibal for 2 SCOTS Battlegroup which was a great opportunity for the reserves to prove their deployability.

So, in late September we arrived in Duqm. For those readers unfamiliar with the geography of

Oman, it is on the coast roughly halfway between Muscat and Salalah. Duqm is going through a radical transition from fishing village to industrialised port and as such is essentially one large building site. This was particularly obvious as, when we weren't on exercise, we were accommodated in a self-contained camp with the immigrant workers. It was, however, perfectly comfortable with decent facilities.

Working with reservists was an interesting experience. Having had a limited (and not altogether favourable) exposure to reservists beforehand, I

confess that I approached the deployment with a certain amount of trepidation. However, they were a competent bunch, and I was immediately struck by their enthusiasm and creativity when soldiering. Some individuals were particularly impressive and contributed to a successful exercise where Kohima Company proved to be a credible enemy and may have even edged 2 SCOTS on a couple of occasions.

The final exercise of the deployment was Ex KHANJAR OMAN, played out on Ras Madrasah Training Area between the 2 SCOTS Battlegroup, which included a company from the Royal Army of Oman, and Kohima Company. 4 Brigade Headquarters was also deployed as HICON. Ras Madrasah is a brilliant training area, several times the size of Salisbury Plain and a combination of flat desert, complex wadi systems and purpose-



Kohima Company rehearse CASEVACs on Ras Madrasah Training Area.

built villages. As 2 SCOTS and the Omanis were mechanised, Kohima Company were equipped with a fleet of pickups which resulted in some exciting chases flat out across the desert as the two sides tried to outmanoeuvre each other. Otherwise, Kohima Company utilised them for hit-and-run attacks in line with the Task Force Hannibal tactics.

There was also a fantastic opportunity for some adventurous training in a beach camp near Muscat. This gave us an opportunity to see more of Oman as we spent three days swimming with the turtles, mountain biking, visiting Muscat and speedboating along the coast.

All in all, it was an enlightening experience. Kohima Company proved themselves on the exercise and ensured the 2 SCOTS Battlegroup received valuable training. It was also a great opportunity for defence engagement with the Omanis and a fantastic opportunity for us to see parts of Oman which is undoubtedly a stunning country.



Dawn in a wadi on Ras Madrasah Training Area.

A Combat Medic in Chad

*by LCpl Sasha Molinari
Mortar Platoon, Support company*

In November 2022, I deployed to N'Djamena, Chad in support of Op TURUS – British military operation to assist the fight against Boko Haram, Islamic State-West Africa Province and aligned militias in West Africa. I was deployed to be a French linguist for a Combat Medic Instructor Course Short Term Training Team (STTT) that

was made up of service personnel from the Royal Army Medical Corps. It was only the third United Kingdom sponsored STTT to Chad and the first ever in theatre that was aimed specifically at training Combat Medic Instructors. Due to in-country political instability, deadly protests in the capital and floods there was some uncertainty as to whether I would deploy but thankfully I was able to.

I worked out of the main French Airbase in the Sahel region of Africa where the STTT came under the Coordination and Liaison Cell (a small formation created to interlink French, British, US and African



Closing ceremony at the MNJTF HQ with soldiers from Niger (L) and Chad (R).

nations’ operations against terrorist insurgence in Africa). Our job was to train handpicked officers and soldiers of the Multinational Joint Task Force (MNJTF – a coalition made up of countries in the Lake Chad Basin which are affected by terrorist factions) in battlefield first aid and how to instruct it. Throughout the deployment, I was required to interpret the training teams’ prepared lessons into spoken French and interpret in both directions between French and English during question-answer sessions. I was also responsible for producing a French version of the Basic Combat Medic Skills pamphlet.

The training was extremely well received by both the students and the MNJTF hierarchy,

who recognized that it was the quickest way to disseminate lifesaving first aid skills throughout the Force. My language skills were able to develop an excellent rapport between the training team and training audience which contributed greatly to the overall success of the course. All students will now deploy with their newly honed skills on Op LAKE SANITY, a MNJTF-led combat operation intended to destroy any Boko Haram and IS-WAP formations in the Lake Chad Basin.

Op TURUS was my first operational venture, both as a Grenadier and a Military Linguist. I thoroughly enjoyed my time in Chad and it was one of the most fulfilling exploits in my army career so far. I very much look forward to deploying again as linguist, hopefully the Operations Officer is reading this!



Training Team and Chadian Students.

Grenadier Guards Finds Ascot ‘Too Busy’

by our Racing Correspondent

In the £1 million Platinum Jubilee Stakes at Royal Ascot in June, Grenadier Guards (Odds:

50 to 1) on his first outing from Japan set off strongly in the 24-strong field. Urged on by jockey Cristian Demuro about 2 furlongs out, he



responded well, only to weaken inside the final furlong and sank back to finish 19th. ‘He wasn’t in bad shape, but I do think the 1,200 meters was a bit busy for him’ said Demuro.

Watching the race, trainer Mitsumasa Nakauchida’s hopes had risen, only to be dashed. “For a moment, when he was moving up, I thought ‘Oh!’ but the ground he’d quickly gained was just as quickly lost in the end. It was unfortunate but only because I’d had my expectations up. He prefers a much harder track. Though the ground was officially ‘good to firm’, it was still relatively soft compared to Japan. In Japan, it would have been considered ‘slightly heavy’”.

Estonia Deployment

by *LSgt Hankey*

I recently returned from my deployment on Op CABRIT with 2 Rifles. It was the first time that I have deployed away from my home unit and though it was challenging at times for I had to learn a whole new method of operating and working in a completely different environment, I found it to be extremely rewarding and beneficial.

I began by deploying to Tapa Camp in June. I'd been very fortunate with the timing as I'd heard horror stories of the Estonian winter; when I arrived, it was actually warmer than Britain! There was some confusion from the Riflemen as those outside of the Signals Platoon weren't aware of my attachment so there were a few "Are you lost?" or "Buckingham Palace is West, mate" comments. These soon stopped after I was greeted by the team and was welcomed with open arms. 2 RIFLES has a very forward-thinking ethos where if you don't know something you find out. This worked well for me as it meant I could ask plenty of questions and learn all about their regiment, where I was and what they wanted from me. Their Signals Officer also took the time to greet me shortly after my arrival and introduced me to the rest of the command team. I was pleasantly surprised by how relaxed their approach was and how much trust they put in me as a CV Sgt to just crack on and get the job done. The trust was there from the start and was incredibly humbling, because it meant that I had to fulfil the role immediately and meet their expectations straight away.

Quickly we began working with The Estonian Defence Force on smaller exercises and in-camp training lessons. They were very friendly and receptive to our training, though they made a point of demonstrating just how capable they also are. I was thoroughly impressed by the effort they made to understand English and not allow the language barrier to get in the way of them imprinting themselves on the joint exercises. They were also very keen to lead on training serials, we often found that striking the balance early would get the best out of both nations' teams and would ensure we all gained the most from the training that we conducted.

As the deployment progressed so too did the scale and complexity of the exercises. We deployed to Riga, Latvia for Ex SILVER ARROW. This was designed to be a run-out for BGHQ and one of the rifle companies, including a road move from Tapa to Riga. I was very impressed by how tenacious the HQ staff were when setting up the various headquarters, no one was a spare part. We found that the communications could be difficult on the training area due to the dense forestry found throughout the Baltics. For myself as CV Sgt, it meant comprehensive reconnaissance of the areas and working closely with the Signals Officer to ensure that the battlegroup could speak throughout.

We then went on to Ex BOLDER, this was a battlegroup deployment led by The Estonian Defence Force but made up of 2 RIFLES, 1 Scots Guards and a company from the French. This was conducted on the South Tapa Training Area where the conditions were less permissive. We were attached to armoured infantry. They moved quickly across the large plains and did not get as bogged in as the wheeled vehicles that we were operating in. This was not a challenge that I'm used to but was eye-opening because I now know what challenges we could face if we have to deploy with an armoured battlegroup.

Working as part of a multinational HQ was also challenging as we all use different radio equipment and due to the sensitive nature of the hardware, were not allowed to handle each other's' equipment. We quickly learnt that we had to send individuals to work as liaison teams to ensure things ran smoothly. Once we did, we were a formidable force. Our Anti-Tank Platoon were destroying a lot of enemy vehicles and the Estonian armour was moving quickly through the ground to clear it, followed by the light-role rifle companies to hold the ground. My role allowed me a good oversight of what was happening, and I was privy to a lot of the command decisions that were being made, which then played out in front of me on the ground.

I enjoyed my time deployed with 2 Rifles and gained a lot of respect for them as a unit working in a multi-national deployment. It was a good showing from British Forces and I would encourage anyone to take any opportunities like this if they are offered them in the future.

REGIMENTAL HISTORY

The Battles of Monte Camino November-December 1943

by the Assistant Editor

The first quality of a soldier is fortitude in enduring fatigue and hardship; bravery but the second'. Napoleon, Maxims of War.

Prelude to the First Battle of Monte Camino

The main German winter line straddled the Garigliano River – among the Aurunci Mountains, across the Liri valley, and on to the renowned stronghold of Monte Cassino – but so long as the enemy held the Monte Camino massif it was impossible for the Fifth Army even to it. The Allied

therefore launched Op RAINCOAT (aptly named as it turned out) to prise the Germans off the high ground. The US II Corps which included 1st Special Service Force, composed of six battalions of highly trained Canadian and American troops, was tasked with taking the northern part of the massif and Lieutenant General Sir Richard McCreery's X Corps's 56th (London) Infantry Division commanded by Major General Gerald Templar, which had reached the lower Garigliano on 2 November, was ordered to take M.Camino itself. He allotted the challenge of capturing the mountain to 201st Gds Bde.

Time was of the essence for the longer the enemy delayed the Advance of the Fifth Army in this area, the stronger he could build his defences in depth on the main Gustav Line. The 15th Panzergrenadier Division had prepared well for this delaying action: buildings were destroyed, and trees felled to clear fields of fire; bridges blown; antitank ditches dug; pillboxes constructed; minefields laid; booby traps set; wire obstacles erected; and machine guns, mortars, and artillery were sited so that DF could be directed on all approaches.

At first sight M.Camino seemed to differ little from the mass of grey hills by which it was surrounded. What distinguished it from its neighbours was not so much its height than its mass. With the Aurunci Mountains guarding the Western approaches, it filled completely, with its outlying spurs and gullies, the Eastern side of the seven-mile gap along which ran the road to Naples and





View of Camino from the orchards to the South (History of the Scots Guards).

the Garigliano river. As such it became a natural bastion of the German defence system.

For the previous fortnight the 6th Battalion Grenadier Guards ('the Grenadiers') had occupied the tops of the hills to the south; they had done two full scale battalion attacks and had been in contact with the enemy throughout. They had lived on Compo rations the whole time, seldom having enough water with which to wash and shave. They had had a negligible amount of hot meals because there were no means of cooking on top of the hills, and they had not had a roof over their head for a month.

Although they were hardened and in training for rough work, they had had no proper rest for 16 days and nights – it is impossible to sleep and rest in a cold wet slit trench – and many were physically and mentally tired. A lot of men had body sores and blood poisoning from the filthy conditions and the inability to wash.

The First Battle of Monte Camino

Friday 5 November

At 10.00 hrs, the Grenadier advanced party converged on the concentration area on Chestnut Hill on the forward slope of Monte Croce and was followed later in the day by the battalion. Lieutenant Wheatley of 2 Company: 'Grenades were cleaned and checked – likewise Bren guns and Tommy guns – ammunition was issued, haversack rations were

drawn, 48-hour rations dished out. Free chocolate and cigarettes distributed, jerseys and other oddments were wrapped up in gas capes. Then more studying of the Company objectives ensued. Tiffin, the imaginary issue of inedible item, passed as usual unnoticed, and the time had come to seriously think of dressing for battle. The last letters were hurriedly finished off, the brew swallowed, and the companies moved off down the forward slope of Chestnut Hill to a pre-defined spot where they were to await the word to move on. A hot meal was brought up

by the Pay Sergeant just before nightfall. For many this would be the last meal of their lives, for the rest of us, our last meal for 5 days'.

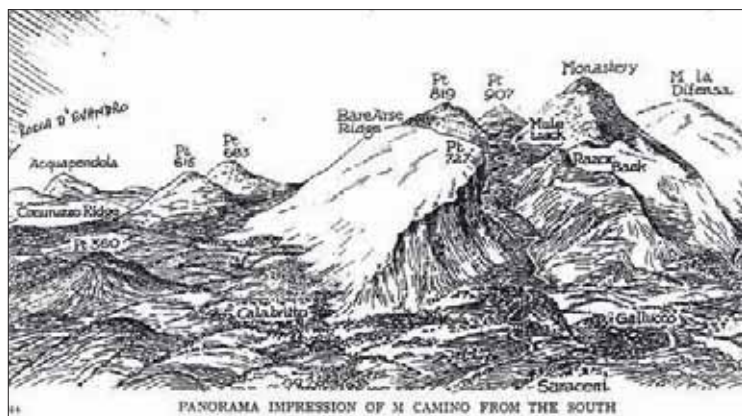
It was a bitterly cold night with the only warmth provided by a greatcoat and blanket. Returning from Bde HQ, Lieutenant Colonel Kingsmill, the commanding officer, had an accident in his jeep, so the Senior Major, Sir Hugh Cholmeley, attended the Bde 'O' group the next morning to view the ground and make the plan for the attack.

Saturday 6 November

'The plain at their feet was filled with orchards and vineyards, little farms and villages, and beyond them rose a steep sharp spur leading to the Western end of Camino. It was the obvious approach, indeed



The road to Miele at the foot of the mountain.



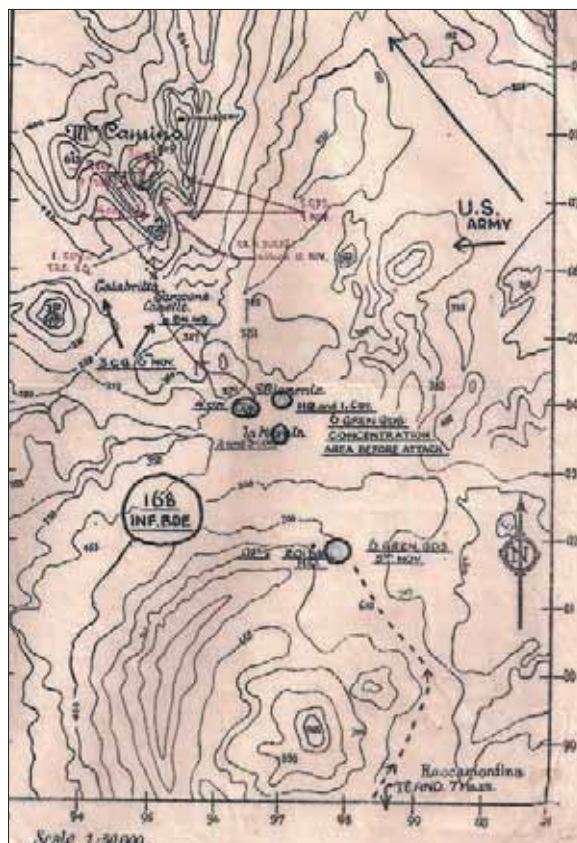
the only approach, for the southern face of the massif was almost precipitous. They christened it Bare Arse Ridge. At the top of the ridge, where it began to level out into the main crest, was Pt. 727. On the crest itself, there were three places of importance: at the Western end, Pt. 615; in the centre, immediately beyond Pt. 727, the twin humps that formed Pt. 819 and Pt. 907; and on the extreme right, the pyramidal summit (Pt. 963) of the whole mountain which became known as Monastery Hill, from a small chapel on its very peak¹. Less than two miles to the North lie Monte La Difensa (Pt. 960) and Monte la Remetanea (Pt. 907).

These points were viewed (from the London-Irish Rifles OP) some 7,000 yards away, so little could be ascertained as to the suitability of the mountain for climbing. Orders were then given for the brigade attack – the 3rd Battalion Coldstreams ('the Coldstreams') were to secure the village of Calabritto (3 Company) and Pillbox Ridge spur (4 Company) at the base of the mountain and then the Grenadiers were to pass through them, climb up the 2,000-foot mule track and secure Pts. 727 and 819 and then exploit Westwards to Pt. 683. The 2nd Battalion Scots Guards ('the Scots Guards') were in reserve.

Intelligence reports indicated that the ground was 'lightly held'. It would later transpire that the Allies had hugely underestimated the strength which the Camino massif would be held. In this

respect, there was an unfortunate similarity to the experience of the 201st Gds Bde at Battle of the Horseshoe in Tunisia 16-17 March 1943 when Eighth Army intelligence had not only failed to discover the existence of two large minefields but had also failed to identify the presence of the battle-hardened German 90th Light Division dug in on the hillside and hilltops. Instead, they described it as 'lightly held by inexperienced troops'².

A 3 November entry in the 201 Gds Bde War Dairy recorded that Gdsm Chadwick, Scots Guards, who had been captured near Battipaglia in



Grenadier battle map.

1 Nicolson, N: *The Grenadier Guards 1939-1945* Vol 2, p.372.

2 The outcome of this misappreciation was that the 6th Battalion suffered losses of 63 ORs killed, 88 wounded and 104 taken prisoner. Among the officers, 14 were killed, 5 wounded and 5 taken prisoner.

September, had made his way south on foot (after jumping off a train) and reported to Bde HQ. He had “seen considerable work in progress on the Southern and Eastern slopes of M.Camino (and) had watched German sappers blasting positions into the rock and gangs of Italian civilians being used. They told him that this work had been going on steadily, night and day, for three weeks”. Yet a 5 November War Diary entry stated that, after attending a Divisional intelligence conference, ‘information about the enemy’s numbers and his positions was slight...nothing is known of the identity of the enemy whatsoever’.

The Grenadier companies left for their lying up areas around San Clemente. At 20.00 hrs, company commanders were summoned to Battalion HQ just to the South of Canelle and were told that the Coldstreams, who had set off at 16.30 hrs, had not taken all their objectives as their 3 Company had encountered minefields and barbed wire obstacles covered by Spandau fire and taken casualties. It was not until dawn the next day, after finding another route to the objective, that they stormed into Calabritto. Nevertheless the Grenadiers decided to press on.

Gdsm Colver, 2 Company: ‘There we were, over four hundred men loaded up like camels and mules trotting in a thin black line, houses on each side flaming away, the first time we had been warm for a month’.

The Grenadiers set off up the mule track at 23.15 hrs. The line of march was led by a heavily armed battle patrol commanded by Lieutenant Hackett-Pain, 4 Company (Major Hanbury), 3 Company (Major Cook), 2 Company (Captain Howard), Tac HQ and 1 Company (Major Britten).

Sunday 7 November

Captain Howard, 2 Company: ‘The slowness was appalling, and it quickly became doubtful if we would make the summit in darkness. No one who had not actually tried it would have realized the difficulty of getting there – huge boulders continuously, precipitous and with deep cavities between – in full equipment and ordinary army boots.’

Progress was slow – the whole hillside was lit up by fires either started by the Germans or by smoke shells. After a nine and a half hour climb over hard

slippery rock, the Grenadiers arrived at the West of Pt.727 with about half an hour of night remaining. Casualties had been minimal with one killed and two wounded in Lieutenant Hackett-Pain’s battle patrol which had proved the route.

By 05.35 hrs, 4 Company was in position on Pt.727 but 2 and 3 Companys were still in the open.

Captain Howard, 2 Company: ‘It was getting light. 3 Company’s wood could be seen a quarter of a mile away and a rocky escarpment to the right. As the light was now so bright and I was frightened of shelling from the left exposed flank, I decided to take the company over the escarpment to the other side. Here I found a certain amount of chaos – two platoons of 3 Company having begun to put in their attack on the wood, had been fired on and suffered a few casualties. It had, however, caught them on the wrong foot and they were rather non-plussed and confused and much in my way. It was now broad day light and I decided I must attack right away whatever happened to 3 Company. My objective was quite clear and about three hundred yards away – I put 5 Platoon (Rodney Wace) down in the escarpment and 4 Platoon (Grenville Cholmondeley) and 6 Platoon (Sgt Wood) into the assault FUP on our rocky positions. I came down to lead the assault, and still finding a platoon of 3 Company not knowing what to do, told it to attack the wood and move up it to the Northern end (there being no senior officer of 3 Company about). Our assault went quite successfully, and all positions were taken with very few casualties. It was now about 07.15 hrs. Consolidation was then made extremely difficult by intense Spandau fire (from the rim of the Saucer and Monastery Hill which overlooked the entire position from the East) which now began to ravage the whole area. My plan for the defence of the position was to put 4 Platoon forward on the high rocky outcrop, 5 Platoon in the rear of the outcrop and the small basin between it and the wood, together with myself and a skeleton HQ and 6 Platoon in north extremity of wood. 5 Platoon was to pay special regard to the flanks’.

1 Company had been unable to take the Saucer owing to the fire and by daylight found itself stranded on Bare Arse Ridge, open to mortar and artillery shelling from the North and East from where the Germans had a commanding view over



The mule track.

the ridge and the ground between Pt.727 and Pt.819. So intense was the Spandau fire that it took an hour to crawl the 500 yds to Tac HQ.

Gdsm Sam Stephens, 4 Company: 'On the peak at dawn – solid rock. We could not dig slit trench as usual so built-up rock sangars or piles of rock pieces to shelter behind – when dawn arrive I found myself close to the edge of a cliff with large boulders all around. The Germans directly opposite can see our positions – we find theirs hard to discern – I do not have space to stretch legs out – have to stay curled up – no chance to move. It is necessary to wet myself where I lay. About mid-morning I am shot in the leg...Pretend to be dead. Intensive mortar bombs fall about us and continue all day – Sgt Buck is killed...Corporal Spencer takes over...

has his leg blown off...bombardment does not cease all day or night'³.

Lieutenant Wheatley, 2 Company: 'As dawn appeared over the dip the head of 3 Company was nearing the top of Bare Arse, the remainder straggled out for about 750 yards... As 3 Company came up to the top of Bare Arse they were fired on by three Germans just over the rise, several people fired back but they made a swift getaway. There was a shout for stretcher bearers on our left and we learnt to our dismay that Lieutenant Brian Henshaw (2 Company) had been badly wounded by a rifle shot to the chest, he was carried down the mountain but to everyone's deep regret he died of his wounds at the bottom.'

Half of 2 Company was up whilst the other half were still spread out down Bare Arse. At this crucial moment (07.40 hrs) a number of Spandau's opened up from our right and pinned the rear section of 3 Company to the ground...2 Company continued up the hill (Pt.819). Everything went well until they came over the summit when everything in hell opened up...Just as the gun fire was decreasing, Grenville Cholmondely was hit by a burst of Spandau in the chest. He fell back into the arms of his Platoon Sgt and died a few minutes later...3 Company had cleared the wood with no opposition and since I was the only officer present⁴, I sited the two Platoon positions. Everyone dug in as hard as they could, we could hear the continuance of battle on 2 Company's hill but little did we guess what was to follow.



On the heights of M.Camino.

³ Stephens is confused. Buck survived but LCpl Spender died.

⁴ From this moment, Wheatley remains with 2 Company.

Ralph Howard came over to our hill and said the battle was going badly, hand to hand fighting was taking place, and he didn't think that more than a Platoon's worth of men were in one piece. I sent Sgt Young's Platoon to help 2 Company and that was the last any one saw of the men in that Platoon for they were all either killed or taken prisoner... Rodney Wace came across to us having lost a couple of fingers and stopped something in the chest – likewise a few more wounded came back. Major Tommy Cook had by now arrived with us, having left Jimmy Whatman (his 2ic) at Company HQ in the rear part of the wood. He went across to see Ralph Howard who was on our side of the 2 Company hill, and it was there that the second disaster occurred. A Spandau firing up between the two hills mortally wounded Tommy in the back and Ralph in the leg; Ralph got back to us alright, but Tommy could not be moved without a stretcher⁵.

The whole of Company HQ were casualties, 2 killed and 2 badly wounded, all by the same Spandau. Just at this crucial moment we saw Germans appearing over the top of 2 Company's hill and the blitz on 3 Company was on. So it was that Major Cook was left mortally wounded and died of his wounds⁶. Darkness came and it was again possible to move more freely about the Platoon positions, although the situation was still as tense as ever with the Germans only a few hundred yards away. Jimmy Whatman suddenly appeared from Company HQ where Tommy Cook had left him. Apparently a German patrol had taken the whole of Company HQ prisoner and Jimmy had been caught with his trousers down, in more senses than one – it was this fact that had saved his bacon!

The Commanding Officer decided against continuing to Pt.683 and from 10.30-15.00 hrs the companies remained on their objectives, but no movement was possible. 1 Company and Tac HQ

came under constant mortar shelling and suffered several casualties. A thunderstorm then broke which allowed them to move into a cleft behind Pt.727 but they were still subjected to mortar fire.

Throughout that day and night, British guns had brought DF to bear when called and disrupted German counterattacks.

Monday 8 November

The night was one of continual mortar fire on 1 and 4 Companys and Spandau fire on 2 and 3 Companys. By the morning of 8 November, the battalion had achieved 75% of its objectives – Pt.727 was held, Pt.819 likewise but precariously for the hollow which overlooked them and Monastery Hill were still in enemy hands. The brigade commander's plan was for the Scots Guards to attack this⁷ and to that end a Grenadier recce patrol under Lieutenant Hackett-Pain was sent out to assess the ground and enemy positions. The day was spent much as the previous afternoon. Although there was less mortar fire, the Spandaus were more active on 2 and 3 Companys from the West and 4 Company was kept pinned down by fire and sniping from the direction of Pt.613.

Lieutenant Colonel David Forbes, the Coldstream commanding officer, went up to Calabritto to see whether his battalion could pass round the Western side of Bare Arse to attack Pt.683 from the South. At 09.50 hrs he was wounded in the head by a shell splinter and died two days later. It was a devastating loss to the brigade and the battalion of one of their most experienced and much-loved officers.

At 14.50 hrs, the Grenadier called for DF on Pt.683. A hour later, they called for DF 300 yds inside the registered line – an ominous sign.

Lieutenant Wheatley, 2 Company: 'It was quite obvious what would happen when darkness fell and we didn't have to wait long. Patrols came at us from

5 Wheatley may have his dates wrong. Other accounts state that this happened on 8 November.

6 Tommy Cook's body was recovered from a small graveyard dug by the Germans on the Western side of Pt.819 a month after they had been driven off the mountain. Confusingly, his silver cigarette case and photograph of his wife were discovered in a different grave to the south of Pt.819.

7 The Scots Guards history is a variance with this version of events. F Company had originally been detached to support the Coldstreams against an expected counterattack and at 23.00 hrs, it set off in single file to climb Bare Arse. 'The going was terribly hard mainly over great sharp-edged boulders and sometimes long grass growing in it. It was necessary to have frequent rests. Two hundred yards or so was all we could manage at a time, especially towards the end when we were all getting very tired. There were heavy rainstorms most of the way up and a biting north wind'.

all directions, Spandaus, grenades and Very pistols were all let loose. When the patrols withdrew, there was some fairly withering fire from 2 Company Hill which was heartening to know. The enemy had not taken the whole of their position'.

Tuesday 9 November

A Grenadier ration party with ammo and water under the Adjutant and Lieutenant Snell arrived at Tac HQ and Snell managed to continue with supplies to 1 and 4 Companys and get behind 2 and 3 Companys. The stretcher party with the Adjutant dumped the 60 lbs Compo boxes and 2-gallon water cans, picked up the wounded and departed but Ralph Howard refused to go down with it and Rodney Wace, who was missing two fingers and had a collapsed lung, went with them and the walking wounded⁸. A tearing wind from the East reduced movement to all fours and there was no let up from the bitter cold and mortar fire. Twelve of the seriously wounded died of exposure that night.

The same night, Lieutenant Clerk-Rattray, SG, attempted to reach the Grenadiers with a mule train loaded with rations. As he reached the top of the Mule Tack, the path was wept by Spandau fire and he had to returned after unloading the rations in dead ground.

Resupply was to prove hazardous through the battle. B Echelon was located at Roccamonfina about 7 kms Southeast of M. Camino but A Echelon was far closer to the front line in Miele village and within range of German artillery and Nebelwerfer 21cm multiple mortars. Using the caves as shelters for storage and loading, once the Italian and Basuto muleteers left the village and led their mule trains up the track, they were under constant artillery and mortar fire. In many instances, troops were used as porters to lug rations, water and ammunition up to the forward companies.

Gdsm John Last, A Echelon: 'For seven long nights we suffered the many agonies of carrying up the steep slopes of Camino to our forward Companys...twisted ankles, grazes and cuts from sharp-edged rocks, the crucifying pain from shoulders rubbed raw, shoulder sockets like red hot,



Nine men bring one casualty off the mountain.

molten lead, sinews strained to almost breaking point, physically tired beyond description. Add to these the torrential freezing rain, the sleet and the hail, the icy gale-force winds and the lightning and thunderstorms, together with enemy stonks, the high tension of moving unarmed to and from the vicinity of the enemy line. These all form a picture of the conditions for every young man carrying on Camino'.

F Company Scots Guards (Captain 'Bones' Rathbone), which had set off at 23.00 hrs on the night of 8 November, arrived just before first light and came under command as a counterattack force. There was just time for them to build sangars before movement became impossible.

The morning of 9 November found the Grenadiers still in position, clinging to the bare slopes of Pt.819 and the wood below it, but no movement was possible. Lieutenant Wheatley, 2 Company: 'There was a great deal of discussion as to when F Company should attack 2 Company's hill and eventually the decision was taken that just before dawn would be advantageous. This decision was taken mainly due to the expected full moon and this would ostensibly illuminate the few hundred yards of no-man's land as if it were daylight. The Grenadiers readily mucked in with the Scots Guards and shared their slit trenches... The night continued with spasmodic firing and 50% of the Company remained standing

8 In the rear companies, Lts Sainsbury and Hervey-Bathurst were both wounded.

to. The remainder of the Company went to the bottom of their slit trenches, but I don't think anyone closed their eyes'.

Shortly before dawn F Company prepared for their attack on Pt.819. Orders were given and one platoon had got as far as a forming up position, when something happened that altered the whole course of the battle. A German counterattack came in. Soon after first light it became obvious that the enemy had infiltrated and was subjecting 4,2 and 3 Companys to sniping. 'Bones' Rathbone decided to change his Platoon positions when around 11.55 hrs another counterattack came in, only this time from the opposite direction. Caught in the chest by a burst of Spandau fire, he died within a few minutes. Lieutenant Fyfe-Jamieson was wounded and died two days later.



Grenadiers on M.Camino.

Lieutenant Wheatley, 2 Company: 'The Germans came up to where Sgt Young's Platoon had been, apparently they thought this a suitable place from which to bang off at us, how right they were, they could see the whole Company dispositions and they manoeuvred Spandaus into position. This clever piece of work cost us a lot of casualties; two stretcher bearers were killed whilst they tended the wounded. It was suicide to move about and the Scots Guards must have suffered 50 casualties mainly because they were dug in. It was at this moment of the battle that John Brocklebank was killed: he was sitting up in a very shallow slit trench facing towards Sgt Young's old positions and was shot through the head by a sniper. He never felt a thing

and indeed we did not know he was dead until two hours later'.

The Bde forward artillery OP was knocked out by a direct hit. At 16.00 hrs after another determined enemy counterattack, a platoon of 2 Company was cut off and captured. Both 4 Company just West of Pt.727 and 1 Company were exposed to persistent Spandau and unable to move.

Darkness came and the wounded were collected. The section positions were manned by the dead, having been propped up in their slit trenches with steel helmets and weapons. There were about twenty men of 2 and 3 Companys still able to fight, half of these were wounded but able to carry on. It was decided to send down the walking wounded in an attempt to save their lives. Ralph Howard still refused to go.

At 20.00 hrs Lieutenant Hackett-Pain took out a patrol to contact 2 and 3 Companys but could not reach them due to intense enemy fire although his patrol managed to destroy an enemy mortar position. A hailstorm and a small earthquake added to the unpleasantness.

During the day, the Coldstreams had handed over Calabritto to the London Scottish and concentrated in Miele at the foot of the mule track.



Grenadier sangars on Bare Arse Ridge.

Wednesday 10 November

After making their way up the corrie on a track previously considered unusable and taking nine Spandau posts in the process, by first light the two other Scots Guards Companies – Right Flank



14. The terraces at the top of Cantino. On the left is the rocky peak of 819 and the wood where F Company fought alongside the Grenadiers. The high peak to the right centre is Monastery Hill, with part of Razor Back on the extreme right. The track on the right is a continuation of the Mule Track, and leads to the Monastery; at the time of the first assault this track was not nearly so well developed. Right Flank and G Company were dug in among the scrub and boulders. The crosses of G Company's temporary cemetery can be seen on the left.

The terraces on the summit (Scots Guards).

and G Company – had established a firm base on the western slope of M.Camino about 500 yards Southeast of F Company, 2 Company and 3 Company, now known as ‘the isolated companies’. As the Scots Guards recalled ‘this began several days of sitting around in the clouds (literally) and shooting like hell, which was not much fun as our only protection from the weather was the clothes we wore’.

The day opened with less mortar fire but intense Spandau fire wracked the ‘isolated companies’ (now under Captain Whatman’s command) who radioed that they were on the point of being overrun. By now they numbered less than 100. Somehow the enemy failed to press home their attack – not doubt due in part to the accuracy of the Allied artillery and mortar DF dropped 100 yards in front of the isolated companies. By now over 100 casualties had been though the RAP and the Grenadiers were getting very thin on the ground. News came that the Coldstreams were to relieve 1 Company and 4 Company that night and an attack by the 7th Battalion Oxfordshire & Buckinghamshire Light Infantry (‘Ox and Bucks’)⁹ at 03.00 hrs the next morning to take Pt.819 would allow ‘the isolated companies’ to withdraw.

Gdsm Colver, 2 Company: ‘We were now so few on the hill, our ammunition was low, a lot of our rifle bullets had gone to fill the Bren gun

magazines, as had bullets from dead men’s pouches. We also drank water from their bottles and ate their emergency hard chocolate bars and kept our own’.

The scene on the mountain was vividly described by the War Correspondent Alan Moorehead: ‘An earthen track zigzagged up the sheer faces of the mountain. There were no trees, only coarse grass, and so the enemy on top had a perfect

field of fire. Rainwater was cascading down the track at such a pace that it unseated boulders and loose rocks, and these went careering to the bottom. There were two processions on the track, one going up and the other coming down, and the whole of this moving human frieze was under shell fire... The upward travellers were mostly Italian mule teams carrying blankets and boxes of ammunition. Then there were single soldiers, each one with a heavy box of rations on his back, and they were bent double by the incline...The stretcher bearers were on the downward journey, eight men to a stretcher. Often they dislodge a boulder, and the whole party wobbled uneasily. For the most part the patients, their blood mixing with pools of water on the canvas stretchers, would be held at an angle



Allied artillery fire on Razor Back.

⁹ At 08.30 hrs, the Ox and Bucks now under command of the 201st Guards Bde had been placed at four hours’ notice to move.

just short of over-balancing. Every minute or two a shell came down. They first hit on one side of the track, then the other, then in the angles of the sharp bends. Whenever a shell hit the track itself a gap would open in the procession. At first this gap was filled with smoke. Then as the smoke cleared you would see the fallen men scattered among the steep grass and the mules stampeding’.

Meanwhile the Coldstreams had reached Bare Arse late in the afternoon and two companies were established on the ridge where ‘soaked to the skin in their open sangars’ they were exposed to mortar, artillery, and Spandau fires. Every shell that hit Bare Arse echoed around the mountain and sent rock splinters flying which were as lethal as the shell fragments themselves. Seven or eight men were wounded daily and had to be carried painfully down the hill under shellfire.

Captain Desmond Adair (Battalion HQ) with a small patrol plus four stretcher bearers had managed to get to the isolated companies halfway through the night with news of the Ox and Bucks forthcoming attack and were able to put Ralph Howard on a stretcher. He did not return the same way but went down the Corrie via Bare Arse Ridge to Miele. Then there was an explosion and several bursts of fire and Howard shouted out that the party had been attacked and asked for more stretcher bearers. A stretcher bearer went out and found two other stretcher bearers dead, one wounded and no sign of Adair. Howard was eventually evacuated to safety¹⁰.

That evening at 23.30 hrs the Ox & Bucks left for the hill climb. The commanding officer of the Scots Guards met Lieutenant Colonel Shaw-Ball at the head of the pass and took the battalion up to the start line, which ran at right angles across the top of the mule track and between the two spurs on which the Scots Guards and the Grenadiers were lying. It had taken about three hours to make the climb and owing to the steepness of the track and the heavy pack carried by each man, frequent halts had to be made in order to maintain the continuity of the column. Fortunately, there was little interference

from enemy artillery or mortars.

Briefly the Ox & Bucks plan was as follows: on the right, B Company’s objective was the rock pimple at 953076; in the centre, A Company was to take Pt.819; on the left, C Company was to occupy and hold ‘Grenadier wood’. The composite Company was to form a firm base astride the start line between the two Guards battalions.

Tac HQ was to remain just below the start line. The artillery plan comprised a barrage to cover the attack, timings being based on 100 yards in six minutes, and also concentrations to be brought down on features on the flanks. The Scots and Grenadier Guards on the right and left respectively were to assist in neutralizing any opposition from the flanks; in particular, the Scots Guards were to work forward and endeavour to knock out enemy Spandau posts on the ridge leading up to Monastery Hill.

Thursday 11 November

During that night, 1 and 4 Companys and Tac HQ of the Grenadier battalion, having been relieved by the Coldstreams, came down the congested goat track and arrived at Miele at 02.00 hrs.

At 03.40 hrs, the Ox & Bucks companies crossed the start line and, after about 200 yards, B Company on the right encountered heavy machine-gun fire from its right flank. This fire came from a number of Spandaus sited on the Monastery feature.

Owing to crest-clearing difficulties, it was impossible to bring artillery fire down on these positions and it could only be hoped that the Scots Guards would work forward to this ridge and contain the posts whilst the attack went through. When it became apparent that they had not succeeded in doing this, a detachment from B Company went forward to deal with them and some of the nearer posts were cleared. This action, however, delayed the advance and broke up the cohesion of the attack and it was difficult to regain control of the company in the dark.

Once the advance had restarted, heavy opposition was met from an enemy location on

¹⁰ No news about Desmond Adair was received until some eighteen months later when his body was discovered on the battlefield and positively identified.

the pimple slightly short of and to the right of Pt.819. This location was eventually captured, but a counterattack by the enemy regained it before a chance to reorganize. Owing to the losses sustained and the obvious strength of the enemy position, B Company decided to work round to the left and join up with A Company, which had gained its objective on the left side of Pt. 819. This company had met little opposition until within a few yards of the top of Pt.819 where it managed to overcome it but then found it impossible to get Bren guns into position on the forward slope. So they consolidated on the reverse slopes, with B Company protecting the right flank. The left company, C Company, reached the woods with slight opposition and dug in. There, the remnants of the isolated companies, which had been cut off for four days and nights, were found.

At 06.00 hrs on 11 November, 2 and 3 Companys of the Grenadiers and F Company¹¹ Scots Guards were relieved by the Ox & Bucks and, after making their way down the hill, arrived in the Battalion area in the village of Canelle.

Lieutenant Wheatley, 2 Company: 'A tot of rum for some but for others all they wanted to do was sleep, some slept in the caves at Miele or in the large war damaged house, those that had taken their boots off could not get them back on again, their feet were swollen to twice the size with trench foot. To end I would say that it was the endurance, courage and discipline of those three companies that made it a memorable battle, they endured incessant fighting, vile weather and shortage of rations for longer, I should imagine, than any other three companies in the whole Italian campaign, and if more troops had been available those lost lives and the deeds and endurance would have won a battle instead of being thrown away for no avail'.

Back on the mountain, the Ox & Bucks position at first light was as follows: B Company on the right had failed to secure its objective but had closed in on A Company in the centre which had gained its objective but had been forced to consolidate on the reverse slopes only; C Company on the left had secured its objective, but there was a gap between it and A Company.

Soon after first light on 11 November it became apparent that the position of the two forward companies on the right was unenviable in the extreme. They were much in the same position as the Grenadiers had been, overlooked on three sides from Pt.819 to the front, the pimple to the right and Monastery Hill behind them on all of which the enemy had a number of well concealed dug-in Spandaus. Movement in any form was impossible and the enemy, being on higher ground, was able to shoot down into the sangars. The advantages in range and rate of fire of the Spandau over the Bren gun also had decisive influence in the battle. The situation was made more difficult still by the stretch of ground between the composite company and the forward companies being covered by fire from the high ground on the right. The enemy on this occasion showed little respect for the Red Cross and impeded the Ox and Bucks efforts to get stretcher-bearers to collect the wounded.

At about midday the enemy succeeded in infiltrating a number of Spandaus into the gap between C and A Companys and also between B Company and the composite company, with the result that the two forward companies on the right were in danger of being cut off. Orders were therefore issued for these two companies to concentrate on the left company as its position was less exposed. The difficulty of carrying out this readjustment was considerable owing to the impossibility of movement, loss of leaders and the fact that crest clearance made artillery support ineffective. The anti-tank platoon worked forward on the right and engaged the enemy and after some delay a smoke screen was put down and, with the exception of a few men who were cut off, the two right companies concentrated on C Company. This move was not followed up directly by the enemy, who, instead, continued to infiltrate between the forward companies and the remainder of the Ox & Bucks who were forming the firm base.

The situation was becoming increasingly precarious and all the men of Tac HQ – signallers, pioneers and anti-tank platoon – were formed up and launched in a counterattack on the enemy who

11 F Company had gone up the hill with 3 officers and 105 other ranks: it came down with one officer and 57 ORs.

had interposed themselves between their position and the forward companies. This counterattack was successful, and the enemy withdrew. The forward companies were by this time so seriously depleted that it was decided to withdraw them. About thirty men were formed into a platoon locality on the left of the anti-tank platoon and the remainder were formed into one rifle company. These were stationed behind Tac HQ in a counterattack role.

By last light, therefore, on 11 November the position was practically identical with that which had existed before the attack took place – the Germans still occupied Pt.819. On the right the Scots Guards maintained their position on the spur below Monastery Hill and from there, holding a line roughly along the original start line, the Ox & Bucks anti-tank platoon and composite platoon, and finally the Coldstreams who had relieved the Grenadiers.



German Spandau in action.

Friday 12 November

At 04.00 hrs, in brilliant moonlight, Major General Templer went up the mountain and visited all the forward troops. He telephoned down that he needed to see the Corps commander and a meeting was scheduled for 11.30 hrs at Corps Tac HQ. Earlier that morning, a Coldstream patrol at reached Pt.683 and in the absence of returning fire and concluded that it was clear of enemy. On the afternoon of 12 November, a patrol of the Ox

& Bucks anti-tank platoon went out to Pt.819 and discovered it unoccupied. They went right over the feature without finding any enemy. On receiving this report, every available man was sent to occupy it. The leading platoon, which had been standing by at immediate readiness, was quickly dispatched to seize the feature, but found it strongly held again. Some casualties were suffered from stick grenades and orders were therefore issued for this force to return. By 21.45 hrs they were back in their original positions.

The Scots Guards had tried to get on Razor Back at the same time as the Ox & Bucks attacked but failed. That night, one of their patrols was caught in an exposed position and, during their extraction, a mortar bomb landed in G Company's HQ, killed two signallers and wounding the G Company commander and his 2ic. Right Flank Company commander had earlier been wounded by a sniper.

Saturday 13 November

By now it was clear that whilst a footing on the hill could be maintained at a cost of further attrition of men and ammunition, progress would be impossible without further reinforcements. Other than a platoon of Cheshire machine gunners and a company of Royal Fusiliers, none were available so on the afternoon of 13 November, 201st Gds Bde issued a Warning Order for the position to be abandoned¹². After briefing Kingsmill in Miele, as he left the cave to get into his jeep the Brigade commander was hit by a splinter in his left arm as four shells exploded in quick succession nearby. Kingsmill now took command of the brigade and Major Sir Hugh Cholmeley stepped up as commanding officer.

Sunday 14 November

Final orders for SPRINGBOARD were received the following morning for the evacuation to take place during the night of the 14/15th. Shelling of the Scots Guards company positions continued, and Right Flank had 11 casualties, some from friendly fire dropping short. Weather conditions were

¹² The Ox & Bucks casualties were – **Killed:** Two officers and twenty-one soldiers. **Wounded:** Four officers and sixty-five soldiers. **Missing:** One officer and twenty-six soldiers.

appalling, the night being 'exceedingly wild, windy and dark'. As a result, the enemy failed to detect the withdrawal and there was little interference as the Coldstreams and Scots Guards came down off the hill. The last man to pass the checkpoint, Major Sir Hugh Cholmeley, came by at 23.30 hrs... the code word NEWMARKET was given and the First Battle for M. Camino was concluded. So successful was the withdrawal that the enemy kept shelling the positions for some forty hours after everyone had gone.

201 Gds Bde War Diary reads: 'This was a terrible blow to our Bde. We held a very strong position on the southern tip of the Saucer from which we were confident that the enemy couldn't dislodge us. After all the hardships of the mountain top in rain and bitter cold, all the officers and men who had been sacrificed to capture the ground we had gained, everyone hoped that fresh troops would finish the work we had so hard begun. However, with the troops at the Divisional commander's disposal, remembering that in mountain warfare every fighting man needs another man to carry for him, it was impossible.'

6th Battalion Grenadier Guards aftermath

The Grenadier battalion went up the hill 483 strong and came down 263. It was dead beat from cold, exposure, constant mortaring, shellfire, sniping and Spandau fire. After a 24 hrs rest, many men were found to be suffering from trench feet which further reduced the battalion's strength.

It later transpired that for nearly 48 hours a single British battalion, 6th Grenadier Guards, augmented by a company of Scots Guards had taken on 3rd battalion of 129th Panzergrenadier Regt reinforced by 1st and 2nd battalions of 104th Panzergrenadier Regt and elements of 382nd Panzergrenadier Regt of the 15th Panzergrenadier Division.

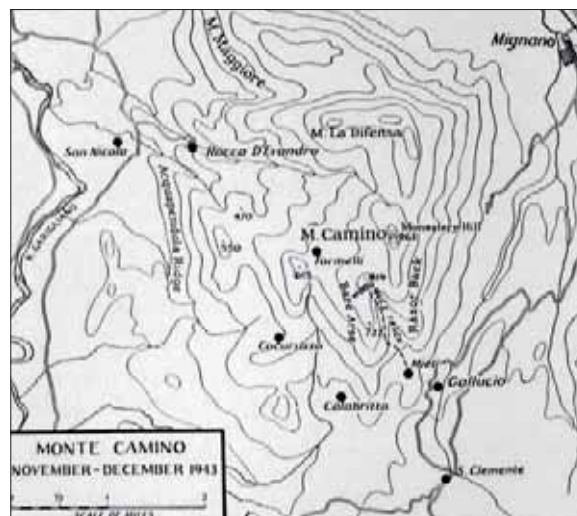
The failure of the attack was due to the vast number of well concealed machine-gun posts dug

in on the reverse slopes of Monastery Hill and the flanking ridges which were invariably mutually supporting and also protected by snipers (for the first time the Grenadiers encountered snipers dressed in camouflage coats and hoods which blended admirably with the rocks). Furthermore, well sited enemy mortar and artillery proved hard to suppress.

No effort was made by the enemy to counterattack with the bayonet. His method was to infiltrate machine guns right round the positions of the British troops who seemed powerless to prevent them or even to detect that action was being taken until surrounded. This was largely due to the intense fire brought to bear on the slightest movement of troops on the barren slopes. That said, once the enemy was detected there was little difficulty in dealing with him, but it was the complete lack of knowledge of his whereabouts which made counter-action ineffective.

Second Battle of Monte Camino

The Grenadiers drove back to Caserta to rest before being sent back for a renewed attack on



Scots Guards map.

13 A Panzergrenadier Regiment consisted of Staff, Regimental Band, Staff Company inc Signals Platoon and Pioneer Platoon; 3 x Battalion (staff and 4 x Company each; Heavy Infantry Gun Company (self-propelled) and Panzerjäger Company. Fighting strength: RHQ - 3 officers, 13 men; Staff Company - 6 officers, 178 men; Heavy Inf Gun Company - 3 officers, 104 men; Battalion Staff - 11 officers, 94 men per battalion; Three Companies (each battalion) - 5 officers, 207 men per company. Paper strength 90 officers and 2,440 men.

M. Camino. This time two British Divisions were deployed in the direct attack and an American Division operated on their right flank, In effect, this was a two Corps attack, not a Brigade as in the first battle. In other words, a total of seven Brigades (21 infantry battalions) supported by a great deal of Artillery would be operating in the attack to achieve what 201st Gds Bde alone had come within an ace of achieving in the first battle.

The capture of Razor Back and Monastery Hill was assigned to a battalion of the Queens Regiment, 169th Bde of 56th Div. The Ox & Bucks were to take Pt.727, 8th Royal Fusiliers the wood below Pt.819 and 9th Royal Fusiliers Pt.819 itself. LANCEFORCE, a strong Coldstream company, was to bounce Pt.683 and Pt.615 which were believed to be unoccupied. If this proved incorrect, they were to retire and the Coldstream battalion was to assault the two Points on D+1. The remainder of 201st Gds Bde, now under the command of Brigadier Colvin (formerly Grenadier Guards), was held back for exploitation.

2/3 December

46th Div had captured Pillbox Ridge the previous night and was heading for Calabritto. At 16.30 hrs on 2 December, 56th Div began its assault on the mountain with an overwhelming artillery bombardment – over 600 guns from eight RA regiments and all US artillery within range opened up. The barrage stunned the Germans and by 09.00 hrs on 3 December 167th Bde had gone firm on Pt.727 and Pt.819. The Coldstreams had gone up the Mule Track to Pt.727.

4 December

At 23.00 hrs the previous night, Coldstreams advanced toward their new objectives Pt.683 and Pt.615. After a desperate march – the Guardsmen laden with ammunition – across the rocky hillside in the pitch dark with visibility down to two yards, the forward companies reached their objectives and crawled into hiding among the rocks. The forward party of A Echelon was hit by mortar fire, killing HQ Company commander and the MO and wounding the Padre. Tragically, the replacement MO was killed on his way up.

At 04.00 hrs the Grenadiers were moved from

Cici via Mieli up the Mule Track to the base of Pt.727 while the Queens attacked. The rain was no less drenching (it rained for 12 hrs non-stop), the cold and the wind as wearying as they had ever been. Although the companies were sheltered by a high cliff from most of the mortar fire, German shells continued to strike the cliff tops and toppled boulders onto them. The incessant rain played havoc with line and W/T communications, preventing OPs from getting in touch with their gun lines.

The Coldstream were by now in trouble. By 10.00 hrs German snipers had slipped round the battalion's flanks and, having occupied the village of Formelli from where they dominated the reverse slope of the Coldstream positions, began to harass them with a combination of sniping and mortar fire. In doing so, they cut the link with Bde HQ. 'The sections could only lie in their inadequate sangars, cold, wet, hungry, and apprehensive. It was two days before the attack continued'.

Lieutenant Freeman-Attwood, 1 Company: 'The Battalion moved up the mule track between the two Camino ridges and waited beneath the cliffs we had fought on top of in the first battle whilst the ridges on either side were occupied. The rocks here were large and close together, so that it was virtually impossible to lie down anywhere. Although we were protected from enemy shell fire we were not immune to mortar with their high trajectory and steep angle of descent, nor to the sharp pieces of flying rock which rained down on us when a bomb or shell hit the edge of the cliffs above us. It rained incessantly during those two days, and everyone was thoroughly wet and miserable. Casualties mounted steadily, and we fretted while waiting for the Coldstreams to attack the first features to the west (Pt.683 and Pt.615) so that we could pass through them and attack the final ridge of Aquapendola.'

At 20.30 hrs, 201 Gds Bde Tac HQ took a direct hit from a 4-inch mortar bomb – two officers and two ORs (both Grenadiers) were killed, and four officers wounded. The Bde Comd was 'extremely shaken' and handed over the brigade to Lieutenant Colonel Kingsmill for the second time in three weeks.

That night a Grenadier platoon was sent to escort a resupply party for the Coldstreams. Lieutenant

Freeman-Attwood, 1 Company: 'The route took us down the Northwest side of Pt.819 over incredibly rocky ground, and soon we came to banks of terraces which were some 5ft high and seemed to stretch endlessly round the mountain. The porters each carried either a compo ration box for 8 men, a box of 303 ammunition, a 4½ gallon jerry can of water or 3-inch mortar bomb cases. All these were extremely heavy, and the porters also had their personal weapons to carry for their own protection. In the pitch darkness and travelling by compass bearing progress was painfully slow since loads had to be lifted carefully down each terrace, and contact had to be maintained at all times. The platoon was deployed to protect the porters with one section in front, one to the north (the enemy side on its flank) and one to the rear, the main problem being to maintain control without having the patrol too concentrated and therefore vulnerable to mortar fire or enfilading machine guns. The burden on the porters was extreme and inevitably they made much noise with loads dropping and slipping over the rocks, their oaths pouring out continuously. The whole operation was a nightmare, and we were all too conscious how open we were to being ambushed if any enemy patrols could infiltrate themselves between the top of Camino and the Coldstream position.

For the first two hours or so we were not directly attacked though there was a good deal of enemy firing on fixed lines to our right flank, and in front of us. The distance we had to cover was about 1 – 1½ miles, but over that impossible terrain, with those loads, and in total darkness, it seemed more like 10 miles. It was now about midnight and the firing in front of us was getting nearer. The porters were close to exhaustion, and although we had frequent short pauses to rest and listen, progress was becoming desperately slow. At about 00.30hrs we were obviously heard because a Spandau started firing directly at us, and individual rifle shots told us that snipers were at work as well.

Luckily, the Spandau fire was high as it so often was at night, but the snipers found their mark here and there, and three men were hit in the space of a few minutes. These of course had to be left for the time being, and their loads transferred to men of the Grenadier platoon whose capacity for defensive action was thereby diminished. We could not answer the enemy fire, partly because we could not see them, but chiefly to avoid giving away our position further. It was a case of plunging onwards and hoping for the best.

At about 02.30 hrs we were at last challenged by a Coldstream patrol and were led to a place where we could unload. This we did quickly, and although the incumbents were extremely pleased to see us, they were equally anxious that we should depart at once since we were drawing a certain amount of fire upon the area. We had lost 5 men en route and I wanted to get back to pick them up before light dawned, and to keep going before the men fell asleep on their feet'.

The round journey of 2,500 yds had taken 11 hours.

5 December

Meanwhile the London Irish had taken Formelli and the Durham Light Infantry ('DLI') were due to attack the Cocorruzzo Spur at 21.00 hrs. That night, the Grenadiers, who had spent a miserable day under Bare Arse cliff, were still under the hill but there was less mortaring and shelling; the Coldstream were sniped at and mortared all day from Formelli; the Queens attack failed to gain the last fifty feet of Monastery Hill and were driven off it by a counterattack; and the Scots Guards set off up the mule track at 23.59 hrs.

6 December

On 6 December, 'to their undying fame', 2/5 Queens captured Monastery Hill¹⁴. At 04.00 hrs, the Grenadiers, in the face of a brutal gale, took to crawling on their hands and knees between

14 167 Brigade Plan. 7 Ox and Bucks. To clear the length of the escarpment of Bare Arse Ridge, and finally to capture and form a firm base on the Pt. 727 at the top of the ridge. 9 Royal Fusiliers. To move up on the left of 7 Ox and Bucks and on the capture of Pt. 727 to move on and form up on the start line ready for the assault on the left half of the Pt. 819 feature. 8 Royal Fusiliers. To follow up behind 9 Royal Fusiliers form up on their right on the start line, and assault Pt. 819 itself. Brigade Patrol Company. To proceed by the advance of 7 Ox and Bucks and 9 Royal Fusiliers – clearing away minor opposition, and finally to occupy the woods below Pt. 819 and cover the start line.

the rocks as they found themselves exposed on Bare Arse Ridge but by 09.00 hrs they managed to assemble in the FUP behind Pt.615 with only slight casualties.

They had two objectives – the Aquapendola Spur (Pt.550) was allotted to 3 Company (Major Earle) and the second, Pt.470, to No 4 Company (Major Hanbury). They advanced in daylight and both objectives were taken before dark.

Lieutenant Freeman-Attwood, 1 Company: 'At about 12.00hrs, under a barrage from the Divisional Artillery, we set off in extended order towards the left of the Coldstream positions which we would skirt on our way to Aquapendola (now named Arthur Pendola¹⁵ after the Regimental Adjutant). It became quickly apparent that there were still enemy positions firing from both flanks which became increasingly uncomfortable, with one machine gun in particular spraying us and causing some casualties. Strangely, however, there appeared to be little fire coming from our objective, and as we approached it we increased our speed so as to reach cover as quickly as we could. At that point I remember seeing a bullet hit the ground right alongside my left boot, and wondering whether another would follow it. It didn't and by 14.20 hrs we reached the ridge top safely and began to build sangers for defence.

From Aquapendola, for the first time, we could look down on the river Garigliano below with the Liri winding its way N.W. past Cassino towards Rome, and we began to feel some relief that the Camino massif was behind us. There was a good deal of shelling going on from both directions, but the enemy were retiring all along the front in order to reach the river before being cut off from their crossing places. The second Battle of Camino was almost over, but there was one more piece of drama to be acted out before the end'.

The Scots Guards who by daylight had reached their position behind the Coldstream ridge and below Pt.615 had advanced down the southern part of the Aquapendola Ridge.

By the evening, the DLI had taken Cocoruzzo Spur, 2/5 Queens were now firmly ensconced



Back up the hill.

on Monastery Hill and the Americans now held M.Defensa and M.Maggiore.

7 December

The next objective for the Grenadiers was the village of Rocca d'Evandro, the main German supply base for the whole of Camino, which stands on a 100 feet cliff completely inaccessible from the South. The deep valley between was held by at least six Spandaus which completely covered the approaches on fixed lines. The ridge Northwest of Pt.530 was a series of rocky steps some ten feet or more; to the East a cliff and to the West a bare slope of rock. The ridge was held by a succession of Spandau posts ('we later counted 20') and mortars. Lieutenant Huntington led a patrol to clear the route of enemy machine guns but was shot dead in a close engagement. Two further patrols confirmed that the route was impassable to infantry as it was blocked by well concealed and dug-in German MG nests.

At 16.30, the commanding officer received orders to attack. He explained the position which clearly neither Brigade nor Division were familiar with ('the danger of a map and red pencil from further back was then very apparent to me') and stated that it would end in failure with about 75%

¹⁵ Arthur Penn.

casualties. Lieutenant Colonel Kingsmill, who was still running 201st Gds Bde in the absence of Brig Colvin who was still recovering, took up the fight with Division and a compromise was reached to send patrols from each company forward.

That night the patrols went out and drew fire, completely confirming the impossibility of a successful direct attack.

8 December

A Company London Scottish began advancing towards Rocca from Camino, keeping North of the track to Rocca. At 0915 hrs, 3 Company tried to advance along their spur but met more Spandau fire. At 12.30 hrs, 1 Company moved to a position Northwest of 4 Company. This drew Spandau fire from the valley and no further movement was possible. 4 Company was mortared again and suffered a few casualties. A direct hit on an OP killed a Guardsman and a Gunner.

During the rest of the day there was no change except that 3 Company and 1 Company constantly tried to edge forward for their final task of investing Rocca.

To the North, after six days of fierce fighting, the US II Corps had finally taken Pt.907 on M. La Difensa and all organized resistance ceased in that area.

9 December

By 9 December, with Allies units advancing on either side, the position for dealing with Rocca

had much improved. London Scottish had reached the spur to the North and two companies of Scots Guards and a company of Lincolns had advanced Northeast during the night and had captured the village of San Nicola.



Rocca d'Evandro today.

At 09.00 hrs, 1 Company started off down the valley. Visibility was very poor owing to the low-lying mist and by 11.30 hrs it had entered Rocca from the West. 3 Company had knocked out 3/129th Panzer Grenadier Regiment's last Spandau nests and destroyed enemy equipment in twenty places along their line of advance. At 15.30 hrs the Grenadiers took command of the two Scots Guards companies in order to release London Scottish and were tasked with organizing the defence of Rocca. This was completed by night which was uneventful except for a stonk of 24 shells round Battalion HQ and intermittent 88cm fire on Rocca.



10 December

During the morning, 46th Div relieved 56th Div and the Grenadiers started their 4.5-mile march to a prepared area at Orchi where they arrived at 16.30 hrs. 1 Company and the Scots Guards who were the last to leave arrived at Orchi at 05.00 hrs on the next day.

Lieutenant Freeman-Attwood, 1 Company: 'We occupied Rocca d'Evandro for 24 hours and were then relieved to be taken out of the line for a rest, and for Christmas. It entailed a long and tiring march by night back across the west side of Camino to the concentration area from which we had been launched for the first battle, but at last we were not now being shot at. Only one event marred my relief that night, I was taking my turn in carrying a 7lb jar of rum which had been issued that evening to be drunk in our tea when we reached 'B' echelon, and I stumbled in the dark and fell, half asleep, smashing it in a hundred pieces, luckily the darkness swallowed me up, as well as the faces of my men, but I shall never forget the complete silence which greeted me at that moment. Not a word was uttered!'

Historical Division, US War Dept., 1945: 'Operation *Raincoat* was definitely a success. In nine days, II Corps and 10 Corps had driven the enemy from practically the entire Camino feature; Fifth Army now controlled the heights on one side of the corridor which gives access to the Liri Valley. The success owed much to diversionary attacks on the Army's left and right flanks by 10 Corps

and VI Corps, which prevented the enemy from concentrating his forces against the centre of our line.'

Postscript

Lieutenant Freewood-Attwood, 1 Company: 'It was now 9 December and since 6 November I had experienced more good fortune than most men have in a lifetime, and I was very conscious of this since the Battalion had lost over 50% of its strength in both Battles on Camino. In fact it turned out that I was the only Platoon Commander of a Rifle Company who took part in both Battles and remained unscathed. For this reason, after a few days, the Commanding Officer ordered me to go back to the mountain with some Pioneers to bury the dead of the Battalion, and search for the missing. I knew every position, nook and cranny intimately, and was the obvious person to undertake this gruesome but essential task. We worked for three or four days up there, wrapping bodies in blankets and signal wire, collecting personal effects, noting names and numbers and building small cairns of stone to mark the sites until the War Graves Commission could move the dead to a central cemetery, which proved to be Cassino some months later. In 1950 on my way back from leave in the U.K. to Tripoli, I again climbed the Mountain and found two skeletons between the rocks of my Company position, the signal wire still around them. These had obviously been missed by the War Graves men. On reporting these facts to RHQ, a Commission party immediately sent out a team to collect the remains and bury them in Cassino cemetery'.

The 6th Battalion spent three more arduous months in the field on the North bank of the Garigliano halfway up the foothills which led to the massive cliffs of the Aurunci Mountains. In March 1944 they were merged with the 5th Battalion with the rump of 8 officers and 100 ORs returning to England in April.

Author's note

This composite account is primarily based on the War Diary of 201st Gds

201 st Guards Brigade Battle Casualties: Italy 9 Sept 1943 to 17 January 1944							
Source: 201 Gds Bde War Diary							
6 th Bn Grenadier Guards							
Killed		Wounded		Missing		Total	
Offrs	ORs	Offrs	ORs	Offrs	ORs	Offrs	ORs
10	120	13	367	2	86	25	573
3 rd Bn Coldstream Guards							
Killed		Wounded		Missing		Total	
Offrs	ORs	Offrs	ORs	Offrs	ORs	Offrs	ORs
13	93	25	339	Nil	31	38	463
2 nd Bn Scots Guards							
Killed		Wounded		Missing		Total	
Offrs	ORs	Offrs	ORs	Offrs	ORs	Offrs	ORs
12	95	25	223	4	110	41	428
201 st Guards Brigade HQ							
Killed		Wounded		Missing		Total	
Offrs	ORs	Offrs	ORs	Offrs	ORs	Offrs	ORs
1	3	4	2	Nil	Nil	5	5
Total Battle Casualties							
Killed		Wounded		Missing		Total	
Offrs	ORs	Offrs	ORs	Offrs	ORs	Offrs	ORs
36	311	67	931	6	227	109	1469

Bde, the 6th Battalion War Diary (incomplete), the Regimental War Chronicle of the Oxfordshire & Buckinghamshire Light Infantry vol.3 1942/1944 and the Regimental histories of the three Guards regiments involved. The proverbial 'fog of war' produces some variation of the exact timings of

events on the summit. Given that W/T and line communications were intermittent at best and at times non-existent, the eye-witness accounts of Howard, Wheatley, Freeman-Attwood and others have been given chronological precedence.

From the Archives

Christmas with the Second Battalion 1945

On VE Day 1945, the Second Battalion found itself at Freiburg on the River Elbe near Hamburg. By Christmas they had moved to Siegburg, a few miles Southeast of Cologne. With no Officers' or Sergeants' Messes, and with the companies split up in neighbouring villages and most of the senior Sergeant reservists demobbed, morale had dipped. So the Models decided to party!

TO THE TUNE OF GOLD LASS TUNE
 THE TIME HAS COME TO SAY GOOD NIGHT
 WE BID YOU ALL ADIEU
 AND WISH A BERRY XMAS-TIME
 TO EVERYONE OF YOU
 AND SO WE SAY A FOND FAREWELL
 THIS IS OUR LAST REFRAIN
 GOODBYE, KEEP SMILING CHEER
 UNTIL WE MEET AGAIN
 BY L. RICHARDSON

We hope you will join in this one farewell number

The Sentimentalists
 Arthur Wright / Peter Lightfoot
 Kenneth Coombe / Norman Hine
 Charles Stewart

The Doctors
 Bob Smeets / Alan Lightfoot
 Tom Hamilton / Eric Mattson
 Tom Sandfield / Arthur Denton
 Alf Turner / Syd Reading

MODELS THEATRE, SIEGBURG
Germany Xmas 1945
 THE 1st Bn. GREN. COS. PRESENT
 FOR YOUR ENTERTAINMENT
Sunday, 23. Dec.

ROARIETIES
 OUR XMAS BOX TO YOU

*Laughs
 Sentiment
 Music*

DEvised DIRECTED PRODUCED BY
 Ferdinand de May AND Charles Ridley-Welton

1. OVERTURE THE SENTIMENTALISTS
 2. THE SHOW IS ON
 3. SONG THREE BY GRENADIER SMITH
 IN OUR GUARD-ROOM
 4. DEMOCRACY BY ALAN LIGHTFOOT
 5. SVD READINGS WITH HIS LIKELIKE
 6. "SITE-LIFE" IN SIEGBURG BY FREDERICK
 FLASH BART
 7. THE BARONETS
 8. YOUR BASSINERER
 9. LARRY RICHARDSON IN ONE OF HIS OWN MONOLOGUES
 10. YOU PUSH SING FOR YOU
 11. AGE CHECK OUT THE BIRREL
 YOUR PARTNER
 12. SONG THREE BY ALAN LIGHTFOOT
 FLASH BART GRENADIER SMITH
 IN THE COMPANY WILL BECOME

13. THE SENTIMENTALISTS AGAIN
 14. YOUR FAVORITE SCIENT ARTISTS
 ONE OF YOURS FREDERICK
 15. THE BARBERS
 16. FLASH BART IN GRENADIER SMITH
 DISAPPOINTMENT
 17. SVD READINGS AND HIS FRIENDS
 18. THE MARCH OF TIME
 PETER BUCKLEMAN - FREDERICK DE MAY - GRENADIER SMITH
 19. TOM PUSH BROS ADAM
 20. A DELEGATION
 21. WE SAY GOODNIGHT

The King
 LYRICS AND SKETCHES BY FREDERICK DE MAY
 C. BUCKLEMAN
 STAGE MANAGER M. FRANK
 ELECTRICIAN

*Costumes by arranging unlimited
 Cigarettes by all too few*

A Staff Officer Abroad

Edward, Prince of Wales MC,
Grenadier Guards, 1914–1919.

by Alan Ogden

In 1907, King George V, a former naval officer destined for a career at sea before the untimely death of his elder brother Prince Albert in 1892, despatched his eldest son Prince Edward to the Naval College at Osborne. For a boy who had been educated at home, the rigid routine and hearty bonding came somewhat as a shock but he soon adapted to his new surroundings and successfully passed into The Royal Naval College Dartmouth two years later. His last year there was interrupted by the death of his grandfather in May 1910 and his own father's coronation in June the following year but, in consolation for being withdrawn early, he was sent as a midshipman on a three-month cruise aboard the battleship HMS *Hindustan*. He confided in the chaplain that 'if I have learnt nothing else (from my naval training) ... I have learnt what inconvenience is and what it really means to be tired'¹.

In the spring of 1912, the Prince as 'the Earl of Chester' was entrusted by his father to the care of Henri, 8th Marquis de Breteuil, a close friend of King Edward VII, and his beautiful wife, the American heiress Lita Harner. After spending time with the family at their imposing *hôtel particulier* on the corner of Avenue Foch and rue Rude and their magnificent 17th century chateau at Choisel, the Prince and his French tutor, Maurice Escoffier, went on an extensive tour of France, including a visit to the French fleet at Toulon where he experienced a descent in a French submarine. Encouraged by the Marquis's sons Francois and Jacques, he learnt to drive, marking the beginning of a life-long love affair with cars. By the time he returned home in August, he spoke and wrote passable French, which



Staff officer with 2nd Div.

was to stand him in good stead in the future².

By the summer of 1914, the King had agreed that the Prince should spend the last few months of the year travelling and then join the Grenadier Guards³. The sudden outbreak of war dictated otherwise and on 6 August, aged 21, he was given a commission in the Grenadiers, noting in a letter that 'I am to go to the King's Company but shall be treated as an ordinary officer, thank goodness, and am to share a room in barracks'⁴. Later, in his memoirs, he described himself as 'a pygmy among giants'⁵. At the time, the 1st Battalion was at Warley Barracks in Brentford, a 'most godless spot' which prompted the Prince to describe the officers' mess

1 Philip Ziegler, *King Edward VIII* (Stroud: Sutton Publishing, 2001), p.29.

2 Andrew Rose, *The Prince, The Princess and the Perfect Murder* (London: Hodder & Stourton/Coronet, 2014) pp.5-12.

3 Philip Ziegler, p.45.

4 *Ibid* p.50.

5 Duke of Windsor, *A King's Story – the Memoirs of HRH the Duke of Windsor* (London: Cassell and Company Ltd, 1951), p.109.

as ‘a perfect pigsty’⁶. Later that month the battalion moved to Wellington Barracks, an altogether more salubrious posting, and Edward had the accolade of being the first Prince of Wales to carry the Colours on King’s Guard at Buckingham Palace.



Warley and London 1914 (*Regimental archives*).

On the declaration of war, the battalion was put on notice to go to France. Much to the Prince’s consternation, on 8 September, a week before they were due to sail, the King told him that he would not be going and, instead, he was to join the 3rd Battalion

and remain in Wellington Barracks. In reply to a letter from Lieutenant Colonel Maxwell Earle⁷ who had just taken command of the 1st Battalion, he wrote ‘of his bitter disappointment being left behind as you may well imagine, and it was ghastly to see them all march off last Tuesday...I feel the firing line is the only thing that will satisfy me!’⁸

Fuming, the Prince called on Lord Kitchener, the Secretary of State for War, and argued ‘What does it matter if I am killed? I have four brothers.’ His words fell on deaf ears for when ‘Lord Kitchener’s steely blue eyes met mine, he answered “If I were sure you would be killed, I do not know if I should be right to restrain you, But I cannot take the chance, which always exists until we have a settled line, of the enemy taking you prisoner”⁹. In hindsight it was the correct decision for, by the year end, of the 29 1st Battalion officers who had set off from England in early October, thirteen had been killed, wounded or taken prisoner¹⁰. When the battalion was reconstituted on 1 January 1915, there were precisely two officers remaining who had disembarked with it at Zeebrugge just eleven weeks earlier on 7 October 1914¹¹.

In mid-November, after making numerous representations to be posted to France, the Prince joined the staff of Field Marshal Sir John French, Commander-in-Chief of the British Expeditionary Force, based in St. Omer. He was no longer a regimental officer but a lowly member of the General Staff. Given a mixed bag of duties – hospital visits, inspections of Indian troops, interrogations of German prisoners¹², and liaison visits to French headquarters¹³ – he managed in mid-December to visit the 1st Battalion when ‘he narrowly escaped a German H.E. shell, which exploded outside the house he was in’¹⁴.

6 Letter HRH to the Hon Denzil Fortescue dated 13 August 1914, National Army Museum collection.

7 Earle was wounded in the head and leg on 29 October 1914 and taken prisoner. He was later interned in Switzerland where he was joined by his wife and two daughters.

8 Letter HRH to Lieutenant Colonel Maxwell Earle dated 22 September 1914, National Army Museum collection.

9 Duke of Windsor, p.109.

10 Including the Commanding Officer, Senior Major and three out of four Company Commanders.

11 Lieutenant Colonel The Rt. Hon. Sir Frederick Ponsonby: *The Grenadier Guards in the Great War of 1914–1918* (London: Macmillan and Company Ltd, 1920), Vol 1, p.87 and 197; Vol 3, p.234-282.

12 The Prince spoke excellent German.

13 Philip Ziegler, pp.54-56.

14 Sir Frederick Ponsonby, Vol 1, p.193.

In January 1915 he was joined by a young Grenadier captain, 26 year old Lord Claud Hamilton¹⁵, who had been Mentioned in Despatches in 1914 for having commanded the 1st Battalion's machine-guns 'for seven days, day and night, without relief, under continual fire from the enemy's artillery and machine-guns. During this strenuous time, they fired 56,000 rounds and inflicted considerable loss on the enemy'¹⁶. He was later awarded a DSO. As the Prince's personal ADC, Hamilton took on the challenge of controlling the headstrong heir. One of their first outings in early January was to the



Above: 40 yds from German trench.
Right: With 2nd Battalion officers (Regimental archives).



2nd Battalion, then in reserve, when the Prince 'brought the men a gramophone, which was much appreciated by everyone and helped to enliven the evenings'¹⁷.

By now the Prince was beginning to chafe at the bit, writing 'I do hate being a prince and not allowed to fight'. In February 1915, the King had agreed that he could visit the trenches – 'you can do anything within reason except actually fight in the trenches'¹⁸ – so wasting no time, he set off to see the trenches of 4th Guards Brigade and was briefed by Brigadier-General the Earl of Cavan. Afterwards he said 'I couldn't have had a better guide than K¹⁹!! He was the best Brigadier out here, and such a gallant and charming little man as you know. The trenches were fairly dry though one got into an awful mess. It took us two hours to go round and it was good exercise'²⁰. Just under a week later he was back visiting the brigade, writing to his father that 'they are really magnificent now. I wish you could see them now (sic) that they have had a few days rest and are brushed and cleaned up'.

This excursion was all very well but French's HQ was miles from the front line and it was only in March when he was posted to Lieutenant General Sir Charles Munro's 2nd Division²¹ at Bethune that he found himself within a 5 mile visiting range of the line. Always conscious of the dangers faced by his brother Grenadiers, he was deeply affected by the death of ten 1st Battalion officers at Neuve Chapelle on a single March day²². In May, Munro, an officer with 'the gift of personal magnetism'²³, was promoted to take over 1Corps and the Prince remained on his staff on the ammunition supply side. It was now that he began to find ways of disappearing from his office on various inspections and conferences. On 31 May he and Hamilton

15 Lord Claud Hamilton, GCVO, CMG, DSO, the younger son of the Duke of Abercorn, (1889–1975).¹⁶ Vol 1, p.109.

17 Ibid p.208.

18 Philip Ziegler, p.57.

19 The nickname for Cavan.

20 Rudyard Kipling, *Irish Guards in Great War: Vol 1, 1st Battalion* (Toronto/New York: S.B.Grundy, Doubleday Page and Company, 1923)

21 General Sir Charles Munro, GCB, GCSI, CGMG, (1860–1929).

22 Lieutenant Colonel Fisher Rowe, Major Duberly, Captain Douglas-Pennant, Capt Sartorius, Lieutenant Lord Brabourne, Lieutenant Ethelson, Lieutenant Darby, 2/Lieutenant Burnand, 2/Lieutenant Foster, 2/Lieutenant Geldred-Somervell. Six other officers were wounded.

23 Charles Barrow, General Sir, *The Life of General Sir Charles Munro* (London, Hutchinson, 1931) p.113.

marched with the 2nd Battalion to Noeux les Mines via Bethune when 'some shelling took place en route'²⁴ and to his delight he spent his first night in the trenches in July²⁵. On a similar occasion, Arthur Lee, at the time Kitchener's Personal Commissioner for the Army Medical Services, spotted him tramping along a Flanders road by columns of men and slow moving lorries, 'incorrigibly self-effacing...and his main desire appeared to be to get either killed or wounded'²⁶.



Photograph of No 4 Company 2nd Battalion at Guinchy taken by the Prince (*Regimental Archives*).

Another story told how, when left alone for a few minutes, the Prince noticed a messenger's motorcycle unattended outside the HQ building. On impulse, he jumped on it and headed off towards the front. The alarm was raised and his fellow officers immediately gave chase. To their horror, they came across a riderless machine lying wrecked in a shell hole a few miles down the road; then, to their relief, they saw the errant Prince squatting uninjured on

the ground, playing cards with a group of French officers.²⁷

Sir John French gave the Prince a good report. 'His Royal Highness continues to make most satisfactory progress. During the Battle of Neuve Chapelle²⁸ he acted on my General Staff as a Liaison Officer. Reports from the General Officers commanding Corps and Divisions to which he has been attached agree in commending his thoroughness in which he performs any work entrusted to him. I have myself been favourably impressed by the quickness with which His Royal Highness has acquired knowledge of the various branches of the service, and the deep interest he has always displayed in the comfort and welfare of the men. His visits to the troops, both in the field and in hospitals, have been greatly appreciated by all ranks. His Royal Highness did duty for a time in trenches with the battalion to which he belongs'²⁹.

In August 1915 the Guards Division was formed under General Cavan and by September the Prince had joined him as a Staff officer after the King had specifically requested that he was not to be an ADC³⁰. Although he admired and liked Cavan, he deplored the General's reluctance to let him near the trenches³¹. Lord Stamfordham had previously written to Cavan that 'the King entirely agrees to the understanding that when the Prince goes up to the front under instruction neither you nor Garthorne-Hardy (the Chief of Staff)³² will be held responsible for his personal safety'³³. As it turned out, there was more than enough danger to be encountered. The Regimental history records that 'many visits were paid (to the 2nd Battalion) by Lord Cavan and his staff, who became quite proficient in evading various missiles which the enemy daily aimed at the trenches. On one of

24 Sir Frederick Ponsonby, Vol 1, p.273.

25 Philip Ziegler, p.60.26 Alan Clarke (ed): *A good innings: The private papers of Viscount Lee of Fareham* (London: John Murray, 1974) pp. 138-9.

27 Helen Hardinge, *Loyal to Three Kings* (William Kimber, London, 1967) p.65.

28 10-13 March 1915.

29 The seventh Despatch of Field Marshal Sir John French, Commander in Chief of the British Armies in France and Flanders. Printed in the Second Supplement to *The London Gazette* of 14 April 1915.

30 FM Earl of Cavan, *Recollections Hazy but Happy* (Grenadier Guards copy of unpublished MS), p.97.

31 Duke of Windsor, p.114; Philip Ziegler, p.65.

32 Later General the Hon. Sir John Francis Gathorne-Hardy, GCB, GCVO, CMG, DSO, (1874-1949).

33 Frances Donaldson, p.45; Harold Nicolson, *King George the Fifth, his Life and Reign* (London: Constable, 1952), p.254.

these occasions, the Prince who was a constant visitor, tried his hand at sniping, and as there was immediate retaliation, his bullets very probably found their mark³⁴.

On another occasion, accompanying Cavan on a tour of the divisional front line before Loos, on 29



With Cavan visiting R.A. battery; with the King in France (Grenadier Guards).

September the Prince left his car near the ruined church at Vermelles and set off with Cavan, Colonel The Master of Ruthven³⁵ and Hamilton to see Brigadier Geoffrey Feilding³⁶ at 1st Guards Brigade HQ at La Retour. Almost immediately they 'were driven to an old communications trench by a big shell which burst 40 yards from us. No more strolls above ground after that...we crossed over to the original German front line...and of course the dead lie out unburied and in postures and on the spot where they fell and one got some idea of the horror and ghastliness of it all ... those dead bodies offered a most pathetic and gruesome sight, too cruel to be killed a few yards from your objective after a 300 yards sprint of death.'

More surprises lay in store for the Prince, for 'as we emerged near Vermelles Church, a muddy pair, for it was one continuous wallow in a foot of mud the whole way in the trenches...we found our car all right but had a bad shock when we were told that Green (my driver) had been killed by a burst of shrapnel...I have seen and learnt a lot about war today'³⁷. According to Cavan, the car was 'matchwood'³⁸. The Prince's near miss triggered a knee-jerk reaction. He was instructed to report to XI Corps. Angrily he wrote to his father that 'I am (stuck) here at your express orders'. Later he discovered that Sir John French was behind the move. King George V wrote to his son on 7 October and told him 'not to bother Lord Cavan to take him again into the shell area unless it was absolutely necessary and not to take unnecessary risks'³⁹.

Promoted to Captain and awarded an MC⁴⁰, a decoration which left him embarrassed and confused - 'I feel I don't deserve it in the least'⁴¹ - he left the Guards Division in March 1916 but not before joining the 1st Battalion at Beaumaris where the whole of the Guards Division had been sent for some sea air. 'High winds and heavy snow followed by thick fog made life in a canvas tent a

34 Sir Frederick Ponsonby, Vol 1, p.219.35 Later Major General Lord Ruthven of Freeland, CB, CMG, DSO (1870-1956).

36 Later Major General Sir Geoffrey Feilding, KCB, KCVO, CMG, DSO, (1866-1932).

37 Duke of Windsor, pp.115-116.

38 FM Earl of Cavan, p.133.

39 John G.E. Cox, *All Things to All Men - Field Marshal, the 10th Earl of Cavan 1865-1946*, (unpublished MS, Cavan family archive), p.64.

40 Supplement to London Gazette 3 June 1916, p.5570.

41 Philip Ziegler, p.67.

doubtful pleasure, but, in spite of the intense cold, the change undoubtedly did the men a great deal of good⁴². After ten days with the battalion, the Prince and Hamilton went on leave in England and then embarked on a tour of the Middle East, visiting troops and to inspect the defences of the Suez Canal. The Prince was also tasked to write a short report on the supply system⁴³.

On his departure, Cavan submitted a report to General Sir Herbert Plumer at Second Army. 'I have no hesitation in saying that HRH has endeared himself to every officer and man in the Guards Division – not only on account of his keenness and anxiety for their well-being but also on account of his courageous spirit which chafes at the restraint his high position enforces. Nevertheless, I have taken opportunities to show HRH as much as possible of life in the front trenches, and especially the battlefield of Loos on the morning of 28 September, and from what I have seen of him there and elsewhere I can but regret that the services of so fearless an officer could not be available for ordinary duty with his regiment. As a Staff officer he was very quick at picking up instructions and was particularly efficient in organizing any out of doors work such as ... refilling points and...the transfer of rations from lorry to supply wagons by clean and smart methods. HRH always kept himself in the pink of condition truly setting an excellent example to other young officers. For these reasons I should certainly have considered him worthy of 'mention in despatches' and I hope his good service and excellent example may not be overlooked⁴⁴.

On his way back from Cairo, the Prince called on King Vittorio Emanuele III at his wartime HQ at the Villa Italia near Padua, 'a dear and charming little man'⁴⁵ and at 5ft exactly in height, the 47 year old Italian King was even shorter than Edward.

During the visit the Prince had accompanied King Vittorio on an inspection of the Italian defences along the Isonzo River. Although both men could converse in French, the head of the British Military Mission, Brigadier General Sir Charles Delmé-Radcliffe, who had been military attaché to Rome from 1902–1911 and become a friend of Vittorio, was on hand to translate.

Back in France, he re-joined Cavan and his staff who by now had taken over 14th Corps in the Ypres sector. Lord Stamfordham, the King's Private Secretary, wrote to Cavan on 8 January 1917 'to thank him, on behalf of the King and Queen for his good report of the Prince of Wales, both personally and professionally. The King approved of the Prince returning to 14th Corps before the next offensive begins even though Haig strongly favoured the idea that the Prince went to the Third Army's Artillery School and understood that this had been arranged'⁴⁶. Early in 1917, Hamilton was reinforced by the arrival of Lieutenant the Hon Piers 'Joey' Legh⁴⁷, another Grenadier officer⁴⁸ and son of Lord Newton, Asquith's Paymaster General. Made an ADC to the Prince in December 1915⁴⁹, Legh now played the role of No.2 First Foot Guards royal minder.

Controlling the Prince could be exasperating. In June, Cavan told him off for devoting too much of his time to his interminable runs, neglecting the newspapers and paying no attention to world affairs. Finally, he banned him from running altogether⁵⁰. Given that the Corps was about to advance in the Third Battle of Ypres, this decision relieved Cavan of an unnecessary responsibility although it did not prevent the Prince from dicing with death. 'Atop the ruins of Langemark Church I had my closest call, being suddenly bracketed early one morning by two near misses and diving to safety as a third

42 Sir Frederick Ponsonby, Vol 1 p.356.

43 Philip Ziegler, p.70.

44 FM Earl of Cavan, p.109.

45 Philip Ziegler, p.73.

46 J.P. Harris, *Douglas Haig and the First World War* (Cambridge University Press, 2009).

47 Philip Ziegler, p.74. Legh was awarded an OBE for his wartime services to the Prince and was to remain with him for the next twenty years. He was mentioned in despatches on 11 December 1917 (TNA: WO 372/24/37401).

48 Lieutenant Colonel Sir Piers Legh, GCVO, KCB, CMG, CIE, OBE, (1890–1955).

49 *London Gazette* 24 December 1915.

50 Philip Ziegler, p.75.

shell fell – a direct hit on the heap of rubble⁵¹.

On another occasion, the Prince ‘whilst taking tea in an inn at a British outpost near Ypres’ (on Saturday 24 September 1915) was shot in the arm by a Corporal Huguet of the French Hussars. Huguet on a 24-hour leave pass had turned up unannounced to check up on his wife who was the waitress at the auberge. When he observed her animatedly talking to the Prince and his companion for several minutes, he was ‘seized with a blind rage’ and, rushing into the room, fired two shots without warning. He missed his wife but hit the Prince in the arm just above the wrist. When the Prince and the other officer ‘sprang on him’, Huguet fired his gun again, this time wounding himself in the neck. Neither man was seriously injured⁵². Not a word was written about the incident in the British or French press. Shortly after, the Prince went on leave to Windsor for two weeks, returning in good time to accompany the King on his visit to the BEF in October 1915. How appropriate that President Poincaré took the opportunity during a meeting with the King to confer personally a Croix de Guerre on the Prince.

Undeterred and still in pursuit of a femme fatale, in April 1917 the Prince using the name of the Earl of Chester drove to Paris in his new Silver Ghost open-top Rolls Royce and installed himself in the Hotel Meurice overlooking the Jardin de Tuileries. Determined to enjoy himself, he had asked his pre-war friend Francois de Breteuil to introduce him to Marguerite Meller, an alluring and petite 27 year old demi-mondaine well-known to the Duke of Westminster⁵³ and his ADC Captain Ernest Bald of the 15th Hussars. After three days of bliss, the Prince reluctantly returned to his routine life as a Staff Captain in 14th Corps at Meaulte, hellbent on arranging his next assignation with his *poule de luxe*. With Joey Legh in tow, he pursued

her to Deauville where she had decamped to the Hotel Normandy for the summer season and more frolicking followed. His ardour far from spent, he wrote some twenty indiscrete letters to his *bébé* over the course of the next twelve months.

Six years later when Marguerite stood in the dock at the Old Bailey accused of murdering Ali Fahmy Bey, her Egyptian husband of some seven months whom she had allegedly shot in the Savoy Hotel, the Prince’s aides were at panic stations. If Bébé should tell of partying in Paris and Deauville with the Prince while men were dying in their thousands on the Western Front, this *mésalliance* would destroy his reputation. Bald was called in to negotiate and an arrangement reached. Marguerite duly kept silent and much to her relief was found not guilty by the jury⁵⁴.

In the late autumn of 1917, Lord Stamfordham urged the King to bring the Prince back from France⁵⁵ but when 14th Corps was sent to Italy after the Central Powers had dramatically broken through at Caporetto on the Isonzo River in the Eastern foothills of Friuli Veneto, Cavan pleaded that if the Prince accompanied the Corps, the morale effect in Italy would be a tonic to a nation coming to terms with a humiliating defeat. On 5 November, Cavan and the Prince arrived with five senior staff officers at Pavia⁵⁶. It was a shrewd move for shortly after his arrival, *Corriere della Sera*, the leading Italian newspaper, ran a story that ‘the Prince of Wales arrived in Italy with the first regiment of British troops. He remained a couple of days in Milan (sic), staying at a hotel near the station and taking his meals in a restaurant in the centre where he was recognized by the public. The young heir of the greatest Empire in the world surprised all who saw or spoke to him by the simplicity of his manner. During his brief stay in Milan he did not conceal his pleasure at being able to fight in Italy,

51 Duke of Windsor, p.122.

52 *Los Angeles Times*, 8 October 1915; ‘Prince of Wales is Shot by Jealous Corporal of French Hussars’ *San Francisco Chronicle; Le Tribune*, 9 October 1915 (Bibliothèque et Archives nationale de Québec); 22 November 1915 *The Bruce Herald* (Milton, S. Island, New Zealand).

53 Hugh Grosvenor, 2nd Duke of Westminster

54 Andrew Rose, pp.162-94.

55 Philip Ziegler, p.81.

56 Brigadier General Sir James Edmonds and Major General H.R. Davies, *Official History of the Great War: Military Operations Italy 1915* (Uckfield: Naval & Military Press Ltd), p.89.

and in Italy the nobility of his conduct will never be forgotten⁵⁷. It was a Public Relations triumph.



Above: with Hamilton in the snow.

Right: Captain Joey Legh.

General Sir Henry Plumer had arrived from France on 13 November to take over command of all British troops in Italy. The situation was far from stable for until British and French troops had arrived in sufficient numbers, any further enemy pressure on the Italians who were only just beginning to recover from their shock retreat would most probably lead to the loss of Venice and the Venetian provinces. On the upside, the season was getting late and most of the mountain roads would soon be blocked by snow, making enemy attacks extremely difficult. Plumer ended his report to the CIGS with the words, 'I think the general situation, while not altogether free from anxiety, is distinctly hopeful'⁵⁸.

For the British, this was an entirely new theatre of war. As Rudyard Kipling described it in an article in *The Daily Telegraph*, 'on most of the other Fronts

war is waged in hot contact with all man's work and possessions. The slayer and the slain keep each other company at least in a world they themselves created. But here one faces the immense scorn of the hills preoccupied with their own affairs; for between frost, snow, and undermining waters, the hills are always busy. Men, mules, and motors are busy too. The roads are alive with them. They inhabit cities within dim forests of pine whose service paths are cut through stale snow and whose aisles ring with machinery. They march out, marshal, and distribute themselves among the snowfields above, by whole regiments and arsenals at a time. Take your eye off them for an instant, and they are swallowed up in the vastness of things long before they reach the upthrusting rock walls where the mountains and the fighting begin'.⁵⁹

On 19 December, the Prince toured the front line positions at Montello, visiting the Northumberland Fusiliers. In his book '*Across the Piave*'⁶⁰, Norman Gladden describes the visit: 'We had heard that he had already been in our vicinity during the march from Mantua, but it was not easy to identify personalities among the brass hats who had appeared from time to



Was the joke in French or English? (Duke of Windsor collection)

time as we moved across the country – not that the Prince was difficult to distinguish. Now he certainly did arrive outside the billet, showing particular interest in our new brick-built cookhouse and other changes wrought during our short stay. Possibly this had been one of the main intentions. From afar he appeared to be keenly interested, but almost overwhelmed by the crowd of bigwigs who hovered about his slight form, seeming from a distance to be steered by the sheer weight of their presence.'

57 *The Times*, 20 November 1917.

58 Edmonds and Davies, p.114.

59 Rudyard Kipling, *The War in the Mountains* (London: Uniform Press, 2025), p.30-1.

60 Norman Gladden, *Across the Piave* (London: HM Stationery Office Books, 1971).

In the New Year, the Prince and Hamilton returned to London on leave⁶¹ and it was during this time that he met 23 year old Mrs Freda Dudley Ward, the attractive and vivacious wife of a Liberal MP⁶², who had taken cover during an air raid in Mrs Kerr-Smiley's house in Belgrave Square where a party was in full swing. The outcome of this impromptu meeting saw Freda replaced Marguerite as the object of the Prince's desire and neediness, resulting in yet another glut of romantic and riské letters over the next sixteen years. Fortunately for the Prince, since those written from Italy contained a variety of derogatory remarks about the Italian army, they only came to light in 1996 thirteen years after Freda's death.

At the end of his leave, the Prince embarked on a series of visits to shipyards and aircraft factories on Clydeside where he tried his hand at riveting, a descent into a Welsh Coalmine at Ebbw Vale and tours of the munition factories at Woolwich Arsenal. By late March 1918, von Ludendorff's Spring Offensive was ripping through the British lines and it looked as though the BEF might be pushed back to the sea. The Prince recalled in his memoir that 'one evening at Buckingham Palace my father suddenly looked up from his war maps and said: "Good God! Are you still here? Why aren't you back with your Corps?" When I explained the reason, he told me I must be off by morning, adding that he could not have me seen around London, with the British line broken and the Army with its back to the wall. I left immediately'⁶³.

Rather than sending the Prince to France it was judged prudent to send him back to the altogether quieter and safer confines of the Italian Front for the period between January and March had been 'uneventful' other than 'the usual shelling, patrolling and small raids'⁶⁴. Making his way back to Italy via Boulogne and the Hotel Meurice in

Paris where he enjoyed a brief rendezvous with Marguerite⁶⁵, the Prince arrived back at Cavan's HQ in Vicenza on 1 April 1918. While he had been away from the Italian front, the three British divisions⁶⁶ had been relieved from their positions Montello on the Piave front and sent instead to face the Austrians on the Asiago Plateau at the beginning of April. 14th Corps HQ had moved from the beautiful *Villa Emo* at Fanzolo to *Villa Godi*, another imposing Palladian villa at Lugo Vicenza in the foothills below Asiago, which was near enough to allow day trips to the front by car returning safely by the evening. In April, he was sent by Cavan to call on King Vittorio and the Italian Supreme Commander, General Diaz.

Between visits to the front, the Prince was to be found visiting other members of the Italian Royal Family⁶⁷, including a royal relative the Duchess of Aosta who was living near Vicenza. As Princess Helene of Orleans, the Duchess had wanted to marry the Prince's Uncle, the Duke of Clarence; however, she was a Roman Catholic and permission was refused. Although a long way from London, life in Italy was not without its benefits: in early May he visited Venice with Hamilton and Captain Lord 'Eddy'⁶⁸ Derby who had just arrived from France and then went off to inspect a French Gunnery School on Lake Garda.

Keeping fit remained a preoccupation for the Prince and an ongoing concern for Cavan. One morning when he was shaving, 'in walked the Prince's valet and in his hands was the Prince's undervest, which he proceeded to wring out on the stone floor with the remark "My Lord, if His Royal Highness goes on like this, there will be nothing left of him come the summer". Just a word from me about keeping some energy in reserve for the coming offensive was quite enough, and the Prince was content with enormous walks with my CRA

61 *The Times*, 8 February 1918.

62 Lieutenant-Commander W. Dudley Ward, RNVR, MP, (1877–1946).

63 Duke of Windsor, p.126.

64 Edmonds and Davies, p.131.

65 Andrew Rose, p.60.

66 Two divisions had been withdrawn and set back to France during March and Plumer recalled to take command of the Second Army.

67 Rupert Godfrey (Ed), *Letters from a Prince: Edward, Prince of Wales to Mrs Freda Dudley Ward March 1918–January 1921* (London: Little, Brown and Company, 1998), p.25.

68 Commissioned Grenadier Guards 2 July 1914; retired 27 November 1920. Awarded MC in Italy.

General Wardrop⁶⁹ and gave up his early morning runs⁷⁰.

In May 1918, the Prince and Hamilton visited Rome and received a rapturous welcome – as he left the station, ‘cries of Long Live England and Long Live the Prince of Wales greeted him on all sides’⁷¹. At a ceremony at the Mausoleum of Augustus on 24 May to commemorate Italy’s entry into the war, Prime Minister Vittorio Orlando spoke of the Prince as having come to Italy to share their dangers and defend their country⁷². A controversial meeting with Pope Benedict XV – Balfour the Foreign Secretary had overruled King George V’s objections – followed by lunch at the Palazzo Borghese sandwiched between two cardinals marked the end of his official programme and left him free to attend a Red Cross charity performance at the Teatro Argentina opera house where his appearance in a box was ‘the signal for an outburst of cheering, and between the second and third acts the orchestra played a selection from British marches’⁷³.



In Rome as the centre of attraction, flanked by Sir Rennell and Lady Rodd. Gathorne-Hardy and Hamilton in background to right (Duke of Windsor collection).

The Prince also visited Queen Elena and younger members of the Italian Royal Family at the Villa

Savoia in Rome, where they were living while the Quirinale Palace was being used as a hospital for the war wounded. On Sunday, he was taken for a picnic with the Queen and her children ‘out to their chateau and woods on the sea one hour in a car from the town’⁷⁴. The Rome visit had been a huge success. In reply to a message from Lloyd George congratulating Italy on her wartime achievements, Prime Minister Orlando talked of ‘the affectionate demonstrations in Rome in honour of the young Prince who...is both an august and a charming messenger, and the most eloquent testimony to the good wishes of the Italian nation and the deep friendship with which it replies to the sentiments of the British people’⁷⁵.

Following his return from Rome, the Prince went to Sirmione del Garda with Hamilton and Legh for a visit to the rest camps, where he promptly went down with flu. On 15 June 1918, the Prince was back at Cavan’s GHQ at the Villa Godi when the Austrians launched their Solstice Offensive all along the Italian front. In a last throw of the dice, they attacked across the Asiago Plateau and along the River Piave to the sea. On the plateau, they had some initial success breaking through the British lines at San Sisto Ridge before being repulsed in the late afternoon. On the Piave, the Austro-Hungarians had more success, crossing the river and getting up onto the Montello before being halted by a dogged Italian defence.

The King and Queen’s Silver wedding was scheduled to take place in early July and the Prince discussed with Cavan whether to return home for



Malato d’amore for Freda (Duke of Windsor collection).

69 General Sir Alexander Ernest Wardrop, GCB, CMG, (1872–1961).

70 FM Earl of Cavan, p.115.

71 *The Times*, 23 May 1918.

72 *The Times*, 25 May 1918.⁷³ *The Times*, 27 May 1918.

74 Rupert Godfrey, p.36.

75 *The Times*, 27 May 1918.

it. Given the events of the past few days and the possibility that the Austrians would regroup for another attack, they decided it was not the right time to leave the front. As it happened, the Italians rallied and managed to evict the Austrians from the Montello and back across the Piave and things settled back to all quiet on the Italian Front. After the battle, Prince Edward visited Venice again⁷⁶ this time to look at the Italian naval defences along the mouth of the Piave and returned via the rest station at Sirmione del Garda for a swim and a short relax. On 25 July, he was back on official duty at Istrana near Treviso, presenting the Military Medal to four Italian soldiers who had rescued a British pilot downed over the River Piave⁷⁷. The royal Public Relations role continued. On 9 August 1918, he went to have dinner with the King of Italy at his Villa Italia headquarters (the Castello di Lipsida) close to Padua where the Italian Comando Supremo was located.

In early August 1918, intelligence reports suggested that the Austrians were planning to withdraw their frontline to the higher ground on the other side of Asiago on the lower slopes of Monte Interotto and Mont Catz, where they had been constructing a *Winterstellung* (Winter Line). This would have left them in a much stronger defensive position, since they would have had the advantage of the pine forests behind them providing cover from observation and allowing them to resupply in daylight. Rather than let the Austrians retire quietly to the North, the Allies determined to attack.

At a staff meeting on 5 August General Luca Montuori of the Italian Sixth Army in the company of French General Graziani and the Italian General Pietro Badoglio suggested to Cavan a British-French attack to anticipate the Austrian withdrawal and give them 'some sort of push'⁷⁸. Fully realising the British could not hold on to any ground taken, he agreed to two large-scale raids. On 8 and 9 August, the British and French went into action on the



The Prince with King Vittorio and his generals at Padua aerodrome 1918.

Asiago Plateau: the raids were entirely successful. The Prince wrote that 'We had some successful little operations last night, several raids which brought in about 400 prisoners of war and put the wind up the Austrians and the French are doing the same tonight and evidently hotting them up properly too, as they are making a lot of noise now as I write and I can see the gun flashes from my window'⁷⁹.

On 11 August 1918, the Prince took a two hour drive in his Lancia from Villa Godi to Sommacompagna, to the west of Verona. Here he had lunch with Colonel Wallace commanding the newly arrived American 332nd Infantry Regiment who had established his HQ in the charmingly named *Villa Mille e Una Rosi*⁸⁰. Just under a year after he had first arrived in Italy, the Prince, together with Hamilton and Legh, then returned to England on leave, only to find himself more or less a prisoner in Windsor Castle⁸¹ and unable to party. It was with some relief that he returned to Italy on 9 September.

With Cavan on leave, the quiet period up on the Asiago Plateau gave the Prince the opportunity to do something that he would otherwise have been unable to do – flying aeroplanes. He drove to nearby Villaverla ten kilometres north of Vicenza to meet

76 Rupert Godfrey, p.48-9.

77 Ibid, p.61-2.

78 Edmonds and Davies, p.256.

79 Rupert Godfrey, p.68.

80 The Villa of 1,001 Roses.

81 Rupert Godfrey, p.70.

up with an RAF Squadron. On 16 September, he wrote: 'I've had a marvellous 'fly' this evening in a Bristol fighter with a wonderful Canadian pilot called Baker(sic)⁸², who has downed about 40 Huns and Austrians. I went to tea with his squad, and he took me up afterwards and it was too thrilling for words, darling, and we went up to 10,000 ft and over the mountains and got a marvellous view of the lines and saw miles into Switzerland and Austria'⁸³.

Ten days later, the Prince received a letter from his father instructing him to go to the Canadian and ANZAC Corps in France, dashing his hopes of attending a three-week Staff course at Cambridge and secret trysts with Mrs Dudley Ward. He left Italy three days later, thereby missing the decisive battle of Vittorio Veneto in late October where British troops pulled off a magnificent feat of arms when they captured Papadopoli Island, and after spending a month with the Canadians, he moved to the ANZAC Corps which by now was in British-occupied Germany.

His visits to military hospitals were remembered years later by many with whom he mingled. One story was relayed by Sir Almeric Fitzroy, the clerk to the Privy Council. Post-Armistice, the Prince was taken to an army hospital, where all but one of the soldiers were presented to him. The sole absentee was cordoned off behind a curtain and, according to Sir Almeric, was in a state 'too repulsive to be seen'. The Prince objected: 'No one should be deprived to sympathy who had the highest claim to it'. He leaned over and kissed the disfigured man on the cheek. The room was silent, but the Prince didn't flinch. Fitzroy wrote: 'He who can bear himself in the dread presence of misery must have a genius for pity'⁸⁴.

The four Grenadier service battalions were also in Germany concentrated in the Cologne area. They had all sent colour parties home to bring

their colours out except for the 4th Battalion for having been raised during the war they were colourless⁸⁵. On 14 January, the Prince presented the battalion with its Union colour and addressed the parade. 'Less than three months after your formation you were fighting at Loos. At once you showed how completely you had absorbed the great traditions of the First or Grenadier Regiment of Foot Guards. You added fresh laurels to your record in the great attacks of the Guards Division in the battle of the Somme in September 1916. In the advance on Passchendaele in 1917, and later in the year at Cambrai, you still further enhanced your fighting reputation. Your historic stand in front of Hazebrouck in April last year earned your Battalion its second V.C. and was largely responsible for checking the enemy's advance. It is a special pleasure to me to hand you this colour in the hour of victory, having like yourselves the honour of serving in this our great regiment'⁸⁶. As a bonus to this special occasion, he was invited to lunch by the 1st Battalion the next day.

Sent to Paris in mid-February, the Prince based himself and Hamilton once again in the Hotel Meurice from where he ventured out to have a semi-official meeting with President Wilson, called on President and Madame Poincaré, visited the Queen of Italy, received General Pershing and lunched with Marshal Pétain at Chantilly. No wonder he wrote to Freda 'guess I'm moving in high circles...'⁸⁷. Back from Paris, wearing the uniform of a captain in the Grenadier Guards, on 22 March he accompanied General Cavan as he led the Guards Division up the Mall from Buckingham Palace to the Strand and from there to St Paul's Cathedral and the Mansion House before returning down Holborn to Hyde Park Corner. With an additional thirteen bands stationed along the route, the fourteen battalions of Footguards and three marching bands took two

82 Major Billy Barker, VC, DSO and Bar, MC and two bars (1894–1930). Barker ended his Italian service with 33 aircraft claimed destroyed and nine observation balloons downed. In May 1919, Barker with his arm still in a sling from his final combat injuries took the Prince up in a two-seater Sopwith Dove over London and "executed many stunts much to the liking of the Prince". (<https://www.kingstonaviation.org/sopwith-day-by-day/1919.html>).

83 Rupert Godfrey, p.81-2.

84 *A History of Conflict: Britain at War*, Issue 174, p.23.

85 Sir Frederick Ponsonby, Vol 3, p.195.

86 Sir Frederick Ponsonby, Vol 3, p.195-6.

87 Rupert Godfrey, p.137-141.



Legh and the Prince before the parade.

hours and fifteen minutes to complete the line of march. Although billed as ‘Triumphal’ with the crowds heartily cheering the soldiers passing their front, for those on parade there would have been an undertone of sadness for as *The Times* observed ‘for every two men who march through the streets today three rest beneath the soil of France, Flanders or Italy, and five of six bear the scars of battle’⁸⁸.

For the Prince, this was his last public appearance as a Grenadier and as the Division passed Buckingham Palace nearly five and a half years after he had marched past it with the 1st Battalion⁸⁹, the Prince reminisced how for him ‘the Guards Division was a great club; and, if tinged with snobbishness, it was the snobbishness of tradition, discipline, perfection and sacrifice. They were the

shock troops of the British Army; their prestige was purchased in blood’⁹⁰. On 15 April 1919, he became the Colonel of the Welsh Guards and wore their insignia in public from thereon in.

Claud Hamilton, who had become increasingly exasperated with the Prince’s wayward behaviour, parted company with him after the 1920 round-the-world tour to Australia on HMS *Renown*. The Prince told Freda Dudley Ward that ‘he agreed that as we are in no way kindred spirits it just wasn’t worth a scrap of use his remaining on as Equerry to me’⁹¹. He was replaced by Captain the Hon Bruce Ogilvy MC⁹², a cavalry officer in 12th Royal Lancers, who stayed with the Prince until 1930. Hamilton remained a courtier, serving as an Equerry to King George V and after the King’s death as Comptroller and Treasurer in Queen Mary’s Household.

His fellow Grenadier officer, Piers Legh, shared the same reservations as Hamilton during the world tour – ‘...Sometimes he becomes absolutely impossible, loses his temper and behaves like a naughty schoolboy. His selfishness becomes more apparent daily...If this goes on, I shall chuck the whole thing when I get home’⁹³. On his return to England, Legh decided to stay on as an Equerry to the Prince until 1936 and followed him briefly into ‘voluntary exile’ before joining the Household of King George VI.

After the end of the war, both as the Prince of Wales and King Edward VIII and indeed after his abdication, Edward kept in touch with the Regiment, especially around Armistice Day. In a letter written from Paris to Colonel Charles Britten in 1937, he thanked him for placing on his behalf a Badge Cross on the Grenadier Field of Remembrance for he was ‘glad to think that my act of remembrance of fallen comrades of the Grenadiers has been continued despite my present absence from England’.

At the dawn of the age of universal mass media, by 1919 the Prince of Wales, blessed with good looks and charm, had become a global icon. The

88 *The Times* 24 March 1919, p.7.

89 Sir Frederick Ponsonby, Vol 3, p.197.

90 Duke of Windsor, p.120.

91 Rupert Godfrey, p. 371-2.

92 The Hon Bruce Ogilvy, MVO, MC, 1895–1976.

93 Letter to Mrs Sarah Shaughnessy 14 June 1919 – Alfred Shaughnessy (Ed), *Sarah: The Letters and Diaries of a Courtier’s Wife, 1906–1936*, Peter Owen, London, 1989, p.126.

shy and ungainly 21 year old Grenadier Ensign who had manfully struggled to keep up on route marches in August 1914 had, through exposure to the horrors of war on his own volition, been transformed into a communicator of considerable emotional intelligence with a gift of relating to the highest and the lowest in a multitude of different societies. As the Prince put it himself, 'while my military duties were circumscribed and my role certainly an unusual one, yet my education was widened in war, not through book or theory, but

through the experience of living under all kinds of conditions with all manner of men"⁹⁴.

Sadly, this glittering start to the path to kingship was to end in abdication and exile but the tragic outcome to a life full of promise should not be allowed to detract from his courageous odyssey as a Staff Officer on two war fronts and a tireless advocate for Britain's cause during six years of tumultuous and terrible conflict as well a loyal Grenadier.

94 Duke of Windsor, p.134.

The Timely Discovery of The King's Company Camp Colour Before The Royal State Funeral of King George VI on 1952

by Major Philip Wright OBE Formerly Grenadier Guards

King George VI died in Norfolk on 6th February 1952. The new Queen HM Elizabeth II, who had heard the news while in Kenya, was proclaimed at Friary Court in St James Palace on 8th February and, on the same day 21 men of the King's Company under the Captain, Major A G Heywood MC, went to Sandringham for duty as bearers and escort. The Queen commanded that the King's Company should be designated as such until further notice.

There was nearly a crisis over the availability of the small Company Camp Colour, which is always buried with the Sovereign. The previous Captain, Major H C Hanbury MC, had taken the Colour, as was customary on leaving the Company, and had it framed as a fire screen in his drawing room. A replacement Colour had been ordered but, as it was not ready, the old one had to be hastily removed from the screen in time for the funeral at St George's Chapel Windsor

Inside the Chapel, after the final hymn, Colonel G C Gordon-Lennox DSO, the Lieutenant Colonel Commanding, handed over the Colour to Her

Majesty the Queen, who then placed it on the coffin immediately before the committal.

On 21st February Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother received the bearer party at Buckingham Palace to thank them for the exemplary manner in which they had carried out their duties. She presented each man with a signed photograph of them carrying the coffin. On the same day The Queen's command was received that the King's Company was to be redesignated The Queen's Company.



The design of the King's Company Colour, taken from the book *The Colours of the Grenadier Guards*, published in 1937. The design of the Queen's Company Colour differed from this, with the St.Edward's Crown rather than the Tudor Crown, and in the sinister canton were the words Royal Crest.

A Grenadier wins the Grand National... 140 years ago

by our Racing Correspondent

1881 ended inauspiciously for Lieutenant Lord (John) Manners. He fell from his horse whilst hunting on New Year's Eve with the Belvoir, severely spraining his wrist and slightly injuring his neck. He was obliged to suspend his activities in the saddle for several weeks, so it came as some surprise when it was announced in several newspapers at the end of March 1882 that he had won the Grand National¹.

The grandson of the 1st Baron Manners, Lord Chancellor of Ireland, and a great-nephew of a former Archbishop of Canterbury, Manners had joined the Regiment in November 1872. In early 1881, he accepted a wager to buy, train and ride a horse to victory in the Grand National. He bought a six-year-old horse called Seaman for £1,900 off an Irish dealer and placed him under the care of the



famous trainer Captain James Machell.

It seemed an impossible task with only four months to go before the great race but the determined Manners played his part, entering as many amateur races as he could to gain experience and three weeks before the National, he rode his horse Chancellor to victory in Sandown's Grand Military Gold Cup².

After handsomely backing himself, Manners joined the eleven other runners at the start of the Aintree course. The weather was atrocious with *The Times* reporting that 'the usual parade was dispensed with as rain was falling so heavily, and while the race was being run the elements prevented anything like a satisfactory view being obtained of it'. Only four succeeded in getting past the judge's box, and of these Seaman won by a head from Cyrus at 10-1³.

As usual, luck had played its part for the Duke of Hamilton's Eau De Vie at 100-8 had been some fifteen lengths clear at Becher's second time around when a stirrup leather broke and the horse veered sharply into the scattering crowd, leaving Seaman – which had broken down some two hundred yards from the finish – to win in the last two strides by a head⁴. The horse never ran again but lived contentedly on the family estate for the rest of its life.

And that was it – two rides, two winners. Manners left the Army the following year and with the proceeds of his wager built a superb Arts and Crafts House called Avon Tyrrell on his sister-in-law's estate in the New Forest. Three years after his win, he married Constance Hamlyn-Williams with whom he had five children. His elder son John joined the Regiment in 1910 and was killed in action at Villers-Cotterêts with the 2nd Battalion on 1 September 1914 (see poem 'To John')⁵. Francis, the younger son, also served with the Regiment and was wounded in March 1918.

As a legacy of his win, in 1908 Manners presented the Grenadier Guards Point-to-Point Challenge

1 <https://sites.google.com/site/jockeypedia/manners-lord> (accessed 26 August 2022)

2 <http://www.race-call.com/grand-national/sickly-seaman-carries-the-day-1190030.html>

3 *The Times* archive March 1882.

4 <https://www.grandnationalultimatehistory.com/races-1882.html>

5 <https://www.historychristchurch.org.uk/content/interesting-articles/the-two-wars-in-christchurch/second-lieutenant-john-neville-manners>



Avon Tyrell Attribution *Country Life Magazine* 1910.

Cup ('the Manners Cup') to the Regiment, open to all officers past and present providing they owned and rode the horse they entered. The prize money was £10 to which the Earl of Cavan added another

£5 for the winner, £3 for second place and £2 for the third, making the winner's pot worth about £1,800 in today's money.

The Brigade of Guards Memorials in the Brompton Cemetery

by Major James Gatehouse

Recently, Martin Gwilliams, a stonemason working for the Remembrance Trust, restored the leadwork on the Brigade of Guards Memorials in the Brompton Cemetery, the large cemetery that runs between the Fulham Road and the Old Brompton Road in South West London. All 22 stones are made of marble, some are quite badly weathered and overall, 2136 lead characters had become detached and lost. These memorials are well worth visiting.

They were erected in a circle around a central cross in the enclosed military plot, near the gate on to the Old Brompton Road. These memorials list the names of many Other Ranks (but no officers) from the 1st, 2nd, 3rd and Reserve Battalions of



Restoring the Brompton memorials.

the Regiment as well as all others in the Brigade of Guards. There is also a memorial stone to the Guards Machine Gun Regiment, listing three names. The memorials are all “*in memory of men buried here*” and, interestingly, “*placed by their comrades*”. The earliest death recorded is 25 November 1889 and 4 June 1946 is the most recent. I gather that the names recorded are of men who died in London, either while with their battalions or on their way to join them overseas, so not directly from enemy action and many, sadly, will have been as a result

of fever and disease. Martin has been working on these memorials since last August, and everything is done painstakingly by hand. It’s a solitary business but he has now completed the task.

The Remembrance Trust is a UK registered charity (no. 1177492) and was established by Captain Algy Cluff, a former Grenadier, to renovate military memorials that pre-date 1914. We are all very grateful for the timely restoration of the Brigade of Guards memorials. The men commemorated on them should never be forgotten.

‘To John’ Manners, Grenadier Guards

O heart – and – soul and careless played
Our little band of brothers,
And never recked the time would come
To change our games for others.
It’s joy for those who played with you
To picture now what grace
Was in your mind and single heart
And in your radiant face.
Your light-foot strength by flood and field
For England keener glowed;
To whatsoever things are fair
We know, through you, the road;
Nor is our grief the less thereby;
O Swift and strong and dear, good-bye.

Billy Grenville

Killed in action July 1915, two months after his brother, the soldier-poet Julian Grenfell, died of wounds.

The body of the Hon. John Manners has never

been found. His name is listed on the La Ferté-sous-Jouarre memorial, along with the names of over 3,700 other British soldiers who have become known as the Missing of the Marne.



*Lieut. Hon. J. H. Manners.
Joined Regiment on 19. 1. 12.
Proceeded overseas on 12. 8. 14. with 2nd Battn.
Killed in action at Villars Cotterels on 1. 9. 14.
with 2nd Battn.*

Memorial to Field Marshal Earl Ligonier in Westminster Abbey

In the north ambulatory of Westminster Abbey is a marble monument to Field Marshal John (Jean-Louis), Earl Ligonier, Colonel of the Regiment 1757–70. It shows a figure of History holding a scroll on which are incised the names of the battles the Earl took part in: Schellenberg, Blenheim, Ramillies, Oudenarde, Taniere, Malplaquet, Dettingen, Fontenoy, Rocoux, and Laffeldt. Below is a portrait relief with various military trophies. The monument has been altered and the four relief portraits of Queen Anne, George I, George II and

George III are now placed on the basement. His coat of arms is sculpted on an urn. The monument is signed by sculptor John Francis Moore, 1773, and is sited opposite the memorial to General Wolfe. The inscription reads:

In memory of John Earl Ligonier Baron of Ripley in Surry (sic) Viscount of Inniskilling and Viscount of Clonmell Field-Marshal and Commander in Chief of His Majesty's Forces Master-General of the Ordnance Colonel of the First Regiment of Foot-Guards One of His Majesty's most honourable Privy Council and Knight of the most honourable military order of the Bath. Died XXVIII April MDCCLXX aged XCII.

Ligonier was born on 17 October 1680 at Castres in France where his family, who were Huguenots, had been established for several generations. His father was Louis de Ligonier, sieur de Montcuquet, and his mother Louise née du Poncet. John was probably educated in France and Switzerland and took refuge in Ireland when Protestants had to flee France. He was naturalized English in 1702 and served in the British army in the campaigns listed on his memorial.

In 1713 he was appointed governor of Minorca where he improved the fortifications. In 1753 he became Colonel of the Royal Regiment of Horse Guards and rose to be aide-de-camp to King George II. As a reward for his gallant behaviour at the battle of Dettingen, the King dubbed him Knight banneret, an honour only conferred on the battlefield – the first occasion this had been done since 1642. He is best remembered for his successful cavalry charge at the battle of Laffeldt. On his retirement he was created Earl Ligonier and died on 28 April 1770. He is considered by many to be the greatest British soldier between Marlborough and Wellington.

With thanks to <https://www.westminster-abbey.org/abbey-commemorations/commemorations/john-and-francis-ligonier>





ZAMBIA

A Grenadier in Zambia. How the Army is supporting Counter Poaching Operations

*by Major CJD Stevenson GREN GDS
No 1 Company Commander
1st Battalion Irish Guards*

From finding the Escort to the Colour and the Regimental Marching Detachment for the Late Queen's Funeral to training Park Rangers in Zambia, No 1 Company 1st Battalion Irish Guards—under the commander of Major Chris Stevenson GREN GDS—have had a varied, challenging and unique 6-months that demonstrates the professionalism, dedication and broad skills of today's soldiers in the Household Division.

Shortly after the Queen's Birthday Parade, held this year on Thursday 2 June 2022 in honour of Her

Late Majesty's Platinum Jubilee, 17 members of No 1 Company found themselves in the most familiar of training locations—Brecon—preparing themselves for the most unfamiliar of tasks, that of training Zambian Park Rangers the skills of anti-poaching as part of Op CORDED. The deployment coincided with the reorganisation of the Micks from a Light Infantry Battalion to one of the new Security Force Assistance (SFA) Battalions, directed as part of the Army's Future Solider modernisation programme. The deployment provided a good opportunity to deploy in the new SFA role, whose core purpose and functions are to conduct conventional partner force capacity building in small teams who are persistently engaged overseas, thereby producing support, access, insight and influence for the MOD and Government. It also presented a good opportunity to 'press to test' the new structure of a SFA company, which saw a reduction in the number of Guardsmen by a third in each platoon with the deliberate aim of being officer and NCO heavy able to deliver a broad range of training tasks.

Op CORDED is the British Army's contribution to the UK's effort in countering the illegal wildlife trade. The UK's effort to tackling the illegal wildlife trade (IWT) — a global crisis involving criminal networks, estimated to be worth up to £17 billion a year, and the 5th most lucrative crime network — is led by the FCDO and DEFRA, as part of the £100M UK Biodiversity Landscape Fund. Now in its eighth year and 10th deployment, Op CORDED represents a cross-government effort in the fight against the IWT in Sub-Saharan Africa and focuses on developing an effective counter-poaching force by working with the park rangers from the Zambian Department of



Members of Op CORDED 10 with the British High Commissioner (His Excellency Nick Wolley) and others at the Zambian Cenotaph after the Remembrance Sunday Parade.



**A casualty evacuation lesson delivered by one of the
Zambian students.**



**Sgt Ruck (1IG) delivers a lesson to students on the
Counter Poaching Instructors Course.**

National Parks and Wildlife (DNPW) and soldiers from the National Anti-Poaching Task Force (NAPTF). To date soldiers from across the Army have trained over 500 Park Rangers from four different countries (Zambia, Malawi, Sierra Leone, and Gabon) in both generic soldiering skills—professionalising the force—and more specific counter-poaching techniques such as tracking and human wildlife conflict techniques.

Whilst the Army may not have experience in Countering Illegal Wildlife Trade (CIWT) operations, there are many similarities between CIWT operations and low-level Counter Insurgency (COIN) operations. Poachers are often driven by similar underlying resentments as insurgents, and Organised Crime Groups (OCGs) play a similar

function as insurgent organisations in identifying and preying upon vulnerable populations to provide a foundation for their operations. One of the key differences is that poaching is primarily an economic activity as opposed to a religious or politically motivated insurgency, although resentment towards wildlife authorities is often a contributing factor. CIWT operations must therefore understand and engage with the social and economic drivers of poaching. Wildlife authorities and contributing conservation organisations should seek to provide benefit to communities in order to help turn them against poaching and separate them from the OCGs. As with COIN, so with CIWT, understanding the human terrain and developing methods to win ‘hearts and minds’ is vital to deliver long term, sustainable, success.

A key COIN lesson to apply to CIWT operations is to understand the human terrain and to focus on winning the support of the local population so that they come to view rangers and conservationists as allies rather than enemies. In addition, CIWT operations should be intelligence-led in order to ensure that limited ranger resources are targeted at monitoring and dominating the most at-risk areas. British Army involvement in CIWT operations has the potential to not only deliver significant benefits for conservation, but also provides a very relevant operational environment for soldiers to gain an understanding of applying COIN principles in a low-intensity scenario. Being able to focus on honing essential small team infantry tactics combined with an understanding of the human terrain and broader intelligence picture, whilst working in partnership with indigenous forces, is an excellent training opportunity.

Whilst the majority of the British Army’s CIWT operations have been focussed at the tactical level, in order to effectively counter the IWT action, it must also be taken at the strategic and operational levels. This will involve work in coordination with other UK government departments, national security forces, police and criminal justice systems of the host nation, as well as NGOs and the private sector. Therefore, whilst operating at the tactical level it is important to understand how strategic and operational activity should be coordinated for the development of a comprehensive CIWT strategy.



Successful students from the Counter Poaching Instructors Course receive their certificates at the pass out parade from the Deputy Director of the DNPW.

For No 1 Company, Op CORDED 10 saw a transition from a more tactical-level capacity building—delivering basic training to Rangers and accompanying them on patrol—to a more focussed operational level capacity building at the national level. The Army’s CIWT contribution to date at the tactical level has aimed to make poaching a higher-risk activity, thereby discouraging OCG involvement and reducing poaching. To try and raise the level of our capacity building to the national or operational level, the intent was to bring tried and trusted British methods of intelligence processing and operational planning to help the Zambians establish a national Combined Joint Operations Centre (CJOC), whilst also delivering

a comprehensive Train the Trainer (T3) course to a pool of high-quality rangers. All of this with the endstate of enabling Zambian CIWT operations to self-sustain beyond UK support—CORDED 10 was also to be the final deployment to Zambia before transitioning to Botswana.

The change in training focus also meant a change in location from a semi-austere (tented) camp in Kafue National Park, to a business resort in Lusaka and delivering training at the DNPW headquarters. This unfortunately meant limited interaction with wildlife and game (which would frequently wonder through the camp) but did bring additional freedoms such as a lower medical cover requirement (dangerous game interaction presented the highest risk to life and resulted in Gdsm Talbot (1CG) being killed in Malawi in 2019) and lighter footprint on the ground. Training with our Zambian partners was delivered in two phases: a 5-week Conservation Staff Course (CSC); and a 5-week Counter-Poaching Instructors (CPI) Course.

The CSC aimed to train 20 students from the DNPW and NAPTF in how to plan and command intelligence led CIWT operations. It introduced the intelligence cycle—turning useful information into actionable intelligence—and the Conservation Estimate planning process (based on the British Army’s Combat Estimate), to provide a handrail to develop credible options for CIWT operations in the National Parks. The course built on the considerable levels of knowledge and expertise that



The training team and students from the Counter Poaching Instructors Course with the British High Commissioner (His Excellency Nick Wolley).

the students already possessed, many of whom had over 15 years experience working in the DNPW, and an intelligence-focussed Conservation Data Analysis Course which had been delivered on earlier deployments. It also focussed on the need for a national strategy on conservation and to address the key drivers for poaching—the majority of poaching

in Zambia is ‘subsistence poaching’ – to provide sustenance for poverty-stricken families who derive no benefit from the tourism income generated by the National Parks. The instructors also introduced the Principles of British COIN Doctrine¹ and explored how they were applicable to addressing the illegal wildlife trade and developed techniques for establishing and running a national CJOC.

Concurrent to delivery of the CSC, a small team of highly capable Mick NCOs and Guardsmen were leading 24 Wildlife Police Officers (junior park rangers) through a CPI course with the intent of creating a small cadre of DNPW personnel who could deliver well planned, thought-out and executed training to new DNPW recruits. This course was based around the core syllabus of Defence Instruction Techniques and Defence Train the Trainer courses that all British Army instructors complete prior to an assignment at a training establishment and focussed on development of leadership and instructor qualities. Being able to train high-quality instructors who are able to fuse their own CIWT experience with the instructional methods garnered from the high-quality Mick



Members of the Company HQ in the hills outside of Lower Zambezi National Park.

instructors will help to create a base to continue to tackle their small part in a global issue.

Away from the training, the deployment provided a great opportunity for the soldiers to develop and gain new knowledge and skills in an unfamiliar and often challenging environment. The deployment coincided with Remembrance Sunday, a significant day in the Zambian national calendar to remember those who fought for the British in the First and Second World Wars and saw the training team participate in the parade at the Zambian Cenotaph. There were also plenty of opportunities for extra-curricular activities including safaring in world famous Lower Zambezi National Park, touch rugby with members of the Zambian National 7s team and watching the Football World Cup at the High Commissioner’s Residence.

Whilst many in the military see Op CORDED as little more than a public relations exercise, the engagement of the British Military (as one part of the HMG CIWT strategy) has had a significant impact on developing the counter-poaching capability of the Zambians. The UK are currently the only country to employ military forces in CIWT operations (albeit training and accompanying partnered forces as opposed to planning and



The author (L) and his Company Second in Command (Capt Jimmy O’Riordan 11G) relax with a drink at Mvuu Lodge after a safari in the Lower Zambezi National Park.

¹ Primacy of political purpose; gain/maintain popular support; unity of effort; operate in accordance with the law; understand human terrain; integrate intelligence; secure the population; prepare for the long term; neutralise the insurgent; learn and adapt.

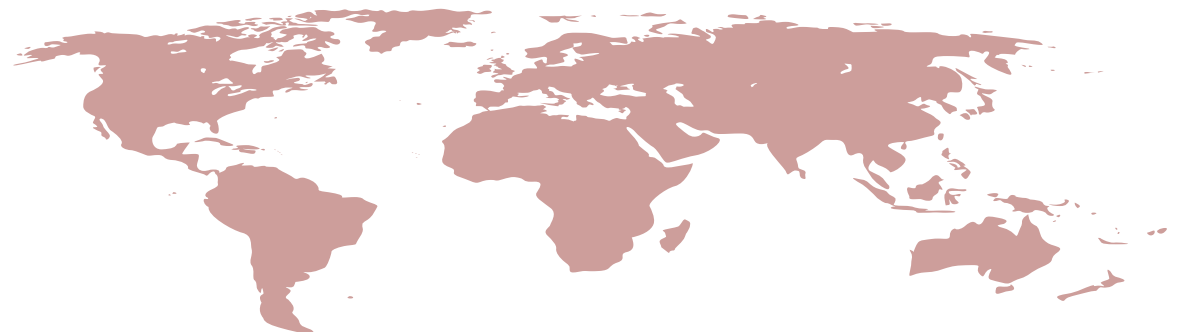


Members of the Counter Poaching Instructors Course observe two minutes silence on Armistice Day in Lusaka National Park



Gdsm Tait and LCpl Ferguson (11G) brief senior officers on lesson plans at Lusaka National Park.

delivering counter-poaching operations) and it provides significant credibility, influence, access and insight for the British Army and British High Commission in Lusaka. Having completed the training in Zambia—although the problem is far from solved—the model is about to be delivered in Botswana under a 3-year programme led by the Irish Guards. In an increasingly constrained, congested and connected world, the ability to deploy traditional and overt land forces into a region in which our potential adversaries are investing significantly provides opportunities to engage and constrain them and offers the MOD and Government greater choice in how and where the Army contributes across the Integrated Operating Concept. Arguably, Op CORDED is currently the only Army deployment that delivers across the full spectrum of Train, Advise, Assist, Accompany and Enable (TA3E), and as such is a great platform for developing how we partner and operate at reach in a non-kinetic environment—hopefully it will continue for many years to come!



Chris Savage, Messenger Sergeant Major of the King's Body Guard

by Sgt Major Chris Savage

Having taken over as Sgt Major of the 1st Battalion in 1989 and following the Op GRANBY deployment to the Middle East, Chris Savage returned to London about a year later than originally planned and handed over the Colour on the 1992 QBP before going to the All Arms Drill

Wing for his final 18 months of service.

The first part of his Body Guard service was spent as a volunteer Yeoman, appearing for duties as and when required. In 2018, he was invited to apply for the post of Messenger Sergeant Major (MSM) and his application was successful. The last Grenadier in this post was Tom Taylor MVO, MBE (1978–1994).

As the MSM of the King's Body Guard, Chris is the only full-time member of the Body Guard (including the Officers) and is employed by the Royal Household. The remainder are termed 'Honorary' and perform duties as required.

He has an apartment in St James's Palace and lives here during the week, returning home in Mersea Island at the weekends. His wife (Hils) comes and joins him during the week as much as possible but she is often busy at home as a charity worker in the local community. From the balcony of his apartment overlooking Friary Court, Chris has a grandstand view of the Guard Change, keeping a very careful eye on standards of drill.

He is due to retire from the post of MSM in December 2023 when he reaches his 70th birthday after 19 years service. It has been his sad duty during his tenure to be the MSM during both the funerals of HRH Prince Phillip and HM Queen Elizabeth II. However, he also had the privilege of leading the Queen's Body Guard for the Platinum Jubilee Celebrations. In May 2023 he will lead the Body Guard during the Coronation of King Charles III and as such will hold the honour of being the first MSM for many years to have completed all these tasks within one tour of duty.



The FIRST or GRENADIER REGIMENT of FOOT GUARDS

at 31 January 2023

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

His Majesty The King

Colonel

Her Majesty The Queen Consort

Regimental Lieutenant Colonel	Maj Gen	JMH	Bowder OBE
Regimental Adjutant	Maj (Retired)	JPW	Gatehouse
Regimental Treasurer and General Secretary of the Grenadier Guards Association	Lt Col (Retired)	JA	Keeley MBE
Regimental Recruiting Officer	Capt	EC	Bennett
Director of Music	Capt	BS	Mason
Regimental Quartermaster Sergeant	WO2(RQMS)	D	Oliver
Honorary Regimental Archivist	Capt (Retired)	AGH	Ogden

THE REGIMENTAL TRUSTEES

Major General JMH Bowder OBE – Chairman
 Lieutenant General Sir Roland Walker KBE, DSO
 Lieutenant General (Retired) Sir George Norton KCVO CBE
 Brigadier (Retired) DJ Maddan
 The Earl of Derby DL
 Captain (Retired) CAG Bennett
 Regimental Adjutant – Secretary

THE REGIMENTAL COUNCIL

Major General JMH Bowder OBE – Chairman
 All Regimental Trustees
 President, Grenadier Guards Association
 Commanding Officer, First Battalion

Officer Commanding Nijmegen Company
 Senior Late Entry Officer
 Regimental Adjutant – Secretary

15th Company REGIMENTAL HEADQUARTERS

Maj (Ret'd)	JPW	Gatehouse	
Lt Col (Ret'd)	JA	Keeley	
Capt	EC	Bennett	
WO2 (RQMS)	D	Oliver	
LSgt	G	Davis	Association NCO
LSgt	P	Thomas	Property NCO
LCpl	B	Fanning	Regtl Affairs NCO
Gdsm	N	Huxtable	
Gdsm	C	White	

NOMINAL ROLL

REGIMENTAL BAND

Capt (DoM)	B	Mason
WO1 (BM)	J	Rockey
WO2 (BSM)	C	Day
CSgt	J	Burton
CSgt	G	Hall
CSgt	C	Phillips
CSgt	J	Rowles
Sgt	P	Batai
Sgt	O	Duffield
Sgt	M	Gray
Sgt	S	Moore
Sgt	C	Shelton
Sgt	R	Wing
LSgt	S	Bradbury
LSgt	M	Langmaid
LSgt	L	Narhkom
LSgt	A	Shave
LSgt	N	Wilcox
LCpl	B	Anthony
LCpl	M	Badley
LCpl	C	Barber
LCpl	V	Carter-Graham
LCpl	M	Denney
LCpl	R	Dewey
LCpl	R	Ellard
LCpl	D	Griffiths
LCpl	S	Henderson-Sykes
LCpl	C	Hibberd
LCpl	A	Higginson
LCpl	S	Jolly
LCpl	K	Lawson
LCpl	G	Philp
LCpl	J	Pearson
LCpl	M	Thomas
Musn	R	Coates
Musn	H	Faulkner
Musn	J	Gilding
Musn	M	Hayes
Musn	G	Hirst
Musn	B	Kidds
Musn	J	Perkins
Musn	A	Rouse

BATTALION HQ

Lt Col	F	Johnston	Comd Offr
Maj	N	Strachan	Snr Maj
Capt	S	Macdonald-Smith	Adjt
Capt	J	Sayers	Ops Offr
Capt	L	Odlum	Int Offr
Capt	G	Davis	RCMO
WO1(RSM)	D	Bailey	The Sgt Maj
WO2(DSgt)	R	Archer	DSgt
WO2(DSgt)	J	Thompson	DSgt
Sgt	A	Jones	RCMO's Asst
LSgt	T	McQueen	RP Sgt

CORPS OF DRUMS

Sgt	M	Beasley
Sgt	C	Martin
LSgt	J	Ramsbottom
LSgt	L	Seer-Boylan
LCpl	H	Coe
LCpl	J	Greenslade
LCpl	K	Pharaoh
LCpl	E	Sergeant
LCpl	A	Walker
Dmr	L	Boon
Dmr	J	Constantinou
Dmr	A	Dean
Dmr	R	Hunt
Dmr	J	McCoudden-Callaghan
Dmr	J	Mctigh-Trott
Dmr	A	Marriott
Dmr	N	Mendez
Dmr	J	O'Connor
Dmr	M	Ransby
Dmr	M	Reader
Dmr	J	Roberts
Dmr	L	Sleath
Dmr	O	Treacher
Dmr	C	Vincent
Dmr	J	Walker
Dmr	H	Woolley

14th Company

INFANTRY TRAINING CENTRE (CATTERICK)

Lt	S	Tusa
Lt	H	Crawford
Sgt	R	Blakeney
Sgt	L	Coulbert
LSgt	M	Rosser
LSgt	C	Bepatt
LSgt	C	Austin
LSgt	J	Brady
LSgt	C	Dovey
LSgt	S	Roberts
LSgt	A	Pugh
LSgt	A	McKenna
LSgt	J	Simmons
LCpl	D	Bramwell

THE KING'S COMPANY

Maj	J	Hathaway-White
Capt	S	Marren
2Lt	H	Wheatley
2Lt	R	Elmhirst
WO2	D	Jones
CSgt	B	Middleton
Sgt	S	Fowkes
Sgt	M	Hadfield
Sgt	K	Ellis
LSgt	J	Brunt
LSgt	S	Hubball
LSgt	G	Parker
LCpl	L	Chater
LCpl	L	Debattista

NOMINAL ROLL

LCpl J McCulloch
 LCpl AM Hardman-Haworth
 LCpl A Hazell
 LCpl G Nesbitt-Whyte
 LCpl J Fazzino
 LCpl S Whincup
 LCpl F Russell
 Gdsm JK Bailey
 Gdsm C Bingham
 Gdsm T Campuzano
 Gdsm MB Bowey
 Gdsm B Brown
 Gdsm F Cox
 Gdsm C Cushen
 Gdsm E Devine
 Gdsm J Emony
 Gdsm S Ernest
 Gdsm J Firth
 Gdsm J Fomebu
 Gdsm S Gale
 Gdsm S Gray
 Gdsm A Gyesi
 Gdsm T Goveia
 Gdsm L Gooderham
 Gdsm L Gould
 Gdsm C Hammond
 Gdsm J Heard
 Gdsm S Hill
 Gdsm P Holland
 Gdsm L Hughes
 Gdsm T Hunter
 Gdsm B Hunt
 Gdsm J Howell
 Gdsm J Jenkin
 Gdsm D Julian
 Gdsm G Lancashire
 Gdsm S Leach
 Gdsm J Lear
 Gdsm J Little
 Gdsm C Mason
 Gdsm L McGann
 Gdsm J Mercer
 Gdsm S Osbourne
 Gdsm O Patterson
 Gdsm P Pelikan
 Gdsm J Pickin
 Gdsm B Paintain
 Gdsm A Ryan
 Gdsm D Sanderson
 Gdsm S Sanders
 Gdsm O Sneath
 Gdsm K Sheridan
 Gdsm L Simpson
 Gdsm D Smith
 Gdsm W Stark
 Gdsm H Tucker
 Gdsm NT Trown
 Gdsm J Williams
 Gdsm J Vaughan

NO. 2 COMPANY

Maj J Hoy LANCS
 2Lt W Coleridge
 2Lt A Denison-Smith
 Lt H Marsh RM
 WO2 LA Swan
 CSgt B Moffatt
 CSgt S Thorne
 Sgt C Dodds IG
 Sgt J Fairley
 Sgt J Williams
 LSgt R Bailey
 LSgt D Fielding
 LSgt C Key
 LSgt T Smith
 LSgt CD Willis
 LCpl S Beckett
 LCpl LD Burdett
 LCpl K Duck
 LCpl S Edwards
 LCpl E Jackson
 LCpl C Poole
 LCpl J Purdie
 LCpl R Spendley
 LCpl B Steele
 Gdsm J Armstrong
 Gdsm J Bennett
 Gdsm E Bird
 Gdsm J Bojang
 Gdsm R Bounds
 Gdsm E Cox
 Gdsm C Davidson
 Gdsm R Dering
 Gdsm L Dewey
 Gdsm RA Dignan
 Gdsm JK Dines
 Gdsm G Flaherty
 Gdsm D French
 Gdsm MS Gerber
 Gdsm F Goodege
 Gdsm R Harvey
 Gdsm MS Kimberling
 Gdsm S Lacey
 Gdsm P Martin
 Gdsm WD Massingham
 Gdsm NJ Mathers
 Gdsm JM Miles
 Gdsm A Miller
 Gdsm BN Notton
 Gdsm J Pawlett
 Gdsm H Perkins
 Gdsm LG Phillips
 Gdsm OG Phoenix
 Gdsm JS Pitts
 Gdsm A Pritchard
 Gdsm H Sawyer
 Gdsm S Scarrot
 Gdsm B Smith - Ketteringham
 Gdsm E Somerville
 Gdsm R Spilling
 Gdsm EDJ Ward
 Gdsm N Wilkinson

SUPPORT COMPANY

Company Headquarters

Maj	R	Harding
WO2	A	Stott
CSgt	K	Dunk
LSgt	W	Farmer
LCpl	C	Hamnett
LCpl	A	Kenny
Gdsm	R	Harper
Gdsm	T	Lester
Gdsm	S	Rainsley

Reconnaissance Platoon

Capt	R	Maddan
CSgt	N	Truman
Sgt	A	Matthews
LSgt	C	Dunphy
LSgt	J	Holdsworth
LSgt	A	Smith
LSgt	A	Turner
LCpl	C	Goold
LCpl	T	Lowry
LCpl	D	Thomas
LCpl	L	Teague
Gdsm	S	Cowen
Gdsm	C	Chambers
Gdsm	J	Cloete
Gdsm	J	Cox
Gdsm	W	Finch
Gdsm	D	Gonzalez-Naylor
Gdsm	A	Hayes
Gdsm	L	Prentice
Gdsm	J	Reet O'Neill
Gdsm	B	Reynolds
Gdsm	B	Smith
Gdsm	M	Turley

Anti-Tank Platoon

Lt	S	Fisher
CSgt	J	Plant
Sgt	D	Haines
LSgt	M	Grove
LSgt	M	Morewood
LSgt	A	Wates
LCpl	T	Coles
LCpl	T	Dell
LCpl	T	Hayton
LCpl	J	Wilson-Fraser
Gdsm	D	Aiken
Gdsm	J	Barrell
Gdsm	M	Bonaccorsi
Gdsm	Z	Ivetic
Gdsm	A	Keane
Gdsm	A	Mahmood
Gdsm	B	Phillips
Gdsm	V	Ratulailai
Gdsm	M	Scanlon
Gdsm	E	Sommerville
Gdsm	O	Smith
Gdsm	B	Talbott
Gdsm	M	Vella
Gdsm	S	Ward

Mortar Platoon

Lt	T	Hodson
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CSgt	C	Friess
Sgt	P	Brady
Sgt	A	Kirkham-Wingate
LSgt	N	Fray
LSgt	L	McTaggart
LSgt	O	Rosser
LSgt	N	Simmons
LCpl	D	Garrett
LCpl	C	McClendon
LCpl	S	Molinari
LCpl	M	Mott
LCpl	C	Smith
LCpl	G	Soutter-Mckee
LCpl	K	Tracey
Gdsm	J	Campbell
Gdsm	J	Dadson
Gdsm	E	Devine
Gdsm	J	Edgar
Gdsm	C	Ellis
Gdsm	F	Goodege
Gdsm	A	Hand
Gdsm	A	Hirst
Gdsm	J	Horrocks
Gdsm	R	Hurst
Gdsm	A	Jackson
Gdsm	S	James
Gdsm	F	Jones
Gdsm	S	Kendall
Gdsm	J	Ledington
Gdsm	J	Manning
Gdsm	B	McKendrick
Gdsm	K	O'Sullivan
Gdsm	C	Parker
Gdsm	D	Patton
Gdsm	T	Tasee
Gdsm	J	Theobald
Gdsm	C	Thompson
Gdsm	E	White
Gdsm	T	Williams
Gdsm	J	Wright-Farrow
Gdsm	A	Wyld
Gdsm	J	Young-Hastings

Sniper Platoon

CSgt	M	Shaw
LSgt	J	Heale
LSgt	W	Hurst
LSgt	R	McKnight
LCpl	J	Buck
LCpl	J	Coleman
LCpl	M	Moore
Gdsm	C	Ashton
Gdsm	O	Davies
Gdsm	J	Fisher
Gdsm	J	Melling
Gdsm	S	Showell
Gdsm	S	Williams

HEADQUARTER COMPANY

Maj	T	Bearder	QM
Maj	H	Coulter	RMO
Maj	MJ	Wainwright	RChD
Maj	D	Westlake	OC
Capt	P	Care	IG

NOMINAL ROLL

Capt	M	Cox	LSgt	L	Richards
Capt	D	Ghale	LSgt	L	Scanlon
Capt	W	Greaves	LSgt	D	Smith
Capt	MJ	Hooman	LSgt	R	Thapa
Capt	R	Shepherd	LSgt	T	Timmins
Capt	J	Silver	LSgt	M	Gurung
Capt	M	Woodward	LCpl	N	Atang'a
WO2	D	Bennison	LCpl	D	Barham
WO2	C	Cherrie	LCpl	R	Binnie
WO2	B	Cobb	LCpl	T	Broster
WO2	P	Mitchell	LCpl	M	Culloty
WO2	M	Lloyd	LCpl	A	Daly
WO2	AJ	O'Brien	LCpl	A	Gurung
CSgt	H	Sutton	LCpl	L	Jallow
WO2	PA	Struczynski	LCpl	I	Jones
CSgt	C	Fiddy	LCpl	MR	Kubunavunua
CSgt	LD	Findler	LCpl	AD	Lander
CSgt	M	Hall	LCpl	E	Latham
CSgt	M	Jallow	LCpl	LJ	Leek
CSgt	J	McCormack	LCpl	RC	Light
CSgt	L	McLoughlan	LCpl	C	Oliver
CSgt	T	Mercer	LCpl	M	Lyon
SSgt	K	Boyd	LCpl	ZD	Pincott
SSgt	C	Faires	LCpl	J	Rees
SSgt	M	Gurung	LCpl	L	Smith
SSgt	C	Wilson	LCpl	R	Walker
Sgt	P	Bird	LCpl	ON	White
Sgt	C	Drew	LCpl	A	Thapa
Sgt	TM	Hayward	Pte	I	Antwi
Sgt	MD	Hymers	Gdsm	K	Adamson
Sgt	L	Humphries	Gdsm	L	Ashford
Sgt	OT	Lavia	Cfn	A	Attwood
Sgt	D	Lyons	Gdsm	UJ	Atuanya
Sgt	S	Magar	Pte	J	Barreda
Sgt	A	Martin	Gdsm	B	Beck
Sgt	T	McQueen	Gdsm		Cahill
Sgt	K	Bailey	Cfn		Campbell
Sgt	SA	Power	Cfn	T	Carter
Sgt	A	Raseru	Cfn	DE	Davies
Sgt	D	Ryan	Gdsm	NJ	Dexter
Sgt	H	Silcox	Gdsm	P	Dixon
Sgt	MR	Sullivan	Gdsm	C	Drew
Sgt	S	Thorne	Gdsm	J	Dwyer
LSgt	E	Ayiera	Gdsm	C	Faram
Cpl	H	Barton	Gdsm	T	Goodwin
LSgt	M	Ceesay	Pte		Gurung
LSgt	K	Elasli	Pte	S	Gurung
LSgt	E	Fairley	Pte	P	Gurung
LSgt	S	Freeman	Gdsm	LA	Hardman-Howarth Bamber
LSgt	D	Gurung	Gdsm	JH	Holding
LSgt	D	Hannah	Gdsm	S	Howells
LSgt	D	Hankey	Gdsm	M	Hopkins
LSgt	LP	Heatley	Cfn	DJ	Hume
Cpl	H	Jelley	Pte	A	Humphreys
LSgt	A	Jones	Gdsm	T	Iqbal
LSgt	J	Lloyd	Gdsm	S	Keane
LSgt	DS	Lockyer	Gdsm	S	Martinez
LSgt	P	Leason	Gdsm	J	McBride
LSgt	A	Mabert	Gdsm	J	McDonald
LSgt	AWD	May	Gdsm	DN	Nicholls
LSgt	R	Martindale	Gdsm	S	Pal
Cpl	E	McIntyre	Pte	E	Rai
LSgt	JD	McKenna	Gdsm	C	Reid
LSgt	M	Morris	Gdsm	SW	Sambells
LSgt	R	Nepali	Pte	JPF	Seiga
LSgt	E	Oyengo	Gdsm	M	Southall

NOMINAL ROLL

Pte	P	Tamang
Gdsm	B	Taylor
Gdsm	C	Tweed
Gdsm	G	Westwood
Gdsm	BA	Whitfield
Gdsm	A	Wiggins
Gdsm	A	Wilson
Gdsm	K	Yalley

Gdsm	C	Lloyd
Gdsm	E	Morgan
Gdsm	J	Robson
Gdsm	J	Saunders
Gdsm	D	Taylor
Gdsm	A	Williams
Gdsm	R	Wilson

INKERMAN COMPANY

COMPANY HQ

Maj	H	Cartwright
Capt	W	Martin
WO2	G	Hudson
CSgt	D	Langridge
LSgt	G	Barry
Gdsm	K	Adams
Gdsm	G	Jones

10 PLATOON

2Lt	E	Norman
Sgt	J	Loftus
LSgt	J	Dexter
LSgt	J	Heslop
LSgt	N	Thompson
LCpl	E	Brunt
LCpl	S	Flitton
LCpl	K	Purdy
LCpl	E	Whiston
LCpl	C	Yare
Gdsm	H	Bell
Gdsm	R	Cherubin
Gdsm	A	Fitzgerald
Gdsm	E	Gilbert
Gdsm	S	Hambleton
Gdsm	J	Kilpatrick
Gdsm	J	McKinney
Gdsm	J	Moe
Gdsm	J	Morris-Jowett
Gdsm	J	Mullins
Gdsm	M	Palmer
Gdsm	L	Playfoot
Gdsm	S	Thody
Gdsm	R	Watson

11 PLATOON

Lt	C	Craven
Sgt	M	Bunyan
LSgt	J	Hubbard
LSgt	R	Woodrow
LCpl	S	Bond
LCpl	H	Fripp
LCpl	M	Licence
LCpl	J R	Perrett
LCpl	C	Shaw
Gdsm	L	Amis
Gdsm	R	Button
Gdsm	A	Coull
Gdsm	K	Gyamfi
Gdsm	J	Hall
Gdsm	C	Hodgkins
Gdsm	M	Holding
Gdsm	C	Judd

12 PLATOON

Lt	E	Harborne
Sgt	M	Ogden
LSgt	J	Hewson
LSgt	O	Taylor
LCpl	H	Beckett
LCpl	F	Clare
LCpl	A	Halford
LCpl	K	O'Brien
LCpl	I	Stark
Gdsm	O	Agathocleous
Gdsm	M	Appiah
Gdsm	J	Belshaw
Gdsm	D	Cunningham
Gdsm	C	Fielding
Gdsm	G	Indge
Gdsm	M	McCull-Bailey
Gdsm	J	Navunisaravi
Gdsm	C	Scott
Gdsm	S	Smart
Gdsm	K	Studley
Gdsm	N	Beardmore
Gdsm	J	Bennett
Gdsm	N	Daniel
Gdsm	B	England
Gdsm	D	Smith

NIJMEGEN COMPANY

Major	Thompson
Captain	Winstanley
2 Lt	Cairns
Lt	Hobbs
Lt	Villiers-Smith
WO2	Mann
CSgt	Hendy
Sgt	Childs
Sgt	Howcroft
Sgt	Morris
LSgt	Adom
LSgt	Brady
LSgt	Galvin
LSgt	Cooper
LSgt	Kelly
LSgt	Mabasa
LSgt	Macmillan
LSgt	Turay
LSgt	Berry
LCpl	Barton
LCpl	Bird
LCpl	Coe
LCpl	Dolman
LCpl	Elliot-Turner
LCpl	Heads
LCpl	Flynn
LCpl	Exley

NOMINAL ROLL

LCpl Reynolds
 LCpl Tudor
 LCpl White
 Gdsm Asbrey
 Gdsm Baxter
 Gdsm Bowman
 Gdsm Bowater
 Gdsm Brandon
 Gdsm Burmby
 Gdsm Carpenter
 Gdsm Candon
 Gdsm Cassidy
 Gdsm Cherrington-Wood
 Gdsm Clarke
 Gdsm Clarke
 Gdsm Coghlan
 Gdsm Connor
 Gdsm Coultas
 Gdsm Cowan
 Gdsm Cowin
 Gdsm Dadson
 Gdsm Davies
 Gdsm Dulka
 Gdsm Diamantakis
 Gdsm Ellis
 Gdsm Forster-Brain
 Gdsm Gardiner
 Gdsm Gill-Vickers
 Gdsm Glover
 Gdsm Gregory
 Gdsm Hand
 Gdsm Hardcastle
 Gdsm Hinde
 Gdsm Harrower
 Gdsm Hewett
 Gdsm Hellwing
 Gdsm Hodgkinson
 Gdsm Hughes
 Gdsm Humphreys
 Gdsm Hurst
 Gdsm Ind
 Gdsm Jackson
 Gdsm Jordan
 Gdsm Johnstone
 Gdsm Kendall
 Gdsm Long
 Gdsm Lound-Hobbs
 Gdsm Marshall
 Gdsm Major
 Gdsm McCarthy
 Gdsm Mellish
 Gdsm Mulholland
 Gdsm Nicholls
 Gdsm O'Connor
 Gdsm Parry
 Gdsm Parker
 Gdsm Pannell
 Gdsm Paterson
 Gdsm Patton
 Gdsm Pollard
 Gdsm Pollard
 Gdsm Sandell
 Gdsm Simmonds
 Gdsm Stanko
 Gdsm Sullivan
 Gdsm Thomas

Gdsm Timney
 Gdsm Tovell
 Gdsm Turner
 Gdsm Vincent-Peet
 Gdsm Whait
 Gdsm Wheat
 Gdsm Young

YPRES COMPANY

Major	C	Pawlowski MBE
Capt	T	Parkes
Capt	G	Smith
Capt	H	Waterfield
2Lt	Z	Bath
WO2	D	Claxton
CSgt	P	Oyalegan
LCpl	J	Brammer
LCpl	T	Davis
LCpl	T	Flaherty
LCpl	A	Gowen
LCpl	G	Hassall
OCdt	J	Ward
Gdsm	P	Adigun
Gdsm	J	Baker
Gdsm	C	Bradley
Gdsm	O	Casey
Pte	M	Collins
Gdsm	A	De Silva
Gdsm	K	Drewett
Gdsm	H	Gerhard-Jones
Pte	S	Gurung
Gdsm	Z	Horner
Gdsm	J	Kocor
Gdsm	C	Lindsay
Gdsm	J	Margetson
Gdsm	R	Mothersole
Gdsm	N	Nelson
Gdsm	C	Perchard
Gdsm	S	Potter
Pte	R	Rana
Gdsm	J	Tate
Gdsm	A	Wilde
Gdsm	J	Williams
Gdsm	J	Willment
Gdsm	S	Wooldridge



**GRENADIERS AT
EXTRA-REGIMENTAL EMPLOYMENT**

OFFICERS AT ERE

Lt Gen Sir	Roland	Walker KBE, DSO	DCDS (MSO), MOD
Maj Gen	J M H	Bowder OBE	Director Futures, Army HQ
Col	A R	Mckay MBE	Comd, Combat Ready Trg Centre, Warminster
Col	M P	David MC	Comd, Op TURUS, Nigeria
Col	P L	Ashfield DSO MBE	DACOS, Pers Svcs, APSG
Col	R J H	Green MBE	Deputy Hd, DIO, UK Stat Comd
Lt Col	S G	Soskin	SO1 Op SHADER, Iraq
Lt Col	A F R	James MBE	SO1 DS, ICSC (L), Shrivenham
Lt Col	J C M	Greaves	SO1 Cabinet Office
Lt Col	J R	Green	Comd New College, RMAS
Lt Col	J A	Seddon	CO Oxford UOTC
Lt Col	E J	Paintin	SO1 Ops & Eng, HQ Regional Comd
Lt Col	D J	Alkin	SO1 UK LO NATO Cyber Ops, SHAPE
Lt Col	R E	King-Evans	SO1 DS, ACSC, Shrivenham
Lt Col	J E N B	Shaw	Bde Maj, LONDIST
Lt Col	B J R	Jesty	Brit Mission to Saudi Arabia
Maj	S C	Gordon Lennox	COS, Armd Cav Prog, Army HQ
Maj	M O C	Dobbin DSO MC	SO2 Mil Strat Effects, MOD
Maj	P J	Rice	COS, HQ 51 Inf Bde, Edinburgh
Maj	W	Harries	RHQ
Maj	A W E	Bayliss	SO2 Ex Ttg Gp RAS, Warminster
Maj	J D	Brown MBE	MAB
Maj	R C	Da Gama	OC Left Flank, 1SG
Maj	T R	Hendriksen	SO2 Plans, HQ Home Comd
Maj	J R	Taylor	SO2 Plans, UK Strat Comd
Maj	C J	Stevenson	OC 1 Coy, 1IG
Maj	A H M	Budge	SO2 J5 Plans, SJF HQ
Maj	C M B	Gilmore	SO2 Reserves, Dept of CGS, Army HQ
Maj	W L R	Harris	SO2 Recruiting Ops, Recruiting Gp, Upavon
Maj	A J P	Shirreff	MAB
Maj	B R N	Tracey	SO2 Plans, HQ 3 Div
Maj	T H R	Hargreaves	ICSC (L)
Maj	K M D	Varmuza	SO3 O&D, HQ Home Comd
Capt	C J	Naughton	SO3 MAB
Capt	R E L	Phillips	Adj, SSU, RMAS
Capt	C J	Pollard	Adj, New College, RMAS
Capt	G W J	Barnes	MAB
Capt	O S B	Staunton	Ops Offr, LCG
Capt	E R	Harmer	SO3 Ops, HQ 6 Div
Capt	A J K	Wilson	MAB
Capt	C A	Wood	Adj, 2 PARA
Capt	F S N	Tracey	MAB
Capt	M G	Osmond	MAB
Capt	E C	Bennett	Regtl Recruiting Offr, RHQ
Capt	R G L	Mackworth-Young	AMA to DCDS, MOD
Capt	T I W	Sinclair	SO3 Plans, D Futures
Lt	T W T	New	PI Comd, AFC, Harrogate
2Lt	B D	Tweed	PCD, Brecon

1ST BATTALION COLDSTREAM GUARDS

CSgt	M	Mooney
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1ST BATTALION SCOTS GUARDS

Sgt	D	Clarke
LSgt	J	Brown
LCpl	G	Davison
LCpl	J	Price
LCpl	L	Taylor
LCpl	N	Richardson
LCpl	N	Everett
Gdsm	K	Singh
Gdsm	J	White

1ST BATTALION WELSH GUARDS

CSgt	S	Hepburn
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ARMY FOUNDATION COLLEGE, HARROGATE

Sgt	S	Wells
LSgt	C	Doak
LSgt	D	Bearder

ARMY TRAINING REGIMENT, PIRBRIGHT

Sgt	K	Rodda
LSgt	J	Andrews

ARMY TECHNICAL FOUNDATION COLLEGE, WINCHESTER

LSgt	J	Robinson
LSgt	L	Cozens

GUARDS TRAINING COMPANY, CATTERICK

Sgt	R	Blakeney
Sgt	L	Coulbert
LSgt	A	Pugh
LSgt	M	Rosser
LSgt	J	Brady
LSgt	A	Mckenna
LSgt	C	Munro
LSgt	C	Austin
LSgt	S	Roberts
LCpl	A	Szyszko
LSgt	J	Simmons
LSgt	C	Dovey

ARMY SCHOOL OF CEREMONIAL, CATTERICK

WO1	J	Bennett
LSgt	R	Booth
LCpl	R	Evans
CSgt	N	Smith

LONDON REGIMENT

CSgt	M	Oldham
CSgt	A	Saxton
Sgt	M	Wilson
Gdsm	J	Pearson

MISSION READY TRAINING CENTRE, BASSINGBOURN

CSgt	A	Harper
Sgt	M	Davison
Sgt	J	Browning
Sgt	H	Foxcroft

RECRUITING GROUP

Sgt	R	Broomes	Northampton
Gdsm	D	Harvey	Stafford
LSgt	C	Mitchell	Northampton
LSgt	M	Bent	Chilwell
LCpl	S	Swart	Chelmsford
LSgt	C	Smith	Milton Keynes
Gdsm	B	Thorne	South Central

NOMINAL ROLL

2 RANGERS

LSgt B Chipchase
 LSgt R Griffiths
 LCpl T Millington

MAB

LSgt P Singlehurst

GUARDS INDEP PARA PL, 3 PARA

Gdsm A Chapman
 Gdsm W Smith
 Gdsm W Thorne
 Gdsm L Hall
 Gdsm B Rolfe
 LSgt J Porter

RMAS

CSgt A Pitters
 CSgt R Tracey
 CSgt L Davis
 CSgt J Moore
 CSgt R Elliott
 CSgt S Dent
 Sgt D Parkes

HQ LONDIST

LSgt A Skinner
 WO1 D Roper
 Gdsm W Flint
 WO2 D Oliver
 LSgt O Few
 Gdsm I Shahry
 Gdsm K Agbo

INFANTRY BATTLE SCHOOL, BRECON

WO2 S Perry
 CSgt P Lyons
 CSgt J Pearce

INFANTRY ENGAGEMENT TEAM

Sgt K Oldfield
 LCpl E Mottershead
 Gdsm L Merritt
 Gdsm J Fletcher

OTHER RANKS AT EXTRA-REGIMENTAL EMPLOYMENT

WO2 R Owen CRTC EXECUTE
 Gdsm D Sherwin DCGS
 LSgt E Orlowski DEMS TRG REGT
 SEARCH WING
 Gdsm W Curran DCDS MIL STRAT OPS
 LCpl S Rose HQ Warminster Garrison
 WO1 R Wiseman GURKHA ARRC SP BN
 CSgt E Barnett HQ JITG TDD CI AND
 HUMINT
 Sgt S Beekman HQ 77 BDE TASK GP
 LSgt M Ault HQ 77 BDE TASK GP
 Gdsm B Ralph HCMR RHQ
 CSgt P Money YOTR
 Sgt S Scott The Armour Centre AFVSR
 Combat CIS School
 CSgt K Richards SJFHQ JFHQ
 Sgt K Partridge DMRC SH
 Sgt A Bush ARMY ENGAGEMENT
 GROUP

BLACK ECONOMY

LSgt L Deen Elite Sports
 LSgt N Ngwenya Elite Sports
 CSgt P Trussler HDPRCC
 LCpl T Preston Hereford
 Gdsm J Elder 2 ITB
 Gdsm N Huxtable RHQ

OTHER OFFICERS IN THE ARMY RESERVE

Col S R B Lowe TD, VR DComd, HQ 4 Lt Bde CT
 Lt Col R M S Clements TD, VR JRLO, HQ SW Dist
 Lt Col C R Sykes VR CO, 1st Bn LONDON GDS
 Maj G Morgan TD SO2 Comms, Army HQ
 Maj M G Williams Ch Instr (Res), JOTAC
 Capt J A R Quarrie Oxford UOTC
 Capt P W Russell RSO, 1st Bn LONDON
 GDS

OFFICERS BY SENIORITY

GENERAL STAFF

Lt Gen Sir Roland Walker KBE, DSO DCDS (MSO), MOD
 Maj Gen J M H Bowder OBE Director Futures, Army HQ
 Col A R McKay MBE Comd, Combat Ready Trg
 Centre
 Col M P David MC Comd, Op TURUS, Nigeria
 Col P L Ashfield DSO MBE DACOS, Pers Svcs, APSG
 Col R J H Green MBE Deputy Hd, DIO, UK Strat
 Comd

REGIMENTAL OFFICERS

Lieutenant Colonels

Lt Col S G Soskin SO1 Op SHADER
 Lt Col A F R James MBE SO1 DS ICSC (L), Shrivenham
 Lt Col J C M Greaves SO1 Cabinet Office
 Lt Col J R Green Comd New College, RMAS
 Lt Col J A Seddon CO Oxford UOTC
 Lt Col E J Paintin SO1 Ops & Engagement, HQ
 Regional Comd
 Lt Col D J Alkin SO1 UK LO NATO Cyber Ops,
 SHAPE
 Lt Col R E King-Evans SO1 DS, ACSC, Shrivenham
 Lt Col J E N B Shaw Bde Maj, LONDIST
 Lt Col FGC Johnston CO 1 GREN GDS
 Lt Col BJR Jesty Brit Mission to Saudi Arabia

Majors

Maj S C Gordon Lennox COS Armd Cav Prog, Army HQ
 Maj B M E Powell RHQ
 Maj N A Strachan Sen Maj 1 GREN GDS
 Maj M O C Dobbins DSO MC SO2 Mil Strat Effects, MOD
 Maj P J Rice COS 51 Inf Bde, Edinburgh
 RHQ
 Maj W Harries
 Maj A W E Bayliss SO2 Ex Trg Gp, RAS,
 Warminster
 Maj J D Brown MBE MAB
 Maj R C Da Gama OC Left Flank, 1SG
 Maj T R Hendriksen SO2 Plans, HQ Home Comd
 Maj J R Taylor SO2 Plans, UK Strat Comd
 Maj H C Cartwright OC Inkm Coy, 1 GREN GDS
 Maj J Hathaway- White The Captain, 1 GREN GDS
 Maj C J Stevenson OC No1 Coy, 1IG
 Maj A H M Budge Comd's XO, SJTF HQ

NOMINAL ROLL

Maj	C M B	Gilmore	SO2 Reserves, Dept of CGS, Army HQ
Maj	W L R	Harris	SO2 Recruiting Ops, Recruiting Gp, Upavon
Maj	A J P	Shirreff	MAB
Maj	B R N	Tracey	SO2 Plans, HQ 3 Div
Maj	G W J	Barnes	MAB
A/Maj	R E	Thompson	OC Nijm Coy, LCG
A/Maj	R H J	Harding	OC Sp Coy, 1 GREN GDS
Maj	T H R	Hargreaves	ICSC (L)
Maj	K M D	Varnuza	SO3 O&D, HQ Home Comd

Captains

Capt	C J	Naughton	SO3 MAB
Capt	R E L	Phillips	Adjt SSU, RMAS
Capt	C J	Pollard	Adjt New College, RMAS
Capt	O S B	Staunton	Ops Offr LCG
Capt	E R	Harmer	SO3 Ops, HQ 6 Div
Capt	A J K	Wilson	MAB
Capt	C A	Wood	Adjt 2 PARA
Capt	J A	Sayers	Ops Offr 1 GREN GDS
Capt	F S N	Tracey	MAB
Capt	M G	Osmond	MAB
Capt	E C	Bennett	Regtl Recruiting Offr, RHQ
Capt	S R S	Macdonald-Smith	Adjt 1 GREN GDS
Capt	L P	Odlum	Int Off 1 GREN GDS
Capt	R G L	Mackworth-Young	AMA to DCDS (MSO)
Capt	T I W	Sinclair	SO3 Plans, D Futures
Capt	S E	Marren	2nd Capt, 1 GREN GDS
Capt	H J T	Winstanley	2IC Nijm Coy, LCG
Capt	R A D	Maddan	Recce PI Comd, 1 GREN GDS
Capt	W D J	Martin	2IC Inkm Coy, 1 GREN GDS
Capt	B S	Mason	DoM, Regtl Band(CAMUS)
Capt	R P	Smith	Adjt Ft Gds Bands (CAMUS)

Lieutenants

Lt	S J	Fisher	Atk PI Comd, 1 GREN GDS
Lt	S J A	Tusa	PI Comd ITC Catterick
Lt	T J	Hodson	Mor PI Comd, 1 GREN GDS
Lt	H C L	Crawford	PI Comd ITC Catterick
Lt	W T W	New	PI Comd AFC Harrogate
Lt	A O	Villiers-Smith	Nijm Coy, LCG
Lt	T C	Cairns	Nijm Coy, LCG
Lt	W D D	Coleridge	1 GREN GDS
Lt	C H J	Craven	1 GREN GDS
Lt	E G	Harborne	1 GREN GDS
Lt	R F M	Hobbs	1 GREN GDS

Ensigns

2Lt	EJA	Norman	1 GREN GDS
2Lt	HC	Wheatley	1 GREN GDS
2Lt	CRD	Elmhurst	1 GREN GDS
2Lt	AW	Dennison-Smith	1 GREN GDS
2Lt	BD	Tweed	1 GREN GDS

LATE ENTRY COMMISSIONS

Majors

Maj	A	Butcher MBE	SO2 Tactics, IBS Brecon
Maj	IM	Farrel	OC HQ Coy, 1 PWRR
Maj	D	Westlake	OC HQ Coy, 1 GREN GDS
Maj	T	Bearder	QM 1 GREN GDS
Maj	HL	Lawn	QM 1 LONDON GDS
Maj	J	Frith	QM 1 COLDM GDS
Maj	J	Byrne	QM(Tech) ATR Pirbright

Captains

Capt	D	Moore	OC 28 Sqn, 2 ATR
Capt	S	Roughley	RHQ
Capt	M	Cox	MTO 1 GREN GDS
Capt	C	Dougherty	SO3 Plans Reg Comd
Capt	J	Lally	Trg Offr, 1 YORKS
Capt	G	Davis	RCMO 1 GREN GDS
Capt	R	Shepard	UWO 1 GREN GDS
Capt	M	Hughes	Trg Offr, 1WG

Army Reserve Officers

Col	SRB	Lowe TD, VR	DComd 4 Lt Bde CT
Lt Col	RMS	Clements TD, VR	JRLO, SW Dist
Lt Col	C	Sykes VR	CO 1 LONDON GDS
Maj	G	Morgan	SO2 Comms, Army HQ
Maj	MG	Williams	Ch Instr (Res) JOTAC
Maj	C	Pawlowski MBE	OC Ypres Coy
Capt	JAR	Quarrie	Oxford UOTC
Capt	PW	Russell	RSO, 1 LONDON GDS
Capt	TR	Parkes	2IC Ypres Coy
Capt	G	Smith	Ops Offr Ypres Coy
Capt	H	Waterfield	Ypres Coy
2Lt	Z	Bath	Ypres Coy

WARRANT OFFICERS

Warrant Officers Class 1

WO1 (RSM)	D	Bailey	RSM 1 GREN GDS
WO1 (DMaj)	J	Bennett	Snr Drum Maj, Army
WO1	D	Roper	Supt Clk, HQ LONDIST
WO1 (RSM)	R	Wiseman	RSM ARRC Sp Bn
WO1	J	Rockey	BM, Regtl Band (CAMUS)

Quartermaster Sergeants

WO2 (TQMS)	M	Lloyd	RQMS (Tech) 1 GREN GDS
WO2 (RQMS)	A	Obrien	RQMS (Maint) 1 GREN GDS
WO2 (RQMS)	D	Oliver	RQMS RHQ

Drill Sergeants

WO2 (DSgt)	R	Archer	Ops WO 1 GREN GDS
WO2 (DSgt)	J	Thompson	DSgt 1 GREN GDS

Company Sergeant Majors

WO2 (CSM)	D	Jones	King's Coy, 1 GREN GDS
WO2 (CSM)	L	Swan	2 Coy, 1 GREN GDS
WO2 (CSM)	A	Stott	Sp Coy, 1 GREN GDS
WO2 (CSM)	G	Hudson	Inkm Coy, 1 GREN GDS
WO2 (CSM)	H	Sutton	HQ Coy, 1 GREN GDS
WO2 (CSM)	G	Mann	Nijm Coy, LCG
WO2 (CSM)	M	Mooney	C Coy, 1CG

Other Warrant Officers Class 2

WO2	D	Bennison	HQ Coy, 1 GREN GDS
WO2	B	Cobb	RSWO, 1 GREN GDS
WO2	S	Perry	IBS Brecon
WO2 (RQMS)	D	Thomas	Oman
WO2	L	Owen	CRTC Execute
WO2	C	Day	BSM, Regtl Band (CAMUS)

OBITUARIES

We will remember them

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

2628636	RJ Clarke	Windsor	22706652	K Rampton	Wessex
22986161	JR Stimson	Wessex	23252408	PHG Hall	Norfolk Died 2020*
14488410	LW Green	Oxfordshire	22545771 (V)	GA Mills	East Kent
2628687	RA Taylor	Norfolk	22955968	R Sanders-Crook	London
2623167	RC Keeble	Essex Died 2021*	24141043	RP Titherley	Derby
23059809	PT Tattersall	Leicestershire	23646360	DW Robson	Yorkshire
24163585	J Waldon	2022	22440807	SN Reeves	Oxfordshire
22723002	J Eckersley	Manchester	23121337	W Cook	Oxfordshire
24239486	G Holmes Reilly	Died 2021*	23969990	R Gardiner	Lincoln
23509005	T Johnson	2022	24164833	R Carter BEM	Wessex
22545461	GT Holmes	Lincoln	22545933	N Cookson	Manchester
22955350	B Chandler	Norfolk	23252426	SD Tucker	Bristol
23760082	DS Treedy	Gloucester	23862926	M Bullion	Windsor 2021*
22545883	MJ Philpotts	Worcester & Hereford	22692217	R Hardwen	London
24266464	T Booth	Manchester	202213898	AET Jones	East Kent
23252835	BH Poyner	Worcester & Hereford	2627673(V)	AG Watts	North America
22545745	TWA Barret	Worcester & Hereford	23252211	W Gordon	2022
24076201	G Fishwick	Sussex	24009715	SL Wheeler	Lincoln
2624269 (V)	P L Wakelin	Manchester Branch	23879920	BH Madden	Lincoln
2628750 (V)	PR Isgar	Surrey & E Hants	22656199	G Phillips	Walsall
2741341 (V)	RJ Angell-Baker	Yorkshire	22545089	RS Everitt	Wessex
23252451	AJW Sharrocks BEM	Yorkshire	Lt Col (QM)	GR Whitehead RVM	Surrey & E Hants
Captain	JW Dyke	2022	4867686 (V)	HC Adamson	Yorkshire
24826445	R Berlyn	2022	22955006 (V)	BAEales	Norfolk
23188535	R Routledge	2022	22653025	HW Spencer	Shropshire
24306090	SJ Maxted	Surrey & E Hants	2626104 (V)	J Shaw	Wigan & St Helens
23144354	K Jones	Oxfordshire	2627801 (V)	DO Willoughby	Lincoln
23045875	P McSweeney	Reading	2627345 (V)	AMW Warder	Norfolk
222137667 (V)	P Rogers	East Kent	23865030	E Newell	Walsall
23252581	JC Leach	Bath	22955048	MR Stevenson	2022
22545416 (V)	WE Lawson	Nottinghamshire	234414427	G Brinsford	Gloucester
24021948	SP Tombs	2022	22556899	R Newman	Gloucester
Major	DJC Davenport CBE, DL	2022	23633649	G Spearen	Norfolk
22955727 (V)	BAP Allen	2022	Lt Col (QM)	R M Dorney MBE, MStJ	Bristol/East Kent/ Surrey & East Hants
24815823	M Munden-Griffiths	2022	23444637	DWR Leech	Matlock & Chesterfield
23252267	GJ Rose	2022	23135571	J Garrett	Matlock & Chesterfield
2624426	KE Lewis	Oxfordshire	23509452	C Holland	Lincoln
24706081	M Pearson	2022	24252989	P Skelton	Derby
22545538	B Bonser	Matlock	24076292	B Richardson	Derby
23252274	L Hooson	Wigan	22955463	T Cordon	Derby
22698293	DF Smith	Essex			
22642842(V)	DJ Beckett	Norfolk			

Academy Sergeant Major Ray Huggins MBE Late Grenadier Guards

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



Ray Huggins was most probably the most outstanding Warrant Officer of his generation. He was a great example to all those, generals, cadets and guardsmen alike who met him during his life. He achieved much in his long span but perhaps what is more memorable is the way in which he lived his life. I am reminded

of the lines in the poem by Summer Sanderscox so often read at Memorial Services:

Not how did he die, how did he live?
Not what he gained but what did he give?
Was he ever ready, with a word of good cheer
To bring back a smile, to banish a tear?

I first met Ray Huggins in my last few terms as an officer cadet at Sandhurst. Ray was College Sergeant Major of Old College and I was in New College and so hardly came across him until it was known I was to join the Grenadiers and then suddenly I was the focus of increased and unwelcome attention. I recall being 'picked on' by Ray when on parade for all sorts of misdemeanours, much of course to the delight of my brother cadets.

It will be hard to better the excellent obituary written on Ray in *The Times* so unashamedly I draw on large parts of it. Front and central to this obituary is Ray's portrait dressed as a Chelsea Pensioner and it is a marvellous likeness although Andrew Festing relates that when Ray first saw it he said 'but it makes me look old'; 'you are old' retorted Andrew unsympathetically; Ray was 87 at the time. Ray was punctilious to a fault and Andrew remembers he was always lurking outside his studio for 5 minutes or more.

When asked by a Military Knight of Windsor what the initials RH on his cap stood for (the Knight should have known) he retorted with a broad smile 'Ray Huggins of course!' A brother cadet of mine, having committed some misdemeanour on parade was asked his name by Ray, the then Academy Sergeant Major, to which he replied 'Portman'. Ray retorted 'any relation of Eric Portman, the actor?' (*The Forsyte Saga* was gripping TV audiences at the time). The tremulous answer was 'No' to which Ray responded 'That's a good thing, we don't want any actors around here'. This was an ironic remark as most Warrant Officers at Sandhurst were just that: actors!

Raymond Pearse Huggins was born in Stockport, a good Grenadier recruiting area in 1928 when King George V was on the throne and Stanley Baldwin was Prime Minister. There were and are several generations of the family who have served in the Armed Forces. His father, a publican, had fought in The Great War and was called up in 1944, leaving the running of the pub to his wife and young son, aged 16. Since the age of 8 when his aunt took him to see the Changing of the Guard at Buckingham Palace he was determined to join the Regiment. In 1944 he attempted to join up but unluckily the recruiting sergeant drank in their pub and well knew his age. However in October 1945 he did join up but the war was over. However, he was destined to be the first Sergeant Major of the Regiment not to have served in the War.

He went to Caterham to be trained at Fox Lines. (so named on account of the pub of that name next door) adjacent to the Guards Depot, and in 1946 he joined the 4th Battalion in Hamburg and had the unpleasant task of cleaning up the concentration camp at Neuengamme. His Company Sergeant Major was Norman Mitchell who one day would be one of his closest friends at the Royal Hospital. However his platoon officer at the time was The Hon Ian Erskine (later Adjutant of the 1st Battalion) who was fastidious in dress and in his duties as platoon commander by interviewing each Guardsman in turn and making notes. This left an indelible impression on the young Ray who in future years would model his image of a good young officer on him. In 1947, by now a Lance Corporal, he joined the King's Company and was



in the Guard of Honour for the wedding of The Colonel of The Regiment, Princess Elizabeth. Ray was 6' according to his records and in that year the average height of the Company was 6'3" so not surprisingly he sized into the middle of the Guard. He served in Palestine in the same year and in the next he was a Lance Sergeant which gives a lie

to his meteoric rise through the ranks so that by 1955 he was a Company Sergeant Major at the age of 27 and Sergeant Major of the 2nd Battalion at 37. He served in British Guiana, Tripoli and Germany. In 1952 he married Sheila Vaughan in 1952 and she was to be his 'strength and foundation' for almost 60 years. They were a happy family with three daughters and a son. It is probably not well known that Ray never drove a car so Sheila was also his driver. Apparently he was quite a liability with any machine including his smart electric wheel chair at the Royal Hospital. Ray was a great sportsman enjoying boxing (light heavyweight champion in the battalion), rugby (Army Team) swimming, water polo and the 120 yards hurdles.

In 1965 he was appointed College Sergeant Major of Old College and so started his love affair with Sandhurst. After just 18 months he was sent to be Sergeant Major of the 2nd battalion in Wuppertal but in 1970 he was back at Sandhurst as The Academy Sergeant Major, the apogee of his life. It was here undoubtedly he became a household name in the Army. His influence as a wise counsellor was legendary. During the sensitive merger of Mons with Sandhurst his advice was crucial to the successful amalgamation. His word of command was described as being like that of Homer's Stentor 'as powerful as 50 voices of other men'. There is a wonderful description by a journalist of Ray in an old *Sunday Times Magazine* in the 1970s which sums him up:

I caught sight of the one-man army that consists of Academy Sergeant Major Huggins. To describe him as being correctly dressed and turned out

would be inadequate. He was like a man who had been dipped in starch, pulled out and sprayed with lacquer and then buffed with velvet. He stood bolt upright and looked as if he had just come back from the laundry. I extended a tentative hand towards him as we were introduced and it was like shaking hands with an unexploded bomb!

The stories of Ray at Sandhurst are legion. Robert Corbett was the Adjutant in the 1970s and he recalls:

I was commanding my first Sovereign's Parade. The Cadets were lined up on the Old College parade ground awaiting the imminent arrival of the Sovereign's Representative. I was with the Academy Sergeant Major beside me facing the parade when he said to me out of the corner of his mouth, 'Sir. Have you seen what is approaching from the right?' And there, sure enough, tripping daintily along from the Approach Road past the Adjutant's house came three extremely pretty Bunny Girls, fluffy tails at the high port and all the rest of it. 'Goodness, Sergeant Major. What are we to do about this?' to which came the immortal reply, 'Don't you worry, Sir. I will deal with it'. This he proceeded to do with his usual calm aplomb. The young ladies were spirited courteously away, doubtless to the disappointment of many of us, and not seen again. Moments later the Reviewing Officer arrived at the saluting unaware of the competition.

Ray always had a wonderful sense of humour although he may not always have showed it at the time. His mantra was 90% fun 10% character building. Another well remembered prank was the appearance of a pantomime horse on a Sovereign's Parade rehearsal when Ray apparently apoplectic ordered the horse off to the guardroom and to be put on hay and water for the rest of the day. He was in fact much amused.

Ray was Academy Sergeant Major for nigh on ten years and left an enviable reputation. Whilst there he was made MBE in 1973 and was awarded the Meritorious Service Medal in the same year. In 1976 he was presented with the Cross of Recognition by the French Army for his fine liaison work with the French Officer Academy at St Cyr. In September 1980 as he left the Academy he was presented with a magnificent Georgian silver tea set which had



Portrait of Ray Huggins by Andrew Festing.

been arranged by the 5471 cadets who had passed out under his eagle eye. Ray was often asked why he never accepted the Commission he was offered in 1967. He believed he could achieve more for mankind by being the Academy Sergeant Major and he was undoubtedly right.

After his long tenure at Sandhurst he went onto be the Deputy Administrator at Blenheim Palace where Sheila supported him. In his spare time he acted as toastmaster where his Stentorian voice was put to further use. Sadly Sheila predeceased him and this prompted him to move to the Royal Hospital. Ray was an understated man who certainly later in life did not take himself too seriously and conversations were invariably recollections of past times interspersed with hilarity. He was always good company and with the late Norman Mitchell, also a Grenadier In Pensioner, they made a fine double act. He is survived by his three daughters and son, Tim who gave the eulogy at the Royal Hospital. He was indeed a Great Grenadier who will be much missed.

Michael Dabbs MBE RVM WO2 (Band Sergeant Major)

by Nigel Turner



Michael (Mickey, as he was affectionately known by the Regiment) Dabbs was born in the mining village of Grimethorpe, South Yorkshire on 15 November 1949, one of five siblings. Growing up in this kind of community he was introduced to the trombone at an incredibly early age and began playing with the Grimethorpe Colliery Junior Band from just 9 years old. He progressed very quickly and within a few years became a member of the world famous Grimethorpe Colliery Band touring the length and breadth of the country playing at competitions and concerts whilst securing a job at the pit as a trainee carpenter. Alas, the job at t'pit ended abruptly when his hand became trapped in a machine, so he had to rethink his career.

A future in music was always going to be an option for such a talented young player so he left Grimethorpe at the age of 17 'with a trombone and a big heart' to seek to ply his trade. After a brief spell in the Royal Marines, he moved to the Parachute Regiment but suffered a training accident. That's when an eagle-eyed legendary Director of Music by the name of Rodney Bashford recruited him into the Grenadier Guards. A move which was to define his military career.

It wasn't long before the young 'Mick' Dabbs was leading the trombone section with solo performances which are now part of the Band folklore. Throughout the 70's and 80's he graduated through the ranks of the Regimental Band, even having a spell on Bass Drum as Regimental Timebeater, but primarily as a trombone player.

During his time in the Band, he saw active service in Northern Ireland as a medic with the 1st Battalion, served with the UN Mission in Cyprus with the 2nd Battalion and took the Band on Ex LIONHEART in the former West Germany which at the time was the largest deployment of British

troops since World War 2. He was involved in the operations room during the London Ambulance Strike in 1989 when the Band were deployed onto the streets as Medical Orderlies.

His Band tours included many trips to almost every country in Western Europe, the United States of America, Canada, Australia, Belize, Japan, Hong Kong and Singapore.

His generosity knew no bounds, he was a larger than life character always wanting to be centre of attention and making sure everyone had fun in whatever they were doing whilst still maintaining professionalism and ensuring the Band always delivered a sterling performance. He had a nickname for everyone and everything so much so no one except him knew what they meant or even where they came from as he very often talked 'Dabbsish'.

Appointed Band Sergeant Major in 1985 he was to hold this position until his retirement from the Colours in 1993 when he was then the Senior Band Sergeant Major Household Division earning the title 'King of the Spin Wheel' as he was always the right-hand man of the Massed Bands on the Queen's Birthday Parade. For his musical prowess and ability to bring out the best in people's talents he was awarded the MBE in 1989 for services to military music.

On leaving his precious Band, he was recruited into the Queen's Bodyguard of the Yeoman of the Guard where once again he was very well respected and attained the rank of Divisional Sergeant Major for which he gained the RVM on his retirement in 2019.

His last outside performance on trombone was at the 'Perry's Pride' concert in 2019 at the Guards' Chapel where, under the baton of Lt Col (R) Derek Kimberley MBE (Grenadier Guards) he played what was his adopted theme tune 'Misty'. For those of us who remembered it from all those years ago there was not a dry eye in the house!

Mike passed away on 20 February 2022. He leaves a daughter Joanne, son David, a Granddaughter Francesca and partner Ann.

Major George Henry Alastair McDonald Douglas MBE

by Major Sir Michael Parker KCVO, CBE



Major George Douglas, who was to become the Leading Arena Master / Stage Manager in the British Army, was born on the 14th February 1925.

In 1943 he enlisted into the Grenadier Guards. He was commissioned in 1944 into the 6th Battalion Grenadier Guards and promoted to Captain in 1947, he served in Korea and the Middle and Far East.

He transferred to the RAOC in 1952 but always remained very proud of his Service in the Grenadiers. Promoted Major in 1961 he served in Australia in 1968 and in Hong Kong in 1969. He was awarded the MBE in 1972 and retired in 1973.

In 1981 he became the Arena Master of The Royal Tournament, Great Britain's first and largest Tattoo. As such he was responsible for marshalling a Tri Service cast of over 2,000 including over 200 horses, Massed Bands, Action Acts and The Royal Navy Field Gun Competitions etc, etc. On appointment he stated that his previous 'Theatrical Experience' was at the risqué Windmill Theatre. He never divulged how that was good training for being a Military Stage Manager!

He was to continue with The Royal Tournament until it closed in 1999. He was responsible for everything behind the scenes and making certain all the Acts entered and exited to an exact time table – amongst his various 'charges' were Elephants, Horses and Massed Bands and even on one occasion a Python and a Tarantula! All this he did with great charm and firmness. He became known fondly behind the scenes as 'Uncle George'.

His undoubted talents were used around the world by the Producer of The Royal Tournament and other large events, Major Sir Michael Parker.

He played a very important role in huge shows in Berlin, Jordan, Oman, Saudi Arabia, Seville and Memphis as well as National Events such as:

The Queen Mother's 80th, 90th and 100th Birthday Celebrations.

The 50th Anniversaries of D Day, VE Day and VJ Day and many others.

In Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother's 100th birthday celebrations he alone had to marshal a cast of 16,000 including Massed Choirs, Orchestras and 150 Horses, Camels, Aberdeen Angus Bulls and Winkles!

He married twice. Joyce in 1957 and Eileen in 1983. Both wives sadly predeceased him.

He played a vital role in many huge Royal and National Celebrations. With his charm, fairness but strict firmness he made many ambitious events actually work well on the ground. He died peacefully on 10th July 2022. He will be sorely missed.

Major David Davenport CBE DL

by Sara Davenport



Trees, the countryside, rally driving, Labradors, his family and the Grenadiers: those were the passions of David's life, and not necessarily in that order. Certainly, looking back his time in the Army and the friends and acquaintances he made, were a high point of

his life. However, his military career was cut short when he was recalled to return to Herefordshire, to takeover the family estate at the age of 33. Thereafter, he was affectionately known locally by all and sundry as 'The Major', for the remainder of his days.

He was born on 28 October 1934 to John and Louise (nee Spence-Colby) Davenport, the eldest of three boys. He grew up in the idyllic surroundings of the Foxley Estate; he was sent first to a local school where he and his brother, Peter, rode to school each day. David's lifelong dislike of horses started then. He went on to Beaudesert Park prep school and then to Eton. One memorable report card from his tutor states 'Davenport clearly enjoys

life but he's unlikely to set the Thames alight with his efforts in the classroom!'

After Brigade Squad he went to Sandhurst in March 1953, gaining a Regular Commission in the Regiment a year later. In August 1954 he joined the 1st Battalion, then recently arrived in Hubbelrath, near Dortmund from Berlin, as part of the 1st Guards Brigade. At this time there were very many National Servicemen in the Regiment and, while David learned his trade as a young officer in a Mechanised Battalion, preparing to face the Soviet hordes on the Inner German Plain, the two other Grenadier battalions were serving in Egypt and Malta, then Cyprus. It was a heady time and David remained in Germany for the Tercentenary. In May 1957 he was posted to the Guards Depot at Caterham for a year, before returning to the 1st Battalion as Intelligence Officer and Assistant Adjutant, then latterly in Tidworth. Promoted to Captain, he was posted to the 2nd Battalion in January 1961 as Motor Transport Officer, where he managed to find the time to drive in the 1962 Monte Carlo Rally as a member of the Army team. "Despite having to drive occasionally at over 100mph on a road no wider than a cart track, he reached the finish quickly enough to qualify for the speed trials on the Grand Prix circuit. By this time his Vauxhall possessed no power and little brakes, but it was great fun", he wrote later. In Oct 1962 he was posted to the HAC Infantry Battalion as Adjutant, before returning to the 2nd Battalion in October 1964 in Windsor, in command of a rifle company, the final appointment he held until 1967.

He was, by all accounts, a highly respected officer but a great deal of fun was also had alongside his more serious duties. His sense of humour was legendary. Fellow Grenadier, Tom Cook, puts it succinctly 'I remember David for his tireless energy, his enthusiasm for any task he undertook, his irrepressible sense of fun, a keen eye for taking the mickey out of the ridiculous and a complete mastery of the art of exploiting the absurd.' All his reports mention his drive. He was considered a confident, dynamic and irrepressible character, with a good sense of humour and great ability. Tom also remembers his enduring interest in other people; 'He listened intently to what anyone had to say and loved to hear about what they did with their own

lives'. He was a smart and loyal Regimental officer, kind hearted, always cheerful and popular with his contemporaries.

In 1964 his father John had died tragically in hospital, following a minor routine operation, and the pressure on David increased dramatically from this point. He resigned in 1967, then followed two years at Cirencester Agricultural College, learning the basics of estate management. Thereafter, David put his new found knowledge to the test, producing high quality timber and focusing on management and husbandry of the woods above all else. He ran the farms and woods at Foxley in an exemplary manner for the next 50 years, handing over to his son, James, in 2012.

David was married twice. First, in 1959, to Jenny (née Burness) with whom he had two daughters, Sara and Alicia, and later in 1971 to Lindy (née Baker) the mother of James. He took great joy in all three of his children and latterly his 6 grandchildren.

David's knowledge about trees and passion for forestry lasted his lifetime and has been passed on. He was a member of the Royal Forestry Society for more than 50 years, organising overseas trips to both Bulgaria and South Africa and taking part in others, bringing back knowledge and techniques that he applied to Foxley, enhancing its reputation as a very well managed estate and for producing high quality timber. He was appointed President of the RFS from 1991-93 and was awarded the prestigious Gold Medal in 2009 for his services to forestry. He was an enthusiastic advocate of high pruning to improve tree quality and he became the sole UK agent for Silky Saws, founding Silky Fox Saws as a play on the name of the estate.

David was a Trustee of the Queenwood Coronation Fund for over 40 years and was deeply involved in the planting and management of the arboretum in that time. He was also Founder and Chairman of the Poplar Working Group for Forest Research and Foxley became, under his stewardship, a notable research site for breeding and growing quality poplar. He was an excellent shot and Foxley has become a highly regarded shoot, with a reputation for its sporting ethos. Only high birds are allowed to be shot at and proper behaviour is demanded of guns at all times. No low bird or sloppy behaviour

is permitted! A yellow card is issued for the first misdemeanour and at a second, a red card and the hapless guest is out, never to return. His dressing downs were legendary, as were the fabulous lunches and teas prepared by Lindy.

David was asked to take on the position of Development Commissioner of COSIRA (Council for Small Industries in Rural Areas) and was made Chairman from 1982-88. It was supposed to be a part time role, but with his habitual energy and drive, he threw himself into it, travelling the length and breadth of the country, and spending large chunks of time away from home, building up a successful organisation that covered much of the UK. In recognition he was awarded the CBE in 1989. He also sat on the Country Landowners' Executive Committee from 1988 to 1993.

He gave much of his time to Herefordshire councils and committees, serving on both the Weobley and Leominster District Councils and acting as Chairman of the Joint Development Committee of North Hereford and South Shropshire from 1975-84. He was elected CLA County President from 1986-89 and he served as High Sheriff in 1989. He was also a Deputy Lieutenant for many years.

David was a man of strong likes and dislikes. If he liked you, you knew it, and the same could clearly be said if he didn't like someone! He never minced his words, but his friends were his friends for life and at his memorial service, held in Hereford Cathedral on Thursday 13 October 2022, over 350 people attended, many of whom had known him and held him in affection for more than 50 years.

He was 87 when he died, having suffered with dementia for the previous few years. He was, despite these tribulations, almost always good natured and resigned to his difficulties. He is buried in the woods at Foxley that he loved so much.



Captain The Honorable Thomas Ian Brassey

by Brigadier DJC Russell-Parsons OBE DL



Tom Brassey died on 7th April 2022 at the age of 87. His Thanksgiving Service on 25th May at Preston Capes Church, Northamptonshire was packed with family returning from across the UK and Australia, a very wide circle of friends and several

members of the the Grenadier Guards Association. All of them had come to say goodbye to a man widely respected for his Regimental service, successful career outside the Army and loved as the father, grandfather and friend.

Born on the 14 June 1934, Tom was the second son of Lieutenant Colonel 2nd Baron Brassey, growing up with his elder brother David at the Manor House Apethorpe, an idyllic 18th century house in North Northamptonshire. After leaving Stowe in 1952, and his time at Eaton Hall where he marched in the procession for the Coronation, he was commissioned in the Grenadier Guards. After his national service, he signed on for an additional 3 years until 1957, serving in both the 3rd Battalion in Egypt, and later as ADC to General Rodney Moore in Libya. He commanded a platoon on active service, and spent long periods on public duties and ceremonial duty in London and in Windsor. And although he and his brother David served at the same time, they never served together.

Neat in stature, always tidy, Tom was always precise in his manner and was a successful Regimental and staff officer. He was widely popular and respected by all guardsmen he commanded - his understanding of and empathy for those who served with or under him, was always sincere and very apparent.

After leaving the Army, he and friends ran a garage and chauffeur service in Claybone Mews, London. In 1961 Tom joined the Powell Duffryn Group, serving in various companies within the group for his 37, finally in the international coal trade. On

retirement, he was Vice President and was always a very committed member of the Northampton Branch of the Grenadier Guards Association, amongst other life-long Regimental friends such as Edward Aubrey Fletcher, Christopher Magnay and the late Paul Goudime and John Russell-Parsons.

Tom married V Finlason on 28 September 1960 and they made their life together in London, Kent, as well as Oving Buckinghamshire and latterly their ever-welcoming homes in Duncote and Preston Capes in Northamptonshire. As might be expected, Tom and V were at the centre of life of the county. Friends and family were always assured a warm welcome at their home. He was also a keen fisherman and was never happier than entertaining friends and family in the lodge and on the riverbank on the River Devron in Aberdeenshire. We will always remember him spending many hours with his much beloved pipe and a ready smile on his face.

His international business interests provided many opportunities for Tom and V to travel which were reinforced by their son Hugh's life in Australia, where they were regular and adventurous visitors. Their three daughters Miranda, Louise and Davina together with Hugh gave them great happiness and blessed them with eight grandchildren.



Lieutenant Colonel Gordon Whitehead, RVM

by the Assistant Editor

A fine figure of a man and the epitome of a 6 ft plus Guardsman, Gordon ('Bunny') Whitehead drove himself hard – on the square, in the field, in the classroom and on the athletics track – throughout his long career in the Army, determined to realize his considerable potential. Born in Faversham Kent in 1932, Gordon joined the Regiment as a National Serviceman in January 1951. After his 18-month engagement came to an end, he signed up for 22 years and by early 1953 was an acting LSgt. In March 1955 he went to BAOR with 1st Battalion, the first of several tours in Germany, and was promoted to Sergeant. The battalion then returned to the UK and, after 19 months on Public Duties, moved to Tidworth as part of the Strategic Reserve.

In 1961 Gordon went with the battalion to the British Cameroons where it provided security during the transition to independence. It was a memorable tour and gave him the edge in his new posting as a Platoon Sergeant at RMAS. In 1963 he was back in BAOR (Hubbelrath) with the 1st Bn as a CQMS. Promoted to CSM, he went with the battalion on its UN Tour in Cyprus. An exceptional athlete, he won the shot and the discus in the Army (Cyprus) Individual Championships. On return to Germany, after passing a parachute course, he moved to the 2nd Battalion as Assistant Drill Sergeant before revisiting RMAS as a CSM and subsequently as a College RSM.

In January 1971, Gordon became Sergeant Major of 1st Bn which was stationed in Chelsea Barracks, first under Lieutenant Colonel Nick Pakenham Mahon and then Lieutenant Colonel Greville Tufnell. Renowned for his 'zeal', woe betides the Guardsman who took a short cut across the square! After an emergency tour in Belfast that August, the battalion moved to Munster in February 1972.

Commissioned SSC in September 1972, Gordon's first posting was as Admin Officer to 4 Gds Armd Bde HQ & Sig Sqn under the watchful eye of the Brigade Major, Christopher Airey. He enjoyed the 'A' side of life but from a career perspective

moved to the Q side, first as Tech QM with the 2nd Battalion in Hong Kong in 1974 and then in 1976 as QM of 1st Battalion including two South Armagh tours and later Berlin. In 1980, he took up the position of MTO/CSO Guards Depot and then, after a 3-month course in Family Studies at Bristol University, he was promoted to Lieutenant Colonel in 1985 and became OC HQ Wing RMAS until he retired in 1987. Providentially the vacancy for an RO3 HQ London District job of Families Housing and Welfare Commandant at Kenley coincided with his retirement and, after a short leave, he was back in harness.

A keen supporter of the Regimental Association, he was a Vice-President of the Surrey and East Hampshire Branch.

Gordon died in December 2022 aged 90: Yvonne, his wife of 69 years, predeceased him in October that year. Their two daughters, Sue and Lizzie, both have two sons who in turn have four children.

Lieutenant Colonel Richard 'Skid' Dorney MBE

by Major Justin Hunt-Davis



Richard 'Skid' Dorney died suddenly on 18th November 2022 at the age of 62. Lieutenant Colonel RM Dorney MBE was an only child and was born in the Whiteladies area of Bristol on 13th May 1960. Skid was always destined for a career

in the Armed Forces and left school at the first opportunity. His heart set on the Royal Marines, he went into a Royal Navy recruiting office in Bristol only to find that the Marine recruiter was out having lunch. Rather than wait, he went next door to the Army Recruiting Office and that was how Skid came to be a Grenadier.

In 1976 Skid went off to Waterloo Company in the Infantry Junior Leaders Battalion in Shorncliffe where he made a number of friends he was to serve with for the next thirty and more years. He excelled

at Shorncliffe and was appointed the Junior Sergeant Major of the Junior Leaders Battalion, although sadly not for the passing out parade as Skid decided that a few beers were necessary to get through an exercise at Otterburn and he was thus reduced to the ranks. It was at Shorncliffe that Skid gained the name that stuck with him for the rest of his life – the moustache, the reason for the nickname, came before the army.

Skid joined the 1st Battalion in Pirbright in 1977. He was initially sent to Three Company, but for some unknown reason was turned around and sent to The Queen's Company – fate playing its part again as it was his service in The Queen's Company that really came to shape and define him. He served in every rank in the Company, although surprisingly, he was also the Commanding Officer orderly, responsible for ensuring his uniforms were pressed and his shoes polished. Apparently Michael Hobbs was after a man who was immaculate and had been locked up in Colchester. Skid had never been to Colchester, but was told he was the next best thing. He excelled at the job to such an extent that Hobbs only agreed to release him if he went straight on a Corporals' course. He did, and the rest, was history.

Skid did spells at the Guards Depot and then with the Anti-Tank Platoon where the before he was sent to be a Colour Sergeant Instructor at the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst. He then returned to The Queen's Company in time to take part in the first Gulf War in 1991. Although he was technically too senior, nothing was going to prevent Skid from going to war with his beloved Company and he duly went as a Platoon Sergeant. Inevitably Skid was to become the Company Sergeant Major of the Company and then, in due course, the Sergeant Major of the First Battalion.

In many ways the archetypal Sergeant Major, there is a magnificent painting by Sean Bolan in the Dorney home of Skid in Home Service Clothing. It is what a Sergeant Major of a Guards Battalion should look like – a proud chest full of medals, pace stick in hand, an immaculately groomed bearskin cap and a prominent dark moustache above a beautifully polished curb chain. Skid was a man who knew everything about the Battalion – where the trouble was, who needed help and who needed

a word. Dedication, diligence and loyalty to the Regiment were his guides. It was never about him, it was about his peers and his subordinates. He was the role model that everyone needed and he never asked anyone to do anything that he wouldn't have done himself.

After Commissioning, Skid served at Regimental Duty and on the staff, completing Staff College and then carving out a niche for himself by designing and leading the management of trauma in the Army, a role that neatly encapsulated much of what made Skid the man he was and led him to setting up a very successful career in civilian life. Throughout his career he completed six tours of Northern Ireland, tours of Bosnia, Iraq and Afghanistan as well as service elsewhere around the world.

In Berlin, shortly after he had completed his training, he and his mates formed 'Skid's Rangers', celebrated by the group with a plaque. Many years later, when Skid was an instructor at Sandhurst, his platoon of Officer Cadets had T-Shirts made emblazoned with the words 'Skids Kids'. A sign of respect, of admiration and of very deep loyalty. Skid's leadership excelled, both in his military career and as a civilian. It was not just his leadership skills that shone through, but his character, his bloody-minded resilience, his straight-forward, honest approach for which he expected the same in return. He had little time for idleness, arrogance, or pomposity. Ignorance was not a defence. If he could be bothered to educate himself – and he did – then so could everyone else. As one of his Commanding Officers wrote about him years later 'he immerses himself completely in his work and demands high standards from others'.

The operational tour to Crossmaglen in 1993 was a defining moment in Skid's career. As the Company Sergeant Major, he knew in advance that the Company would most probably lose someone. The murder of Danny Blinco halfway through the tour, combined with the terrible injuries caused to members of the RUC as a result of a horrific bomb attack, all had a serious impact on Skid. He reacted by taking the battle to the terrorists. Responsible for finding terrorist weapons, he planned operations and led the company in scouring the countryside. And he was successful. It was his hard work and his determination that led to the uncovering weapons

on the border with the Republic, something that was quite unheard of at that time in South Armagh. However, Skid's larger contribution was his efforts to keep the company motivated, to ensure that standards, so important on operations, never dropped, and that an eye was kept on morale. He had the knack to enforce standards but to do it with humour and empathy. Skid returned from Crossmaglen a changed man and his interest in mental health stemmed from this tour.

After he was commissioned, Bosnia also sat heavily on Skid's shoulders. Involved in the search and uncovering of graves of victims of war crimes during the wars in the former Yugoslavia, he set about the task of supporting the search parties with his customary professionalism and desire to see justice done and to bring dignity to those who had perished. This, like so much else that Skid involved himself in, was not simply a job to be done, it was a duty that had to be done faultlessly and unwaveringly.



A man of enormous compassion, on a recent trip to Mogadishu and Kenya where he been to check up on the soldiers deployed there, Skid recounted that they were all broken men, not because of anything they had done or seen in Somalia, but because of their experiences in Iraq and Afghanistan. In Afghanistan on HERRICK 6, the Brigade Reconnaissance Force, filled with Grenadiers amongst others, spent weeks away at a time and suffered a high casualty rate.

Skid, would seek them out when they returned from each deployment and check up on them. It was not his job, but it was typical of Skid. He had time for everyone, regardless of rank or background and this never changed, however high Skid rose in the ranks.

Leading much of the policy work around the management of trauma and mental health was a job Skid was completely suited for. He had spent an entire career preparing for it, as a soldier, a warrant officer, an officer, a leader and a father.

Whatever Skid did, he became an expert at, be it the study of history which led to him becoming a published author (and donating all of the royalties to a regimental charity) or his work on mental health. He gained an MSc studying war and psychiatry and working on the Army's mental health he was rightly described as a 'big man doing a big job in difficult times'.

At the time of his death, Skid had been married for 42 years, having married Sue on 15th December 1979. He is survived by Sue and his three boys, James, Matt and Simon, as well as his three Grandchildren.

Yeoman Warder Ray Sanders-Crook

by Mark Sanders-Crook



Ray joined the 1st Battalion in 1955 for 3 years, during which he served in England, Germany and in Cyprus during the Suez Crisis. He then left the Regiment and after 18 months in civvy street, rejoined the army this time enlisting in the Royal Corps of

Signals. He spent the next 21 years with the Corps, travelling between Germany and England.

When asked who he served with, Ray would always say 1st Battalion Grenadiers Guards and the Royal Signals, followed by 'Once a Grenadier always a Grenadier'.

Upon completion of his military career, he applied for a position as a Yeoman Warder at the Tower of



London. He held this appointment for over 17 years and was involved in many state and ceremonial occasions. During his time, he had the honour and pleasure of hosting many serving and retired Grenadiers and their families as his guests at the Yeoman Warders Club within the precincts of the Tower.

When he retired from Yeomen Warders, Ray and his wife Maureen settled in the West country. He died on 20th August 2022 surrounded by his family.

Bamber Gascoigne CBE

by James Gatehouse



Bamber Gascoigne CBE, a man of many interests, died on 8 February 2022, aged 87. For many, he will always be associated with *University Challenge*, the popular television quiz show featuring teams of students from different universities

competing against each other, which he launched in 1960 and hosted for the next 25 years. He was an affable and erudite presenter, revered across the nation for his faultless charm and his genially delivered catchphrases – “Fingers on buzzers; starter for ten; I’ll have to hurry you”. He became one of the most recognisable personalities on British Television.

Born in London on 24 January 1935 and named after one of his Irish ancestors, he was the son of a soldier and later businessman in the City. He was

educated at Sunningdale from 1943 to 1948 and from there he won a scholarship to Eton, eventually becoming a member of “Pop” and Keeper of Fives, a game at which he excelled. Throughout his schooling and then later in the Army, he met and made many life-long friends who still fondly remember those happy days of youth. In his family there had been a long line of soldiers, the majority Guardsmen; his grandfather was Brigadier General Sir Frederick Gascoigne and his uncle Major General Sir Julian Gascoigne, Major General Commanding the Household Division from 1950-53, both well-known and influential Grenadiers in their time, so there was never any doubt about which Regiment Bamber would join during National Service.

Interviewed by Michael Parkinson on Desert Island Discs many years later, he recounted that his short military career had consisted of “the first six months being bashed around on the Square” [at Caterham, then Eaton Hall], which he described as “pretty unpleasant”, “then an extraordinary six months dancing with debs in London, and guarding the Queen at Buckingham Palace – on my off moments” with the 3rd Battalion at Chelsea, then recently returned from Egypt, which he joined in March 1954. After this he was posted to the 1st Battalion in Berlin [Montgomery Barracks] “which was extremely interesting. The Wall wasn’t yet then built” although the duties, which included guarding seven Nazi war criminals in Spandau Jail and patrolling the frontier, soon became rather monotonous. By February 1955, all were pleased to leave Berlin, shrouded in deep snow, and the battalion moved to Gort Barracks in Hubbelrath, (near Dusseldorf), joining 4th Guards Brigade, “which was perfect for weekends in Paris”!

In Germany Bamber was very popular as, having specialized at Eton in modern languages and speaking almost fluent German, he was in great demand by his brother officers when dining out or going to the many nightclubs in Berlin. Later, in Hubbelrath, he was given the task of paying all civilian staff employed by the Battalion each month. A young German, Otto by name, was charming and had been trusted by all to collect the money from the bank before handing it over to Bamber to pay the staff. However, one day Otto disappeared, leaving behind a letter addressed to Bamber, which read:

Dear Mr Gascoigne

I am so sorry to do this to you as I have always greatly admired you, but I have used the money to buy two air tickets. I am taking my girlfriend away to start a new life in Argentina.

No more was ever heard of him!

Already Bamber had started writing and, before the 1st Battalion left Berlin, he had produced a revue called *Got any Gum, Chum* for Christmas 1954. There were three performances and all the regiments in Berlin were invited. Unsurprisingly, it was judged a huge success with the cast drawn entirely from the battalion, one officer even appearing in drag and singing several songs to boisterous applause from the audience. But all good things come to an end and Bamber left the Army in 1955. He went up to Magdalene College at Cambridge and, later, gained a first class degree in English.

Whilst at university he hoped, at least initially, to become an actor but soon found that he was bored with what he described as “standing around on stage while other people spoke”. Fairly quickly he abandoned those aspirations but then fared no better as a director. “I had far too little patience with the foibles of the cast,” he recalled. “I tended to lose my temper rather too often.” So, his attention turned to writing and in 1957, aged 22, he wrote a sketch which was accepted for a College Footlights revue directed by Jonathan Miller. It was an immediate success and he was asked to produce 12 more; the result was *Share my Lettuce* with Kenneth Williams and a then unknown Maggie Smith. It ran at the Lyric Theatre in the West End for the last nine months of Gascoigne’s time at Cambridge. “I thought I was made” he said, “I was getting £80 a week in royalties.”

In 1959 he returned to Cambridge to undertake a year of postgraduate research into modern theatre. By 1960 he was working as a theatre critic for both *The Spectator* and *The Observer*. The following year he rather optimistically auditioned for the job of quizmaster on *University Challenge* and with that his career took off. Recording the programme only took up 40 days a year and this, and the financial

independence it brought him, allowed Bamber to pursue many other projects and his love of travel. Over the next three decades the ambition to become a successful playwright remained unfulfilled and attempts at writing novels also foundered. However, other projects such as television series on *The Christians*, *Connoisseur* and *The Great Moghuls*, the latter aired in 1990, were highly acclaimed.

In the late 1950’s he had met Christine Ditchburn at Cambridge; she was studying Arabic and Persian. After university they briefly shared a house near Sloane Square with some “peculiar” friends of Bamber’s and a monkey that “peed everywhere”. Undaunted, they were married in 1965 and, for the next 60 or so years, they remained inseparable; their life together one of “blissful adventure”, much of it living in a beautiful Georgian house beside the river in Richmond.

In 2015, he famously acquired West Horsley Place, the semi-derelect 15th Century ancestral home and 350 acres in Surrey, from his great aunt the Duchess of Roxburghe. The house was in desperate need of major repairs but an ideal solution was found when, after raising £8.8m for renovations by auctioning off his great aunt’s belongings at Sotheby’s, he gave the house in perpetuity to Grange Park Opera, who have since built a five-tier, 700-seat opera house on the site, to rival Glyndebourne. It opened in June 2017 and it has been building an international reputation ever since. *Otello*, the Verdi opera that Bamber loved most, was performed there this Summer in tribute to him.

Bamber Gascoigne was a man who many would have loved to meet. He was warm, generous, charming, and he had an infectious, irresistible, unquenchable enthusiasm for life.



24164833 Wo2 Ronald (Ron) Michael Carter BEM

by Peter Price (Former LSgt)



Ron passed away suddenly on 20 September 2022, aged 81. Ron to most of us; Uncle Ron to many. Born to Thomas and Nora Carter in May 1942 in Scunthorpe, Ron was the middle child of seven. When Ron left school, he went to work as a brickies' labourer,

and then as a foot plate man on a steam train, shovelling coal into the fire to keep the pressure high enough to maintain the train at a constant speed. He was very proud of this job and used to tell us how hard and dirty it was.

Ron joined the Grenadier Guards in 1970, aged 29. Although it wasn't his first choice – Ron wanted to join the Royal Marines – the recruiting Sergeant, Dave Horne, had other ideas and talked Ron into joining. On his passing out, Ron was honoured with the 'Best Recruit' which was the start of a successful career for him.

The first seven years of his service with the 1st Battalion were spent in No 2 Company. He was then cross posted to Support Company, where he served in the Mortar Platoon. During one of the Battalion's tours of duty in Northern Ireland, Ron would often sleep with his beret over his face, most likely to block out the lights as they would go on and off constantly while patrols were changing over. No amount of shaking or talking to him would wake him up. However, if his beret was lifted off his face, to everyone's amusement he would be up on his feet in a flash!

Ron also spent time as the Medical Sgt from 1979–1982. He then moved to the appointment for which he will be best remembered in the Families Office where he served as CSgt and subsequently CSM until his retirement. For his services he was awarded the British Empire Medal in 1988. Ron's compassion, dedication and wisdom in the Families Office have been appreciated by a succession of Families Officers not to mention a whole generation

of Battalion wives.

On his retirement from the Regiment, Ron and his good lady, Daphne, settled into their new home in North Poulner, Ringwood. He joined the Wessex Branch of the Regimental Association and became an active member. He also made friends with his neighbour Therese Hayward, and her family. She would sit into the small hours with Ron and Daphne, drinking gin and tonics, with Ron telling her stories of his time in the Families Office.

Ron leaves behind his devoted wife and soulmate, Daphne. He also leaves behind a lot of friends and many fond memories. An absolute gentleman and a great Grenadier, he will be missed by all who knew him but never forgotten.



John Murray Print 1830.

Cavan In Italy 1917–18 The Forgotten British Success Story in The War Against The Central Powers

by the Assistant Editor

If you had been sitting at a café in St. Mark's Square in Venice in November 1917, there was a real chance that you could have been rudely interrupted by the raucous arrival of a triumphant German and Austro-Hungarian army after their resounding defeat of General Cardona's army on the Isonzo river (today known as the Soča) the month before. Although the Italian army had managed to regroup on the Piave River, it was a fortuitous combination of the Central Powers' overextended lines of communications and the rapid arrival of ten British (4) and French (6) divisions from the Western Front that prevented a breakthrough.

Sent by London with his XIV Corps at short notice, General the Earl of Cavan, best known to Guardsmen as the first GOC of the Guards Division, arrived in Mantua on 7 November with his staff including Chief of Staff Brigadier Francis Gathorne-Hardy, Staff Captain the Prince of Wales and his Equerry Major Lord Claud Hamilton, all fellow Grenadiers. By the end of the month, the Corps had deployed in defensive positions on the high ground around Montello on the northern perimeter of the Friuli-Veneto plain. It was here that Simon Doughty, James Gatehouse and Alan Ogden picked up the story after first walking the battleground at Caporetto (now called Kobarid in Slovenia). Coincidentally it was another Grenadier, the late General Sir David Fraser, who had written a gripping account of Captain Erwin Rommel and his battalion's dramatic exploits in capturing the Kolovrat peaks and taking over 9,000 prisoners in the process (*Knight's Cross*, Harper Collins).

The draughty chateaux of Northern France used by the British for their formation HQs were replaced in Friuli-Veneto by a choice of splendid 17th century Palladian villas and XIV Corps set up its HQ in Villa Emo by Franzolo. By the beginning of

April 1918, the British Divisions had been relocated to the southern edge of the Asiago Plateau where providentially there was another magnificent villa available to Cavan, the Villa Godi. It was here that they faced their first major test when the Austro-Hungarians launched their summer offensive on 15 June. 48 hours later it was all over: the enemy had failed to rupture the British defensive positions and were the target of remorseless British offensive patrolling in strength for the next three months.



Italian troops advance uphill (with kind permission Museo della Battaglia, Vittorio Veneto).

By now Cavan was in command of the Italian Tenth Army consisting of two Italian and two British divisions deployed on the Western bank of the Piave River. Villa Emo once again became the centre of operations as his Army began to concentrate for a final offensive to capture Vittorio Veneto and the enemy's railhead. The plan centred on the capture of Papadopoli island on a wide reach of the Piave and from there a breakout towards the East. The assault was launched on the night of 22 October and by 9am on 25th the whole of the island was in British possession. Three days later, all three Allied bridgeheads on the eastern bank of the Piave had been expanded and the pursuit of the enemy began. On 2 November, the British 143rd Brigade crossed the Austrian frontier and became the first British troops to enter the territories of the Central Powers. An armistice quickly followed.

Today, the Italian campaign of 1917–18 is consigned to a dusty corner of British First

World War military history. In their forthcoming biography of Lord Cavan (*Cavan, the Reluctant Chief*, Helion Publishing, Autumn 2023), Simon Doughty and Alan Ogden will explore this extraordinary successful campaign and the key role played by Cavan and British troops in helping to facilitate the remarkable turnaround of Italian

military fortunes.

Cavan went on to become CIGS (1922–26), the first of two Grenadiers to hold this position in the 20th Century – the other was Viscount Gort (1937–39). If any readers have correspondence or stories about Cavan, the authors would be delighted to hear from them.

Lieutenant Colonel Sir Richard Des Voeux Bt., a forgotten Arnhem hero

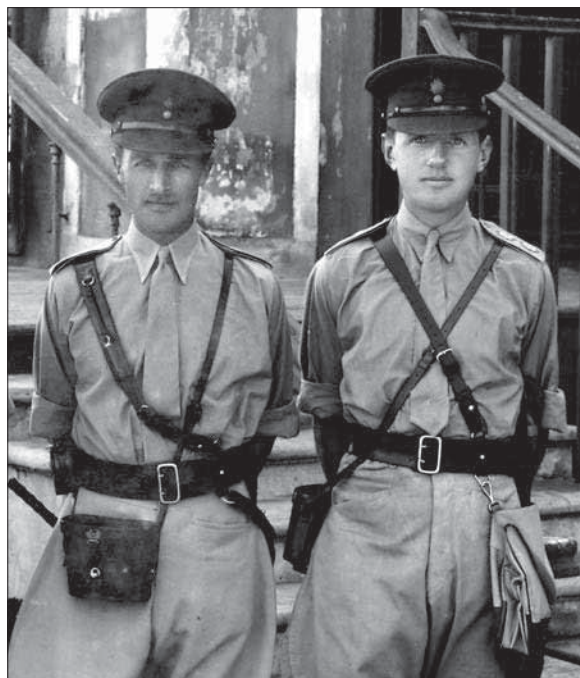
by the Assistant Editor

When Operation MARKET GARDEN comes to mind, most of us probably think about former Grenadiers Lieutenant-General Boy Browning, GOC 1st Airborne Corps, and RSM Jackie Lord of 3rd Parachute Battalion. However, there were three other Grenadiers who played key roles both in the formation of British airborne forces and at

Arnhem – Lieutenant Colonel Johnny Goschen (DAQMG), Lieutenant Colonel Dick Des Voeux and RSM Bob Gray.



Lieutenant Colonel Goschen with Johnny Frost. With thanks to ParaData.



Lieutenant Colonel Browning and his adjutant Lieutenant Des Voeux, Cairo 1938. Copyright: Grenadier Guards.

Dick joined the Regiment in 1931 and served with the 3rd Battalion in Egypt and then as Boy Browning's adjutant of the 2nd Battalion in Egypt, the UK and France. On his return to England in 1940, he was given command of No. 10 Commando which was in the process of being formed but a lack of recruits resulted in its abrupt demise. After stints as Brigade Major of 20th Guards Brigade and a company commander of the newly raised 6th Battalion, he was 'headhunted' by Browning for his new Airborne Division along with Johnny Goschen.

As GSO 2, Dick was assigned to the 1st Parachute Battalion as a liaison officer and accompanied them in November 1942 when they were dropped into the Beja region in North Africa. Unfortunately, he made a hard landing and broke a leg but managed to make a rapid recovery in time to take command of the 156th Parachute Battalion in March 1943, aged just 32. Part of the British 4th Parachute



Des Voeux (centre), explains a parachutist's leg bag, containing a PIAT, to King George VI during an inspection in May 1944. Copyright: IWM H36712.

Brigade at Kabrit in Egypt, the battalion trained in Palestine before it landed in Italy with the 1st Airborne Division in September and spearheaded the advance from Taranto to Bari.

In November 1943, Dick and his battalion returned to England to prepare for the invasion of Europe. After numerous cancelled operations between D-Day and Operation MARKET-GARDEN, the battalion arrived

with the second lift at Arnhem on 18 September 1944, landing under heavy fire. Two days later,



RSM Gay seated to right of Des Voeux in Sergeants Mess photo Jan 1944. With thanks to ParaData.

the 4th Para Brigade had no option other than to retreat under constant mortar fire towards the Oosterbeek Perimeter pursued by German infantry and tanks.

As the Brigade's rear-guard, Dick's battalion valiantly fended off German attacks and when possible launched counter-attacks to push them back. A terrible toll was taken in terms of casualties and very few men made it into the Perimeter with only a handful of survivors escaping across the Lower Rhine. Dick Des Voeux was not one of them: on 20 September, Sergeant Andy Thorburn discovered his fatally wounded commander leaning against a tree. He asked if he could help him, but Des Voeux reportedly said 'No. Move forward. The enemy is in front of you; they need you there'. It is believed that he died shortly after.

The RSM of 156th Parachute Battalion was 27-year-old former Grenadier Bob Gay, who had served in the 2nd Battalion with Dick. Gay was captured and held in Stalag XIB the same POW camp as fellow Grenadier Jackie Lord who was RSM of 3rd Battalion The Parachute Regiment

Dick's grandson, James Pockney, is writing a biography of his grandfather to coincide with the 80th anniversary of MARKET GARDEN in 2024. He would be delighted to hear from any members of the Regimental family if they have any documents, letters or photographs passed down from previous generations which could add to Dick or Bob's story with the Regiment and the airborne forces. He can be contacted on email at jcpockney@gmail.com or c/o The Regimental Adjutant at Wellington Barracks.



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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	March	Walsall
Bristol	Matlock & Chesterfield	Wessex
Derby	Medway	Wigan St. Helens & District
East Kent	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	
Manchester	Surrey & East Hampshire	

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

A Transatlantic Band Of Grenadier Brothers

by Dave Ainsworth, formerly No 2 Company and The Inkerman Company.



No one likes to hear the words ‘Stage 3 Cancer’ but at the age of 42 this was my reality as it has been for far too many others. My first thoughts were ‘My God, this is really going to upset some people. How do I tell them? My kids?’

I then felt sorry for myself that I had to break the news and ruin someone’s day.

During my cancer treatments in Canada, it was my Grenadier brothers-in-arms who lifted me up. They messaged me with the abuse and dark humour you can only find from the bonds of soldiering together. During treatments, I lost 47lbs (70% of that was muscle mass) – at one point, I could hardly stand without help.

If nothing else, we Band of Brothers are famous for our dark humour! Like the time my hair was falling out and my mate (ex-British Army and a lifetime member of the ‘ginger nuts’ clan) sent me a wig so I could be more like him. Zero sympathy, just good old-fashioned banter to keep morale up!

When I was told in May 2021 that I was in remission, my immediate goal was how do I give back and how do I come back?

I decided that I was going to tab 47 km with 47 lbs on my back. I picked 2 October (five months away) to do it. At the time, I could only manage a walk around the block! I posted my challenge on FaceBook and without hesitation, my Grenadier brothers

contacted me one by one saying that although they could not join me physically in Canada, they were going to do the same challenge back in Blighty on the same day! This was the boost I needed. They followed my progress and posted their own.

When it came to the big day, my training runs had only got to 20 miles max with 42lbs, but on the day, the men I had served with had video chats with me while they were tabbing and I got going. At 17 miles, the struggle to keep going intensified and I felt like I had bitten off more than I could chew. Prior to this, my physio team and nutritionist at the Cross Cancer Centre had said that it was too soon for my body at this stage of recovery, and I was beginning to hear their concerns as my body felt depleted. Everyone had told me that it was OK if I didn’t complete it but something was feeling familiar inside of me. It was that drive that every Guardsman has. It was a fear of letting others down and a will to fix bayonets and move forward.

I had a replen station at Mile 20. Once there, another Grenadier’s advice was ringing in my head ‘Salt, Sugars, slow down and soldier on’. I did them all but slow down – No! As I reached the 30 mile point (47km) I could hear those same words we have all heard in training or battalion- ‘You’re turning the last corner now, stand up straight, shoulders back and heads up.....dig the heel in!’

As I crossed the line, I have never felt so much emotion with those words resonating through my head. I had raised \$10,000 for the Cross Cancer Centre, and even better, my Grenadier Band of Brothers had raised almost the same amount of money in the UK for Cancer Research. The one piece I simply forgot from my time in the regiment was to ‘re-oil’ my giggle berries on a long tab, and the resulting rubbing from the stitching in my compression shorts along with the added sweat salt meant that once I had stopped and relaxed for a bit, I was



now walking like Douglas Bader!

I could not have done it without my fellow Grenadiers and the bond between us created during our service. Then something I did not expect began to happen. People began messaging me with their own struggles. They were honest and open. I realized that it wasn't a case of just being there for someone, I actually had to start a one-to-one person conversation that allowed others to join in. Since then, myself and a few other Grenadiers have created our own FaceBook page devoted to helping others with Mental Health struggles while getting out walking and tackling some physical health problems. Since then the group has become a community of dark humour and motivation for others and we now have over 400 members and are growing. If you would like, please take a look: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/2121765824672797/>

Going forward, we realized that we couldn't stop and decided that we would book five events over 2022 that would include people from all abilities. The first two events have already begun – 1000 miles in one year @ 2.7 miles per day by any means and 500 miles in one year @ 1.3 miles per day by any means.

I think the reason that we will always stand taller when measured against others (no Guards pun intended) is because being a Guardsman, we have a long and proud history of those who went before us. Our Oath of Allegiance has no end date and I believe that is for a reason, namely 'Once a Grenadier, always a Grenadier'. We truly are a Band of Brothers who would not be the men we are without the love and support of those we surround ourselves with. Thank you all.

Late Entry Officers' Lunch

Organised by Major Ty Bearder, a Late Entry Officers' Lunch took place in Lille Barracks, Aldershot on Friday 3rd February 2023. Those in attendance are pictured in the Lille Barracks Sergeants' Mess.



Rear Row standing Left to Right – Major James Gatehouse (The Regimental Adjutant), David Loxton, Brian Sheen, Martin Howlin, Derrick Rossi, Daz Westlake, Stumpy Keeley, WO1 (Snr DMaj) James Bennett, Ty Bearder, Chris Dougherty, Neil England, Jason Lalley, Roy Shepherd, Gaz Davis, Vern Overton, Dave Beresford.

Front Row seated Left to Right – Rick Kitchen, David Webster, WO1 (RSM) Dean Bailey (The Sergeant Major), Lieutenant Colonel Gerald Johnston (The Commanding Officer), Vince Gaunt, Dave Groom.

The Diary of A Yeoman of The King's Body Guard

by *Kevin Kitcher*

Thursday 8th September:

It was announced that Her Majesty the Queen had died at Balmoral Castle that afternoon with her family at her side.

That evening, an email was sent from the Messenger Sergeant Major (MSM) asking for our availability for a ten-day period of rehearsals and standing vigil and guard over the Queen. I immediately replied that I was available for the whole period and my bag was packed ready to go.

Sunday 11th September

I was dropped off at Sudbury train station and headed into London at midday. I made my way to the guardroom at St James's Palace and was the first to arrive other than the two MSM's who had been busy with the planning.

I was in Team 1 (24 Yeomen and 1 DSM) and was part of the King's Guard for the speeches to Parliament in Westminster Hall on the Monday. After cleaning my kit and was ready, I asked if I could be of any further assistance but was not required, so went to friends at the Tower to stay the night.

Monday 12th September

I made my way bright and early to St James's, grabbing a sausage bap and a coffee at Embankment en route. On arrival, I checked the details and got dressed in uniform and chatted with the remainder of the guard. With our Partisan spears gleaming, we boarded the transport for Westminster Hall. On arrival we did an 'eyes right' to look at the far end of the Hall to see the stairs where we would be standing. We practiced over and over again and it was decided that we would take one step at a time to climb the stair case.

It was then time to march in and we stepped off in slow time with the Exon leading the left file and the MSM leading the right file: tallest were at the top of the steps shortest at the bottom. The steps being very narrow, a dignified rotation rather than



Grenadiers of the Kings Body Guard

From Left to Right: Yeoman Matthew Smith, Messenger Sergeant Major Chris Savage and Yeoman Kevin Kitcher.

an about turn was carried out and we were in place.

The two maces from Parliament were brought in and both were saluted. The Gentleman at Arms then fell in on the step and blocked my view of the throne. Fortunately, a TV camera to the left moved in and I watched everything on the camera monitor.

The King entered and the King's Body Guard gave its first salute to his Majesty. Speeches were read by the two Speakers of the Houses of Parliament; the King gave his response and then departed after the National Anthem was sung. Back on the transport to St James's and then kit cleaning for the next day.

Tuesday 13th September

Rehearsal Day at Westminster Hall which had been transformed from the previous day with the catafalque in the centre. For the Yeoman of the Guard, it was a day of practicing the 1st and 2nd relief on D+5 and the last relief on D+10. Arriving late at the Mews in Windsor Castle, we were given an evening meal and then got our heads down. It had been a long day.

Wednesday 14th September

A glitch in booking our transport meant we got to the rehearsals at Hyde Park Barracks two hours late, so the rehearsal for each of the 6 reliefs was over in a flash and we were dropped at Westminster Hall with kit for 24 hours in a small bag. The stag roster went up and the first relief was posted and we

all watched the lying in state on TV, waiting for our turn to stand vigil on HM Queen Elizabeth II. In the wee hours we rehearsed the funeral procession on D+10 escorting the gun carriage from Westminster to Wellingtons Arch, now that was something to be part of in the darkness of London.

Thursday 15th September

After 24 hours on stag we were relieved by Team 2, we boarded transport and made our way to Windsor Castle to rest overnight in the mews, after a quick shower and putting the uniform away safely most of us went in to Windsor for hot skoff (Mixed Grill at Whetherspoons) before returning to get a good nights sleep.

Friday 16th September

0900 and the transport departed Windsor Castle for Hyde Park Barracks and rehearsals with the Officers taking up their place on vigil for that day, plenty of coffee and water available, back to the transport and off to Westminster Hall, Team 2 were waiting to leave and we took over stags for 24 hours again, evening time and whilst on stag I saw a thumbs up gesture from someone going past it was Johnno, a Corporal in my Platoon at Caterham who had queued all that time to pay his respects, good man!

Stacks of sandwiches, fruit, tea and coffee to have between stags, and got some sleep on the floor when the Yeoman Warders arrived to help with night stags, getting tired.

Saturday 17th September

Team 2 takeover at 12, Windsor, shower, hot food and bed even earlier than before, got at least 12 hours sleep, bought some porridge in a pot for breakfast.

Sunday 18th September

Porridge very tasty! Back to Hyde Park Barracks for rehearsals and coffee and onto Westminster Hall, London is buzzing with people luckily the weather is good for them, back to stags, I remember to look at the coffin draped in all it's splendour as I march towards my position and thinking it was far more amazing like this than on TV, it's the last evening what's it going to be like when it's all over.

We had trained for this for years and it was now coming to an end. Back in the rest room with all the crumbs on the floor the mice started running around, I thought this would make a good children's story about the Westminster mice and the funeral.

Monday 19th September

6.40 in the morning and the public had stopped coming through 10 minutes before, it was so quiet, it was the same at 8.40 on my last of 36 x 20 minute vigils, on both those vigils on that morning I took time to reflect on all the times I had paraded with the Queen and guarded her Palaces and had the privilege of meeting that great lady and her family, the vigils were soon over and we paraded to escort the coffin.

At 1000 I took up my place behind Matt Smith as one of the Escorts on the gun carriage and we started that solemn task of Escorting Her Majesty to Westminster Abbey, our partizans upside down on our right shoulders, we listened to the drum and marched slowly and saw in amazement that magnificent military spectacle put on for the Queen at the start of her final journey, things we had not seen clearly in the darkness of the rehearsal 5 days earlier, at Westminster Abbey we watched once again in admiration of the young men from the Queens Company who bore the coffin with such dignity on all those occasions before us old soldiers and we were so very proud of them. When the service was over in Westminster Abbey the National Anthem was played and the Queen's coffin once again returned to the Gun Carriage, all the parade were in position and the Garrison Sergeant Major again stepped everyone off and we marched to the beat of the drum, listening to the crunch of the Royal Navy boots and the wheels of the gun carriage turn, everyone seemed to settle in to the motion of the march which was almost a sway, the colours in the Royal Standard on the coffin the crown and the uniforms of all three services were all standing out proud in that glorious sunshine that had appeared for our Queen, the crowds lining the street seemed 10 deep or more wherever we were, some cheered the Queen, some clapped, some were silent with head bowed as we carried on to the beat of the drum, down Whitehall, on to Horse Guards and the Mall, I like all those either pulling the Gun Carriage



Yeoman Kevin Kitcher escorting Her Majesty's Coffin.

or escorting the Queen on her last journey were so proud and privileged to be able to do this for her, we passed the street liners who lowered their arms as the coffin approached, we had seen the Royal Navy, the Army and the Royal Air Force and there

was more to come as we arrived and were halted at Wellingtons Arch, the area was filled with troops on foot and horseback, bands played and we saluted as the Queen was transferred from the gun carriage to the hearse and to make her way to her beloved Windsor to be buried with Duke of Edinburgh.

Our part was done, there was no barracks to go back to, we went to the Guardroom at St James Palace, located our kit, changed and headed to the pub for a couple of pints before making the journey home, feeling sad but proud and letting the events of the last 10 days start sinking in, it was a sad duty to perform, but I was given my opportunity along with the Body Guard to say our farewell to such a remarkable and gracious lady, when I was at the Tower we would finish each day at the end of the Ceremony of the Keys with a short prayer...God Preserve Queen Elizabeth...Amen.

God Save the King

Reflections on the Queens Lying In State

by *Steven Johnston*

As a former Grenadier and a Royalist, on the sad death of Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II, I simply had to travel to London to pay my respects. On Friday 16th September, I caught the train from Shefford in Bedfordshire bound for London. I thought I would be clever and jump off at Blackfriars's thinking that the end of the queue would not be too far down the Thames, how wrong was I!

After walking for what seemed like a lifetime, I found myself at Southwark Park at the end of the queue. I soon got in to conversation with a group of people, one of which was a gentleman who had a vast knowledge of the area and as we passed through points along the way, he would come out with relevant information landmarks along the route. I must say, this help pass the time of day and made the queueing more interesting and enjoyable whilst taking in all the sights on the Southbank.

We eventually got within range of Westminster Hall and from what was a very lively and noisy crowd

with lots of chatting the atmosphere changed as people started to go into their own thought process. As I went through the doors of Westminster Hall, it was as if someone had turned down the volume to zero, so quiet you could hear a pin drop. It was quite surreal as people filed past Her Majesty's coffin and paid their

final respects in their own way the scene really did astound you. Watching the ladies and gentlemen carrying out their duties guarding the coffin with such discipline and immense pride was a very impressive and emotional thing to observe.

On reflection, although tired and slightly sore from standing in line for over 12hrs what was a very long day was a very fulfilling day, I had travelled to London and done what I thought was the right thing to do and it had been an absolute honour to pay my respects to the only monarch I known and served.



The Author, Steven Johnston, Caterham Barracks, 1988.

Walking John Muir Way With Josh Tuicicia

by Matthew Ellmer – Regimental Casualty Officer

Having successfully completed the Coast 2 Coast walk, 192 miles across England, walking West to East in 2020, and walking 93 miles along the Hadrian’s Wall in 2021, agreement was given by the Colonel’s Fund Steering Group for another long distance walking challenge for the Regimental Casualty Officer to raise money for the Colonels Fund. The challenge was to walk across Scotland, going West to East, walking the John Muir Way, 134 miles. Former LSgt Josh Tuicicia who is supported by the RCO was asked if he wanted to take part in the walk, thankfully he agreed.

On Monday 18th July Josh and myself drove to Dunbar, the end point of the walk, where we were able to park our car and wait for my friend David McCallum, a Royal Signal’s veteran who lives at the start point in Helensburgh who collected us and drove us to our accommodation for the night.



Matt and Josh prior to departing into the unknown!

Day One – Helensburgh to Balloch 9 miles 4:48hrs.

The day started at 0845hrs at the John Muir Way Sign and information board in Helensburgh and with great anticipation of what lay ahead we were off.



Matt and Josh at the start point in Helensburgh.

The route took us straight up a steady climb through the streets of Helensburgh, where at the top we were met by Christopher Walker and his son Ewan, Christopher is the son in law of the late Lieutenant Colonel Henry Hanning who lives in Helensburgh and wanted to walk part of the way. It was a nice surprise when he turned up with a stock of Mars Bars!



Left to Right: Matt, Josh, Christopher Walker and Ewan, with Mars Bars!

After we had parted company with Christopher and Ewan the climb continued up through a forest path before we headed down towards Loch Lomond where we were met and hosted by the excellent David McCallum at Stevie’s Drams where they kindly donated a bottle of special edition 150th open whiskey towards the Colonels Fund. A silent auction was held at a later date, which raised £150 towards the Colonels Fund. David extended his

hospitality even more and twisted our arms to try a whiskey tasting session...I can confirm he stocks some rather nice whiskey!



Matt, David McCallum and Josh prior to the whiskey tasting!

We finally arrived at our overnight stop having survived the whiskey tasting. Our accommodation was a lovely guesthouse where we were provided with a cup of tea and a slice of homemade cake upon arrival. What followed was admin, check and re-pack of our kit, evening meal and the reading and studying of tomorrow's route, which was a rather daunting 18.5 miles!

Day Two – Balloch to Strathblane 18.5 miles 7:05hrs.

We started day two with a steady walk into the grounds of Balloch Castle after walking alongside the shores of Loch Lomond.



Matt and Josh in the grounds of Balloch Castle.

The route then took on a steady climb following minor roads and tracks until we turned off into the Kilpatrick Hills. What followed was initially a steady climb up through the hills and forestry before dropping down to Burncrooks Reservoir where our route was diverted due to harvesting; this in fact turned out to be a bonus as we saved a mile from our original route!

What followed was what seemed like miles of walking along uneven tracks where we came across an "old Scottish soldier" skeleton. We eventually arrived at our accommodation in Strathblane where again we focused on our administration with a check and re-pack of our kit and equipment before enjoying an evening meal, reading up on the 13 mile route which was to follow in the morning.



Matt and Josh on day two of their adventure with the 'old Scottish soldier skeleton'.

Day Three – Strathblane to Auchinstarry, 13.74 miles 5:25hrs.

Day three started with a steady walk along the Strathkelvin Railway Path until we reached Kirkintilloch where we picked up the Forth & Clyde Canal. The route then followed the canal path for 3 miles where we shared the path with many cyclists until we left to go to Bar Hill. We then had a steady climb up a track to Bar Hill Fort and Antonine Wall where we got to see the remains of the fort and wall. We then had a steep descent into Auchinstarry. What followed was what has become our post walk admin, check and re-pack kit, evening meal and the reading of tomorrow's route, 13 miles.

Day Four – Auchinstarry to Falkirk 12.52 miles 5:06hrs.

Day four of our charity walk continues, we started the walk from Auchinstarry in the rain to Falkirk.



A wet, but not disheartened Matt and Josh on route to Falkirk.

Once again we had 13 miles of walking ahead of us! We followed two towpaths the Forth and Clyde Canal, we also got to see another Roman Fort at Rough Castle along with the Antonine Wall, before we encountered the Union Canal and the Falkirk Wheel. In the 1930s the Forth and Clyde Canal and the Union Canal had been linked by 11 locks which took nearly a day to transit, in 1998 work started on the Falkirk Wheel which had been designed as the ‘boat lift’ and in 2002 the worlds first, and only rotating boat lift was opened by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.



Matt and Josh at the Falkirk Wheel.

From the Falkirk Wheel we made our way to Falkirk station before moving into our accommodation for the evening.

Day Five – Falkirk to Linlithgow 9.5 miles 3:40hrs.

The walk started through the streets of Falkirk until we reached Callendar Park, where we shared our route with the weekly park run, as tempted as we were to join them we decided against it and continued through the park to pick up the Union Canal

We had 5 miles of walking along the towpaths of the Union Canal, where we spotted of all things a fresh hay wheel stuck in the middle of the canal and further up we had a microlight aircraft fly over us.

We also got to walk over the Avon Aqueduct which was an impressive example of engineering and building, at this point we left the canal towpath and made our way into the woodlands that followed the river Avon which eventually lead us past an impressive viaduct that had 26 arches and is the main line for Glasgow and Edinburgh. We finally arrived at Linlithgow, our accommodation for the night.



Matt and Josh on the Avon Aqueduct.

Day Six – Linlithgow to South Queensferry 15.45 miles in 6:01hrs.

The walk started badly today, we had a fire alarm at 0240hrs and then 0900hrs, where a fire engine was called out, then the chef turned up late and said the breakfast was delayed so we headed off on an empty stomach through the streets of Linlithgow and headed out cross country and through the woodlands before we reached Bo’ness.



A Fire Engine called to your accommodation is not what you want after 5 days of walking!

When we reached Bo'ness we were treated to Thomas the Tank steam train travelling along the local line, 'choo choo Thomas', Josh got very excited, until I told him he couldn't have a ride and we were walking!



Thomas the Tank Train.

We then followed the Firth shore line passing Blackness Castle, before heading inland where we walked through the grounds of Hopetoun House, one of Scotland's finest stately homes. We then made our way back to the shore line where we got to see the 3 bridges that cross the Firth, before arriving at South Queensferry at The Queens Bed & Breakfast, our accommodation for the night, which was a welcome sight after six hours of walking.



Matt and Josh at The Queens Bed and Breakfast.

Day Seven – South Queensferry to Edinburgh 15.77 miles in 7:07hrs.

No issues with sleep or breakfast on day seven where the walk started at The Jubilee Clock Tower where we followed the cobbled streets out of South Queensferry and walked along the shoreline of the Forth. We then continued along the shoreline and through woodland, passing Dalmeny House and Golf Course. The route then leads us to the suburbs of Edinburgh where we climbed Corstorphine Hill passing Edinburgh Zoo on the way down. We also passed Murrayfield Stadium where Josh informed me that he had been to watch the Rugby 7's a few years back. The final leg took us back onto the Union Canal where we left it at the Lochrin Basin before making our way to the evenings accommodation after completing just under sixteen miles with seven hours walking.



Matt and Josh with Murrayfield in the background.



Matt and Josh at the John Muir Mural in Prestonpans.

Day Eight – Edinburgh to Port Seton 12.59 miles in 5:29hrs. The days walk started by leaving Edinburgh and picking up the Innocent Railway line, before picking up The Brundtland Burn Path leading into Musselburgh. The day continued along the shoreline passing numerous small harbors, golf courses and nature reserves before passing through Prestonpans. The route took us out of Prestonpans, before passing the disused power station and following the coast line around to Cockenzie and Port Seton, our accommodation for the evening. We got to see the John Muir mural which had been painted on the side of a building in Prestonpans.

Day Nine – Port Seton to North Berwick 14.66 miles in 6:01hrs.

The walk started by leaving our accommodation where we walked along the beautiful beaches of Seton Sands and Gosford Sands.



Even Josh couldn't move the anchor.

After this picturesque leg we moved inland and pasted Gosford House and through the village of Aberlady and made our way to Gullane where we took a short break.



The route then continued inland and cross country to Dirletin where we took our lunch break in the village green, this gave the RCO time to air his feet!



Matt airing his feet over a well warned lunch break.

After a welcome lunch break we continued inland before picking up the sand dunes and walking past some golf courses that took us to North Berwick and our accommodation for the evening.

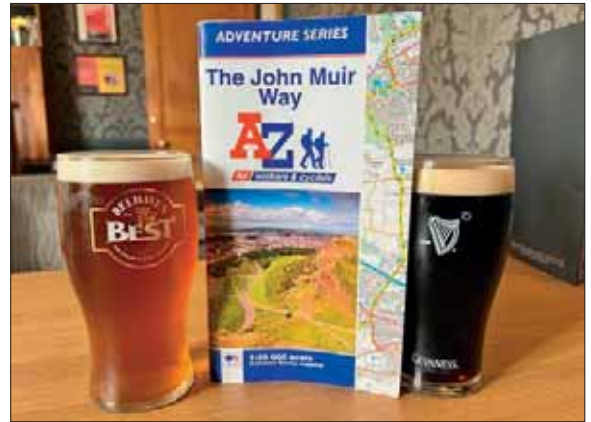
Day Ten – North Berwick to Dunbar 14.50 miles in 6:15hrs.

The walk started by leaving our accommodation where we walked along foot paths past Berwick Law, a volcanic plug, this then lead us through

farmers' fields and cross country until we came to East Linton. We continued inland and picked up the River Tyne which we followed into John Muir Country Park. The walk then followed the edge of the Hedderwick Sands and around Belhaven Bay. We continued along the cliff tops and walking past the local golf course that then took us to Dunbar and our accommodation for the evening.

So the walk was complete, 134 miles over ten days. When I spoke to Josh, he said that he felt in a good place and that he was happy that he was able to raise money for the Colonels Fund knowing that others would benefit as he and his family have done. There wasn't a target for this walk as I have done it under the umbrella of the "year of the Grenadier" however we have raised around £10k to date, and I would like to personally thank everyone who has donated. I see first-hand the positive effect that your donations have on all those that I support on your behalf.

What's next, well as it's the "year of the Grenadier" until June 2023, I have decided to do another long distance walk, this time walking the West Highland Way in April 2023, where I am bringing Major Green out of retirement to keep me company. More to follow!





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Support Company Reunion – 24 Sept 22

by Keith Smith

The most recent Support Company was held on Saturday 24th of September 2022. The reunion was held at the Bristol Harbourside Slug & Lettuce. The reunion was well attended from all those that served in Support Company, it is open to members that served in Support Company which includes, Anti-Tanks, Mortars, Recce, Assault Pioneers, SF, Signals, and snipers, there guests and All Grenadiers both ‘Past and Present’ in either the 1st Battalion or 2nd Battalion.

The reunion is organised and published using Facebook; this event is extremely successful with a great turnout. The reason they are successful is that they tap into the feeling of belonging and



Michael Brown, Keith Harris, Dave Pearce, Pat Weedon Dave Pickering and Stephen Weedon enjoying a few pints!

camaraderie that they all had while serving. At these events there is no rank, there were Captains, Lieutenant Colonels and even a Lieutenant General in attendance, which goes to show the pull this reunion has to get people together. There are many more reunions held, most of them annually, they include The Queens Company, No 2 Company (2nd Battalion), No 3 Company, MT Platoon, and Drums to name a few, all these reunions can be found published on Facebook.

There are several reasons why reunions are so important. These reunions are a great way to catch up with old friends that you have a shared experience with, some you may have not seen for 30 years or more, but when you meet up, it’s like it was only yesterday that you last saw each other.

Veterans who are posted together or who serve in the same Regiment/Company or war zone forge a bond that is almost unbreakable. This bond helps the veteran during the good times and the worst times. A reunion allows these men and women to reconnect and share their experiences while they were in the service. Reunions allow veterans to reforge this bond, rekindle past friendships, and heal from past experiences together. These events can have a therapeutic benefit also for veterans, and it allows them to come together again and renew the relationships they had in the past.

Rest assured all that attend these reunions still have a sense of pride, purpose and belonging. This is exactly what these reunions give them.

The next Support Company reunion is already planned for April 2024. So don’t miss out on some great banter and reminiscing.



Keith Smith, Wayne Orton, Dave Boucher, Malc Mayoh.



Simon Edgell, John Ray, John Wilde.

Grenadiers Reunited - A Sixty Four Year Reunion.

by Gdsm Michael Sperrin.

Each year I read the Grenadier Gazette on the lookout for old familiar names and faces. You can imagine my delight when I opened last year's Gazette and found a story about Gdsm William John Fear (23509986), someone I had not seen in 64 years.

We joined during the same week in 1958, going into Sgt Marshall's squad for roughly 12 weeks before heading in different directions. John was posted to Cyprus, whilst I was called to the Adjutant and told that I was too young for active service by four weeks and I was to be moved to 13 Company Grenadier Guards young soldiers Platoon for 10 weeks. Following my stint in the young soldiers Platoon, I was soon to be posted to No 2 Company, First Battalion Grenadier Guards for public duties at the old, cold, and damp Chelsea Barracks.

After reading John's story in the 2020 Grenadier Gazette, I was able to reach out and get in touch with him. Fortunately, we live in neighboring counties (Wiltshire and Somerset), so it did not take too long



Left: Gdsm William John Fear. Right: Gdsm Michael Sperrin in 1958. Below: Left: Gdsm William John Fear. Right: Gdsm Michael Sperrin in 2022.

to arrange a meeting. It was a great day, and after no time at all, we were exchanging a lifetime of stories and photos. We had both been looking for someone from Sgt Marshall's squad for years, and it was quite the experience catching up after such a long time.



A big thank you to the Grenadier Gazette for giving us the platform to reunite after so many years!



Sgt J Marshall's Squad, Guards Depot Caterham, Feb 1959 (Centre row left – Gdsm William Fear and rear row second from right Gdsm Michael Sperrin).



Battlefield tour group photograph, Monday 12 September 2023, Bray Sands, Dunkirk.

Association Battlefield Tour 2022

by Major David Sewell

The success of the last Association Battlefield Tour in 2020 had spread and a group of some two dozen Grenadiers, wives and friends were eagerly looking forward to Phase II. Little did they realise what awaited them. With the sad news of 8 September the Tour's future looked bleak. Thankfully RHQ was aware of the precedent set by Queen Mary. She had stipulated, in her will, that Court Mourning was not to interfere with HM Queen Elizabeth's Coronation! Although some RHQ members had to withdraw to play their parts in Op LONDON BRIDGE, the Tour was still on for the remainder. But, the best laid plans... Those joining the Tour at Wellington Barracks had not expected to need aide memoires from their Platoon Commanders' or Senior Brecon Courses just to join the party. However, with most of SW1 blocked off and entry to Wellington Barracks prohibited the

Tour began with a testing infiltration exercise. John, our coach driver, demonstrated some of his many skills by getting a 49 seat coach right into the heart of the Security Zone. Eventually we set off for Folkestone and the Tunnel. Thank goodness for SATNAV systems, as we had a very circuitous route out of London. All very reminiscent of Battalion night marches led by inexperienced Platoon Commanders! The link up with Andrew Duff,



Bray Sands looking west towards Dunkirk.



Bob and Sue Goodson at the Menin Gate prior to the wreath laying ceremony.

our guide, and other members of the party at the M20 services was finally accomplished.

On arrival in France we moved to the Dunkirk area visiting Bray Sands and Veurne, where all 3 battalions had fought during the evacuation. The first night was spent in Ypres, giving us the opportunity to see the Menin Gate ceremony. Bob Goodson laid a wreath on behalf of the Regiment at the Last

Post ceremony, while Colonel Richard Aubrey-Fletcher, our President, gave the exhortation.

On day 2 we looked at the Escaut battles; again involving all battalions. It was here that Harry Nicholls won his VC. Memorial crosses were laid at the graves of all Grenadiers and a brief service was held at Esquelmes CWGC. A wreath was laid by Andrew Dane and the exhortation given by Richard Green. That afternoon we drove to Holland to start tracing the Guards Armoured Division advance during Op MARKET GARDEN. Actions on Hell's Highway, the Son, Grave bridges and Joe's Bridge were explained. The Groesbeek museum provided a comfortable and informative venue to consume our packed lunches. A visit to Groesbeek CWGC enabled us to mark all Grenadier graves with

crosses. Again a brief service was held at Groesbeek CWGC with a wreath being laid by Julie Champion and the exhortation given by Linda Jones.

The day concluded with a visit to Nijmegen. Dinner that night at the Italian restaurant certainly tested the Grenadier diners. Before deploying to the trattoria a glass was raised to the King. For many this was the first time they had toasted The King. Dinner was outstanding with a never ending series of excellent dishes emanating from the kitchen, it seemed that every time there was a lull in conversation another course had to be ordered. Mindful of the fare on offer to our predecessors in 1944 everyone tucked in voraciously.



The Group dining at the Pomodoro Italian Restaurant at Nijmegen.

Arnhem and Nijmegen were the flavour for the next day including a visit to the excellent Hartenstein Museum. The Museum had been the Hotel Hartenstein and was occupied by the 1st Airborne Division Headquarters during the Battle of Arnhem. On the way to the hotel that afternoon a service was held at Osterbeek CWGC. Crosses were placed on Grenadier graves. A wreath was laid by Bob Thompson and Nick Champion gave the exhortation.



Linda Jones, Julie Champion and the Rev John Hayhoe at a remembrance service at the Groesbeek Cemetery.



Bob Thompson laying a wreath at the Oosterbeek Cemetery.



The Hartenstein Museum, occupied by 1st Airborne Division Headquarters during the Battle of Arnhem.

The following day as we headed North towards Arnhem there was a palpable buzz in the middle of the coach centred on David ‘Wings’ Webster’s party. The excitement grew with every passing kilometre as we approached ‘Maroon Mecca’. A stop and short service was made at Jonkerbos CWGC, where crosses were laid at all Grenadier graves. A wreath was laid by David Sewell and the exhortation given by Jamie Eykyn.



David ‘Wings’ Webster reflecting whilst taking a well-deserved rest!

After this we headed back to London. Throughout the return journey members were busy conducting Staff Checks to monitor the progress of Her Late Majesty’s coffin. As queuing times got longer it was touch and go whether we would arrive in time for members to join the queue before it was closed. Thankfully John again demonstrated his navigational skills delivering us back just in time for those living close enough to conduct a high speed turn around to go and join the Queue.

Thankfully with no exam at the end of the tour no prep was set each night. Had there been, it might have been embarrassing for our President. With his iPad and marker boards for Artistic impression and Technical merit, He was far more focussed on the doings of the Queen’s Company, as the Lying in State commenced; actions of Grenadiers 80 years ago definitely played second fiddle.

It was great to see so many familiar faces again and sincere thanks from us all go to Lieutenant Colonel ‘Stumpy’ Keeley for his hard work to get us there and back. Particularly gratifying was having our spiritual needs catered for by a former Grenadier. The Rev John Hayhoe was known to many from his time with 2 GREN GDS.



The Airborne Landmark at Dropzone Y at Ginkel Heath, Oosterbeek.

Suffolk & Essex Breakfast Club

by Kevin Kitcher

The Suffolk & Essex Breakfast Club meets monthly at 1000hrs on the first Saturday of the month at the Cock Inn, Clare, Sudbury,



Breakfast Club at the Cock Inn, Clare, Sudbury.

Suffolk, CO10 8PX. The Cock Inn is ran by Ivan Appleton himself a retired Grenadier. This is proving to be a great chance for ex-Grenadiers and their family members to meet up, pull up a sandbag and chew the fat in a casual and comfortable environment. Ivan Appleton has very kindly agreed to donate a pound to the Colonels Fund for every breakfast sold at the event, so not only are you having a great day out amongst likeminded friends you are helping to make a difference to our wounded Grenadiers and the families of those that paid the ultimate price.

Please try to join us if you can, it would be great to see more people attending.



Kevin Kitcher and Bill Johnson.



Remembrance Day Cenotaph Parade 2023

On Sunday 13 November 2022 the Grenadier Guards had a marching party of 20 Grenadier veterans in attendance at the Remembrance Day Cenotaph Parade.

The 2023 parade will take place on Sunday 12 November, and although places are limited we would like to fill all available slots. If you have not already registered sign up for news alerts on the www.grengds.com where information will be disseminated. If you are a Facebook user you can also join the official RHQ Facebook page, **Regimental Headquarters Grenadier Guards** where information can also be obtained from.

Centenary Celebrations Worcester and Hereford Branch

by *Veronica Baylis*



Brief History of the Worcester and Hereford Branch of the Association

The 'Grenadier Guards Old Comrades Association' was formed as a result of a suggestion made after a review of the Brigade of Guards held by **His Majesty King George V** in April 1913.

The Colonel of the Regiment, **HRH Prince Arthur, Duke of Connaught and Strathearn** having approved the formation, and the then Lieutenant Colonel Commanding the Regiment having been assured of generous financial support, called an inaugural meeting of all ranks. This was held on the 14th November 1913. At this meeting, office bearers and a Committee were elected and rules were drawn up. The title of the Association was changed to the 'Grenadier Guards Association' at the Annual General Meeting held on 1st April 1967.

The Worcester and Hereford Branch was formed in February 1922. Since being formed, the Branch has had:-

- Four presidents, the first was **General Sir Frances J Davies** to currently **Captain Hamish Gray-Cheape**.
- Six Chairmen have held the post, the first was **Captain Edward George Spencer-Churchill** to currently **24185960 Mr Bruce Baylis**
- In total eleven secretaries have held the post,

the first by **14741 Mr Joseph B Gurney** to currently **Mrs Veronica Baylis**.

- It appears from the annual reports that the treasurers post was filled by the secretary until 1933, when **2604140 Mr G Broadhurst** appears in the annual report as the Treasurer, with the current treasurer **Captain David Morgan** being the 9th to hold the post.

The Celebrations

The branch celebrated its 100th Anniversary on the 1st May with a thoroughly enjoyable Afternoon Tea at the Pear Tree Hotel which was attended by over 120 guests, members and family and friends. Two guardsmen in full uniform attended and were posted outside the doors to welcome in the guests. They were both in the very best order and did the Regiment proud. They had a lovely rapport with everyone and stayed for the afternoon. Thank you to **Daniel Smith** and **Nayan Davies**. (*They said they would be happy to come back to attend the Christmas Lunch – watch this space!*).



Nayan Davies, Veronica Baylis and Daniel Smith.

Lieutenant Colonel Patrick Holcroft attended in his roll as Lord Lieutenant and **Colonel Richard Aubrey-Fletcher** and his wife **Caroline** were there to represent the Association. Also attending were **Stephen Hodgson**, Mayor of Worcester and his wife **Lucy**.

The President read the message received from **Her Majesty the Queen** and gave the loyal toast to the Queen. **Colonel Aubrey-Fletcher** gave the toast to The Regiment.



Lieutenant Colonel Patrick Holcroft the Lord Lieutenant for Worcestershire talking to the two Guardsmen.

The President then gave a talk on the history of the Branch and **Colonel Aubrey-Fletcher** about the future of the Association.



Captain Hamish Gray-Cheape.



Left: Colonel and Mrs Aubrey-Fletcher. Right: Captain Hamish Gray-Cheape.



Colonel Aubrey-Fletcher.

Following the speeches, the President and **Mrs Gray-Cheape** presented **Veronica Baylis**, with flowers and a garden voucher for her and for **Bruce** to thank both for the hard work they both had put in to make it such an enjoyable afternoon. Unfortunately, **Bruce** was unable to attend due to illness. Their daughter **Estelle** and her partner, who were due to go back to their home in London, postponed their journey and came along to help out at the event.



Mayor Stephen Hodgson and Mrs Lucy Hodgson photographed with Nayan and Daniel as well as the life sized wooden cut out.

Some very important thanks go to: **David** and **Janice Morgan** and **Patricia Smith**, who together with **Bruce** and **Veronica** formed the Executive Committee and had been working on the planning and preparations since before the Pandemic. Also to **David** for organising the personalised serviettes. **Sean Hinton** for stepping up into **Bruce's** place



The President and Mrs Fiona Gray-Cheape with Veronica Baylis.



The President with Veronica Baylis.

all plain sailing. I was really hoping to have been able to get some of the musicians to perform but after a lot of emails going back and forth, it was going to be too expensive and we decided to shelve that. And, although entirely my own ideas, at times I regretted having offered to make the crepe flowers for the tables, but they turned out to be a great success and quite a few found 'new homes'. The little vases with transfers were also very much admired. Rather than giving them away, I wish I had thought of selling both vases and flowers off to make money for the branch. To see everyone enjoying themselves and leaving with smiles on their faces definitely made it all worth while.



Veronica Baylis with Betty Seale.

on the day and for looking after some of the guests as well as the two Guardsmen, from picking them up and taking them back to the railway station. Also for supplying the wonderful displays of uniforms etc. Terry Hewlett, who in the absence of Bruce, looked after the Mayor and his wife on their arrival. Mary Westbury, Carol Wright, Estelle Baylis and Debbie Long for selling raffle tickets and organising the raffle prizes.

Nayan and Daniel for their excellent 'Guard Duties'. John Milner for the magic tricks at the tables and to Lee Webb for photographing the event for free. And finally to The Pear Tree for laying on a fabulous afternoon tea.

To end with I want to say a very big thank you to all members, family and friends who attended the Celebrations. It had been months of hard work to get everything done in time and it certainly wasn't



Janice Morgan talking to Betty Seale.



Clockwise From Top Left: David Morgan and Fiona Gray Cheape; Lieutenant Colonel Patrick Holcroft with Joan Woodfield; Patricia Smith and guest; Pat Allen and guests; Kath Hinton, Mari Hinton and guest; David Westbury, Clive Wright, Stephen Marriott, David Morgan; Nayan Davies, David Wilks, Sean Hinton; Gordon Elkin and Pat.

Waterloo Day Celebrations

by Robert Fallon

On Saturday 18th June 2022 the Manchester Branch held a Garden Party and a Waterloo Day Celebration at Over Tabley Hall, near Knutsford, Cheshire. We had been given permission to use this estate by the owner, **Mr David Cohen**, including the walled garden and the fields around the estate. This gave us a wonderful opportunity to put on a grand day out for all our members and friends including their children and grandchildren. The day began with the Scots Guards Association Pipes and Drums marching down from the main gates of the estate and onto the field in front of the main house.



Scots Guards Association Pipes & Drums.



North Staffordshire Cadet Corps of Drums.

They performed a marching display on the field before moving on into the walled garden. They were followed by the North Staffordshire Cadet Corps of Drums marching in from the main gate and onto the field to do their marching display.

This Corps of Drums is Grenadier badged and they have appeared at Grenadier Day in Aldershot in the past.

Inside the walled garden there was a Marquee erected, filled with tables and chairs just in case the Northern weather turned nasty. Having said that, we did not see any rain until everyone was making their way home having had a fantastic day. There were several gazebo's erected in various locations for things such as the beer tent and a tombola and play your cards right stall.



David Cohen and Jasper with Piper.



Tombola and play your cards right. Libby Fallon and Gracie Wade.

In the corner of the garden was a huge slide next to a large bouncy castle, Children's entertainers, an animal pets corner, a food truck and of course the obligatory Ice Cream van.



Magician.



Crossbow shooting.



Pets Corner.



The Wall.

On the field well away from the small children there was a 10 meter high climbing tower and a special place for Archery and Axe throwing, there was also a chance for people to try their hand at Air Rifle shooting.

Our branch President **Lieutenant Colonel Rick Kitchen** sent out invitations to

Regimental Headquarters and we were very proud to have as our guests the Association President **Colonel Richard Aubrey-Fletcher**, the General Secretary **Lieutenant Colonel Andrew 'Stumpy' Keeley** and the Regimental Adjutant Major **James Gatehouse**. We also had the pleasure of the company of **Brigadier Kim Ross** from the Scots Guards.

The northwest weather forecasters did not do us any favours when they announced that we should expect heavy rain during the day, this resulted in around 150 potential guests not turning up, even though they had booked their cars in. Yes it was windy and cloudy most of the day but we still had 350 people ignore the weathermen and came along to enjoy themselves.

The Scots Guards Pipes & Drums and the Cadet Corps of Drums performed static displays in the walled garden to the delight of the audience. The beer tent had a display of specially produced Guardsman's Gin, and these were a great success selling 29 bottles and another 6 privately.

The Branch Secretary's family were heavily involved during the day, his daughter and son in



Gracie Wade with Python.



From Left to Right: Major J Gatehouse, Lieutenant Colonel J A Keeley, Lieutenant Colonel R Kitchen, Colonel R Aubrey - Fletcher.

law, Suzanne and Micky Garside, ran the beer tent all day and two of his grandchildren ran the play your cards right and Tombola stall. Libby Fallon and Gracie Wade also sold raffle tickets



The String Quartet.



Gin display.

where the first prize was a bottle of Guardsman Gin, and their stall made a profit of £100 for the Branch, two proper little gems. All the people running stalls and activities reported in saying



Presentation to Mr D Feltham by Colonel R Aubrey-Fletcher and Lieutenant Colonel R Kitchen.

they had made a healthy profit and they would be very happy to come back and do it all over again if asked. I have not mentioned our String Quartet who played music throughout the day, they did a fabulous job, and I know that everyone enjoyed their music, thanks a lot.

this celebration happen. With his help and guidance everything came into place at the right time, and everything went as planned. Thank you David and thanks to all the committee for making the day run so smoothly.

During the afternoon we held a presentation of our Inkerman Trophy, which is awarded to someone who is not a Grenadier but who supports our Branch either financially or by attending all our functions. **Mr David Feltham**, son of **Bert Feltham** does it all, like his father, who was a Grenadier, he brings the whole family to all our dinners and spends a lot of money on our raffles.

The Manchester branch owes immense gratitude to **Mr David Cohen** for all the help both physically and financially in making

Manchester Branch, Family Fun Day 2023

The Manchester Branch of the Grenadier Guards Association will be holding a Family Fun Day on Saturday 15th July 2023. This will again, at the kind invitation of David Cohen, take place at Over Tabley Hall. Places are limited, please book your place using the QR Code.





From Left to Right: Lieutenant Colonel (Ret'd) 'Stumpy' Keeley MBE, Mr Matthew Ellmer, Mr Henry Waterfield and Lieutenant Colonel (Ret'd) Richard 'Skid' Dorney MBE.

The English Veterans Awards 2022

The English Veterans Awards took place on Wednesday 7 Sep 2022 at the Village Hotel in Portsmouth.

There was great success for Grenadiers with the Regimental Casualty Officer, Matt Ellmer winning the 'Community Award', an award aimed at individuals that are role models that go the extra mile and provide assistance and support throughout the veterans community. There was also a win for Henry Waterfield, a retired Grenadier Officer who won the 'Entrepreneur of the Year Award' which is aimed at service leavers who have thought outside the box and started their own business and contributed to the Nation.

The event was sponsored by Strongmind Resilience, whose Director, Lieutenant Colonel (Ret'd) Richard 'Skid' Dorney MBE tragically passed away on 18 November 2022.



The Association General Secretary, Lieutenant Colonel (Ret'd) 'Stumpy' Keeley MBE and the Regimental Casualty Officer, Mr Matthew Ellmer.

The Restoration of Sergeant Jesse James's Grave

In the spring of 2019, Trevor Orton, formerly Grenadier Guards, started a campaign to restore the neglected grave of Captain Jesse Jones, a Grenadier veteran of Barossa and Waterloo, in grounds of St Botolph's Church and Priory in Colchester. Originally uncovered during an archaeological survey in 2010, the low graveyard monument had been left unattended.

Trevor joined the Grenadier Guards as a boy soldier in 1957 and then went to the 2nd Battalion at Windsor. He served for 20 years including tours in Northern Ireland and Oman and reached the rank of C/Sgt. He first noticed the grave while exercising in the area when recuperating from a serious illness. His attention drawn by a weather-beaten wreath and a faded Grenadier inscription, he decided to investigate with the help of Robert Mercer. They enlisted the help of the Colchester Civic Society,



The monument after excavation (Image from *Report on a watching brief: CAT Report 567*).



The restored monument and plaque (with kind permission Adrian Rushton).

and with support of Philip Wise, Heritage Manager of the Colchester and Ipswich Museum Service, applied to Heritage England and the Diocese of Chelmsford for permission to touch the grave. With funding from the Essex Branch of the Regimental Association, Regimental Headquarters and the Remembrance Trust, work commenced on cleaning and repointing the grave and at a ceremony on 21 October 2022 the beautifully restored monument was unveiled.



The unveiling ceremony 21 October 2022 (with kind permission Adrian Rushton)

Centre: Mrs Shirley, great-great-great-granddaughter (Left) Michael Jones great-great-great-grandson, Councillor Tim Young; (Right) Lieutenant Colonel Ed Rankin, Colchester Garrison; the Rt Rev Roger Morris, Bishop of Colchester.

Guardsmen of The Sky

*by Colonel PL Ashfield DSO, MBE, formerly Grenadier Guards
Vice President Guards Parachute Association*

In 1941 a Guardsman was appointed to command Britain's first Airborne Division. Major General 'Boy' Browning was formerly a Grenadier. 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.



General 'Boy' Browning observes training at RAF Netheravon in October 1942 as General Officer Commanding 1st Airborne Division.

From the inception of the parachute role in the British army many guardsmen volunteered for 'special duties' for excitement, a chance to prove themselves and sometimes merely to escape the routine of public duties. However, the mere fact that they were prepared to go to extremes to seek out something different, put these guardsmen in a league apart. And the discipline they applied to all aspects of their soldiering plus 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. 6 officers including David Stirling (Scots Guards) and 60 other ranks from the Brigade of Guards went

with No.8 Commando to the Middle East where it formed part of LAYFORCE, the forerunner of the SAS. At the end of WW2 in a flurry of re-organisations, 1st Airborne Division was disbanded while 6th were 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 1st 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 routine duties, including the distasteful harbour duties at Haifa harbour. On return to UK 6 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 were involved with the rest of the Parachute brigade in the Suez campaign. While most of the Company went by sea a small party of 9 guardsmen and 5 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 what those who participated described as 'Endex'. The French showed their appreciation of the patrol's work by the award of the Croix de Guerre

to Captain de Klee, whilst one of the sappers in the team was mentioned in dispatches.

The early sixties 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 UK, in Libya, Cyprus Greece and Germany. The Company also had a brief insight into the future 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. By the 1960s the Brigade of Guards still had 8 full strength battalions, the 2

regiments of Household Cavalry and a large number of additional troops manning the Guards Training Centre and various formation and regimental establishments. The Company therefore had the pick of the very best volunteers from almost 10,000 troops.

The company at that time was organised into 3 pathfinder/armoured recce 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, 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, to police the deteriorating situation between the Greeks and Turks on the island. After 6 weeks the Company were withdrawn and given another task. This would dominate the next two years, immeasurably enhance their reputation and have life changing impacts on many of the Company.

22 SAS was desperately stretched in 1964 with operations both in the Radfan and Borneo. To compound matters, their Rhodesian squadron was withdrawn when Rhodesia made a Unilateral Declaration of Independence. They needed support as soon as possible, which arrived in the form 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 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 the 2nd Battalion the Parachute Regiment. 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 and The Company's Camp Colour proudly hangs in the Guards Chapel behind the lectern.

The Guards Parachute Company marched off into history, but not the concept of Airborne Guardsmen. A large proportion of former 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 red beret were to develop in the future. The lessons of the Falklands campaign had far reaching implications; one of which had been the invaluable mobility and firepower contribution that the Scimitar and Scorpion Troops of the Blues and Royals had provided. 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. Household Division troops were back in the parachute role.

In 2001 the Household 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 L/Cpl James Ashworth VC and has continued to be a steppingstone into G Squadron for several of its members.

The Guards Para Association

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 400 strong and still growing. The spirit is as strong as ever and every man is proud to say "I was a Guards Para". In the words of our most



The Guards Parachute Platoon during Ex SWIFT RESPONSE in Germany 2016.

prominent founding member, Major General Sir Robert Corbett KCVO CB formerly Irish Guards, 'The Association is a means of carrying forward the very special comradeship and loyalty that all of us who had the privilege of serving in the Guards Parachute Company felt towards one another, to the Company, their Regiments and the Household Division'. This comradeship is still very evident in every airborne unit where Guardsmen currently serve.

The Association was established to further the following three purposes; to preserve and foster comradeship between serving and retired members of the Association, providing a welfare network and support for members or their dependents who may have fallen on hard times and the commemoration and remembrance of those members of the Household Division who may have served in the Airborne Forces. The association fulfils these purposes by holding an annual dinner which is usually held on the Saturday closest to the date of disbandment of No1 (Guards) Independent Parachute Company, which happened on 24 October 1975. Also at the committee's discretion, financial

and other support maybe provided to members and their dependents as appropriate to alleviate hardship and suffering. The centrepiece of the Association's commemoration is the Guardsmen of the Sky memorial at the National Arboretum in Staffordshire and participation in the annual march past the cenotaph on Remembrance Sunday.

The Association is still over 400 strong, but our long-term survival and that of the Guards and ABF association will depend on younger members. We would very much like to hear from those of you that are eligible to join the Association, who have served in 6 (Guards) Platoon, the Pathfinder Platoon or Special Forces and who have enjoyed the distinction of being Guardsmen of the Sky. We take great pride in still representing the Household Division's airborne heritage. Applications for membership can be found at www.guardsparachuteassociation.co.uk or made directly to our secretary Ron Bell (formerly The Life Guards) ronsecgpa75@btinternet.com or Wes Fountain formerly Grenadier Guards at wesleyjfountain@hotmail.co.uk. We look forward to hearing from you.

My Story

by 23024935 Brian Russell, Liverpool Branch

I was born in 1936 in Southport, in 1940 my father joined the army and served in the royal engineers. Meanwhile, me and my two brothers, Frank, and Herbert, were evacuated to Ormskirk. I then went on to stay with relatives in Harrogate before returning to Southport and then finally moving to Bootle in 1950. I finished school in 1951 and began working in the building industry. In 1954 I received a call-up letter to join the Guards Training Battalion in London. After completing the training, I then went on to Chelsea Barracks to join the 3rd Battalion Grenadier Guards, who had just returned from the Suez Canal in Egypt and were being kitted out for Public Duties.

The duties that we performed included the guarding of St James Palace, Buckingham Palace,



From Left to Right: Mr Grogan, Mr Jenkins, Brian Russell and Alan Donnelly.

The Tower of London, and the Bank of England. I was soon to move to Windsor where Victoria Barracks was to be home for mounting Public Duties at Windsor Castle. It was there that I first caught sight of the Queen, and briefly spoke with



the Duke of Edinburgh at the rear of the castle on the so-called 'long walk'. I finished my service in May 1956 and returned to Bootle.

Upon my return home I went back into the building industry with my father, working all across Merseyside. In 1957 I was married to Maureen Duffy. We had six children, Pauline, Brian, Jean, John, Eric, and Tracey. In 1978 I went to work



My Children, the Russell Family.

with my brother Frank in the Outer Hebrides in Scotland, where we had been given a contract to build concrete units on the Island of St Kilda on behalf of the Ministry of Environment. We could only access the island by landing craft

and helicopter. Upon finishing this contract there were talks of further work in the Falklands but unfortunately we did not get the contract.

Around 1981 I joined Church Street demolition in Bootle. We worked on various large projects such as the refurbishment of Walton Prison and Strangeways Prison in Manchester, and the Palm house in Sefton Park.

I retired for a brief period in the year 2000 at the age of 65. However, my wife Maureen sadly passed away in 2002 and I decided to return to work with Church Street demolition before finally retiring in 2008. Shortly after retiring I met Margaret Keegan who became a close friend and companion of mine. Margaret passed away in 2017.

Around the time of retiring my name appeared in the Royal British Legion magazine in the Lost Trails section. It was an old school friend, Joe Hartley, who contacted me, who was a member of the Royal British Legion and we have remained in contact ever since.

In 2018, Julie Champion, the then Secretary of the Liverpool Branch of the Grenadier Guards



From Left to Right: Brian Russell, The Earl of Derby DL (Liverpool Branch President), Bob Thomson (Liverpool Branch Chairman) at Regimental Remembrance Day.



From Left to Right: Eric Russell, Brian Russell and Bob Thomson.

Association contacted me. Julie invited me to the Liverpool Branch meetings and after a warm welcome at the first meeting I decided to join. Since joining the Branch, I have made a lot of friends and been to various outings, Remembrance weekends,

including Black Sunday. I have thoroughly enjoyed my time with the Association, its Grenadiers and family members. I find the monthly meetings interesting and being able to socialise with other Grenadiers, share our stories, and keep updated is something I always enjoy and look forward to.

Since joining the Liverpool Branch my son Eric started to accompany me to the meetings and has now joined the Association and has also been on Branch trips. During the last trip to London, Eric retraced my footsteps at the Tower of London, where I used to stand on Guard duty many years ago.

If anyone is thinking of joining an Association, I would highly recommend you do so, as it opens so many doors, it offers support, and new friendships.



Eric Russell my son standing in my footsteps at the Tower of London.

My Grenadier Memories

by Derek Pell

I arrived at the Guards Depot, Caterham on the 15 July 1952, having initially joined the Scots Guards. Whilst in the receiving room I got talking to a lad called Randell who wanted to know why the Scots Guards and why didn't I transfer to the Grenadiers. I thought I would give it a go, did I ask for the Crown Jewells, you would have thought so, but it happened and a Grenadier I became!

So I joined LCpl Pikes Squad, Pike had the reputation of never having a failed Squad. When training started I found out why, being a country farm boy it came as a shock to the system. The Squad passed out with flying colours; this was followed by six weeks weapon training at Pirbright

followed by a fortnight of live firing at Pickering in Yorkshire.

After all the training had finished I was to join No 2 Company of the Second Battalion in Chelsea Barracks. No 2 Company was a Duty Company doing all the main Guards. I was also to take part on the Coronation as part of the Marching Party for the Coronation of her Late Majesty's crowning. The Battalion at this time was well under strength, guard duty came around thick and fast. This was made even more of a challenge



Guardsman Derek Pell.



Guardsman Derek Pell.

when in the winter of 1953 a number of the Battalion were sent to Canvey Island to help with the floods. We arrived at Canvey Island at 4pm, worked all night until 4pm the next day. On our return to Chelsea I found myself back to the hectic routine of guards and on Christmas Day 1953 I found myself on

Spur Guard at the Tower of London.



HM Troopship Empire Halladale, on route to Port Said.

After a lot of Public Duties, Standing Orders showed my name to be attending a course at Pirbright learning to drive a Bren Gun Carrier. I passed this course and found it to be a good move as the Battalion was to be sent to Egypt in 1954 and as a member of Support Company, I was to put my Bren Gun Carriers Course to good use. The Battalion sailed on HM Troopship Empire Halladale, docking at Port Said after a fortnight's journey. We were then to travel by open train to Fayid at the other end of the Suez Canal.



Guardsman Derek Pell.

We were soon to be going on patrol using Bren Gun Carriers taken over from the 3rd Battalion. These Carriers were left over from the Second World War and to say their days were numbered was an understatement!

I remember on this tour receiving orders to move to Port Said with a number of other drivers to collect a number of wheeled Austin Champ vehicles, complete with Rolls Royce engines. I was the driver for the Machine Gun Platoon, towing a small trailer behind for all the kit. These were happy memories for me and happy times as a Grenadier.



Members of Support Company, inclusive of Derek Pell, Bill Fletcher and Charlie Stevens somewhere in Fayed!



Reflections On Rosslea

by Ian Sutton

Looking back into recent history I would like to share some pictures of my service in the Inkerman Coy while on tour on Operation Banner while serving in Northern Ireland. In the Early 80's my platoon was stationed in the small town of Rosslea in County Fermanagh, near the southern border. Please excuse the poor-quality pictures; they were taken decades before mobile phones.



View of Rosslea Town.



View from the front sanger looking down to the Rosslea Arms.



Side of the Rosslea Arms Looking up to Camp.

Apart from protecting the camp our main role was to patrol through rural Northern Ireland. These consisted of two four man (bricks) with a GPMG (gimpy) gunner in each. We departed camp for up to five days either on foot, in land rovers or by helicopter. While out we camped in a wood overnight and were resupplied occasionally by a covert van. Over several days we covered a considerable distance and were certainly a deterrent for terrorist activities.



Unknown Guardsman on patrol.



Rosslea rear sanger – temporary home for several hours.

On one task I was given as a section 2 I/C was to set up an Observation Post near an unofficial border foot crossing point. On reaching the given position, we found it was about 10 feet from a dead, rotting, fly infested sheep. After a request to remove position was refused, we endured 24 hours of the worst smell I have ever experiences that remained on us for several days. I seem to remember only one local crossed the border during that day.

Down time was either personal admin, playing cards or watching TV. We had an original VHS recorder but only one tape that was used over and over again. Often returning from a patrol to watch a recorded program too find it had been taped over. Although it did not seem to be pleasant at the time, several decades later I look back on this tour and realise how we relied on each other and how enjoyable it was.



Transport arriving.



Myself (L/Cpl Sutton), after a five day patrol.



Lost But Not Forgotten

by John Gregory

In 1961 my father, Edward Gregory, passed away aged 46, he had served from 1940 until 1945 throughout World War 2 with the Royal Signals, serving in Africa, Italy, and other parts of Europe. I was only 15 years old when he died. In 1997 my mother passed away aged 82, my parents never discussed with me the events of World War 2.

While clearing out my parent's house following their deaths, I came across my father's war medals, they were wrapped up very neatly in a tin box, and they were in pristine condition. I also came across a very small box, which contained two bibles, common prayer book and a soldier's bible. On opening the soldier's bible, I found the name John Gregory Grenadier Guard No 28381 written in ink, this then started my search for my namesake John Gregory.



The author's uncle, John Gregory, taken around 1916.



The common prayer book and a soldier's bible.

A year later (1998) I moved house to a retirement complex for people over 55 years old. Whilst living there I met a lovely couple Charles and Joyce Yates. The Entertainments Manager Brenda Shannon at the complex is a close friend, and one evening she arranged a world war sing a long in the community lounge, and whilst chatting to Charles I found out that he had been a Grenadier in World War 2 and was Vice President of the Liverpool Branch of the Grenadier Guards Association. I told Charles of how I had discovered the soldier's bible with the name

of John Gregory written inside. Charles introduced both Brenda and me to the Liverpool branch of the Grenadier Guards, and with their help found out lots of information.



Joyce and Charles Yates 2625427.

Private John Gregory was the son of George and Mary Louisa Gregory of 61 Edgeware Street, Edge Hill, Liverpool. John Gregory decided to enrol as a Guardsmen in the Grenadiers Guards and was attested on 16th November 1915, to the Army Reserve, he was 18 years and 5 months old, and was 5' 8" tall. John was mobilized on the 5th of December 1916 and joined at Caterham on 7th December 1916, from there he was deployed to France. Sadly, he died from wounds in Flanders on the 5th of December 1917 age 20, he had survived a year in France in the most horrendous circumstances and his next of kin were notified of his death.

Private John Gregory was Remembered with Honour and is buried in Rocquigny-Equancourt Road, British Cemetery, Manancout. His name is recorded in the roll of honour at the Liverpool Town Hall and at his local church St Mary's, and each year I lay a cross at the church on Remembrance Day in his honour, he will never be forgotten.

We are very fortunate that Charles and Joyce introduced Brenda and myself to the Liverpool Branch of the Grenadier Guards Association, and over the last 8-years we have been on a numerous

of trips with Charles and Joyce and the Association members. They include, Remembrance weekends, (Black Sunday) and I have been privileged to go on World War 1 Battlefield Tour in 2018 and the Operation Market Garden Battlefield Tour 2022.



Charles Yates 2625427 Treasured Medals and Beret.

Charles Yates sadly passed away in 2020. He was a Guardsmen in the 1st Battalion from 1940 to 1945 and served in Europe where he witnessed, the Liberation of Stalag XB at Sandbostel. In April 1945 with his childhood friend and Grenadier Guardsman, George Norris 2624998, their full story was featured in the 2019 Gazette. Joyce also sadly passed away this year they had been married 71 years. We will never forget them.



Charles Yates 2625427 and George Norris 2624998 Two of a Kind.

I am very grateful to the Liverpool branch of the Grenadier Guards Association for all their help over the years and have been made very welcome into the Grenadier Guards family. Meeting Charles, Joyce and friends in the Association has changed both Brenda's and my life.

In conclusion, I found out that I am named after my uncle Guardsmen John Gregory, and I intend to visit my Uncle Johns grave in the future. Thank you for reading the short story.





The British War Memorial at La Ferte.

Annual Visit to Marne

by Peter Brooks

For over a decade, I have visited Marne and laid a wreath on behalf of the Grenadier Guards at the British War Memorial La Ferte. The memorial commemorates 3740 Officers and Soldiers of the British Expeditionary Force that lost their lives in the Battles of Mons, Le Cateau, Marne and Aisne between Aug and Oct 1914. This year's visit took place in September 2022 and I had the pleasure in joining the Royal Fusiliers on their trip to France.

After the First World War the French parliament decided to have a gigantic victory monument, more than a hundred feet high constructed. This memorial is in the memory of the Allied victory at the 1st Battle of Marne which took place between the 5 – 12 September 1914. The monument stands for the courage, suffering and sacrifice of those who fought in the Battle.



The Marne Victory Monument.

I have been enjoying making this trip for the last 12 years and at the age of 86 I am still going strong and hope to continue to attend in the coming years.

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 Kevin Clark, 24 Elderwood Drive, Longwell Green, Bristol

Tel: 01179325244/07970179845

Email: kevinrussellclarke@gmail.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, Riverside Inn, The Shallows, Salford, Bristol. BS31-3EZ.

The Bath Branch meeting routine is Bi Monthly. Meetings are informal and are more of a social evening, but as always our Branch remains upbeat and willing as always in true Grenadier Style. Meeting which you like included then please we hold them on the second Wednesday of that particular month, and like to start at 1930 hrs. However, we gather in the bar at 1900 hrs. As always we offer a warm welcome to all who would like to attend, and there is also a hot buffet provided for enjoyment along with a raffle. Should you wish to join us at any time then please do so, all are very welcome. Branch meetings currently planned for 2023 are as follows: 11 Jan 23, 08 Mar 23 (AGM), 10 May 23, 12 Jul 23, 13 Sep 23 and 08 Nov 23.

This year's annual report of the Bath Branch Grenadier Guards Association starts with a sombre note in that we, like everybody else in the Regiment, the Country, and around the world have been saddened by the passing of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. We as former serving members of the Regiment and members of the Bath Branch Grenadier Guards association, were very proud to have known a truly fantastic person, not only as our Queen, but our Colonel In Chief, and the Colonel of our great Regiment and Patron of our Association. We would also like to pay tribute to the 1st Battalion Grenadier Guards, in the role to which they played on the final journey of Her Majesty The Queen, there are no words which will be able to describe how 'Proud' we are of our fine Battalion and Regiment. The Regiment are congratulated on the key role to which they played in the final tribute, not only on such a magnificent and sad occasion but a truly wonderful farewell to the Queen, which was carried out in the fine traditions and panache of our great Regiment, may Her Majesty rest in peace.

Our Branch report begins in December 2021, where on a cold but Sunny day in Bradford On Avon we held our Christmas Lunch, at the Leigh Park Hotel. A fine afternoon of festive fun was had by all, which entailed fine wines and food, along with a fantastic raffle with many winners. The day culminating in a few festive carols to send our members and guests on their 'Merry way'. We were very lucky to have had



Colonel Richard Aubrey-Fletcher President of the Grenadier Guards Association, addressing the Branch at Christmas Lunch 2021.



Lieutenant Featherston – Godley Addressing Members and Guests at the Christmas Lunch 2021.



Bernice Hanney, receiving her Christmas Gift from Simon ‘Gunnadier’ Tattersall, the Branch Treasurer.



Don Cowan, receiving his Christmas Gift from Vince Dunne, the Branch Chairman.

two guest speakers on this occasion, **Colonel Richard Aubrey-Fletcher** President of the Association and also, **Lieutenant Featherston – Godley**, who gave an update on the activities of the Regiment and Battalion for the year ahead, and insight into the Battalion individual company commitments for 2022. A much enlightening update from both our guest speakers to which we are very thankful for them and their partners in taking the time to join us at this time of the year.

On a rather cold and damp Sunday Morning in December 2021, committee members of the Branch took to the roads of Bath and surrounding area to deliver a little Christmas cheer and a Christmas Gift with a Christmas Card from Regimental Headquarters to members of our Branch. The venture turned out to be quite a tasking and a test of navigational skills were brought into play for committee members when trying to locate the homes of our members, of which many live in rural areas on the outskirts of Bath. When we finally arrived, it was found that a couple of Branch members, were clearly late on ‘Parade’ as they were just getting out of their beds on this particular Sunday morning. The give away clue was they were still in their pyjamas, “you know who you were”, or was it a case we were far too early! Needless to say a long day was had, however it was greatly appreciated by the recipients, and through this article they have asked me to pass on their thanks to the team at Regimental Headquarters for such a kind gesture.

Our Branch President **Major Grant Baker**, has reflected on the Branch year for 2022, and has thanked the current committee, for their individual and group support along with being true stalwarts of the Branch. Not only has he thanked the committee in its Jubilee Year this year, but the many years past since its formation in 1952, in particular since he became President. Also commenting on the support given to him personally and of the Branch, by holding regular meetings in person at the Riverside Inn, or Zoom Meetings. In particular he would like to pay tribute to our Branch Chairman **Vince Dunne**, for his continuous and enthusiastic, energy driven leadership, which knows no bounds.

However, we do recognise that as the years go on, the membership of the branch is getting significantly smaller in numbers. Understandably for many various reasons, and therefore support to participate in activities has dwindled in a downwards trend and is becoming a greater concern as the years go on. In particular for us all at the Bath Branch Grenadier Guards as it leads to question the longevity and continuation of our branch, we know this is not isolated just to us, but a matter we are all aware and concerned about. On a positive note we are looking forward once again to this year's Christmas Lunch and no doubt our committee will ensure a fun filled festive occasion will be had by all.

The welfare of our membership has been the main thought process of our Welfare Officer **Paul ‘Henry’ Cooper** who has written the following

piece, for this years Gazette. March 2021 through to March 2022 has been a busy time both within and outside of our Branch, in particular as we were coming out of Covid 19. Since then we have seen the conflict in Ukraine grow and still a major concern for us all, the world economy has risen to all time new levels of inflation, the appointment of two new Prime Ministers, and the sad loss of **Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II**. All of the above mentioned have had a direct or indirect impact on our members.

Through the Branch communication process and personnal communication to our Branch Members and through the 'off the gate' bi-monthly news letter, we have manage to keep our membership up to date on developments. Not only has this covered matters mentioned above, but significantly what is happening within the Regiment, other Branches, and the never ending scams that our occuring within our areas.

Welfare of the Branch membership is a key discussion point at our Zoom meetings and an agenda point at our bi-monthly meetings, which is greatly appreciated by all our members. The Bath Branch current 'Sick Parade' status is as follows at the time of writing; we have one Branch member awaiting hospital treatment, one at home post surgery and two convalescing. As always we wish them all a speedy recovery. Our current membership stands at Forty Four, which covers life, honorary, and widow membership, as always we welcome all newcomers to our Branch.

Sadly we have lost an ambassordor to our Branch in **John Leach** this year, a truly great Branch member and great friend of many. Branch members attended his funeral on the 15th June 2022 and a fine tribute on his final journey through his service was paid to him. John, will be sadly missed and our thoughts are with his family and we look forward to seeing them again in the not to distant future. Branch members also attended the funeral service of **Ron Carter BEM**, another friend of many and his service at Little Minster in Dorset, was a fine and fitting tribute to a great Grenadier. Ron, will be sadly missed by all that served and knew him.

Andy Davy, our Branch Recruitment Officer has also been busy this last year, Andy has put together a report on his activities. After a very hectic time in

December 2020, including a successful road trip in delivering Cristmas Gifts and our Christmas Lunch, our Chairman once again hit the ground running in January 2022 laying out the Agenda for the year ahead for our committee. Once again the agenda was full of positivity for the 'road map ahead', as the pandemic situation was getting better, we were able to once agin focus on our recruitment. I am pleased to advise that **Edward Clail** and **Richard Hiltion** have joined our Branch, both served with in the Regiment. March came and once again Number 3 Company held its reunion in Brighton too which members of the Branch attended. A jolly affair was had by all, as always it was great to meet up with past comrades in such a great setting, many old tales were told, over a few of the finest of beers in the finest of comapany. Grenadier Day came, where I took the mantle for being the 'Branch Press Gang Officer' in encouraging one and all into sampling the delights of our cider stall. This proved a great way to encourage Branch recruitment. September came and off we went to Bristol and the Support Company Reunion. Again we were welcomed with open arms, and another successful afternoon and evening of reminising was had by all.

In all a tough year, but never the less the energy into maintaining and incresing our Branch Membership continues. This is a function I am proud to facilitate on behalf of the Bath Branch.

Simon Tattersall our branch Treasure has written his memories of the planning an execution of this year's Grenadier Day. As a Branch, we had discussed attending Grenadier Day for the past few years but never actually got on the bus to attend. This year however, a firm decision was made that a contingent would attend, that contingent being the Branch Committee. However, rather than just going, walking round and coming back we needed a plan to keep us there for the whole day. "How about a stand where we sell things?" I heard a committee member say, "what sort of things?" "How about we take some good old Somerset Cider, Just like the Bristol branch used to do, as they are not able to attend this year so we could keep the tradition going!" So the Great Western Cider Express plan was hatched! The Chairman **Vince Dunne**, and myself were tasked with finding a local farm willing to supply us the glorious traditional cider. Many phone calls

and much internet exploring took us to a site that gave good promise of what we were looking for. One fine Sunday morning I found myself in a car with Vince on our way to Wedgemore in Somerset to visit a farm that made traditional 'Scrumpy Cider'. It was a bit worrying as we had to travel down a lane known as Snake Lane, The farmer did warn us that it was a working farm and not to expect any frills. I have to be honest, I was not expecting it to be quite so working and totally frill less!

On arrival, having navigated along Snake Lane, we pulled into the farmyard and parked up. We made our way down some much worn flagstones to what I can only describe as cobweb city! Some of the cobwebs that covered just about everything in sight must have been as old as the farm, if not older, as we entered the very dimly lit barn, we noticed to our right a table with around 6 or 7 people sat already drinking the said Cider. They must have been there a while as their drinking vessels were looking to be on the empty side already! We continued with trepidation to be greeted by the farmer, a very wizened man who, judging by his very red nose, enjoyed the fruits of his labours! He thrust a glass into each of our hands and invited us to help ourselves to some cider to have a taste.

There were four of the largest barrels I have ever seen filled with cider, they must have stood well over 6 foot each and to be as round. You would have a job drinking yourself out of one of those should you have fallen into one. We both gingerly opened the tap on the barrels in turn and took a taste of the golden liquid that flowed from them all whilst under the watchful eyes of the people sat round the table. We duly decided upon which two we would like to purchase and set about asking how much the cost was, and how much we could have. "As much as you want to take" was the farmer's response! You can take it away and bring back what you don't sell and pay me afterwards. He was even able to put it into 20 litre bladders for us and put them in boxes, like you get wine in. He also had plastic containers so we could decant it into 1 litres for people who wanted more than just a glass or two on Grenadier Day. We were both very impressed with all of this and placed our order for 400 litres and set a date to call back to collect the freshly made brew.

On the Friday before Grenadier Day, I went on

my own in the minibus to collect the said Cider; this time navigating the very narrow Snake Lane was a bit more challenging than being in Vince's car, especially when I encountered vehicles coming the other way. However, I made it to the farmyard in one piece and made my way back into the barn to be greeted by the same people sat around the table at 09:00hrs and on the sauce already! They were all keen to help the city boy load up his van with sleeves of plastic containers and boxes of cider, whilst nipping back to the table for a swig of cider to keep them going. Grenadier day on the Saturday morning dawned and we set off on our big day out to Aldershot. On arrival, we set up our stall and were quickly into the swing of things. A couple of people were out front encouraging potential customers to come and try some proper cider, all to the strains of Adge Cutler and his Wurzels banging out their medley of hits! I must admit by about mid-afternoon the sound of "I am a Cider Drinker" was starting to wear a bit thin on my ears! By the end of the afternoon, we were all ready for the journey home; a great day had been had by all. However, for me that was not the end of it. I still had to take the residual cider back to the farm so made the pilgrimage back down Snake Lane. As I entered the yard and wound my way back into the barn you will never guess who was there, yes, they were still all sat round the table swigging their flagons of cider. I swear they had not left since I had been there on Friday! Again, it was all hands-on deck to help me unload the unsold cider and plastic bottles, they made short work of it and were rewarded with a swift top up from the farmer. Despite first impressions, they really were a great bunch, helpful and engaging, a real pleasure to deal with. The experience of preparing and delivering the Grenadier Day cider stall will always stay with me as it was a great team event, and meeting so many different people, not only from the Regiment but in particular the men at the farm was truly a memorable time.

Our Branch Secretary **Kevin Clarke** has put together this report on Grenadier Day. The day started nice and early with the sun shining as we headed to Warminster to collect our fellow comrade **Lieutenant Colonel Jerry Levine MBE** the order of dress was clear a Bumpkin style of shorts,

flat caps and boots whilst Jerry stood proud in Panama hat and shades. We travelled through the glorious West Country, passing Nook camp and then heading onto Salisbury Plain, where the tales of past memories started to flow. Our mini bus was driven by none other than ‘Gunnadier’ **Simon Tattersall** our Branch Treasurer, who funnily enough was wearing earmuffs for some reason known only to him! It was then time for a well-earned stop for a breakfast bap and brew. **Paul ‘Henry’ Cooper** bumped into an old friend who was also travelling down to Grenadier Day, whom he had not seen in years, what a small world. On command from our Chairman, we were soon back on the road and **Nige Till**, kept us entertained with his anecdotes, many a laugh was had on this phase of our journey. Simons driving skills were top gear exemplary and Vinnie as co-pilot kept us up to date with the rugby scores of Ireland and New Zealand YAWN!

Before long Lille Barracks was in our sights and as we passed through security, it was action stations to get set up. The Bath Branch positioned itself under a beautiful big tree of which was adorned with bunting and a flag with Her Majesty that steadily moved with the warm summer breeze. Power was found and **Andy Davy** had soon pumped up the volume that belted out the very best of the Wurzels. **Kevin Clarke** mentioned that Andy could sell ice to an ‘Eskimo’ as he ushered everyone who passed by, to go to our stall and buy West Country Gold as he put it. **Vince Dunne** tried his hand at guiding the punters to us but the cheap shades that he wore had them moving off in the wrong direction. So it was back to pulling the pints for our Chairman.

The Cider flew out and those who passed by with warm cans of lager could not compete because we had brought very own ‘ice baby’. The younger generations came to try their hand at winning a wooden duck in our raffle draw and **‘Spanner’ Spencer** sat himself down under the shade of the tree for a well-earned cigarette break. Our special guest **Nigel Till**, AKA the Provo Sgt from Bad Lads Army, was instructed to go and spread the word that The Bath Branch was selling the best brew in town with ice... Somehow, Nigel was never seen again until the end of the day!

The heat from the sun scorched the earth around

us as Pete, Vinnie, Kevin and Simon continuously sold the Gold under the tree as the ‘Wurzels’ continued to play on their continuous loop. With **Lieutenant Colonel Jerry Levine MBE** doing a changing parade mid-afternoon, he was soon back and accompanied by some rather Senior Officers, who were encouraged to ‘pry’ open their wallets and buy crates of our stock. They say time fly’s when you are having fun but not for our very own Welfare Officer Henry who was melting in the heat, but still smiling. As the haze of the heat shimmered, out of nowhere our very own **Nigel Till**, reappeared, where and what he had been up to we will never know. It was not long however before he was zapping up the hot air to draw in the young Grenadier Guardsman of the Battalion, who were close by; they were overwhelmed to finally meet the man that had led them all the way to the ‘on line recruiting office’. One lucky Corporal walked away with a pair of boots that old, that they would again be the best pair of gleaming double-taped boots on



Bath Branch committee members taking a breakfast break on the kerb side on the A303 prior to Grenadier Day.



Bath Branch committee members and Regimental Cadets in front of the cider stall at Grenadier Day.



Committee members setting up the Branch cider stall on Grenadier Day.

parade. If that was not enough, a young Grenadier Guardsman was given a set of photographs of the man himself, **Nigel Till** in his heyday as a Provost Sergeant in the series *Bad Lads*.

The hours passed by and as the heat continued to beat down, and Grenadier Day ended, the remaining ice was left watering the grass. 'Henry' passed around the remaining left overs of the cider, and Simon was doing his impression of Fagan counting all the money. The van was manoeuvred into position, loaded and we were soon back on the road heading for home, and reflecting on what a great day was had by all. It was a day we were all very proud to be a part of, in particular myself as it was the first time I have been involved and I look very much to being part of the Bath Branch team for next year's Grenadier Day.

The Bath Branch Grenadier Guards, annual report this year has been a team effort by the committee members with individual responsibilities. I would like to thank each one of them for their excellent contributions for inclusion into the 2023 Grenadier Gazette. For my own part as Chairman, it is always a privilege when you represent your Branch and are able to have a strong and committed team in support of the Regimental and Branch agenda, which is delivered in true Grenadier Style. Although this year is our Jubilee Year, the year was slow to start, but as always, the Branch members have risen once again and their spirit shines through and we have been able to finish this year on a high.

Our Last parade this year was the Coombe Down Remembrance Service Parade at the Firs Field Bath, where after a significant amount of behind the scenes activity by Simon Tattersall and myself

we were able to engaged with the Junior School and arrange to have the Children from the school attend a this very important Service of remembrance. In attendance was the **Lady Mayoress of Bath**, the **Bishop Of Bath**, as well as **Lieutenant Colonel Jeremy Levine MBE** who was the Parade Marshall, **Nigel Till** was the Branch Standard Bearer for the parade

Branch members turned out and along with other military personnel on parade, we marched from the school, with children following 'In Step' to the Monument on Firs Field, where the parade took place. **Andy Billett**, read the exhortation, and four Children from the school read the Kohima lines. At the end of the service, we had arranged interaction with our members and the schoolchildren, which went very well, and members were subject to many



Front and Centre Nigel Till, Standard Bearer, Andy Davy and Kevin Clarke, 2nd row Rod Langridge and Simon Tattersall, leading the schoolchildren from there school to the monument on Firs Field at Coombe Down, Bath.



Lieutenant Colonel Jeremy Levine MBE, Parade Marshall and Nigel Till, Standard Bearer, talking to the children at the end of the Remembrance Parade at Firs Field.

questions. At the end of which I presented the school with a plaque on behalf of our Branch to the Head Teacher of Coomb Down Junior School, Mrs Gascoigne.



Vince Dunne, Branch Chairman, Presenting a Plaque to Mrs Gascoigne, Head Teacher of Coomb Down Junior School, after the Remembrance Parade at Firs Field.

I would like to thank Matt Allen, Colin Knight and Veronica and Bruce Baylis, Branch Secretary's in the Western Area Branch's for their continued support to their Branch's it is greatly appreciated. Through this article, my Branch would also like to say a big huge thank you to the team at Regimental Headquarters, under the guidance of our Regimental Adjutant Major James Gatehouse, who as always never fail in supporting us throughout the year. We would also like to say a big thank you to Major Andy Green for the outstanding support he has given not only to the Association but also to our Branch over the last ten years, we will always be appreciative of his contribution. Our Branch would like to welcome Lieutenant Colonel James 'Stumpy' Keeley MBE, our new General Secretary, and wish him all the very best and we are very much looking forward to working with him over the coming years.

Finally a huge thank you goes out to our Branch President, Major Grant Baker, Lieutenant

Colonel Jerry Levine MBE, Paul 'Henry' Cooper

our Welfare Officer, Simon Tattersall our Treasurer and Andy Davy our Recruiting Officer. I am grateful for their support and enthusiasm in ensuring the sustainability and continuity of our Branch is maintained and will continue into 2023, truly, they are a great team of individuals.

Although 2022 has proven to be just as difficult and challenging in many ways as 2021, not only for our branch, but also for the whole of the Regimental Family, the one thing that we continue to take heart from, is that the 'Grenadier Spirit' and the Regimental Family, is still there. With this spirit, we remain strong and continue to march forward in true 'Grenadier Style' and from the Bath Branch Grenadier Guards we ask that you all to take care stay safe and keep smiling.



Take care, stay safe and keep smiling, from our Welfare Officer, Paul 'Henry' Cooper.

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 MH SOMERVELL, MBE; Captain J BUXTON; C SAVAGE, Esq; K JONES, 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 at 1400hrs in March (AGM), June, September & December at the Royal British Legion, 8 Charlton Road, Keynsham, Bristol, BS31 2AZ

2022 saw a degree of normality return to the Bristol Branch as we started holding physical

rather than online meetings, our first meeting at our new home at the Royal British Legion in Keynsham. This first meeting was the Branch AGM, which was held at the end of March; the AGM was well attended and was chaired by the Branch President, **Major General Sir Evelyn Webb-Carter KCVO OBE DL**. At the meeting all Branch Officials were re-elected to their respective roles, these being: **Brian Womack** as Branch Chairman, **Colin Page** as Vice Chairman, **Nick Hayman** as Branch Treasurer, **Keith Jones** as Welfare Coordinator and **Matthew Allen** as Branch Secretary. The Branch Committee were re-elected 'en masse'.

With a further return to normality, we held the Presidents spring lunch in early April, despite our concerns at holding a lunchtime function rather than our traditional evening dinner the event, held at the Bristol Aerospace Workers Association (BAWA) Club in Filton was a huge success with some 75 Branch Members and their guests having booked to attend. Unfortunately, during the days leading up to the event 18 of this number had to cancel for a number of reasons, the main reason being Covid related, with some of our number or their partners having tested positive. All those that had to cancel were offered a full refund by the Branch Committee. Due to the success of the lunch, we will be returning to the BAWA Club, which is a fantastic venue, again in April 2023.

In an attempt to encourage more of our members to attend meetings we have started holding social meetings rather than Branch Committee meetings, with our first such venture being a Sunday lunch which was held in mid-August at The Masons Arms. A very accommodating venue conveniently situated on the A38 at Thornbury, The Masons Arms seated 16 Branch members and their partners at this event and due to its success, we returned to the same venue in mid-December for a Branch Christmas lunch, which was attended by 18 of our members. It is the intention of the Branch Committee to continue holding social meetings and anyone wishing to join us should contact the Branch Secretary for details of forthcoming events.

Regrettably, we were unable to muster sufficient support to attend, as a Branch, both Regimental Remembrance Day and Grenadier Day although

some of our members did make their own way to these events. Our absence from Grenadier Day is particularly disappointing as this was the first time the Bristol Branch Cider Stall had not been on parade for many years, we hope to be in a position to attend Grenadier Day in 2023.

Sadly, in August 2022 we reported the death of our long standing Branch Member **23252426 Stan Tucker** who passed away in hospital in Portsmouth. Stan and his Wife Dorothy had been good supporters of the Bristol Branch over the years and despite living in South Cornwall and more recently in Portsmouth were regular attendees at our dinners.

DERBY

(Formed 1914)

President: VACANT

Vice-Presidents: VACANT

Chairman: Mr G GADSBY

Secretary: Mr I SUTTON, 43 Bullhurst Lane, Weston, Underwood, Ashbourne, Derbyshire, DE6 4PA

Tel: 07961170644

Email: ijdutton@icloud.com

Treasurer: Mrs H SUTTON

Meetings: Held every Quarter on the third Wednesday in January, April, July, October at 1300hrs at The Argosy, Manor Road, Little Over, Derby, DE22 3HZ.

The Derby Branch, like many, is shrinking in numbers as each year passes. We hold a meeting each quarter at lunchtime and welcome any Grenadiers or those who have served in the Household Division. The 'get together's' are informal and partners are welcome. I have now been Secretary of the Branch for over 20 years, far longer than I served in the Regiment. During this period, I have said a final farewell to many Grenadiers parading for the last time. For me personally to represent the Association comforts the bereaving families and every eulogy I have heard has expressed pride of their service as a Grenadier. My fear is that in future with the reducing numbers, as an association we will not be able to continue to comfort bereaved families.

We accompanied the Nottingham Branch and

attended Black Sunday in May. An historical event, as it was to be the last under our beloved Colonel in Chief who has served as our leader for so many decades. The sadness of Her Majesty's passing is especially deep for the Grenadiers that have presented arms or given an eyes-right, a salute or the honour to have shaken her hand. We now look forward to serving under our new monarch, King Charles III, and our best wishes go with him for the future.

On behalf of the Derby Branch I wish all serving and past Grenadiers the best for the future.

EAST KENT

(Formed 1948)

President: Major D BRADLEY, BEM, DL

Vice Presidents: 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

In accordance with the brief from Regimental Headquarters, our reporting period commences in November, so we start with our attendance at the Remembrance Sunday Parade on 14 November 2021. This was the first such parade since the relaxation of Covid restrictions and the event was very well attended by local townsfolk and organisations.

Bob Goodson (Honorary Secretary), **Bob Barron**, **Norman Silvester** and **Trevor Jones MBE** were our Grenadier members



Bob Goodson with the Branch Banner.

on parade for the East Kent Branch. In addition, our Branch President/Chairman, **Major (Ret'd) Dennis Bradley BEM DL**, was present in his Deputy Lieutenant role and several of our Associate members were also present in their various roles with the Hythe and Saltwood Branch of the Royal British Legion or with Hythe Town Council. A role reversal this year saw **Trevor Jones MBE** lay the Branch wreath and **Bob Goodson** carried the Branch Banner.



Major Dennis Bradley BEM DL laying a wreath on behalf of the Lieutenancy of Kent.



Banners being lowered.



Major Bradley BEM DL saluting after laying the wreath.



Trevor Jones MBE laying a wreath on behalf of the East Kent Branch.

November 2021 saw our final Branch meeting of the year and we are pleased to advise that our Webmaster resolved issues with getting a Broadband connection in the room in which we hold our meetings. We were therefore able to hold our meeting both in person and virtually over Zoom.

Towards the end of our report in the 2022 edition of the Grenadier Gazette, we advised that we were to hold our Sunday luncheons at the Masonic Hall, Hythe. We can advise that these have been first class, that the food has been delicious and we have had good attendance from Branch members, their ladies, families and friends, plus the many ‘friends of the Branch’ who do so much to support us. As ever, we are most grateful to **Joe Moran** (Associate Member) for organising them on our behalf. We also advised that Branch members had agreed that any profit realised from these after luncheon raffles would be donated to The Colonel’s Fund (Grenadier Guards) to help support the excellent work that the charity does. More on that, later in this report.

Our Christmas Function was held at the Masonic Hall, Hythe on Saturday 11 December 2021 and we had **Jonathan Stephens** to entertain us. **Jonathan** is a talented entertainer who sang and performed a variety of songs from the 50’s/60’s/70’s and 80’s. He has entertained in many clubs, music theatres and on stages in the U.K. and abroad, has appeared on TV and is an international recording artist. His extensive repertoire covers Country, Ballads, Rock n’ Roll, Latin, African, Jazz, Calypso and popular tunes.

Bob and Sue Goodson made an impromptu

appearance dressed as a Snowman and a Christmas Tree. Members and Friends of the Branch had no idea who it was that was jiving in front of them and it gave everyone a great laugh and got the evening off to a great start. The Christmas Function has historically raised funds for Branch Funds, but the planning committee took the decision to make this year’s event as affordable as possible and we therefore ran at near break-even. It was also the first Christmas Function we have been able to hold in two years, so providing an affordable, fun and enjoyable evening, for those that attended, was our priority.



Jonathan Stevens (Entertainment).



Snowman and Christmas Tree (Bob and Sue Goodson).



The buffet and catering staff.



On Tuesday 14 June 2022, **Trevor Jones MBE, Bob Goodson, Major Dennis Bradley BEM DL**, plus three of our Associate Members (**Joe Moran, Ian Bell, and Councillor Major Keith Miles**) were on parade at Hythe War Memorial for a service to commemorate the end of the Falklands campaign, some 40 years ago. The Royal British Legion, Hythe and Saltwood Branch, invited all



Trevor Jones MBE – Branch Banner Bearer.



Branch Members with the new Right Worshipful Mayor of Hythe.

parade participants back to the Hythe Sports & Social Club for refreshments afterwards.

Members paraded on Armed Forces Day (25 June 2022), where a service was held at the Hythe War Memorial. We then marched along the High Street and gave a salute to VIPs at the Town Hall.

Several of our members were able to independently

attend Grenadier Day and reported that they had a great day at Lille Barracks, Aldershot.

Our Annual dinner was planned to occur on Saturday 10 September 2022, but had to be postponed until Saturday 19 November 2022 following the sad death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. The decision to postpone was taken just a day before the dinner was to be held, but other than the loss of some of the cost of the flowers that the florist couldn't resell, no additional charges were raised by our caterer or the entertainment, who we immediately rebooked for the rescheduled date. We will report on the November 2022 dinner in our next reporting year.

The Honorary Secretary and his wife (Sue) attended the Battlefield Tour that Regimental Headquarters organised for 12 to 17 September 2022. They were privileged to be invited to be part of the three person team to lay a wreath at the Menin Gate ceremony on the first night of the trip. Forever, the team will be able to say that they were the first Grenadier team to do so in the reign of King Charles III.



Wreath laying at the Menin Gate.

As 2022 was the Platinum Jubilee that celebrated Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II's seventy years on the British throne, the Branch committee wanted to do something special in celebration and to appropriately mark this historic occasion in our area of the United Kingdom. We therefore investigated an opportunity to hold a Band and Choir Concert at the Leas Cliff Hall, Folkestone, Kent. This was coupled with an opportunity for the Band to march the pedestrianised section of the High Street in Hythe, Kent earlier that afternoon and to give a short, but free, concert to the public who lined the High Street from top to bottom.

Our planning enquiry approach started at the end of 2021 and by the end of January 2022, we had held an initial planning meeting with the Director of Music of the Band of the Grenadier Guards (**Captain Ben Mason**) and **Sergeant**

Gavin Hall (Regimental Band). We were also able to utilise their visit to speak with staff at the Leas Cliff Hall to establish a potential date (Saturday 14 October 2022) and to identify opportunities at that venue. All looked favourable, so a formal Request for Service Band Musical Support (JSP 813 – Ch 2 – Enclosure 2) was sent to Army Music Tasking Authority (AMTA) for their consideration, and by 04 July 2022 we had their written authority to proceed.

The Branch planning committee approached Folkestone and Hythe District Council for a ‘free-use day’ of the venue and they were most helpful and supportive. This action saved us nearly £3000 on the cost of hosting a concert at the Leas Cliff Hall. For the parade in Hythe High Street, we were also greatly supported by Hythe Town Council and their Town Clerk wrote to all local Primary schools to see if the heads could arrange for at least some of their pupils to come and witness this rare event; which we were last able to stage in 2013.

A sponsor was found to provide funding to purchase 400 Union hand-waving flags, which we planned to give to the attending school children. However, after doing further research because the cost of these flags had risen steeply, we purchased 1040 from another company for roughly the sponsorship amount. Thank God for Amazon.co.uk!

We were privileged to have been provided with support from Nijmegen Company, who supplied us with the services of **LSgt Abdul Turay**, **Guardsmen Deisal Jordan**, **Bradley Humpheries**, **Declan Patton**, **Harvey Pollard** and **Joseph Bennett**. They did a fantastic job and we received many comments from the public saying how nice it was that the Guardsmen came and spoke with them. Their presence was much appreciated and we hope they too enjoyed the day.

Pleasingly, local Primary schools responded to the invitation sent by the Hythe Town Clerk, and they arranged the attendance of 300+ of their pupils. Additionally there were also other children that were brought along by other organisations. Each of the Primary schools were given sufficient union hand-waving flags so that each child was able to have one, and we are hopeful that all other children that attended were handed one in the High Street. As we were able to purchase a great number of flags, we therefore also provided the flags to adults in the crowd; but waved a collection bucket under their noses and invited them to make a donation towards our fundraising efforts. Pleasingly, this worked well and a goodly sum was amassed.

Following the death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II we felt that the Platinum Jubilee Parade title that, in late 2021 had been chosen for the parade and the Jubilation, was now not appropriate. We renamed the parade ‘Grenadier Guards Parade’ and renamed the concert as ‘In Concert’. Following the State Funeral, and with only weeks to go, we set about completing final preparations for the night.

The Band Concert was supplemented by the Military Wives Choir Shorncliffe, who celebrated its 10th anniversary, having formed in 2012 as part of the Military Wives Choirs network across the UK, Cyprus, Germany, and wherever our forces are



Band of the Grenadier Guards (Hythe).



Major Dennis Bradley BEM DL briefing some of the Guardsmen from Nijmegen Company.



A section of the crowd for the Grenadier Guards Parade.



Band of the Grenadier Guards (Leas Cliff Hall).



Military Wives Choir Shorncliffe.

currently based. In addition to supporting local events and remembrance activities, the choir has enjoyed performances at St James's Palace, Canterbury Cathedral, Cadogan Hall, and at the Last Post Ceremony at the Menin Gate, Ypres, and some members were privileged to sing at the Carnegie Hall in New York. Under the guidance of their Musical Director, **Sonia Price**, the ladies meet weekly to support one another through friendship and a shared love of singing.

As ever, the Band of the Grenadier Guards and the Military Wives Choir Shorncliffe were on terrific form and a superb concert was given.

We were also able to attract further sponsorship towards the cost of transporting and feeding the band and are most grateful to all our sponsors for their support with these expensive elements. Many photographs of the Grenadier Guards Parade and the 'In Concert' event were taken by our 'official photographers', these were freely made available to anyone that wanted to see them. Kindly hosted by **GrenadierComputing.co.uk** these pictures can be seen at <https://grenadier.cloud>

Profit from the concert was distributed between the Colonel's Fund Grenadier Guards, the Military Wives Choir Shorncliffe and the East Kent Branch Grenadier Guards Association; the later two organisations being local organisations that satisfied the criteria that Folkestone & Hythe District Council have on 'free-use days'. Additionally, we are pleased to report, that the profit from our six after meeting luncheon raffles, that we held between November 2021 and October 2022, was also donated to The Colonel's Fund, an additional £232.54. Profit made on the November after-luncheon raffle was also donated before year end 2022, thereby increasing that sum further. That November month is within the financial year, but outside of the reporting year for this Branch report, so the additional amount is not recorded here.

The whole day was fantastic and, perhaps unsurprisingly, we received compliments from attendees for days after the event, got rave reviews in local press articles and on Social Media posts.

More work has been given to the Branch website this year (www.ekb.org.uk). We have added a Blog page, and reorganised the layout of the menu and several of the pages. Through our website, we often

get contact from friends or relatives of Grenadiers who have passed on. Rarely are the deceased registered as members of the Association, but we do what we can to support them and will put them in contact with the relevant Branch for further assistance, when the deceased or the funeral are not in our immediate membership catchment area.

Pleasingly, we recruited two new members this year. These are 24125233 **John H Cook** (known to many simply as JC) and 24731316 **Fraser Wildman** (known to many simply as 'Crazy'). It is great to welcome them to our small Branch of our Association, and we look forward to having them as members for many years to come.

Sadly, we end our report by advising that during the course of this reporting period the following Branch members and one of our Branch widows have died:

- 22817367 **William Thomas George Silk** (Coldm Gds (an Associate Member)), better known to his friends as **Bill**, died on 08 April 2022, aged 86
- **Sheila Hannah Balderstone**, the widow of the late **Harry Balderstone** (Gren Gds), died on 03 May 2022, aged 88
- 22213767 **Peter Rogers** (Gren Gds), died on 06 May 2022, aged 88
- 22545771 **George Albert Mills** (Gren Gds), died on 21 August 2022, aged 87
- 22213898 **Alan Evan Thomas Jones** (Gren Gds), died on 03 October 2022, aged 89
- 23862398 **Michael Stanley Ritter Durup** (Army Medical Corps (an Associate Member)), died on 26 October 2022, aged 86.

GLOUCESTERSHIRE

(Formed 1949)

President: Colonel LCA RANSON, TD

Vice Presidents: Captain GL BANKS; Sir H ELWES, KCVO; WJ EYKYN Esq; Captain A FERGUSON-CUNINGHAME; DAE GEORGE Esq; Captain EC GORDON LENNOX; Lieutenant General Sir JOHN KISLEY KCB, MC, DL; Charles MALET Esq; Major S MARCHAM MBE; Lieutenant Colonel JG PEEL TD DL; Captain JGL PUGH; Colonel GW TUFNELL CVO DL; Major General Sir EVELYN WEBB-CARTER KCVO OBE DL; Major THE LORD ANDREW WIGRAM MVO

Chairman: Mr D 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 thirty eighth annual report with **Colin Knight** as Branch Secretary; he is indeed a glutton for punishment or perhaps a very foolish man. As this report is written in November, as instructed by RHQ, the report for the year commences from the 1st November 2021. Reaching into the modern age, we start with "As keyboard and computer are switched on to Word Mode". One wonders what there is to write about, as many branch events for the start of the year, like all other branches, had to be cancelled or postponed due to the current ongoing pandemic.

The Nominal Roll holds well, although, unfortunately it is now showing advanced signs of an ageing membership. The advent of communications via the internet is credited for the branch remaining relative strong and active as the branch endeavours to make full use of technology. We are indeed extremely fortunate to have an excellent assortment of Associate and Honorary members not forgetting the widows who support the branch well.

Note in the heading (The Gloucestershire Guards

Association), back in 2016 the branch adopted this subtitle to reflect the number of members we already have from across the Household Division and to encourage closer cooperation with other County Military Associations in the future. Perhaps eventually, all branches will adopt in their title 'Guards Association'

Our Annual Christmas Social at the Cheltenham Victory Club in 2021 went ahead as planned, a fine occasion, unfortunately with a lower attendance than previous years. People were still wary of attending functions! Twenty cheques were sent with a Regimental Christmas Card to our more senior members also to those unfortunately not experiencing the best of times. Thanks, must go to the Social Secretary **Graham Barton** for being the Promoter of a successful Christmas lottery. Every year fingers are crossed that sales might not fall; however, it is pleasing to report that, yet again, together with the Fifty Club which holds four draws per year, sales and proceeds have held well

although slightly down. **Graham** is determined in this field as always.

March was to be the month of the Annual General Meeting Members were to be informed that their branch was in good form both financially, and interest shown. However due to the lockdown imposed the meeting was cancelled. Unfortunately for the first time, we believe, in the past sixty years we did not run a coach to Regimental Remembrance Day or Grenadier Day. The main reason for this is the now extortionate cost for coach hire together with an ageing membership.

After an absence of two years due to the ongoing pandemic we returned once more, by kind invitation of **Colonel John Peel**, to Dudgrove for our Garden Party. **Ivor Jones** together with **Derek Dean**, yet once more practised their skills on the barbecue. A free bar was on hand together with entertainment from the Chedworth Silver Band. Guess what; yet again the weather was more than kind. For just ten pounds, members and their respective guests had



Gloucestershire Branch members and their guests enjoying the glorious sunshine at a Garden Party at Dudgrove, the home of Colonel John Peel.

either a steak, salmon or a chicken meal with all the accompaniments, plus a dessert. The venue, meal, bar, entertainment all for just ten pounds, oh, nearly forget there was also sandwiches and cake served for a teatime snack.

On a very positive note. In July we held an event to celebrate the Platinum Jubilee of the Late Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. Try this for a day out; welcome drink, alcoholic or otherwise, on each table were fresh flowers, Thornton's Chocolates, free gift, free raffle ticket also all three shades bottles of wine replaced each time one was emptied. A top class three-course meal followed by the traditional coffee or tea. The afternoon continued with a short film show depicting the life on Her Majesty, this had been put together from a series of discs on the subject. Following this was patriotic community singing; the good old traditional favourites ending with, yes you have guessed it, 'We'll meet again'. Recorded music was on hand to accompany the singing. Following this was a couple of recordings of Winston Churchill famous speeches. **John Welch** (Coldstream Guards), a retired professional after dinner speaker gave an address which was very well received by one and all. A break then for fresh strawberries and cream to be served followed by a couple of live musicians on stage playing long established favourites. At the conclusion, there were no complaints, as the only charge made for members and their guests for everything was just ten pounds. We were unfortunate to have had a couple of very late cancellations, if it were not for this we had achieved a full house.

September saw a respectable group of members enjoying a day out on the Gloucestershire Warwickshire Heritage Steam Railway. Lunch taken at the aptly named Flag and Whistle restaurant at Toddington Station. The weather forecast was dismal to say the least; however, the sun brightly shone throughout most of the day. This was obviously arranged with him upstairs by **Derek Knott** who had made all the arrangements for us.

October was the month for our Annual President's Formal Luncheon at the Hatherley Manor Hotel. Pleased to report a respectable turn out with the hotel giving us, this time, faultless service and cuisine. We were indeed fortunate to

have with us from the regiment **Colonel Piers Ashfield DSO, MBE**, together with his wife Morag, representing the regiment. **Lieutenant Colonel Guy Denison-Smith** who attended with his wife Lucinda and gave an excellent account of his recent adventure down the Yukon River. Their son, **Archie Denison-Smith**, not long out of Sandhurst and serving with the regiment, was also with us to enjoy the occasion.



The Presidents Lunch, Hatherley Manor Hotel, 16 October 2022.



The Musketeers, or the Three Colonels! Lieutenant Colonel Guy Denison Smith, Colonel Lance Ranson and Colonel Piers Ashfield.

The annual Remembrance Service parade at Winchcombe, which for some years has been led by our President **Colonel Lance Ranson**, took place on Sunday 13 November 2022. The turn out from the local populace for the parade and service at the Cenotaph is always very good. It is indeed an honour and pleasure to parade through clapping townfolk of all ages. **John Welch**, Coldstream

Guards, kindly invited members in attendance to his home afterwards for a light lunch and suitable beverage; thank you John. Another Coldstream branch member, **Russell Parker**, was Parade Marshall.

The branch can pride itself, for yet another year, with regards to welfare support and despite being without an appointed Welfare Officer, members, when asked, have rallied round and undertaken visits. There are members unfortunately languishing in Care Homes, as we all know, visits were and in some cases are still strictly limited. Many of the ladies have been personally given or sent bouquets of flowers by inter flora. Not forsaken, a few bottles of the hard stuff for the chaps or if more convenient, a Marks & Spencer's voucher. To conclude the year 2022, it is most satisfying to report, that already, we have achieved a 'Sell Out' for our annual Christmas Social.

The branch believes that it is the only branch sending Birthday Cards to every member to whom a date of birth is recorded, the majority. The scheme is now in its fourteenth year is well received by the membership and is ran by **Roy Claridge** (Welsh Guards). Thank you Roy for ensuring the well running of this initiative which is much appreciated by so many members. Those without e-mail have had three newsletters sent to them by snail mail during the past twelve months. Keeping in regular touch with the entire membership, the committee believe to be one of the main ingredients for the continued success of the branch.

It is firmly believed that by having a strong Nominal Roll, albeit that it includes Associate, Honorary and Widows, enables the branch to have a marketing list to ensure that, from time to time, functions arranged can be confident of support. This is of course in normal times as has not been the case for the past couple of years. The committee have always been ready to help when asked. It is the teamwork, enthusiasm and variety of ideas, together with an open mind, that maintains the camaraderie. They are indeed the backbone of this successful branch.

Looking forward to 2023, apart from our Annual General Meeting which will be held in March we have decided to dispel with the bi-monthly meetings. The plan is for the spring, summer and

autumn months to hold a gathering at various locations North, East, South and West in the county. The idea is to keep the spirit of the branch alive allowing members the opportunity to get together on a monthly basis. It is intended to use local public houses who host restaurant facilities. We imagine that by now you have guessed the plan, date and location is circulated, members turn up and are briefed on anything Grenadier together with any other item of branch interest. This can be done while drinking a cup of coffee or something more potent. Lunch will be available to those wishing to avail themselves of this opportunity. It is now fingers crossed to see how it will pan out once started. To make meetings more interesting the committee will endeavour, from time to time, to get a guest speaker, which helps to hold the interest in members attending. Subjects covered in the past have been interesting and varied.

The branch has a presence on Facebook, monitored by the 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**, Branch President, as always, is continually active giving the branch strong support throughout the year. The branch members would like to thank him for his continued leadership and guidance as President. It can be assured that the branch is looking forward to the challenges ahead and is confident to suggest that there may be many for the year 2023 'He who dares wins'".

The report is concluded by thanking **Lieutenant Colonel 'Stumpy' Keeley MBE** for taking the reins at RHQ I believe at short notice together with the small staff at Regimental Headquarters. Not forgetting **Lance Sergeant Glen Davis** who took over from **Rob Brooms**, all very dedicated to keeping the spirit of the Association very much alive, despite the ongoing difficulties, as the Gloucestershire Branch will continually endeavour to strive for.

Remembering Captain Robert Nairac G.C.

*by Colonel Lance Ranson TD VR
President, Grenadier Guards Association
Gloucestershire Branch*

Each year the Royal Society of St George Gloucestershire Branch present youth awards in the name of Captain Robert Nairac G.C. at their St George's Day Service in Gloucester. Captain Nairac was from Standish in Gloucestershire and was Commissioned into the Second Battalion Grenadier Guards in January 1973. In 1977, during his second tour of duty in Northern Ireland, he disappeared. It later transpired that he had been abducted, tortured and murdered by Irish terrorists. One of his killers said in his statement to the Garda "He never told us anything. He was a great soldier." He was 28 when he disappeared and his body has never been found. In February 1979 it was announced that Her Majesty the

Queen had approved the posthumous award of the George Cross, the highest honour for gallantry in peacetime, to Captain Nairac.

At the annual St George's Day Service the Nairac G.C. March, written by Lieutenant Colonel S. A. Watts OBE is played, which was first performed at H.M. The Queen's Birthday Parade in 1991. The youth awards are then presented by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant for Gloucestershire Mr Edward Gillespie OBE to two individuals or youth groups which have demonstrated some of the qualities and character which Captain Nairac epitomised. The Service is always attended by members of the Grenadier Guards Association Gloucestershire Branch and Captain Nairac's two sisters have also attended to see the awards presented in their brother's memory.

Citations read by Mrs Pat Ayres MBE on 23 April 2022 for Nairac Youth Awards:

On behalf of The Royal Society of St George (Gloucestershire Branch), I am delighted as Branch Chair to introduce this year's Nairac Youth Awards named in memory of Captain Robert Nairac GC which are presented by Edward Gillespie OBE, DL, Lord Lieutenant of Gloucestershire.

We did not have a nomination for the Group Award this year. However, all the nominations we received for the Individual Award were excellent and once again it was an extremely difficult decision to select a winner. Eventually, we decided to give two Individual Awards for 2022.

ANNABEL SYKES is a pupil of St. Edward's School, Charlton Kings, and was nominated by the Principal, Matthew Burke. She is currently studying for her A Levels and aiming to read Modern Languages at University. She plays a very active role in school, including belonging to school choirs and coaching members of the Public Speaking Team. She is also a House Captain. As leader of the Principal's Outreach Club Annabel began organising a Christmas Lunch in the school dining room for about 100, including people who



Captain Nairac.

would be alone over the festive period. When Covid meant it had to be cancelled, Annabel brought together the school community to create hampers which were distributed to local nursing and residential homes. Annabel also organised students to make Christmas themed decorations for the Gloucestershire Hospital Foundation Trust. Outside school she has a very busy life with dance and performance activities.

The nomination included testimonials from her teachers and thank you messages from care homes and Gloucestershire Hospitals. Mr. Burke said Annabel epitomises the hallmarks of St. Edward's – service and community – whilst still keeping up to date with her studies.

Annabel will donate her Award money to Gloucestershire Action for Refugees and Asylum Seekers.



POLICE CADET HARRY CLARKE was nominated by Martyn Garrett, Police Cadet Coordinator. Harry was cycling in Tuffley with two female friends when an adult male approached him and asked whether either girl was his girlfriend. When Harry answered 'no', the male then asked one of them

for her number, becoming agitated and aggressive and displaying threatening behaviour. Despite Harry not knowing if the male had a weapon, he managed to stay calm, hinting to one of the girls to call the police. After about five minutes of continuing threats of physical harm from the adult male, a resident appeared in his garden. The adult male then stepped back and Harry took out his own phone but unfortunately the adult male then snatched Harry's phone and refused to return it, even with the intervention of the resident, and ran off. Other residents had appeared, having heard the commotion, and Harry and two other males gave chase to the aggressor. They managed to catch up and restrain him with difficulty until the police arrived.

Harry was very shaken by this event, understandably, but by keeping calm and acting in a mature and responsible manner, he was able to protect himself and his two friends. Harry clearly demonstrated the courage and selfless qualities epitomised by Captain Nairac, after whom these Awards are named.

Harry is donating his Award money to Victim Support.



KINGSTON & DISTRICT

(Formed 1935)

President: Brigadier GK BIBBY, CBE

Vice Presidents: Major (QM) DR ROSSI, MBE

Chairman: VACANT

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

Kingston & District Branch had still struggled on despite a diminishing membership and an ageing population. Attendance at branch meetings was a cause for some concern but the branch usually managed a fair turnout at branch functions, Regimental Remembrance Day, and Grenadier Day. On the plus side this year there had been no losses from the membership.

On 21st November 2021 members friends and families met for lunch at, what had become a regular venue, the Inn on The Lake at Silvermere Golf Complex, Cobham. It was wonderful to get together again following all the constraints imposed by the covid restrictions.

Branch members, friends and family made a good showing at Grenadier Day on 16 July 2022 with thirteen in attendance. This had been a long time in the preparation, which commenced after the last Grenadier Day pre- pandemic with Liz Howell starting to accumulate stock.

The day proved to be a very busy and very successful. First to arrive were **John Knight** and **Debbie Evers** who started proceedings by erecting the gazebo. Much of that work was completed by the time **Liz Howell** and **Ian Henderson** joined them to complete the process and start setting out the tombola items.

Whilst stocking-up was in progress **Helen** and **David Hollaway** assisted by adding some embellishments to the facade.

With most of the initial work completed **Doreen Hollaway** arrived to begin her inspection and give



Liz Howell and Debbie Evers begin setting out the stock.



Helen and David Hollaway, decorating the stall.

her approval.

Once all was completed there was time to take a breather. One of the side walls of the gazebo was temporarily draped over the tables to protect vulnerable stock from the hot sun.

Fall in was sounded and the detail was stood at ease before a busy day commenced. Once trading started, **Helen Hollaway** also joined the sales detail.



Duncan, Alison and Hilary Taylor taking an aperitif before lunch.

A queue of customers had formed before trading began and the stall enjoyed a brisk trade all day. By about 1600hrs the stall had sold out. (That was even after some furious ticketing of spare stock to satisfy those still queueing).

Members friends and families met again for lunch at the Inn on The Lake on 17th July 2022 for lunch completing a Grenadier weekend.

It is impossible to know how we will fare for another year but Branch members look forward to whatever the year holds in store.

LEICESTERSHIRE & RUTLAND

(Formed 1927)

President: Mr R JONES, Esq

Vice Presidents: SIR JOHN CONANT, Bt; Captain RT CONSTABLE-MAXWELL; RE JONES, Esq; D TREDINNICK, MP; J MORREY Esq.

Chairman: Mr J COWLEY Esq.

Vice Chairman: Mr J MORREY Esq.

Secretary: Mr P HALES

Tel: (0116) 229 9004

Email: halespete@yahoo.com

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)

It has been quite a busy year for the Leicestershire and Rutland Branch which although small in number keeps ticking along. Our Branch meetings have been well attended and our numbers have been bolstered by members of the Parachute Regiment Association, whose own meetings stopped due to lack of numbers. As we have our Sunday lunch the banter is flying and generally a great time is had by all.

Our Chairman **John Cowley** has also had several Garden parties through the summer, one such event was after he held a "sleep rough" event for the local British Legion, where quite a few Legion members slept out in sleeping bags for the night. A bonfire was lit and the lamp was swung throughout the night. Some intrepid members of the branch, our Social Secretary **Kitty**, Her

Partner **Andy** and our photographer **Tony** took part, however couldn't understand why they were accused of cheating as they slept in **Johns** Caravan and not under the stars!

John Cowley has now stepped down as chairman of Whitwick Branch of The British Legion but seems more involved than ever! We had a full bus for Black Sunday, with both Association and Legion members travelling to London to pay their respects.

Pete Hales attended The Sergeants Mess Past and Present Dinner, on which he reports, was a fantastic event, he even managed to carry on the motion the following day at Grenadier Day. Again reporting back that it was a great event and more must try to attend next year.

As with all Grenadiers the Branch were deeply saddened by the passing of **Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II**. Many comments were passed about the excellent standards of all involved in the funeral but especially all Grenadiers. Remembrance weekend was well attended by Grenadiers across the county, and we even managed to recruit some new members whilst attending the parades. The year was completed with a wonderful Christmas lunch at the Club, loyal toasts were made by the President and a great time was had by all.

Another Year over and still going, a couple of new members have been enticed along, and we are still eagerly encouraging Grenadiers young and old to come along and join us. Anyone ever in the Leicestershire area is always welcome to our Sunday lunches generally held every 2nd Sunday of the Month.



LINCOLN

(Formed 1923)

President: Major D BRADLEY, BEM, DL

Vice Presidents: Mr A HILL, Major I FARRELL Mr JD MARSHALL, Mrs A MARSHALL

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

A quiet year again for the branch with just our monthly meetings. However, in December we held a Christmas lunch, which was well attended and enjoyed by all those present.

The following is a message from our Branch President **Major Dennis Bradley BEM DL**.

“During my service days and especially since being Recruiting Sergeant in Lincoln, I have always had close links with the branch and have had the distinct honour and privilege to be the President of the Lincoln Branch of the Association since 2000. During which time I have been extremely well supported by two kind, determined and hardworking members, **Joe Marshall** as Chairman and **Anne Marshall** as Secretary.

Their attention to detail, along with a strong bias to the welfare of branch members has ensured that we have achieved some very successful Branch Dinners, Regimental Band Concerts in Lincoln Cathedral, along with maintaining a strong link to Lincoln City Council.

I originate from Lincoln, know how the people of the city respect our Freedom of the City, and show respect for our Guardsmen, NCO's and Officers who originate from Lincolnshire. This would not be so positive and public without the work of **Joe and Anne**.

Next year the Branch will celebrate its hundredth anniversary, more work for Joe and Anne. All the aforementioned cannot be taken for granted and must be acknowledged. I have therefore made them both Vice Presidents of the Branch in recognition

of their commitment to the Lincoln Branch and the Regimental Association”.

The branch is very honoured to have **Andy Hill** as a Vice President, he is also a member of The Kings Bodyguard of the Yeoman of the Guard, (not to be confused with Yeoman Warders at the Tower of London). Their Headquarters are in St James Palace and were established in 1485. **Andy** had the great honour of standing vigil in Westminster Hall during the lying in state of Her Late Majesty The Queen.



Andy Hill in Westminster Hall.

In respect of the Centenary Dinner, as mentioned by the Branch President, the secretary has booked this for 14th October 2023 and will be held at the Bentley Hotel, Lincoln. We would love to welcome guests from other branches of the Association and family and friends are all welcome to attend. The branch will be subsidising the costs for this and full details will be available in April 2023. If interested, please let the secretary know and she will be happy to send out the details to you when available.

We continue to meet in the café at Pennells Garden Centre on the third Tuesday of each month commencing at approximately 11am.

Sadly, we have lost several members during the last year: **23671228 Fullbrook R, 23252992 Barrett T C, 22545461 Holmes G T, 23969990 Gardiner R P, 23879920 Madden B H, 24009715 Wheeler S L, 2627801 Willoughby D O.** We will remember them.

LIVERPOOL

(Formed 1920)

President: THE EARL OF DERBY, EDWARD DL,

Vice Presidents: Mr C YATES; Mr G HUGHES

Chairman: Mr R THOMSON

Secretary: Mrs L JONES

Tel: (0151) 652 4029/07912846197

Email: linda.jones@meyeruk.com

Treasurer: Mrs L JONES

Meetings: Held on the last Thursday of each month, except August and December, at 2000hrs, at the Premier Inn, Vernon Street, Liverpool, L2 2AY

Facebook: Grenadier Guards Association – Liverpool Branch

The last year has been a bumpy ride for our branch. Our dedicated Secretary, **Julie Champion**, had to suddenly step away from her role as Secretary and the Association for the foreseeable future. **Julie** held the post of Secretary for 6 years and was relentless in her support to our branch and we will greatly miss her. Our Chairman **Bob Thomson** (**Julie's** father) presented **Julie** with a framed Secretary's certificate and our heartfelt thanks on behalf of all our members.



Bob Thomson (Chairman) presenting Julie Champion with her Secretary's certificate.



Branch members thanking Julie Champion for her service to the branch.

Now it is over to me, **Linda Jones**; big shoes to step into, just to give you a little on my background I have been Assistant Secretary and Treasurer to the branch for 6 years and worked closely with Julie. In January I was elected to the Secretary's position at our AGM by our members and I was also re-elected as Treasurer. I have strong links with the branch since I was young as my late father **Bill Pennington** became an Honorary member on 25th September 1998. My father served in the R.A.O.C. and was a Sergeant. My dad worked with the late **Frank Pennington** at General Motors (no relation they say) and decided to join the Association after discussing the branch with **Frank** who was our Branch Secretary for twenty-five years. I will do my best to move our branch forward in these ever-challenging times. We have a Facebook page, 'Grenadier Guards Association Liverpool Branch' and we are going to trial a virtual branch meeting soon for those that are unable to attend in person, wish me luck!



From Left to Right: Frank Pennington and Bill Pennington.

Our Branch year traditionally begins at our Dinner Dance and finally, we were able to celebrate the branch's Centenary year, whilst entering our 101st year. The dinner dance was held at the Atlantic Tower Hotel, Chapel Street Liverpool on Saturday 20th November 2021. Our branch

President, **Lord Derby**, was unable to attend due to prior commitments, but **Barry Taylor** our Northern Representative delivered an informative speech updating us on the Battalion and Regimental news. During the evening we presented all our Grenadiers with special cufflinks in mark of our Centenary year and our heartfelt thanks. **Peter Cook** and his wife **Margaret** from the Oxford Branch came for two nights along with their Branch Treasurer **Mrs Janet Shayler**, who attended with her husband **Roy**. A total of 12 rooms were occupied over the two nights at the Atlantic Towers Hotel and 79 guest were in attendance. A special thanks to **Barry Taylor** and his lovely wife **Adel** for attending and supporting our branch and to **George Hughes**, who supported with the running order on the evening. Our Grenadier family seemed to strengthen and grow once again, and to all meet in one room at last, was simply wonderful.

Our AGM was held on 26th January 2021 and all committee members were reselected except for the Secretary position for reasons as discussed earlier in the commentary. We had sixteen members attend our AGM meeting (five proxy voters) and the same number for our subsequent monthly meeting afterwards.

In May, 28 of our branch members finally hit the road again and travelled to London for our Remembrance weekend. We set off for the Novotel



Branch members enjoying our Dinner Dance.



Liverpool Branch members on route to London.



The Hughes Family.



Members and their families dancing the night away.



Members enjoying an evening at the Royal Hospital, Chelsea.

hotel in Brentford London. After a superb dinner in the hotel, we were invited to the Royal Hospital Chelsea where the Secretary warmly welcomed us. The evening's entertainment was Bradwell Silver Band, and a wonderful evening was had by all.

On Sunday morning, after a leisurely breakfast we drove across London spending time at Convert Garden. We then made our way to Wellington Barracks for the Black Sunday service and the parade. Although the weather was a little wet, we did not let it dampen our spirits. The service was a time for reflection and the parade was perfect. It was nice to see **Judith Hughes** standing back in her regular spot by the gates at the barracks to take the below picture of her husband **George** in the parade with his son **Andrew** marching down to Horse Guards Parade.



Stratford Upon Avon Jubilee celebrations.

On the 2nd of June, my husband and I had pride of place at the incredible Trooping of the Colour. Our Army gave a spectacular display, we were fortunate to walk down the Mall and stand directly in front of the palace gates where we saw the Queen and members of the royal family, a memory that we will never forget.

June saw our dear friend **Glenys Taylor** pass away suddenly and peacefully in her sleep-in hospital. **Glenys** was our Welfare Officer and an Honorary member of the Association for 20 years. She was our 'constant' at the branch and rarely missed a meeting and supported every branch event. Branch Members **Linda Jones**, **Bob Thomson**, **John Gregory**, **Brian Russell**, **Brenda Shannon**, and **Julie Champion** attended **Glenys** funeral. **Glenys** has left a huge void in our Branch. R.I.P. **Glenys** and thank you, we will never forget you.



Centre, **Andrew Hughes** marching to Horse Guards with his father **George** on his right.

After the parade we headed back to our hotel for our evening meal. Sunday evening saw ten of our members attend the Ceremony of the Keys at the Tower of London. **George Hughes** had arranged this special trip with **Simon Dodd** at the Tower, and we had been very privileged to have a behind the scenes tour with **Simon** and to witness the Ceremony of the Keys conducted by the Gurkhas. The atmosphere was incredible, and **Simon's** insight completed a perfect day.

Monday came around all too quickly and we left London to travel for a day trip to Stratford upon Avon, it was wonderful to see the high streets come alive with all the Jubilee celebrations and here are some pictures of our day in Stratford.



Glenys Taylor our late Welfare Officer.

Again, June saw our Branch members enjoy the Jubilee celebrations and we watched how the country came alive and we showed the world how to mark seventy years of our Queen on the throne. During our monthly meeting we discussed how the country had a renewed sense of togetherness and we celebrated this in the bar with a pre-meeting drink in honour of our Queen.

In July, I attended, with my husband **Colin**, the AGM at Wellington Barracks for the Association Secretary's meeting. It was a very informative meeting with exciting plans for the year ahead especially the Year of the Grenadier. We were inspired by the compelling presentation from **Alex, Dougie and Paul** from the Yukon 700 challenge team. It was lovely to spend time with everyone and to see **Major Andy Green** being presented with a well-deserved retirement gift from the Regiment and all the Branches. It was also good to finally meet **Lieutenant Colonel Keeley, 'Stumpy'** in person.

September saw the loss of our beloved Queen and as a branch we all pulled together and discussed our feelings. We lost someone who has been a constant in our lifetime. Our Queen, our Colonel-in-Chief, our Colonel, our Patron of the Association. We all felt her loss at the same time we all support her son and Heir King Charles III.

With heavy hearts on the 11th of September, eight of our branch members travelled south to join other members of the Association to travel on the Grenadier Guards battlefield tour. 'Operation Market Garden.' Upon arrival in Dunkirk. **Major (Ret'd) The Rev John Hayhoe**, formerly Grenadier Guards held a short Act of Remembrance for our late Queen Elizabeth II. We prayed for our late Queen and our new King Charles III. **John Gregory** our branch Vice Chairman had the huge honour of laying a wreath at the Menin Gate on behalf of the Association. The details of our full trip and photographs are in the Gazette. We all went on our own personal journey and experiences with our Grenadier members and friends. We will never forget those that made the ultimate sacrifice. A special thanks to everyone involved in making this trip happen.

October finally gave us the opportunity to thank **Major Andy Green** for all the support he has



Memorial Royal Engineers (RE) and Royal Canadian Engineers (RCE) Driel commemorates the evacuation of the survivors of the 1st British Airborne Division from Oosterbeek. 'Lest we forget'.

given our branch with a game of golf at the Royal Liverpool Golf club, home of the Open 2023. The Royal Hackers, consisted of **Andy Green, Colin Jones, Nick Champion and Paul Pennington**. The weather was kind on this world-famous links course, the golf was good, and **Paul Pennington** just missed a hole in one. The Royal Hackers enjoyed refreshments in the club house afterwards. From all members of our Branch, thank you **Andy** for all that you have done, and happy retirement.

What a tumultuous year, I would like to especially thank **Julie Champion, Bob Thomson**



From Left to Right: Paul Pennington, Nick Champion, Colin Jones and Major Andy Green.

(Chairman), **George Hughes**, **John Gregory** (Vice Chairman) for all their support and **Barbara Pennington** our Assistant Treasurer for always keeping me on track with the finances. **Barry Taylor**, our northern representative, for the unrelenting support he has given our branch. Special thanks to **Major Andy Green** for his patience and guidance, we will miss him and to **Stumpy** who is always on the end of the phone or email to support and guide us and point us in the right direction, and of course to all our members, family and friends that support us throughout the year. The Liverpool branch has remained committed, enthusiastic, and looking forward to heading into our 103rd year of our most loved Branch, together we remain strong.

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: Mr L COX, 6 Hill View Lane, Great Billington, Leighton Buzzard, Bedfordshire, LU7 9BH

Tel: (01525) 852229/07966203799

Email: lesc01@aol.com

Email: londonbranch@grengds.com

Treasurer: Mr L WARDLE

Meetings: No meetings planned for 2023.

Website: Londonbranch-GrenadierGuards-Association.com

I was sitting in my office thinking about what I am going to say this year, and I always look at the Gazette from the previous year, issue No 45 2022. I looked at the front cover and thought one year ago I was opening the envelope to see this sad but wonderful photo of the Duke of Edinburgh's coffin being carried by our own Queen's Company and thinking what a fantastic procession it was, even though it was no more than what you would expect.

Now I am wondering what the front cover of issue No 46 2023 will look like, with the death of our Sovereign and Colonel in Chief Queen Elizabeth II. Once again, the Queen's Company were called into action, being flown back from active service in Iraq to become the Royal Bearer Party once more. With pride they walked alongside the Gun carriage, then carried the Queen's coffin into the Abbey and later carried Her Majesty up the steep steps into the St George's Chapel, Windsor Castle, for the last time to her final resting place.

Then they were back to Wellington barracks for a few days leave and then boarded a plane for Iraq to continue their tour. Gentlemen from the London Branch, and I know a thankful nation, say "Bloody well done"; it just goes to show this country is still in good hands, in the dirt one minute and on the world stage the next. I must also pay tribute to the other 4000 service men and women of all three services who took part.

The London Branch would also like to thank **Major Andy Green**, General Secretary and Treasurer of the Grenadier Guards Association. **Andy** retired this year after many years' service looking after not only all the branches, but also their Secretaries and Treasurers old and new. I know when I started I had a hotline to him with many questions. Enjoy your retirement **Andy**, thank you and get some golf in! Now, on behalf of the London Branch, I would like to welcome **Lt Col James Keeley MBE (Stumpy)** who has taken up the baton from **Andy** and is now in the big chair; I look forward to working with him.

In December 2021 we went back to the Union Jack Club for our first Christmas Draw in three years. 52 members and their friends and family came along. We were worried about members traveling on public transport as Covid was still around. But I was pleased that so many attended, and I was so grateful to them for showing that nothing is going to stop us having a good time. The meal was good and the raffle went down well, **Mrs Sylvia Pease** won the 50/50 and received £145.00

At last, our retiring Chairman and former Social Secretary and now our newest Vice President, **Mr Phil Lanes**, finally, after nearly three and half years' wait, received his presentation for 30 loyal years of service to the branch. **Colonel A Duncan**

LVO OBE was on hand to present Phil with his slightly out of date plaque and a plinth-mounted bronze bust of a Grenadier. I hope, in the end Phil, it was worth waiting for! I know you were pleased with it all. At the same time our President Lieutenant Colonel Robert Cartwright LVO presented our Treasurer, Mr Frank Hooley, a certificate and a framed cypher for 13 years' service. The President thanked him for taking on the role of Branch Chairman, and for looking after the branch coffers.

Each year we also have a postal raffle for members and their families who are unable to come to the Christmas draw, but still feel part of the branch's celebrations. Last year we had a first prize of £500.00 cash and that was won by Miss S Harrison, who is a part of the family of Mr Peter Smith, one of our senior members (Sorry Peter).

The problem with having a branch where its members are not only in the 4 corners of the UK but all over the world as well, like many other branches it is very difficult to see everyone. Zoom meetings are a great way of doing this, no matter where you live you can join in and have your say. Once everyone is in their place, and have stopped talking over each other, then the shyness disappears from those who are not used to public talking, and they come back all the time now.

My welfare secretary Mike Bunch was telling me about the Memorial Holiday Centre in Lowestoft that Duane Ashworth runs with his wife Caroline. That got me thinking that we could send a couple on holiday for a week paid for by the branch and the new spring holiday fund raffle that we also started this year. The raffle is based on the 50/50 system but our one is split into 4 parts, one part goes to the branch holiday fund and then there are 3 winners. This being the first year each winner received £295.00. This year we sent away Glenda Bone and Rod Keys and they report back that they had a great time on the beach with Ham and Sand sarnies!

It was great to get back to Lille Barracks in July for the first Grenadier Day in three years. I had been itching to show off the London Branch's new stall bought right at the beginning of the pandemic. It really pops with its blue roof, red banner and, when needed, blue sides. The day was quieter than

normal, perhaps due to people getting used to going out again. Nevertheless, we took over £800.00, so I was very pleased.



The London Branch stall set up and ready for business at Grenadier Day in Lille Barracks, 16 Jul 23.

Our website has our online shop as well as many other items. It is as up to date as I can make it with Stories – News – and lots of other things. The website can be found at: londonbranch-grenadierguards-association.net The branch site has a shop, items for sale include: Baseball Caps – BRB Belts – BRB watch Straps – BRB Scarves and BRB Towels, one showing the 5 regiments of foot guards and how their buttons and plumes identify them. And the other is all the battle honours from 1680 to the Gulf in 1991. Also, at Christmas time, the London branch Christmas card.

It is my sad duty as the Honorary Branch Secretary to notify you of the following deaths during the year: 22955968 Mr Ray Sanders-Crook, 24239486 Mr Gary Holmes-Reilly, Mr



The London Branch online shop: londonbranch-grenadierguards-association.net.

Ron Harwin and Mrs Sylvia Gun.

On a happier note, I would like to welcome some new Lady Members and a returning Member: 22856650 Mr George Jewell LVO (Jimmy), 22935795 Mr Keith Alan, Mrs Dannelle Jones and Mrs Glenda Bone

I would like to finish where I started wishing Major Andy Green well in his retirement and welcoming the new incumbent, Lieutenant Colonel James (Stumpy) Keeley MBE, and also LSgt Glenn Davis: the new dream team! With thanks from us all for their hard work on our behalf.

MANCHESTER

(Formed 1913)

President: Lieutenant Colonel CE KITCHEN, MBE

Vice Presidents: Mr F GREEN; Mr RA FALLON, Mr D COHEN

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

To bring 2021 to an end we had our branch Christmas Dinner Dance on Saturday 11th December and can say with confidence that it was the worst function the members have had to endure. I think that is enough said on this dinner. We started 2022 with our Annual Dinner and Dance held on St Georges Day, 23rd April at the Britannia Airport hotel, Northenden, and our guest speaker was the 1st Battalion Quartermaster, Major T Bearder. He gave an excellent speech on the Battalion's operations and where they are going in the near future and kept the members full attention throughout, no mean feat.



From Left to Right: Major T Bearder, Lieutenant Colonel Rick Kitchen, Mr M Grimsley and Bob Fallon.

There were 98 members and guests plus friends sitting down to a wonderful four course meal, and everyone seemed to thoroughly enjoy the evening.

Our branch AGM was held on Wednesday 4th May 2022 at the Fairfield Golf & Sailing club in Audenshaw with all the committee and 10 members present. After giving their reports the committee stood down and the president asked for nominations from the members. It was agreed by all that the present committee continue in their positions for another year. The secretary did, however, state that he would like to stand down at the next AGM in 2023.

On Saturday 18th June the branch held a Waterloo Day Celebration and family Fun day at Over Tabley Hall, Old Hall Lane, Over Tabley, Knutsford. This is the home of Mr David Cohen, a longstanding supporter of the branch, who graciously allowed us to use his estate.



The Walled Garden.



The lake in front of the house.



Norman Cookson.

Following the death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II the branch chairman and secretary attended a Queens Memorial service of thanksgiving at Manchester Cathedral. The service was attended

by the Lord Lieutenant of Greater Manchester **Diane Hawkins**, the High Sherriff of Greater Manchester, Mrs **Lorraine Christine Worsley-Carter MBE**, The Lord Mayor of Manchester Councillor **Donna Ludford** and the Bishop of Manchester **Dr David Walker**.



Mick Cottrell, Diane Hawkins and Bob Fallon.

On Friday 11th February 2022 22545933 **Norman Cookson**

passed away at the age of 87 years, his funeral was on Friday 4th March at Altrincham Crematorium. The branch formed a Guard of Honour and there was a bugler, the coffin drape and forage cap.

Norman's daughter, **Louise**, gave the secretary a lot of **Norman's** memorabilia

and asked if it could be recycled, so to speak, and all these items were put on our stall at the Waterloo



Bob Fallon, Brigadier Kim Ross SG and Mick Cottrell.



Branch Guard of Honour; Bryn Jones, Bob Fallon, Eric Radcliffe and Manny Healey.

Day Celebrations event.

On Saturday 9th April 2022 2624269 **Peter Wakelin** passed away at the age of 96 yrs. **Peter** left school at the age of 14 and went to work for a Coal merchant in stables near Blackfriars Bridge in London. His job was to look after the carthorses, mucking out, grooming and feeding them and learn to put a harness on them. He then moved on to the weighbridge, weighing the loaded carts before they went out on the road. He left this job and moved on to work for Ductile Steels in Willenhall, Staffs as a sheet metal worker but this was hard work for a teenager, so this job didn't last long. He then went to work for David Greig as a tea taster apprentice, which started a lifelong love affair with tea. These

three jobs took him to 1942 and now aged 17 and a half he joined the Grenadier Guards, following his father who also served in the Grenadiers.



Peter is on the right of the photo.

Peter was posted to the 2nd battalion and crossed the English channel to Normandy, then fighting his way up to the Baltic coast. After returning home he was promoted to Sergeant and posted to the Guards Depot as an instructor; it was while he was at the Depot that he met and married Ellen Agnes Murphy.



Peter and Ellen.

In January 1956 Peter was promoted to WO2, and shortly after that he reluctantly left the Regiment and got a job selling beer, wine and spirits to free houses, clubs and armed forces messes. This meant he had to do a lot of driving and drinking, and it wasn't a very healthy lifestyle, so after 4.5 years he gave it up and went to work for a firm in Camberley, Surrey. He worked in Camberley for 22 years covering most of the departments before taking early retirement.

Peters funeral on 9th May was very well attended by both the branch members and family members.



LCpl Sargent, Bob Fallon, Mick Cottrell and Gdsm Campbell.

The branch secretary **Bob Fallon** carried the branch banner followed by the drummer and a guardsman from Nijmegen Coy and the branch chairman. After the funeral **Mr Henry Wakelin** invited the serving lads to the wake at his family home, where they could have food and drink before their journey back to Wellington Barracks. Their presence at his home made the family feel very special.



In the chapel.

The branch would like to say a big thank you to **Major Ty Bearder** and **RQMS Dwain Oliver** for arranging for the two serving soldiers, they did the Regiment proud and the family even happier.

The only downside to all of this is that the French



LCpl Sargent, Emma Greuter, Gdsm Campbell.



LCpl Sargent and Gdsm Campbell with other family members.

Embassy spent so long sorting out his paper work that **Peter** never got to see his Legion D' Honneur medal, it arrived at his home 2 weeks after his funeral, how sad is that.

The branch also lost 22723002 **J Eckersley** on 23rd February 2022, rest in peace.

The branch would like to thank all the staff at Regimental Headquarters for all their support over the past twelve months, we realise it has been a very stressful year, but you did a brilliant job, well done.

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.

We find ourselves coming back to a more routine existence. Yes, there is still Covid and the ongoing effects still disrupt our pattern of life. We also all get that bit older and the aches and twinges of advancing years mean that we are not necessarily able to do all that we could, or did, in the past. But, as a Branch we do continue, contact has been made with former Grenadiers in the area and we are hopeful that they will wish to partake of the opportunity to join with us at functions.

Reporting on the year always starts at Remembrance Day and the involvement of individual members at varying locations. Branch Secretary **Chris Whitebrook** was at Peterborough Cathedral in the morning, and at Whittlesey in the afternoon, joined there by **Malcolm** and **Pam Clifford**. The Branch wreath was laid on behalf of all the members at March by **Des Pritchard**, his willingness to be involved is to be congratulated. **Neville** and **Ann Patter** saw the Branch represented at **Chatteris**, and **Chris** and **Carrie Mills** saw that the same applied at **Wisbech**. For a small Branch we are able to be represented well across the County.

The Conservative Club in March once again was the venue for our functions throughout the year. The Christmas Lunch, in early December was most successful, following the disruption of previous years, and although reduced numbers were able to attend it proved a most enjoyable occasion. The Branch Secretary, **Chris Whitebrook**, together with one of his personal guests, had to attend another Christmas function the same evening. They both suffered from a double amount of Christmas goodies. At the Annual Lunch with increased numbers of members

attending, our Branch President, **Major Andy Green**, updated the Branch on what the Regiment had achieved over the past year and what lay ahead for the Battalion. This report on the Regiment is always welcomed with keen interest. The functions for the year rounded off with the Sausage and Mash Lunch in the autumn, those present stood in silent tribute to our Colonel and Colonel in Chief, **HM Queen Elizabeth II**.

The Raffles at all of the functions, organised by our Treasurer, **Morag Whitebrook**, assisted by Chairman, **Edward Salmon** rounded off all of the most enjoyable days when there was a reluctance for people to leave. It is pleasing to note that at all of the functions we saw members returning, feeling more confident with the opportunity to mix and socialise after so many long months of restrictions.

Continuous phone calls and correspondence between Branch members are keeping all updated and positive, and visits have been made to members suffering healthwise and unable to get out to Branch events.

The Branch wishes to express appreciation and thanks to **LSgt Glen Davis** for his invaluable assistance, so readily given, throughout the year. We also welcome our Branch Presidents successor as General Secretary, **Lieutenant Colonel J A (Stumpy) Keeley MBE**.

MATLOCK & CHESTERFIELD

(Formed 2020)

President: Mr DW RAWSON, BEM

Vice-Presidents: Mr MF CARNALL

Chairman: VACANT

Secretary: Mrs YJ BALL, 12 Westwood Lane, Chesterfield, Derbyshire, S43 1PA

Tel: 07391576380

Email: yjball@hotmail.co.uk

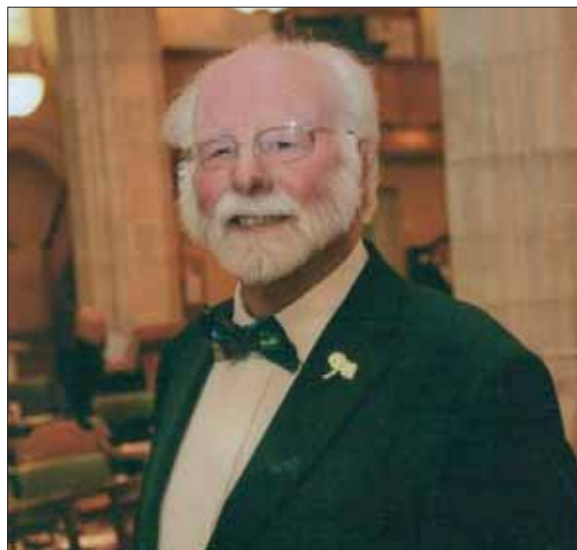
Treasurer: Mrs YJ BALL

Meetings: Held at The Grouse Inn, Dale Rd, Darley Dale, Matlock DE4 2FT on the last Friday of every month apart from August and December commencing 1230hrs

2022 was another COVID afflicted year for face to face meetings. However, telephone conferencing

meant we had the chance to keep in touch and check on the welfare of each other on a month by month basis.

A former member of our Branch, **Bernard Bonser**, who re-located to Essex five years ago, sadly passed away on 3 August, following a short illness. **Bernard** was a native of Smalley, Derbyshire and was an apprentice joiner before receiving his 'call up' papers to join the Grenadier Guards. He was a guard on the Mall at the Queen's Coronation and in the same year took part in Trooping the Colour. His duties included guarding Buckingham Palace, Windsor Castle, Bank of England, Tower of London and other royal residents. Upon discharge, **Bernard** joined the Derbyshire Constabulary and served with them for 27 years. He was passionate about singing and joined many choirs including the Police Male Voice Choir, Herdingham Singers and Eastwood Collieries Male Voice Choir for whom he sang for over 30 years. He was a very accomplished tenor. Sadly, **Bernard** developed mouth cancer and within 9 weeks was unable to sing, talk or swallow. He never once complained.



Bernard Bonser, sadly passed away on 3 August 22.

Branch members emerged from their COVID related restrictions in September to their former meeting venue at the Grouse Inn, Darley Dale. We complimented each other on how well we all looked as we returned to 'business as usual'. However,



Former Chairman, Fred Knight outside St James' Palace.

there was one very important person missing and that was our Chairman, **Fred Knight**, who sadly has had to retire due to ill-health. **Fred**, during the 'Queens Coronation,' was on guard outside St James' Palace, when his photograph was taken by a national newspaper, as he handed over the guard to Canada.

Fred has been Chairman for 2 years having been Vice-Chairman of the Branch for several years. He and his wife, **Ann**, continue to support the Branch.

Our next meeting in early November should have incorporated our Annual General Meeting but due to illness and pre-planned holidays our AGM has been put back to January 2023. Key members had decided to holiday in places with warmer and drier climates – Australia, Caribbean and Gambia.

Sadly a former Chesterfield Branch member, **David Leech**, passed away suddenly on 25 October. His funeral took place at the Church of St Mary and All Saints locally known as the 'Crooked Spire'.



David Leech, sadly passed away on 25 October 22.

David started his work life as an apprentice joiner/carpenter and this was to become his life career apart from his time of National Service in the 2nd Battalion Grenadier Guards from 1958-1961. He was stationed in Cyprus where he was exposed to the National Organisation of Cypriot Fighters (EOKA).

After 12 months he was moved to Hubberath in Germany before returning to Kent where he ended his service. During his time in the Grenadier

Guards he made many good friends and joined the Chesterfield Branch of the Association. **David** became Treasurer and Vice-President and was a big part of many charitable events organised to support the Army and the Guards. He had the pleasure to attend the Queen's garden parties at Buckingham Palace and attended the Royal Garter Ceremony at Windsor to which his wife, **Rachael** and daughter, **Nina** were also invited. During retirement **David** enjoyed Crown Green Bowls, gardening and spending time with his family.

On Remembrance Sunday our President **Bill Rawson** laid a wreath at Bakewell War Memorial. **Lord Edward Manners** of the Haddon Hall Estate read 'The Ode of Remembrance'. He was accompanied by his 9 year old twin sons, **Vesey** and **Alfred**.

On the other side of the world **John** and **Margaret Wright** whilst visiting their son and family in Brisbane attended the open air service at the RSL (Returned and Services League – equivalent of our British Legion) at the coastal resort of Redcliffe on the Sunshine Coast.

Ironically **John** and **Margaret** had been prevented from visiting their family through the stringent COVID regulations in both countries. Upon arrival their son and daughter-in-law came down with COVID and inevitably 7 days later both **John** and **Margaret** were similarly afflicted. All the family have made a full recovery enabling **John** and **Margaret** to enjoy what may be their last Australian holiday.



John and Margaret Wright at the RSL Remembrance Service in Australia.

Another member of the former Chesterfield Branch, **Michael Garrett**, passed away on 18 November after a long illness following a stroke earlier this year. His funeral will take place on Wednesday 14 December at Swanwick Crematorium, Derbyshire. **Michael** completed National Service between 1955 and 1957. He was stationed in Malta and towards the end of his service he worked in the stores at Windsor. When he returned to civvy street he joined the Derby Branch of the Grenadier Guards later transferring to the Chesterfield/Matlock branches. Raising money for the branch was always a pleasure for **Michael** and his wife, **Maureen** and they were glad to help the branch when they could. They attended Garter Day many times as at Windsor where **Michael's** highlight was shaking hands with **Queen Elizabeth II**. **Michael** and **Maureen** were married for 63 years and have one son, **Neil**, daughter-in-law **Carol** and two grandsons who live in Kent.

Branch members are looking forward to a Christmas Lunch, which will be taking place on Thursday 22 December at the Miners Arms at Milltown, Ashover. We are also looking forward to returning to fundraising and holding more events in 2023.

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 TONY WEST, BEM; 10 Saxons Drive, Maidstone, Kent ME14 5HS

Tel: 07449998765

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

completely, untouched by the disease. Lockdown put paid to Branch meetings and many events between March 2020 and August 2021 but Chairman **Mo Robinson** and Secretary **Des Flynn** phoned every member every week to check on their state of health and pass on information when necessary. Many thanks to both. To celebrate the New Year and a genuine sense of freedom we held a Branch lunch at the St George Hotel in Chatham in January and repeated the exercise to celebrate St George's Day in April at the same venue – where else?

Regimental Remembrance Sunday in May was, as usual, the perfect day when those attending renewed acquaintances with old friends and comrades. It was an excellent service followed by a good march to the Guards Memorial and back.

In June a large number of members and guests watched a screening of the Birthday Parade, followed by a hog roast at the Warren Wood Club. The same month we had a most successful Armed Forces Day where we made quite a decent sum, largely due to **Jen Robinson** and her knitted Grenadiers. My thanks go to those who worked hard on the day.

In July we returned to Lille Barracks for Grenadier Day after a lockdown break. We made a few more pounds for the Branch with our golf challenge and some more knitted items. Our team were lucky enough to, once again, win the Boyton Cup after competing against stiff opposition. Okay, we were the only entrants. Hopefully there will be some competition in 2023. Once again, thanks go to those who worked hard manning the stall.



Medway Branch Stall at Grenadier Day.

During the previous two years we all fell victim to the dreaded Covid in one way or another. Thankfully the Branch has been relatively, but not

We were, of course, devastated by the death of Her Majesty in September but were proud to be part of the family that did such a sterling job from that time at Balmoral until the funeral at Windsor. Special praise must go to the bearer party who were outstanding and deserved all the plaudits that followed.

We ended the reporting year with 69 members and guests attending the 44th Branch Annual Dinner and Dance at the Grange Moor Hotel, Maidstone in October having returned there after a two year enforced hiatus. It was good to be able to welcome Branch President, **Lieutenant Colonel Paul Harris** who had flown in from Spain accompanied by his wife **Pauline**, and **Lieutenant Colonel James 'Stumpy' Keeley** who attended as guest speaker. We had a very enjoyable evening with a great raffle, courtesy of **Jen Robinson**, and everyone loved our entertainer **Rich Phillips**.



Branch members enjoying dinner at the Grange Moor Hotel, Maidstone.

In November the Branch was represented at the Remembrance Sunday Service and Parade at Rochester Cathedral and other local areas. In December we will be back at the St George Hotel in Chatham for our Christmas lunch and then we'll be into another New Year.

Concerning Branch membership, we now have, in addition to our President and six Vice-Presidents, 73 past, 13 honorary and associate members and 21 widows on our books, a total of 107. We get an average attendance of around 18 at meetings. We have had our share of illnesses and operations this year and again said farewell to members of our family. We have said farewell to 23879962 **Mick**

Boniface and 22476834 **Derek Colley**. We also lost **Sue Murdoch**, widow of **Captain Bob**, **Rhoda Rickard** widow of **Gerry**, **Christine Munn** widow of **Allen**, **June Brown** wife of **Colin**, and **Anita Malling**, lifelong partner of **Pat Franks**. On the other hand we have been happy to welcome 25012214 **Nathan Somerset**.

The committee changed in February with **Mo Robinson** standing down as Chairman and taking up the role of Welfare Officer instead. **Des Flynn** stepped down as Secretary and I replaced him having previously been in the job for 17 years from 1992 until 2009. **Ken Jeffries** and **Chris Warden** said they were happy to remain as Treasurer and Entertainments. We were delighted that Honorary members **Mark** and **Carol Whetton** said that, if the Branch would have them, they were prepared to stand as Chairman and Vice Chairman. **Carol** is the daughter of long standing member **Colin Brown** and both she and **Mark** have been part of the extended Branch family for many years so both were duly elected.

Finally I must give thanks to the Branch and to the ladies for their support over the last twelve months, especially to all the committee members. Special thanks must go to **Mark** and **Carol Whetton** for stepping into the breach and to the other committee members for doing an outstanding job. Thanks also to **Des Flynn** for his time as Secretary and his wife **Karen** for her welfare work which went above and beyond. There are certainly a large number of members, families and widows who are grateful for her visits.



NORFOLK

(Formed 1938)

President: Captain PJS ALLEN, BEM

Vice Presidents: Major BG Conway; Major HRW Hardy; Captain JE Stafford-Allen; 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

For the Norfolk Branch, 2022 was a return to normal branch life after the wretched lockdowns, Covid restrictions and 'Zoom'. The branch was able to hold meetings in March and October together with the annual luncheon in September. Currently the branch has 53 members with 44 being Grenadiers. It is a sad but inevitable fact that more Grenadiers are 'leaving' the branch than joining. The average age of members is now mid seventies and meetings are beginning to struggle to be quorate. It is a fact that the branch's most senior members were doing their National Service while the seventy year old secretary was in nappies.

The March and October meetings were held in the usual format of a breakfast event at the Stower Grange Hotel, Drayton. Those parading very early parading at 0900hrs were rewarded with a full English or kippers followed by a (slightly) more formal meeting at 0945hrs.

The branch annual luncheon was held at Stower Grange on 11th September and drew Grenadiers and guests from across Norfolk, Suffolk and as far away as Harpenden. Forty people sat down to an excellent meal and raffle all arranged by **Chris Warren** and **Terry McClenahan**. **Major Thompson** was understandably unable to get to the luncheon for the regimental briefing due to the preparations for the funeral of Her Majesty, The Late Queen Elizabeth II. There had been some discussion within branch as to whether the luncheon should be rearranged due to the very recent death of Her Majesty. The president, **Captain Allen**, decided to continue with the luncheon to give those

gathered an opportunity to "commemorate the life of dedication and service of Her Majesty" and also toast the new King.

During the year we had to bid a sad farewell to six members of the branch: 2628687 **Roy Taylor**, 22955350 **Brian Chandler**, 22955727 **Bryan Allen**, 22642842 **David Beckett**, 23252408 **Peter Hall** and 22955006 **Brian Eales**.

The branch is as always most grateful for the support provided by Regimental Headquarters particularly the Association NCO showing great patience with the secretary who finds difficulty with some of the attachments sent out.

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

I must start off by paying tribute to our late **Queen Elizabeth II**. She sat on the throne for an unparalleled 70 years. On behalf of the Northamptonshire Branch Grenadier Guards, I would like to say we love you and thank you for your service. To our new **King Charles III** we send our congratulations on the occasion of your accession to the throne.

Sadly, I also want to report the passing of one of our association members in May. 22545416 **LSgt W.E. Lawson (Bill)** 1st and 2nd Battalions Grenadier Guards 1952–1965. **Bill** started his military career in the Sherwood Foresters Cadets from age 12 to 16 before enlisting in the 1st Battalion Grenadier Guards as a Boy Drummer in 1952. His First deployment was to Berlin helping

guard Spandau Prison's inmates – Rudolf Hess, Albert Speer, and Admiral Doenitz. **Bill** also served in Germany for 7 years, Libya, the Cameroons and Cyprus. He Left the Regiment in 1965. **Bill** then returned to Nottingham and served in 144 Parachute Field Ambulance (T.A.). He then joined South Notts Hussars Band (T.A.) as a drummer and was promoted to WO2 Drum Major which rank he retained until his retirement at 67, he then went to work with the Cadets! He really was a true military man.



Members of the Northamptonshire Branch at the Arboretum, picture taken at our bench.



Bill as a young Drummer.



Bill as an older Drummer.



Sean and Tammy at the Guards Memorial.

For the Northamptonshire Branch, 2022 has been a year like we are used to, the year started with our annual AGM and the committee then went into full preparation mode to organise our annual Waterloo Ball. As always, the Waterloo Ball was extremely successful and we will be holding another ball in 2023

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 appreciated, the Branch Secretary has been attempting to keep everyone up to speed with all Regimental correspondence from RHQ that has been sent out.

Several our branch member were part of the Ride to the Wall (RTTW) this year, the RTTW is an event which gives motorcyclists an opportunity to gather at a place of remembrance. This year the RTTW gathered at the National Arboretum, they

had a great picture taken at the Northamptonshire Branch bench that included **Keith, Sean, Tammy, Marilyn, Jon, and Coco** (the dog).

Not only did our bikers from the branch be part of the Ride to the Wall they also had the privilege of attending the Ceremony of the Keys at the Tower and they all had a fantastic night.



Sean waiting to get in the bar.



A very happy Marilyn.



Tammy also waiting to get Tammy and Jon in the bar. in the bar.

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.



Tammy with the Officer and Sgt of the Tower Guard.

Other branch members have been busy with work in their key roles. In November our Branch Secretary, **Tony McDermott**, **Ian Whyte** and Welfare Officer, **Keith Hudson** attended the Corby War memorial on and laid a wreath on behalf of the Branch.

Our Chairman **Matt Ellmer** has been very busy again this year in his job as the Regimental Casualty Officer for the Regiment and has also been very busy as the Chairman of the Royal British Legion in Thrapston.

On Remembrance Day 2021, members of the branch travelled to the north of Stoke on Trent to attend the Remembrance Service organised by Packmoor Primary School. An earlier school, on the same location and with the same name, was the school that **John Rhodes, VC DCM and Bar**, Grenadier Guards, attended late in the nineteenth century. The service took place around the **Rhodes VC** memorial which was erected, by the Branch, some twenty years ago and is situated on the green next to the school.



The John Rhodes VC, DCM and Bar Memorial.

Members also attended the Stoke on Trent Memorial Service at the main War Memorial in the city centre on Remembrance Sunday. Jeff Almond and Peter Wright placed Association wreaths on the adjacent Rhodes VC memorial stone slab. Other members were involved in services in their own towns and villages.



Jeff Smith and Peter Wright at Stoke War Memorial at the Stoke on Trent Remembrance Day service.

During December Christmas Gifts were distributed sadly several of the proposed recipients were found to be no longer with us, covid had taken its toll. On a happier note the Branch was able to meet for a Christmas lunch and meeting at our usual venue, The Trentham Hotel. Our Christmas 'Jolly' was, for several reasons, postponed to the new year. Christmas and the New Year came and went along with the usual festivities and Branch Accounts were finalised and sent to Birdcage Walk. The Branch's first meeting and lunch, of the new year, took place in February and in March the, delayed, Christmas, party was held at The BCMF (Potters) Club and was enjoyed by all who attended.

For the next few months lunch meetings took place every four weeks and several welfare cases were dealt with. It was with regret that we heard, in July, that **Mark Griffiths** had gone to the great parade square in the sky, members were able to attend his funeral.

In July the branch chairman **Keith Wright** and secretary **David Robins** drove to the south of the county where, at Boscobel House, they meet up with their friends from the Wolverhampton Branch to await and welcome Inkerman Company at the end of their long march from Aldershot. It was the most splendid of days and the weather was perfect but, no doubt, a number of Grenadiers had sore feet after their splendid effort.



The Branch Chairman and Secretary and Royal Oak at Boscobel House.

Full details of the march are covered elsewhere in the Gazette.

It was with great sadness that we heard, in October, that **Jim Chadwick** had passed away. **Jim** had served with the Scots Guards but had been an active member and great supporter of the branch for more than forty years. He had a fund of stories and kept everyone amused especially with his tales about the time he was a drill instructor at the 'proper' (as he put it!) depot at Caterham.

Several members of the branch attended his funeral with their standard and there was a good turnout of 'Jocks' from their Manchester branch. Branch monthly lunch meetings continued into the autumn.

The branch secretary attended the Association AGM in September where he was pleased to meet the new head office team and talk with other secretaries. He was disappointed to learn that we were not the only branch with recruiting problems but, no doubt, plan two will eventually emerge for the Association's future.

The passing of **Queen Elizabeth II**, in September, was the pivotal event of the year causing much sadness to all members as they lost a Colonel in Chief that they had all been honoured and proud to serve under. Needless to say their Regiment and her Majesty's Company did their final duties for her in impeccable style.

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

(Formed 1914)

President: VACANT

Vice Presidents: SIR ANDREW BUCHANAN, Bt, KCVO; Mr. G SEVERN; Mr GE HALLAM, MR J SMITH

Chairman: Mr S DAVIS

Secretary: Mr S HILL, 4 Ousbridge Crescent, Carlton, Nottingham, NG4 3BL

Email: stevehill13hondo@gmail.com

Treasurer: Mrs MJ GREENBERRY

Meetings: Held on the second Friday of each month at The Victory Club, Church Drive, Daybrook, Nottingham, NG5 6JG, at 1900hrs



OXFORDSHIRE

(Formed 1936)

President: Major DPG IRVINE, MRICS

Vice Presidents: THE HON Mrs RS TYSER, 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

Another year has quickly passed by and whilst the branch has not acquired any more active members, all events organized by our committee have been well supported. This is mainly due not only to our members and friends but to the co-operation and support received from other branch's and their members which made it a very busy but enjoyable year. This branch and other branch's have provided a well varied program of family entertainment for members and friends **Pat and Barrie Padwick** or The Henley Guards Association started the social year off by organizing a skittles afternoon at the Hungerford RBLI club at which over 50 members attended and everyone had chance to show their skills, a great buffet was laid on by the ladies of the association and as usual all went home filled and satisfied. In April, 12 of our members joined in with other association members and enjoyed a St Georges Day lunch at The Chequers Hotel, Newbury, organized by ex-Coldstreamer **Barrie Padwick**.

We held our first AGM in 2 years at The Plough Inn, Wolvercote, and despite giving a free meal to members attending only 6 members turned up to welcome our new President **Major DPG Irvine, MRICS** at the meeting. The good news was that all the existing committee members agreed to stand again and that our accountant **Mr Colin Hessey** informed us that our books were in excellent and healthy order and thanked our treasurer **Janet Shayler** for all her work.

On June 5th, 74 members and friends gathered at

the Holt Hotel to celebrate The Queens Platinum Jubilee and sat down to an excellent high tea. We had intended to have it served to us in the gardens but as the weather was unkind to us we transferred inside for comfort. Everyone enjoyed themselves, there was plenty to eat with the hotel providing us with goody box's to take the surplus home. Our president, **Major Irvine** gave us a very informative talk on the history of the Regiment and we finished off the afternoon with an ice cream and a grand raffle which raised over £200.00 to offset costs.

Later in the month we attended The Reading Branch Queens Platinum Jubilee tea party at the Chequers Hotel, Newbury. His lord above blessed them with much better weather so that we were able to hold the event it outside, enjoy our food and sing patriotic songs to the Brass band. Our thanks must go to **John Southern and Barrie Padwick** for all their hard work in organizing such a pleasant afternoon.

What a busy July we had, the first engagement that I attended the Secretary's meeting and AGM at Wellington Barracks where it was nice to meet up with all old friends again. I did have a long walk from the Embankment to get there owing to traffic problems due to The Gay Pride march but what a pleasure or experience it was to mix with them. The last time I did the trip was marching out of Chelsea behind the Regimental Band for Guard Mount.

The Branch had a stall at Grenadier Day and on a very hot day **Kate and Jackie** ran tombola and sold artefacts belonging to the late **Captain Tyser** which were donated to the branch by his widow **Sue Tyser**. I ran a Shove Halfpenny Board to raise funds but as we do not possess a card reader we lost out as people did not carry cash, again we all enjoyed the entertainment. We would like to thank **RQMS Oliver** and his team for providing the excellent displays provided in the ring and we all very much enjoyed visiting other branch stalls.

Major Richard Greenly President of The Henley Guards and his wife **Belinda** invited us to their home at Vernon St somewhere in the deepest part of Hampshire, where we all sat under the trees on a baking hot day in their beautiful garden. Hors D'oeuvres and drinks were served prior to sitting down to an excellent lunch to which we were treated like royalty. Unfortunately it was so calm

and peaceful and with the effect of alcohol taking over nobody used the swimming pool, golf practice or boules provided for us, some did use the air rifle facility and some strolled around the estate. **Pat and Barrie** ran a free raffle with everyone receiving a prize and somehow gave everyone free scratch card.

Finally in late July we were all invited to the Fawley Steam museum at the home of **Lady McAlpine**, again on a lovely warm day we stepped back into the past and enjoyed all the nostalgia related to the bygone age of steam. We enjoyed the atmosphere of the smoky station, there was a museum with all the relics of times gone by on display and free train rides in carriages and open trucks around the estate hauled by a genuine reconditioned steam locomotive. Many thanks to the Henley Guards for organizing this day out.

Peter Brooks unfortunately was our only representative on The Royal Fusiliers annual pilgrimage to remember the first battle of Marne. Peter laid a wreath on the British memorial at La Ferte on behalf of The Grenadiers who 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, were attended as well as all other ceremonies that took place on the pilgrimage.

In October we visited the Reading Branch to attend their annual lunch, again held at The Chequers Hotel, Newbury, thanks go to **John Southern** and his committee for organizing this event. We held our annual lunch at The Holt Hotel, Steeple Aston, where 68 members, friends and widows sat down to an excellent lunch. Our President **Major DPG Irvine MRICS** welcomed our principle guest speaker **Colonel Gerald Lesinski** who gave us an entertaining talk on his time as The Captain of The Queen's Company and serving Officer, **Second Lieutenant Edward Harborne** of The King's Company kept us up to date with what is happening in The Regiment, **Janet and Roy Shayler** ran their self-funding raffle and raised £260.00 for the branch.

November saw our annual Grenadier Poppy Appeal table held at our local Tesco Store, **Roy Shayler, Peter Cook, and David Wright** along with branch friends **Jackie and Tony** raised another superb total of £13,250.61 for British Legion funds. I think that I should remind all of the Grenadier family spirit when on a sad occasion, members supported the funeral of ex-Grenadier **Marc Pearson**. Having spent 22 years in The Regiment and since leaving had fallen on hard times unfortunately he died alone and destitute

at his home in North Moreton. On hearing of his situation members **M Slatford and A Lamble** together with the Vicar of Crowmarsh Gifford crowd funded over £6,000.00 for his funeral, a Drummer and the RQMS from RHQ attended together with 3 standard bearers from local associations attended. The church was packed, standing room only, filled by ex-Grenadiers who came from all over England to pay their respects.

Sadly since our last notes we have lost



Branch Members and their guests having an enjoyable afternoon at the Branch Lunch.

14488410 **Les Green**, 23144354 **Keith Jones**, 23121337 **William Cook**, 22440807 **Stan Reeves** and our last veteran member 2624462 **Keith Lewis** and widows Mrs Fay and Griffin, lest we shall forget. Finally our thanks go to our **President Major DPG Irvine MRICS**, our Vice Presidents, our accountant **Mr Colin Hessey** and last but not least our small committee and friends whose untiring efforts keep this branch active.

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

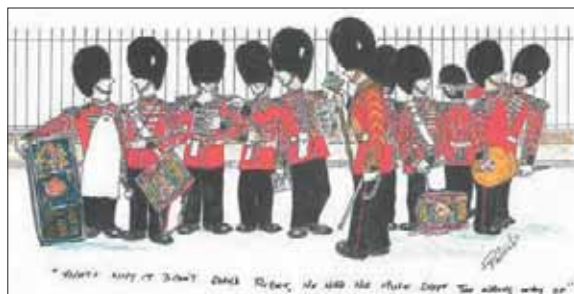
Meetings: No Monthly Meetings

Facebook: Guards-Association-Reading-and-District-Branch

2022 was a better year than the two previous and the Branch made the best of it staying in contact by phone, Email and letter with all our members and we had the opportunity to get together for some long awaited gatherings.

We are sorry too report we lost our dear friend **Pat McSweeney** in October 2022. **Pat** was a great supporter of the branch and did serve as secretary at one time. Many of you will remember him for his model soldiers which he would proudly show at Grenadier days. He had a great knowledge of all things Grenadier. He was a wonderful cartoon artist and many will have seen his work throughout the Regiment and Association. They even got into the History of the Regiment publication by the late **Colonel Henry Hanning**. A few examples are printed here.

His funeral was well attended and he was given a great Grenadier send off. We are lucky to have our own resident Bugler in the guise of our Chairman and Welfare Officer **Robin Kellow**, who honed his



Published Cartoons of the late Pat McSweeney.

craft while serving with the Regimental Band. So good a musician is he that he now teaches at Marlborough College.

We have stayed in touch with all our branch members through the hard work of **Robin Kellow** ably supported by **Theresa Day**. They keep in touch with all our members and widows on a regular basis.

We held our AGM on Sunday 3rd July, the day after the Association AGM in London. Always nice to follow close to the London AGM so I can relay all that I have heard the day before. We held it once again in the Royal British Legion club, Newbury. We 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 with all the members' news. At the AGM all Officers were reinstated for the ensuing year.

We have started once again to invite all local Branches of the Grenadiers and other Guards regiments to the home of the secretary for a planning meeting for the coming year. This works



The Chairman, Robin Kellow – blowing his own trumpet.

very well as each Branch informs us of their events intentions and it ensures we as individual branches do not plan events for the same day. This is very important, as each branch's members tend to support each other's events. We also plan joint branch events at this time. The Secretaries wife **Christine Southern** normally treats us to a buffet lunch after which is most enjoyable.

The inter branch skittles tournament took place again at Hungerford RBL on the 20th February the skittles trophy was presented to a worthy winner, buffet lunch served and a good time had by all. This was repeated once again on the 25th September.



Robert Ian Kelly, over from The North America Branch on a visit with Reading Branch Secretary.

The Secretary **John Southern** in his role as Southern Area Representative for the executive committee attended the Windsor Branch AGM at their club on 6th April. Over Easter the secretary and his wife played host to **Robert Ian Kelly** from the North America Branch of the Association, who this year celebrated their 50 anniversary.

On the 24th April the Branch joined forces with Henley Guards association at a Saint Georges day lunch. Well supported by other branches and by many Coldstreamers who have always celebrated St George's day much more than any of the other Regiments. A superb lunch, well organised by our social secretary **Barrie Padwick**.

We joined the Gloucestershire Branch on the 22nd May for their annual tea party hosted by that well-known Grenadier **Colonel Peel** at his beautiful home, Dudgrove, Fairford, Gloucestershire. 9th June, Troop weekend found us supporting Oxford Grenadiers at their Jubilee Garden Party. Another very pleasant gathering. This was followed closely the next weekend by our branches Jubilee garden Party in the grounds of the Chequers Hotel. The White Waltham silver band played for us as we tucked into a wonderful array of sandwiches, scones jam and cream and an endless supply of cakes, all washed down with a glass of fizz as we toasted **HM the Queen**.

Two weeks later saw us all filling our faces once again at the Henley Guards Jubilee Luncheon party at the home of the President, **Major Richard Greenly**. The weather was superb; the swimming pool was very inviting. We sat in the orchard in the shade of the trees spending a very enjoyable afternoon doing very little.



Relaxing in the orchard after a superb lunch.

16th July saw us at Lille Barracks as guests of the First Battalion at Grenadier Day. Reading Branch set up a stall and we raffled a giant food hamper, which had been supplied, by our Treasurer **Paul Stamp** and his partner **Linda**. Our honorary member **Darren White** brought along a display of miniature model soldiers which were greatly admired by all who viewed. The whole day proved a great success with many very entertaining acts in the arena and many more static displays set around the arena. The band was its normal immaculate self.

Sunday 31st July found us as guests of **Lady McAlpine** enjoying an afternoon on her estate at Fawley, near Henley on Thames, having rides on the collection of steam trains. Her late husband had amassed a huge collection of railway memorabilia, which is beautifully displayed as a museum and a full size railway running through the estate. We are very grateful to her kindness in inviting us on her open days in aid of her charities.

The 8th of August was a sad day as we attended the funeral of an Oxford branch Grenadier, **Keith Lewis**. **Keith** was the last of the branches Second World War Grenadiers and the last survivor of the bombing of the Guards Chapel a wellington Barracks. He was a great supporter of all the local branches and will be sadly missed.

The secretary in his capacity of area representative attended the Windsor Branch lunch at the Bexley Arms on the 7th September and proposed the toast to The Association. This branch was probably the last to receive and read a message from **HM the Queen** and last to propose a toast

to the **Queen**. Little did we know that by the next day our wonderful **Queen** was to leave us and join our late Colonel in their final resting place. I can say little about the state funeral of Her Majesty that has not already been said a hundred times. However it would be remiss of me not to mention the Regiment and particularly the Bearer Party who all conducted themselves in such an exemplary manner on this occasion it made one so proud to be a member of such a great Regiment.

I, as the ex-Master Tailor of the Regiment, was particularly proud to know that the Queens



The Royal Standard is laid at the foot of the catafalque.

Company Colour, The Royal Standard of the Regiment, laid at the foot of the catafalque in Westminster Hall and carried in front of the funeral cortege up the long walk at Windsor had been

refurbished by yours truly prior to the Queens Silver Jubilee in 1977.

The 2nd September saw the branch assembled once again for their annual lunch. 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 attending were good and we were well supported by other Branches. We sent a car to transport to and from the Royal Hospital Chelsea, four In-pensioners, all who had joined us before, on this occasion and they commented how much they enjoyed joining us, they were ably organised by our very own **Allan Goddard**.

Colonel Ian Duncan REME was our non-regimental guest who entertained all gathered with a short talk and slide show of his exploits in rowing the Atlantic, very interesting and well received by all present. He closed by kindly proposing the toast to the Regiment. The Regimental Adjutant **Major James Gatehouse** brought us up to date with all that was happening in the Regiment to date. He then kindly proposed a toast to the Association. One of our Vice Presidents, **Lieutenant Colonel**

Guy Denison-Smith attended the lunch and also told us of his recent trip to North America and his expedition, Yukon 700. So two rowers in attendance both with great stories to tell. The afternoon closed with a gigantic raffle and all retired clutching prizes. The Honourary Secretary was already planning next year's events.

Many of the Branch members supported the Gloucestershire Grenadier Lunch on 16th October hotly followed by the Oxford Branch the following weekend. 3rd November found the secretary **John Southern** and social secretary **Barrie Padwick CG** once again for the sixth year attending London Poppy Day on Marylebone Station in London, collecting for the annual Poppy appeal. A day that very nearly did not happen as the railway union had called a strike for that day. So incensed was **Barrie** that he wrote to the newspapers saying how wrong it was to interfere with the RBL appeal. Someone took heed and the strike was called off. We have been informed by RBL that we collected over million pounds in one day from all the stations in the metropolis.

All Guards branches in the area continue to join forces at events. We are very aware this has to be the way forward with everyone supporting each other. 2023 is going to be a very busy and exciting year for the Regiment and the Association. I am sure we all look forward to playing an active part in all that it brings. God save The King.



The Queens Company Colour, The Royal Standard of the Regiment.

Here is a short history of The Royal Standard of the Regiment.

Sovereigns Company Colour or Royal Standard Of The Regiment

King Charles II ordered the first Company of his Regiment of Guards to be termed “The Kings Company”, and issued a warrant for a Colour for his Company to the Earl of Sandwich, Master of the Great Wardrobe, under date 13th February 1661.

An account of a review held on Putney Heath on the 1st October 1684, at which King Charles the Second was present, states “The Kings Company Standard all crimson, cypher and crown embroidered in gold”.

In Sandfords description of the coronation of King James II he says “The Standard of the Kings own Company was of crimson silk, embroidered in the centre with the Royal Cypher, ensigned with an imperial crown, in gold”.

We have no record of King William III presenting a colour to the Kings Company owing probably to the Dutch Guards His Majesty brought over with him from Holland having taking the place of the First Guards who had been employed in the defence of London on behalf of King James II.

There is no record of Queen Anne presenting a colour, as the Queens Company was abroad from 1701 on active service under the Duke of Marlborough till peace was declared in 1713.

We have no record of the Colour existing in King George I time, but one with the Royal Cypher and crown existed in 1745, King George II reign, which might have been presented by either sovereign, and no alteration was made in the standard till after the union in 1801, when in the lower corners of the Standard appear the Shamrock and the Rose of England repeated instead of the Fleur de Lys and the Harp. This Standard was, it is supposed, presented in the latter part of King George III Reign, and did duty during the reign of King George IV, his cypher being the same as his fathers as there is no record of a new one being presented.

King William IV presented a new colour on 26th June 1832.

Queen Victoria did not present Her Company’s Colour in person it being received by the Regiment on 27th June 1838. The massive silver gilt crown

and Lion ornament on the Staff was presented by King William IV and is still in use. It bears his monogram and the date of his accession 26th June 1830. The silver hall mark on it is of the year 1831.

King Edward VII presented a new colour at Buckingham Palace on 30th May 1902.

King George V presented a new colour at Buckingham Palace on 1st May 1911.

There is no issue of colour during the reign of King Edward VIII.

King George VI presented a new colour at Buckingham Palace on 4th May 1937.

The present colour was presented by Queen Elizabeth II at Windsor Castle on 14th April 1953.

In 1976 the silk became unserviceable and C/Sgt John Southern the Master Tailor At Regimental Headquarters at the time removed all embellishments from the old Silk and refurbished new silk with old embellishments, completing it in time.

For Queen Elizabeth II’s Silver Jubilee Parade where it was on parade outside Buckingham Palace.

SUFFOLK

(Formed 1926)

President: D R MIDWOOD, Esq

Vice Presidents: FA WALLACE, Esq; Mr AE JONES; 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.

Another year following the similar pattern of previous years due mainly to our members becoming older and less able to travel. However, I am pleased to report that I have not been made aware of any bereavements within the Branch in, fact we have gained new members from the Essex Branch, which had to close this year because of similar problems, enabling them to continue

receiving Regimental news.

The Annual Branch Christmas lunch was held at the Hintlesham Golf Club on Sunday 12th December 2021 and went extremely well with the Golf Club pulling out all the stops to ensure that 43 of us had an enjoyable time. **Bernard Taylor** organised a raffle and auction with the very generously donated prizes and made £270 for Branch funds.



David Midwood and Bernard Taylor enjoying themselves at the Christmas Lunch.



Christmas lunch at the Hintlesham Golf Club on Sunday 12th December 2021.

An Annual General Meeting was held at The Manger, Bradfield Combust on Sunday 3rd April 2022. A review of the previous year's events and discussion about the future took place. The composition of the Committee was discussed and **Barry Lovelace** was unable to continue as one of the Welfare Officers. It was therefore agreed and carried that **Brian Taylor** would take his place and that all other post holders be re-elected on bloc.

On Saturday 30th July 2022 we celebrated **Her Majesty The Queen's** Platinum Jubilee and the Suffolk Branch's 95th Anniversary. Branch Members, their families and guests, 74 in total, assembled at Lophams Hall, the home of **Captain Charlie Bennett** and his wife, **Jo**. He had worked hard getting his garden into shape, including the only patch of green grass in the County. The marquee, kindly provided by **Mark Everard**, was put up on Thursday, without side walls as the weather was hot and dry. The tables and chairs were rented from the Sidney Taylor Hall in Dullingham and collected in Captain Bennett's Land Rover and animal trailer. However Saturday arrived and so did the wind which funnelled through a gap in the hedge making it very difficult to keep the plastic table clothes in place and so all hands were needed to put up the side panels. A second shower was then needed by all!

We were pleased to welcome **Lieutenant General Sir George Norton KCVO CBE**, who had attended our 90th Anniversary celebrations at Culford, **Major James Gatehouse**, the Regimental Adjutant, **Lieutenant Colonel James Keeley MBE**, the new Association General Secretary and **Matthew Ellmer**, The Regimental Casualty Officer. We enjoyed the Hog Roast with all the trimmings provided by **Denise Gathercole**, the Country Caterer, who has looked after us several times in the past. Afterward the President gave the toast to **Her Majesty The Queen** and **General George** described how the Regiment is in fine form and gave us an insight into the problems of Ukraine. This was followed by an update from **Matthew Ellmer** just returned from another walk for the Colonel's Fund, this time along the John Muir Way in Scotland **Captain Ben Stephens** then gave us an entertaining



Ben Stephens with his **Yukon 700** paddle.



Branch members and guests at Lophams Hall.

account of his part in Grenadier Team Yukon, a 700 kms journey down the Yukon River with several disabled Grenadiers. He also had with him one of the exquisite paddles that had been specially made for them.

A cake arrived, kindly provided by our Chairman, **Patrick Nisbett** and **General George** made the first cut. **Captain Ben Stephens** then expertly cut it up ensuring that everyone had a slice and that he had a new skill to



Left: General George cutting the cake.



Right: The Suffolk Branches 95th anniversary cake.

add to his CV. Flowers were presented to **Jo** and a flag pole to **Captain Bennett** to thank them for their hospitality. The children played in the swimming pool and good food, good conversation in good company was enjoyed by all, helped no doubt by the wine provided by the Branch.

Something new was organised by **Kevin Kitcher** on Sunday 6th November, a Grenadier Breakfast Club at The Cock Inn, Clare. The publican is **Ivan Appleton**, a Grenadier who had served with Kevin. The details had been advertised on social media and several of his generation came. I'm pleased to say that 5 Suffolk Branch members also came and the morning turned out to be a total success. Ivan was able to donate £45 to the Colonel's Fund and has arranged that the Grenadier Breakfast will be a repeated on the first Saturday of the month in future.

Finally, the Branch was very proud of the professionalism shown by all those Grenadiers taking party in the funeral of the late Queen Elizabeth II. Long Live the King.

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 (Retired) J LLOYD, MBE

Vice Presidents: Colonel THE REVEREND P HEWLETT-SMITH OBE; Lieutenant Colonel HMP de LISLE; : Lieutenant Colonel TJ TEDDER; Lieutenant Colonel DJ WEBSTER; Major Lord WRIGRAN MVO; Lieutenant Colonel SIR JOHN SMILEY Bt; Captain CTF FAGAN, MBE, DL; Captain R HUTTON; Mr P HODGKINSON, BEM; Mr S KEYWORTH, MBE

Chairman: Mr A REID

Secretary: Mrs B REID, 71 Wyke Avenue, Ash, Aldershot, Hants, GU12 6EA

Telephone: (01252) 316757

Email: babsgga@gmail.com

Treasurer: Miss C DICKINSON

Email: Carod1971@googlemail.com

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 **Lieutenant Colonel Gordon Whitehead RVM** who died in his care home. 2628750 **Peter Isgar** who was one of our committee members who died in St Peters Hospital, Chertsey also his wife **Frances (Fran) Isgar** who was also a committee member and died in the same hospital just a few months after **Peter**. **Mrs Alice Sharrett** who died in hospital. Associate member 23215808 **Gerry Drudge** (a proud Life Guard of the Household Division) who died suddenly at home.

On a happy note, we are pleased to welcome a new member into our branch. A serving Grenadier **WO2 James Thompson** who is the Drill Sgt of the Battalion.

Our branch meetings started again in March and are being held in the Grenadier Sgts Mess at Lille Barracks, Aldershot on the third Thursday on a bi-monthly basis. Anyone wishing to attend must contact the branch secretary with their full names and car details in order to gain entry into the barracks. Our Social meetings have started up again and held on the third Wednesday again on a bi-monthly basis. These being held at 1230hrs in order for those members that do not like driving in the dark. Both the above are well attended but we

could do better.

We held our Annual Dinner on Saturday 7 May at the Farnham House Hotel, Farnham, Surrey. Where once again we had the pleasure of **Lieutenant Colonel Stumpy Keeley MBE** being our guest speaker who was accompanied by his wife **Samantha**. We also had the pleasure of a serving member **WO2 James**

Thompson accompanied by his wife **Emma** as guests of the branch. Our dinner was well attended and enjoyed by all. Four bouquets of flowers were presented, one each to **Mrs Joanna Houstoun** (our Presidents wife), **Mrs Samantha Keeley** (Guest speakers wife), our secretary **Mrs Babs Reid** as a token of members thanks and appreciation. The final one to **Caroline Dickinson** for stepping up and taking on the role of branch treasurer.



Tables set up ready for our Annual Dinner.



The cake for our Queens 70th Jubilee Tea Party made by Babs Reid.

We had a The Queens 70th Jubilee Tea Party and Annual BBQ both held at our Chairman and Secretary **Andy and Babs Reid's** House. The weather was kind to us on both occasions and the events were very much enjoyed by all.

Sadly, our branch President **Colonel Euan Houstiun OBE** stood down as President but not before handing the reins over to our new President **Colonel Jonathan Lloyd MBE**. We will miss **Colonel Euan** and his sense of humour but he has not gone far as he remains a Vice President of the branch. We do however welcome **Colonel Jonathan** and look forward to working with him long into the future.

Our branch stall on Grenadier Day was a great success, attracting lots of visitors and making a



Our Chairman, **Andy Reid**, outside our branch stall on Grenadier Day.

much-needed financial boost for the branch, thanks to our helpers on the day. We did manage this year to form a team for the Boyton Cup however we did miss out because we did not hear the announcement for it over the speakers. So sorry to all our team members but let's put your names down for next year and we will see if we can take part and win the Boyton Cup for our branch once again.

Our treasurer **Caroline Dickinson** has set up a branch Facebook page called **Grenadier Guards Association Surrey & East Hampshire Branch**. Another way of keeping members informed on what is going on within the branch. So, another step forward via the internet.

At the time of writing, we have our Christmas Lunch arranged for Saturday 26 November at the Inn on the Lake, Silvermere Golf Club, Chobham of which we are very pleased as with 77 people attending our numbers are well up on last years. So, hopefully that will continue throughout 2023. We have just had our first Sunday lunch since Covid



Branch table for our Sunday Lunch at The Woolpack.

and it will now continue every month into 2023. So, it looks like things are slowly getting back to some kind of normality.

Before I finish my report, I would like to thank our Officers and Committee who all work hard to keep our branch running smoothly. But as with other branches we are finding it very difficult to encourage members to take part and support their branch into the future.

One of the most common causes of losing contact with existing branch members is that they move house, change email addresses and phone numbers and fail to inform the branch of their changes. Can I please ask everyone that if you change details of any of the above let your branch secretary know of your changes.

We are working hard on encouraging, lost, younger and serving Grenadiers to join not only our branch, but all branches. So please if you are one of those people reading this now, please join us by contacting your local branch to your home town or indeed where you are currently serving.

To find your local branch go online to www.grengds.com click on The Regimental Association, click on Branches where you will find the details of the secretary of your local branch. 'ONCE A GRENADIER, ALWAYS A GRENADIER' we look forward to meeting you again.

WALSALL

(Formed 1974)

President: Major J COLEMAN

Vice Presidents: VACANT

Chairman: J REVITT

Secretary: Mr J COOPER, 3 Pine Street, Walsall, West Midlands, W53 3AG

Tel: (01922) 315020

Treasurer: J REVITT

Meetings: Held on at 1200hrs on the second Monday of each month at Short Heath Royal British Legion Club, Church Road, Willenhall, WV12 5PT.

2022 was not a good year for the Walsall Branch we lost three valued members of the branch throughout the year: 22955422 **Cliff Jones**, who had been the Branch Secretary. 22656199 **Glyn Phillips**, who had been the Branch Treasurer and 23865030 **Eddie Newell**. They will be sadly missed by all Association members for all the work they did for the branch.

We have had a quite year with many members suffering from poor health. The Chairman Peter



Branch Members enjoying Christmas Lunch.

Smith resigned due to ill health and does not attend meetings, but **Glyn Phillips** daughter, **Judith Revett**, and **Ray Smoat** still keep in touch. That said the Branch members came together on 12th December 22 for our Christmas meal held at The Broadway, New Invention in Willenhall. We had 22 people present including **Glyn's** family, a most enjoyable afternoon was had by all we raised a glass to members lost and to Her Majesty **Queen Elizabeth II**. We met again on the 15th December for **Glyn's** funeral for which a guard of honour was present.

The Branch held its AGM on the 9th January 2023 where a new Treasurer was appointed (**Judy Revitt**). Although we are down to just a few active members but hopefully we will continue planning on a meal to the Punch Bowl Bridgenorth and also fish and chip evening all to be discussed and finalised at our next meeting in April held at Short Heath British Legion. Hopefully 2023 will see us enjoying a happier time together.

WESSEX

(Formed 1949)

President: Lieutenant Colonel AC McC MATHER, CVO, OBE

Vice Presidents: Captain CR ACLAND; Major 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 Lloyd 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: To be held at the Conservative Club, 22 Christchurch Road, Ringwood, BH24 1DN. (Mondays from 12.00 noon: 17th April, 19th June, 18th September, and Christmas Draw Friday 1st December).

Lunches: (Mondays from 12.00 noon – 20th February, 20th November) at a venue to be determined during the year.

We held our November luncheon for the first time at The Old Beams, Ibsley, just on the outskirts of the New Forest. We were able to hire their function room for the event and with fifteen



Members waiting patiently for their lunch to arrive.

members enjoying the day it was very pleasant indeed.

The Christmas social was well attended in December where we held a game of bingo followed by the Branch Raffle. The Christmas Draw was won by the following – **Deanne Bishop** (£100), **Mike Sperrin** (40), and

Alan Maslin (£25). Congratulations to them all and thank you to members who brought in the potluck lunch for us all to enjoy. We returned to The Old Beams again for our first 2022 luncheon in February where a similar number joined us for a very enjoyable get-together. The Branch AGM took place in April and committee members agreed to serve for a further term. After the meeting, we held a raffle and enjoyed a light lunch. Another luncheon was held in June at The Pure Drop, Ferndown, where again members sat down to a varied menu followed by a raffle.

It was so nice to be returning to Aldershot for Grenadier Day in July. Although it was an extremely sweltering day, we were very pleased to be able to set up our stall under the shade of a nearby tree – which helped make life much more bearable. Thank you to those who supported our Branch when we held a Children Only Tombola – an enormous



Treasurer Ann Crew and Secretary Janice Maslin ready for 'the big day'.

success – along with the wine and chocolate raffle. We took £140.00 on the day which made all the hard work put into the event worthwhile.

August is a very popular month for the Branch when the annual garden luncheon was held at the home of our President, **Lieutenant Colonel Mather**, and his wife, **Gaye**. A big thank you goes to them for being such great hosts and welcoming us all. As it was a potluck lunch, there was such a lovely variety of food brought to the table by members and a very pleasant afternoon was had by all.



Our President, Lieutenant Colonel Mather and his wife Gaye receiving their gift of wine from Chairman Derek Baker and his wife Marie.

Our annual luncheon was held later than usual in November at The Dudsbury Golf Club Hotel & Spa, Ferndown. The meal was a great success, and our thanks go to **Ann Crew** for organising this on our behalf. We were delighted to have as our guest speaker **Captain Sir Nick Wright** KCVO. He spoke about his time of service in The Royal Navy and his role as Private Secretary to **Her Royal Highness the Princess Royal**. We were also pleased



Deanne Bishop relaxed at the Dudsbury.



Ann Crew and Janice Maslin with Andy Green.

to welcome **Lieutenant Colonel James Keeley MBE**, General Secretary of the Grenadier Guards Association and Regimental Treasurer, who updated us on Regimental and Association matters. After the meal we held a raffle which made £101 towards Branch funds so thank you to everyone who took part.

It is with deep regret that we have to announce the sad loss of the following members: 22986161 **John Stimson**, January 2022; 22545098 **Reginald Everitt**, June 2022; 22706652 **Kenneth Rampton**, August 2022; 24164833 **Ron Carter BEM**, September 2022.

Our thanks go to all at Regimental Headquarters for their support throughout the very challenging year. On this occasion we would like to say a fond farewell to **Major Andy Green** who was an enormous support to us throughout his time as General Secretary. He will be missed by everyone, and we would like to wish him well for the future. It goes without saying that we are also grateful for the support of Branch members who attend meetings and events throughout the year, this is much appreciated.

New members would be most welcome to join the Branch so if you know of anyone living in the Wessex area, please encourage them to come along and meet with us.

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.

It's really good to read all the news from our Branches up and down the country and I'll tell you all about our year here at Wigan, St. Helens & District Branch. Are we getting some normality back? Well, judge for yourselves!

2021 ended with our Christmas Lunch on 12th December. A great turn out of members and families, friends of the Branch and quite a few children. As with all our functions, we were at the Village Club in Culcheth and as always we enjoyed good food, great raffles and a warm and friendly atmosphere. We don't do monthly meetings any more but we do have our AGM. This year saw us enjoy lunch whilst holding the meeting in February. This turned out to be a committee meeting as many members were unable to attend. So, a little later in the year we held another meeting at a local venue and 17 members turned out to enjoy a great carvery meal.

On April 24th we celebrated St. George's Day with an excellent lunch enjoyed by around 50 members, families and friends. Once again, the raffles were a huge success. Our annual Dinner



Branch Secretary, Barry Taylor and WO1 (Drum Major) James Bennett.

Dance was held on October 15th at the Village Club with 56 of us in attendance. This year's guest Regimental Speaker was **WO1 (Drum Major) James Bennett**, the Senior Drum Major in the British Army. It was wonderful to welcome him and a pleasure to listen to his comprehensive Regimental update. He added a touch of class in mess dress. Congratulations to James on his acceptance for a Commission which should happen in 2023. It was also great to welcome **Morris** and **Jen Robinson** from the Medway Branch and **Linda** and **Colin Jones** from the Liverpool Branch. Music and dancing was provided by master crooner **Andrew Dunne**.



Andy Gamble, Bob McLellan, David Yates, Susan Yates with Eric Radcliffe casting an eye from the pavement.

When it comes to Remembrance Sunday we have a vast area in which to parade. This year saw us in St. Helens on Friday 11th November where we attended a Service of Remembrance at 1100hrs in Victoria Square with the full Remembrance Parade on Sunday



Left to Right – David Yates, Susan Yates, Barry Taylor, David Welling, Eric Radcliffe.

13th November, again, in St. Helens. We paraded as a Branch and thanks go to our Ladies for their support. In particular, **Adel Taylor** and **Susan Yates** who both supported **Barry Taylor, David Welling, David Yates, Eric Radcliffe, Bob McLellan** and **Andy Gamble**.

As always we will see out 2022 with our Christmas Lunch on Sunday 11th December. This is a chance to wind down in a casual atmosphere with friends and families after a year of change, drama and uncertainty. We look forward to renewing our relationship with our Grenadier Detachment of Cadets in Wigan and the re-emergence of the **Walter Massey Competition** after an enforced hiatus of 2 years.

We lost one of our members this year, 23252274 **Lawrence Hooson**, who passed away on 7th August with his funeral on 22nd August in Chorley. Our Branch Standard was on parade with **David Yates** to say farewell to **Lawrence** and give him a solid Grenadier send off. As with any Branch, we couldn't function without support and we at Wigan & St. Helens rely on individuals to keep us going. Our Treasurer **Eric Radcliffe**, our Chairman **David Welling**, our Vice Chairman **David Yates** and our Ladies with special mention of **Adel Taylor** and **Susan Yates**. Thank you for all your support and for keeping your President and Secretary **Barry Taylor** on his toes.

Our thanks, as always, go to everyone at Regimental Headquarters for all the help and support we receive as a Branch. We couldn't do without you.

Are we getting some normality back? **YOU BET WE ARE!!**



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 JS GILBERT

Chairman: Mr RA DOBSON

Secretary: Mrs S BULLION, 9 Hawker Court, High Street, Langley, SL3 8LU

Tel: 07598956392

Email: micksylv238@hotmail.com

Treasurer: Mrs C WHITE

Meetings: first Wednesday of each month at 1300hrs.

All Meetings are held at the Grenadier Club, Maidenhead Road Windsor, SL4 5EY

The Branch Annual General Meeting was held on the 6th April, **Roger Dobson** as Chairman was re-elected and all other positions remained the same. All Branch Meetings have been taking place the first Wednesday of every month at 2.30pm and is well attended for afternoon tea and cakes, provided by **Sylvia Bullion and Irene Deacon**, thank you ladies for your hard work.

In May a memorial bench was delivered and placed in the garden of the Windsor Branch in memory of our former Chairman, **Mick Bullion**, funds were raised by former army colleagues, family and Branch Members in his honour.



Memorial Bench placed in the garden of the Windsor Branch in memory of former Chairman, Mick Bullion.

June was a particularly busy month for the town of Windsor and the Windsor Branch hosted the Queen's Platinum Jubilee evening party with a disco for all Branch and Club members to help celebrate; this was held on the 4th June and was well attended. The Garter service was held in Windsor Castle on Monday the 13th June and was represented by twelve Branch Members.



Garter Service at Windsor Castle, 13 Jun 22.

On the 16th July we saw the return of Grenadier Day at Lille Barracks. The Windsor Branch laid on a coach for all Members to take them and their families. The day was a great success and it was good to see old comrades; the day was rounded off by a fish & chip supper in the Club.

The Branch Annual lunch took place on 7th September at the Bexley Arms, Windsor and was attended by our Area Representative, **John Southern** and his wife.

A loyal greeting letter was sent to Her Majesty 'The Queen' informing her of our luncheon and we congratulated her on her Jubilee Celebrations.



Top Table at the Branch Annual Lunch on 7 Sept 22.

A reply was received from Her Majesty, which was read out by The Chairman; sadly the following day we were informed Her Majesty had passed away. The Chairman and The Vice President lowered the flag to half mast in respect of the Queen's passing with many Branch and Club Members visiting Windsor to lay floral tributes.

On Sunday the 13th November Alan Urvoy represented the Windsor Branch for the Remembrance Service at the Holy Trinity Garrison Church in Windsor. The Club was open for drinks for all members following the service.



Alan Urvoy representing the Branch on Remembrance Service at the Holy Trinity Garrison Church.

Return of Turkey & Tinsel saw our Club and Branch Members go to Weston Super-Mere on the 18th November for a 4 day break, it was well attended with a coach full and a great time was had by all. December saw the Branch Christmas Lunch held on the 7th December at The Bexley Arms with 40 guests attending and our Christmas Draw took place on the 17th December and a fun evening was had.

It is with deep regret that we report the sad loss of 2628636 **Reginald James Clarke** who was one of our original founders and a good supporter of the Branch and will be sadly missed. The sad loss of **Mrs Sheila Anne Eastwood** who was the wife of our Former President



Sheila Eastwood.

Major Jim Eastwood LVO MBE. The Chairman, **Roger Dobson**, Vice President, **Tony Steel**, Branch Secretary, **Sylvia Bullion** and our Welfare Office, **John Wasley** represented the Windsor Branch and attended the funeral.

The Club continues to open every Friday and Sundry evening for Bingo; Sunday lunchtimes remain popular and quiz nights on the last Wednesday of the month with a fish and chip supper. The Lions, Marines and Corps of Drums hold their regular monthly meetings at the Club, with the Lions holding regular charity events.

Our thanks go to the loyal Branch and Club members, and ladies, for their support over the last 12 months and helping to keep the Branch active. We are very much looking forward to holding more events for the Branch and Club in the coming year.



WOLVERHAMPTON

(Formed 1919)

President: VACANT

Vice Presidents: Mr D ROBINSON, Esq

Chairman: Mr J SNEAD

Secretary: Mrs J SNEAD, 92 Van Diemens Road, Wombourne, Wolverhampton, WV5 0DE

Tel: (01902) 896547

Email: Jenny.snead@sky.com

Treasurer: Mr B GILLAN

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



Jack Snead, Mrs VM Baylis (Secretary of Worcester Branch) and Mrs Jenny Snead.

I must start off by paying tribute to our late **Queen Elizabeth II**. She has sat on the British throne for an unparalleled 70 years. On behalf of the Wolverhampton Branch of the Grenadier Guards Association I would like say a sad farewell, and we welcome her Son, King Charles III, to the throne. We were able to hold our first AGM after 2 years on 23 March 2022, all officers were returned. It was decided that owing to the small number of members no further meetings would be held in 2022, apart from our Sunday lunches, Canal trip and any other trips arranged. Our first event to all be together was our Sunday Lunch held on 12 December 2021, held at The Bell at Trysull, it was a most enjoyable event all being together again.



From left to right: Christine Rogers, John Rogers, Daniel Ferretti, Evelyn Egginton, Maureen Wilson, Maxine Ferretti, Isabelle Ferretti.



Trooping the Colour 2022.



John Rogers, Mavis Bailey, Don Robinson, Jenny Snead, Dennis Johnson, Rev Jean Spragg, Christine Rogers and Elaine Johnson enjoying the narrow boat trip.

A party of our members enjoyed a narrow boat trip on the Staffordshire and Worcester Canal, collecting a fish and chip lunch en route, which was heartily welcome.

On 27 July 2022, Inkerman Company completed their pilgrimage from Aldershot to Boscobel House in Shropshire. Their Company standard features the Royal Oak Tree at Boscobel, which gave cover to King Charles II during his escape from Cromwell's forces. The Company were met by Standard Bearers, **Jack Snead** from Wolverhampton Branch and **David Robins** from North Staffordshire Branch. Two talented drummers accompanied the Inkerman Company into Boscobel. After their



Standard Bearers awaiting the arrival of Inkerman Company.



The two drummers outside Boscobel House.

welcome on arrival the Company were presented with an Oak sapling.

We have sadly lost one of our stalwart members this year, 23247677 **Ken Egginton** passed. **Ken** was a loyal associate member from the Signals Regiment. We made sure he had a good Grenadier send off, with our Standard Bearer, **Jack Snead** present. The service was taken by **Rev Jean Spragg**, our Chaplain.

We would like to thank **Lieutenant Colonel James 'Stumpy' Keeley** and **LSgt Glen Davis** and the team at RHQ for their support during this year.

WORCESTER & HEREFORD

(Formed 1922)

President: Captain HL GRAY-CHEAPE, JP, DL

Vice Presidents: Lieutenant Colonel PR HOLCROFT, LVO, OBE; Major DJC DAVENPORT, CBE, DL; Lieutenant Colonel LCA RANSON, TD; Captain D MORGAN; D SPENCER, Esq; GJ ROSE, Esq; TW HEWLETT, Esq; D TURNEY, Esq

Chairman: Mr BI BAYLIS

Secretary: Mrs VM BAYLIS

Tel: (01905) 422569

Email: grenguardsworcs@gmail.com

Treasurer: Captain D MORGAN

Meetings: Contact the Branch Secretary for further details.

Facebook: Grenadier Guards Worcester and Hereford.

Our Christmas lunch was held at the Pear Tree in Smite on Sunday 5th December 2021, and, as

usual, it was a most enjoyable lunch. **Lieutenant Will Martin** represented the serving Regiment and updated us on the Regiment. Our Poet Laureate, Bruce Baylis, entertained us all again with a poem to finish off the afternoon.



Joan Woodfield and Betty Seale at the Christmas Lunch at the Pear Tree Inn Sunday 5 December 2021.



Terry Barrett and Bronwen Harrison with Patricia Smith at the Christmas Lunch at the Pear Tree Inn.



David Westbury with Clive Wright at the Christmas Lunch at the Pear Tree Inn.



Mary Westbury with Carol Wright at the Christmas Lunch at the Pear Tree Inn.

The Branch celebrated their Centenary on the 1st May 2022. This was celebrated at the Pear Tree Inn with an Afternoon Tea and was attended by around 120 people. See photos etc about the celebrations following the yearly report.

At the Branch AGM on Sunday 12th May 2022 the Committee for 2022 were elected as follows:

Chairman: **Bruce Baylis**, Vice Chair: **Patricia Smith**, Treasurer: **David Morgan**, Branch Secretary: **Veronica Baylis**, Luncheon Master: **Bruce Baylis**, Welfare Officers: **Sean Hinton** and **Terry Hewlett**, Funeral Co-ordinator: **Terry Hewlett**, Coach Master: **Ken Allen**, Committee Members: **Derek Turney** (in an advisory position), **Ken Allen**, **Ken Jones**, **David Wilkes** and **Steve Marriott**. Social Committee: Chair **Patricia Smith**, **Ken Allen** and **Kath Hinton**.

Remembrance Sunday on 15th May and was attended by 17 people. For those who are unable to attend this service, it is now also possible to view the event via an online link, which was set up during Covid



David Westbury (2nd from the right) marching on Remembrance Sunday, 15 May 2022.

and will be used in the future. It was so nice to be able for us to attend in person again and have the opportunity to meet up with friends as well. A big thanks to **Ken Allen** for organising the trip and of course, also a 'Very Big Thank You' to the branch members and friends for their support.

A few of us attended the Raising of the Flag for Armed Forces Day at the Guild Hall on Monday 20th June. We also met with **Mrs Georgina Long Britten**, daughter of the late **Colonel Pat Britten** and granddaughter of the late **Brigadier Britten**. It was so nice to meet with her and we have extended an invitation to her to attend our Christmas Lunch on the 4th December.



Sean Hinton, Patricia Smith and Steve Marriott at Grenadier Day in Lille Barracks 16 July 2022.



Bruce Baylis, David Williams, Georgina Long-Britten and Ken Allen at the Guild Hall.



Bruce and Veronica Baylis with Tony Steele at Grenadier Day in Lille Barracks 16 July 2022.

Grenadier Day was held on Saturday 16th July and attended by 15 people from the Branch. It was a very hot but also a very enjoyable day, we managed to keep cool under the gazebos, as usual provided by **Sean Hinton** (thanks again **Sean**). We all thoroughly enjoyed the events, which took place in the arena, even though the hot weather slowed down the birds of prey and dogs displays.



Ron Haywood and Kath Hinton at Grenadier Day in Lille Barracks 16 July 2022.



Patricia Smith and Veronica Baylis at Grenadier Day in Lille Barracks 16 July 2022.



Betty wearing her 95th birthday sash.

In July, **Betty Seale** celebrated her 95th Birthday, a very special celebration for the family as Betty had been very poorly in hospital. Needless to say it was wonderful to receive an email from her daughters with this lovely photo taken on her birthday.

Following the very sad loss of **Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II**, the Branch Chairman and Branch Secretary attended the Proclamation of **King Charles III** at the Guild Hall in Worcester on the 11th September. It was an honour to have received an invite from the Mayor of Worcester to be part of this ceremony.

Patricia Smith and **Veronica Baylis** organised a skittles/quiz evening with a buffet at the Portobello Inn in Worcester on Friday 14 October. As usual, it was a fun evening; we had two teams, the Gents against the Ladies. The Gents Team won the overall score by 5 points although the Ladies Team had some of the highest individual scores! Rematch next spring?

Members of the branch took part in the Remembrance Service at Worcester Cathedral on Sunday 13 November 2022, with **Bruce Baylis** representing the Branch to lay the wreath at the Memorial.



Left: **Bruce Baylis** representing the Branch at the Remembrance Service at Worcester Cathedral and laying the wreath at the Memorial. Right: **Bruce Baylis** and **Ron Haywood** at the Remembrance Service.



Bruce Baylis and **Sean Hinton** at the Remembrance Service.

It is with great sadness that we have to report the following deaths: **John Bevan's** wife **Dorothy** passed away in February, unfortunately we were unable to attend her funeral. 23252845 **Bryn Poyner** who passed away in March. Although a Worcester man, Bryn was not a branch member. His granddaughter phoned requesting involvement from the Branch. 22545745 **Terry Barrett** was diagnosed with cancer in January and passed away in March. **Terry** and partner **Bronwen** attended the Christmas Lunch (see photo above). 22213378 **John Dyke** had not been in the best of health and passed away in March. 23188535 **Roy Routledge** was diagnosed with liver cancer some time ago, he passed away at the hospice in June. 23509359 **Keith Harris** passed away following a long illness in July. 23252267 **George Rose** had been bedridden for along time and passed away peacefully at home in July. All above funerals were represented by the Association.

23688682 **Godfrey William Davies**, who's family informed us on the 13th October that Godfrey had passed away on the 28th September. Godfrey had at one time been a branch member but had moved to Cirencester and there had not been contact with the Branch.

On behalf of the committee and members, we send our condolences and deepest sympathy to the bereaved family and friends.



Sean Hinton, Terry Hewlett, Ken Allen, Ken Jones and Bruce Baylis at the funeral of Terry Barrett.



Ken Allen and Bruce Baylis alongside members of the Royal British Legion at the funeral of Roy Routledge.

As always, we try to keep in touch with branch members as much as possible, which these days is mostly by telephone and through our yearly Newsletter and the Gazette, we hope that we are keeping members and their family updated on what's been happening within the Branch. Via this Gazette, we are sending our very best wishes to all members, especially 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 family and friends for their continuing support to the branch by attending our functions. Without their continuing input we would not be able to carry on as we are and I am sure that without their support our functions would not be half as enjoyable!

As usual, our thank goes out to **Lieutenant Colonel James Keeley MBE** and **LSgt Glen**

Davis, as well as the rest of the team at RHQ, for their help and support throughout the year.

Dates for diary 2023:

- Sunday 5th February – Lunchtime branch meeting at the Portobello followed by lunch at 1200hrs
- Sunday 14th May – AGM followed by Branch Meeting at 1130hrs
- Sunday 10th September – Christmas Lunch, Sunday 3rd December at the Mason's Lodge, Rainbow Hill, Worcester at 1200hrs.

An Afternoon Tea to celebrate King Charles III Coronation is being planned. Date and Time is still to be confirmed.

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: Mr B MATLESS

Secretary: Mr M SPENCER, 52 The Grange, Woodham Village, Newton Aycliffe, County Durham, DL5 4SZ

Tel: (01325) 321218 **Mob:** 07793590201

Email: michael-spencer2@sky.com

Treasurer: Mr M SPENCER

Meetings: Contact the Branch Secretary for further details.

2022 has not exactly been an easy, or regular year. A year ago, we still had COVID restrictions, and we were cancelling plans for various events that we would, in other years, have been able to offer the Members. We are grateful to our committee for their support and endless efforts in continuing to make things happen.

Following two years of Virtual Annual General Meetings, we gathered at Selby Bowling Club for our AGM in April. Although a small turnout we held a very informative meeting and mapped out the year ahead. Officers remain unchanged with **Michael Spencer** continuing as Branch Secretary for an 11th year. It was so lovely to catch up with everyone. As supporters of the Gurkha Welfare Trust, we dressed a teddy bear in a Gurkha themed

outfit to support their first bear auction to raise funds for Nepali veterans.



Teddy Bears Picnic.



Tony and Linda Daniel, still smiling despite the rain at Regimental Remembrance Day.

Tony and Mrs Linda Daniel attended the Regimental Remembrance Day on Sunday 15th May and enjoyed the service in the Guards Chapel and managed to catch up with some friends following the wreath laying on Horse Guards Parade.

Michael and Maureen Spencer attended the Trooping the Colour Ceremony on Thursday 2nd June 2022, as part of the Platinum Jubilee Celebrations of HM Queen Elizabeth II, what a wonderful weekend of celebrations we were part of and witnessed history in the making.

Continuing our celebrations of Her Majesty The Queen's Platinum Jubilee, members, family and friends gathered at Hazlewood Castle Hotel on 19th June for lunch. Our Branch secretary welcomed everyone, especially members from the Wigan, St Helens and District Branch. We enjoyed a wonderful spread, and the committee once again went that extra mile to make it a memorable occasion. Our Area representative Barry Taylor did the Regiment proud with a briefing on the current Regimental affairs, which we found most enlightening.



Michael and Maureen Spencer attended the Trooping the Colour on Thursday 2nd June 2022.

On Saturday 25th June the very best of the military descended on the Yorkshire coast town of Scarborough for this year's prestigious Armed Forces Day national event. HRH Prince Edward, The Duke of Kent was in attendance as the crowds



Mick Male in action fundraising.



Yorkshire Branch Members celebrating the Platinum Jubilee at Hazlewood Castle on 19th June 22.

enjoyed displays on land, sea and in the air. The final musical interlude of the day was from the military and non-military drum and flute enthusiasts of The Yorkshire Corps of Drums.

Her Majesty The Queen Consort opened the 94th Field of Remembrance at Westminster Abbey on Thursday 10th November 2022. Our Branch Secretary **Michael Spencer** and **Maureen** attended this annual event of a sea of scarlet poppies which covers the Abbey grounds. This was even more poignant in a year of the sad loss of our Monarch which had been marked nationally and locally by everyone.

On Sunday 13th November, Members together with an attachment of Gurkhas from ITC Catterick Garrison

attended Remembrance Sunday at Ripley War Memorial and a Service at All Saints' Ripley. Our Chairman **Brian Matless** and **Cpl Rajendra Rai** from the Gurkhas at the ITC Catterick each laid a wreath. This year commemorated the 40th anniversary of the Falklands War, a conflict that lasted 74 days, and was one of the largest conflicts since World War 2, with 30,000 British personnel involved and 255 people losing their lives.



Chelsea Pensioners at the Field of Remembrance, Thursday 10th November 2022.



Brian Matless and Cpl Rajendra Rai laying wreaths at the Ripley War Memorial on Remembrance Sunday.



Left to Right: Private Shahash Roka, Spr Bishal Shrestha, Spr Unish Rai, Spr Dipesh Rai, Spr Rohit Gurung, Cpl Rajendra Rai, Rfn Roshan BC, Rfn Sandip Budhamagar, Private Hemanta Rai, Spr Nishal Rijal.

Congratulations to all the young soldiers on their immaculate turnout and it was an absolute delight to have them with us. We wish the cadets all the best for the future when they complete their 37 weeks training on 2nd December. We adjourned to The Station Hotel, Birstwith for a most enjoyable lunch and catch-up.

Vice President 22545362 **Tony Daniel**, attended his local Remembrance Parade in Lowestoft where he now lives.



Tony Daniel, attended his local Remembrance Parade in Lowestoft.

On Tuesday 6th December, members banished their winter blues with a Christmas Lunch, and festive entertainment by **Annie Riley**, a modern-day Dame Vera Lynn who lifted our spirits at The Grand Hotel, Gosforth Park courtesy of The Not Forgotten Association. Our secretary has been able to source a new fund-raising venture of mementos which

are on sale. This has enabled Christmas Gifts and Ringtons Hampers to be sent to our more senior members and those unfortunately not experiencing the best of times.

It is always a sad duty to record the death of Branch members, and we must report the passing of the following in the past year: 2741341(V) **Rodney Angel-Baker** on 26th April. **Rodney** served 15 years 1 month (October 1945-Oct 1960) and saw active service in London, Haifa, Tripoli, Berlin and Düsseldorf. 1957-1960 with his Battalion in Windsor and London performing Public Duties as Drum Major with the Royal Household Troops.

23252451 **Albert James William Sharrocks BEM** on 13th April, or as he was better known **Bert**. Formerly 2nd Battalion Grenadier Guards **Bert** was selected as one of the pall bearers at the funeral of **Sir Winston Churchill**. A great honour for which the bearers were awarded the British Empire Medal, a day that **Bert** never forgot, and would often talk about.

23646360 **David William Robson**, who died suddenly on Sunday 4th September, a staunch supportive member of our Branch who again will be sadly missed by us all, but always remembered.

4867686 (V) **Harry Clifford Adamson** who died on the 5th November and who, at 99 years of age, was our oldest member. **Harry** was a loyal member of the Yorkshire Branch and was looking forward to a grand old knee's up to celebrate his 100th Birthday in 2023. We had chatted recently, and he was looking forward to celebrating his 100th birthday on 7th February 2023 and receiving his card from King Charles III (Secretly he wanted it from the Queen Elizabeth, but as he told me "She beat me to it").

On behalf of everyone at the Yorkshire Branch, we would like to thank **Lieutenant Colonel (Ret'd) James Keeley MBE, LSgt Glen Davis** and the Regimental Headquarters team for their support throughout the past year. Reflecting on 2022, it was a very special year with the return of some normality, and we look forward to seeing what 2023 has in store as the Branch marks the 75th Anniversary of the formation of the Yorkshire Branch, which we plan to celebrate throughout the year.

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, NOM 2J0

Email: raybrown35@hotmail.com

Treasurer: Mr R BROWN, BEM

Our main theme this year has been our 50th Anniversary Celebrations, complete with a dinner on the exact day of our foundation, 16th September 2022. It was highlighted by a message from Her Majesty the Queen, who sent us a message of congratulation 2 days before her passing.



North America Branch Members attending the 50th Anniversary Celebrations on 16 September 2022.

The Association also donated a sum of money for the retirement fund of **Andy Green**. It was well deserved.

This year our **Betty Pickering** Memorial Trophy was presented to **Robert Ian Kelly**, our



Ian Kelly, receiving the Betty Pickering Memorial award for his work for the Association.

Western representative. Ian does a lot of work out west for us and also attends several of our functions in Toronto.

We have to report the death of one of our Members, 2627673 **Albert Watts**. Our condolences to his wife **Hazel**.

Finally, I would like to mention our new Treasurer '**Stumpy**'. When he took over from Andy, he had big shoes to fill. I have found out through Association business with him, he is filling **Andy's** shoes admirably. Thanks '**Stumpy**'.

Also a big thankyou to all others in London who help us.



The Bold Grow Old

Four members of No 6 Platoon, No 2 Company from 2001 to 2022. Major Ty Bearder (then LCpl Bearder), Major Daz Westlake (then Sgt Westlake), WO1 (Sgt Maj) Dean Bailey (then Gdsm Bailey) and Lieutenant Colonel James Greaves (then 2nd Lieutenant Greaves).



Above: No 6 Platoon, photo taken on Warcop Training Area in 2001.



Left: As they appear today, photo taken in Lille Barracks, Aldershot in 2022.

