

The Grenadier Gazette

THE REGIMENTAL JOURNAL OF
THE GRENADIER GUARDS



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IN MEMORIAM



Gdsm Jamie Janes

Gdsm Jamie Janes was killed by an improvised explosive device on October 5, 2009, just after arriving in theatre. He was the first Battalion and 11 Light Brigade fatality in Helmand Province. As a member of 6 Platoon, No 2 Company, he was terribly injured whilst clearing a route for his patrol and died en route to hospital near Nad-e-Ali district centre. On his second tour of Afghanistan, he was an experienced guardsman who willingly stepped forward to take on the difficult task of clearing routes; he was an example to all less experienced soldiers and gave his section and platoon great confidence. He died protecting his friends from danger.



WO1 (RSM) Darren Chant

On a day which no one within the serving Battalion will forget, WO1 (RSM) Chant was one of three Grenadiers murdered by a rogue Afghan policeman 3 November 2009. The policeman opened fire on a large number of British mentors at a secure Police checkpoint in the Nad-e-Ali having just returned from a joint patrol. The Sergeant Major, Sgt Matthew Telford and Gdsm James Major of the 1st Battalion were killed alongside two Royal Military Police mentors, Cpl Steve Boote and Cpl Nicholas Webster-Smith.

As the senior soldier in the Battalion, WO1 (RSM) Chant had been detached from the remainder of the Battalion and been commanding the mixed team of British troops responsible for mentoring Afghan police in the area. He had joined the Regiment in 1986 and had served multiple tours of Northern Ireland, as well as Kuwait in 1990, Bosnia and previously in Afghanistan. He was a stand-out Grenadier of his generation, both within the Battalion, at the forefront of the Guards Parachute Platoon and as an instructor and example to countless Army officers at the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst. He was killed just as he was to receive news of his commissioning into the Regiment.



Sgt Matthew Telford

There are few Grenadiers who do not remember Sgt Matthew Telford. He was killed in the infamous 'Blue 25' shooting alongside the Sergeant Major and Gdsm Major. He joined the Regiment in 1991, and was vastly experienced after a variety of different jobs throughout his career. Best known as a very successful Regimental recruiter, he was hugely popular across the wider Regiment and the Army recruiting world. Professional and gifted, Sgt Telford was at the heart of a very strong Sergeants' Mess, and was known as the gentle giant of the Regimental Police, a job he held when he deployed to Afghanistan with the remainder of the 1st Battalion.



Gdsm James Major

Gdsm James Major was the youngest of the soldiers killed November 3, 2009 alongside the mentors and British soldiers of his patrol. Like Sgt Telford, he was from Grimsby and had joined the Regiment in April 2008. He had spent some time on London ceremonial duty before training with the remainder of the Battalion for this tour. He was selected to be the top cover gunner in the roving Battalion Headquarters' Tactical Group and had made a huge impression on the remainder of the Group for someone so young.



LSgt Dave Greenhalgh

As the latest Battalion fatality of the 2009-2010 Battalion tour of Afghanistan, LSgt Dave Greenhalgh was a very well-known member of the Queen's Company. He was killed when his vehicle was caught in a large explosion near Lashkar Gar in Helmand 13 February 2010, approximately six weeks before the Battalion returned home.

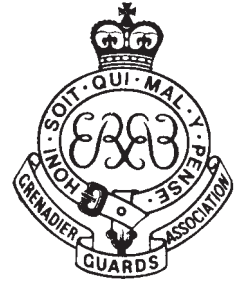
Sgt Greenhalgh was a popular, tough, very experienced soldier and a natural non-commissioned officer in the Queen's Company, leaving a lasting impression on both the Company and the wider Battalion. Originally from Ilkeston, Derbyshire, he joined the Regiment in 2001, and had served in Bosnia, Iraq and the previous tour of Afghanistan. He was also a highly skilled soldier with a number

of very diverse qualifications: search team commander, highly qualified driver, tactical questioner with experience of independent psychological operations.

Never forgotten.



THE Grenadier Gazette 2010



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1ST BATTALION MID TOUR UPDATE

From Battle Group
Headquarters
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COMMEMORATION OF THE 65TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BATTLE OF NIJMEGEN

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DEATH OF A SERGEANT MAJOR

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The GRENADEIER GAZETTE is published annually in March.
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EDITORIAL

Foreword The Lieutenant Colonel Brigadier D J H Maddan

This year's Gazette gives an excellent feel for the many ways that the Regiment has been occupied over the last year and I hope that you will enjoy the many contributions. I am very grateful for all the hard work put in by so many to make this possible and particular thanks goes to our Editor for drawing it all together.

The main event during the year has been the 1st Battalion's Afghanistan tour, where it has done a superb job. It would be difficult to exaggerate the depth of the changes to the counter-insurgency operation over the last year (Obama/McChrystal *et al.*) and there is now a tangible sense that, in the area of security at least, ISAF and the Afghan Security Forces are on a clear path to success. When you read the articles by Grenadiers involved in a range of guises you will no doubt be struck by the breadth of our contribution. The nature of the tactical level operations is of immense complexity that makes exceptional demands on all ranks, not least the all-important embedded partnering of the Afghan Security Forces, which itself has brought success and tragedy in equal measure. The cost has been high and we mourn the loss of those who have paid the ultimate sacrifice. Our thoughts are with their loved ones.

Beyond the 1st Battalion there has been a great deal going on, and as you would expect much of it has been in direct or indirect support of the 1st Battalion. An example has been the impressive turnout of First Guard's Club and Association members at the funerals of those killed in Afghanistan. Equally you will read about historical commemorations, developments in the Association structure and how the next generation are being recruited and trained. I hope that you enjoy this edition.

EDITORIAL NOTES Afghanistan

Once again, Afghanistan dominates the headlines both for the Battalion and the nation in terms of military commitment. It is a huge commitment. At the time of printing, the Battalion itself will be on the verge of

coming home after a gruelling six month tour. Once again, it is been in the limelight for both tragic and operational reasons, with the nadir of the tour being the loss of three Grenadiers, including the Sergeant Major, murdered by a rogue policeman. And yet the Battalion have also been at the forefront of a myriad of high profile successes including Op Mostarak, the biggest military operation since 2001 in Afghanistan, to round off their time at an exceptional high water mark.

For those lucky enough to have seen the Battalion in theatre, and watch their exploits from a distant (and comparatively safe) Divisional Headquarters, both serving and retired Grenadiers should take great pride in what 600-odd Grenadiers have achieved and are continuing to achieve. They have succeeded in spite of the tragic losses they suffered to make the prospects for success more realisable. Those who have been out there would genuinely testify to beginnings of hope of sustainable and measurable progress: that governance in Helmand is improving, Taliban influence is waning, and hope amongst the Guardsmen that progress has been made with the Afghan Security Forces, especially with the Army and after all the 1st Battalion achieved on its 2006 tour.



Readers of this edition of our journal will find some, and certainly not all, of these successes recorded here. There was sufficient material (especially with the very significant contribution made by the 1st Battalion to Op Mostarak) to fill two years' worth of journals. It is been a remarkable and unforgettable year.

Wounded

And yet all the success enjoyed by the Battalion has not been without significant sacrifice again – the dreadful tally of fatalities now equalling the number suffered in 2006 – tragically dwarfed by the number of all ranks evacuated from theatre with life-changing (meaning blindness, lost limb(s) or other severe wounds that may force medical discharge and a life of pain or at least discomfort) injuries. We salute their bravery, as well as the unbelievable bravery of all those families suffering such loss. Readers will find a very personal story of his care after a horrific set of injuries from the most senior of Regimental casualties on this tour.

The Army is doing more and more to employ those who have suffered such injuries, supported by Help for Heroes, Army Benevolent Fund, BLESMA and other charities. And for the longer term care, Regimental Headquarters plays a pivotal role with care running from the early aftermath for a life-time. The Colonel's Fund will be able to care for those who have given so much.



Contributions

Both Philip Wright and Frank Clark are thanked enormously for their contributions this year. They provide a stalwart foundation to this journal in their ever-proactive and interesting articles. The Regimental Band has been able to balance the Afghan tales with the inclusion of a large amount of their news. 2 Foot Guards officers meanwhile of a different capbadge continue to give generously of their time: Lieutenant Colonel Jeremy Bagshaw (Coldstream Guards), the Brigade Major of the Household Division, and Major Edmund Wilson (Irish Guards), our man in Glasgow.

Any serving editor has to rely on wider contributions

as well to ensure a healthy balance in the Gazette and it is hoped that more readers may reach for a pen or a keyboard for future editions. Contributions for all sections of this journal can be submitted at any time. Shorter articles are encouraged and welcomed. The ideal format is by email, but discs and hard copy would be readily accepted: regltreasurer@grengds.com – Always there for your input!



Last Notes

Very many congratulations go to the previous Commanding Officer, Lieutenant Colonel Carew Hatherley OBE, who received his honour in the recent New Year's List, very much as a tribute to his and the Battalion's achievements in Afghanistan. Our thoughts are still very much with them until they return this time.

This year has seen the death of a sad number of very familiar Grenadiers. Our sympathy goes to their widows and families. They will not be forgotten.



Regimental Headquarters

The gallant band that staff Regimental Headquarters has changed little over the year. RQMS Andy Hill is still responsible for the general administration of Regimental Headquarters, the smooth running of the stores and assists in the detailed planning and execution of all Regimental Events. In the Stores, he is assisted by LSgt Kevin Darke and Miss Linda Leppard and in the General Office by LSgt Terry Castles-Green (who replaced LSgt Tony Bayliss) and Mrs Jill Lindsay. Gdsm Robert Armour (replacing Gdsm 'Biscuits' Brown, who was subsequently shot in the hand in the rogue Afghan policeman incident, but is now happily making a good recovery) is the Regimental Headquarters Orderly/Driver and provides invaluable support. Captain Alex Forster replaced Captain James Fox (who became Adjutant of the 1st Battalion) as the Assistant Equerry to The Colonel and our Officer Recruiter. The Association General Office is run by Captain Trevor Rolfe, also wearing the hat of Regimental Treasurer, and LSgt Jay Ellingham and the redoubtable Mr George Turton ably assist him. Lieutenant Colonel Conway Seymour and Mrs Nayna Shah run the Archives and Major Philip Wright remains an invaluable part time Archivist and Chris Sharp helps with the photographs.



Capt Trevor Rolfe thinking while LSgt Jay Ellingham looks on.



RQMS Andy Hill at work.

The usual annual activities of Regimental Remembrance Sunday, the First Guards Club Dinner, Grenadier Day and the Sergeants' Mess Past and Present passed successfully. Grenadier Day took place in Wellington Barracks in order to make it as simple to organise as possible from the 1st Battalion's perspective; it was a bit of a challenge but in the event, bearing in mind the limitations of Wellington Barracks, it was a thoroughly enjoyable day. Regimental Headquarters also organised and sent representatives to the 350th anniversary of the Italian Grenadiers in Turin. It also hosted The Canadian Grenadier Guards Regimental Command for their audience with HM The Queen, and organised the Grenadier involvement in the 65th Anniversary of the Battle of Nijmegen. This was a fantastic event involving the Regimental Band, the Association and Nijmegen Company in the presence of HM Queen Beatrix of The Netherlands and HRH The Colonel. After the Guard of Honour by Nijmegen Company and a marvellous speech (A few words!)

by Lord Carrington, the Band and Nijmegen Company led a Guard from the United States Airborne Division (watched eagerly by General Petraeus) and a fleet of WWII vehicles over the bridge before a reception in the Town Hall.

With the 1st Battalion involved in high tempo warfare, it was not long before messages of the first injuries were received and Regimental Headquarters sprung into action, assisting the Rear Party Commander, Major Andy Green and the Welfare Officer, Captain Andy 'Stumpy' Keeley wherever they could. The assistance continued when the further sad news of the first death suffered by the Regiment on Operation HERRICK 11 was received. All on the Rear Party and those in Regimental Headquarters

worked side by side to provide as much support as possible for the families of the casualties from the Battle Group.

Whilst the Battalion has been away, RQMS Andy Hill assumed the additional appointment of RQMS Rear Party, thus once again giving him the opportunity to be "twice the man in the Grenadiers!". In addition, with the invaluable help of LSgt Kevin Darke, he supervised a project to carry out a 100% check and valuation of Regimental Property, a mammoth undertaking which is only just coming to completion. Regimental Property will henceforth be catalogued electronically, thereby making it easier to keep updated.

Regimental Headquarters is currently looking forward to the safe return of the 1st Battalion and has been busy planning Regimental events for the coming months. First is the Battalion's Medals Parade and Thanksgiving Service on the 15th April. This will be followed by the Presentation of New Colours by HM The Queen in the Gardens of Buckingham Palace on the 11th May and then the 1st Battalion trooping that Colour on The Queen's Birthday Parade on 12th June. The final big event for Regimental Headquarters is Grenadier Day, which this year is being held at Littlecote House, near Hungerford in Berkshire, and represents a new and exciting challenge for the Association General Secretary and RQMS RHQ!

The Colonel's Fund has not surprisingly also been busy. Although formal fund-raising ceased at the end of 2008, donations have continued to trickle it, and currently the fund stands at £1m invested, net of all costs and quite a number of welfare grants. Regimental Headquarters



The Lieutenant Colonel and Regimental Adjutant at Nijmegen – in step for once!

organised a reasonably successful (in financial terms) and most enjoyable clay shoot at Bisley Shooting Ground on 11th September, once again thanks to the generosity of Captain Anthony Roupell.

Our main Colonel's Fund event this year will be a Presentation at the Royal Geographic Society on 13th May, given by the 1st Battalion about its exploits in Helmand Province September 2009-March 2010. The aim is to give all Grenadiers and their friends the opportunity to hear about it first hand, and in so doing to raise a bit more for the Fund.

Whilst, of course, the needs of our injured Grenadiers is a priority, the focus of the Steering Committee has widened during this tour in Helmand Province to encompass the welfare of families and dependants of the injured or those who have been killed. The Fund is paying for financial advice for those who have been seriously injured and the families and dependants of those who have been killed who are likely to receive large compensation and insurance payments, so that

they are given advice on how to invest the money wisely for the long term. The Fund has also started a holiday scheme for the seriously wounded, the parents of the seriously wounded and bereaved families, in order to give them a break and a chance to "recharge their batteries" at the appropriate moment.

The Colonel's Fund is also seeking to employ a Regimental Casualty Officer who will work in RHQ alongside the Regimental Adjutant and Association General Secretary with a view to creating a Regimental Casualty Capability through which we can maintain contact with and help not only our injured Grenadiers but also bereaved families for as long as they wish it. In addition, in a non-intrusive way, he will monitor those who may be prone to mental problems as a result of their experiences, in order to react swiftly should problems occur.

These initiatives show that the Colonel's Fund is starting to "come of age" in a proactive way and that it is starting to really make a difference.



The President of the Association flanked by the Regimental Adjutant and Association General Secretary lead the Regimental Remembrance Parade.

SERGEANTS' (PAST AND PRESENT) CLUB

*President 2009 – Capt J A Keeley
Vice President 2009 – Mr D Adkins
Hon Secretary – WO2 (RQMS) Hill A
Vice Hon Secretary – LSgt Castles-Greene T*

Current Membership

Past 587, Serving 206, Honorary 20 – Total 813



Captain JA Keeley, Colonel RD Winstanley OBE, WO2 (RQMS) Hill A.

This year's annual Sergeants' (Past and Present) Club dinner was again held on Saturday 14th November 2009. The Marble Arch Thistle Hotel, London was again to be the venue for this prestigious event and, as always, looked after the Club very well. The dinner was attended by 157 members, which given that the Battalion was deployed in Afghanistan is a remarkable turnout. The overall administration for the event was handled by Regimental Headquarters and with WO2 (RQMS) Hill at the helm the attention to detail was as would be expected, ensuring a suitably impressive and successful evening for all in attendance.

This year's guest of Honour was Colonel Richard Winstanley OBE who is currently employed as the Colonel (MS) Combat at Glasgow, Colonel Richard

was on fine form and gave a very fitting speech remembering his time deployed in Afghanistan. Colonel Richard also reflected upon his Sergeants Mess "experiences" with some of the Sergeants Mess reprobates of the past, Yeoman Warder Simon Dodd being one who featured highly!! This was well received and drew a sound applause from all those present.

The Regimental Adjutant, Major Grant Baker, gave an update on the Regiments activities reflecting on the sad loss of two of the Clubs Serving Members, WO1 (RSM) Chant and Sgt Telford, less than two weeks previous. The Regimental Adjutants update referred to recent activities of not only the 1st Battalion but Nijmegen Company and the Regimental Band.

Throughout the Dinner suitable music was played by the Regimental Band, who's dance band superbly entertained until the early hours, when the more seasoned and dedicated members moved back to the 1st Battalion Sergeants Mess in Wellington Barracks to 'continue the movement'.

The Annual General Meeting was held prior to the dinner and once the formalities were over the president handed over to Mr D Adkins who will reign as President to the coming year.

The Committee now consists of

Mr D Adkins	President
WO1 (RSM) Farrell I	Vice President
WO2 (RQMS) Hill A	Hon Secretary and Treasurer
LSgt Castles-Greene T	Vice Hon Secretary

Serving Committee Members

WO2 (BSM) Wood A	Regimental Band
WO2 (CSM) O'Halloran M	Nijmegen Company
WO2 (CSM) Snazle G	ERE

Non Serving Committee Members

Mr G Fenner
Lt Col C E Kitchen MBE
Capt J Lenaghan
Mr P D Jupp MBE

The president would like to thank the staff at Regimental Headquarters for the support given throughout the last year, which has been very well received. We now look forward to the next Annual Dinner on Saturday 6th November 2010.

The Regimental Band

The turnover in personnel this year has again been high, with a steady stream of departures and arrivals. Our sincere appreciation and heartfelt best wishes for the future go to Musicians Abbigail Narhkom and Richard Tuddenham on completion of their service, to Musician Clare Howard on her assignment to the Queen's Division (Minden) Band and to Lance Sergeant Dave Sumpter on assignment to the Band of the Irish Guards. Into the fold we welcome Musicians Alex Russell and Dean Nixon from Phase 2 training at Kneller Hall, Musician Ron Vint, who rejoins the band after a 17 year break in *Civvie Street* and a particularly warm welcome back to Lance Corporal Andrew Houldsworth following a brief assignment with the Coldstream Guards.

Following an exceptionally heavy workload in 2008, largely due to commitments in support of *The Colonel's Fund*, we started 2009 at a relatively sedate pace. With a couple of small ensembles away providing musical support to British forces in Germany, January proved an ideal opportunity for the remainder of the band to spend some valuable time in the practice room and to catch up with administrative duties somewhat neglected due to the rigours of preceeding months. Whilst in Germany the brass quintet was booked to entertain the troops at a *German* night in the Sergeants' Mess at Rheindahlen with the promise of generous hospitality providing they appeared in traditional Bavarian attire. As the photograph demonstrates, they did so in style whilst retaining appropriate regimental identity! Apparently there was a degree of excitement on the quintet's arrival as members of the wives' club meeting in the same complex mistook them as part of the *Ann Summers'* package booked for their entertainment that evening!



What would the Regimental Adjutant say? The brass quintet in Rheindahlen, Germany: January 2009.

Early February brought a State Visit by the Chinese Premier, which unfortunately coincided with the heaviest snowfall in England for many years. Despite serious disruption to transport services, the majority of the band made it to central London on time and duly paraded with the Guard of Honour to greet the Prime Minister and his guests at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office.



Preparing to greet the Chinese Premier at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office: February 2009.

March saw the best part of a week spent on the parade square in Wellington Barracks undertaking our annual programme of *Spring Drills* at the mercy of the Regimental Quartermaster Sergeant before being inspected first by the Regimental Adjutant and then by the Major General and being pronounced fit to face the demands of the summer ceremonial season.

April began on a high with considerable success in the Household Division Young Musician of the Year competition. Our sincere congratulations go to Musicians Alex Russell, Alan Shellard and Ben Hull who with outstanding solo performances managed to secure 1st, 2nd and 4th places respectively in this annual hard-fought event. The end of April found the band in the county of Norfolk where a successful concert at St Andrew's Hall in support of the *Colonel's Fund* was followed by the opportunity of two days working and performing with over 100 young musicians from the prestigious Gresham's School and Wymondham College.

Following the band's exposure on ITV's *Guarding the Queen* last year, May 2009 saw us on national television yet again as we appeared in the opening instalment of the BBC2 documentary series, *The Birth of British Music*, presented by the eminent musicologist Charles

Hazlewood. The episode focused on the music of the London-born composer Henry Purcell and featured performances by the band of the Rondeau from Abdelazar and excerpts from Purcell's Music for the Funeral of Queen Mary.



Raising awareness at Gresham's School, Norfolk: April 2009.

Summer 2009 began, as ever, with the relentless round of routine and major state ceremonial events including the band's first appearance at the Windsor Castle Royal Tattoo, two performances of the Beating Retreat on Horse Guards, the Queen's Birthday Parade and its preceding Reviews and our second visit in as many years to provide musical support on the splendid occasion of Founder's Day at the Royal Hospital, Chelsea. The season came to a close with the annual gathering of serving and former Grenadiers on Grenadier Day, this year held at Wellington Barracks, London.



Grenadier Day at Wellington Barracks: June 2009.

The start of July brought the band's customary pilgrimage to Oxfordshire and the Royal Regatta at Henley-on-Thames, which this year coincided with a mini heatwave which brought some of this country's

hottest weather in living memory. As the temperature soared and the pools of perspiration at our feet grew ever deeper, we were forced to take the drastic measure of contravening Household Division Dress Regulations by removing forage caps on the bandstand – don't tell the Garrison Sergeant Major! Mid-July took the band to the magnificent splendour of Penshurst Place near Tonbridge; fittingly the home of former Grenadier, Lord De L'Isle. The occasion was a reception and dinner in support of the Army Benevolent Fund and our straightforward brief was to perform a Beating Retreat on the Italian Garden. To the Band Sergeant Major's dismay however, the Italian Garden, though extremely picturesque, was not designed with marching displays in mind, punctuated as it is with narrow pathways, hedges, flowerbeds and a rather large oval shaped fountain. Needless to say, it was one of our more interesting displays!



A memorable Beating Retreat in the grounds of Penshurst Place: July 2009.

The approach to summer leave was largely taken up with preparations for our latest recording; another tribute to the music of Philip Sparke, following the success of last year's *Music of the Spheres* CD. The recording was made in the Chapel at the Royal Hospital, Chelsea, where we were again joined by a number of distinguished guest performers, perhaps most notably Tony Spencer, former principal clarinettist with the band and father of our current principal clarinettist, Lance Sergeant Chris Spencer.

On conclusion of the recording the majority of the band made the mad dash from London to start three weeks of block leave. For twelve of our number however, there was the small matter of three mountains to be climbed!



Keeping it in the family! Tony and Chris Spencer leading the clarinets during a recording session in the Chapel of the Royal Hospital, Chelsea: July 2009.

Three Peaks for Help for Heroes *Musician Christopher Smith*

Following months of planning, miles of training and several hundred pounds spent on kit, the moment of truth finally arrived... Could a group of “fatties” from the Band of the Grenadier Guards undertake the ascent and descent of Ben Nevis, Scafell Pike and Snowdon in a 24 hour period?

For those not familiar with the three peaks challenge, it's a fairly straightforward concept. When you examine the logistics involved in getting between the three mountains, as well as remaining fit enough to get up and down them fairly swiftly however, you begin to realise that it's a pretty arduous task. “Why on earth would anyone want to put themselves through such an undertaking?” I hear you cry! Our main reason was to raise money for *Help for Heroes* – we all know that they badly need money, now more than ever – but we also wanted to challenge ourselves, mentally and physically, and do something a bit different to celebrate the end of our “silly season”. Once the team of climbers had been formed, we had plenty of volunteers from the band to be our support crew. Following a couple of late changes we set off with a team of seven climbers and a support crew of five. It's impossible to overstate the importance of a dependable back-up team that is prepared to go the extra mile to ensure that the team stands the best possible chance of succeeding. We can't thank ours enough.

Standard practice is to start with Ben Nevis, the highest and hardest of the three, so the team is fresh

and well rested, then move on to Scafell Pike in the Lake district, finishing with Snowdon, arguably the easiest of the three. Unfortunately, fate dictated that we wouldn't be able to stick to the tried and tested! So it came to be that following two long days of recording, the intrepid adventurers took a train (tickets kindly donated by Virgin Trains) to Bangor, North Wales, to meet the minibus. A short ride later we were at our starting point, the Pyg Track on the Penn Y Pass. At 2340 we set our stopwatches and hit the trail. LCpl Mark Gibson took to the front and set a blistering pace that got the blood pumping and woke us all up. We were blessed with amazingly clear and calm conditions that made navigating in the dark fairly straightforward. We ran into our first problem just over half-way up when, having temporarily left the path, LSgt Mike Altree slipped down a bank and twisted his ankle. We could all tell from his reaction that it was a fairly serious injury. With the clock ticking we paused to assess the damage and decide on the best course of action; should Mike and one other turn around and retreat the way we came, leaving the remaining five in with a chance of completing the challenge, or should Mike carry on to the top, with the assistance of the whole team, and come down the Llanberis Path as planned? Good arguments for both options were made, but finally Mike decided by getting to his feet and carrying on up the mountain. We reached the summit in a respectable time and took a team photo before descending the Llanberis Path. Mike's decision turned out to be the right one as we stayed as a group and still managed to complete Snowdon in three hours – it really was amazing that he was able to complete Snowdon and not hold us up.



The highest point in Wales; the summit of Snowdon; 1.30am.

The team got us swiftly to the base of Scafell Pike by 7am, well ahead of schedule, although feeling slightly jaded by a lack of sleep and the twisting roads of the Lake District – Musician Alan Shellard was travel sick and looked like a gust of wind could knock him over. We made a team decision to “re-group” before heading off at 7.30am. The start was quite tough, lots of rough steps laid into the path, and the lack of sleep and stiffness from Snowdon made the early stage of the climb fairly sombre. Our mood wasn’t helped as we were missing Mikey who couldn’t carry on, and we all felt really bad for him after his efforts in training and preparation. Halfway up Scafell the terrain opens out and we were able to see how some of the team had struggled with navigation during a night ascent on one of the training trips. Luckily for us the weather was still perfect and we had no such problems. The terrain was very rocky with lots of screes and boulder fields but the going was good and the path well trodden. We reached the summit in good time, paused for a quick photo, and started the descent, our thoughts already on the ultimate challenge, Ben Nevis. We completed Scafell Pike in three hours, still ahead of schedule, took 15 minutes to tuck in to some pasta Bolognese courtesy of our cook, LSgt Chris Spencer, and climbed into the minibus for the six-hour ride to “The Ben”!



The highest point in England; the summit of Scafell Pike; 9.15am.

The gods of traffic had been kind to us and we reached the starting point for Ben Nevis at 1730, giving us just over six hours to complete the toughest of the three peaks. It is an intimidating sight, especially when tired from a lack of sleep and having raced up

and down two other peaks. So with a mixture of confidence and a wee bit of trepidation we set off. Ben Nevis can be broken into three sections; the first is a long series of fairly steep steps set into the path, the second is a relatively gentle track which skirts along the side of a lake, and the last is a punishing series of switch-backs over rough terrain before the final drag to the top. I think it’s safe to say that morale was at an all-time low during the third stage of the climb. The punishing schedule we’d put our bodies through coupled with the lack of quality sleep over the preceding 30 hours made every step a real effort. It was at this time that we encountered our only bit of bad weather, a light, misty drizzle, which meant we couldn’t see the top until we reached it, which was nice! Another quick photo, a munch on an energy bar and we began our final descent. The going was slow, thanks to Musician Smith who was a bit lame by this point, but we finally made it to the bottom at 2255 hours, with 45 minutes to spare.



The highest point in the British Isles: the summit of Ben Nevis; 8pm.

We were massively relieved that it was over and hugely proud of our achievement. We were also absolutely exhausted. Three peaks, two countries and one principality, several hundred miles, one set of mangled tendons, one case of travel sickness, no blisters, not much sleep, one rubbish knee, one awesome support crew and we had finally completed our challenge. We headed off to our camp for a quick beer and a bacon sarnie (the whole extra mile thing I told you about) and got to bed pretty damn quick. We wouldn’t want to be tired for our trip to the Clachaig Inn the next night, would we?

If you would like to help us celebrate our achievement by donating to *Help for Heroes* you can still give at: <http://www.justgiving.com/markgibson2502>.

The Team

LCpl Anthony Sommerville (leader), LCpl Lewis Henaghan, LSgt Mike Altree, LCpl Mark Gibson, Musn Richard Tuddenham, Musn Alan Shellard and Musn Christopher Smith.

The Support Crew

LSgt Paul Burr, LSgt Christopher Spencer, LSgt Sean Carey, LSgt Paul Spilsbury and Sgt Ian Ballard.

Our return to work in September brought with it a welcome opportunity of taking to the concert platform, starting with the annual ABF concert in the unusual setting of the Thursford Collection, closely followed by a visit to Solihull and an evening of music making in support of the Royal Star and Garter Homes. The following weekend took us to Belgium for an appearance at the Izegem Tattoo and a trip to Holland where we joined members of the Regimental Association and Nijmegen Company to commemorate the 65th anniversary of the liberation of Nijmegen by amongst others, the Grenadier Guards and 82nd Airborne Division.



The band and Nijmegen Company commemorate the 65th anniversary of the liberation of Nijmegen.

Next came a short trip to Switzerland to participate in the 11th World Band Festival in Lucerne, where we joined forces with bands from Russia, Belgium and Switzerland for an impressive *Tattoo on Stage*.



Tattoo on Stage at the 11th World Band Festival: Lucerne, October 2009.



Doing our bit for international diplomacy at the 11th World Band Festival: Lucerne.

The end of 2009 saw yet more major ceremonial events such as a State Visit by the Indian Premier in Windsor, the annual Festival of Remembrance and Cenotaph Parade and the State Opening of Parliament. The year ended on a particularly high note with stunning performances on our biennial inspection by senior staff from Headquarters Corps of Army Music.

2010 brings change at the top with the departure of our Director of Music, Major Barry Wassell, who takes up the appointment of Chief Instructor at the Royal Military School of Music in January to be replaced by the current Chief Instructor, Major Kevin Roberts. We wish Major Wassell every success in his next appointment and look forward to welcoming Major Roberts in the New Year.

Recent recordings by the Band of the Grenadier Guards

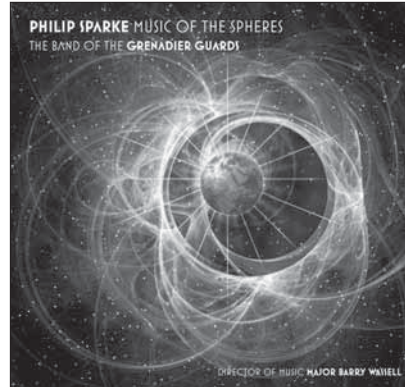


Fields of Remembrance In support of *The Colonel's Fund, Grenadier Guards.*

To maximise the fund-raising potential of the 2008 Colonel's Fund concert tour, the band produced a recording of the generic concert for sale at each venue; the profits of said sales to be wholly directed towards the Colonel's Fund. Completed in May 2008, *Fields of Remembrance* is Nigel Clarke's first composition as associate composer to the Band of the Grenadier Guards, and was especially written for the Colonel's Fund concert tour. The work takes the form of a portrait overture and is based on one of the Regimental Slow Marches of the Grenadier Guards, or Grenadiers' Return as it has come to be known. In addition to its annual performance by the massed bands of the Guards Division on the Queen's Birthday Parade, the march is traditionally played whenever Grenadier soldiers return to barracks after duty. It has also become customary to perform the march at the funerals and memorial services of Grenadiers; sometimes by the whole band but often just by a solitary flute accompanied by field drum. Its poignant use on such occasions has elevated the status of the march in the eyes of the entire Grenadier family; evoking as it does strong

emotions of loyalty, pride, comradeship and remembrance in all connected with the Regiment.

Other titles on this CD include: *Sarafand, Where Eagles Sing, Festive Overture, Brillante, Elsa's Procession to the Cathedral, Cornet Carillon, Paganini Variations, So nice to come home to, The Purple Pageant, Post Horn Gallop, Auld Lang Syne & Last Post.*



Music of the Spheres.

An impressive new recording dedicated to the music of the talented and prolific English composer, Philip Sparke.

Skyrider, Mountain Song, 5 movements from Hymn of the Highlands, David of the White Rock, Molto Vivo from Clarinet Concerto, Madrigalum and Music of the Spheres.

Available soon

Philip Sparke volume II (working title)

Another tribute to the music of Philip Sparke. *Navigation Inn, Royal Salute, Two-part Invention, Orient Express, Kentish Dances, The Year of the Dragon, Veni Immanuel and Music for a Festival.*

Where to see the Regimental Band in 2010

Sun 3 Jan	Guards' Chapel	Wed 30 Jun – Sun 4 Jul	Henley Royal Regatta
Sun 7 Feb	Guards' Chapel	Wed 7 Jul	Summer Concert: The Royal Military School of Music
Sun 14 Feb	Guards' Chapel		
Fri 23 Apr	In concert: Leicester	Fri 6 – Sat 28 Aug	Edinburgh Tattoo
Sat 29 May	Major General's Review: Horse Guards	Tue 7 Sep	ABF Beating Retreat & Concert: Thursford
Wed 2 Jun	Household Division Beating Retreat: Horse Guards	Fri 10 Sep	In concert: Malvern
Thu 3 Jun	Household Division Beating Retreat: Horse Guards	Sat 18 Sep	In concert: London (Scarlet & Gold)
Sat 5 Jun	Colonel's Review; Horse Guards	Sun 19 Sep	Guards' Chapel
Sat 12 Jun	Queen's Birthday Parade: Horse Guards	Sat 25 Sep	In concert: Southend
Sun 13 Jun	Guards' Chapel Castle Hill: Windsor	Sun 26 Sep	Guards' Chapel
Tue 15 – Sat 19 Jun	Royal Ascot	Sun 3 Oct	Guards' Chapel
Sat 26 Jun	Grenadier Day: Littlecote House	Sat 13 Nov	Lord Mayor's Show: London
		Sun 14 Nov	Remembrance Parade: Cenotaph
		Sun 12 Dec	Guards' Chapel
		Sun 19 Dec	Guards' Chapel

NB: These dates could change as a result of service commitments.

BASIC TRAINING – Grenadiers in the 21st Century

by Captain Nigel Torp-Petersen

Guards Training Company has altered in appearance since the last entry in the Gazette but has continued to create the same high quality product. It has a new Company Commander, Maj Tim Badham WG and a new Company Sergeant Major, WO2 Hardy SG. There has been a marked shift in the training in the last six months towards preparing the Trainee Guardsmen not for 'a war' but for 'the war' in Afghanistan. Counter-IED drills, operating from Forward Operating Bases and new close quarter shooting are examples of the direction in which training is progressing. The fact that all of 14 Company's personnel have experienced at least one Op HERRICK tour means that they are all best placed to deliver training with credibility. The Grenadiers in Catterick have been busy. Capt Will Harries left North Yorkshire for Afghanistan earlier this year and was replaced by Lt Oli Holcroft. Sgt Davis recently left ITC, although he has not been able to escape Catterick as he is currently a student on the All Arms Drill Course. LSgt Thomas recently passed All Arms P Company and hopes to join Guards Parachute Platoon at the end of the year for 3 Para's tour of Afghanistan. LSgt Casel-Nuovo departed Helles Barracks for Brecon and a place on Platoon Sergeant's Battle Course. LSgt Dragon is due to



move down to Pirbright for three months in the near future to help run an Army Development and Selection Centre for potential new recruits.

Never more than now are the instructors at ITC aware that their efforts are important business. Trainees from my last two platoons have in some cases found themselves bound for Kandahar within weeks of finishing and the other permanent staff will say the same. It remains a very rewarding job.





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1st Battalion Grenadier Guards Mid Tour Update

From Battle Group Headquarters in Forward Operating Base Shawqat, Nad-e-Ali District, Helmand Province

By January, the mid point of our tour, bitter winds off the Hindu Kush brought cold rain to what had been scorched farmland on our arrival. Dust turned to mud, and the short winter set. Christmas far from home was more poignant for the biblical setting of rural Afghanistan. Smallholdings eked from a rocky desert, irrigated land farmed by old and young hands alike, with extended families living in compounds unchanged in design from the days of Christ, fixed to the lingeringly slow pace of the seasons.

The Battle Group sits squarely on the main effort, literally and militarily. There is a sense of urgency to the operation; and for the Battalion, around which has formed the largest of the British Battle Groups, there is the added responsibility of being at the epicentre of the revised NATO effort to bring about a crushing Taliban defeat in the south within the next 12-18 months.



The Commanding Officer and Governor Mangal.

The long months of training over the late summer have paid off and apprehensive Guardsmen have settled into the convoluted and dangerous task of countering this complex insurgency with considerable courage and spirit. Episodes of tragedy have punctuated their otherwise remarkable successes. Five Grenadiers have been killed so far, with a further six across the Battle Group from the Royal Anglian Regiment, the Duke of Lancaster's Regiment, the Royal Military Police, and the Estonian Company. The list of injured grows but the support they get from the medical professionals and rehabilitation centres at home is great comfort.

Talk of a lull in the winter proved optimistic. The violence goes both ways, and the Companies have got the measure of the insurgents who are now suffering a much higher rate of attrition and psychological weariness from the incessant harassing and disruption the Battle Group has managed to inflict. Cautious optimism sees the insurgents now on the back foot in our area, as much from the hard fought legacy of the Welsh Guards last summer, our own operations with the Afghan security forces to concentrate on protecting the population, as it has been rejection by the local population who have seen there is a lot more to gain from working with the grain of District governance than against it. To my mind, this latter point will prove to be the decisive contribution to lasting security.



It is an all consuming task, where field commanders find themselves equally at home restoring local authority to tribal elders previously weakened by the Taliban, to opening village schools for mobs of Afghan children, as they do leading attacks on Taliban positions alongside their Afghan National Army partners. This is the challenge of countering an insurgency within an intricate population such as the Afghan – and there are so many reasons to be positive.

The recent history of this campaign is one of ebb and flow progress. By no means have we made gains on all fronts, and there is a lot more to do before the military gains are irreversible; the Afghan, British, and American Armies in Helmand are on the move again to clear the densest concentrations of Taliban from the centre of the Province, giving life to General McChrystal's refreshed strategy for the operation.

Thoughts of returning home are an indulgent luxury still. There will be plenty of time for reflection and recovery later but for now, the task requires every fibre of concentration and wit to stay sharp and resolute. New Colours and the Queen's Birthday Parade loom on the horizon...

The Queen's Company – 2 Platoon patrol Lashkar Gah District Centre

After six months of Pre-Deployment Training, including six weeks in Kenya, followed by a two week theatre training package in Bastion, the Grenadier Guards Battlegroup and 11 Brigade felt geared up and ready to make a difference during their six month tour of duty in Helmand province. There were many tales of excitement, courage and woe from the Grenadiers' previous successful tour in 2007, and the newer members of the platoon eagerly awaited the opportunity to collate and embellish their own war stories.

The Queen's Company arrived in Lashkar Gah in the middle of September 2009. Upon arrival, 2 Platoon were tasked with patrolling Lashkar Gah District Centre, the provincial capital of Helmand. The aim was to familiarise ourselves with the ground, atmospherics, reassure the local population, and bring security to its inhabitants. Over the course of the summer, Lashkar Gah had seen Indirect Fire from the surrounding desert, and at its peak, at least one suicide bomber a month. Although there are many plausible explanations for the decline for which we can't take credit, the fact remains that since our arrival, there have been no such incidents. Two weeks later we moved up to the company checkpoints near a settlement called Basharan.

The Welsh Guards, from whom we took over, gave a thorough brief and handover of the area of operations (AO) that they had secured over the summer at great cost. The Basharan AO is located approximately 8km north of LKG, and is home to three British Forces checkpoints. CP North, South and Tapa Paraang, each being home to between a multiple, and platoon of soldiers, situated only 100m from the FLET (forward line of enemy troops). There is also a Company of Afghan Army (ANA) based at checkpoint south. The checkpoints positioned in a triangular formation; CP's North and South are approximately two kilometres apart, with Tapa Paraang being located a kilometre to the west, midway between the two.

The locals had rapidly warmed to our Welsh cousins, and as a result progress was quickly made in the area. Upon the arrival of The Queen's Company the locals were happy to see fresh faces, and the same bulging wallets, and glad that their area would remain secure. The school in Basharan was repaired and refurbished by ISAF, and opened after years of neglect. It now boasts 90-150 regular pupils (depending on who's counting).

The main effort of the checkpoints is to ensure that the area remains secure and the inhabitants free from

insurgent (INS) influence. The soldiers regularly patrol the area to reassure the population and to deter the INS. The patrols are exciting and of a dangerous nature with the insurgents ready to exploit any opportunity. The Guardsmen need to stay alert at all times and be prepared to react to any situation.

Day patrols are greeted by smiling faces, tea, and ostensibly sycophantic praise for our presence and influence in the area. This would invariably be followed by suggestions of how we could part with our money, possible well locations that could be found in or around our host's compound for example.

Night patrols tended to have a more disruptive nature upon the insurgents, who have previously had freedom of movement in certain areas allowing them to lay Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs) and disrupt ISAF patrols. Night patrolling included dominating the Main Supply Route that runs through the Bolan desert, an area with a colourful history of IED strikes on ISAF vehicles, and the only route from LKG to the CPs. However, regardless of the patrol tasking, owing to the proximity of Tapa Paraang to Basharan, most of the patrols found themselves patrolling through the village, before reaching the evening's objective. Consequently, owing to the nine o'clock curfew, which we coordinated agreements at a Shura (meeting), locals were caught, on more than one occasion, with their trousers down (literally) and subjected to a brief interrogation and introduction to X spray (an explosive trace detector), and has now become an on going joke between the locals and the Guardsmen.

Reflecting on our time at the checkpoints brings a real sense of achievement. The fruits of our labour are prevalent on every patrol on the faces of the local nationals. We have been responsible for 15 new well locations, and dramatic increase in attendance at the school. Contrary to public opinion at home, Basharan has been described as 'the future of Afghanistan' by senior commanders, and has been, and will hopefully continue to be, nothing short of a success story.



Op Herrick – No 2 Company

11 Sept – Dec 2009

Number 2 Company deployed to Helmand Province, Afghanistan in mid September 2009 to take over from Number 2 Company, 1 WG in an unknown base called Interim Operating Base Wahid. Wahid is situated at the junction between the Luy Mandah Wadi, the NeB Canal and the Shamalan Canal; in the more general context we were positioned between the



area of Babaji (where Op Panther's Claw was conducted in the summer) and Nad-e Ali (where the Grenadier Battle Group is based). We were surrounded on three sides by Insurgent groups and to our north was the desert and in the distance Camp Bastion. Number 2 Company was to occupy Wahid for two months before handing the area over to the Estonian Company and moving to Patrol Base Pimon. Pimon sits at the North-West corner of Nad-e Ali and occupies one of the few crossings into Nad-e Ali from the desert (again across the NeB Canal). At the time of writing the Company has been in Pimon for two weeks.

The Company is made up of the following elements and is seen as a Company Group: Coy Headquarters, 4 Platoon, 5 Platoon, 6 Platoon, a Multiple from the Irish Guards (known as "The Mick Multiple", Fire Support Group, Fire Support Team (1 RHA), a section of Grenadier Mortars, Electronic Warfare Detachment, a section of Interpreters (almost exclusively from Kabul) and for the bulk of our time in Theatre we have had two sections of Engineers. We have been supported by the Brigade Recce Force (BRF) as well as countless sorties of Coalition jets and helicopters and expect to soon be working with the Afghan Tiger Team and Afghan Large Patrol (made up ten to 70 Afghans trained by 1 PARA). We have supported the Grenadier Recce Platoon and look forward to working with them and other Battalions in the near future. All in all we have been incredibly well supported.

The highlights of the tour so far have been the incredible events at the beginning of November 09 at Wahid, where we faced mass attack by the Taliban, over 120 enemy attacked us over ten days and at the start they attacked in 60 man groupings. Needless to say we defeated them comprehensively and at least 80 of them died on the battlefield, with none of the Company Group being injured in that period. Another highlight was the Company finding 48 Improvised Explosive Devices in two months in Wahid; it shows how well the Guardsmen of Number 2 Company have come to terms with this new threat and through training and common sense can minimise the risk to both us and the local nationals. Improvised Explosive Devices do still carry significant risk and the death of Guardsman Janes and the injury to three of his patrol highlights the difficulties faced in patrolling in what was in essence a nuisance minefield. We all were hit hard by Jamie's death and the injuries to the members of 6 Platoon, however after a short period of mourning the Company went out the gates the next day and got straight back into securing the population and defeating the enemy.

The bravery shown and the amazing ability of young men to conduct extraordinary actions is simply overwhelming at times. The Company is now refocused on our new task at Pimon and we look forward to developing the area and bringing the success being shown by the Queen's Company and the Inkerman Company to a new area. This will be written about before we return to the UK.



Company Headquarters

The Company is run out of either a couple of mud compound rooms (Wahid) or a couple of ISO containers (Pimon). The Headquarters has individuals dedicated to different areas, including an MT Rep (we have about ten vehicles), a REME Sgt and mechanic, a bearded Influence Officer (Capt Mark Gresty from the PT Corps; a huge character and just outstanding at dealing with the Local Nationals). The Second in Command is Capt

Andy Prior from the Micks who manages all the daily and future company business, and is never too far from the Ops Room. To assist in the Ops Room are the three Company signallers, headed by LSgt Struczynski with LCpls Vine and Scott. The Intelligence SNCO is Sgt P Bailey, and with the Influence Officer they create the 'Fusion Cell'. With all patrolling being focused around the local population, the Fusion Cell works hard to ensure the Company is kept in tune with the Taliban's business and the local Afghan atmospherics. The G4 war is fought by Pay Sgt Howlin's team in Pimon, with the help from Gdsm Humphries in Bastion. With Pimon being just over an hour from Bastion, the resupply is relatively easy, and with it brings the luxuries of fresh scoff, post and morale. After taking over Pimon from the Estonians, the Pay Sgt's hard work has converted the camp to an impressive level, and a place the Company are proud to call home.



Company Sergeant Major Boak, keeps the Company in check from all angles of Pimon. A busy man, he ensures Pimon maintains the high standard expected from a Foot Guards Company, making sure the Company is always fit and ready for their next tasking. At the heart of everything sits the Company Commander, Major Richard Green, and his trusty side kick a huge South African from 1 RHA, Capt FJ Du Toit (known to the officers as FJ and the Guardsmen as Capt DT). Often seen in the middle of the night plotting the downfall of the Taliban over a cup of tea and a Marlboro light!

4 Platoon

4 Platoon have had varied tour so far. The Platoon were deployed straight into Checkpoint Luy Mandah from Bastion and had an area that covered an abandoned bazaar and deserted village. Due to the number of soldiers in the Platoon it was a challenge for the

Platoon Commander, Lt Richard Hutton and the Platoon Sergeant, Sgt Scott Roughley, to plan patrols and maintain a guard force at the base. Things were not helped when Sgt Roughley became the first casualty in the Company after suffering bad burns in an accident. LSgt Danny Walton stepped up to fill the post and has been doing so admirably.

After six weeks, Checkpoint Luy Mandah was collapsed to allow the company to concentrate its force in the Wahid Area. The Engineer Section had a busy few days which ended in using 200lbs of bar mines to blow up the buildings, it was quite an explosion! The Platoon were then co-located with 6 Platoon and the Mick Multiple in Wahid giving the Company much more scope for manoeuvre on the ground.

Since the move to Pimon 4 Platoon have been enjoying being part of a complete Company Group for the first time. The Guardsmen have settled into Afghan life and are able to relax with their friends in the downtime between patrols.

5 Platoon

The last three months have been exciting to say the least for 5 Platoon. On arrival to Helmand we quickly took over from the Welsh Guards in Crossing Point 1. In the early days we got hit once or twice a day, with some notable occasions over October. We successfully searched and found what we thought to be a bomb factory, later determined to be a drugs den. During the search we were hit heavily from the south and fought a pitched battle with the Taliban over a 100 metre field. 66mm rockets, rocket grenades and Javelin were used to good effect to destroy the enemy and aide our safe extraction back to Crossing Point 1.

After hearing the terrible news about the loss of Sgt Telford, Gdsm Major and The Sergeant Major, the FSG and 5 Platoon sat around and contemplated how we could next strike the enemy causing as much damage as possible which is where the plan was hatched for a 'fake' IED strike. With the Engineers helping us we moved onto a heavily IED road at real risk and set up an explosion to simulate the IED. It went off, and we threw red cylums to simulate the Casevac beginning. By now the FSG had began to enjoy success too and had engaged a known standing patrol and defeated two insurgents with their snipers. We got straight up onto the roof and with the Javelin team under Sgt Loder of the FSG, we identified enemy moving up to try and exploit our 'casualties'. The plan had worked. We engaged the enemy and took out between 12 and 14 insurgents in one evening.

Over the next month we then were involved with two-three large contacts a day, defeating a very large number of insurgents – as many as 120. Aircraft from all nations were carefully co-ordinated onto our location

often having to drop munitions worryingly close to the Platoon house. The best part of the story however was the fact in our time there patrolling and fighting we inflicted no civilian casualties, the farmers there believed and felt we were securing their area, we suffered no casualties at Crossing Point 1 and achieved the Commanding Officer's third aim of defeating the enemy wherever he showed himself. Good arrests from Gdsm Munerzero of key Taliban figures, the securing of the area, the discovery of 18 IEDs and the constant defeat of the enemy have left us all feeling justifiably proud of what we achieved and how we conducted ourselves at Crossing Point 1.

6 Platoon

It has been an interesting tour so far for 6 Platoon. The Platoon was based in IOB Wahid for the first two months. In that time, under Lt Alex Rawlins and Sgt Chris Dougerty, they carried out regular patrolling of the AO to clear out the Taliban and simultaneously work on the Company's relationship with local nationals.

6 Platoon suffered the loss of Gdsm Jamie Janes who was tragically killed in an IED blast on 5th November. In the same incident, LCpl Harper, Gdsm Clark and Gdsm Pearson were also injured, leaving the Platoon depleted in numbers and heavy hearted. However, the men, never to be held down, were back on patrol the next day and have since gone from strength to strength. In Mid-November, five new members were admitted to the mighty 6 in form of Gdsm Leighton, Gdsm Markey, Gdsm Warde, Gdsm Golding and Gdsm Carter; all of whom were enthusiastic, if not a little nervous, from the get go. They have quickly settled in and are now an integral part of the Platoon. The time in Wahid was short-lived and the inevitable move saw the Platoon leaving their palatial surroundings and moving into Pimon's adequately comfortable tented accommodation, complete with insulation and poorly house-trained cats that roam at night. LSgt Adam Swift's section have had a new addition with Gdsm Jarret and Gdsm Scott has recently moved from 4 Platoon to LSgt Aaron Harris's section.

Mick Multiple

The Mick Multiple was a late addition to the Grenadier Guards ORBAT for Op Herrick 11, joining Number 2 Company little over a month before deployment.

Commanded by Lt Max Dooher, with the inimitable LSgt Miller in support, this small Platoon bolstered the manoeuvre capability of the Company on its arrival in Wahid quickly seeing action in the first few days of the tour and embracing the idea of Influence lead patrols early on.

With a section attached from 6 Platoon for the patrol,

it was a dreadful day for the Micks that saw the loss of Gdsm Janes near Luy Mandah Kalay. With a number of friends from depot injured in the explosion, Irish and Grenadier Guardsmen showed the real grit, determination and unifying bond of the Brigade of Guards by helping each other out of a wholly awful situation. The event galvanised the spirit and unity of Number 2 Company; in which the Micks were proud to be numbered.

After the baptism of fire, the Micks adjusted well into Wahid and life under para silk. Despite the best efforts of some, their shanty town accommodation (complete with chickens) did not quite manage to meet General Horricks' characterisation of the Micks resembling 'wretched peasants.'



The change of location to PB Pimon saw the Mick Multiple conduct a relief in place with the outgoing Estonian Company. With the Estonian Company out, and no Grenadiers in location, the Micks made themselves at home (flag and all), portraying a foot print much beyond their true numbers in a location that at times felt a little like Rorke's Drift. The early days in Pimon revealed a different population to Wahid with many locals perplexed by the sight of ISAF soldiers patrolling amongst them.

With the arrival of Number 2 Company en masse, the Micks look forward to seeing out the remainder of their three month tour in PB Pimon. Next year the Multiple will split and the Guardsmen will return to their platoons to redeploy with the Irish Guards on Op Herrick 13. For all involved it has been an education made all the better by the attachment that has grown with Number 2 Company.

Fire Support Group

The Fire Support Group has mainly been manned from Support Company with a small element from Number 2 Company. We as a Platoon were more

fortunate than the other FSG within the Battle Group as we have been able to work as a Platoon or in individual teams when required. From the outset of taking over from the Welsh Guards we identified that a Sniper Team and a Javelin team should be permanently at Crossing Point 1 and the remainder located in WAHID as a mobile call sign or on foot if required. Throughout the time at WAHID we were allocated Three Mastiff armoured vehicles in which our GPMG section manned the Heavy weapons. Our first taskings were to dominate the ground as a foot call sign when ever a Rifle Platoon was on an Influence patrol. The first major event took place when Gdsm Janes was struck by an IED near check point Luy Mandah at the time we were located at crossing point 1 on a admin task so immediately moved to Luy Mandah as Casevac party for many this was their first Live Contact. The Mastiff attracted several firing points including an RPG attack. Meanwhile Heavy Weapon Gunners (especially Gdsm Shelton) suppressed at times four different Firing Points whilst we extracted Gdsm Janes to the HLS; this tactic of the insurgents to follow up an IED strike with speed proved to be SOP and something which we could exploit at a time of our choosing. Another main Contact took place near Crossing Point 1; we were tasked as overwatch for 5 Platoon's advance into a known insurgent stronghold during this Operation LCpl Maynard was struck in the helmet by a single round from a sniper even though the round penetrated the helmet it was lodged within the head padding. LCpl Maynard, even with a severe headache and whiplash from the force of the strike, was able to move back to Crossing Point 1 whilst the fire fight ensued which many insurgence were killed as again the insurgence were quick to follow up into known firing points.

The following ten days saw a high level of attacks on Crossing Point 1 and a few isolated attacks on IOB WAHID throughout all the attacks the FSG deployed with in the Mastiff vehicles to every contact to draw the Enemy Fire. This we did with great effect and at times engaged enemy at distances of less than 100 metres with 50 cal and GPMG. During one contact we arrived



on the scene within five minutes of the contact starting; Guardsmen like Attu and Synam came into their own with excellent fire control even with rounds hitting the Mastiffs and RPG attack, they maintained the rate of fire when required, forcing the insurgents to withdraw or face death from the Javelin team and sniper team at Crossing Point. Under control of LSgt Loder who also operated the GMG and Javelin system, they accounted for many of the enemy killed this also includes the Javelin team at FOB WAHID.

Throughout the time at Wahid there are countless times that could be mentioned where the FSG were tasked, for instance Gdsm Synam accounting for an enemy with the sniper rifle at 980 meters at night through a thermal sight. With the extra tasks of IRG moves and admin runs for the crossing Points this was a very busy and successful period for the FSG even though we were known as Wahid Taxi service we proved we were capable of drive by and organised hits when required and are looking forward to the challenges at PIMON.

Fire Support Team

The affiliation of E Battery, 1st Regiment Royal Horse Artillery to the Battalion has seen an eight man team attached to Number 2 Company since September 2008 and has provided the Joint Fires and ISTAR needs of the Company Group. The early integration of "Witchcraft 44" has been the envy of 1 RHA FST's and has gone a long way in generating mutual understanding and a relationship based on trust and unified purpose. We have been fortunate to have had three Grenadiers in the team which saw Sgt Robinson (JTAC), LSgt Pendelbury (MFC A) and LCpl Hurst (MFC B) working side by side with their Gunner counterparts providing the desired effect with the Joint Fires platform of choice. As an FST Commander this has been one of the best experiences of anybody's career and although testing at times, ultimately hugely rewarding. The way we were welcomed is a testament to the Number 2 Company ethos which sees professionalism and enthusiasm combined with a very strong team spirit to create a unique working environment that forces you to give 110% all of the time. The friendships forged will undoubtedly last a lifetime and we look forward to watching the Company Troop the Colour on return from Op HERRICK.

Conclusion

A very happy Company Group, that revels in getting on with the job and enjoying the down time to the maximum. So far so good and the challenge now is to keep it going until we return to UK. At that point we will need to refocus quickly as we will need to get on with Public Duties and all that London soldiering involves.

The past months have been interesting and successful for the Inkerman Company. We have rebuilt and manned two new checkpoints in Chah-E-Anjir whilst defeating concerted insurgent attempts to prevent us from doing so. We have enhanced our strong working relationship with the good Afghan Policemen with whom we work. We have held back the insurgents from undermining the security of the local population who we are understanding more about each day. The Chah-E-Anjir school has been up and running and it now ironic that it was swine flu, not the insurgency, that has closed the school. The company has limited welfare facilities but it is to be hoped that all are able to talk to their families and friends from time to time. There is a real town here to be protected and real optimism from the people – this undoubtedly helps create the positive spirit here. The Company managed to celebrate Inkerman Day on 5th November.

Company Headquarters

Over the last month, Company HQ has seen some changes, most notably LSgt Walton moving to a checkpoint, and Gdsm Bone coming in to help with intelligence.

The Ops Room has been redesigned and is running a lot more smoothly. However, Captain Kuku, Gdsm Tague and Gdsm Bone cannot agree on who the int desk belongs to with all three staking a claim.



Captain Swanston relaxes after a hard day eating cheese.

Captain Swanston has started the ‘cheese and biscuits’ club which meets once a week. He has been sent such an incredible array of cheeses and condiments that anyone within smelling distance decided they wanted to join. Inkerman day saw a BBQ with cakes that was thoroughly enjoyed by all. However, the highlight of the day was seeing Captain Swanston in a tuxedo trying to play miniature golf, and Captain Kuku in a cravat made from a sweat rag!

Gdsm Bance bought a chicken with the view to eating it but then became attached to it and so he built it a bed and left food and water out daily. This didn’t stop the chicken trying to eat everyone else’s food though!

On a cheerful note, LSgt Harrell celebrated his birthday out in theatre. He had a very relaxing day waiting on the helipad for a flight that never arrived. On asking if he had had a nice day he replied, “What more could I want!”

HQ patrols have been continuing. They have become infamous due to the length and likelihood of a good soaking, but everyone soldiers on. When a patrol was planned that would be going to all the checkpoints, CSM Walker was asked which order he wanted to go round in. Quick as a flash he had an answer. It seems he had been thinking about this and decided that if he was going to get wet, then it would be on the way back in!

CSM Walker lost his daysack firmly secured to the back of a MASTIFF which contained amongst other things, his sleeping bag and wash and shave kit. Since then he has been forced to search through the dregs of the welfare box to have a shave. Recent reporting has suggested that a clean shaven, fresh faced local national male, wearing a warm jumper, has been seen trying to sell a sleeping bag on the bazaar.

On one occasion an injured local man was brought in with a gunshot wound to the buttocks. When the helicopter arrived to casevac the man, CSgt Bearder and Gdsm Dodd sprang into action, grabbing the stretcher and bounding towards the helipad. CSgt Bearder recalls suddenly feeling the stretcher getting very heavy and on further investigation turned and found he was pulling not only the casualty, but Gdsm Dodd as well after the latter took a fall and was stuck on top of the casualty on the stretcher.

During the recent operation, the Company Commander, Major Boanas, was on the roof of a checkpoint taking incoming rounds when a call came over the radio that the Brigade Commander was en route. Wanting to look his best, Major Boanas ducked down on the roof, reached into his top left and produced a Bic razor with which he then proceeded to dry shave with. Onlookers said they didn’t know which was worse, the fire fight or watching the Company Commander scrape his face with no water or shaving cream.

The locals have been bringing their sick and injured to see Captain Vargha, the doctor in Shahzad and this shows the relationship and trust we have built since being here. Meetings have been held with the local nationals and they express their gratitude to us for giving them the security which allows them to continue their lives.

The machine that is Company HQ is well oiled and ready for the challenges of the next months. We leave you with Capt Kuku prior to laying a snap ambush for the benefit of the Daily Telegraph.

10 Platoon

By October, 10 Platoon had fully found their feet and really got in to their rhythm. Both multiples came together to work as a platoon within the company Patrol Base Shahzad. Initially they were pleased to be reunited, swapping stories and maximising the use of phones and the internet to catch up with friends and family, but in the long run they were missed by others in places they called "home" – the compounds where they had put so much hard work and effort into building up. They started a rotation of either being on patrol interacting well with the locals, guarding what can only be called a observation post called 5 Tanks or being the Quick Reaction Force (QRF) which was basically a good opportunity to have some well earned rest once the fatigues were done.

The platoon showed just how versatile they are switching from an aggressive stance to playing with the local children on patrol. At one point, Gdsm Walton almost had to be rescued after attracting a hoard of locals to whom he showed off his football skills.

There were also other opportunities to shine; Gdsm James, new to the multiple, showed his medic skills in helping a local national who had been injured by an insurgent bomb. On a funny note, there have been occasions that you just couldn't write – Gdsm Heaton and Gdsm Reed trying to explain the concepts of Facebook to a local farmer who had probably not even seen the time let alone a computer! Sgt Summerscales led a patrol to find crossing points on the wadi only for Gdsm Innes and Gdsm Raspin to find out the hard way, either the wadi was deeper than they thought or they were shorter than they thought with both of them ending up nearly completely under water!

11 Platoon (Mongoose 17)

October started with high drama for the multiple when on one resupply run we lost two mastiffs, both to road incidents. The first was a total shock for the crew; a compound wall collapsed onto a Mastiff and crippled the rear wheel. We spent a nervous six hours waiting for rescue only to have another Mastiff fall into a ditch 20 meters after being collected by the QRF! So much for the sturdy Afghan roads. After a relaxing four days in Battlegroup headquarters waiting for the vehicle

to be fixed, we returned to Patrol Base Shazad and a warm welcome.

The highlight of the month was the road move to Lashkah Gar which the men have dubbed Lash Vegas. The drive was like a drive through time. We left the biblical looking compounds and Donkey Carts to the tarmac roads and street lighting of the provincial capital of Helmand. The men were shocked to see the conditions the Queen's Company were living in. Beds, showers and fresh food were all present in abundance and the men wasted no time in using all the facilities available. Guardsman Brindley said. "It's like we've won the lottery having a day here."

For the rest of the month the Multiple settled into a routine of resupply and convoy escort, all of which took time and effort to organise. The moves also came with substantial risk, our multiple finding and confirming 11 IEDs (Improvised Explosive Devices) while on the ground. Guardsman Wood gained particular notice for finding two in less than an hour. He said: "I could see the ground sign and thought something was wrong, I looked into the crater in the road and saw something poking out of the ground, I looked left and saw something glint in the sun, I looked a little closer and realised what it was, it was a pressure pad for a vehicle. It was bloody scary. Then 50 minutes later I went and did it all again."

Guardsman Wood has dismissed his actions as just routine but his actions saved our vehicles from almost certain destruction.



The Inkerman Company – PB SHAHZAD Chah-e-Anjir Inkerman Day 2009.

The Multiple is busy in camp as well, with Sgt Lockley finding his Helicopter Landing Point Commanders' course coming in handy, using his one meter long hook to help with under slung loads carried in by helicopters, which he thought he'd never have to actually use. We also had some new characters join the multiple, LSgt Jones and Gdsm Browning. Gdsm Browning has returned after a brief stint with the Light Dragoons where he says he had a pleasant time but is glad to be back with fellow Grenadiers. LSgt Jones

brings much amusement on the radio net between the vehicles by virtue of his Tipton accent.

The highlight of the month was the erection of a new police checkpoint in the middle of the month; the “build” took three days and the multiple found itself spread to the four winds trying to do five jobs at once, including escorting a Sunday Telegraph reporter around the various check points and trying to keep a very proactive Brigade Commander safe during a quick visit to one of our check points on the front line.

11 Platoon (Mongoose 12A)

November for the Irish Guards multiple was as busy as October with most of our time centred on the School House Checkpoint, changing to the new ANP station at Yellow 12 near the end of the month. Our first few weeks at the School House were dominated by maintaining the high tempo of patrols whilst simultaneously building up defences at our new home and responding to an increasing number of attacks on our location.

After moving in, we immediately got out on our new patch to let the locals know the Irish Guards were in town. As before, we continued with the practice of getting the Guardsmen and Lance Corporals to move forward with the interpreter to gather the information and build up our picture of local affairs. This continued to work well with all the Guardsmen being used to fill in the blanks in our intelligence picture. In particular, LCpl Thompson and Gdsm Higgins showed a flair for local engagement with a promise of an ISAF football team being assembled to play the local team being made – which local team, the A squad or B squad, they planned to pitch against us wasn’t clear unfortunately. As the days and weeks passed, we assembled a full picture of where people lived and farmed, and where local produce was sent.

Early morning Vehicle Checkpoints and late night patrols followed one another so all were clear that ISAF territory was undoubtedly dominated by us. We also shared the checkpoint with a group of ANP. They were led by a tough looking local man who I later found out had sided with Najibullah in the civil war and had been fighting Mujahaddin or the Taliban continually since 1979. It proved to be something of a challenge – for example, their understanding of what patrolling was didn’t really match ours. Hopefully some of what we tried to impart to them stuck!

Another challenge all the guys rose to was improving the defences at the checkpoint. Leading from the front, LCpls Forster, Thompson and Walsh took this challenge by the throat and after a few nights of hard work, our rooftop sangar was revolutionised into a worthy (and safe) stand-to position. Ppr Gallagher showed real flair for filling sandbags during this time, assuring us his background in farming and labouring was to thank.

Attacks on our location soon became a daily occurrence after our arrival at the school house checkpoint. Despite a few close shaves, nobody was harmed while the enemy suffered numerous casualties. Work was undertaken to open up fields of view by removing walls (sometimes with the aide of explosives) and the felling of trees which assisted greatly with keeping the insurgents back and allowing to concentrate on winning the battle with the people inside our security bubble.

During our time at the school, we also had a break in the form of a three day operation to secure a cordon around the site of a proposed ANP station. This involved the multiple being relieved at our location, then inserting at night to an assembly area before occupying a compound (once we had persuaded its owners to vacate for a few days) to form with the rest of the company a ring of steel around the site. It was an interesting few days where we ran VCPs and again the Guardsmen proved themselves capable of anything asked of them.



LSgt Mann and Gdsm Haynes and Strawford taking a break during the operation to build the new checkpoint at Yellow 12.

12 Platoon

Having spent the first month of the tour based in Shahzad patrolling the village and surrounding countryside of CJR, 12 Platoon split down into two multiples in order to man two separate checkpoints to the north of the village. M13A, commanded by Lt Rice, moved to Compound 23 and M13B moved to XP11 on the Shamalan Canal, commanded by Sgt Bennison.

M13A moved into a traditional Afghan compound, a central courtyard surrounded by rooms on all four walls with a well in the centre. We shared our new home with about ten soldiers of the Afghan National Army, who were quick to welcome us, keen to feed us Afghan food and would often sit and talk to us in Pashtun with no interpreter in sight, leading to rather one-sided

conversations. Gdsm Jobe and Makwero were particularly quick to bond with them.

M13A soon set about improving and upgrading much of what they had inherited in the compound with a new medical centre created in one of the the rooms by the medic, LCpl Qionibaravi. A new sangar was also put in place on the northern wall to enable greater protection in the direction of enemy threat, and some of the trees were “rearranged” to give us a clearer view into Taliban territory. The communal cooking and eating area was put to good use, with Gdsm Wright and LSgt Botha assuming the roles of head chef for the multiple, with LSgt Botha proving particularly adept at creating kitchen utensils out of the most unlikely materials.

The multiple had numerous attachments in the compound, including Bdr Winn and LBdr Butler from 1RHA, providing the company with a forward element to control artillery, mortars and air support. They were also joined at various points by LSgt Norris, LCpl Swann and Gdsm McBride, all providing us with a sniper capability as well as our medic, LCpl Qionibaravi, who gave excellent medical care on the fewer occasions it was required.

Being on the edge of the Company Area of Operations resulted in a much smaller area to patrol than the previous month. This meant much shorter patrols and the ability to know the limited area very quickly. M13A soon also got into a regular pattern of engagements with the enemy, although these were easily dealt with as they followed a very predictable pattern.



LCpl James and Gdsm Painter after a nice swim in the wadi.

LSgt O’Toole stepped up to command the multiple after Lt Rice, the platoon commander, was wounded in action and spent a few weeks in Bastion recovering. We are now preparing to move to our next checkpoint as the company continues with the monthly rotation, and we are now set to take over a crossing point on the Shamalan Canal until the end of December.

Fire Support Group (FSG)

The FSG had spent the first month of the tour at the school house check point to the north of the Inkerman AO which at times could be quite hairy, but having the jackals in support acted as a deterrent. At the end of October we moved to Yellow 14 Checkpoint which was the complete opposite of our first check point.



Gdsm Boothe with Herrick.

Whilst in location, we again conducted many taskings. This included manning a second checkpoint to conduct a population report daily. The local population in the area seemed very welcoming and happy to have ISAF in the area. As time went on in Yellow 14, we ended up adopting a puppy from the ANP which Gdsm Boothe then named Herrick, who then became very popular with whole platoon, even though he was missing both ears and his tail.

In the beginning of November, we were involved in the company operation to re-build the police check point at Yellow 12. The FSG moved to secure the western flank for the operation. We moved into two compounds and when day broke, this soon turned out to be quite a hairy place to be and that was how thing played out pretty much for the next four days and we had our biggest contact to date on the final evening.

After the company operation the FSG moved back to Yellow 14 for six days before moving onto Shahzad PB. During this time, Captain Ben Jesty ended his tour and he was replaced by Captain Tom Whitby. After leaving Yellow 14, a few of the platoon (mostly Gdsm Boothe) got very upset when they had to leave the dog behind but now the FSG are now in Shahzad PB for the foreseeable future.

Fully embedded

The word ‘attached’ is certainly not one used when serving with The Inkerman Company as from the outset those attached have been nothing other than fully embedded. As with any fighting company, it is supported by a number of personnel with different cap badges ranging from the Artillery, the Electrical and Mechanical Engineers, Royal Welsh and Royal Military

Police who all contribute with their specialist skills to the company's effectiveness.

The 'in camp' perception of the Royal Military Police being the enemy is soon ignored on operations as it is quickly recognised how key their role is in theatre. LCpl Swindall and LCpl Bygrave have reinforced this by providing the company with their expert advice and helping to mentor the ANP based alongside us. The only concern is the amount of times LCpl Bygrave has been caught alone wearing his rubber gloves but he continues to assure us that it's to prevent him from contaminating any evidence that he has!!

The Royal Artillery have been with the company throughout the our training, as it is said that it takes them this long to learn how to do their job properly!! They come in the form of a six man team that help provide the larger forms of fire power from guns, aircraft and attack helicopters. Sgt Smith – the air expert – has successfully ripped the roof off the buildings on the helicopter landing site and choked the whole company with dust when trying to land a helicopter at the Patrol Base front door. He is adamant that it was the pilot's fault as despite the pilot having had years of training and regarding the area as too difficult to land he was obviously an amateur in the air world unlike himself who is a professional!!

Capt George Vargha, the Patrol Base Doctor, worried us all with his comment about how disillusioned by how ineffective he had found bullet wounds to be!! Thankfully to date his comment still remains extant, let's just hope it stays that way.

Capt Jason Russell, the influence officer, has done an outstanding job winning over the hearts and minds of the locals, especially on the day when a Company Tac

patrol went into an area of nomadic settlers that even the Taliban are frightened of and decided to shoot one of their dogs. He still stands by his belief that he was about to be attacked by the beast 'of a Jack Russell' which incidentally was called Fluffy by its owners!! RIP Fluffy!!

As well as their day jobs all those from the Company Tac also carry out the regular 'epic' foot patrols around the outstations to deliver stores and mail and reinforce the ISAF presence on the ground to the local nationals

The attached members are without a doubt part of the team out here and the Company Sergeant Major ensures they get the same amount of loving as he gives to everyone else!! The extra capability and diversity that different cap-badged soldiers bring to the company has been warmly appreciated by all and combined with the high standard the company maintains makes us a force to be reckoned with.



Sgt Smith about to deploy with a small daysack.

NIJMEGEN COMPANY

Wellington Barracks, London

Nijmegen Company has had a very busy time in 2009. Towards the end of the year the year the Company Commander Major Ed Paintin moved on after over two years in command. He was replaced by Major Rupert King-Evans, fresh from being the Adjutant of the Honourable Artillery Company and thankful to be working with Grenadiers once again.

The ceremonial side of life is where most time has been spent. In the second half of the year alone the Company had 22 Queen's Guards and nine Windsor Guards! The Company also took part in a number of other State Ceremonial events, including several Guards of Honour.

Nijmegen Company formed Number 5 Guard for the Queen's Birthday Parade. It was also selected to

have the honour of taking part in Installation of the Constable of the Tower of London when General Dannatt took up this post at the specific request of the General himself. This took place in the Tower at night under flood lights, adding atmosphere to this unique and ancient ceremony that occurs very infrequently. Further atmosphere was added by the rain that poured down throughout! The tunics were soaked through and needed a thorough drying out afterwards.

At Windsor Nijmegen Company lined the streets for the State Visit of the President of India. This was our last outing of the year in tunics, and our next State Ceremonial duty was the State Opening of Parliament. The Company formed a large Guard of Honour outside the House of Lords for this event.

After the busy period over the summer, the Company

enjoyed some well earned summer leave, and returned refreshed for the coming months. One of the first tasks was to visit the small French town of Pont-a-Marq. This town was liberated by the King's Company 65 years ago, when the Regimental Adjutant's father was the Captain of the King's Company. Pont-a-Marq has had a connection with the Regiment ever since. A small detachment of the company went over to the village to commemorate the 65th anniversary of their liberation. This involved several parades in and around the main street, and included marching down "rue Jim Hague", a street that has been renamed after Jim Hague who fought at Pont-a-Marq and was very influential in building and maintaining the relationship between the town and the Regiment.

Only a few weeks later, members of the company were again on the Continent. This time on a much larger scale though, as the company had the honour of providing a large Guard of Honour for Queen Beatrix of the Netherlands at the 65th Commemoration of the Battle of Nijmegen. The trip afforded time to for the Company to carry out a battle field tour, and learn about the capture of the famous bridge. Later during the Commemoration Ceremony, the Company marched across the bridge to the tune from the film 'A Bridge too Far', followed by a Sherman tank!

Back in the UK, the Company has been sending Guardsmen to join the 1st Battalion in Afghanistan as required. To prepare them for this a two week long exercise and range week took place in October. This was also a good chance to escape Public Duties and remind ourselves for our infantry skills. For the first stage of the fortnight's training the Company deployed to glorious Sennybridge Training Area for eight days. Miraculously the weather was really glorious, and not a drop of rain fell during the whole exercise. The second week was on the ranges at Hythe on the south coast. Here the Company conducted ranges, in considerably less impressive weather. The standard of shooting was impressive though, with one or two Guardsmen shining as budding marksmen and potential Shooting Team members or snipers.

Despite the busy schedule Nijmegen Guardsmen have conducted a number of adventurous training activities this year. In March half the company went Skiing in Tignes with Lt Strachan. The Household Division yacht Gladeye has also been used to teach basic sailing to the Guardsmen, and award them the Competent Crew certificate. More recently, several Guardsmen took to the skies above Southern England as went gliding with the RAF. This was a great day for the Guardsmen involved. They all were able to take control of the gliders, and thankfully they all made it back to earth safely in one piece – as there was no Queen's Guard the next day!

Nijmegen's home is still Royal Artillery Barracks in Woolwich, which still presents both challenges and opportunities for the Company. The distance from Wellington Barracks and the frequency of Public Duties ensures all members of the Company are very familiar with the Old Kent Road, each journey to or from Wellington Barracks taking roughly an hour by coach. The local area around the Barracks is still fairly rough, although thankfully there have not been any incidents of note recently. Life inside the Barracks has improved greatly though. All the Guardsmen now occupy brand new single man rooms, which are all ensuite! The rooms grouped into six to eight man flats, with a kitchen and a laundry and a common room per flat. This is a great improvement on the old accommodation and has been very well received by the Guardsmen. The Sergeants' Mess has been closed for a total refit, and during this period the Nijmegen Company Sergeants have been moved into empty married quarters. This move has also been well received, and there have been rumours of several of the Seniors taking their cooking very seriously in the kitchens of their 'pads', perhaps the Grenadiers' answer to Jamie Oliver is in the making in Nijmegen Company.

The Company has welcomed and said farewell to several Platoon Commanders this year. Lt Strachan left on a posting to ATR Bassingbourn, and 2Lt Taylor and 2Lt de Gama both have left to join the First Battalion. Captain Alex Forster has also moved on, to become the Assistant Equerry to HRH The Colonel. Captain Tom Hamilton replaces him as the Company Second-in-Command.

The year has been extremely busy for Nijmegen Company, as no doubt 2010 shall also be. The Company remains strong though and after a well earned period of Christmas and New Year leave will begin to tackle the coming year.



Company Training Beacon. Orders 'Sit up'.

My Experiences of Selly Oak Hospital

by Major Bernie Broad

On a sunny November day in Afghanistan whilst carrying out my duties as the Battle Group Logistic Officer for the Grenadier Guards I found myself on the receiving end of an enemy bomb.

I was recovered to Bastion, still conscious and much to the amusement of many kind visitors, totally oblivious to what was happening. The move from Bastion was swift and I was flown to Birmingham and admitted to the Critical Care Ward in Selly Oak Hospital. From leaving Bastion heavily sedated to finally coming round in hospital a week later I remember nothing but what I do know is that due to the excellent training we all receive and support we get I am alive and well enough to write this short article.

At the same time whilst all this was going on my wife was being briefed and organised, not that she needed it, to be at the Hospital for my arrival. This is where the Regiment and the Welfare Officer played a key role in ensuring my wife was kept informed of my condition and planned return to the UK at all times.

The Critical Care ward at Selly Oak is not a place I would want to return to again, but it is unfortunately a much needed unit during the current climate. It is a controlled ward where you are monitored constantly and where all injuries are dealt with effectively and efficiently. My wife has told me that she was kept informed of every decision that was made concerning my treatment and was kept "in the loop".

It was only towards the end of my stay in Critical Care that I began to realise what was going on. One of my earlier comments such as "Dad what are you and mum doing in Afghanistan" bear testament to that. Now more lucid and with my memory returning, my aim at this stage was to escape this ward and somehow go home with my wife. But with visits from family and friends restricted to two at a time and being outnumbered by staff it was not possible to out manoeuvre them. Not a good feeling as a Grenadier to be beaten by "civvies".

When you are finally allowed to leave the critical care ward and go "upstairs" to the other ward it feels great because you know you are getting better and you have the opportunity for some normality. Visiting hours are reduced but if you are up to it, physiotherapy is included into your daily routine and there is more interaction with other people and activities on the ward.

Now with access to the Occupational Health Team, Physio and the café, life was speeding up and it was often hard to understand why I couldn't get back to join the battle group but I was soon brought down to earth with my Consultant's sharp remark of "the war is

over for you Sir!" after my constant requests to be released! Ouch!

I spent almost six weeks in Selly Oak and during this time my wife (and daughters when school/work permitted) were accommodated in local Hotels and provided with lifts to and from the hospital for visiting. The whole experience for me and my family was made more bearable because of the well thought out and planned systems in place for all casualties and families. My sincere thanks go to my wife, the system, Doctors, Medics and friends who visited me and for making what was a nightmare event for me more of a "B rate horror movie".

Deploying to Afghanistan

by Command Sergeant Major Gillham

This is a tale of luck. In April 2009 I was selected for promotion to WO1 and shortly afterwards assumed my appointment as the Regimental Sergeant Major at Army Training Centre, Pirbright. The transition to training recruits was relatively easy having just come from the Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst: the dulcet tones of "one, two three, one" had a familiar ring to them irrespective of the accent with which they were screamed and I thoroughly enjoyed 'gripping' the Regiments of the line on the drill square. It made sound entertainment for the staff in Regimental Headquarters. As much as I enjoyed the working environment and the staff, I longed for something more challenging.

I did not have to wait long; the phone rang and my desk officer in Glasgow enquired if I would be interested in being boarded for a job as the Command Sergeant Major (Comd SM) for 6 (UK) Division. This was like music to my ears. But there was one catch. They were deploying to Afghanistan for a year!! After a long deliberation of about fifteen seconds, I agreed to put my name into the cooking pot. A week later I was told I had been shortlisted and required to sit an interview with Major General Carter CBE, GOC 6 (UK) Division on Salisbury Plain. Despite sweaty palms and stammering my way through the interview I was pleased that I had left victorious and was to be posted to York within two weeks.

My first week in York introduced me to pre-deployment training at the divisional level. We kicked off with a conceptual study week at which there were more stars (General Officers) than in the Milky Way, including some punchy speakers such as General Conway, Commandant of the US Marine Corps (USMC) and Lt Gen Parker, Deputy Commander ISAF. I knew I was in for a steep learning curve. My knowledge of strategic and tactical operations at divisional level taught me one lesson very quickly, learnt from Lt Gen (Retd) Delves (former Director Special Forces): "In this forum, if you have nothing to say don't XXXXing say it." I found myself saying "No points Sir" quite a lot during the MRX in Sennelager!

On arriving in Afghanistan I met the outgoing Comd Sgt Maj and soon learnt that this job had a lot more to it than I originally thought. He talked me through the Task Forces on the ground: Leatherneck (USMC), Uruzgan (Dutch), Helmand (British) Kandahar (Canadian), Zabul (US/Romanian) and Stryker (US) as well as all the logistical and aviation assets, a total of some 45,000 troops. I took a deep breath and thought this is bigger than Ben Hur. But the challenge is proving to be very rewarding as well as an education. I have had the privilege to meet some outstanding soldiers across the region and of course to visit the Battalion on more than one occasion. My first, sadly, was the day after the horrific situation where three Grenadiers and two RMP were killed by a rogue policeman. It was with some pride that I witnessed first hand the professional manner with which the Battalion responded to the incident. The Grenadier Guards are setting the highest of standards in the region and are frequently used as an example of "How to do it right" at divisional morning prayers.

My role as the Command Sergeant Major is diverse and not necessarily an intuitive one to the British Army. I look at issues that affect all the troops on the ground and ensure that the soldier's story is heard by all the key decision makers when making their plans. Also I spend a lot of my time on the ground with the troops ensuring the Commander's Intent is fully understood at grass root level. A very encouraging aspect has been visiting areas that I served in on Op HERRICK 7. Garmsir, for example, was in disarray two years ago when I was the acting CSM for 3 Company. Now it has a flourishing bazaar and the signs of economic recovery are beginning to show.

A paper is currently circulating about the future of the appointment of the Comd Sgt Maj and discusses whether it should be more formally established. Whilst it is early days I think that there is much to be said for doing so; the American Army has recognised the position for some time and it is well established (they pull out all the stops when I visit so it's nice to have some perks to the job) but it may take some time for the British Army to understand the role. Personally, I think that the role is a valuable one and that for as long as we continue to operate at Brigade and Divisional levels there is a place for a Command Sergeant Major.



Two Grenadier Sergeant Majors – WO1 (RSM) Farrell hosts Command Sergeant Major Gillham.

Commemoration of the 65th Anniversary of the Battle of Nijmegen – 20th Sept 2009

by the Regimental Adjutant

On a glorious late summer's day on 20th September 2009 the Dutch town of Nijmegen (the oldest city in the Netherlands) commemorated the 65th Anniversary of the Battle of Nijmegen. Since the Arnhem Commemorations were meant to be the "main effort", planning for a low key event had started earlier in the year with the Mayor of Nijmegen inviting Nijmegen Company, Grenadier Guards to attend; as it happened, the Regimental Band was scheduled to play at an event in Belgium the night before the Commemoration, so I made the offer that the Band should play at the Commemoration, an offer that was gratefully accepted. Finally, it emerged that Prince Philip, our Colonel, was willing to attend, at which point Her Majesty Queen Beatrix of the Netherlands decided that she would be there to greet him. Thus "low key" turned "high profile"!



Major Ed Paintin leads the Guard of Honour.

During the days prior to 20th September, the Grenadier contingent started to assemble in Holland. Nijmegen Company travelled to a barracks near Arnhem in order to carry out reces and rehearsals on the Friday before the Commemoration. A party of 60 from the Grenadier Guards Association travelled to

Eindhoven on the Friday, and attended commemorations at Oss and Heesch on the Saturday, whilst Nijmegen Company carried out a battlefield tour of Nijmegen. Lord Carrington drove out on the Saturday, attended by his “ADC” (and Godson) Valentine Cecil and The Colonel “popped over” from Balmoral for the afternoon on Sunday.



Nijmegen Company prepares for The Colonel.

In mid-afternoon Nijmegen Company carrying The Queen’s Company Colour and led by the Regimental Band stepped off to march to the Commemoration just short of Nijmegen Bridge on the “home bank”. Once there, the Company formed up for a Guard of Honour for HM Queen Beatrix and HRH The Colonel. Once the Royal Party had inspected the Guard of Honour, they took their seats for the Commemoration; the Mayor of Nijmegen presented medals to Lord Carrington and the Lieutenant Colonel, who accepted them on behalf of the Guards Armoured Division and the Regiment, and to representatives of the US 82nd Airborne Division. Peter Carrington was invited to “say a few words” which he did with great eloquence. Wreaths were then laid, followed by various speeches. After the Commemoration, HM Queen Beatrix and The Colonel walked down



Lord Carrington says a few words.

the ranks of Nijmegen Company chatting to Guardsmen as they went. At the same time, veterans were boarding a convoy of military vehicles, headed by a Sherman tank, ready to process across the Bridge.

HM Queen Beatrix and HRH The Colonel watched the Procession, led by the Regimental Band and Nijmegen Company as they set off to march across the bridge. Thereafter, the Royal Party departed, whilst the remainder of the spectators watched as the Procession returned and headed towards the Town Hall for a most enjoyable Reception which was given by the City of Nijmegen.



The Regimental Band leads across the Nijmegen Bridge.

It was a very happy day with hundreds of veterans and thousands of Dutch spectators turning out for the event. Of course, the jollity of the occasion did not obscure the fact that we were commemorating a bloody battle fought against a ruthless and determined enemy. In his brief speech, Peter Carrington recalled the battle, the “fog of war”, the courage of those who took part, and particularly the courage of the Dutch people both during the battle and the harsh winter that followed. Only those who fought in the Market Garden operation truly know the horror of those battles, and whilst those who have fought in more recent battles may have had a glimpse of what it was like, the rest of us can only imagine.

It is humbling to see how, to this day, the inhabitants of those Western European countries, which were liberated by the British and American forces, remain enormously grateful for the sacrifice that was made for them; the Dutch are notable in this respect, and particularly the interest of the young in the events of 65 years ago.

The Commemoration of the 65th Anniversary of the Battle of Nijmegen was a poignant event, but as should be the case, was a thoroughly enjoyable occasion.

The Irish Guards are best

by Roy Jones

In September 2008 I wrote to Colonel Ewan Houston OBE, offering to do a sponsored parachute jump in aid of The Colonel's Fund, and suggested it be planned for May 2009, when I would become an 80-year-old.

He was able to put me in touch with Major Alex Cartwright, The Captain of Queen's Company and a member of the Guards sky-diving team.

When he made contact with me, he explained that at my age, I would only be able to do a tandem jump. Although I was disappointed at not being able to go solo, I appreciated that I was asking a lot of anyone to take the risk with a novice of eighty, so I resigned myself to going tandem.

Major Cartwright went on to say that with over 900 jumps to his credit, he was still not considered experienced enough to jump with someone in tandem. However, two of the team, a Coldstream Guards Colour Sergeant and an Irish Guards Lance Corporal were, with over 1200 Jumps each under their belts.

With both these men willing to take me down, all that remained was to fix a date.

The work then started to raise as much sponsorship money for the fund as possible. This was achieved by recruiting my family and friends, helped by Colonel Houston, Major Cartwright, Captain Rolfe and Lance Sergeant Ellingham.

The 30th May 2009, one week after my eightieth birthday, was the date chosen for the sky-dive, to be made over the airfield at Netheravon on the Salisbury Plain.

The date proved to be one of the best one could hope for, for the task ahead; not a cloud in the sky, warm and sunny.

My wife, myself, family and friends duly arrived at Netheravon and were introduced by Major Alex Cartwright to Lance Corporal Jay Brittain, Irish Guards, into whose hands I was to place myself.

After a small amount of tuition, I was dressed in a blue/red/blue overall, helmet, goggles and harness. Now we were ready to go. Alex Cartwright, who was jumping solo, Jay Brittain and myself were joined on the aeroplane by a number of solo jumpers, not belonging to the Brigade.

It took 13 minutes for the plane to climb to the height from which we were to jump. During this time, I was securely hooked up in my harness to Jay Brittain.

At 13,000 feet, with the exception of Alex Cartwright, the solo jumpers left the aircraft first.

Before Jay and I jumped, I was positioned hanging outside the plane, held only by my harness, which of course was attached to Jay's. In this position, I looked

down to see the fields below looking no bigger than postage stamps.

Jay tapped me on the shoulder and away we went. Although I didn't see him jump, Alex Cartwright must have followed us out of the plane.

We were to free fall for 45 seconds and as you can see from the photograph Alex was able to link up, and for a time all three of us were sky diving together.

There is no way of knowing how fast you are dropping but looking down, one could see the fields getting bigger and closer.

When 45 seconds expired, Alex detached himself from Jay and I, and the ripcord was pulled. With the parachute deployed, our descent slowed to a fraction of the speed we were doing in freefall. So much so that one has the impression of going back up in space.

With the parachute open, Jay and I were able to converse; it was during our descent that Jay asked me which Regiment in the Brigade I thought was the best. Remembering, I was still relying on him getting me back on the ground safely, I quickly answered, "The Irish Guards", of course, to which he replied, "I thought you might say that". At this point we both broke into laughter.

Since opening the parachute, it was to take us just over four minutes to come within sight of the landing site, which Jay had pointed out was where we would land even before we left the ground.

A few feet from landing, Jay deployed a small 'chute just above our heads, this served to slow us down so much, that when we landed it was just like walking onto the grass.

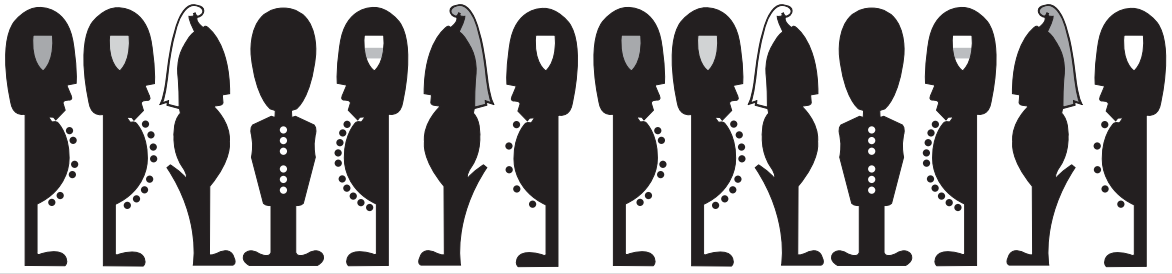
With our harness off, I said to Jay, "Do you mind if I change my mind regarding the best Regiment, which has to be the Grenadiers". He replied, pointing to the sky, "I wonder why you didn't say that when we were up there?"

What seemed to be a few minutes later but must have been longer, we assembled in the airport cinema, where Colonel Houston produced a bottle of champagne to toast my sky-dive. After which a DVD of my jump was shown and given to me as a keepsake of my never to be forgotten experience.

We then dispersed and went our own ways, at which point I finally came back to earth.

With a little money still to be collected and, if and when the Gift Aid tax is recovered, the exercise will have raised around £5,000 for the Colonel's Fund.

In closing, I would like to thank those of you who contributed to the above amount, my family and friends, who helped me to canvas for my sponsors, Colonel Ewan Houston OBE, Major Grant Baker, Major Alex Cartwright, Captain Trevor Rolfe, Lance Sergeant Jay Ellingham, Lance Corporal Jay Brittain and anyone else I am unaware, of who helped to make my skydive possible.



Horse Guards News

VIEW FROM HORSE GUARDS

The past year has been dominated by the Household Division's contribution to operations in Afghanistan. All the Regiments have played their part: 1st Bn Welsh Guards provided a Battle Group last summer with 19 Light Brigade and the 1st Bns from both the Grenadier and Coldstream Guards along with the Household Cavalry are currently providing Battle Groups and Right Flank 1st Bn Scots Guards, and Armoured Infantry, with 11 Light Brigade. If that is not enough 1st Bn Irish Guards provided the Controlling Headquarters and in place training team for the brigade level relief in place which took place in October last year as 11 Light Brigade assumed responsibility for operations from 19 Light Brigade. They have fought tremendously hard in some very fierce exchanges but as ever the guardsmen have shown enormous resilience and strength of character. Implementing effective counter insurgency operations is difficult and frustrating and requires huge self discipline and restraint in the face of much provocation. However they have succeeded and their efforts have been rewarded with significant improvement in the lives of the Afghan people and a Taliban that finds it increasingly hard to operate with any freedom. In short the Guardsmen are up for it and the Household Division's stock is high as a result.

Unfortunately the toll in terms of injury and deaths has been high; a Commanding Officer, a Regimental Sergeant Major, a Company Commander, Platoon Commanders, Platoon Sergeants, Lance Sergeants, Lance Corporals and of course Guardsmen have all paid with their lives and many others have been left terribly badly wounded; double amputations as a result of IEDs are all too common. As a result the Army's medical and welfare support reinforced by Battalion Rear Parties and Regimental Headquarters has been working very hard. However, it is up to the job; medical treatment from point of wounding to rehabilitation has been absolutely first

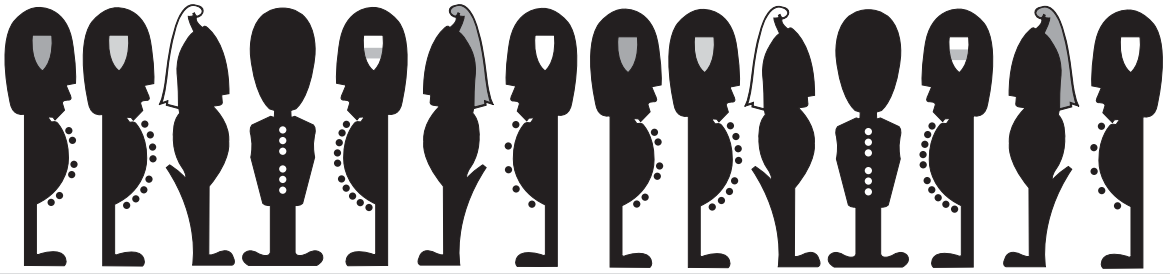
class and the welfare support offered to families has improved beyond all measure.

On the home front Ceremonial Duties have gone on with their usual aplomb. The Queen's Birthday Parade was a huge success and featured seven Guards, four of which including the Escort were provided by the 1st Bn Irish Guards. The last time that seven guards were on parade was in 1967, noting that up until 1992 there were routinely eight guards. The Parade was commanded by Lieutenant Colonel BC Farrell MBE, the Escort by Major ET Boanas and the Ensign was 2Lt ACS Campbell. The Parade also featured the Drums and Pipes of 1st Bn Irish Guards and the Pipes and Drums of 1st Bn Scots Guards; the first time that the latter had taken part in the parade for a considerable period of time. 1st Bn Grenadier Guards also contributed elements of their Corps of Drums to round off the numbers and provide a total of 60 pipers and drummers. There is no doubt that the pipers added some flair that has been missing in recent years and ensured that the Parade had real Irish feel.

Over the late summer F Company Scots Guards provided the Royal Guard at Ballater. The role provided a significant change in scene and a magnificent change in scenery. Her Majesty was also kind enough to allow the odd visitor from Horse Guards a chance to stalk.

In December The Household Division Memorial at the National Memorial Arboretum was unveiled by His Royal Highness The Duke of Edinburgh. Serving and retired members of the Division all attended. The occasion also saw His Royal Highness present 15 Elizabeth Crosses to a number of families whose sons or husbands had been killed recently in Iraq and Afghanistan. The memorial is simple in design, comprising black railings mounted on a plinth. The former are modelled on those found at the old Chelsea Barracks in London and like those railings also incorporate the stars and badges of the five Regiments of Foot Guards that adorned them.

Septem Juncta in Uno



Meanwhile the Portland Stone plinth is intended to capture the same simple, stark nature of the Guards Memorial, the recently refurbished Guards Memorial at Brompton Cemetery and the Crimean Guards Memorial at the Waterloo Place junction on Pall Mall. The Plinth has been inscribed with the badges of the Household Cavalry on its flanks and on its rear side with the mottos of the seven Regiments, mirroring the badge or star behind which they are positioned. The memorial is surrounded by a paved area of Portland Stone.

Looking Forward, on the operational front 1st Bn Scots Guards deploys to Afghanistan with 4 Mechanised Brigade in late Spring and 1st Bn Irish Guards in the Autumn with 16 Air Assault Brigade. On the home front 1st Bn Grenadier Guards will provide the Escort for this year's Birthday Parade.

Meanwhile 2011 will see a series of Arms Plot moves: 1st Bn Welsh Guards will move into the newly renovated Cavalry Barracks in Hounslow and their place in Aldershot will be taken by 1st Bn Grenadier Guards. Later in the autumn the 1st Bn Irish Guards will move to Aldershot in a swap with 1st Bn Coldstream who will move to Windsor. This will effectively establish a 'Guards Corridor' between Aldershot and Windsor/Hounslow reducing the need to families to move as battalions arms plot between the two areas, adding enormously to family stability. 2011 will also see the establishment of the Inner London Garrison which will concentrate the 3 Public Duties Incremental Companies, Nijmegen, 7 and F Companies, along with the 5 Foot Guard Bands in Wellington Barracks and create a Ceremonial Mounting Base.

Septem Juncta in Uno

4th Battalion Grenadier Guards

It would be sad if the last gasp of the 4th Battalion, in the guise of the officers dining club, were to pass unheard. The club had been formed by the survivors of that irregular battalion, whose epic defence of Hazebrouck in April 1918 had changed the course of the Kaiser's war and heralded its eventual end in victory.

The Battalion was then disbanded and it was not until 1940 that it was reformed. The Club had continued its annual gathering of survivors till in 1945 it was, somewhat reluctantly, agreed to invite the youngsters of Hitler's war to join them. It was their pleasure to hear the presiding officer read the roll-call of the deceased followed by the idle excuses of the absentees. No speeches until Harold MacMillan, Prime Minister, would come, unchanged straight from the Commons, to regale us at considerable length with enthralling reminiscences of what it was to be a Grenadier in his war and how it had shaped his life.

In 1942 Princess Elizabeth, then 16, became our Colonel and it was to our Battalion that she made her first visit that April when we were at Codford on Salisbury Plain, so we have always felt a special relationship in sending our annual greetings to her. When, with our depleted numbers, we agreed to close the club, she replied how sorry she was that 13th October 2009 was to be our last gathering and wished us well.

Of the nine officers known to be alive, six managed to attend with an average age of 88 needing the escort of wives for the halt and the blind. Sadly, Robert Heywood Lonsdale, a great leader who has presided for many years and had made a memorable farewell speech, died in December, as did John Inglis, leaving only Basil Lowe, Greville Selby-Lowndes, Greville Gidley-Kitchin and Sandy Gray plus absentees John Cannan, David Leng and John Sumner Vale to a great Battalion and those men who served it in their Churchill tanks in those desperate battles in the Normandy bocages, in the mud of Holland and the Rhineland and in the final dash to the Baltic rivalling that of the Grenadier Group to Brussels.

May it never be needed again.



WHERE ARE THEY THIS YEAR?

by Maj Edmund Wilson Irish Guards

So another year, another dollar, but Grenadier Majors and below still have a Mick, Maj Edmund Wilson, as the SO2 Foot Guards in the Army Personnel Centre in Glasgow. It therefore falls to him to write his second instalment about the exploits and successes of Grenadier officers. Don't worry – a Welsh Guardsman takes over from him in the next few months. So what have you all been up to?

Starting with Brigadiers, the Regimental Lieutenant Colonel, Brig **David Maddan**, has tightened his stranglehold in command of 15 (North East) Brigade, but the main news is that Brig **George Norton CBE** is off for his 3rd tour of Afghanistan. This time, rather than being Deputy Commander Task Force Helmand (which he did in the rank of Colonel) he is off to be Deputy Commander Regional Command (South West). This will be a US Divisional Headquarters and is being formed in early Summer 2010; it will be excellent in terms of British interests to have Brigadier George in the chair, leading what has become known in the Army Personnel Centre as 'Norton-force'.

Moving onto Colonels, I can report that almost (!) the most important person in my life is the newly promoted Col **Richard Winstanley OBE**, who is now Colonel MS Officers Combat at the Army Personnel Centre. He has responsibility for all Infantry, Royal Armoured Corps and Army Air Corps officers as well as being my boss. Elsewhere, Col **David Hutchison** continues with Project Hyperion. Col **Greville Bibby MBE** was currently Deputy Commander Task Force Helmand but moves in April 2010 to take command of the newly enhanced Military Stabilisation and Security Group (MSSG). This organisation is a growth area for the Army and will be responsible, in part, for sending Stabilisation Advisors out to places like Afghanistan so that we, the UK, can improve our support to the population. Congratulations are also in order for the newly promoted Col **Rob Mills**, who has moved to a post in the Ministry of Defence, as well as to your Editor, who by the time of publication will have been promoted to become Col **David Russell-Parsons**, in which rank he will be Deputy Commander 38 (Irish) Brigade.

On the Lieutenant Colonel front Lt Col **Jerry Levine** MBE has moved to be SO1 Information Management and Requirements at the Command and Control Development Centre. Recent news is that Lt Col **Tim Jalland** is to become Lt Col Foot Guards in September 2010, and my predecessor, Lt Col **Johnny Wrench** continues to sample life on the Left Bank of the Seine at the French Staff College, but has been provisionally selected for a job with the EU Military Staff in Brussels. However, there is even better news for Grenadiers; there is no truth in the rumour that he entertained ideas of transferring to the Micks when he was Second in Command (he'd have cluttered up the plot!), but congratulations to Lt Col **Guy Denison-Smith** on his promotion and selection as SO1 Policy in the Command and Battlespace Management Branch of HQ Land Forces, as well as to Maj **Richard Maundrell MVO**, who is currently on the Advanced Command and Staff Course, and who will be promoted to Lieutenant Colonel once he has been selected for a Grade 1 Staff post.

There have been a few changes for Majors as well. **Andrew James** remains Senior Major and **Simon Soskin** remains at the Land Warfare Centre, although Number 5 Board is considering what post to select him for next. **Martin David MC** will also be on the move later this year, but for now continues his cracking work on the Personnel Strategy for HQ Infantry. **Mike Griffiths** is soon to finish his time in the British Army Training Unit in Suffield, and will move to the Military Stabilisation and Security Group, including an operational tour of Afghanistan. **Toby Barnes-Taylor** has moved to be Chief of Staff of the Individual Capability Group in the Directorate of Equipment and Support. **James Bowder MBE** remains Chief of Staff 11 (Light) Brigade, currently in Afghanistan with the 1st Battalion under command, whilst **Marcus Elliot-Square** continues as the lynchpin of ceremonial policy in the Ministry of Defence. On return from Afghanistan, **Richard Green** will move from commanding Number 2 Company to become The Captain, whilst **Jim Green** will move from Support Company to take over the Inkerman Company. **Ed Paintin** and the newly promoted **Piers Ashfield** are on the Intermediate Command and Staff Course; Ed moves from there to a post in HQ British Forces Cyprus, whilst Piers will move to the operations branch of HQ 1 (UK) Armoured Division. In addition, there were 2 promotions to Major; congratulations to **James Greaves**, who will step off to the US Command and

General Staff College in Fort Leavenworth in June this year, and to **Andrew Seddon** who goes to the Intermediate Command and Staff Course at Shrivenham in September.

Moving onto Captains and Subalterns, **Rupert King-Evans** has been awarded his Acting Majority and is now commanding Nijmegen Company, whilst **Simon Gordon-Lennox** will also move to take up command of Support Company. **James Fox** is now the Adjutant and **Ben Jesty** has moved to the Royal Military Academy as Adjutant of New College. **Alex Forster** is now Temporary Equerry to The Colonel and **Tom Whitby** is to be the Anti-Tank Platoon Commander. Officer recruiting also continues to go well, with five officers passing out of Sandhurst in the last year.

Nothing would happen, though, without the experience of the Late Entry officers. Of note, Maj **Vern Overton** has moved from the delights of Belize to be an Instructor on the Late Entry Officers Course, Capt **Andy Butcher** is the Recruiting Officer, and Capt **Stumpy Keeley** is the Welfare Officer. Capt **Neil England MBE** has finished at Sandhurst and moved back to the 1st Battalion as Quartermaster Technical. Also the LE community have had their share of promotion successes, with both **Vince Gaunt** and **Bernie Broad** being selected for promotion to Major.

Finally, we must spare a thought for all in the Regiment who have been on operations in the last year,

are currently on operations, or who are due to deploy. I continually hear good news stories about the 1st Battalion and the great work being done in Afghanistan on our behalf. It is often humbling to hear the stories of bravery or even of sheer doggedness in adversity. But Health and Safety takes on a new meaning out there and the Battalion has had its share of casualties. Every death is an utter tragedy, whatever the rank, but we must remember those who have been wounded as well, some of whom have life changing injuries. The officers have not been immune and Lt **Garth Banks** was seriously wounded in January in an IED explosion, and **Bernie Broad**, unusually for the Quartermaster Technical, also suffered significant injuries in a separate incident. The fact that he was out on the ground doing his job, getting down and dirty is typical of him; we wish them both all the best in their continuing recovery.

To conclude, the officers of the Grenadier Guards have continued to be exceptionally busy. There have been promotions through the year, people have been selected for cracking jobs and some remain on tenterhooks as they await the next Board results. But overall, they are all on fine form and continue the great traditions that make the Grenadiers so unique (almost as unique, indeed, as the Micks!). We all pray for their safe return from Afghanistan where the 1st Battalion is doing such sterling work.

Major KFN Roberts MMus FLCM LRSM PD

Major Kevin Roberts was educated at Queen Elizabeth School Manchester, London College of Music and Media and the Royal Military School of Music, Kneller Hall (RMSM). In 1990 he was selected to attend the three-year Bandmaster Course at Kneller Hall and qualified in 1993 achieving top student and receiving seven awards.

After completing his Advanced Certificate in Music (psm) he was commissioned into the Corps of Army Music and subsequently appointed Director of Music, Normandy Band of the Queen's Division. In 2003 he commanded his unit on operational deployment to Iraq and, on returning, was chosen to join the staff of the Defence Force School of Music, Australia – undertaking a study of the Australian Band system. He was appointed Director of Music, Band of the Army Air Corps in 2006 and in the following year promoted to the rank of Major and selected for the appointment of Chief Instructor RMSM, where he was responsible for the delivery of all musical training for Army music. In January 2010 he had the honour to be appointed

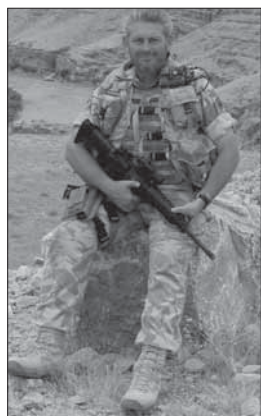


Director of Music, Band of the Grenadier Guards.

Outside of the Armed Forces he has worked as a Lecturer at Surrey University and performed as musical director and adjudicator for numerous organisations and events. Additional interests include swimming, cycling, rowing and painting.

Major Roberts has been awarded the post-graduate degree of Master of Music, is the recipient of the Cassell's Medal from The Worshipful Company of Musicians and is an elected Freeman of the City of London.

Lieutenant Colonel AGC Hatherley OBE



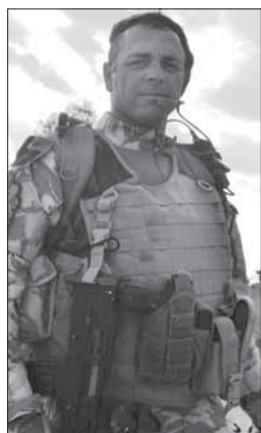
Near Kajaki in summer 2007.

On commissioning from Sandhurst in 1989 he joined the 1st Battalion in Munster. As the most junior platoon commander he deployed with the battalion to the 1st Gulf War (Op GRANBY). Banished to Brecon as an instructor at the Battle School he returned to the only remaining Grenadier battalion as the Second Captain. After a winter tour of Crossmaglen with the Queen's Company he took over as the Operations Officer in Wellington Barracks (London). His initial staff appointment was in the MOD International Development branch from where he moved straight to the Advanced Command and Staff Course.

As The Captain of The Queen's Company in 2002, he

led them through the Review at Windsor Castle and then as the Escort for that year's Birthday Parade. The finale to his ceremonial career was leading them down the Champs Elysees at the head of the French army on Bastille Day in 2004. Thereafter as the Senior Major he moved with the Grenadier Battle Group to Bosnia over the winter of 2005/2006. His reward was to be posted on return to the Congo with the United Nations, for which he was awarded a Queen's Commendation. He then completed a short period as the Lt Col Foot Guards before assuming command of the 1st Battalion in Aldershot. The Grenadier Guards Battle Group fought in Helmand (March to October 2007) for which he was awarded the United States Army Medal of Commendation and a second Queen's Commendation. Now working directly for the CGS, he is the Team Leader of the Pan Army Inspectorate, which acts as "the conscience of the Army", and was awarded OBE in this year's Honour's List. He is married to Candida, who is a doctor and is kept company by Hugo, Isabelle and now Charlie, who was born five days before the Battalion returned for Afghanistan in 2007.

WO1 (RSM) IM Farrell



WO1 (RSM) Ian Farrell took over as the Sergeant Major of the 1st Battalion on 4th November 2009, whilst on operations in Afghanistan.

His career took shape from the start, defined by operational deployments, career courses, and a posting or two. He joined Army in 1988 as a Junior Leader at The Guards Depot in Pirbright before joining the 1st Battalion. During Op GRANBY, the liberation of Kuwait, he was promoted in the field to LCpl and became a sniper on return. He went to Northern Ireland as a Team Commander and Sniper having completed the Sect Comds Battle Course. He was posted to the Infantry Training Battalion in Catterick, from where he completed the Pl Sgts Battle Course in Brecon and returned to Regimental Duty as a Gold Sgt serving as Pl Sgt in Number Two Company and then The Queen's Company where he served in Northern Ireland. He went back to Northern Ireland again with the Recce

Platoon where he was promoted to Colour Sgt and was awarded a GOC Northern Ireland Commendation for his actions in Belfast. As CQMS of The Inkerman Company he deployed to Bosnia. As CSM Support Company he went to Iraq in 2006; then as CSM of the 12 Brigade Reconnaissance Force in 2007 where he received a Joint Force Commanders Commendation. He was briefly Drill Sgt and RQMS (Technical), before selection for promotion. Not wishing to miss out, he volunteered to deploy at the same time as the 1st Battalion as the Command Sergeant Major of the Combined Training and Advisory Group Afghanistan – a multinational force in Kabul – until called back to the 1st Battalion serving in Helmand.

In between operational tours, he finds time for football – playing, watching, and officiating (he is also a qualified FA coach). At home he likes to stay focused by referring to home as his "compound" and as often as possible gets his family to practise "stand to"; prior to deploying on holidays, with a keen eye, he carries out thorough kit inspections ensure all pre deployment checks are done.

A devoted family man, he is married to Sarah, and with two sons Aaron and Macaulay, they live in Scunthorpe, North Lincolnshire.

Sergeant Major Darren Chant



WO1 (RSM) Chant in his tunic.

It is well said that the death in action of a senior figure is no greater a tragedy, and no less, than that of any humble soldier. The loss of a Regimental Sergeant Major, however, cannot fail to be felt acutely by the whole body of a battalion. He is invariably a man known and respected by every member of that body, feared by most and (dare it be said) loved by not a few. Where, as in the case of **Darren Chant**, he is a man of exceptional personal qualities, the feeling of bereavement can be intense.

Over the last century other sergeant majors have fallen. In the First World War **Augustus Thomas** was killed on 15th March 1915. He was presumably of the 1st Battalion, heavily engaged that day at Neuve Chapelle. Thomas, who lies in his home churchyard at Gwersyllt, was one of 341 casualties, including 16 officers, in that terrible battle. His Commanding Officer also fell – perhaps they were together. **William Hughes** was only thirty-three and had won a Military Cross in the 1st Battalion. He died on 1st March 1919, several weeks after the end of the war, and probably had lingered for that time after being wounded. His grave is in the southern cemetery at Cologne where the battalion was stationed before returning home.

In the Second World War **Cyril Sheather** of the 1st Battalion was remembered by one guardsman carefully



Out and about – as the Battalion will remember their Sergeant Major.

counting companies back into the Dunkirk beachhead until the last man had passed. He was killed on 1st June 1940 and now lies in the Coxyde military cemetery. **Lewis Stokes** of the 2nd Battalion died on 5th December 1944 in the bitter winter fighting in Holland and is buried in the war cemetery in Mook.

Two other sergeant majors should be mentioned. **Victor King** of the 3rd Battalion died in Cyprus while on active service in 1957. **Raymond Barnes**, who had made an outstanding mark at the Guards Depot and was about to take up his post as Academy Sergeant Major at Sandhurst (Darren Chant was almost certainly destined for the same appointment) suddenly collapsed and died while out running in 1979.

Like the others of their kind, they were great men all.



Together with Sgt Telford.

ITU World Long Distance Triathlon Championships

(Perth, Australia 2009)

by CSgt Ian O'Brien

Having completed two Ironman Triathlons this year for The Colonels Fund and Help for Heroes I was informed that I had been selected to represent Great Britain in the World Long Distance Triathlon Championships in Perth Australia 2009. Trying to juggle a busy training schedule alongside a very busy job, which always comes first at the Academy had been difficult but had paid off and I was honoured to be offered this opportunity.



With a lot of admin and sponsorship to sort out my training began in earnest. Having completed two previous Triathlons each with a 2.4 mile swim, 112 mile cycle followed by running a full marathon, training for the World Championships would need a change in my training regime; as it is half the distance of an Ironman but at a much faster pace.

When we arrived in Perth it was not as sunny and hot as imagined; most days were below 20°C, so acclimatisation would be easy, or so I thought. On arrival I met up with the team manager and other members of the team to continue training. Early morning swims in the river before breakfast, cycle rides and runs around the

race course in the afternoons. A lot of time was taken up with race briefs, registration, racking bikes, Ceremony of Nations, team briefs and other similar activities.

Soon the race day was upon us with an early wake up at 0430 to facilitate an early breakfast, don GB kit and finish final battle prep. There were over 700 athletes from all over the world here to compete and the atmosphere was electric. The apprehension in people's faces was evident especially as the wind had now picked up and the heat of the day was expected to be over 35°C, so much for acclimatisation!



Bike setup, transition (changing area from one discipline to the next) ready to go and administration on the ball, I walked over to the swim start and got into my wetsuit. We were then herded into a pen before entry into the water was allowed 15 minutes before the start to warm up. Once in the water the other GB athletes got together for a quick "good luck" and then we went our separate ways to warm up and mentally prepare for the carnage that was to come. We were then moved to a start line 200 metres from the shore in a deep water start. The horn blasted and the mayhem began with arms, legs, fists and jellyfish, yes jellyfish everywhere! After a few hundred metres it began to calm down and I settled into a pack of five other athletes. The water was horrendous and the hardest conditions I have raced in as the water was choppy due to the wind and tide and I found my self bursting out of the waves and slapping on the top of the water. It was a good job I had had a very early breakfast otherwise it would have made an unwelcome appearance at this time. The swim was two miles out and back course and on the return leg the water had settled. I pushed hard for the last few 100 metres to ensure I led of my pack out of the water. Onto dry land and a rush of blood to the head made negotiating the steps out of the water very difficult especially when trying to run. The very difficult swim set the conditions for the rest of the day.

The next stage was the 80km bike segment divided in to four laps each of 20kms. My heart rate at this stage was 180bpm, too high! So I decided to take it easy for the first lap to lower it; this didn't work as the heat of the moment got the better of me and I just kept going. Laps two and three were getting faster at 32 minutes each, even though the wind was tough. I decided to bury myself for the last lap to keep a good position for the run. Then into transition and onto the run, it became very evident how hot it was; 35°C and I was melting just getting my trainers on! Maybe it wasn't a good idea pushing it so hard up to this point.

On running out of transition and through the first few kms my heart rate was still 180 and I was struggling to stop myself being sick. The cheers and support was immense, the atmosphere was amazing but I was "in a world of hurt" and trying to hold on whilst being cooked by the 'hair dryer in your face wind'. Relief came when I hit the ice station, although this ran out by the time I got to lap two of four laps of the 20km run. I pushed hard throughout the run, verging on sickness and maximum rate, ensuring I beat lots of Australian athletes.

At the finish, to be greeted by the athletes I had battled with throughout the day, other GB team members combined with the heat, wind and top level of

competition made for a very hard but satisfying race. I completed the race: two mile swim, 80km bike ride and 20km run in 35°C in a total time of five hours eight minutes 48 seconds coming 260th out of 767 athletes.



The Battle of Heesch – The Forgotten Battle

by Major F Clark

(Formerly Grenadier Guards & Intelligence Corps)

15th Army Trapped

The Allies breakout from Normandy early September 1944 trapped the 15th German Army in NW Flanders but from this seemingly impossible situation, the Germans gave the Allies the slip. Bletchley Park using the German captured Enigma coding machine intercepted signals to Berlin. One message read:

“Army Situation Report – Morning 23/9(44). Crossing movement of 15th Army over the Wester Schelde . . . 82,000 men, 530 guns, 4,600 vehicles, 4,000 horses and much valuable equipment of all kinds brought over.”

Now in Holland, the 15th Army threatened the west flank of Operation Market-Garden. The 712th German Infantry Division of the 15th Army, commanded by General Lieutenant Friedrich-Wilhelm Neumann, would particularly pose a danger to the Guards Armoured Division.

The 712th had been a Static Infantry Division; its coastal defence role stretched from Belgium (Blankenberge) to Zeeland in Holland (Terneuzen). Had the Allies landed on this coast instead of Normandy the 712th Division would have been their main contesting force.

With the Germans hard pressed in Normandy, the 712 was ordered south in support. German army transport was horse drawn and slow; the 712 arrived in the neighbourhood of Lille on the 4th September. Too late; the British and Canadian Armies were moving rapidly north. It was ordered to return back the way it came and subsequently escaped across the Westerschelde, with the 15th Army under difficult circumstances.

Guards Armoured Division advance towards Arnhem

Nijmegen, late on the 20th September 1944, saw the Waal bridges captured by the Grenadier Group (1/Motor and 2 Armoured Bn). The Irish Guards Group then took the lead and crossed on to 'The Island' moving in the direction of Arnhem.

The Coldstream Group (1/Armoured and 5 Bn) were supporting 82nd (US) AB Div guarding the salient

flanks. A small detachment from the Group under command of Captain the Hon DMGJ Willoughby, was detached to guard German supply dumps discovered at Oss.

The Coldstream group fought various actions to clear the centre line named Club Route, The Corridor and by the Yanks, Hell's Highway, a fitting description. On 20th September, the Coldstream Guards Group raced south from Nijmegen to Mook to support the 82nd Airborne's against an attack by a German Parachute Battle Group. Now the centre line in 101st US Airborne Division's area south of Uden had been cut. Instead of the Guards

This map shows the sites of the two battles fought by the Grenadier Gp (1st Motor Bn and 2nd Armd Bn) between 17th Sept and 28th Sept 1944. The Battle of Nijmegen and Capture of the Wall Bridge 20th Sept and the three day Battle of Heesch that started 23rd Sept 1944.



armour driving forward to Arnhem, a significant proportion of our division was actually going backwards in order to secure the highly vulnerable line of communication. The Coldstream Group was ordered not to concern themselves with this new cut south of Uden, instead the Grenadier Group was sent down the Centre line to deal with it. The Coldstream Group was to prevent renewed infiltration around Grave where a

massive bridge over the Maas stood. Further south the 101st U.S. Airborne Division was to fight off the pressure as best it could with Grenadier support until the area could be properly cleared by the 7th Armoured Division advancing up the left flank.

712th Division returns to Holland

On 24th of September 1944 the 712th Division arrived in Tilburg Holland when orders were received from Hitler, ordering several formations including the 712th Division, to return to Germany by the quickest available route. The Russian threat on the Eastern Front was becoming increasingly difficult. Germany required divisions urgently.

The quickest shortest route to Germany was across the Guards Armoured Division's, 70 mile Centre Line, our umbilical cord, our life giving supply route, 'Hell's Highway'. Unexplained, 712th divisional intelligence was unaware of the full scale of Market Garden or even that the centre line existed.

The Coldstream Group moved on 25th September, near Grave, while the whole of No. 2 Squadron was despatched to Oss to join the company and troop already there. This was just as well, as that evening an attack by enemy infantry developed in some strength, though with little co-ordination. Oss was a large village and it was not possible to do much more than guard the actual approaches to the food dumps; this they did however with great distinction and the attack was driven off, though not before some Germans had got into a house next to one of their positions and had had to be blasted out by a six-pounder at close range. The 712th Div had bumped the Coldstream detachment at Oss. A considerable numbers of prisoners were taken, while the Coldstream losses were three killed and four wounded.

Battle for Hell's Highway

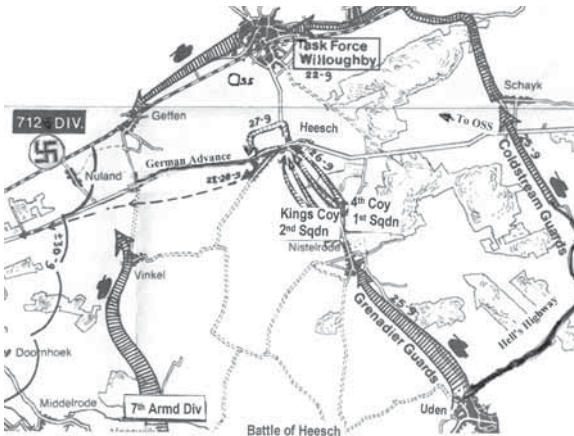
I was in Nijmegen as part of the Grenadiers Recce Troop when the Corridor was cut again south of Uden. The Grenadier Group was ordered back down Hell's Highway to reopen it. On 24th my Troop raced down the centre line in our fast Honey light tanks, the Grenadier Group following. The next day our artillery, just north of Uden, supported the Grenadiers and the 101st US Airborne Div as they cleared the centre line after some confused fighting. Some good artillery shoots in the late afternoon, also silenced German light flak guns firing at the Dakotas and Stirlings pouring over bringing supplies to the airborne forces. After the targets had been correctly ranged, they were taken on every time the planes appeared. It gave great satisfaction to see the planes come over and have a clear passage.



Hell's Highway.

Further Grenadier Recce Troop patrols were made on 24th and 25th September

The 25th September, advanced troops of 712th Division on their way to Germany, arrived in the village of Heesch adjacent to Hell's Highway, ten kilometres (12 miles) in the rear of the Guards spearhead fighting on 'The Island'. Germany was under 30k (18 miles) away. They intended to spend the night in Heesch unaware Nijmegen had fallen or that Hells Highway existed. As a Dutchman told me afterwards, 'The Germans arrived; the same afternoon the Grenadier Guards came to disturb their rest!'

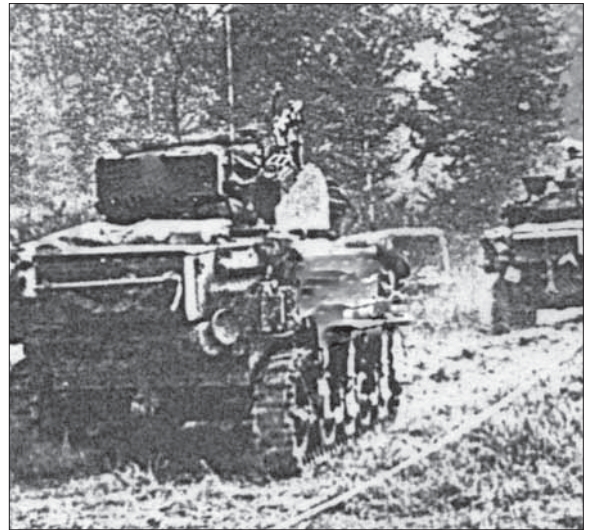


Battle of Heesch.

Battle of Heesch

On the 25th, a patrol of three Honeys explored the road running from Uden through Nistelrode to Heesch, two miles from Oss. Nistelrode was clear. The lead tank commanded by Lt 'Dick' Edwards-Collins was then only some 30yards from the main cross-roads on Hells

Highway on the edge of Heesch, when it was hit by anti-tank gun and was instantly destroyed. The Driver, managed to escape from the tank unhurt but the other two crewmen were wounded or dead in the tank as it started to burn. (They were later buried together in the same grave undistinguishable from each other after their tank fire cremation). Dick seriously wounded, (he would later lose a leg) was rescued by a brave Dutch family, who hid him in their house even though they had Germans billeted there. The three day battle of Heesch had begun.



Two Honeys.

It was getting dark, when the main Grenadier Group arrived, however they sent a strong patrol of tanks and a motor platoon, into Heesch. There was some fighting and the lead Sherman tank commanded by Lt 'Dick' Luff was hit and brewed up. His crew baled out. They were forced to hide in a barn just as darkness fell. The full attack was put on hold.

Captain Willoughby's reinforced detachment still held Oss, while the rest of the Coldstream group moved to the village of Schaijk in order to support the attack on Heesch. This flank was securely held prevented the Germans mounting an encircling flanking attack on the Grenadiers.

At dawn on the 26th, a carefully planned Grenadier attack went in with great smoothness was completely successful after much fighting. Behind the artillery barrage, on the right King's Company – No. 2 Squadron Battle Group, with No. 4 Company – No. 1 Squadron Battle Group on the left; the tanks moved slowly forward with the infantry deployed between them. As they advanced they fired almost uninterruptedly with small arms; the tanks firing high-explosive shells. The noise was shattering; the expenditure of ammunition

enormous, but it paid handsome dividends because hardly any fire came back. The bewildered Germans emerged from ditches, hedgerows and cellars to surrender in large numbers. Both battle groups reached their objectives with practically no casualties; not a single tank was knocked out.

The Commanding Officer of 2nd (Armoured) Grenadiers, Lt Col JNR Moore recorded:

“I have never seen so much smoke and fire. Our casualties on that day were very light indeed and only two tanks were knocked out (both the day before). That night, the two Groups that made the attack and the Mortar Platoon consolidated the objective. Lt Dick Luff and the other missing member of his crew were found in the town, having been hidden in a loft by the people of a small house. Dick Luff said that everything had been all right until we started ‘stonking’, which was terrifying.”



Meanwhile Recce Troop patrols confirmed a large number of Germans west of Heesch

The operation had taken rather longer than anticipated. By darkness, it was decided to withdraw to the positions the battalions had held the night before. Both groups were consolidated round the crossroads so as to block all possible approaches. A greater part of the village cleared, but it was a straggling position with Germans still in the Western outskirts and the woods beyond.

The next day (27th), the plan was to clear the threat to the west so the Grenadier Group should not be so cramped in Heesch itself. The weather was unsettled with rain at times. The operation was to be carried out by the same Squadron – Company groups. This time assisted by two extra Motor Platoons from No. 3 Company and a Machine Gun Platoon of Support Company. Again 4.2 Mortars Northants and 153 Field Regiment supported as before.

When the Grenadiers attacked, this time No. 3 Company as the centre ran into serious resistance. The two forward platoons kept going, gradually forcing the Germans to give ground, but it was a costly business. A faulty 4.2 inch mortar-bomb landed short in the middle of one platoon killing the Platoon Commander, Lieutenant RE Talbot, while later, both platoons were caught in open ground by further mortar fire. These two misfortunes wiped out a whole of one platoon, except for a Sergeant and the half-track driver. In contrast No. 4 Company and No. 1 Squadron, operating a right hook, suffered few casualties.

In light of serious casualties incurred by friendly fire, the CO, Lt Colonel EH Goulburn 1/Gren, ordered a motor platoon King’s company to assist. The remaining operation went fairly successfully, the tanks moving supporting the motor platoons the whole way, except at the days end when a platoon of King’s Company, ran into a strong enemy position and were badly knocked about. Lt Nigel Alexander and his Coy commander, Major Nigel Baker (Father of our Regimental Adjutant) ran into an ambush. Some soldiers were killed, others were severely injured. Nigel Baker succeeded in escaping with some soldiers. He came back with tanks and carriers but too late. Lt Nigel Alexander had been wounded twice; in his shoulder and in his neck. He had only joined the King’s Coy on the 4th of September 1944 as a platoon leader. With most of his platoon killed or severely injured, Nigel lay unconscious; a bullet had gone through his helmet. It was miserable, raining; the platoon lying on the ground, a visible target for the Germans. The mortar man had no smoke grenades left to make cover so could not lay a smoke curtain. The Bren gun blocked with mud refused to work. When Nigel regained consciousness he felt in much pain and soaked by the rain. There was no possibility to escape and he was taken prisoner.

The German predicament can be judged by a German sergeant who wrote on, Wednesday 27th of September 1944: *“Our men are exhausted. Nearly all of them are older fellows. We had no meals the last two days. Three companies attacked Heesch. Only a few returned. Poor Germany.”*

The enemy might have been thought by now to have had enough, but shortly after midnight, it was now the 28th, heavy artillery and mortar concentration fell on the village centre. It soon transpired that this was the prelude to an attack. Major R Hoare, RA commanding 130th Battery, Leicestershire Yeomanry, had registered accurately the crossroads at the village Western end. When the Germans were heard coming in he fired a concentration on it with excellent result; all available automatic weapons also opened up. The attack was completely broken up before it ever came to close

quarters. Fourteen prisoners were taken who provided some useful information.

Lt Col EH Goulburn, CO, 1st Grenadier's War Diary describes the action: *28th of September 1944 at 0030 hours a Mortar and arty concentration fell on the area of the X Rds. This was followed up 30 minutes later by enemy infantry moving up the main road from the West – presumably into the attack. The attack was badly co-ordinated and not pressed home in the face of fire from tanks and Brens (the King's Coy Group) in position on the main road. OC The King's Coy called for DF fire on the main road just West of the Church. This came down promptly. 20 rounds gunfire were fired from the 24 guns of 153 Fd Regt. and this concentration undoubtedly had a discouraging effect on the attacking troops.*

Lt Col JNR Moore summed up the battle:

"I discovered a good many more enemy than it was expected and, as a result, the 1st Battalion had about 60 casualties. Only two tanks had been lost. Towards the end a HQ tank was knocked out and two members of the crew found their way back with some difficulty down a hedges and ditches. The remaining members of this crew were casualties including Sergeant Clay who was killed." (Clay is buried in the churchyard at Heesch).

The German situation can be summed up by statements made by prisoners. They revealed that recent enemy activity to the west of us had been the result of efforts on their part to get back to Germany. We learned from an officer that all 712th Infantry Division was involved in this attempt. They were suddenly ordered to return to Germany at once by the quickest available route. This undoubtedly lay through Grave. The curious part was that this officer had only heard that allied airborne troops had landed near Nijmegen and Arnhem; he had no knowledge of any landing near Grave, nor did he know that any of our land forces were within miles until our capture of Heesch. Even after that he and his fellows remained so confident that they had expected to be able to retake the village quite easily by a surprise night attack, thus enabling the division to pass through Grave the following morning. But by, September 28th, they seem to have appreciated situation at last.

The last attack by the Germans was in the night of 28th and the same sergeant recorded: *"Order from Model. We have to attack again. We have to fight against tanks with rifles. Murder!"*

On 30th September, the Coldstream Group's reconnaissance troop and a platoon cleared the village of Geffen joining up with the 7th Armoured Division moving up from the South.

The Germans retired and built a defence-line at Nuland near Hertogenbosch where they stayed until attacked 22nd October 1944.

The division communications were at last secure. Sadly, during the night of September 25th-26th, the 1st Airborne Division had been brought across the Lower Rhine. The decision had been taken with infinite regret, that its bridgehead was no longer tenable owing to casualties, shortage of ammunition and supplies. Any necessary reinforcements could only be provided on a limited scale by night with assault boats; moreover the area, without Arnhem, was not suitable for development as a Corps bridgehead owing to difficulties of expansion, of building and maintaining a bridge on that particular stretch of river. Operation Market Garden was over.

The Aftermath

And what of Heesch? Terrible damage was inflicted upon this sleepy rural community. Over the whole area, a hundred farmhouses and other dwelling were destroyed, mainly consumed by fire. Twelve Dutch civilians died. Their price for liberation.

The 712th suffered sever losses. They were no longer considered a Division. The result of the Battle of Heesch they were written down to become 'Battle Group Neumann.' Not until reinforcements arrived in November 1944 did the Battle Group again became a Division. At last in January 1945 the Division was sent a different way through North Holland to Germany and then east near Krakow in Poland, where they fought against the Russians. There followed a bitter period for the 712th Division, fighting and retreating until April 1945 when the remnants were about 50kms south of Berlin. The survivors, after many had been killed and wounded, were made prisoners by the Russians. (Many spent five years in Russia, few surviving). General Neumann however had left the 712th. He was sent to Norway and became Befehlshaber (Supreme German Commander).

The Grenadiers suffered more casualties in the Battle Heesch than at Nijmegen (63 killed). The battle for Heesch developed between the Grenadier (one infantry and one armoured battalion each) with Coldstream Groups support against a full German Division. The battle raged for three days from 25th to 28th September 1944.

General Neumann fate was more fortunate. He was made prisoner on 10th May 1945 in Norway but he remained Befehlshaber under British supervision until the 12th of July 1946, when the last Germans troops had left Norway. He was then sent as a POW to England until the 24th of February 1948 when he was released. He died the 26th of January 1975 in Bad Wiessee, 86 years old.

Strangely, the Battle of Heesch is not widely acknowledged in Grenadier Regimental history. Maybe it has never been fully appreciated that by writing down the



General Neumann and staff.

712th Division, it deprived Hitler of a vital infantry division at a crucial moment on the Russian front.

Since the war the Grenadiers have been invited to revisit the town of Heesch building a bond of friendship with the town folk and the Regiment. To celebrate the Battle of Heesch, the towns' people named a street Grenadierstraat. This year, 2009 is the 65th anniversary of the forgotten battle and a group of Grenadiers

returned to Heesch in celebration of the Battle of Heesch.

References

The author served as a member of Recce Troop, actively patrolling and observing throughout the battle. His linguistic skills have enabled him to study Dutch and German documents relating to the battle. Some details of the 712th Infantry Division taken from J Didden's book, "*Final aim Mass*" (Dutch Language) This book, a study of the battles in the Southern part of Holland between September and December 1944. My special thanks to Johan van der Steeg, Battle of Heesch Historian and author of '*De bevrijding van Heesch*' (*Liberation of Heesch*), Dutch Language, for his assistance researching the battle and the use of his German photographs.

War Diaries

Lt Col JMB Moore CO, 2ND (Armoured) Grenadier Guards; Lt Col Goulburn CO, 1st (Motor) Grenadier Guards; Lt Col RFS Gooch, MC CO 1ST (Armoured) Coldsream Guards; Lt Col ER Hill CO 5th Coldsream Guards.

Records Signal Intelligence Centre, Bletchley Park.

Inspiring One and All

by Major PAJ Wright

The 2nd Battalion Grenadier Guards took over a line of improvised flooded trenches at Rue de Cailloux in December 1914. The water was always knee deep, in some places waist deep, in mud and water, with the enemy's trenches only 25 yards away. It was bitterly cold and the rain made the communication trenches impassable. Christmas brought its own attendant problems for the Commanding Officer, Lieutenant Colonel WRA Smith, who wrote: "I am told the rations of the Army are to be held up for 24 hours to enable Princess Mary's presents to come up, and I have had reams of orders as to their distribution." On Christmas Day, Princess Mary's present of a box containing a pipe, tobacco and cigarettes was distributed to every man and Smith wrote: "I am sending homemy Christmas card, and shall send my Christmas present from Princess Mary. Bless her – she has been a nuisance."

Periods of 48 hours in and out of the trenches continued until the 31st December, when the Battalion returned to the flooded trenches and were once again subjected to the usual sniping and bombing from trench mortars (minenwerfers). The Commanding Officer, who was accustomed to what he called a "stumble in the trenches" every day, wrote in his diary: "I went along

the line this evening and talked to some of the Officers, who were getting down on their luck. Told them they must keep cheerful and set an example that way. The men marvellously cheerful in the circumstances, especially Sergeant Leach, a first rate NCO who was in my Company in the 3rd Battalion. He was roaring with laughter and making jokes and keeping all his men cheerful."

At some point Leach was wounded by a bullet in his back and shoulder. In March 1915 he was transferred home to the 5th Reserve Battalion to recuperate until his return to the 2nd Battalion in September 1916. Notice of his award of the MM was published in the London Gazette of 10th October 1916. By now promoted to Company Sergeant Major, the leadership and indomitable spirit shown by Leach were invaluable in facing the hardship, misery and danger of the next two years. It was a life of toiling up to the front line, there to endure constant bombardment before toiling back into rest or reserve; of vicious trench raids and hair-raising patrols; of titanic offensives, often lasting for weeks, in which battalions were reduced to skeleton strength in the course of making derisory gains in worthless acres of swamp and filth.

On 5th March 1918, the 2nd Battalion were in the line astride the River Scarpe north of Arras. Major the Hon W Bailey, the acting Commanding Officer, had been told to carry out a raid as the Intelligence Branch of the

Headquarters Staff was anxious to obtain information about the long expected Ludendorff offensive to break the Allied line. The place selected for the raid was opposite the extreme left of the Battalion front, and had been chosen because aerial photographs showed the enemy was thinner there than anywhere else. The raiding party consisted of 24 men from No 2 Company plus eight volunteers from the other three companies. It was commanded by Lieutenant STS Clarke.

The night of the raid proved to be fine and bright. The raiders were brought up by bus, and each man received an issue of rum. This was carefully supervised by an officer and if a man did not want his ration it was thrown away. They then formed up on a tape in No Man's Land about 150 yards from the enemy's trench (the total distance between the opposing trench lines being 240 yards). At zero hour, 2.40 am, the Divisional artillery fired a barrage of 18 rounds per gun for one minute with complete accuracy on the German front trenches and then lifted it on to the support trenches for the duration of the raid. Two separate barrages were dropped on either flank and, in order to confuse the enemy, quantities of coloured lights were fired into the sky along the whole divisional front. The raiders were divided into three parties: the right and left parties, each consisting of a sergeant and eight men, entered the enemy trench simultaneously and immediately wheeled outwards. The centre party, consisting of Clarke, a sergeant, two stretcher bearers and five men, remained at the point of entry.



Her Royal Highness The Princess Mary's Gift.

The orders were that the raid was not to last more than twenty minutes, and the raiders were to withdraw as soon as a prisoner had been captured. The enemy was completely taken by surprise and the right and left parties had not gone far before they came upon two dug-outs containing Germans. These were at once bombed and two prisoners were quickly captured. At the same time a machine gun mounted on the parapet was taken, and the team bayoneted. Clarke at once ordered a

withdrawal and the whole party returned safely with its two prisoners and the machine gun, having been away for only twelve minutes. The enemy retaliated with machine guns, trench mortars and artillery, but caused no casualties and finally the shelling on both sides died down. The prisoners were identified as belonging to the 10th Imperial Bavarian Regiment and some useful information was elicited from them.

Clarke was awarded the MC and Leach the DCM for his role both during and in the aftermath of this successful and well-executed raid. His citation read: "On the night of 5th/6th March 1918, on the Arras Front, north of the Scarpe, the battalion raided the enemy trenches. Under very heavy bombardment he toured the line continually, inspiring one and all by his utter disregard of his own personal safety. Later in the night the enemy succeeded in entering one of our front posts. He promptly organised and led forward a few men and bombed the enemy out of the post. He showed marked gallantry and initiative."

At the end of the war in November 1918, Leach was posted to the 1st Battalion which was later stationed in the Tower of London. In two years, 1918 and 1919, a pandemic of Spanish influenza swept the world. It destroyed more lives than were directly sacrificed in four years of destructive war. It was an individual tragedy that, having been an inspiration to so many others throughout the war and survived the horror of the trenches, Leach should be killed by this disease aged 33. It is highly probable that the stresses of combat had increased his susceptibility to disease, and he died of influenza in Bermondsey Military Hospital on 10th March 1920, leaving a widow and two young sons.



Corporal AE Leach serving with the 3rd Battalion in 1910.

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 LSgt M Parker
 LSgt DP Thomas
 LCpl C Emery
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 LCpl A Pitters
 LCpl G Thomas
 Gdsm S Barton
 Gdsm D Coggings
 Gdsm D Darkes
 Gdsm T Eyre
 Gdsm DM Gould
 Gdsm R Johnson
 Gdsm K Leon
 Gdsm J Matai
 Gdsm A Rigby
 Gdsm K Rodda
 Gdsm D Scarlett
 Gdsm H Sutton
 Gdsm G Vickers

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 Lt G Banks
 Lt M Dobbin
 Lt O Holdcroft
 WO2 R Williams
 CSgt C Gillies
 Sgt S Bayliss
 Sgt P Housby
 Sgt D Roper
 LSgt D Greenhaigh
 LSgt M Hall
 LSgt S Jones
 LSgt D Jones
 LSgt D Oliver
 LSgt NA Rowe
 LCpl M Cahill
 LCpl J Dean
 LCpl L Heatley
 LCpl K Maskell
 LCpl B Middleton
 LCpl M Mooney
 LCpl M Moore
 LCpl N Price
 LCpl K Richards
 LCpl K Rodda
 LCpl M Smith
 LCpl S Templeton
 LCpl R Westcott
 LCpl M Wilson
 Gdsm D Adams
 Gdsm M Avery
 Gdsm M Bah
 Gdsm S Beekman
 Gdsm J Bronsdon
 Gdsm L Carr
 Gdsm J Catling
 Gdsm S Cooper
 Gdsm K Cooper
 Gdsm A Cooper
 Gdsm R Crowley
 Gdsm J Dannels

Gdsm L Davis
 Gdsm A Edwards
 Gdsm A Finlan
 Gdsm S Fish
 Gdsm S Gillespie
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 Gdsm P Hastings
 Gdsm M Hawes
 Gdsm A Jallow
 Gdsm J King
 Gdsm B Marchant
 Gdsm G Margison
 Gdsm J McCormack
 Gdsm D Meyers
 Gdsm M Morris
 Gdsm C Newton
 Gdsm M Owen
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 Gdsm RF Blakeney
 Gdsm SC Carter
 Gdsm RJ Chiswell
 Gdsm R Clarke
 Gdsm GM Conneely
 Gdsm SM Crosbie
 Gdsm SA Darville
 Gdsm JJ Dicastiglione
 Gdsm SG Edis
 Gdsm W Flint
 Gdsm PW Frost
 Gdsm J Golding
 Gdsm VW Goodman
 Gdsm JA Grant
 Gdsm D Harvey
 Gdsm TM Hayward
 Gdsm BG Hollis
 Gdsm SA Hughes
 Gdsm L Humphries
 Gdsm T Hawkins
 Gdsm SM Howcroft
 Gdsm SJ Hubball
 Gdsm LR Hunter
 Gdsm MO Igbaifua
 Gdsm SA James
 Gdsm PR Jeffs
 Gdsm MJ Jolley
 Gdsm BD Jones
 Gdsm C Kiggin
 Gdsm S Kuyateh
 Gdsm D Leighton
 Gdsm JM Markey
 Gdsm MP Martin
 Gdsm CJ Mellor
 Gdsm RP Morrison
 Gdsm S Marsland
 Gdsm DJ Mcevoy
 Gdsm SA Morris
 Gdsm RN Nassib
 Gdsm M Nyabally
 Gdsm BT Painter
 Gdsm BA Parker
 Gdsm S Rose
 Gdsm MA Robinson
 Gdsm A Sawo
 Gdsm JD Shelton
 Gdsm DG Shelvey
 Gdsm LP Stokes
 Gdsm RJ Stray
 Gdsm B Sylva
 Gdsm H Sylva
 Gdsm DJ Shields
 Gdsm CJ Taylor
 Gdsm KR Timmis
 Gdsm G Tomkinson
 Gdsm KJ Ward
 Gdsm S Wilson
 Gdsm RJ Woodrow
 Gdsm AF Young

INKERMAN COMPANY

Maj CL Broughton
 Capt D Bartholomew
 Lt AW Bayliss
 Lt J Rice
 Lt A Wellesley-Wood
 WO2 A Walker
 Sgt JP Summerscales
 LSgt JA Lockley
 LSgt G Mann
 LSgt LN Walton
 LCpl A Bance
 LCpl DP Bonsell
 LCpl M Fogg
 LCpl A Jones
 LCpl M McMillan
 LCpl D Marsden
 LCpl T Mercer
 LCpl JE Parker
 LCpl A Thomas
 LCpl M Thomas
 Gdsm T Beardmore
 Gdsm J Beardmore
 Gdsm D Boothe

Gdsm S Brindley
 Gdsm R Brown
 Gdsm J Browning
 Gdsm J Cawdron
 Gdsm J Challinor
 Gdsm S Cooper
 Gdsm L Darboe
 Gdsm M Dean
 Gdsm S Deen-Karma
 Gdsm S Dodd
 Gdsm M Edwards
 Gdsm N Fairhurst
 Gdsm K Frimpong
 Gdsm G Haynes
 Gdsm L Innes
 Gdsm B Jobe
 Gdsm A Kinsella
 Gdsm J Mandololoma
 Gdsm K Marriott
 Gdsm C McClendon
 Gdsm S Miles
 Gdsm A Morgans
 Gdsm Oyenuga
 Gdsm A Pearce
 Gdsm J Plant
 Gdsm D Quigley
 Gdsm Raspin
 Gdsm D Reed
 Gdsm K Rowlatt
 Gdsm E Sarpong
 Gdsm N Smith
 Gdsm L Steed
 Gdsm D Stephens
 Gdsm Spencer
 Gdsm C Strawford
 Gdsm Sullivan
 Gdsm C Thompson
 Gdsm S Turner
 Gdsm K Walkden
 Gdsm D Walton
 Gdsm J Ward
 Gdsm C Watson
 Gdsm K Watson
 Gdsm D Wood
 Gdsm A Wright

MANOEUVRE SUPPORT COMPANY

Maj J Green
 Capt B Bulivou
 Capt A Bunn
 Capt K Butcher
 Capt HPC Cordle
 Capt B Jesty
 Capt JM Young
 WO2 R Day
 WO2 P Downes
 CSgt MJ Cox
 CSgt SE Ross MC
 Sgt B De-vall
 Sgt S Lawn
 Sgt DS Lawrenson
 Sgt R Pancott
 LSgt P Ball
 LSgt D Claxton
 LSgt L Deen
 LSgt J Donovan
 LSgt D Harrison
 LSgt G Hudson
 LSgt R Jackson
 LSgt M Lloyd
 LSgt D Norris
 LSgt M Oldham
 LSgt M Parker
 LSgt Paterson
 LSgt R Pointon
 LSgt C Price
 LSgt J Rainima
 LSgt M Robinson
 LSgt N Smith
 LSgt A Stott
 LSgt DR Sullivan
 LSgt Wiseman
 LCpl T Arnold-stronge
 LCpl D Bakewell

THE REGIMENT

LCpl A Barnes
 LCpl G Barnes
 LCpl D Bramley
 LCpl N Cumberland
 LCpl K Dunk
 LCpl LH Dutton
 LCpl DL Farrell
 LCpl C Friess
 LCpl J Garcia
 LCpl J Goggins
 LCpl J Hill
 LCpl J Hurst
 LCpl S Hurst
 LCpl T James
 LCpl P Laird
 LCpl R Lee
 LCpl T Love
 LCpl D Lyons
 LCpl L McGovern
 LCpl J Oliver
 LCpl J Owen-Clegg
 LCpl J Pearce
 LCpl G Pendlebury
 LCpl S Perry
 LCpl Smith
 LCpl A Sanders-Page
 LCpl M Strydom
 LCpl L Swan
 LCpl L Turner
 LCpl J Warren
 LCpl N Whieldon
 LCpl M Williams
 Gdsm M Bailey
 Gdsm A Beeby
 Gdsm P Bennett
 Gdsm S Brown
 Gdsm S Carty
 Gdsm J Carty
 Gdsm J Claridge
 Gdsm L Coulbert
 Gdsm A Cowan
 Gdsm M Cox
 Gdsm D Crook
 Gdsm J Danobrega
 Gdsm S Davies
 Gdsm R Davies
 Gdsm M Faux
 Gdsm L Galley
 Gdsm B Giffen
 Gdsm S Harvey
 Gdsm M Haynes
 Gdsm E Hennell
 Gdsm J Hewitt
 Gdsm D Hill
 Gdsm RJ Holmes
 Gdsm J Innes
 Gdsm M Jallow
 Gdsm D James
 Gdsm S Jefferies
 Gdsm G Jones
 Gdsm S Lawa
 Gdsm M Lawton
 Gdsm C Livesey
 Gdsm S Loader
 Gdsm J Macdonagh
 Gdsm D Malcangi
 Gdsm G Mason
 Gdsm E Matai
 Gdsm D McBride
 Gdsm R McHale
 Gdsm D Mewis
 Gdsm L Mogg
 Gdsm R Mulholland
 Gdsm J Neller
 Gdsm M Nyabally
 Gdsm B Parker
 Gdsm S Pitt
 Gdsm D Poyser
 Gdsm SJ Riley
 Gdsm D Robinson
 Gdsm C Sambells
 Gdsm N Scanlon
 Gdsm A Scott
 Gdsm A Shephard
 Gdsm D Snyman

Gdsm P Steane
 Gdsm S Swart
 Gdsm L Tatam
 Gdsm B Thomas
 Gdsm S Thorne
 Gdsm J Tuicia
 Gdsm M Rance
 Gdsm B Russell
 Gdsm M Waller

**QUARTERMASTERS
 PLATOON**

Maj M Gaunt
 Capt B Broad
 WO2 I Munro
 WO2 M Smith
 CSgt S Devereux
 Sgt Ainsby
 Sgt I Edwards
 Sgt RM Healy
 Sgt J Truscott
 LSgt S Fry
 LCpl CR Green
 LSgt D Richardson
 LCpl G Casburn
 LCpl L Culverhouse
 LCpl J Dodsworth
 LCpl R Haughton
 LCpl B Kidd
 LCpl S Taylor
 LCpl L Woodwards
 Gdsm G Francis
 Gdsm J Goucher
 Gdsm T McQueen
 Gdsm S Quinlan

SIGNALS PLATOON

Capt N Purdy
 Sgt PR Easters
 Sgt N Johnson
 LSgt P Bailly
 LSgt E Barnett
 LSgt B Cobb
 LSgt P Duffett
 LSgt S Harrell
 LSgt I Norman
 LSgt P Rackley
 LSgt A Saxton
 LSgt P Struczynski
 LSgt J Trousdale
 Gdsm T Dwyer
 Gdsm D Hodgeson
 Gdsm M Jeng
 Gdsm RA Jones
 Gdsm P Lyons
 Gdsm P Monstad
 Gdsm A Murphy
 Gdsm D Parkes
 Gdsm S Richardson
 Gdsm R Warner
 Gdsm S Williams

MT PLATOON

Capt J Donaldson
 Sgt G Pitchford
 Sgt J Tack
 LSgt RI Dawson
 LSgt SJ Hughes
 LSgt D Mitchell
 LSgt D Rideout
 LCpl K Oldfield
 LCpl M Palmer
 Gdsm L Ashford
 Gdsm R Armour
 Gdsm S Cooper
 Gdsm M Deacon
 Gdsm T Farmer
 Gdsm J Foulkes
 Gdsm G Greenhalgh
 Gdsm S Minteh
 Gdsm J Rhodes
 Gdsm A Trussler
 Gdsm S Wilcocks

**TRAINING WING/
 GYMNASIUM**

WO2 JH Frith
 LSgt DEH Wiese
 LCpl A Martin
 Gdsm RM Holmes
 Gdsm M Piantkiwski

MEDICAL CENTRE

LSgt P Roberts
 LSgt LJP Squire
 LCpl LA Fulton
 Gdsm AJ Barnett
 Gdsm RJ Cheetham
 Gdsm ER Wells

REGIMENTAL POLICE

LSgt S Cooper
 LCpl B Namarua
 LCpl T Timmins
 LCpl G Woodgates

INT CELL

Capt J Lindley
 Gdsm J Murray

OFFICERS MESS

CSgt D Wells MBE
 Gdsm HJ Cook
 Gdsm L Hunter
 Gdsm Okoye

SERGEANTS MESS

LCpl W Bowman
 Gdsm C Cowey
 Gdsm J Francis
 Gdsm D Lloyd
 Gdsm D Sherwin

WELFARE OFFICE

Capt JA Keeley
 WO2 L Hillier
 LSgt B Brown
 LCpl M Bent

PADRE

Capt J Clarke



Maj R King-Evans
 Capt T J De C Hamilton
 2lt Je Stafford-Allen
 2lt Jd Brown
 2lt Tr Hendriksen
 WO2 M O'halloran
 CSgt P Childs
 CSgt T Heale
 Sgt M Betts
 Sgt C Fiddy
 Sgt C Gully
 Sgt S Morgan
 LSgt R Brooms
 LSgt S Hierons
 LSgt Sj Hughes
 LSgt Da Jones
 LSgt M Parker
 LSgt J Worth
 L/Cpl Na A'tang'a
 Lcpl T Bale
 Lcpl A Bush
 Lcpl G Davis
 Lcpl A Hendy
 Lcpl S Richardson
 Lcpl C Kotze
 Lcpl R Shean
 Lcpl A Smith
 Lcpl C Vincent
 Dmr Jb Matai
 Gdsm J Adom
 Gdsm Uj Atuanya
 Gdsm Baker
 Gdsm Barker
 Gdsm Banda
 Gdsm Bates
 Gdsm Battison
 Gdsm Beasley
 Gdsm Brilley
 Gdsm L Ceesay
 Gdsm T Checkley
 Gdsm Childs
 Gdsm Clark
 Gdsm D Clayton
 Gdsm Coleman
 Gdsm Mk Collins
 Gdsm Cooper
 Gdsm Cornish
 Gdsm Cox

Gdsm Ta Crooks
 Gdsm S Davies
 Gdsm K Deakins
 Gdsm Dennis
 Gdsm Ap Douthwaite
 Gdsm Edwards
 Gdsm Elliott
 Gdsm Ensor
 Gdsm French
 Gdsm C Froude
 Gdsm Freeman
 Gdsm J Furniss
 Gdsm Gallagher
 Gdsm Gould
 Gdsm Husband
 Gdsm L Johnson
 Gdsm Hj Kendle
 Gdsm King
 Gdsm Dajr Lawrence
 Gdsm F Mabasa
 Gdsm S Maher
 Gdsm S Marshall
 Gdsm Martindale
 Gdsm Mcgill
 Gdsm Mckerral
 Gdsm S Menzies
 Gdsm Meggit
 Gdsm Moffatt
 Gdsm Pn Ndungu
 Gdsm Paget
 Gdsm Ng Palmer
 Gdsm J Phelps
 Gdsm Robinson
 Gdsm Rose
 Gdsm Rowland
 Gdsm Rigg
 Gdsm Seer-Boylan
 Gdsm Shadrake
 Gdsm D Sherwin
 Gdsm Smith
 Gdsm B Sonko
 Gdsm As Theobald
 Gdsm T Thirtle
 Gdsm Turton
 Gdsm Wakeling
 Gdsm Walker
 Gdsm Ward
 Gdsm S Yearley

Officers

SENIOR OFFICERS

Brigadier DJH Maddan	Comd 15 (NE) Bde
Brigadier GPR Norton CBE	DComd, CJTF 7, RC(S)
Colonel AD Hutchison	Chief of Staff Project Hyperion
Colonel RD Winstanley OBE	MS Officers CBT APC
Colonel DJC Russell-Parsons	DComd 38 (Irish) Bde

REGIMENTAL OFFICERS

Lieutenant Colonels

RHG	Mills	MA Force Commander Monuc Kinshasha
AGC	Hatherley	.S01 AG Inspection Team
CVR	Walker	Commanding Officer 1st Battalion
TW	Jalland	.S01 Dep HD Mil Personnel HQ ARTO
JTJ	Levine MBE	.S01 Info MGT & REQ C2DC LWDG
JDMcL	Wrench	French Staff College
GR	Denison-Smith	.S01 Tactical Systems CBM Branch
RT	Maundrell	Advanced Staff Course

Majors

SG	Soskin	.COLL TRG STRAT Land Warfare Centre
AFR	James	.The Senior Major 1st Battalion
MA	Griffiths	.S02 COORD BATUS Canada
MP	David MC	.S02 G1 PERS Strategy HQ INF
TP	Barnes-Taylor	.COS Individual Capability Group
JMH	Bowder MBE	.COS 11 Lt Bde
ARG	Cartwright	.The Captain of the Queen's Company
The Hon	CL Broughton MBE	.Detached
MJG	Elliot-Square	.S02 Ceremonial Policy PS12 MOD
RJH	Green	.OC No 2 Company
DJ	Alkin	.DE&S Abbey Wood
EJ	Paintin	.ICSC
PL	Ashfield	.ICSC
JR	Green	.OC Support Company
RE	King-Evans	.Officer Commanding Nijmegen Company

Captains

SC	Gordon Lennox	.S03 Digitisation 11 Lt Bde
JCM	Greaves	.Liaison 11 Lt Bde
JA	Seddon	.Operations Officer 1st Battalion
RC	Worthington	.Nijmegen Company
PW	Russell	.Adjutant ANA Officer Training, Kabul
JOD	Fox	.Adjutant 1st Battalion
JENB	Shaw	.Adjutant ITB Catterick
BJR	Jesty	.Adjutant, New College, RMAS
JAR	Quarrie	.FAC-1 RHA
JM	Young	.1st Battalion
AJ	Tiernan	.1st Battalion
RMB	Stevens	.1st Battalion
HPCG	Cordle	.1st Battalion
ACT	Forster	.Assistant Equerry to HRH the Colonel
FAOO	Kuku	.1st Battalion

WHL	Harries	.1st Battalion
ND	Torp-Petersen	.PI Instructor ITC Catterick
TJ	de C Hamilton	.Nijmegen Company
JM	Lindley	.1st Battalion
NA	Strachan	.ATR Bassingborne PI Comd

Lieutenants

TO	Whitby	.1st Battalion
AD	Rawlins	.1st Battalion
OJC	Holcroft	.PI Instructor ITC Catterick
P	Rice	.1st Battalion
MOC	Dobbin	.1st Battalion
RD	Hutton	.1st Battalion
CA	Shephard	.1st Battalion
AWE	Bayliss	.1st Battalion
AA	Wellesley-Wood	.1st Battalion

Second Lieutenants

JR	Taylor	.1st Battalion
RC	De Gama	.1st Battalion
JD	Brown	.Nijmegen Company
JE	Stafford Allan	.Nijmegen Company
TR	Hendriksen	.Nijmegen Company
CJD	Stevenson	.PCBC

Late Entry Commissions

Maj	AJ Green	.HQ Company Commander
Maj	VJ Overton	.LE Officer Instr RMAS
Maj	R Dorney	.MBE OC TRIM HQ AMD
Maj	EJJ O'Keefe	.QM/MTO 2 MI BN
Maj	M Gaunt OBE	.The Quartermaster 1st Battalion
Capt	BF Broad	.Tech Quartermaster 1st Battalion
Capt	NA England	.RMAS
Capt	G Gask	.RCMO
Capt	DT Groom	.ITC Catterick
Capt	A Butcher	.Recruiting Officer
Capt	A Keeley	.Welfare Officer 1st Battalion

Director of Music

Maj	B Wassell	.Departed 1st January 2010
Maj	K Roberts	.Now Director of Music

RETIRED OFFICERS still in Military Employment or Occupation

Lt Col	CJE Seymour LVO	.Regimental Headquarters
Maj	GVA Baker	.Regimental Headquarters
Maj	DNW Sewell	.HQ Foot Guards
Maj	PAJ Wright OBE	.Regimental Headquarters
Capt (QM)	TA Rolfe	.Regimental Headquarters
Capt	L Scholes	.216 Bty RA (V)

* indicates acting in the higher rank.

Grenadiers at Extra-Regimental Employment

WO1	D	Andrews	.....HAC
WO1	S	Gillham	.....6 TH (UK) DIV
WO2	A	Bissett	.....AEP BDS (W)
WO2	J	Hawkins	.....HQ LOND DIST
WO2	A	Levesly	.....DSTO - TRG DEL - NP
WO2	A	Moors	.....HQ LOND DIST
WO2	G	Snazle	.....RMAS
WO2	D	Westlake	.....RMAS
WO2	Z	Withers	.....BATUK
CSgt	J	Bastin	.....UOTC (TA)
CSgt	S	Brooks	.....HQ INF BS
CSgt	J	Byrne	.....RMAS
CSgt	L	Cope	.....AFCO Nottingham
CSgt	M	Mitchell	.....AADW
CSgt	I	Obrien	.....RMAS
Sgt	A	Austin	.....OPTAG COT/SRW
Sgt	P	Boardman	.....AFCO Manchester
Sgt	G	Davis	.....2 ITB
Sgt	M	Grant	.....13 CDT TRG TEAM
Sgt	P	Hales	.....AFCO Nottingham
Sgt	M	James	.....PROJECTS JAMES
Sgt	J	Langdown	.....ACIO Oxford
Sgt	R	Owen	.....2 ITB
Sgt	D	Travis	.....16 CDT TRG Team
Sgt	C	Winfield	.....ATR (B)
LSgt	D	Dragon	.....2 ITB
LSgt	P	Fear	.....17 CDT TRG Team
LSgt	D	Gartland	.....ITC
LSgt	A	Harper	.....ART 2 - Pirbright
LSgt	N	Hayman	.....HQ INF
LSgt	G	Hudson	.....2 ITB
LSgt	J	Hunter	.....DCDS(PERS) - Equerry
LSgt	P	Hyatt	.....ATR (B)
LSpl	C	Nicholson	.....2 ITB
LSgt	M	Parker	.....2 ITB
LSgt	K	Partridge	.....WSU
LSgt	M	Poxton	.....RTMC
LSgt	E	Redgate	.....ITC
LSgt	L	Richards	.....HQ N I
LSgt	N	Rowe	.....2 ITB
LSgt	A	Stott	.....2 ITB
LSgt	H	Thomas	.....2 ITB
LSgt	D	Tucker	.....HQ INF BS
LSgt	C	Warden	.....DEMSS NSC
LSgt	P	Woodley	.....MOD DEFENCE STAFF - A BLOCK
LCpl	K	Elasi	.....HQ INF BS
LCpl	J	Kemp	.....HQ 15 (NE) BDE

LCpl	C	Mulqueeny	.....HQ INF BS
LCpl	G	Neal	.....ART 14A - Bassingbourne
LCpl	K	Newton	.....RMAS
LSgt	D	Thomas	.....2 ITB
LCpl	C	Thompson	.....ITC
Gdsm	L	Foxhall	.....ART 23 - Chepstow
Gdsm	M	Green	.....2 ITB
Gdsm	K	Harrison	.....ART 23 - Chepstow
Gdsm	S	Hodgson	.....RMAS
Gdsm	C	Rydings	.....ART 20A - Bicester
Gdsm	L	Scanlon	.....2 ITB

Warrant Officers

Warrant Officers Class 1

DW	Andrews	.....HAC
I	Farrell	.....RSM 1st Battalion
SC	Gillham	.....(DSM) 6 UK DIV

Regimental Quartermaster Sergeants (WO2)

SJ	Bate	.....AFC Harrogate
AP	Hill	.....Regimental Headquarters
S	Munro1st Battalion
MJ	Smith1st Battalion

Drill Sergeants (WO2)

S	Edgell1st Battalion
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Company Sergeant Majors (WO2)

M	BoakNo.2 Coy
R	DayManouvre Support Company
P	Downes	.....Manouvre Support Company
SJ	Miles	.....Headquarter Company
MR	O'Halloran	.....Nijmegen Company
A	Walker	.....The Inkerman Company
S	Williams	.....The Queens Company

Warrant Officers Class 2

AK	Bissett	.....Fort Benning
J	Frith	.....Battalion HQ
R	Hampson	.....Nijmegen Company
J	Hawkins	.....London District
L	Hillier	.....Welfare Office
AN	Levesley	.....OPTAG
A	Moors	.....London District
K	Pollit	.....Signals WO
GJ	Snazle	.....Royal Military Academy Sandhurst
D	Westlake	.....Royal Military Academy Sandhurst

Marriages

WO1 (RSM) D Chant to Miss Nausheen Riaz
 Sgt P Rackley to Miss Louise Green
 LSgt Carey to Heather Cowlishaw
 LSgt S Fry to Miss Annabel Hook
 LSgt D Struczynski to Miss Allannah Susan Boyne
 LCpl C Bolton to Donna Marie Howlett
 LCpl Houldsworth to Nicola Guiguett
 LCpl S Laird to LCpl P Laird
 Gdsm M Deacon to Miss Lisa Wright
 Gdsm J Goucher to Miss Ann-Marie Goucher
 Gdsm M Igbaifua to Miss Isisat Ibidun Garubs
 Gdsm S Loader to Miss Tabatha Loader
 Gdsm M Rance to Miss Katie Sonja Asplen
 Musician Davis to Musician Narhkom

Births 2009

To WO2 (CSM) O'Halloran and Mrs O'Halloran a son
 To the late Sgt Clark and Mrs Clark, a Son, George
 To LSgt Bayliss and Mrs Bayliss, a Son
 To LCpl Nelson and Mrs Nelson, a Daughter
 To LCpl Langridge and Mrs Langridge, a Son
 To LCpl Timmins and Mrs Timmins, a Son
 To Gdsm Armour & Mrs Armour, a Son
 To Gdsm Barber and Mrs Barber, a Son
 To Musician and Mrs Tuddenham, a son
 To Musician and Mrs Wynne, a son

The FIRST or GRENADIER REGIMENT of GUARDS SERGEANTS' (PAST AND PRESENT) CLUB ROLL OF MEMBERS

2010

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Mr D Adkins

Vice President
WO1 (RSM) Farrell I

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Capt LE Burrell MBE	Mr DM McMahon RVM
Major RM Dorney	Major S Marcham MBE
Major BT Eastwood LVO OBE	Capt M Nesbitt
Major AG Everett MBE	Major VJ Overton
Capt KR Fairchild	Mr B Owen
Mr G Fenner	Capt TM Pugh
Mr J Ford	Capt TA Rolfe
Capt G Gask	Mr CC Savage
Major M Gaunt OBE	Lt Col S Tuck BEM
Major AJ Green	Capt BE Thompson BEM
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Capt	BD Double, Essex	Mr	KJ Goodhall, Suffolk	Mr	A Higgins, Stafford	Mr	PA Kelly, Lincoln
Mr	D Dransfield, Warwickshire	Mr	S Goode, Suffolk	Mr	J Higgins, Cumbria	Mr	MA Kenny, Surrey
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Mr	A Edmonds, Kent	Mr	G Green, Kiddleminster	Mr	S Hill, London	Mr	SI Knight, Hertfordshire
Mr	GB Edmunds, Northampton	Mr	RP Green, East Sussex	Mr	AH Hilling, Buckingham	Major	AL Knowles MC, Clywd
Mr	NC Edwards, Glasgow	Mr	M Greenberry, Lewes	Mr	P Hillman, London	Mr	P Ladd BEM, Somerset
Mr	G Eldershaw, Northants	Mr	ML Greenbury, Kent	Mr	RP Hinson, St Neots	Mr	A Lamb, Chatham
Mr	M Ellis, Fife	Mr	PV Greenwood, Berkshire	Mr	RW Hoad, Derby	Mr	R Lancaster, Berkshire
Mr	M Elliott, Hampshire	Mr	CCK Griffiths, Chichester	Mr	R Hobbs, Hampshire	Major	BW Lane (RGH/D), Surrey
Mr	S Elson, Surrey	Mr	G Grimshaw, Lancashire	Mr	A Hodges MBE, Surrey	Mr	D Landshaw, Buckinghamshire
Mr	C Entwistle, Australia	Mr	JNJ Grocott, Derby	Mr	P Hodgkinson BEM, Surrey	Mr	J Lattimore, Surrey
Mr	D Errington, Gloucester	Mr	NS Grumbar, Carmarthenshire	Mr	DC Hodson, Nottingham	Mr	DA Lawrence, Northampton
Mr	D Evans, Canada	Mr	B Grummet, Nottingham	Major	MB Holland, Windsor	Mr	BW Lawson, Chertsey
Mr	G Evans, Hertfordshire	Mr	GJ Guest, Belize	Mr	S Holland, Maidenhead	Mr	G Lawson, Essex
Mr	JK Evans, Powys	Mr	KG Haddrell, Cheshire	Mr	C Holland, Lincoln	Mr	JC Leach, Somerset
Capt	HM Everist, Berkshire	Mr	DA Haggarty, Guernsey	Mr	B Hollinshead, Worcester	Mr	RJ Le Louet BEM, Hampshire
Mr	Ewen, Northampton	Mr	D Hague, Nottingham	Capt	A Holloway, Devon	Capt	J Lenaghan, London
Capt	K Fairchild, Northampton	Mr	JD Haigh, Norfolk	Mr	JM Hooper, Lancashire	Lt Col	GF Lesinski, Somerset
Mr	J Farmer, Bristol	Mr	P Haigh, Hampshire	Mr	N Hopkins, North Wales	Mr	BG Lester, USA
Mr	D Felton, Manchester	Major	S Halford, Hampshire	Capt	DD Horn, Middlesex	Mr	J Lewisi, Mansfield
Mr	SP Fellows, London	Mr	I Hall, Surrey	Mr	D Houghton, somerset	Capt	G Lightfoot, Lancashire
Mr	G Fenner, Essex	Mr	MS Hall, Warminster	Mr	HS Howarth, Wiltshire	Mr	J Lines, Glasgow
Mr	A Fernyhough MBE, Kent	Mr	W Hall, Avon	Mr	R Huggins MBE, Oxfordshire	Capt	DW Ling, Berkshire
Mr	VJ Finan, Chester	Mr	GE Hallam, Nottingham	Mr	A Hughes, Surrey	Mr	G Lippiatt MSM, Bristol
Mr	JK Finch, Cyprus	Mr	PM Hallam, Nottingham	Mr	TJ Hughes, Hertford	Mr	CF Liquorish, Kent
Mr	G Fishwick, Eastbourne	Mr	L Hammil, Hampshire	Mr	ETJ Hulbert, Bristol	Mr	DF Lloyd, Hertfordshire
Mr	D Fitzgerald, Chilwell	Mr	R Hampson, Uxbridge	Mr	RB Human, Hertfordshire	Mr	MS Lloyd, Essex
Mr	K Fitzgerald, Manchester	Mr	AM Harding, Bath	Mr	AW Humphreys, Berkshire	Mr	J Longhurst, Hampshire
Mr	DT Fleming, Bristol	Mr	MR Harding, Hampshire	Mr	T Humphreys, London	Mr	CM Lonsdale, Nottingham
Mr	RA Fletcher, Leicester	Capt	DJ Hardman, Wiltshire	Mr	PA Hunter, London	Mr	FH Lovett MM, Essex
Mr	S Ford, Yorkshire	Mr	PJ Hardy, Cambridge	Mr	DJ Huxley MBE MM, Surrey	Mr	J Loveday, Tyne & Wear
Mr	T Foreman, Cambridge	Mr	MHardwick, Slough	Mr	R Ibson, Hertfordshire	Mr	R Lovewell, Essex
Mr	D Foster, Middlesex	Mr	CP Hares, Caterham	Major	BMP Inglis MBE, Dyfed	Mr	FJ Lowe, Balham
Mr	S Foster, W Midlands	Mr	DF Harris, Northampton	Mr	W Jacobi, Middlesex	Capt	DR Loxton, Kent
Mr	R Freeston, Essex	Mr	CJ Harrison, Salop	Mr	ME James, Surrey	Mr	GE Machin, New Zealand
Mr	LP Gallagher BEM, Nottingham	Mr	DA Harrison, Jersey	Mr	CM Jeanes, Avon	Mr	WD Mackay, Argyll
Mr	WR Gadd, Essex	Mr	MJ Hart, Dorset	Mr	D Jelves, West Yorkshire	Mr	P Maher, Hertfordshire
Mr	DL Gafford, Eire	Mr	K Gawin, Hampshire	Capt	HC Jenkins, Dorset	Mr	GE Major, South Devon
Mr	K Gibbens, Surrey	Mr	S Hawes, Poole	Mr	VG Jewell LVO, Scotland	Mr	M Male, Cleyland
Mr	G Gibson, Dunstable	Mr	G Hayes, Essex	Mr	AJ Johnson, Westbury	Mr	RMann, Australia
Mr	B Gillon, West Midlands	Mr	S Hayes, Dorset	Mr	S Johnson GM, Surrey	Mr	PS Manning, USA
Mr	C Gilpin, Cumbria	Mr	HJJ Hayes, Leicestershire	Mr	R Jolly BEM, Tamworth	Mr	HJL Mansell, Kent
Mr	K Girling, Nottingham	Mr	N Heard, Middlesex	Mr	A F Jones, Lincoln	Major	S Marcham MBE, London
Mr	JH Gittins, Shropshire	Major	E Hemsall, Isle of Man	Mr	C Jones, Liverpool	Mr	AJ Marshall MVO, Middlesex
Mr	JE Glanister, Northampton	Mr	P Hennessy, Kent	Mr	KJ Jones, Cornwall		
Mr	RH Glasspell, Essex	Mr	J Henningham, Co Antrim	Mr	M Jones, Prestwich		
				Major	RE Jones, Leicester		
				Major	MJ Joyce MBE,		

THE REGIMENT

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Mr	PD Marshall, Oxford			Mr	J Seymour, Northampton	Mr	JMN Upton, Surrey
Mr	TDJ Marshall, Yorkshire	Mr	J Pearce, New Zealand	Mr	P Sharman, Surrey	Mr	A Urvoy, Windsor
Mr	J Marvey, Leicestershire	Mr	MM Pearce, Essex	Mr	A Sharman, Surrey	Mr	S Vaughan, Kent
Mr	AE Maslin, Middlesex	Mr	L Perkins BEM, Kent	Mr	K Sharples, Lancashire	Capt	D Vernon, East Sussex
Mr	DJR Masterman, London	Lt Col	RAJ Phasey BEM, West Mids	Mr	RA Sharratt, Hampshire	Mr	P Wakelin, Cheshire
Mr	FA May, USA			Capt	B Sheen, Isle of Wight	Mr	W Wall, Halifax
Mr	WJ May, Berkshire	Mr	K Pickering, London	Mr	P Shelbourn, Glamorgan	Mr	GR Wallace, London
Mr	JE Mayes, East Sussex	Mr	J Pimlott, Canada	Mr	J Sheldon, Derbyshire	Mr	JG Walmsley, Middlesex
Mr	M. Mayoh, Stalybridge	Mr	C Plant, Berkshire	Mr	RG Sheppard, Suffolk	Mr	G Warner BEM, Kent
Mr	AJ McClenaghan, Nottingham	Mr	HN Plater, West Midlands	Mr	C Short, Lincs	Capt	RJ Warwick, Berkshire
		Mr	A Pollitt, Swindon	Mr	AJ Simmons, Kent	Mr	GJ Waters, Suffolk
Mr	T McDermott, Northampton	Mr	J Poole, Lancashire	Mr	JN Simpson, Middlesex	Mr	BEM Watson, West Midlands
Mr	DM McMahon RVM, Berkshire	Mr	G Price, Manchester	Mr	J Singlehurst, Bristol		
		Mr	A Prentice, Hertfordshire	Mr	A Slack, Chatham	Mr	M Watts, Cambridshire
Mr	R Mearing, Exeter	Mr	I Plotter, Barnstaple	Mr	G Sly, Essex	Mr	MS Watts, St Neots
Mr	R Millard, Surrey	Mr	PD Price, woking	Mr	G Smith, Staffordshire	Lt Col	SA Watts OBE, Hampshire
Mr	EH Miller, Merseyside	Mr	DC Pritty, Lancashire	Mr	GE Smith, Yorkshire		
Mr	NJC Miller, Surrey	Mr	W Quinn, Berkshire	Mr	KR Smith, Bristol	Lt Col	DJ Webster, Surrey
Mr	AB Mills MM, Suffolk	Mr	RC Radford, Totton	Mr	RC Smith, Attleborough	Mr	D Wedge, Surrey
Mr	OM Mills, Ipswich	Mr	C Ramsay, Mansfield	Mr	J Snead, Wolverhampton	Capt	ASW Wedlock, Essex
Mr	RJ Milnes, Manchester	Mr	D Randall MBE, Cornwall	Mr	G Sneath, Nottingham	Mr	DJ Welling, Merseyside
Mr	P Mizzi, Hampshire	Mr	EF Randall MBE, West Sussex	Mr	DS Sneller, West Sussex	Mr	JA Welton, Hampshire
Mr	DG Money MBE, Sussex	Mr	M Reed, Hertfordshire	Mr	A Souser, North Devon	Mr	JE Weston DCM, Hertfordshire
Mr	B Moore, Hampshire	Mr	J Regan, Gloucester	Mr	J Southern, Berkshire	Mr	NJ Westwood
Mr	J Moore, Shropshire	Mr	G Reincke BEM, Suffolk	Mr	DR Sparkes, Dorset	Mr	JP Whelan, Yorkshire
Mr	K Moores, Guernsey	Mr	B Reynolds, Surrey	Mr	AO Spencer, Kent	Mr	P Wheller, East Sussex
Mr	WH Moores, Coventry	Mr	A Richards, Dover	Mr	KM Spencer, Cheshire	Mr	WJH Whitbread, Dyfed
Mr	CD Morgan, Cheshire	Mr	J Richards, Huntingdon	Mr	LW Spencer, Surrey	Mr	DJ White, Hampshire
Mr	P Morgan, Essex	Mr	A Richardson, Cheshire	Mr	C Spiers, New Zealand	Mr	J White, Preston
Mr	JR Morrey, Leicester	Capt	PF Richardson, Surrey	Mr	J Springall, Australia	Mr	L White, Caterham
Mr	J Morris, Somerset	Mr	DJ Riddler, Peterborough	Mr	J Stanyard, Surrey	Mr	CM Whitebrook, Cambridge
Mr	DJ Moss, Cheshire	Mr	GNH Rimell, Gloucester	Mr	L Starks, Hertfordshire		
Mr	LH Mountjoy, Cheshire	Mr	DF Roafle, Slough	Mr	A Steed, Nottingham	Lt Col	GR Whitbread RVM, Surrey
Mr	JF Mundy, Cornwall	Mr	KT Roberts, Surrey	Mr	H Stern, Essex		
Mr	M Munroe, Surrey	Mr	RD Roberts, Gwynedd	Mr	JB Stevens, Sussex	Mr	PB Whorton, Berkshire
Mr	PJ Munro, Lancashire	Mr	MS Robins, Staffordshire	Mr	C Stocker, Surrey	Mr	I Whyte, Northampton
Mr	P Murray, Leicester	Mr	BN Robinson, Staffordshire	Mr	S Stringer, West Midlands	Mr	R Wickens, London
Mr	IJ Nash, Berks	Mr	DJ Robinson, Suffolk	Mr	S Swanwick, Nottingham	Mr	D Wilkinson BEM, Swansea
Mr	N Nash, Swindon	Mr	S Robinson, London	Mr	BW Sylvester, Wales	Mr	MM Wilkinson, East Sussex
Mr	C Newens, Kent	Mr	JH Rogers, Avon	Mr	R Szymczak, Chatham	Mr	R Wickens, London
Mr	RS Nightgale, Nottingham	Capt	TA Rolfe, Alfershott	Mr	D Tanner, Middlesex	Mr	D Wilkinson BEM, Swansea
		Mr	P Salt, London	Mr	Tate-Williams, Milton Keynes	Mr	SS Wilson, Middlesex
Mr	JA Noakes, Bedfordshire	Major	JA Sandison MBE, QGM, Chepstow	Mr	BAM Taylor, Bradford	Mr	W Wilson, Essex
Mr	B Norris, London			Mr	J Taylor, Kent	Mr	CJ Wills (418), West Midlands
Mr	DH O'Coffey, London	Mr	R Sargeant BEM, Stafford	Mr	Thomlinson, East Yorkshire	Mr	J Winterbottom, Lancashire
Mr	J O'Connor, Middlesex	Mr	DA Saunders MBE, London	Mr	AJ Thomas, Annenford	Mr	MG Woodgate, Hertfordshire
Mr	M O'Hara, Bolton	Mr	RF Saunders, Milton Keynes	Mr	DA Thomas MBE, Berkshire	Mr	AE Wood, Lincolnshire
Mr	W Orton, Surrey	Mr	CC Savage, Cambridge	Capt	BE Thompson BEM, Blackpool	Major	RG Woodfield, Shropshire
Mr	B Owen, West Sussex	Mr	KHG Schauenberg, Middlesex	Capt	RHL Thompson, Berkshire	Mr	JD Woodhouse, Northumberland
Mr	A Sharman, Surrey	Mr	L Scholes, Bolton	Mr	KL Thomson, Swindon	Mr	DJ Worsford BEM, Surrey
Mr	DG Oxford, Hampshire	Mr	M Scott, Gwynedd	Mr	RJ Thompson, Essex	Mr	Wotherspoon, Lincoln
Mr	RC Page BEM, Hampshire	Mr	W Scully, Devon	Mr	JE Tilbury, Surrey	Mr	A Wright, Gwynedd
Mr	D Paine, Kent	Mr	REG Seale DL, Worcester	Mr	C Till, Somerset	Mr	K Wright, Staffordshire
Mr	H Parker, Kent	Mr	AR Searson, Plymouth	Capt	CJO Tilly, Essex	Mr	RA Wyatt, Wiltshire
Major	RJ Parker, Hampshire	Mr	T Sentence, Kenya	Mr	NR Townsend, Berkshire	Mr	VJ Young, Berkshire
Mr	N Parr, Milton Keynes	Mr	S Sergeant, Aldershot	Lt Col	S Tuck BEM, London		
Mr	JB Parrott, Devon						
Capt	PWE Parry MBE, Essex						
Mr	L Payne, Surrey						
Mr	W Paynes, Hampshire						

We Will Remember Them

The Executive Committee deeply regrets that notification has been received of the death of the following Grenadiers.

2629070	RW Ablett	Lincoln	2618647	N Craddock	Northamptonshire
22545026	A Adams	Worcester & Hereford	2619419	AS Cuss	Reading
22545176	GS Allen BEM		23252513	A Davenport	London (2008)
2623297	FR Attwaiter	East Kent (2002)	22213737	K Day	Australian (2008)
2623991	WW Baker	Reading	2623708	HJ Diamond	Bristol
2628317	R Baldry	Guards Assoc NSW	23187340	D Dingley	Worcester
23862949	JM Barney	Surrey & East Hants	2625080	SH Doswell	Gloucestershire
2623376	T Beauchamp	London (2008)	2614186	G Doyle	Yorkshire
2620681	K Belson	Oxford	21006159	N Eckersley	Manchester (2008)
2624259	FS Bennett	Worcester & Hereford	2629173	F Entecott	Shropshire
2613456	AH Benton	Aylesbury (2008)	22545761	D Fearn	Liverpool (2005)
22213399	L Bilbao	General	2613393	GH Follett	Devon & Cornwall (2003)
2627542	R Blank	Lincoln	2612926	J Forrester	North Staffordshire
2621245	HJ Bown	Kingston	22213214	JG Fretwell	North American
2627992	J Bradford	Nottinghamshire	2625183	N Godfrey	General
511065	VJ Brassington	Worcester & Hereford (2008)	2614198	WE Grandfield MM	Australian
23280101	G Bromley	Manchester	2620066	G Hacquebard MBE	North American
2627277	J G Brown	London (2008)	23445713	BD Hadlow	North American
5345849	A Cable	Surrey & East Hants	2611597	CH Harding	East Kent (1997)
2614534	AE Canham	Sussex	2628542	C Hardy	General
2616702	WE Carter	Overseas	2614740	A Harvey	Essex (2007)
22955615	A Chandley	Yorkshire	2623454	R Haynes	Chelsea Hospital/ Northampton
24759922	D Chant	Serving 1st Bn Afghanistan	3535533	GF Heathcote	Manchester
5513260	P Chapell	Wessex	Lt Col	RH "Heywood-Lonsdale MBE, MC, ERD, DL"	FGC/Oxford
2613946	WIR Charles MM	East Kent	2617818	THW Hircock	East Kent (2008)
21006162	L Chesters	Guards Assoc NSW	24096323	RC Hodgson	
2614088	N Chittock	London	22867489	A Hodson	Walsall
	HA Clive Esq	Gloucestershire/FGC		Sir Peter "Holcroft Bt, JP"	First Guards Club
2616355	V Cole	Bristol	22545763	JP Hunt	Australia
22955262	R Compton	London	23754718	D Icke	Nottinghamshire
2620962	W Cousins	Australia	2615820	D Ingram	Norrth American
			Captain	GJ Izard	East Kent/First Guards Club

OBITUARY

23252689	JR Jago	Nottinghamshire	2611612	WR Reeve	Cambridge (2008)
25208665	J Janes	Serving 1st Bn Afghanistan	2629175	E Reid-Stead	
22213623	R Johnson	Australia	2621863	CJ Reynolds	Sussex
Major	GW Lamb DL	FGC	2628905	R Reynolds	London
Major	BW Lane MISM	Surrey & East Hants	22545126	JE Russell	Nottinghamshire
22755854	F Laws	London (2008)	14592539	H Salmon	Oxfordshire
23441533	L Leeming	Essex (2008)	2616561	R Salsbury	Windsor
Colonel	OJM Lindsay		23252680	RJ Saunders	
	CBE FRHistS	Wessex	21006177	W Saunders	
2628854	WJ Lomax	Manchester (2008)	21058463	JW Sergeant	Essex
22545836	P Loveday		2615309	AO Short	Wessex
30052024	J Major	Serving 1st Bn Afghanistan	2622949	A Silvey	London (2008)
2625993	RW Manser	Sussex		Sir Reresby	
2623389	ER Mason	Liverpool		"Sitwell Bt, DL"	First Guards Club
	MB Mavroleon Esq	First Guards Club	2621243	C Skeet	Windsor
2628534	M McHugh	North Lancashire	23509820	AE Slaymaker	
Captain	RM Micklethwait	Nottinghamshire/ FGC	6299538	E Small	Kingston
Captain	J G Milln	Surrey & East Hants	2615974	ED Smith	West Kent
22137733	GR Mills	Oxford	23168888	BA Smith	Manchester (2006)
2614016	BA Muddiman	East Kent	22545546	R Sorrell	Essex
23879764	LR Newlove	North Lancashire	Major	WA Spowers	First Guards Club
2628575	RA Newman	Chelsea Hospital/ Windsor	24000250	D Styles	Walsall
2626522	P Norman	North American (2008)	2624589	F Sutch	
2625285	P O'Donnoghue	Gloucestershire	24904675	M Telford	Serving 1st Bn Afghanistan
2623309	LFT Orchard	Nottinghamshire			Suffolk (2008)
2620546	W Owen	Suffolk (2008)	2614209	A Thorogood	North American
2628859	FR Parr		2294066	AB Tustin	Bristol
22751551	DW Parr	March	23129448	ES Wade	Liverpool
2615495	D Parrott	Windsor	2618768	J Warnock	Liverpool
23444978	THW Perks	Walsall	23637246	E Warren	Wessex
2623888	ETW Perrin	Oxford (2008)	2624301	AD Warwick	Australia
2618952	Rev. E Phipps	North American	2623342	EW Webb	Bristol
23688581	GS Piggins		23180835	M Wells	
22213671	J Pitchford		Captain	RVC Westmacott	
Major	JHN Porter	Northumbria	24021187	MJ Weston	
22498647	A Poyner	North America	23509309	G Whittick	
2625531	RA Rainford	Australian	2614224	E Wiggins	
			14070769	FE Wigmore	East Kent
			23252647	AJ Wilkes	Worcester & Hereford
			2626417	R Wilks	
			2620817	ES Wilson	
			2623601	C Winterflood	Essex
			2625310	KSG Wood	Windsor



Brigadier
Dermot
Blundell

Dermot Blundell died earlier this year after a long period of ill health. At his Memorial Service on 30th April, the Guards Chapel was filled with his many friends.

Born in 1935, Dermot spent most of the war with his mother's relations in Canada, returning to school here with a broad Canadian accent, quickly eradicated. After Eton he joined a firm of City accountants but his life-long delight in good living abruptly ended his career. He chose, instead, Sandhurst and the Grenadier Guards, a decision he never regretted acquiring a great love of his Regiment and a genuine interest in all aspects of military life, past and present.

However as a young officer he was better known for his development of the practical joke to the limit, and some senior officers said well beyond that limit. Some legendary pranks in Germany nearly ended a second career, but he survived. Two years as ADC in New Zealand were followed by a spell at Regimental Headquarters and the Staff College which he went to at the first possible opportunity. After commanding a Grenadier Company in a Scots Guards Battalion in Sharjah, he was appointed DAAQMG of 4th Guards Brigade before returning to the Staff College as an instructor. Dermot was an extraordinarily good staff officer with a clear mind and ready pen. He loved writing and to the end used to send letters to his friends, usually bemoaning the state of the world but always finishing with a grateful twist.

He commanded our Second Battalion in Hong Kong and England, followed by taking over the British Army Training Team in the Sudan. Promoted to Brigadier, he became Chief of Staff London District and Commander of 56 London Brigade. As a commander, Dermot was always a great supporter of his subordinates, but was not always so full of admiration towards his superiors.

He retired after a staff job in Mons and moved to Worcestershire, enjoying the country and his dogs but retaining his interest in military affairs. He became National President of the Grenadier Guards Association and was Chairman of the local branch of SAFFA for 15 years. Sadly his later life was dogged by ill health, although he had wonderful support from his second wife, Sally, and from his large family.



Colonel Oliver
Lindsay

Oliver Lindsay joined the Regiment from Sandhurst in 1958. His first leave was spent driving across Africa with a brother Officer in the Blues. He had a wonderfully varied career

with postings to the 1st Battalion as a Platoon Commander in the Cameroons, as ADC to the Governor General in Rhodesia and as a Liaison Officer in the Canadian Army.

Oliver served on the Staff in London District and had a series of appointments with our Battalions in BAOR, Cyprus, Northern Ireland and Hong Kong. His last appointment in the Army was as Commandant of the Cadet Training Centre at Frimley Park, where his work was recognised with the award of the CBE. On retirement from the Army he joined the Directors at Treloars, the famous School and College for severely handicapped children in Hampshire. Whilst there he raised £7.5m to improve the Buildings and facilities.

Oliver was a member of the Royal Historical Society (FRHistS) and wrote several books, initially on the Japanese invasion of Hong Kong in 1940. He edited the biography of General Sir Alan Adair and, perhaps most famously, brought up to date the history of the Regiment with 'Once a Grenadier... 1945-1995'. In addition, for the last 15 years he was the most successful Editor of the 'Guards Magazine'.

As a Scotsman Oliver was a proud member of the Royal Company of Archers – the Queen's Bodyguard for Scotland. In recent years he was President of the Wessex Branch of the Association and gave devoted Service to his Regiment and to the Household Division throughout his life.

Oliver was a deeply committed Christian Gentleman. His many friends all over the world share with Clare and her family immense sadness at his untimely loss.



Lieutenant
Colonel
Robert Heywood-
Lonsdale

Lieutenant Colonel Robert Heywood-Lonsdale, who died on

Christmas Eve, shortly after his 90th birthday, was awarded an immediate MC in April 1945, after leading the swiftest opposed advance ever made by a Churchill tank squadron. 4th Battalion Grenadier Guards had been attached to 6th Airborne Division, just east of the Rhine at the end of March and, during 12 days advanced 240 miles into the heart of Germany. The most successful day was 4th April, when Robert's Squadron advanced 42 miles in five-and-a-half hours, from Osnabruck to Minden. His citation described his tremendous dash and drive, his personal involvement and skilful leadership and noted that his absolute fearlessness was an inspiration to all.

Brought up in the country, Robert joined the Grenadier Guards in 1938 after Eton and moved to the newly-formed 4th Battalion in late 1940, first as Carrier Platoon Commander then as Squadron Leader. Wounded in command of 2 Squadron at Caumont, the Battalion and 6 Guards Tank Brigade's first battle in Europe in July 1944, he returned to command 1 Squadron for the advance across Germany. After the War, he served in Palestine, Malaya Egypt and London, being awarded the MBE in 1953. He resigned his commission in 1956, only to take it up again as a Territorial, commanding the Royal Wiltshire Yeomanry from 1961-1967, which gave him particular pleasure.

Robert's time as a Grenadier informed and shaped his character and life. He was a calm, modest and yet tenacious man, who was always cheerful with a broad smile, a twinkle in the eye and a quiet chuckle. He never shouted the odds, nor did or said a mean thing, but knew all his men well and how to get the best out of them. As a result, "Major Bobby" as he was known to his men, was hugely respected and trusted by them. One of his NCOs described his service and subsequent friendship with Robert as "65 years esprit de corps" and told of how during the advance through Germany, he had arrived at an objective first; with the Battalion on radio silence, he was a little uncertain what to do next. How relieved he was on swivelling his turret round to see his Squadron Leader 20 yards behind him, giving him the thumbs up; all was well, and under control.

On leaving the Army, Robert took up farming and became hugely involved in local affairs first in Wiltshire then Oxfordshire. He was a DL of both counties and Vice Lieutenant of Oxford, as well county CLA Chairman, Churchwarden for over 40 years, President of the Red Cross amongst many other things. At both Bapton Manor and Churchill, he devoted himself to "putting

real go" into the community, with his wisdom and leadership. Whatever he did, he did well.

Robert will be hugely missed, by Jean, his wife of 58 years, his four children and 11 grandchildren and by his very many friends some of whom walked four miles to make sure they got to his Service of Thanksgiving, held at the height of the snows of the winter. As a friend has noted, he was the epitome of that which makes Britain great, an example to us all.



Major Gilbert Lamb

After winning the Sword of Honour at Mons, Gilbert was commissioned into the Grenadiers in October 1943. He served in Italy with the 5th Battalion and was wounded on the approach to Florence, being Mentioned in Despatches. After the War he served with the 3rd Battalion in Palestine and later with the 2nd in Germany where he became Adjutant.

With his boundless energy and love of sport he competed in the British Pentathlon in 48/49, played rugby for Rhine Army and enjoyed fencing, water polo and beagling.

Staff College at Camberley in 1954 was followed by further service in Germany and staff appointments interspersed by command of the Queen's Company. His final staff job was the prestigious DAMS London District advising on officers appointments to further their careers.

Without a degree himself and feeling the need for a civilian qualification, he read for the Bar at Gray's Inn so that in 1962 when he resigned his commission he was able to join Formica, part of the de la Rue Group. This led to a very successful second career in business, becoming Managing Director of Formica in UK and also Director of the Society of British Advertisers.

Retiring to live in Somerset, where he was able to indulge his passion for hunting with the Exmoor under the inspired Ronnie Wallace, he became deeply involved in local affairs, the County Council, the Conservative Association, Riding for the Disabled and the Army Benevolent Fund where his interest in people, his charm and his ability to make others laugh gave him a very wide circle of friends and made him an ideal Deputy Lieutenant of the County. He was ably supported by Sarah and his three children of whom he was very proud.



Major Bill Spowers

William Allan Spowers, soldier, auctioneer and arboretum creator died at his home in Windlesham on 12 June 2009. While he might not be considered to have been a

total eccentric, Bill certainly had an outlandish trait to his character which made life fun for those around him but equally sometimes brought him close to conflict with the authorities.

He was born on 8th February 1925 in Melbourne, Australia and was educated at Geelong Grammar School. At the age of 17 he ran away from school to rescue his father, Colonel Allan Spowers, DSO, MC, who was captured in North Africa in 1942. He joined the AIF, volunteered for service in the Middle East, attended OCTU in Palestine and was commissioned into the Seaforth Highlanders, later serving with 6th Battalion, The Parachute Regiment in Italy. It was then, while searching for his father and on an unauthorised patrol behind enemy lines, that he was badly wounded and invalided back to Australia. After his recovery he went as ADC to his godfather, Richard (later Lord) Casey, the Governor of Bengal and it was he together with the Viceroy Lord Wavell who recommended Bill for a transfer to the Grenadier Guards. After service in Burma, Bill transferred to the Regiment in April 1946.

Despite his war experience as a Platoon Commander, Bill was sent to the Guards Depot to join a recruits drill course because, as the Lieutenant Colonel put it "he has no basic training behind him and he must learn the importance of our Grenadier methods... saluting and immaculate turn-out". After an attachment to the Guards Training Battalion he was posted to the 2nd Battalion at Wuppertal, returning to the 1st Battalion in Chelsea Barracks in April 1947. He was to remain with the 1st Battalion for nearly ten years while commanding the Mortar Platoon, a Rifle Company and Headquarter Company.

During this time he twice took DOMCOL leave to Australia. While the normal entitlement was 61 days Bill discovered various other leave regulations which, when added together, allowed him to be away from December 1947 to September 1948 when he rejoined the Battalion in Tripoli. On the second DOMCOL in 1951, he drove his Rolls Royce from Tripoli via Egypt, Jordan, Syria, Lebanon, Turkey, Persia, Afghanistan, Pakistan and India.

In April 1953 he married Antonia (Toni) Aked, despite initially thinking it un-necessary to follow Regimental custom and ask the Lieutenant Colonel's permission. They will both be remembered for their generous hospitality, particularly in their Hubbelrath married quarter. They had three boys, Hugo, Adam and Rory, but sadly divorced in 1984. Bill subsequently married Jane Rees-Davies in 2004.

Life was never dull in the Regiment and the Army. This highly colourful military career was followed by a highly successful time as Christies' Director of Books and Manuscripts. In the early 1960s Bill sold to the Regiment, for a nominal sum, a very fine collection of prints and water colours of the uniforms of the Regiment. Items from the Spowers Collection have adorned the Regiments' Messes and Offices ever since.

He was buried privately, in his chapel, beneath his Company Colour.



Captain Richard Micklethwait

Richard Micklethwait died recently after several years of ill health. His Requiem Mass on 24th September filled the Oakham Catholic Church with many old Grenadiers, local friends and a contingent of the Nottingham Branch of our Association who came in force to take part in the funeral of their President.

Richard joined the Grenadiers in 1955, his time at Oxford having been slightly shortened owing to his preference for the horse. During the next eight years he served in both battalions in Germany, Cyprus and England. He also spent eighteen months as ADC to General Peter Deakin when he was Director General of the Territorial Army, an organisation Richard got on with particularly well having so many common interests. His last job was running the Grenadier Army Youth Team in Derby.

It would be dishonest not to note that these last two jobs gave Richard ample opportunity for his love of hunting and time to ride in Point to Points: at this time he won many races on his own and other peoples horses. In retirement, he farmed at Preston and looked after his interests in Yorkshire and Shropshire. On the race-course he became a well known local steward and in one

season he claimed to have watched 100 race-miles at Garthorpe.

Richard's loyalty to and love of the Grenadiers grew in retirement. For many years he directed the course of the Guards Saddle Club at Melton, and Preston was open-house to any young officer using the club. Then, twenty years ago, Richard was asked to become President of our Association in Nottingham, one of the Regiment's largest branches. Although living way out of the county, he was a regular attendee at formal occasions and he held many garden parties at Preston, in the words of the Secretary "always happy and generous occasions".

He is survived by his wife, Jane, and his two successful sons.

Henry Clive

Henry was born on 7th December 1934, the son of Brigadier Archer Clive who commanded the 6th Battalion at Mareth; he was educated at Harrow where he was an exceptional cricketer.

He joined the Regiment on 24th October 1953 on a short service (three year) commission and after training at Eaton Hall he was commissioned and sent to the 3rd Battalion in the Canal Zone, where he remained until February 1954 when the Battalion returned home and he enjoyed a period of public duties until being posted to the 2nd Battalion in Egypt in December 1954 where he served until the British withdrawal from Egypt in April 1956. The rest of his service was spent in London and then he retired on 24th October 1956 at the end of his short service commission.

Henry was a fine shot, a member of the Battalion Rifle team, and also was Weapon Training Officer for a period. He was on parade for the Tercentary Parade at Windsor. He also ran a three month course in Weapon Training for the Iraqi Army, in the summer of 1955.

His reports speak of a competent officer, somewhat forceful, but intelligent and a strong character. They also mention that he enjoyed his social life while in London!

Henry died on 22nd September 2009 after a long illness.



Roger Millard

Roger Millard who many will remember from 2nd Battalion days, served as Armourer C/Sgt from joining them in Windsor in 1963 until 1969. He died on 6th September 2009.

Joining the REME as an Apprentice in 1946. His first posting was to the RMA Sandhurst before proceeding to Korea with the Dragoon Guards then with them to the Canal Zone. He also served with the 3rd Commando Brigade in Malta.

Reporting to the Battalion in Windsor in 1963 he accompanied them to British Guiana where the Battalion was sent to act as peacekeepers. From there the Battalion went to Wuppertal then to Munster.

In 1969 he was posted to the Guards Depot before retiring to civilian life, taking up the position of Armourer to George Fulton at Bisley Camp. He eventually took over the firm and made many changes resulting in a World Wide reputation for excellence, many customers from overseas bringing their weapons to him for proofing.

The highlight of his life was marrying Pam in 1954 in the RMA's Chapel. He was devoted to his family and she in turn entered into the spirit of family life within the Battalion.

Roger was highly regarded within the Regiment entering into every aspect of Battalion life. On finally retiring he became a very active member of the Surrey Branch and will be sorely missed. A fine "Grenadier" wearing a REME cap badge.

Clifford Skeet

Clifford Skeet was a dedicated and active member of the Windsor Branch until shortly before his death on 13th July 2009, at the grand age of 96.

He was born on 18th May 1913 at Mutford in Suffolk.

At the age of 17 he "went into service" at Marlesford Hall in Suffolk.

In 1937 he moved to London to be near to his wife to be (Vera) who was also in domestic service. He was selected to be a Footman at Buckingham Palace.

In 1940 he was called-up for military service and joined the Grenadier Guards, serving for the remainder of the Second World War.

He became soldier servant to Captain Alexander Ramsey of Mar, a Great Grandson of Queen Victoria and Cousin of Her Majesty the Queen.

In 1943, during the ferocious tank battle at Medjez in Tunisia, Captain Ramsey was severely wounded (losing his right leg). Guardsman Skeet, displaying great courage, attended his officer and gave him lifesaving first aid under fire. For this act of gallantry, he was awarded a Mention in Despatches.

It is understood that Her Majesty the Queen, on being

informed of the death of Mr Skeet, expressed her deep sorrow and commented that without him she would have lost her cousin!

Upon his discharge from the Regiment in 1945, Clifford Skeet returned to his duties at Buckingham Palace. On the death of King George VI, he became Page to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother at Clarence House and later (1965) became Steward to the Queen Mother at Royal Lodge Windsor.

He was awarded the Royal Victoria Medal for his great service to the Royal Family. Clifford Skeet retired from the Royal Household in 1980.

Renishaw gave him all the scope he needed to indulge his historical bent to the full. This in part due to the family history in the house dating back to 1626 and further, to the artefacts in the house, including, among many things, boxes of notes meticulously prepared by his Grandfather Sir George, on more subjects than a normal mortal might imagine. He enjoyed taking visitors round the house, expounding in delightful detail on the whats and wherefores in every room. There was in any case much to do at Renishaw, electricity and plumbing to be installed and the gardens, originally laid out by Sir George, to be recovered and brought back to their former glory and further enhanced, this latter largely under Penelope's care.

As mentioned above he served in the 2nd Battalion for two years during a period of change. Oliver Lindsay writes in his book "Once a Grenadier", regarding the 2nd Bn in January 1946, "Some wings were clipped, strict and harsh discipline proved necessary". From the point of view of the subaltern officer this proved only too true.

On one occasion when he just had an invigorating visit to Adjutants Memoranda, Reresby was known to have said somewhat sadly: "You know there is little to choose between the journey from the Tuilleries to the Guillotine and the journey from Adjutant's Memoranda to extra piquets, except that the former was terminal, and the latter has a nasty habit of repeating itself".

His records, still held at Regimental Headquarters, show a continual improvement – his Brigade Squad report in 1945 read: "He is not at all suited to army life. In spite of everything he keeps remarkably cheerful." By January 1946 the report read: "He gives the impression of being a scholarly rather than a soldierly type Confident and sociable to talk to and has a good sense of humour coupled with a rather broader outlook that most cadets of his age." By March 1947 his Commanding Officer reported "a very good officer"; from Lieutenant Colonel Geordie Gordon Lennox, high praise indeed.

Those are the facts: He will be missed, oh so much, by his family and many, many friends.

Sir Reresby Sitwell



Sir Reresby Sitwell Bt. who died on 31st March 2009 was born on 15th April 1927. Son of Sir Sacheverall and nephew of Sir Osbert, the latter who served in the Regiment during the First World War.

Educated at Sandroyd School and at Eton he took a scholarship to King's College Cambridge. Before taking up the scholarship, he joined the Regiment in May 1945 and was posted to the 2nd Bn in August 1946. He transferred to the 1st Bn in January 1948 and left the army in February 1948. He then attended Cambridge but left before completing his degree.

From 1948 to 1963 he had various employments in public relations, industry and the wine trade.

In 1952 he married Penelope Forbes the daughter of Colonel Donald Forbes DSO; she was both beautiful and a woman of strong personality and according to Sarah Bradford "precisely the character he needed to provide the support which had not always been forthcoming from his mother". It was a marriage in which they were blissfully happy. However it was not until his uncle Osbert handed over the family property at Renishaw to him, that Reresby found his true metier.

From an early age he had a fascination with delightful trivia, ranging from an ability at the age of nine to recite the complete list of the Kings and Queens of Scotland to, later in life, an equally detailed knowledge of the Doges of Venice.

GRENADIER GUARDS ASSOCIATION

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Bankers: Lloyds Bank plc, Cox's & Kings Branch, 7 Pall Mall, London SW1

Auditors: Messrs Saffery, Champness, Lion House, Red Lion Street, London WC1R 4GB

OBJECTS OF THE ASSOCIATION

- | | |
|--|---|
| <p>1. To maintain connection between past and present members of the Grenadier Guards, and thereby promote their mutual interests and the welfare of the Regiment generally.</p> <p>2. To grant financial assistance to needy members or their widows, or on behalf of their children, provided their adverse circumstances are of an unavoidable nature and that the funds of</p> | <p>the Association permit.</p> <p>3. To circulate information concerning the Regiment and the advantages of service therein, and to encourage desirable candidates to join.</p> <p>4. To arrange meetings in London or such other place as may help to promote the objects herein before.</p> |
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TERMS OF MEMBERSHIP

The following are the current rules concerning membership:

1 SERVING MEMBERS

All Serving Officers. Serving Warrant Officers, Non-Commissioned Officers and Guardsmen who have completed recruit training.

2 MEMBERS

- a All Officers who have formerly served in the Regiment
- b Officers and Soldiers of other Corps or Regiments who have formerly served in the Grenadier Guards and the Regimental Band.
- c Discharged Soldiers, provided they have completed their recruit training in the Regiment and have been awarded a character assessment of not less than "SATISFACTORY".

3 ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

Members of Associations of other Regiments of the Household Division.

4 HONORARY MEMBERS

Ladies and Gentlemen who have not served in the Grenadier Guards, but who have given outstanding service to the Regiment (ie. Medical Officers, Chaplains etc.) and others as described in the By-Laws for Branches, Section II, paragraph 2.

5 SERVING MEMBERS ON LEAVING THE REGIMENT

Serving Members who have completed their Colour Service will be eligible for continued membership as follows:

- a A Serving Member who has subscribed to the Days Pay Scheme for a minimum period of two years shall be given Life Membership.
- b A Serving Member who has not subscribed as in sub-paragraph 5(a) above shall be invited to take up membership in accordance with the rules in force at the time.
- c A Serving Member must have been awarded a character assessment of not less than "SATISFACTORY" to be eligible for membership under subparas (a) and (b) above.

6 ADMINISTRATION (AS FROM 1978)

1 Deeds of Covenant etc

All donations to the Central Fund of the Association, by way of Gift Aid and legacies will continue to be transacted through the Association office.

2 Members' subscriptions, applications for membership etc.

Members' subscriptions, and donations to Branch funds should be sent direct to the Branch Secretary concerned. Branch Secretaries will also deal with all applications for membership, and will keep a record of the subscriptions paid by the individual members concerned. Subscription monies etc., will be retained in Branch funds.

GENERAL NOTE

The effect on individual members is that no longer will it be necessary to correspond with the General Secretary – all membership payments, queries or problems should be taken up direct with the Branch Secretary.

ASSOCIATION SUBSCRIPTION RATES

ANNUAL MEMBERS

From 1 January to 31 December 50p

LIFE MEMBERS

- A. Up to the age of 55 years £5.00
- B 55 years of age or over £3.00

All subscriptions should be paid to the local Branch Secretary or Treasurer, and the monies will be retained in Branch funds.

BRANCHES OF THE ASSOCIATION

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

Aylesbury & District; Bath; Birmingham; Bristol; Burton-on-Trent; Cambridge; Caterham; Chesterfield; Derby; Devon & Cornwall; East Kent; Essex; Gloucestershire; Kingston & District; Leicestershire; Lincoln; Liverpool; London; Manchester; March; Matlock; Medway; Norfolk; Northamptonshire; North Lancashire; North Staffordshire; Northumbria; Nottinghamshire; Oxfordshire; Reading; Shropshire; Spalding; Suffolk; Surrey & East Hampshire; Sussex; Tamworth; Walsall; Wessex; West Kent; Wigan St Helens & District; Windsor; Wolverhampton; Worcester & Hereford; Yorkshire.

Overseas: North America; Australia; Middle East.

GRENADIER GUARDS RECRUITING STAFF LIST

REGIMENTAL STAFF

Regimental Support Team: Capt A Butcher, CSgt G Luke; LCpl L McGovern; LCpl A Garrett; Gdsm J Nuttal; Gdsm J McGath; Gdsm B Thomas; Gdsm O Lee.

LSgt D Findler, AFCO, 46 The Pallasades, **Birmingham**, B2 4XN. Tel (0121) 6336461.

LSgt S Thomson, ACIO, 3rd Floor 4 Colston Avenue, **Bristol**, BS1 4TY Tel. (01179) 262638.

Sgt A Clarke, ACIO, 60 Hertford Street, **Coventry**, CV1 1LB Tel. (02476) 225644.

LSgt J Davis, ACIO, 3rd Floor, Sitwell House, 9 Sitwell Street, Off Badington Lane, **Derby**, DE1 2JT Tel (01332) 345619.

Sgt R Golding, AFCO, 241 Freeman Street, **Grimsby**, NE Lincs, DN32 9DW. Tel. (01522) 524097.

Sgt J Langdown, AFCO, 35 St Giles, **Oxford**, OX1 3LJ Tel. (01865) 515989.

Sgt P Boardman, AFCO, Peters Field House, 29-31 Peter Street, **Manchester**, M2 5QJ Tel. (0161) 8358228.

Sgt N Johnson, AFCO, Victoria Centre, 70 Milton Street, **Nottingham**, NG1 3QX. Tel. (01159) 473629.

LSgt S Minney, ACIO, 7 The Parade, Market Square, **Northampton**, NN1 2EA. Tel. (01604) 633318/637518.

LSgt J Dawson, ACIO, 36-38 Old Hall Street, Hanley, **Stoke on Trent**, ST1 3AP. Tel. (01782) 212070.

LSgt A Bonsell, ACIO, 43A Queen Street, **Wolverhampton**, WV1 3BI. Tel. (01902) 423892.

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

GRENADIER GUARDS ASSOCIATION

PRICE LIST AS AT 11th FEBRUARY 2010

Item	Price	MODEL: UGL SOLDIER (Painted in DPM or Desert)	120.00
ASH TRAYS (Association) – small	2.53	MODEL: LSW GUNNER (Painted in DPM or Desert)	120.00
BAND POSTER – large : (Assn Branches)	0.62	MODEL: FOOT PATROL – Afghanistan (Painted in Desert)	120.00
BAND POSTER – medium: &	0.54	MOUNTED BEARSKIN	28.22 (P&P £5.00)
BAND POSTER – small : (Band only)	0.16	MOUNTED BERET	28.22 (P&P £5.00)
BELT – Webbing Blue/Red/Blue M/L/XL	11.48	NOTE PAD	New Line* 4.00
BLAZER BADGE (Association)	7.08	OFFICERS BADGE: CLOTH STARS	2.60
BLAZER BADGE (Regimental)	9.38	OFFICERS BADGE: CLOTH CROWNS	3.05
BOOK – ‘Once a Grenadier’	5.00 (P&P £5.00)	OFFICERS BADGE: BRASS STARS	3.20
BOOK – ‘An Active Service’	19.95 (P&P £2.00)	OFFICERS BADGE: BRASS CROWNS	3.80
BOOK – ‘The British Grenadiers’	15.00 (P&P £5.00)	OFFICERS BADGE: EMBROIDERED CAP BADGE	10.50
BOOK – ‘The Shoe Shine Buff’	3.00	PENDANT – Cypher with fine silver chain	121.00 (P&P £6.00)
BOOK – ‘Grenadier Grins’	10.99 (P&P £5.00)	PENDANT – Grenade with fine silver chain	81.40 (P&P £6.00)
BOOK – ‘Guards VC’	13.00 (P&P £5.00)	PEN – Regimental	3.20
BOOKMARK (Leather)	1.34	PLAQUE (Association)	36.80
BOW TIE	7.50	PLAQUE (G.A.D.)	36.80
BRACES – Clip End	13.40	PLAQUE (Regimental)	37.00
BRACES – Leather/Clip End	35.00	POCKET WATCH – Engraved Association Cypher	97.02
BRANDY GOBLETS – engraved Cypher (Box Set of 2), Lead crystal	54.00 (P&P £6.00)	POLO SHIRT – Household Division	18.00
BROOCH – Cypher	182.60 (P&P £6.00)	PRINT – Nine Cigarette Cards-OOD from 1938 Framed	7.00
BROOCH – Grenade	116.85 (P&P £6.00)	PRINT – ‘The Drummer Boy’ by Hicks	2.50
BUTTON Cap Strap 22 ligne	1.56	PRINT – ‘The Roll Call’ (35”x21”)	61.00
BUTTON Small 26 ligne	1.71	PRINT – Grenadiers c.1980 (Capt, frock coat; Gdsm, full dress) by Anderson. 12”x8”	0.50
BUTTON Medium 30 ligne	1.60	PRINT – Grenadiers c.1880 (Officer, Sergeant, Gdsm, Guards Order) by Simkin	6.21
BUTTON Medium 36 ligne	1.75	PRINT – Grenadiers on Parade c.1895	8.56
BUTTON Large 40 ligne	1.19	PRINT – LSgt Rhodes, VC, DCM and BAR	5.00
BUTTON – Small 26 ligne – Brass	New Line* 2.20	PRINT – Grenadiers of the Foot Guards 1880	8.68
BUTTON – Medium 36 ligne – Brass	New Line* 2.23	PRINT – ‘Liberation’ Somme Valley, Northern France Aug 44	46.65
BUTTON – Large 40 ligne – Brass	New Line* 1.45	REGIMENTAL GREETINGS CARD – Each	0.90
CANE, OFFICERS (Leather covered)	16.84	REGIMENTAL GREETINGS CARD – For 10	8.50
CAP BADGE – Grenade	3.50	RIBBON (Regimental) Width 3cm, per metre	2.65
CAP BADGE – Grenade (Black)	4.00	SCARF – woollen	16.15 (P&P £3.00)
CAP BADGE – Gold Sgts	7.10	SOCKS – Household Division	7.55
CAP BADGE – WO	17.15	STABLE BELT	14.50
CAR BADGE – Association	12.75	SPECTACLE CASE	6.23
CD – ‘To Your Guard’	12.00	All Statuettes available in Bronze @ £95.00+£11.00 P&P	
CD – ‘A Henley Bandstand’	12.00	STATUETTE – Sgt Light Coy, Waterloo – painted	120.00
CD – ‘Regimental Music’	10.00	STATUETTE – Gdsm SA80 – Painted-Guards Order painted	120.00
CD – ‘Christmas with The Grenadier Guards’	5.25	STATUETTE – Sgt c.1922-Painted	120.00
CAR WINDOW STICKER – Association	1.20	STATUETTE – Drummer – Painted	120.00
CLOCK – Digital, Multi-Functional	4.61	STATUETTE – Gdsm SLR – Guards Order painted	120.00
CRAVAT	21.83	TANKARD – Pewter – Pint – Engraved Cypher	23.48
CRAVAT – Silk	21.85	TANKARD – Glass – Pint – Engraved Cypher	30.63 (P&P £6.00)
CUFF LINKS – Spring bar, enamelled Cypher	47.30	TANKARD – ‘Barrel’ Style – Pint – Engraved Cypher	40.93 (P&P £6.00)
CUFF LINKS – Torpedo chain, enamelled Cypher	86.90	TANKARD – ‘Footed’ Style – Pint – Engraved Cypher	46.34 (P&P £6.00)
CUFF LINKS – Cypher	12.65	TIE – PLUMED (Dark blue tie with a small Plume design) Silk	14.80 (P&P £2.00)
CUFF LINKS – Knots	3.05	TIE – PLUMED (Dark blue tie with a small Plume design) Poly	6.50 (P&P £2.00)
CUMMERBUNDS – Flat, Silk	20.40 (P&P £2.00)	TIE – G.A.D. (Div sign/blue background) Poly	9.14 (P&P £2.00)
CUSHION COVER – Cypher	35.00	TIE – G.A.D Silk	21.60 (P&P £2.00)
APOLLO CHINA CUP – 350th Anniversary	£5.00 (P&P £2.00)	TIE – Household Division Polyester	6.00 (P&P £2.00)
DECANTER (Mini) with 2 glasses, lead crystal, engraved Cypher	28.35 (P&P £6.00)	TIE – Household Division Flat Silk	6.00 (P&P £2.00)
Additional glasses available for Mini Decanter Set	16.43	TIE – Household Division Poly *** SPECIAL OFFER ***	8.00 (P&P £2.00)
DOG COLLAR	New Line* 10.50	TIE – Household Division Silk	17.00 (P&P £2.00)
DOG LEAD	New Line* 10.50	TIE – Household Division Poly – CLIP ON	6.00 (P&P £2.00)
EARRINGS – pearl (pierced or clip fitting)	125.40	TIE PIN – Pearl	71.00
GRENADIER GAZETTE	5.00 (£1.25 P&P)	TIE PIN – Stick pin	1.42
GOLF UMBRELLA	15.00	TIE PIN – Stick pin (safety)	1.74
HANDKERCHIEF Pocket – Silk B/R/B	8.90	TIE SLIDE Enamel Cypher Badge	5.72
HIP FLASK PEWTER – Engraved	26.25	TUMBLERS – Cypher Badge	12.64
KEY FOB – Metal Cypher Badge	1.50	WATCH STRAP – Household Division	6.23
KEY FOB – Leather Back Cypher	3.00	WATER GLASSES x4 – Engraved Cypher	32.00
LAPEL BADGE – (Association) Large	2.68	WATER GLASS x1 – Engraved Cypher	9.25
LAPEL BADGE – (Association) Small	2.68	WHISKY GLASSES – Engraved Cypher (Box Set of 2)	47.50 (P&P £6.00)
LAPEL BADGE – Regimental (enamel)	2.81	WHISKY DECANTER SET – Engraved Cypher, Set of 2 lead crystal glasses + decanter	87.00 (P&P £8.00)
LAPEL BADGE – (Association) Gilt enamel	6.15		
MEDAL HOLDER	3.93		
All Models available in Bronze @ £95.00 + £12.00 P&P			
MODEL: STAND TO SOLDIER – SLR (Painted in DPM)	120.00		
MODEL: GDSM NORTHERN IRELAND – 1965-SLR (Painted in DPM)	120.00		
MODEL: WARRIOR AFV (Painted in DPM or Desert)	120.00		
MODEL: PATROL SOLDIER-SA80 (Painted in DPM or Desert)	120.00		
MODEL: STAND TO SOLDIER – SA80 (Painted in DPM or Desert)	120.00		
MODEL: CROUCHING SOLDIER – SA80 (Painted in DPM or Desert)	120.00		
MODEL: AIMED KNEELING SOLDIER – SA80 (Painted in DPM or Desert)	120.00		
MODEL: PATROL SOLDIER – PLCE-SA80 (Painted in DPM or Desert)	120.00		
MODEL: PATROL SOLDIER-MINIMI GUNNER (Painted in DPM or Desert)	120.00		
MODEL: JAVELIN MAN – (Painted in DPM or Desert)	120.00		
MODEL: ASSAULT SOLDIER – PLCE-SA80 (Painted in DPM or Desert)	120.00		
MODEL: MINIMI GUNNER (Painted in DPM or Desert)	120.00		
Item	Price		

All engraving on glassware is free. Please give at least three weeks notice when ordering statuettes. All jewellery sent by next day delivery.

These prices are subject to change if manufacturer's prices are altered. All goods are subject to postal and packing charge, please ring if you are unsure on cost. Please send all purchase requests to Association HQ in writing. Payment must accompany order.

Cheques/POs should be made payable to 'Grenadier Guards Association'
Grenadier Guards Association
Wellington Barracks
Birdcage Walk
London SW1E 6HQ
Tel: 020 7414 3285

Email grenadierguards@btconnect.com
www.grengds.com

ASSOCIATION GOODS
PRI SHOP GOODS as at 1st JANUARY 2010



Cypher Brooch



Cypher Pendant



Grenade Brooch



Grenade Pendant



Whisky Glasses



Glass Tankard



Brandy Glasses



UGL-Soldier



Afghanistan Patrol



Bowman Signaller



Patrol Soldier-PLCE



Assault Soldier



LSW Gunner



SA80 Cover



Minimi Gunner



Javelin



Kneeling Cover

THE ROYAL HOSPITAL CHELSEA FOUNDERS' DAY PARADE 2009



The Regimental Band conducted by the Director of Music Major B Wassell.



Her Royal Highness Princess Alexandra conducts a review of the Chelsea Pensioners.



Ted Bolan the Kodak drummer and ex-'Drum Major' Alan Jacques.

*THE GUARDSMAN &
THE REGIMENTAL TIE*

*If you go down to London Town
You'll see the Guards parade
Immaculately marching
Resplendently arrayed*

*But underneath the bull-shine
That's been there since time began
Remember that the splendour
Hides a first class fighting man*

*Of all the British Regiments
They are the chosen few
For the Guardsman's been in battles
Before the time of Waterloo*

*And when the Battle's over
And all has settled down
It's back to guarding Palaces
Or the street-lining London Town*

*You can always tell ex-Guardsmen
By the Regimental Tie
And the way they hold their shoulders
As they look you in the eye*

*For though the values may be changing
Whatever people say
A Guardsman's still a Guardsman
Until his dying day*

GRENADIER CADETS

No. 1 Platoon, Grenadier Guards (Windsor) A Company (Guards) Royal County of Berkshire Army Cadet Force

**Detachment Commander: CSgt S Atkinson
Detachment Staff: Sgt J Davies, Sgt N Hinds**

The last 12 months have been busy and successful for No.1 Platoon based in Windsor. Annual Camp this year was at Crowborough and cadets at all levels were able to qualify for their star badges by undertaking tests in fieldcraft, drill, skill-at-arms, shooting, adventure training, map reading etc, building on the good work begun at our Spring Bank Camp at Browndown earlier in the year.

A number of cadets have gained BTEC awards for Uniformed Public Services. These awards are the equivalent of either two GCSEs for a pass, or four for a distinction, and are a fine example of one of the ways that service in the Army Cadet Force gives its members qualifications for the future.

This detachment has always been successful at shooting, and this year LCpl Chris Harris represented both the detachment and Guards Company in the County Shooting Team in what was a successful year for them.



LCpl Chris Harris representing Berkshire ACF in the shooting team.

One of our former senior cadets, Nicole Hinds, has now become an Adult Instructor. Sgt Hinds has had an exceptionally busy year in which she has completed her BTEC and Duke of Edinburgh's silver awards,

completed her adult Initial Training Course (ITC) and been promoted to the adult rank of Sergeant Instructor. She is currently in the process of joining the regular army and hopes to join The King's Troop RHA.

Another of our former cadets has joined the Royal Army Medical Corps. Helen Pinkstone was formerly a Cadet CSM and gained one of only two places annually as a radiographer. She sailed through phase 1 training and was awarded the "Soldier's Soldier" trophy by her peers. She is now studying at Birmingham University prior to joining her first unit.

The detachment has continued with its community work by supporting the Thames Valley Hospice and raising a great deal of money for the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal. We also took part in the Remembrance Service in the Garrison Church where we laid a poppy wreath at the altar.

Our Detachment commander, CSgt Siobhan Atkinson, was deservedly awarded a Lord Lieutenant's certificate for meritorious service. She joined the Household Cavalry Troop in Combermere Barracks as a cadet, and is now a Detachment Commander of a Grenadier Platoon. Her father was a Coldstreamer, so you could say that she has a number of Household Division boxes ticked! She will shortly be taking some time out to have a baby, and everyone in the detachment wishes her well. Filling her shoes for a while will be Lieutenant Brian Harris. Brian was previously the detachment commander and is currently Company Second-in-Command of A Company (Guards), Berkshire ACF.



CSgt Siobhan Atkinson receiving her certificate from the Lord Lieutenant of Berkshire.

We meet at the TA Centre, Bolton Road, Windsor on Monday and Wednesday evenings, and any Grenadier, serving or retired, is always more than welcome to visit us.

News from the Dining Club

Norfolk Branch Dining Club

This year has been relatively quiet after the exertions of 2008, partly because of the absence of the Hon. Sec. 'down under' for the first three months. However, we have made a great effort to catch up and have managed some enjoyable events, as well as the usual bi-monthly dinners. We now regularly sit down, with between 25 and 30 members – this from a total of forty-five on the Club roll.

We were very pleased to welcome Captain George Courtauld, late Grenadier Guards, Queen's Messenger and Vice Lord Lieutenant of Essex to dine with us in June and to give a stirring talk, after dinner, on carrying Her Majesty's Diplomatic Bags to far-flung corners of the World.

Our first 'Day Out' was to lend our support to the local branch of the Ghurkha Welfare Trust, Beating Retreat and Band Concert, as we did last year. Unfortunately, the Battalion was away in Afghanistan but they had borrowed the services of the Royal

Engineers' Band, who gave a great performance in the grounds of Houghton Hall, one of our Great Houses. We could not have wished for a better evening, warm with a clear blue sky and a brilliant sunset and with the stunning backdrop of the Hall. The Ghurkha chefs again laid on a delicious supper of dishes from Nepal. One of the local auctioneers held a somewhat raucous auction of donated gifts, during which members of the Dining Club were, again, very active with bidding.

A couple of weeks later, we took a coach to visit Bletchley Park. What a fascinating place that was. The Museum is at last being developed with various sources of funding and although there are still areas which look as if they haven't been touched since 1945, the main house and several other buildings are now smartened up with very good exhibits – not all of which are directly connected with Bletchley Park. Of particular interest to us Grenadiers was a large collection of memorabilia, from one Lt Col Anthony Mather CVO, OBE, who as "a young Ensign" commanded the Bearer Party from the 2nd Bn. for Sir Winston Churchill. There is an excellent



Most of the members of the Dining Club gathered for the 100th Dinner of the Club on 28th August 2009.

model of the MV Havengore departing Tower Pier with the coffin and Bearer Party well presented. Well worth a visit. A most enjoyable day finished off with an excellent dinner on the way home. We are a Dining Club after all!

Two weeks after that, we celebrated our 100th Dinner. His Royal Highness, the Colonel, most graciously sent us his best wishes for the evening, quite a milestone achievement for a Club that is based in a largely rural area. Most members attending have quite a distance to travel. The ‘terrible two’, Messrs. Ibson & Brooks, deserve full credit for the effort they make to drive up from Hertfordshire and Oxfordshire respectively! Brooksy has missed a couple recently but we wish him a speedy return to fitness. The dinner ended with a “birthday” cake with one sparkler. The hotel wouldn’t let us have 100 sparklers, fearing we might set the hotel alight!



The “Birthday” Cake specially baked to celebrate the Dining Club’s 100th Dinner.

September saw 40 of us, including wives and friends, congregating at the Thursford Steam Museum to see our own Regimental Band Beating Retreat. Once again, we enjoyed pre-performance drinks and canapés and again it was a beautiful warm evening. (The Hon. Sec’s reputation as a ‘rain-maker’ has finally been laid to rest!) The Band put in a great performance and the following Concert inside the Museum was one of the best – with a strong Grenadier emphasis. Many Grenadiers had come from all over the East of England and, after a concerted recruiting effort during the

interval and after the Concert we hope we may have attracted a few more diners.

In October we welcomed as our guest speaker, John Nolan, a senior Norwich orthopaedic surgeon who gave a very interesting, and illustrated, half hour on hip replacement and flying (his other great passion). Not sure if Lamb Shank was the most appropriate item to have on the menu that evening but everyone seemed to enjoy it. Another notable event that evening was our first Grandfather/Grandson attendance and our first Merchant Navy Guest in the same person – David Sillett. David is the Grandson of Allan Phillips (2623427, 1942-45, 6th, 5th and 3rd Battalions. Italy through to Austria!!) He happened to be on shore leave from his duties in the North Sea.

As another year draws to a close, we do want to stress to any Grenadiers, serving or retired, of any rank and from wherever you come, that you will be made very welcome if you can join us for a dining evening. Many of you visit the area on holiday and some may have relatives living here, so please give the Hon Sec., Ross Donaldson a call on 01692 598336, for dates and any other information you need. We hope to hear from you.



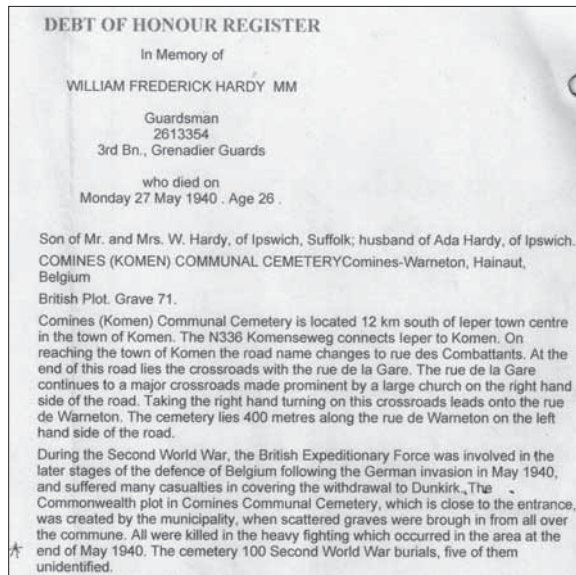
Allan Phillips and David Sillett – our first Grandfather/Grandson team.

The Miracle of Dunkirk, Seventy Years Ago

The British Expeditionary Force was involved in the later stages of the defence of Belgium following the German invasion in May 1940, and suffered many casualties in covering the withdrawal to Dunkirk. 2613354 Guardsman William Frederick Hardy, MM, gave his life during this action

Guardsman Hardy served in the Regiment for two periods – from September 1932 to October 1936 and again at the outbreak of the Second World when he was recalled from the reserve until he died on the 27th May 1940 while serving with 3rd Battalion. During the action in which he displayed such gallantry he was awarded the Military Medal,

His citation reads: “On the 21st May 1940 this Guardsman, twice volunteered to return from his forward post to fetch ammunition. This necessitated crossing over ground that was heavily swept by MG fire. By his gallant conduct his platoon was able to maintain their fire and inflict heavy casualties on the enemy.”



The period immediately prior to Dunkirk was a particularly difficult time for all Grenadier battalions particularly the 3rd Battalion when many casualties were sustained, At the roll call after the action at the Comines Canal at which 2613354 Guardsman William Frederick Hardy, MM. gave his life 70 years ago during the Second World War, the 3rd Battalion was down to a third of its strength and numbered only nine officers and about 280 men. The 3rd Battalion was commanded by Major Alan Adair who later as a general commanded the Guards Armoured Division.

The Commonwealth plot in Comines Communal Cemetery, which is close to the entrance, was created by the municipality, when scattered graves were brought in from all over the commune. All were killed in the heavy fighting which occurred in the area at the end of May 1940.

Lieutenant Crompton-Roberts, who also lost his life, is mentioned a number of times in the war diary. He was Hardy's Platoon Officer and is buried in the Comines Communal Cemetery together with Hardy and eight other men of the 3rd Battalion who lost their lives at the same time. Hardy's daughter Mrs GG Welton, nee Hardy who lives at Ipswich, visits her father's grave whenever she can.

“It had to be done Sir!”

by Norman Mitchell
6th Battalion & Royal Hospital Chelsea

It may not be known by all readers of the Gazette, that the Memorial Cairn built on Pt 819, on Monte Camino, was destroyed earlier this year, in an act of deliberate vandalism. The news came from the shocked people of Rocca d'Evandro – the town liberated by 6th Battalion, in December 1943. It was explained that the Italian Government sells plots of land, irrespective of terrain, and such a plot which included part of Monte Camino had been bought by a local man, who raised no objection to the Memorial being on his land. However, when that man died recently, his son and heir did not agree that it should remain and had the Cairn destroyed for religious and “Anti-War” reasons. No trace could be found of the large Cross, Memorial Plaque nor the capsule containing the names of all those killed in both battles, November and December 1943.

However, Michael Sterling and Chris Bennett, the original builders, were determined that there should be a replacement but this time, on ground guaranteed safe by the Mayor and Town Council.

In September, Michael, on his 20th “Pilgrimage”, led a small party which included George Booker (a 6th Bn man) and joined by Chris, flying in from Australia. After settling in, Michael and Chris set about repeating their earlier, self-imposed task of collecting materials, tools and supplies, helped by others of the party carrying them up and selecting the site on the edge of Pt 819, but further along the ridge.

Including a 3,000 foot climb several times, the building of the new Memorial took two days, with the very pleasing result shown in the photograph. In Chris's own words – “It had to be done, Sir”.

The Mayor has confirmed that the Memorial will be paved around and surrounded by a low stone wall. He

has also declared that 12th September (the day that the new Cairn was completed) each year, will be “Grenadier Memorial Day” in the town.

There then followed another two ceremonies – the laying of a wreath at the town’s Memorial as before, and the installation of a Commemorative plaque, in white granite on the town’s War Memorial, as shown in the second photograph.

This coupled with the already named “Grenadier Strada” and soon to be named “Grenadier Piazza” has forged a strong bond between Rocca d’Evandro, the Regiment and especially the 6th Battalion survivors and is a source of great pride in the town.

Well done Michael Sterling and Chris Bennett.

Historian seeks Memoirs by Forgotten Heroes of the Battle of the Somme

Historian Hugh Sebag-Montefiore is looking for accounts by soldiers who served in the Grenadier Guards, or any other regiment, during the July-November 1916 battle of the Somme. This is in connection with a book on the fighting on the Somme commissioned by Penguin which he is researching. The book will focus on the capture or attempted capture of the chain of villages and strongpoints which had to be overcome if the German line was to be broken and will cover actions involving the 2nd, 3rd and 4th Grenadier Guards. These actions will include by way of illustration only such heroic deeds as the 2nd and 3rd Grenadier Guards’ 15th September 1916 capture of Serpentine Trench thanks to a bayonet charge, and another bayonet charge on 25th September 1916 culminating in 2nd and 4th Grenadier Guards taking part of Grid Trench. Contact Hugh Sebag-Montefiore at 37 Tanza Road, London, NW3 2UA, on 0207-435-1035 or at sebags@hsmontefiore.com.

Letter by General Geordie Gordon Lennox

by RH Murray-Philipson

I thought the enclosed letter may be of interest. It is a letter written by Geordie Gordon Lennox on leaving the 5th Battalion, in November 1944, given to me by a member of the Leicester Branch of the Grenadier Association who was in the 5th Battalion at the time. The letter was of particular interest to me as I served under Colonel Geordie Gordon Lennox in the 2nd Battalion, in Germany, throughout 1947. We young

officers regarded him pretty much as a *****!** Our lives were not made any easier by having David Fraser as Adjutant! It was very nice to see from this letter that ‘Colonel Geordie’ had a softer side (a side he didn’t show to us!).

Special Message to the Battalion

This is a short message to say goodbye to you all, for, after 19 months in command of the Battalion, I am leaving you today, with the utmost regret.

Nothing I can put on paper can possibly express the gratitude I feel to all of you – officers and other ranks – and to that great company of soldiers, who have passed through the ranks of the Battalion, for your unflinching loyalty and courage at all times. By hard and prolonged fighting, you have raised the name of the 5th Battalion to the highest level attainable, even by the standard of the Brigade of Guards. Treasure and preserve, to the bitter end the name you have won.

I know that there are very many of you who, owing to the restrictions of the present system, have not received that public recognition of your gallantry, which you have so thoroughly earned. But I know who you are and so does my successor and, if it is ever possible to obtain further awards, you may be sure that your names will not be forgotten. I know that a quarter of those now serving in the Battalion have been wounded, some twice or even three times. I know also that some of you have been fighting for years and some have family worries. It will be my constant pride to have belonged to a Battalion, which has never allowed any of these things to affect its perfect execution on the battlefield, of every task entrusted to it throughout three quite separate campaigns. And this you have achieved, on occasions, fighting against the best of the enemy’s troops.

You will be commanded by Lt Col PT Clifton in whom I have every confidence. Please serve him as you have served me. I can ask nothing better of you.

For myself, I go to another appointment with a heavy heart, for my thoughts will forever be with the 5th Battalion, with which I had so hoped to remain until the Armistice.

Look after yourselves and help one another to see this business through to the end. But, above all, preserve the fame and honour you have already won for a wonderful Battalion.

The very best of luck to you all.

Gordon Lennox
Lieutenant Colonel
Commanding 5th Bn Grenadier Guards

12th November 1944

The following appeared in the First Edition of the “Gazette”, under the scrutiny of **CSM Wally Williams** and **CSM Peter Penny**. RHQ was then situated at 4, Bloomsbury Court.

GRENADIER DAY 2009



The Battalion Welfare Officer, Captain JA Keeley with his SWAGS team.



What you can do with a Chainsaw.



The Battalion Corps of Drums.



The Wolverhampton Branch Stall.



The Regimental Recruiting Team.



C & J Medals.

GRENADIER DAY 2010 – 26th June 2010

Littlecote House, Hungerford, Berkshire RG17 0SU



◀ Vintage Car Display

Jousting ▶



◀ Essex Dog Display

Moto Stunt Display ▶



Above & Beyond ▶



◀ Eagle & Vulture Show



REGIMENTAL REMEMBRANCE DAY 2009



The Sixth Battalion at the Mareth Cross.



The Regimental Wreath carried by Bill Smith, London Branch and Philip Flowerdew, Reading Branch.



The Lieutenant Colonel laying the Wreath at the Guards Memorial.



The Regimental Adjutant laying a wreath at the Mareth Cross during the Chapel Service.



The General Secretary, Captain (QM) TA Rolfe, The President, Colonel EH Houstoun OBE and the Regimental Adjutant Major GVA Baker lead the march to the Guards Memorial.

MAD DOGS, CARJACKS AND A WADI TOO FAR

by *Chris Izod 24239541 L/Cpl 1st Bn Grenadier Guards 1972-1977*

Although I enjoy living in South West Scotland with my partner Maureen, with all the good clean air and excellent salmon fishing, after a long dark winter we both enjoy getting some sun on our backs in early spring, so a two week holiday in Tunisia was booked. I studied the map before leaving to see where I could explore if I got fed up with sun beds. Past holidays have taken in the Normandy beaches, the River Kwai and Ypres, and there it was, 250 miles south of our hotel in Sousse, Mareth, the regimental battle honour where 77 men of the 6th Bn fought and died in the battle of the Horseshoe on the 16th and 17th March 1943. I also found out through a telephone conversation with Captain Hon J Forbes, whose father fought at Mareth, that the fallen from the battle were buried in a commonwealth cemetery at Sfax, which was on route to Mareth.

So early on Sunday 22nd March Mother's Day, sorry mother, we flew to Monistar, on the following Saturday after five days of burning on a sun bed and trying to swim in a non heated Baltic temperature outdoor pool I hired a car. Little did I know what lay in store for us and that it would spur me on to write these memoirs. We wanted to visit El Jem a fine example of a Roman amphitheatre about 50 miles away, a steady introduction to Tunisian driving I thought, mirror signal manoeuvre we were off. But there's none of that in Tunisia, just pull



Two Christians at El Jem – Maureen and myself!

out and stop where you like! Driving on the right, you'd expect cars to approach a roundabout from the left, not exactly true in Tunisia; drivers approach from the left from the right and over the top if there's a gap! Clutches horns and tyres must wear out quickly, many cars carry

trophy scratches and dents. Donkeys and carts can be forgiven I suppose, as they don't have any indicators on their ears or brake lights on their rears. But they do like to just stop and take a rest in the middle of the road.

We enjoyed El Jem, the amphitheatre was magnificent and seeing where the Christians were fed to the lions and where gladiators fought for their lives. We got back to the hotel in the evening after running the gauntlet of the usual manic city driving and headed for the bar for a stress relieving beer. We relayed our days outing to the friendly hotel barman including the driving experience, who just laughed and told us, "drive as if everyone is drunk and you are the only one sober." Maureen is an advanced driver with the Scottish Ambulance Service but when I asked her if she was going to accompany me the following day to Sfax and Mereth, her cleaned up answer, was "I want a relaxing holiday, I haven't signed up for a suicide mission, I don't know how you can drive here, would you mind going on your own." I reveilled myself at 6am and set off early to miss the morning city rush hour. Heading south I found the motorway for Sfax, which was empty. The sun was shining, shades on, radio on, I was enjoying the drive. About 50 miles from Sfax that all changed. On the hard shoulder ahead of me I noticed this guy dressed in a black type boiler suit waving his arms at me to stop. Thinking he was a policeman I slowed down, but funny I thought miles from anywhere and no police car, I made a split second decision and accelerated away. At this point I would like to add that when travelling on motorways in Spain in 'our motorhome', we have been warned many times not to stop for anyone, as we've heard stories of people being flagged down or pulled over, relieved of their wallets, purses, jewellery and valuables. So with this in mind, stopping was not an option. In my rear view mirror I noticed a white van coming up behind me at some considerable speed, drawing level with me the driver, not the same guy on the side of the motorway, was flailing his arms wanting me to pull over, I saw he wasn't in a police uniform. I carried on, then he drew in front of me and braked hard, I swerved out and overtook. This happened three times. By now I was getting angry with this guy trying to spoil my day, and was gesticulating to him Churchill's V for victory in reverse, as he was going through this routine for the fourth time, I was fortunate that I'd hired an 1800cc Ford Focus, so I stood to attention on the accelerator. The speed limit was 110km/ph about 90mph I won't divulge what speed I wound the car up to, but I was able to lose the white van man as he slowly disappeared in my rear view mirror.

I found the cemetery in Sfax quite easily, crossing the busy road to the cemetery wasn't so easy, check your life insurance policy before you cross a busy road in Tunisia, even on a pedestrian crossing!



The Grenadiers of Mareth at Sfax Commonwealth Cemetery.

As always the Commonwealth War Graves Commission had the cemetery well kept, I'd describe it as an oasis of tranquillity surrounded by a world of mayhem. The Grenadiers of Mareth occupy the first two rows in the cemetery, 77 graves in total with seven more further back. I found all those Grenades on the headstones really quite moving. I paid my respects to the fallen; I then decided to visit the Indian soldiers' cemetery that for some reason is separate and about 100 yards to the rear of the main cemetery, crossing some waste ground which was part of the civilian cemetery. I suddenly heard this growling behind me, whatever it was sounded angry. I slowly turned to be confronted by this large dingo type dog, all teeth and large bloodshot eyes. It reminded me of the film *American Werewolf in London*. Not carrying any dog biscuits in my pocket, although I suspect it only ate flesh and was after mine! I was doing my tail end Charlie manoeuvre and trying to back off towards the Indian Cemetery, the beast was getting nearer. I stumbled backwards onto a burnt out bonfire of palm tree branches, fortunately the centre of the branches cannot burn so easily and resemble a 4ft long thin shillelagh and it looked like one would make an excellent defensive weapon. I slowly picked one up just as the dog lunged towards me, I managed to avoid its frothing fangs by sidestepping and fending it off with my new found saviour, I eventually made it to the Indian cemetery and closed the gate behind me with the beast in hot pursuit, collapsing upon a stone seat I pondered my future. Then across from within the civilian cemetery, one of three men sitting on a grave and smoking something, whistled the dog that took off in their direction wagging its tail, probably saying to itself, "mission accomplished." With the dog now 100 yards away, at 53 years old, bad back and a stone or two over my fighting weight, I'm no Linford Christie, but I swear I gave good account of myself getting back to the main cemetery and safety.

Back at the car I decided that Mareth was a Wadi too far and would have to be visited on a future trip, but I

had read in a tourist book the day before about a hilltop Berber village called Takrouna which was occupied by mainly Italian forces in 1943 and eventually taken by New Zealand troops including many acts of bravery by Maoris, Takrouna was near Sousse. So I set off back up the motorway. The journey was mainly uneventful except for a lorry tipping over and shedding its load of onions down the embankment of the motorway and two elderly ladies walking down the middle of the road with their backs to the traffic. Nearing Takrouna I drove through Edfinda where I found two further war cemeteries. The first, a commonwealth one where I found a further five Grenadiers, again immaculately kept. The second one being a French war cemetery, quite different from ours, full size graves with headstones and gravel. On each of the approximately 200 graves, an original French steel helmet lying on the gravel in front of the headstone regimentally lined up with each other. A souvenir, I thought, for some disrespectful passer by, but no, not one was missing. A young Frenchman actually lives on site and tends the cemetery. With his broken English and my very broken French we chatted away awhile, his job, my regiment, football, wine, Charles DeGaulle and that I drove an old Citroën back home, he asked me to sign the visitor's book which I respectfully did.



The Berber hill village at Takrouna.

After my Linford Christie impersonation earlier on in the day, on arrival at Takrouna, I had to transform myself into Chris Bonnington mode, as no cars were allowed to drive up the steep, winding track to the top of the hill, except for the handful of Berber families that live up there. From the bottom the hilltop looks impregnable I was breathless walking up it, let alone fighting up it.

At the top stopping for breath and looking around for an oxygen cylinder, I could see why the Italians and Germans occupied it, the view was breathtaking, you could see for miles. It took three days to take and retake Takrouna with many acts of courage and much hand to

hand fighting. 300 prisoners were taken after the battle, mainly Italians of the 1st Battalion, 66 Infantry Regiment, Trieste Division and 5 Germans. I looked up Takrouna on the internet on my return to the UK and found a Sgt Manahi DCM, a Maori who after the battle for Takrouna was recommended for the VC by four commanding generals for his outstanding courage and bravery. But he was denied the medal and he was killed in a car crash in 1986. In 1997 the Queen issued a special citation for his bravery which was presented to his son, as well as an altar cloth and sword.

Maureen, after spending a relaxing day pool side on Sunday while I was involved in the attempted carjack and tackling the werewolf was ready to risk a further car journey and venture out again.

So on the Monday “up and at em” we took off again to Thuburbo Maius, a well preserved Roman town, well worth a visit if in Tunisia. While there some locals tried to sell us some “original” Roman coins but we declined. On the way back passing through Fahs and on the open road, we were overtaken by a petrol tanker going at some rate of knots but when in front of us he slowed right down. After a mile or so and a clear road in front I decided to overtake the tanker, we found ourselves at the rear of an old pickup truck piled high with straw bales, which was swaying from side to side. I suddenly realised why the tanker driver had slowed down and backed off, with my right foot again standing to attention on the accelerator pedal I started to overtake the pick up, as we drew level Maureen’s voice went up an octave “look at that!” Every few seconds the front wheels of the truck were leaving the ground even though there were three men in the cab of the truck and this was on the flat! We passed the truck, quickly. A mile further on we climbed a hill, I said to Maureen, “Shall we stop and watch that pick up climb this hill?” “Keep going” she said “and let’s not look back.”

I hired the car for five days but handed it back after three, a relaxing holiday sounded a good idea.

I collect fridge magnets from all the countries we visit; the one I purchased from Tunisia is one of a camel’s head, very apt under the circumstances, Tunisia is well blessed with camels, a vital method of transport. But the only part of one we saw was the head of one on a spike outside a butcher’s shop with grass in its mouth, a delicacy in Tunisia, I’m told!

Fellow Grenadiers and friends I hope you enjoy reading my memoirs of our adventures in Tunisia. Please don’t be put off going, it’s a fascinating country full of characters and their friendship and hospitality is second to none. We shall return one day and visit Mareth, but probably do our travelling by bus, coach or hire a local driver.

The Infantry Boys Battalion and Infantry Junior Leader Battalion Association (IBB & IJLB Association) Memorial Weekend 6th/7th June 2009

by Graham Fowler, Scots Guards

The Infantry Boys Battalion was formed in 1952 at Plummer Barracks Plymouth and relocated to Park Hall Camp Oswestry in 1960 and reformed as the Infantry Junior Leader Battalion under the command of Lieutenant Colonel Frank Coutts KOSB, it remained in Oswestry until the raising of the school age to 16 in 1975 when it then moved to Shorncliffe and disbanded with Defence cuts in 1985.

The concept of the battalion was a seven term programme modelled on the 1960 and early ’70s Royal Military Academy Sandhurst two year course. During the first year a mixture of recruit training, education, adventurous training, and the second year emphasis being placed on all infantry skills so that by the time the 7th term was complete a Junior Leader was capable of teaching drill, skill at arms, map reading, signals, and tactics up to platoon level and should have adequate leadership training to lead an Infantry section on joining his Battalion and would be academically qualified up to the rank of Warrant Officer.

The unit’s impact on the British Infantry was profound. In the ’70s and ’80s a visit to any Sergeants Mess of any Infantry Battalion would bring one into contact with many former Junior Leaders from IJLB. Many of the juniors went on to achieve Commissioned rank.

There has been an IBB & IJLB Association for over 20 years with a very active internet forum www.ijlb.co.uk.

In September 2007 I was asked to form a small sub committee at the AGM of the IBB & IJLB Association consisting of the Association Secretary, Ken Nicol ex-Gordon Highlanders and myself to raise the necessary funds to build a memorial for the Infantry Boys Battalion and the Infantry Junior Leader Battalion and that we should look forward to a date in June 2009 to unveil the memorial at the Battalion’s spiritual home in Oswestry. As I left the meeting I thought to myself what have I committed to?

On the fund raising side we wrote to every Foot Guards RHQ and Infantry Association and units and corps that drew from the Infantry such as Special Air Service, Small Arms School Corps and the Army Air Corp.

We also emailed or wrote to every single member we had on our internet forum database of past and present members of the Association asking for a contribution,

some 8354 emails and over 600 letters. During the fund raising period which lasted approximately eight months we managed to raise the money required for the cost of the memorial.



The Memorial.

It was planned that the unveiling of the memorial would be incorporated with a reunion weekend which would start on the Friday with an Inter Company Golf Match at the Gobowen Golf Club and on the Saturday there would be a gathering at the Oswestry Rugby Club (the old Officers Mess at Park Hall Camp) followed by a formal memorial dinner in the Oswestry Assembly Rooms on the Saturday evening which used to be one of the gymnasiums situated next to the Guards Company accommodation. This was to be followed by the Association exercising its right to march through Oswestry on Sunday as the IJLB had been granted the freedom of Oswestry to the Battalion back in 1971, followed by a drumhead service where the memorial would be unveiled. Then there would be a return to Barracks followed by a curry lunch and Beating the Retreat.

We managed to obtain an Infantry band, the Prince of Wales Division Band, through HQ Land Forces. The one problem left was who to command the parade, we knew we would have at least 7 LE Lieutenant Colonels, some 50+ LE Majors and Captains and several 100 ex-Warrant Officers and senior ranks all with different Regimental customs for our parade, so we approached the Garrison Sergeant Major London District, Bill Mott, as it was felt his seniority and knowledge of many of those taking part would ease the many rivalries between some 50 different Regiments on parade and what an excellent choice it was. The Garrison Sergeant Major was a superb ambassador for the Guards Division with many a participant comparing him favourably with Jan Hooper and Dusty Smith Coldstream Guards who were best remembered the Drill Sergeant and Regimental Sergeant Majors of the IJLB in the '60s and '70s.

Our guests of honour for the Saturday night Dinner and Parade were to be the Mayor of Oswestry and Brigadier Frank Coutts KOSB who was the first Commanding Officer of the Battalion. However, sadly, Brigadier Frank died in October 2008. We consequently asked Lt. Col. Sir Malcolm Ross GCVO OBE Scots Guards to be our guest of honour. Not only was he a family friend of Brigadier Frank and knew how strong the bond was between Brigadier Frank and his Junior Leaders, Sir Malcolm had also been the Company Commander of Guards Company Oswestry in the early '70s.

As the memorial weekend drew closer we carried out a series of reccies with the Town Clerk of Oswestry, the Garrison Sergeant Major and our Padre, Norman Setchell. Norman had been an ex-Junior Leader himself at Plymouth and Oswestry enlisting in the Queen's Own Buffs who later was ordained in the Church of England then reinlisted into the Royal Army Chaplain's department. He then left the Army again in the late '80s and took up work as the Padre for a National Health Trust. We are very lucky to have as our Padre one of our own.

The weekend of the event arrived with warnings of heavy rain in the West of England and Wales. This, however, did not dampen our spirits on the Friday night and the remainder of the weekend.

On the Saturday all members met up at the Oswestry Rugby Club for a few hours in the afternoon. We then met for the formal dinner that night. An excellent speech was given by both the Mayor of Oswestry and Sir Malcolm Ross who gave an amusing speech giving us some of his memories of Brigadier Frank Coutts and his own period with the IJLB. Needless to say once the dinner had finished tales of Z Company Chirk Aqueduct, Snowdonia exercise pipeline, Jan Hooper, Dusty Smith continued long into the night.



The March Past.

On the Sunday morning we rose with great trepidation on the weather, it was wet. After an early morning walk through/talk through with the Band Sergeant

Major and the Garrison Sergeant Major the heavens really opened. However, as we formed up some 300 members of the Association on the Guildhall Square prior to the march, the rain eased and we could almost hear Jan Hooper saying “The sun shines on the righteous” there was no sun, so maybe he was right!!

After 45 odd years the drill of the Association was still impeccable and the response to the Garrison Sergeant Major’s words of command, crisp and sharp. The memorial service followed the traditional remembrance service with the Association members reconfirming the Oath of Allegiance taken on their Passing Out Parade all of those years ago. Four wreaths were laid representing the four Garrisons the Battalion had served in and a two minute silence was held for all those members of the IBB & IJLB who gave their lives for this country. It all went off well and we returned to Barracks giving eyes left to our principal guests the Mayor of Oswestry and Sir Malcolm Ross and this was followed by the curry lunch back in the Assembly Rooms in Park Hall Camp. However, the rain defeated us and Beating Retreat was cancelled.

A memorable weekend thoroughly enjoyed by all. Any ex Junior Leader or member of staff who would like to join the IJLB Association please contact me on gfwler@blg.co.uk or tel. no. 07778 354 188 or go to www.ijlb.co.uk.

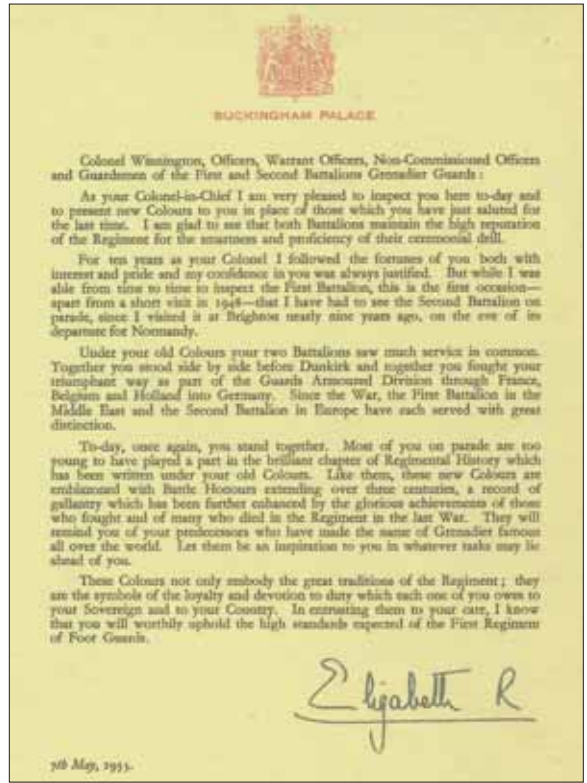
Memories

by CG Cole

I was with the Second Battalion Support Company MMG Platoon driving a Bren Gun Carrier. It was while I was stationed out in the Canal Zone Egypt 1954-1955 at Fanara I took my Carrier to 10 BOD, the big Ordnance Depot.



Copy of a ticket I had to go to the Coronation Ball. Everyone had a great time!



A letter given to each of us when the 2nd Battalion was presented with new colours at Buckingham Palace.

As well as sentry duties around the ten-mile perimeter I had to drag some kind of object (behind the Carrier) around the outside of the perimeter barbed wire to smooth the sand to see if any evidence of outsiders getting through at night. Another one of my duties was to take food supplies to the outlying sentry post.



The Guardsman standing behind (with bearskin) was trying to have his photograph taken at Chelsea Barracks.

One morning I was watching the cook put boiling water into a big container which contained dried milk. He stirred the water and milk with his bare hand which had a wound covered with a bandage. This I believe caused a very major incident as many people at the camp had a very bad sickness. I think it was thought at the time the water had been poisoned. There must be records of this incident somewhere in the Battalion.

A while back I had a phone call from an ex-Grenadier, George White. I had not seen him since I was demobbed. His first words to me on the phone were: "Is that Charley Cole, are you the one who tried to poison me at BOD?" He was my escort in the Carrier delivering some of the milk to the outlying Sentry Posts. Fortunately, I never drank any, lucky me, as I do not like milk. There must be many ex-Grenadiers who remember this. There was a Sergeant Major who said he had iron guts and it would not affect him, in the end it did.

I had a camera while in the army and took lots of photos but now only have a few left.

The March that 'Lost its name'

by Major Brian Lane

Losing one's name has been an occupational hazard for many serving in the Foot Guards over many years, however, over the past 40 years, at least, it would appear that the Regimental March has suffered the same fate as many a Drummer, or has been changed for some reason. There is no doubt an explanation for this, however, it is quite clear to the 'Old and Bold', who know this particular music, as the Grenadiers' March, whilst those serving today know it as the Grenadiers' Return. This is how it appears to be shown on DVDs, CDs and various Memorial Service and Band programmes.

In order to clarify this anomaly and having traced The Grenadiers' March back to 1678, the following may help in establishing the true title. Incidentally, during my service, the only Regiment to call the Grenadiers' March by a different name were the Coldstream Guards, who could not quite say Grenadiers through clenched teeth and called it The Guards Return; however, the notation and music were of course, The Grenadiers' March.

The Grenadiers' March (From The Rambling Soldier – Roy Palmer – 1965 – Sutton Publishing).

There are seven verses to the march, all with repeatable words and the history of the March itself is as follows.

Starting with a single Company in 1677, Grenadiers were gradually introduced to the whole British Army, with a Company in every Battalion. In June 1678, John

Evelyn saw this 'new sort of Soldier' in camp at Hounslow 'with coped crowns like Janissaries' which made them look very fierce'. The Grenade (from the Spanish Granada, pomegranate) was merely a hollow iron ball filled with gunpowder and fitted with a fuse, and the Grenadiers were Storm Troops, used to reduce fortresses. By the mid 18th Century, however, the grenade was out of favour, and the Grenadier companies were becoming the crack troops from each Battalion, and were given special tasks. Perhaps this accounts for the exuberance of their song. Its tune, popular by the time of the American War of Independence, was used also during the Napoleonic Wars, and adopted as the Regimental March of the newly named Grenadier Guards, in 1815. It is still heard, played in slow time, at the Ceremony of Trooping the Colour. The words, less well known, have been taken from an 18th century broadsheet.

Moving on in Quick time, to the next phase of the Grenadiers' March, we owe our account to the reporter from the *Daily Mail*, who wrote the following account with great accuracy and attention to detail (even to noting the music played by the Bands).

DAILY MAIL, LONDON, FRIDAY,
7TH OCTOBER 1898

THE GUARDS' WELCOME
BACK TO ENGLAND, HOME AND
BEAUTY
ROUSING RECEPTION WITH PATHETIC
INCIDENTS
EVERYMAN BRINGS BACK A
BATTLEFIELD TROPHY

The Grenadier Guards came marching home again yesterday, and London opened her arms wide in welcome.

The big fellows have shrunk since we saw them last. Their red tunics seem to have got too big for them; their cheek bones seem to have grown out.

They have brought nearly all their bones back with them – the battalion only lost ten men in the campaign – but they have left a good deal of their flesh behind them at Omdurman.

At first sight, they did not seem so very deeply sun-burned. The brown Pith Helmets, they are still wearing, do not show up the tan of their features, and there is a touch of yellow in the faces of many of them, which almost gave the effect of pallor yesterday until you saw one of them side by side with some homekeeping comrade with the pink of health on his cheeks. Then you realised what the Sudan sun is like.

The transport Dilwara got into dock at Southampton

early yesterday morning, bringing besides the 1st Battalion Grenadier Guards, the men of 37th Field battery RA and the Howitzer battery. Southampton gave them a hearty welcome as, WORN LOOKING, BUT HAPPY they came down the gangway onto British ground. There for some of them were greetings, dearer and more welcome than the cheers of the hero – worshipped crowd. For one stalwart Officer, there was a young wife waiting to embrace him as he stepped ashore, and to fall swooning in his arms with joy at the end of long anxieties.

For others, there were the undemonstrative handshakes and a few curt words of greetings which, with Englishmen, are usual between friends long parted. "I am very glad to see you back," said Colonel Stackpool, who was waiting at the dock, to Colonel Hatton who was the first man to come ashore. "We are very pleased to get back to England," said the Grenadier Colonel in reply.

It was sometime before the special trains left for London. There were sick and wounded men to be sent along to Netley, there was baggage to be got ashore and, there was the Custom House. England's heroes may come back laden with all the glory they have gathered but their kits have to be looked through for tobacco all the same. And on her way from Alexandria the Dilwara had called at service ports where tobacco is erroneously considered cheap. However the Grenadiers were not importing dutiable goods on a very large scale, and even Custom House officers have their feelings, so not very much was said about the tobacco. It was after 11 when the trains left.

The Gunners were sent off with cheers by one train to Woolwich; in two others the Guardsmen were carried to London. On THE WAY UP, there were enthusiastic greetings for them from the people of the little towns on the way: at familiar Pirbright, there was an especially hearty demonstration.

It was two o'clock when the Soldiers arrived. For hours before that, Waterloo Station had been besieged. All were glad when the second train arrived, had been unloaded and the men had fallen in. Then the Band leading the way, the battalion marched out of the Station and the Grenadiers found themselves, once more, in the old streets of London but seeing them as they had never seen them before. For outside there was no repression of emotion. London had gone mad in an enthusiasm of hero worship.

Outside of the station where the weight of the crowd had already demolished the iron railings, it was with difficulty that the Guardsmen could force their way through. The solid masses of shouting, gesticulating dervishes, upon whose oncoming the Grenadiers had looked at Omdurman, could not have been more animated by a more delirious enthusiasm than the

crowd of Londoners. And certainly the Dervishes an immense number where their hordes reside, were numerically inconsiderable by comparison. All along the line of the march to barracks, the streets were like fields of standing corn for people. Along York Road, in Westminster Bridge Road and on the bridge itself, in front of the Houses of Parliament through Great George Street and along the broad Birdcage Walk was one tumultuous cheering crowd, wild with delight to see its heroes safely back.

The band had played a succession of inspiration marches along the route – The Soldiers' Chorus from Faust, The Grenadiers' March and the ever inspiring "Tow-Row-Row" of the British Grenadiers. It was with the swing of the "Return of the Guards" that the column turned in through the gates of Wellington Barracks.

Here, there was a crowd of another kind to meet them, wives and sweethearts, children and comrades, distinguished Soldiers with HRH the Duke of Cambridge at their head and the children of the Guards' School in their pretty red and blue uniforms.

The men were drawn up in half Battalions facing inwards with the officers between, and here the Duke addressed them in a brief, bluff and soldierly SPEECH OF CONGRATULATION and welcome, ending with the traditional phrase about being fit to go anywhere and do anything. The men responded with three hearty cheers for the Duke, called for and led by Colonel Hatton.

Then they were dismissed and there ensued the pleasing spectacle of great, sun scorched warriors planting sounding kisses upon the lips of their wives and the stooping down to pick up and kiss their children, standing with their little arms outstretched.

As for the young privates, there were their comrades of the other Battalions of the Brigade waiting to congratulate them and envy them.

There was the canteen to be visited and there was dinner ready. And for the married men, there was the delight from which they could hardly tear themselves away, even for dinner, of walking about with a little toddler holding onto each hand.

There were presents to be distributed. Some had brought birds in cages, as well as the small belongings of dead Dervishes. Others had, mournfully, to explain how the property they were bringing had gone to the bottom of the Nile, in the time when the Gyassas were swamped in the storm of September 10th.

On enlistment in 1949, as a Dummer Boy in 3rd Battalion Grenadier Guards, the first priorities were to learn to play British Grenadiers, The Duke of York's March, Scipio and the Grenadiers' March. Later on came the 20 or so plus marches to be learned by heart as laid down in Brigade Standing Orders, to be played by all Regiments in order to mass the Corps of Drums of

the Brigade, with all playing in the same key and from the same musical parts.

The Grenadiers' March is a very repetitive piece of music, not noted as an uplifting type of march and to this end, the late Lieutenant Colonel RA Ridings, OBE Director of Music, the Coldstream Guards in 1978 whilst Senior Director of Music Guards' Division arranged part of Waldteufels's "Grenadiers' Waltz under the title – "Escort to the Colour", to accompany the Escort out to collect the Colour. In 2009 I believe that, "The Old Coldstream March" was played before the Spin Wheel. Perhaps, this is the way forward with the Regiment Trooping the Colour' having the choice of a more regimentally orientated March, as well as the more traditional "Grenadiers' March".

In 2008 and 2009, along with members of the Guards' Division, Corps of Drums Association, we were invited and privileged to attend the Grenadier Guards' Remembrance Sunday and to accompany the Regimental Band on the March to and from Horse Guards. During the briefing, the March was referred to by the Band as "The Grenadiers' Return" but by the Drummers as "The Grenadiers March" – (Shades of the Crimea) – fortunately for both participants and Spectators, we were discussing the same piece of music!

As we now appear to have two marches of the same notation, perhaps someone somewhere can supply the answer as to when the title of "The Grenadiers' March" was superseded by "The Grenadiers' Return". as this leads to the loss of traditional names from a long history of Military Music, particularly to Corps of Drums, who preceded the Military Bands by a number of years. The playing of "Rule Britannia" before the National Anthem at Tattoo was also a fine tradition of the 3rd Battalion's service as Marines but is that tradition now in suspended animation or has it too received a different name?

A raid and result for the limbless

by Major PAJ Wright

After the 353 casualties it had suffered during the battle of Loos in September 1915, the 4th Battalion Grenadier Guards had to be reorganised. Captain JA Morrison, now in command, redistributed the 12 officers and remaining non-commissioned officers to make up the deficiencies as far as possible. In October six officers joined the Battalion and Major Lord Henry Seymour took over temporary command. Two days in the trenches north of Neuve Chapelle were alternated by 48 hours resting in billets. However high-explosive shelling prevented this from being a complete rest. This routine continued until 12th December, when a most successful raid on the enemy's trenches was carried out.

At 8.15pm Captain Sir Robert Filmer, accompanied by Sergeant J Higgins and three men from 3 Company, went out to make a preliminary reconnaissance. By crawling right up to the enemy's trenches he succeeded in locating the exact position of the German machine guns, and was able to confirm a reported gap in the enemy's wire entanglements. Filmer crept alone down the entire length of the German trench and carefully noted all he saw. On his return the final orders were issued to the raiding party, consisting of 33 men from 3 Company, and the Battalion Bombers under Lieutenant G Ponsonby.

The night was very dark and it was difficult to see any landmarks. Higgins led the party over the parapet at 11.00pm and was followed by Filmer and the raiding party. They advanced silently, but lost direction slightly to the left. As a result they missed the gap and found themselves held up by a low wire entanglement. Filmer came up to find out what was causing the delay and decided to cut the wire and rush the trench. This was successfully done, although only a few yards from the enemy, and Higgins led the charge into the trench. At the same time a pre-arranged artillery barrage opened fire and continued very effectively until the party returned.



Sergeant Higgins was first to cut the enemy's wire.

Bombing and bayoneting began in earnest, and the Germans were completely cleared out of the trench. The machine guns had been too firmly fixed to carry away and were destroyed by bombs. During this trench fighting, Ponsonby, the Bombing Officer, was badly wounded in the right leg. When the retirement was ordered, Private WN Sweetman remained with him within 50 yards of the enemy trench until he finally succeeded in carrying him back, under heavy fire, to his own lines. The other casualties were one man missing and three wounded. This small number of casualties proved how well arranged the raid had been and how effectively it had been carried out.

General Sir Douglas Haig commanding the First Army specially mentioned this raid in his report, and wrote: “A well-planned and well-executed operation, reflecting the highest credit on all concerned, from Colonel Lord Henry Seymour commanding the 4th Battalion Grenadier Guards downwards. The immediate rewards asked for have been well earned, and I shall have very great pleasure in recommending the names put forward.” The following day at Riez Bailleul, Major General Lord Cavan, commanding the newly formed Guards Division, sent for and congratulated Filmer, Higgins and Sweetman on the success of the raid.

Filmer was awarded the MC. He was killed six weeks later on 27th January 1916. Having just left the trenches in front of Laventie he discovered he had lost his glasses. Being very short-sighted he decided to go back and look for them although he was warned that the road was being heavily shelled at the time. He rode back when a shell burst close to him killing his horse and wounding him so severely that he died the next day. He is buried in the Merville Communal Cemetery.

Higgins and Sweetman were awarded the DCM. For Higgins it was the culmination of several brave acts and his citation read: “For conspicuous gallantry on many occasions, notably the following: For gallant behaviour at the battle of Loos, when his Platoon Officer and Sergeant had been killed. For great gallantry when leading a bombing attack to help the Scots Guards on 17th October 1915. For continuous good night patrol work. On one occasion, 7th December 1915 he remained 1½ hours close to the enemy’s parapet and brought back invaluable information. At Neuve Chapelle, on the night of 11th-12th December 1915, he led an attack, and was the first to cut the enemy’s wire and enter the trench.”

In September 1916, Higgins was awarded the MM in the battle of the Somme during the assault on Lesboeuifs. His citation read: “This Sergeant repeatedly organised

and led parties of men, of his own and other units to repel counter-attacks of the enemy. He bombed every dug-out single handed and personally shot twenty of the enemy who were attacking the trench in which he was.”



Making prosthetic limbs at Queen Mary’s Hospital, Roehampton.

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

Undaunted, Ponsonby and others wrote to *The Times*. There followed much correspondence in the national press and a question in Parliament. In 1920, he wrote an article “Life on an artificial limb” for the Household Brigade Magazine” which concluded: “My message to every man who has a few inches of stump is that, given a limb sufficiently light, given the knowledge how to make the best of it, given a comfortable fit, there are very few limitations.” At last, on 21st April 1921, the Minister said that metal limbs would be available and free to all limbless pensioners. The pioneering efforts of Ponsonby had succeeded.

An appeal was made in 1916 to officers, past and present, to enable Grenadier Guards beds to be endowed in Queen Mary’s Hospital, Roehampton, where limbless men received special treatment, were fitted with artificial limbs and taught how to use them. A sum to endow eight beds for two years was obtained and subsequent donations enabled the Regiment to renew the endowment of two beds for four years. During the First World War, 41,000 men lost limbs.



Over 41,000 men lost at least one limb.

Guards Parachute Association



Patron: The Prince of Wales KG, KT, GCB, AK, QSO, ADC

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Major the Lord Coleridge

Captain PML Smith

Captain P Ashfield



Paradata

During our visit in September to the Airborne Forces museum at Duxford we had discussions on Paradata, which was featured in the last newsletter by Major Bernard Casanove. Paradata is the online archive that is intended to become the comprehensive living history of Airborne Forces and those men who have served with them. Our Association has been given the opportunity of establishing the Guards' contribution to Airborne Forces by registering collectively through Sec Mike; Registration is normally £15 per head, but this special concession is offered for a contribution of £10 per registration, or at no cost to any member suffering hardship

From the Ed

We were recently shaken by the sad and tragic deaths of three Grenadiers and two Military Policemen in Afghanistan. One of those killed was Association member RSM Darren Chant, who had only recently joined us, but who had been so very helpful and supportive in finding a permanent home for General John Nelson's bench in Wellington Barracks. We had looked forward to meeting and thanking him properly at some future event, but that is sadly not to be. The

circumstances of these deaths bring the increasingly complex nature of service in Afghanistan into close and painful focus.

We were also saddened to hear of the serious injuries to Association member LSgt Nathan Cumberland who lost both legs, also serving with 1st Battalion Grenadier Guards in Afghanistan. Lord Patrick Beresford recently visited him in hospital and found him cheerful and positive. He asked for an Association sweatshirt, which we are delighted to send along with our very best wishes for his recovery and rehabilitation.



Coincidence?

Maybe this is just a coincidence but . . .

2007 – Chinese year of the Chicken
– Bird Flu Pandemic devastates parts of Asia

2008 – Chinese year of the Horse
– Equine Influenza decimates Australian racing

2009 – Chinese year of the Pig
– Swine Flu Pandemic kills hundreds around the globe.

It gets worse . . .
This year . . .

2010 – Chinese year of the Cock
– What could possibly go wrong?

Orderly Room

Last Post

WO1 (RSM) D Chant

Grenadier Guards, Afghanistan November 2009

Piper WA Edwards

Irish Guards, Mold Flintshire, November 2009

Sick Parade

Jimmy McCready, Farnborough.

Jimmy is recovering from a heart attack.

LSgt Nathan Cumberland, Sellyoak Hospital, wounded in Afghanistan. His home is in Grantham.

To these and all our members who are unwell we send our very best wishes for a speedy recovery.

Visitors: We have a growing list of members who generously give their time to visit sick or infirm members in their local area. It means a great deal to those who are visited and often perks them up enormously just to have a chat about old times. If you would like to join the list, give Sec Mike a call or email him. Anyone knowing of a sick or needy member please contact Sec Mike.

Addresses

Don't forget to let the Sec have your changes of address when you move.

Welfare Donations

Thanks to those members who have supported the Newsletter costs with their generous donations. We know from our mail-sack that there are many elderly and infirm members whose only contact with the Association is through the Newsletter and they really do appreciate the benefit of your kindness. Thank you.

Association Secretary

Mike Keighery, 4 Welbourn Road, Brant, Broughton, Lincoln LN5 0SP. Tel: 01522 788610.
mlkeighery@googlemail.com

Annual Reunion Dinner 2010

At the 2009 AGM it was decided to look again at the possibility of moving the annual dinner to a military venue. Ian Thompson and Geoff Baker have kindly investigated two possibilities: Victoria Barracks and Combermere Barracks Windsor. On balance it was decided that because of the mess size, the facilities and more likely continuity, Combermere would be the better option. There remained the questions of convenient and reasonably priced local accommodation, ease of access and administration, all of which are being investigated further. One vital question was whether, if we decided to opt for Combermere, we could be released from a contract agreed with the Holiday Inn to secure our advance booking for October 2010.

Although there have been no complaints over the service at the Holiday Inn, Farnborough, and indeed most have been very complimentary, we are aware that many do find the bar prices prohibitive.

Please note there would be no single accommodation in Combermere, members would be required to find their own. It is also understood that car parking is likely to be restricted or unavailable.

Christmas 1944

by Arthur (Razor) Payne

Tanks of the 2nd (Armoured) Battalion raced back to take part in the Battle of the Bulge in Belgium. On the way there was a resounding crash from up front of the convoy and a lot of shouting, most of it in Flemish. One of the squadron's tanks had hit a coal cart, cutting it in two. The poor old horse looked so forlorn left with half a cart. This crew for many weeks afterwards were hailed with the cry "Coal up". It seemed, from what we could see of the Belgium population that an air of gloom and fear hung over them. It gave the impression that they were all sure that the Boche were returning. There were no allied flags to be seen and I had the feeling that the swastika flags were being kept to hand, just in case.

By mid-morning our HQ drove into Gingelom a village near St Trond, It transpired that the nearest Germans were about 40 miles away and our role was to be a reserve line of defence. It was bitterly cold and snowing and Christmas was almost upon us; all that was now required was a nice cosy billet, a local cafe, and the cooker wagon to catch up with us.

The weather became one of the bitterest in living history. Our new HQ was a big French style chateau that was also the Belgium National Horse Stud. Our first sleeping quarters were set deep in the straw of a very large Dutch barn. This haven was reached by climbing a very steep ladder. As a sleeping place it turned out to be a trifle chilly to say the least, the freezing wind blew masses of wet snow through the gaps in the boarded upper section of the barn and it was with some relief that we were finally lodged in the main stables. This turned out to be a mixed blessing. It was certainly a lot warmer than that bloody awful barn, but our next door sleeping partner turned out to be a huge stallion. We soon made friends but it seemed he had turnips for his supper that night, giving rise to rather unsociable conduct. We were awoken by a noise that sounded like tearing calico, jets of pure steam came through the bars from next door followed by the most appalling smell. We had a top level meeting at once and managed to rig up a couple of gas capes to deflect the worst of the blast.

Christmas came and went, like they all do. We were warned not to get too plastered, what on one bottle of beer! but all in all, we quite enjoyed our first festive season on active service. We had a nice frozen lake in the grounds. Out came the looted skates, with besom brooms and old tin cans we were soon engaged in ice hockey. Overnight we had water poured onto the surface from the squadron's water cart to improve the smoothness for skating and then challenged another squadron to a match. I shall long remember that game. The RSM insisted on being the ref. and vanished up to the knees through a thin patch of ice, bellowing orders and waving his pace stick to any foolhardy individual who came near. It was a Christmas to be remembered.

Family tradition

by Major Frank Clark (his son)

It is unusual to have a complete record of a soldier in such detail but with family archives, oral history and Regimental History the following record has been made. The Clarks originally came from Sussex and were a seafarers family, owning their own vessels but the youngest son came to London to join the police.

The Beginning of a Family Tradition

*As the Metropolitan Police recruitment age is twenty-one", said Frank's policeman Father to him," what are you going to do with the next three years? "Frank was just over 18 years old having being on born 22nd November 1892.

"I would advise you to use the time wisely, why not get some military training, it will help you when you apply to join the force," he told his son.

So in September 1911, Frank enlisted in the Grenadier Guards for a period of three with the colours and seven with the reserve, in preparation for joining the Metropolitan Police. He was now Number 15485 Private FOJ Clark and after training at the Guards Depot he became a proud member of the 3rd Battalion of the Regiment.

(Later a younger foster brother would become a Grenadier and serve in WWI. His eldest son would join in 1942 and serve in WWII and his youngest son would marry the daughter of a Grenadier.)

In September 1914 his service was due to end and he had already been for his police interview. However Great Britain became involved in the First World War on 4th August 1914 when the Germans invaded Belgium. Frank's reserve commitment was invoked but everyone said the war would be over by Christmas, so why worry. The 1st and 2nd Battalions were sent to France and the 3rd retained in London to perform Public Duties

The first battles in Flanders took place October-November 1914 when a British offensive aimed at securing the Channel ports of Dunkirk and Ostend clashed with a German offensive aimed at taking those ports. The subsequent fighting was extremely heavy and ended with the Germans gaining the Messines Ridge and other commanding ground but with the British and French holding a salient around Ypres extending into the German line. German losses were estimated at 150,000 men. There were about the same numbers on the British and French side. The old British Regular Army was said to have bled to death and ceased to exist, The two Grenadier Battalions had fought bravely. The Germans were held but the cost was terrible in casualties. The 3rd Battalion was now



stripped of all fit men and rushed to France as reinforcements and the first draft of which Frank was part, arrived on 10th November 1914. The 1st Battalion now existed in name only as Frank and his 3rd Battalion comrades replaced their losses. They became part of the band of Old Contemptibles. The German Kaiser had referred to the British peacetime army as contemptible, they now bore the name with pride. He also qualified for the 1914 Star nicknamed by the troops, the Mons Star, awarded to those who had served in France and Belgium between 5th August and 22nd November 1915 which bore a clasp on the medal showing these dates.

Now as a member of the 1st Battalion, Frank spent the next three and half months in waterlogged trenches suffering as they all suffered, from trench feet, trench fever and body lice. Time was spent carrying out patrols

in No Man's Land and making local attacks on the German trenches. The unofficial Christmas truce by some regiments was considered as a breakdown of discipline and Frank later told how about 50 Grenadiers fled into a trench and could hear the Germans calling to the Tommies. The Grenadiers were lined up armed with a grenade each and on a command "throw", a hail of grenades fell in the German trenches. There was no further attempt at fraternisation by the Germans in the 20 Brigade area.

The Battle of Neuve Chapelle

It was now March 1915 and the Battle of Neuve Chapelle, a French village in the, SW of Armentieres took place. The village had been captured by the Germans in October 1914 it now became the objective of a battle between British and Germans. The reason for the battle was to prevent movement of troops to the Russian front and also to assist the French at Arras. The battle was begun on 12th March with a 40 minute heavy artillery bombardment by 480 guns, followed by a barrage behind the German lines to prevent the arrival of reinforcements. The British infantry assault was a success, carrying four lines of German trenches and capturing the village but failure of communications; the reserve troop support failed to arrive. The Germans were able to reform their line. The British artillery was short of ammunition and could not produce support. The battle wasted away as the British dug in to their new line. As the 1st Battalion advanced shells and sniper fire. The Battalion were employed in co-ordinated attacks, often with hand to hand fighting. Frank was wounded through the left wrist by a sniper. He was ordered to the rear as walking wounded. The bullet was aimed at his head and he was lucky to have survived as bones were broken and an artery severed. He was casualty evacuated back to England.

The Battle of Loos

After several months in hospital he joined the newly formed 4th Battalion at Bovington Camp, Dorset. The 3rd and 4th Battalions became part of the newly formed Guards Division and apart from a wound stripe Frank was wearing the Divisional shoulder sign of the Ever Open Eye. Frank went to France again on 25th August 1915 with his new battalion. Training took place in France ready for the Battle of Loos.

The Loos offensive began on 25th September following a four-day artillery bombardment in which 250,000 shells were fired, and was called off in failure on 28th September. Presided over by Douglas Haig, the British committed six divisions to the attack. Haig was persuaded to launch the Loos offensive despite serious misgivings. He was much concerned at both a marked shortage in available shells (sparking the shell shortage

scandal in Britain in 1915), and the fatigued state of his troops; he was further concerned at the nature of the difficult terrain that would need to be crossed. All considered, he favoured a delay before the offensive at Loos was put underway, while these concerns were addressed; yet against these concerns however was the reality that the British enjoyed massive numerical supremacy against their German opposition at Loos, in places of seven to one. Once the preliminary artillery bombardment had concluded, Haig's battle plans called for the release of 5,100 cylinders of chlorine gas (140 tons) from the British front line. The quantity of gas used was designed to entirely overcome the primitive state of German gas mask design in use at the time.

As the battle developed the Guards Division replaced the 21st and 24th Division whose attacks had ended in total failure after terrible casualties. The 1st and 4th Battalions were part of 3rd (Guards) Brigade. During the battle Frank Clark as an experienced soldier carried out the role of orderly, (this was a message carrier and very dangerous task. It was usual to send up to four orderlies on different routes hoping that one would get through). He worked two days at this hazardous job until his luck ran out on the third day of the battle, the 29th when he was blown up by a shell and thrown into a ditch with lacerated and shell splintered legs. He lay there with other wounded soldiers until found later by stretcher parties. He was sent back to a field hospital and on the 3rd October 1915 again he was back in a UK hospital where he would undergo medical treatment followed by few months of convalescence.

The Battle of the Somme

On 31st August 1916 Frank returned to France and rejoined the 4th Battalion in time to take part in the bloodiest of all Great War battles, the Battle of the Somme.

In 1916, the Allies decided to launch a coordinated offensive on the Western, Eastern, and Italian Fronts in the summer. In the event, the Germans pre-empted the Allied strategy with an attack on Verdun February 1916; by the summer it had become obvious that the French were occupied fighting off this attack and any offensive on the Somme would have to be primarily a British effort. The First Battle of the Somme was launched 1st July by the British 4th Army, supported by the 3rd and the French 8th Army Group, in an attack on the German 2nd Army which was well-protected by deep dug-outs. The British had made obvious preparations for the assault, including a week-long artillery bombardment of the well-entrenched German positions. It had little effect other than to warn the Germans of an impending action. Consequently, the Germans were able to man their defences prior to the arrival of the infantry assault, so that the British suffered the heaviest casualties in their history; 19,000 men were



Frank Clark France 1917

killed on the first day. In spite of this, the attack continued and several small gains were made – the German line was almost breached on 14th July. After a lull, the battle started again on 15th September when tanks were used for the first time; some 47 tanks were available to the Allies of which most broke down. This attack made some progress but when the battle finally died away mid-Nov the total Allied gain was about 13km/8 miles at a cost of 615,000 Allied and about 500,000 German casualties.

It was not until September that the Guards Division arrived in the Somme area, so were not present at the first two phases of the battle. But in the attacks of September the men covered themselves with glory according to Ponsonby later writing the history of the Regiment.

“Their discipline and coolness under fire were magnificent and they captured lines which had up to then been considered impregnable. The final assault of Ledbœufs was one of the most successful operations of the war.”

By 28th September the 4th Battalion had lost so many men that it was down to half strength. Frank had this time survived uninjured apart from a sight gassing at one stage of the battle.

Frank was often asked why he was not promoted. He would shake his head and just say that he was offered it many times as he was an experienced soldier but after what he had been through, twice wounded, he did not want the responsibility of other people’s lives and anyway he wanted to stay with his mates. They were a band of brothers, so that was that. It was probably not a time for ambition anyway.

In November the 4th Battalion were back in front-line trenches which were deep in terrible mud and suffered from artillery fire and sniping. It was very unpleasant as it had turned very cold. Frank recalled that in the trench a dead man’s arm stuck out of the side of the trench. Its nationality was not known. Some of the men joked about shaking hands with it as they passed. Black humour was the only way to remain sane. The Grenadiers suffered more casualties from shell fire. Again in December they were back in trenches again. Christmas and New Year came and went and it was 1917. The war had been going on now for three years and an end did not seem in sight. Front line duties and casualties continued.

In April the command of the Battalion was taken over by Viscount Gort and Frank became his servant. The role of the servant was to look after the welfare of his officer and also be his bodyguard. Frank always spoke highly of Lord Gort as a considerate gentleman. The battalion was for the next few months in a training role. Frank was fortunate enough to be granted leave in England for three weeks and thus relinquished his job with Lord Gort. On his return he returned to normal duties. On July 14th was the second anniversary of the formation of the 4th Battalion but because of fatigue work Lord Gort held the celebrations the day after with a football match and tug a war. In the evening there was a band concert and an issue of free beer.

On the 18th the battalion was back in the front line, engaged in raiding the German line. On the 30th July there was more fighting around Boesinghe and in August back into the trenches again where they were shelled and attacked by low flying aircraft who machine-gunned them. And so the war went on. Front-line duties followed periods of rest. Casualties continued. In the month of October the battalion lost 20 killed, four missing and 64 wounded. Frank expected a third wound stripe any time but the fates were kind.

In November 1917 the Battalion as part of 3rd Guards Brigade of the Guards Division were in action around Cambrai and Guzeaucourt. Which resulted in hard fighting. Afterwards, the Chaplain arrived to see to it that the brave dead had a decent burial. When it was possible, the Grenadiers always carried down their dead, so that in the future, grouped together they would stand as a memorial of how the Grenadiers could fight and die. A monument to the power of discipline and self-sacrifice.

On 28th November the Battalion took part in an attack on Gonnellieu. It was a fierce and bloody battle. A depleted battalion remained at the end of it, with only three officers remaining. The rest had, with many men, been killed or wounded this included Lord Gort who was severely wounded and was later awarded the Victoria Cross.

Frank Clark had again survived but like his fellow comrades exhausted but they still held the line forming a defensive position, until 3rd December when the Guards Division was withdrawn and on 11th December the battalion went into comfortable billets which was just as well as the weather turned very cold. There they remained throughout Christmas until 1st January 1918. The 4th Battalion replenished by reinforcements arrived at the front again on the 5th and at once started to receive casualties from a heavy mortar. Heavy snow fell and they stayed in the line until 13th January. In February there was a reorganisation of the BEF because of the shortage of manpower and brigades were reduced by one battalion. A new Brigade was formed and the 4th joined it and thus left the Guards Division. They now joined the newly formed 4th Guards Brigade of the 31st Division and on the 7th February they went into the line again. Here they fought off German raiding parties, on the 19th and 20th February. In March there was ten days of fighting and casualties.

German Spring Offensive

(Germany's final offensive on the Western Front)

The collapse of Russia allowed Germany to bring all her best troops from the Eastern Front to reinforce the Western Front, giving them a strength of about 1,600,000 men and 16,000 guns against an Allied strength of 1,400,000 men and 16,400 guns.

The Germans aim was to make a concerted effort to conclude the war before the arrival of US troops. They launched the Second Battle of the Somme on 21st March which lasted until 3rd April 1918 (Code named Michael). They then attacked the weak British sector between Cambrai and the Oise river, held by the 5th Army and drove the British back a considerable distance. On 9th April they launched a second attack on the Armentieres front (Code named Georgette), overwhelming the Portuguese Corps and driving a deep wedge into the British front, capturing the Messines Ridge. On 27th May a third attack (Code named Bliicher) was against four weak British and four tired French divisions on the Aisne between Soissons and Reims, which reached the Mame in the region of Chateau-Thierry. The Germans extended this front and came to within 72km (45 miles) of Paris. By this time, however, their troops were beginning to flag, and a barrage of mustard gas, used for the first time by the French halted a further attack 12th-13th June (Code named Gnieisenau). The Germans

paused to consolidate their gains and were then further delayed by bad weather. It was not until 15th July that Ludendorff launched 35 divisions across the Marne to envelop Reims. This attack was held and driven back in the Second Battle of the Marne. During this time Foch had been preparing a large French-US force, well supported by tanks, for the Allied counter-attack which began May 1918 in the Chateau-Thierry area. The assault was successful and marked the end of the German campaign and the commencement of the Allied advances which ended the war.

The situation was grave. Orders were given to 4th Guards Brigade, "Every inch of ground must be disputed. The 4th Battalion as part of the Brigade they held. The line was saved but at what cost? The 4th Battalion had been three days and nights fighting and digging in without rest." The whole Brigade had been cut to pieces The total casualties among the 4th Battalion were 504, or 90%.

To sum up the action the commander of XV Corps wrote:

"The History of the British Army can record nothing finer than the action of the 4th Guards Brigade on the 12th and 13th April 1918."

Frank Clark was one of the 10% who survived the defence of Hazebrouck and on the 15th he was one of the remnants of the 4th Battalion who went into reserve. The battalion now so inadequate that it comprised of only two companies of three weak platoons in each, their job not yet done as they were still held in reserve. The Brigadier made a composite battalion of the 4th Grenadier and 3rd Coldstream In all the history of the two regiments this had never been done before and on the 22nd April the composite battalion went back into the line After three days in the trenches the composite battalion was withdrawn to the rear and drafts arrived. They were split into two battalions again and a quiet period followed through to October when they took part in driving the Germans before them.

The Aftermath

British NCOs were required to supervise the clearing up of the battlefields and finding and burying bodies. On the 22nd August Frank was attached to the Chinese Labour Corps in the rank of Corporal. He was no doubt worn out by this time and the job was considered as a rest. Frank developed an admiration and respect for the work of the Chinamen. He remained with them until 8th March 1919. He reverted to Guardsman on rejoining the Regiment and returned to England.

On 11th November hostilities ceased and the 4th Battalion rejoined the Guards Division on 17th November by 20th December it was stationed in Cologne, Germany.

Frank was now due for demobilisation but his reserve commitment was still valid until 1921 however he was released on the 15th April 1919. Frank's chances to become a policeman had now passed as he was now too old at 28. Twice wounded he was unfit for the police anyway. With the war over there was a slump. Unemployment was rife. The boys were coming home but there were no jobs for them. Frank was forced to take what employment that was available He decided to take employment with the London North Eastern Railway in a lower job just to have work. So much for the land fit for heroes to live in thought Frank but better than selling matches on the street as some poor devils had to.

He was working on Liverpool Street Station when he met a redhead called Mary, fell in love. In 1921 they got married for Frank was about to be recalled to the colours. There was trouble in Russia.

"If I get killed you will receive a widows pension", was part of the romantic proposal. In June 1921 Frank was mobilised and back in uniform. This time he was given a new regimental number 2604506. He was again demobilised 17th September 1923. The mission to Russia had been abandoned. But before leaving he took on a further reserve commitment under Section D Army Reserve. He was finally released from this commitment on 10th November 1929 at the age of

37. It had brought in a small income in difficult times.

On leaving the army he had returned to the railway for a living and became an active member of the Grenadier Guards Association London Branch and later when the family moved to Hornchurch, he became a founding member of the Essex Branch

In 1939 on the outbreak of the Second World War he immediately volunteered the re enlists but two points were against him. His age, he was nearly 48, and anyway he was in a reserved occupation. However, on the evening of 14th May 1940 Anthony Eden announced the mustering of the Local Defence Volunteers (LDV) to meet a possible German invasion and Frank was back in uniform. The LDV later became the Home Guard and Frank did his bit and was in his element throughout the war just being a soldier. His turnout was typical that of a Guardsman and he was proud.

At the age of 65 he retired but was always doing jobs to help other people He and his wife moved to a small idyllic thatched cottage in Great Oakley, Essex where he spent a happy retirement. On 16th October 1969 he died after a short illness aged 77. He was a proud Grenadier to the end, The highlight for him was to see his eldest son join the Regiment and serve in the only battalion that he had not served, the 2nd, and to go on and receive a regular commission in the Intelligence Corps.

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BRANCH NOTES

AYLESBURY & DISTRICT

(Formed 1929)

President: Major SIR PHILIP-DUNCOMBE Bt. DL.

Vice Presidents: Major THE RT HON LORD CARRINGTON KG, CH, GCMG, MC; SIR DESMOND FENNELLOBE, QC; DH MILLER Esq; Major GAG SELBY-LOWNDES; Lt Col REH AUBREY-FLETCHER; Captain SIR BEVILLE STANIER Bt (Welsh Guards); M FINDLAY Esq (Household Cavalry); Captain I DUNCAN-SMITH MP (Scots Guards); SIR ANDREW HUGH-SMITH (RHG); Major HW FREEMAN-ATTWOOD; J JUDD Esq (IG).

Chairman: L JEFFERY.

Secretary: RG BAKER, 48 Somerville Way, Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire, HP19 7QT. Tel. (01296) 426506.

Email: rgbakker@aol.com

Our first Luncheon for the Aylesbury Branch was held at the Masonic Hall in Aylesbury on 23rd November 2008, our 79th year. The weather wasn't kind to our members as it absolutely poured down. In fact, it was so bad I received two cancellations, by phone of members unable to travel to our Luncheon, but it didn't dampen our spirits. The AGM was held upstairs in the Masonic Hall and was a better turnout than the previous year. We were privileged to have **Captain Jeremy Quarrie** who amply brought us up to date with the Regiment and gave us a good account of what was happening with the Battalion's timetable, **Mr Peter Thorogood**, High Sheriff of Buckinghamshire, proposed the toast to the Regiment and praised the high standard of the Grenadiers.

We were served by the staff at the table which made a big difference from the previous years at the Bell Hotel Winslow, as it was like queuing up with mess tins at the carvery.

A small number of the Branch paraded in Aylesbury on Remembrance Sunday, 9th November 2008. Serving members and Association Branches get a good response from the people of Aylesbury Town, as they march past after the service.

Black Sunday, the Regimental Remembrance Service and Grenadier Day were attended by our stalwart members. Sadly, we haven't put up a stall at Grenadier Day for a number of years. I had put this in the newsletter to members in 2008 but nothing was forthcoming as to what we could contribute from the Branch on the day. Again, we had nothing to offer. This year was very peaceful, we didn't arrange a Garden Party and I had to report to our members that the branch was resting, which was disappointing to say,

after last year's excellent turn out at Great Brickhill Manor.

Our Treasurer, **Bob Patrick** who had been with us for two years, has resigned for personal reasons. This left us in some disarray. We were, at short notice, trying to find someone able to handle the accounts. **Laurie Jeffrey**, our Chairman, has agreed to take on the Treasurer's job, temporarily, until we can appoint someone later.

I am pleased to say that no member of the Branch has been reported to me as having passed away this year.

One member has moved to Nottingham **23252815** **LSgt JE Ellis**.

BATH

(Formed 1952)

President: Major HA BAILLIE.

Vice Presidents: Brigadier AG HEYWOOD CBE, LVO, MC; Lt Col THE LORD WIGRAM MC; Major General SIR EVELYN WEBB-CARTER KCVO, OBE; Lieutenant Colonel AC FORD.

Chairman: Mr R BELL.

Secretary: Major (Rtd) Ron Kirkwood, 27 Jasmine Way, Trowbridge, Wiltshire, BA14 7SW. Tel. (01225) 769859.

Treasurer: PL HANNEY.

Meetings: The second Tuesday of every month at Coombe Down Rugby Club, Bath.

Another year and unfortunately two of our members have passed on during that year.

Mr Henry Diamond passed away in July 2009 and **Mr Tex Howarth** in October. Although Henry was a member of the Bristol Branch he supported our Branch at every opportunity and will be sorely missed. Tex as Henry supported us in every way that he could and both Henry and Tex will be sadly missed.

Again, in the past 12 months, our Branch has been lucky enough to have **Mr John Ireland** join the Branch. An ex military policeman he has been welcomed into the Grenadier Family. He is the brains and the brawn behind our new website which can be viewed at <http://www.grenadierguardsbath.co.uk/>. I would like to thank him for his efforts in producing and updating the website.

The Branch continues to 'tick' along, with a few new members joining the Branch but the continued attendance, at meetings, of all the regulars makes the job as Secretary so worthwhile. Having said that, we have had two main events during the year, the Spring

and Christmas lunches. Both were very well supported by our members and guests from other local organisations, the White Ensign and the Royal Marine Associations. Of course, this support could have had something to do with the free bottles of wine on each table at the Spring lunch! Thank you to all who have supported our Branch throughout the whole year.

A member of the Branch, **Mr Brian Mitchell**, who is also the Secretary of the local British Legion Branch, attends Wotton Bassett for each and every one of the repatriation of British soldiers, killed in action in Afghanistan. Brian has to be commended on this.

In September, I contacted **Lt Col Andrew Hickling MBE**, Royal Signals, (we Signallers get everywhere) the Quartermaster at the Royal Hospital Chelsea and asked if a guided tour around the hospital could be arranged. He was able to arrange for the Branch members and guests, all 40 of us to visit the hospital on 26th September. The weather was very kind and we all had a great time.

The guided tour was carried out by In-Pensioner **Mal Smart**, Late Royal Signals, (see what I mean!). The guided tour was totally enjoyable and Mal's knowledge of the hospital and its history was second to none, especially considering that he has only been an In-Pensioner since July. Our very gracious thanks go to Mal and **Lt Col Andy Hickling**, for organising and hosting the Branch visit.



Ken counting his cash before going to the club!



Bernice and Peter Hanney under the club sign at the Royal Hospital Chelsea.



The picture above shows all some of those who attended the visit with Mal Smart centre right in the picture.

Every organisation has its members who work very hard but like to stay in the background. The wife of our treasurer, **Bernice Hanney**, is one of these people, she supports everything that Branch does and she deserves a special thanks.

Don Cowan has completed yet another Nijmegen March, his 46th. Well done Don.

This Gazette contribution for our Branch seems to have been just a big thank you to the Branch members and supporters of the Branch, well why not? Our members and supporters make the Branch the success that it is and I thank them all. Oh yes! I suppose a thank you to LSgt Jay Ellingham is also in order for supporting not just our Branch but all the Branches, thank you Jay.

All of the members of the Bath Branch hope that all members of the Association and their families have a very merry Christmas and a very Happy New Year.

BIRMINGHAM

(Formed 1923)

President: Lt Col GA ALSTON-ROBERTS-WEST CVO.

Vice Presidents: JB SUMNER Esq; Captain SIR WILLIAM DUGDALE BT, CBE, MC; Captain THE HON GCD JEFFREYS; Captain MG SEWELL Captain A HOLLOWAY; Major DNW SEWELL; Lt Col DR KIMBERLEY MBE; FWV BRYAN Esq; T BURRILL Esq; Major RG WOODFIELD MBE; Lt Col G LESINSKI.

Hon Vice-Presidents: LADY THROCKMORTON; Mrs A HOLMAN-WEST; Mrs J WEST; Captain A HOLMAN-WEST.

Chairman: R OAKES.

Hon Secretary: JE BEDDINGTON, 48 Longmoor Road, Halesowen, West Midlands, B63 1AW. Tel. (0121) 602 6932.

Email: johnnyb01@hotmail.co.uk

Meetings: The third Wednesday of every quarter, 2000hours at The Nautical Club, Birmingham.

BRISTOL

(Formed 1914)

President: Major General SIR EVELYN WEBB-CARTER KCVO, OBE.

Vice Presidents: Lt Col THE LORD WIGRAM, MC; Lt Col ET BOLITHO, OBE; Lt Col P E HILLS, FLCM, psm; Lt Col LCA RANSON, TD; Maj J A SANDISON, MBE, QGM; Capt JW WALKER; DT GRIFFITHS Esq; J FROST Esq.

Chairman: Mr K JONES.

Secretary: Mr M ALLEN, 51 Voweles Close, Wraxall, Bristol, BS48 1PP. Tel. (07500) 822519.

Email: bristolsecretary@hotmail.co.uk

Website: www.grenadiersbristol.org

Treasurer: Mr A F LOCK.

Meetings: Committee meeting will be held on the first Monday of each month at The Royal British Legion, Page Road, Staple Hill, Bristol.

2010 – Wow, what happened to 2009? Another year and already it is time for my report. Unfortunately, there is not much to tell. Due to the shortage of members, we weren't able to organise a coach to London for Regimental Remembrance Sunday. However, a few of us were able to travel to attend; it was refreshing to see so many new and young serving members taking part in the parade. It was comforting to know that the tradition is still being carried on.

Likewise, with only ten or so members attending the meetings now held quarterly, we were not, regrettably, able to hold our Annual Dinner/Sunday Lunch.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank two of our most senior members, **Mr Frank Spires, MBE** and **Mr Vynn Bryan**, who, although both have suffered serious illnesses and both now in their mid-eighties, struggle to attend our meetings regularly. It is always a great pleasure to welcome them and also, indeed, our President, **Lt Col GA Allston-Roberts-West CVO**.

Finally, the Branch would like to extend its deepest sympathy to the families of Grenadiers and all families, who have suffered the loss of dear ones, including those who have suffered the most devastating and horrific injuries. It has been an especially tragic year for our soldiers in Afghanistan. To all Grenadiers serving in the Regiment on active duty, God be with you, and we pray that you will return home safely.

Just to re-iterate again this year, our meetings are held on the 3rd Wednesday of each quarter commencing Wednesday 3rd January 2010, starting at 20:00 hours, at the Nautical Club, Bishopsgate Street, Birmingham.

The past twelve months have seen the Bristol Branch continue to grow in strength. It has also been a very busy period for us. The Branch AGM in March was dominated by the resignation of the Branch Secretary, **John Morgan**; due to 'family commitments'. This heralded a change of hierarchy for the Bristol Branch. The Branch Chairman, **Matthew Allen**, gallantly offered his services to fill the now vacant secretary's position, he was duly elected. **Keith Jones**, a Branch stalwart of many years standing, was elected to the vacant post of chairman. **Tony Lock**, another long standing stalwart, volunteered his services as treasurer and was duly elected into post.

My thanks go to both Keith and Tony for stepping into the breach and for all of your invaluable help during my inaugural year as Branch Secretary.

The Branch extends its thanks and very best wishes to John Morgan and his wife Anita, for all their selfless attention to Branch affairs during John's reign as Secretary. We are delighted to hear the news that the Morgan household now resounds to the patter of tiny drill boots.

The 17th May saw over 30 Branch Members make the trip up the M4 for Regimental Remembrance Day, I am pleased to say that the number of Branch members making this trip was considerably up on recent years.

The 21st June saw a full coach of Bristol Members take to the M4 again, heading for Wellington Barracks for Grenadier Day. Sales of the Branch Cider were brisk indeed and for the first time in many years, we sold all the cider that we had taken. This 'sell out' was assisted in no small part by some members of the Regiment who took it upon themselves to ensure that we returned to Bristol with empty Cider barrels. A gallant effort, but the exercise did leave a few of the younger Guardsmen looking a little the worse for wear. The television raffle

attracted considerable interest and we sold a good number of tickets. The television was won by our own Branch member **Tony Jones**, so it seems that the TV was destined to return to Bristol with us.

Numbers attending the Monthly Branch meetings are slowly increasing with some Branch Members that we have not seen for a while, returning to the fold, and one or two new members who have started to attend. All are most welcome.

It is my sad duty to report the passing of the following Bristol Branch Members: **2623708 Henry Diamond; 2616355 Vic Cole; 23129448 Edward Stanley Ward** and **23180835 Michael Henry Wells**.

BURTON-UPON-TRENT

(Formed 1934)

President: Lieutenant Colonel DJK GERMAN TD, DL, JP.

Chairman: D JOHNSON.

Secretary: Mr G COXAN, 60 Cumberland Road, Stapenhill, Burton on Trent, DE15 9JS. Tel. (01283) 564795.

Meetings: First Friday in every month at Marstons Sport and Social Club Shobnal Road, Burton-upon-Trent.

CAMBRIDGE

(Formed 1932)

President: Captain CNR BROWN.

Chairman: WH CLARKE Esq.

Secretary: Mrs P MASON, 20 Provence Road, Huntingdon, Cambs. PE29 6UW. Tel. (01480) 413175.

Email: patm.mason@tiscali.co.uk

Meetings: Second Monday bi-monthly lunches: Feb, April, June, Aug, Oct, Dec, in local hostelrys. 1230 hours for 1300 hours.

At our AGM in April this year, our Secretary **Edward Salmon** resigned due to pressure of work with his promotion. After a long discussion and with no one offering to take over, **Mrs Pat Mason** agreed to take the position of Secretary, in order to keep the Branch going. Our previous excellent Secretary of many years, **Michael Draper**, agreed to run our lunches with the help of his very tolerant, helpful wife and I would do the paperwork... great shared system and co-operation that works very well.

Our bi-monthly lunches are well attended and very enjoyable and give us an excuse to visit several hostelrys in the Cambridgeshire area. We are grateful to **Mick Draper** for his organisation of these.

Our AGM was held as usual at Longstowe Hall, by kind courtesy of our well loved Vice President, **Mrs Bevan**, and was well attended. Lunch was provided as usual by the ladies of the Branch and an excellent job they do. After lunch, we had a very pleasant walk around **Mrs Bevan's** garden, a very calming end to a busy morning.

Several members attended Regimental Remembrance Sunday and also Grenadier Day, which I felt went very well, considering the amount of space available. The Regimental Band being as excellent as always and even the good weather was there for us to enjoy. A lot of work goes into organising this and we thank all concerned. Whilst on that subject, I would also like to thank everyone at Regimental Headquarters for their help.

Two of our members, **Ed Salmon** and **Alf Lawrence** went on the weekend trip to Nijmegen and thoroughly enjoyed it. They were all treated so well by the local Dutch people.

On Sunday the 11th October, we had our Annual Lunch in the Golf Club at Toft, which was also well attended. An excellent lunch and a very good atmosphere. Our President, **Captain Brown**, gave a very good talk on Regimental Affairs, especially regarding Afghanistan.

We are very proud to know that our President's son has been commissioned into the Regiment and is at present away training. He will be going to Afghanistan shortly; we wish him and all in the Regiment a safe return. We will be very pleased to welcome him into our Branch.



Mrs Bevan pictured at the lovely old Church in the grounds at Longstowe, showing the beautiful roses that were donated by the branch on the death of **Captain Bevan**, the previous Cambridge Branch Vice President.

CATERHAM

(Formed 1971)

President: Captain PF RICHARSON.

Vice Presidents: Mrs P MASON; Mrs JE MAYES.

Chairman: L PAYNE.

Secretary: Miss M ANDREWS, 22 Park Ave, Caterham, Surrey, CR3 6AH. Tel. (01883) 343161.

Email: Bunyan@btinternet.com

Meetings: Third Thursday April & October at 2000hours, the Royal British Legion Club, Townend, Caterham, Surrey.

CHESTERFIELD

(Formed 1952)

President: Awaiting appointment.

Vice Presidents: M CARNALL; D LEECH; C LIMB.

Hon Vice Presidents: LADY WINIFRED HILTON, Dame St John, ATCL.

Chairman: J METCALFE.

Hon Secretary: D BRIGNULL, 85 Deerlands Road, Wingerworth, Chesterfield, Derby, S42 6UZ. Tel. (01246) 206054.

Email: d.brignull@yahoo.co.uk

Treasurer: D LEECH.

Meetings: Second Monday of each month at the Welbeck Inn, Soresby Street, Chesterfield.

I am happy to report that our strength has not diminished since last November and monthly meetings are still attended by our regular supporters. Unfortunately we still have three members who are, currently, not in the best of health.

Charles Limb is, however, making a good recovery and was able to come to our annual dinner in October. We last saw **Fred Neal** and his wife **Di** at our December get together and hope they will be able to make it again this year. **Dennis Thompson** lives a good distance from Chesterfield and is unable to attend but we do keep in regular contact by telephone. In addition **Jim Merchant** was unable to make his annual pilgrimage to Arnhem due to the poor health of his wife **Mavis**. In years gone by Jim and Mavis supported the branch in every event that we staged. Our best wishes to all of the aforementioned and our hopes that they will be able to visit us again in the near future.

As usual we were represented at both Grenadier Day and Black Sunday. **David Leech** attended the mayor's inaugural parade and laid the Regimental wreath on Remembrance Day. As in 2008 Chesterfield celebrated Veterans Day and **David Leech** and **Michael Garrett**

organised a branch stall at this event, bringing the Regiment to the attention of the public. We were able to make a donation to the Colonel's fund thanks to David who raised the money by selling wristbands to the public.

Our finances are well and truly in the black thanks to the efforts of **Michael** and **Maureen Garrett**. They managed to raise funds at Grenadier day and at the local gala at Alfreton. Thanks are also due to **John** and **Jean Metcalfe** and **David** and **Rachel Leech** who assisted on Grenadier day.

Unfortunately, due to domestic reasons, **David Leech** had to give up the post of treasurer. During his term of office David transformed our financial affairs into an efficient, solvent state. In addition He, together with Rachel, was responsible for a considerable amount of fundraising, organising the annual dinner, helping with our activities at the local Veterans day, representing the branch at the Mayor's annual parade, laying the Regimental wreath on remembrance day and rarely missing a monthly meeting. Obviously David's efforts will be sorely missed but I understand that he will still be able to attend our meetings and will still carry out some of his former commitments such as wreath laying. It only remains for me, on behalf of our members, to say a very sincere thank you, to both David and Rachel for their considerable efforts in supporting the branch over many years.

Back to our dinner which took place in mid October. This event, organised this year by our **Senior Vice-President Michael Carnall** and I suspect assisted to a great extent by his wife **Enid**, was voted a great success by the 17 members and guests attending. At the end of the exceptional meal Michael, to my great surprise, presented me with a copy of 'The British Grenadier' and a certificate signed by The Colonel in recognition of my fifteen years as branch secretary. Needless to say I greatly appreciated the gifts and the certificate now occupies a prominent position in our home. My thanks to all concerned in the project including the help received from headquarters in ensuring that the certificate was available for the dinner.

Some prizes were raffled off at the end of the occasion, the proceeds to be donated to the Colonel's fund. Two ladies, also having a meal at the Inn, bought some tickets and when it was explained to them how serving Grenadiers would benefit from the fund, they donated a very generous sum for this purpose. One of the ladies, **Mrs Bucknell**, explained that her father-in-law had served with the Scots Guards and her husband with the REME during WWII.

It only remains for me to thank our Chairman, **John Metcalfe**, for his support during the year.

DERBY

(Formed 1914)

President: A ATTENBOROUGH.

Chairman: T SAVAGE.

Hon Secretary: I SUTTON, 9 Orchard Close, Boulton Moor, Derby, DE24 5AE. Tel. (01332) 755156.

Treasurer: J BULTLER.

Meetings: Every third Wednesday of each month starting 1930hrs at 'The Station Inn' Midland Road, Derby. (Opposite the Royal Mail Sorting Office).

Last year, we reported that there were three 90 year young's in our Branch. This year, it has grown to four. **Reg Hode (2614700); Arthur (Sid) Wright (2617491); Cyril Carter (2619439)** and our President **Arthur Attenborough (2613649)**. The remaining members are still mainly those of retirement age and unfortunately, we do not seem to be getting any young blood involved.

At the other end of the scale, we have a magnificent success story. This year, we took some local Cadets with us to Grenadier Day. The three lads and a lass (**Ross Meyers, Vaughn Meyers, Adam Green and Charity Hudson**) with the guidance of **Terry Allcock** entered the Boyton Cup. It was with great delight that they won, beating all, including the regulars. On the day, tension was high when they dropped to second and then back to first place. Their pride was expanded when the four of them marched onto the middle of Wellington Barracks Square to receive the cup and a tankard from the Association President, **Colonel Houstoun**. Hopefully, some of the cadets will one day join the Regiment and, if so, in years to come the Association.

In the middle of the summer, our fund raising to purchase comfort boxes for lads going to Afghanistan started. We raised nearly £400 by taking a bucket around Derbyshire Cricket Club during a 40/40 match.

The Branch feels that this initiative is an excellent



form of morale boosting. It also strengthens that very fine thread of a connection between the serving soldier and the Association.

All our good wishes go to those who are in the danger zone and we hope they all return to their loved ones safe.

EAST KENT

(Formed 1948)

President: Major D BRADLEY BEM.

Vice Presidents: Major R DORNEY; W BROWN Esq; JG CLUFF Esq.

Chairman: Waiting to be nominated.

Hon Secretary: All enquires to be made via the Branch Treasurer. Details below.

Treasurer: RC GOODSON Esq. Tel. (01303) 263958.

Email: treasurer@ekb.org.uk

Branch Website: www.ekb.org.uk

Meetings: Third Sunday of each month, at the Conservative Club, Hythe at 1100hrs (Lunch available).

2009 has seen a number of changes in the organisation of the branch. In March, **Ray Colley** and **Harry West**, both proud octogenarians, stepped down from their positions as Chairman and Hon. Secretary after many years of service to the branch.

Our President, **Major Dennis Bradley BEM**, then also assumed the position of Chairman and the Treasurer (your truly) then also took on the position of Hon Secretary. **Mr Harry Balderstone** agreed to assume a new position as the Vice Chairman. We also have a new branch banner carrier, **John Morris**, who is doing a sterling job representing the branch.

Once again we have supported all of the Regimental events we are able to and have held a number of trips and events in our local area.

Despite problems with ticket provision, late delivery and other issues out of the control of the branch committee, we had a good turnout of branch members who attended the Major General's Review and all members who were able to attend did so. However, as a consequence, our "Favours Box" is now greatly depleted.

In July the branch attended the War and Peace Show at the Hop Farm in Paddock Wood and had a very good day out. This was made even more special as all those wearing their veteran's badge, plus those in our party who we were able to vouch for, got in free.

In September we held a very successful Annual Dinner. This was the best attended dinner we have had for many years and at one stage in the planning process we were over-subscribed for the venue and wondering how we were going to fit everyone in.

The evening was a huge success with entertainment provided by the Regimental Trio from the Band of the Grenadier Guards (**LSgt Joey Smout** (Drums), **LCpl John Langford** (Bass) and Musician **Sam Petchey** (Keyboard)) with supporting vocalist Ami Anders. It was pleasing to see the majority of our Honorary Members being able to attend this year.

The Regimental representative was **Major Richard M Dorney MBE** who kept us all enthralled with his update on the Regiment and tales about the daily life of a serving Grenadier. His report was made even more special by the then impending deployment of the 1st Battalion on OP HERRICK 11. Absolutely first class and, I suspect a challenge for the Regimental Adjutant to nominate another officer that good for our next dinner. Any such nominated officers that are reading this report who would like to sign up for a place at the Dorney School of Public Speaking, then remember that you are behind me in the queue for a place!!

ATTENTION ALL “GUARDENERS”

By **KW Williams Esq.**
The Queens Company 1956-58



At its inception, my topiary was meant to be an effigy of **LSgt A McLean**; my squad instructor from 1956. However, as clipping and growing continued with more growing and more clipping, he turned out to be the more substantial figure of the **First Battalion Drill Sergeant** from the mid-fifties; the late **George Kirkham**.

This year we have looked closely at our membership roll and have identified a number of members that we had on paper, who have sadly passed on to the big parade ground in the sky, or who have moved away and left no forwarding address. We have been able to recruit a number of new members and I am happy to report that we have a healthy membership base to move forward with.

A new “Roll Call” information sheet has been produced and sent to all branch members and the widows of former branch members. The feedback has been positive and members report that they like the format and content.

We look forward to the future and are now planning for our “Welcome Home” Annual Dinner following the return of the Battalion from their operational tour in Afghanistan. We wish them a successful tour and look forward to their return.

ESSEX

(Formed 1946)

President: Lieutenant General **SIR ANTHONY DENISON-SMITH KBE, DL.**

Vice Presidents: Captain **BD DOUBLE**; **MW CLARK Esq CBE, DL**; **MW GILES Esq**; **GL LYSTER Esq DL**; **G COURTAULD Esq DL**; Major **TH BREITMEYER**; Captain **CIT WHITE-THOMSON**.

Chairman: **MW GILES Esq.**

Secretary: Mrs **JOAN KIMBERLEY**, Alderbrook, Worlds End Lane, Colchester, CO5 9NJ. Tel. (01376) 571650.

Treasurer: Mr **J PENROSE**.

Meetings: Royal Air Force Association, Hall Street, Chelmsford.

The Essex Branch has enjoyed another very successful year. For various reasons we decided to reduce the number of events held but, even so, managed to raise a very reasonable sum of money for the Colonel's Fund, which remains one of our main objectives. I would like to thank all our members for their generosity and cooperation.

Our nominal role has now dropped to 190, which happily includes some younger members. We have tried hard to recruit more, even to the extent of applying to broadcast on Radio Essex, and we will keep on trying.

Our Annual General Meeting was held in April. Our Treasurer **Mr Bill Williams** had decided to retire and a vote of thanks was given to him for the excellent way he had run the Accounts for many years. We welcome **Mr John Penrose** in his place. There are no other changes to the Branch Officers of the Committee. We held our normal popular lunches at one of our favourite

Restaurants in Coggeshall. We also held our annual Garden Party at the home of our **President** and **Lady Dennison-Smith**. The weather was fine and it was great fun just sitting in the peace and quiet of their garden, catching up with friends and enjoying a marvellous tea.

Our very special annual lunch was held at Braxted Park, the home of **Mr** and **Mrs Michael Clark**, which was very well attended. Our Guest of Honour was the President of The Association, **Colonel Euan Houstoun**, who was accompanied by his charming wife. We were all delighted they could join us, Colonel Houstoun's speech was very interesting and informative and was much enjoyed. We hope that they will be able to join us again in the not too distant future.

Sadly, I have to report the deaths of the following members of the Branch – **Mr A Mills**, **Mr C Winterfield**, **Mr J Sargent** and **Mr R Sorrell**. I would also like to mention the deaths of two of our ladies who have been so supportive and helpful – **Mrs Joan Keeble**, the wife of **Mr Ronald Keeble**, who was once Treasurer of the Branch and **Mrs Gwen Day**, the wife of **Mr Ted Day**. Our deepest sympathies are sent to all their families.

The Essex Branch continues to thrive. At the time of writing our thought are very much with the Battalion, now serving in Afghanistan. We wish them every good fortune during their tour of duty.

GLOUCESTERSHIRE

(Formed 1949)

President: Lieutenant Colonel LCA RANSON TD.

Vice Presidents: Lt Col THE LORD WIGRAM MC, DL; JGC WILKINSON Esq; Captain JGL PUGH; Captain JA CANNAN; Captain MJ MACKINLAY MACLEOD; RDN FISHER Esq; WJ EYKYN Esq; Major THE HON ANDREW WIGRAM MVO; Lt Col JG PEEL TD, DL; Captain JA FERGUSSON-CUNINGHAME MC; Major S MARCHAM MBE; NJ SIMMS Esq; PGG WILLIAM Esq; Lt Col CJE Seymour LVO; DAE GEORGE Esq; Capt EC GORDON LENNOX; Col GW TUFNELL CVO, DL.

Chairman: PT JONES.

Secretary: COLIN KNIGHT, 'Ridgeway' Bream Road, St Briavels, Lydney, Glos, GL15 6TL. Tel. 01594 530154.

Email: grenadiersglos@tiscali.co.uk

Website: www.gloucestershiregrenadiers.co.uk

It is late November and time to look back through the diary to recall the year's numerous activities in order to write this, my twenty-fourth report.

2009, yet once more, was a very busy year for this branch. Unfortunately, we lost **Patrick O'Donoghue**;

HA Clive; **Sidney Doswell** and **Graham Clarke** to the higher Parade Ground. We also lost an Honorary Member, **Horace Holmes**, who was in his one-hundredth year. Horace was the brother of the late **Edgar Holmes VC** (Grenadier). We achieved a good turnout for each funeral and a Guard of Honour was requested by the family on each sad occasion.

The nominal roll has held well with a couple of new Grenadiers joining. We have a good assortment of excellent Associate and Honorary members, who support the branch in many ways.

Welfare. Our branch can pride itself for the continuous work undertaken in respect of welfare. **David Leighton**, in his first year in office, has done an excellent job in making many visits and telephone calls. Christmas Cheques were personally given to twenty of our more senior members and some of those who had not enjoyed good times of late.

Early December, for the third consecutive year, saw a "Full House" attend at Dumbleton Hall, for a Christmas Lunch. **Derek Knott**, who takes it upon himself to organise this, was chuffed to say the least, when he reported a sellout at the March Meeting. We sat down to a first class traditional Christmas Dinner, in lovely surroundings, with a great atmosphere. Afterwards, the Wincombe Silver Band made an appearance and entertained us with carols and seasonal music. A public "Thank you, Derek" for arranging this.

We concluded 2008 with our Annual Christmas Social, in which we incorporate our Christmas Lottery. Thanks must go yet once more to **Alan Holford**, as always ably assisted by his wife **Alice**, for being the Promoter. Once the tickets have been issued, no one and I mean no one, escapes with Alan chasing them to sell their tickets. For the first time, we held the event at the Norton Village Hall, where the chefs for the day were our Chairman **Peter Jones**, his wife **Pam**, together with the **Hon Sec** and his wife **Elaine**. A hot curry or a salad was on offer, plus a pudding and tea/coffee. Members were charged a nominal five pounds for the day and this included the bar. No complaints were received, other than from **Peter Jones**, who afterwards admitted to being well and truly knackered. As a matter of interest, half of the profits made from the Christmas Lottery Draw were for the second year, donated to the Colonel's Fund.

A large number of branch members attended and joined members from other branches for the two night pre Christmas Break, at Littlecote House. The numbers, who have booked on the pre Christmas Break, this year, has held steady. Our Regimental Band attended and once more enthralled the audience with a fine and very varied concert. Two young ladies, splendidly attired in tunic, forage cap and tights, tap danced to the band and ensured more than a smile or

two, with a few hands having to be smacked for naughty thoughts. As a result of a raffle, collection at the Carol Service in the Cromwellian Chapel, together with a couple of personal initiatives, a nice sum was raised for the Colonel's Fund.

At our Annual General Meeting in March **David Leighton** was elected as our new Welfare Officer, owing to **Jimmy Green** standing down due to poor health. All other Officers of the Branch were re-elected

Colonel Lance Ranson, our relatively new President, is very keen to keep the branch high profile and active. In 60 years, just Five Presidents, Five Chairmen and Three Secretaries, the current committee has been together for so long that I do believe that radio and television were unheard of when they joined! Nothing is too much trouble for them, if asked. Are we all very dedicated or just plain stupid? You decide.

Our Informal Spring Sunday Lunch held at the Gupshill Manor attracted a good attendance to a fine meal.

Regimental Remembrance Day saw a full coach attend the parade. Both on the outwards and inwards journey we stopped at the Guards' Club, Windsor where we were well looked after. A delicious Fish & Chip Supper was enjoyed by all on the return. Thanks to the Windsor Branch Secretary, **Bob Gilbert** we are always made welcome at the Club.

June. We had full coach to visit London for Beating Retreat on Horse Guards Parade, staying overnight at the Union Jack Club and attending Beating Retreat in the evening. The following morning after breakfast, by kind invitation of **Major Steve Marcham MBE**, we arrived at Vintners Lodge in the City. Steve gave a most interesting tour of the premises and its history. You didn't make any of it up did you Steve? On the return journey, we stopped by prior arrangement at the Calcot Hotel, where the tables were set for a most enjoyable meal.

Numbers were down for our visit to Wellington Barracks for an enjoyable Grenadier Day. Thanks to high ranking personal contacts of the **General Secretary, Trevor Rolfe**, the weather held fine. Considering the restraints of holding the event on a very public Parade Ground in the centre of London, the day went exceptionally well and far better than anyone had predicted.

Canoeing. this was the fifth year we, as a branch, have organised this day. A good turn out with a fine sunny day. **David Leighton** was the organiser and takes no responsibility for one of our members thinking that he was a Sub Mariner, by ending up in the river, to watch his canoe drift away with the current and out of sight.

Cycling. A very fine day ensured a most enjoyable ride through the Forest of Dean. A couple of spills

but fortunately no injury other than a few scratches, half way round we all enjoyed our picnic lunch at Mallards Pyke.

Colonel Peel, yet once more, kindly invited members to attend his home and garden for a Barbecue. It was a most enjoyable day with the weather fine and dry. The Chedworth Silver Band entertained us during the afternoon.

A day like this can never be undertaken without a lot of help and assistance. A few names to mention are: **Derek Dean** and **Ivor Jones** for their duties as chefs; **John Carter** and **David Leighton** for looking after the liquid refreshments; **John Head**, always ready to assist with any task when asked. Many helpers assisted with the chairs and tables and the setting up and taking down of the various items needed for the day. Thank you everyone.

Our Annual Formal Lunch was held at the Gupshill Manor Hotel, Gloucester with the largest attendance we have had since the early sixties. We were privileged to have as our guest the **Sir Henry Elwes, Lord Lieutenant of Gloucestershire** and The Regimental Adjutant; **Major Grant Baker** attended representing the Regiment. After Lunch, the Corps of Drums of the Gloucester Army Cadet Force marched in and entertained the guests. Although only youngsters, they did themselves proud: resplendent in the traditional uniform of the Gloucester's complete with Back Badge. For us old and sometime despairing, grumpy old timers, there is still hope, as there are still young people out there endeavoring to keep alive cherished traditions. The branch had the pleasure of presenting each member of the Corps, with a framed print of "The Grenadier Drummer Boy".



Branch Members on fatigues. Branch Secretary acting as Messing Officer sampling the wares at the Garden Party held at the home of Colonel John Peel. Branch members (centre) Chef – Derek Dean and to his left Ivor Jones.

Nigel Simms, after 40 years as Captain of the Branch Skittles Team, through health reasons, has had to stand down. Unfortunately, with no one volunteering to come forward as his replacement, the team has had to fold. This is a great pity as the team met weekly to play matches in the Cheltenham League during the winter months. A weekly gathering of the clan always ensured that current news and gossip was discussed. Thank you Nigel, for your total dedication for so many years.



Preparing the table at the Branch Garden Party. Should we try and get this young lady together with some of her friends to join the branch. It may attract some of the younger men to join in.

John and Gill Carter, administer the sending of a Birthday Card to each member for whom we have a date of birth, which is the majority. The scheme has been running now for well over three years and has been very well received by the membership. **John & Gill** not only produce the cards but also administer the records and posting. Not many days go by that a card or two has not been popped into the Post Box. I am sure that all members would like to express a public "Thank You" for the pleasure you have brought to so many.

Three members enjoyed the privilege of being awarded a holiday under the Association Holiday Scheme.

I close this report by thanking **Colonel Ranson** for his leadership and guidance as President. Did he know what he had let himself in for, when he accepted the post?

The entire committee is always ready to help when asked. It is the teamwork, enthusiasm and variety of ideas, that is the backbone of this successful branch.

Also, a public "thank you" to **John Leighton** who built and donated to the Branch, a magnificent website. www.gloucestershiregrenadiers.co.uk.

This branch has embraced modern technology and as I write, we now have 119 members with whom we can communicate by email.

On the subject of technology, many members from the branch are now in receipt of the newsletter from **Jim**

White. Jim is to be commended for his dedication and very personal effort in undertaking this task on a weekly basis. Long may it continue!

Also let us give a thought for the small staff at Regimental Headquarters, especially **Sergeant Jay Ellingham**, and **Captain Trevor Rolfe** who go out of their way to assist when asked. We are indeed fortunate, in these times of cut backs, to still have a Regimental Headquarters with time and enthusiasm to assist the Association.

The branch is looking forward to the challenges ahead for the year 2010.

KINGSTON & DISTRICT

(Formed 1935)

President: Captain DG BIBBY.

Vice Presidents: Major DR ROSSI MBE.

Chairman: LW SPENCER.

Hon Secretary: JLH KNIGHT, 228 West Barnes Lane, New Malden, Surrey, KT3 6LT. Tel. (0208) 336 1884.

Email: john-lh-knight@lineone.net

Hon Treasurer: Mrs E JONES

Meetings: First Monday of each month at The Royal British Legion Club, St Mary's Road, East Molesey, Surrey.

We are now into October and once again, it's time to think back over, and report on, the ending year.

Kingston & District Branch is in good heart and although small in numbers, we still manage to retain a great spirit amongst our members.

This year we lost two members from our ranks. The first of these was **Ernie Small**, who had been a long term resident in the Royal Star and Garter Home, at Richmond. **Peter Horsfield** and **Lyn Jones** attended the funeral on behalf of the branch. Second was **HJ Bown (Jim)**. Jim Bown served in the 2nd Battalion and fought at Nijmegen. The Honorary Secretary attended the funeral on behalf of the branch.

At our November 2008 meeting, **Richard Parrott** made contact and we now include him amongst our members. It's always good to welcome someone back into branch life.

Our Christmas Lunch at the ASLS Students' Mess was a great success with, in excess, of 50 sitting down to Lunch. We welcomed **Captain JOD Fox** attending as our guest on behalf of The Regiment. Also present as our guests were The **Sergeant Major Justin Moynihan** and his wife **Claire**. After lunch **Captain Fox** spoke on current life in The Regiment.

Justin Moynihan gave a short farewell address, as

he would shortly leave ASLS on promotion. He commented that he had much enjoyed his contact with Grenadiers and Welsh Guardsmen through the Kingston Branch. Further, he conceded that at recruitment maybe he should have opted for The Welsh Guards rather than the Welsh Regiment! The Branch President presented Justin with a copy of the 'Norie' print, "Eleven Groups of Grenadiers" as a token of our gratitude for his help during his tenure at ASLS. The print was immediately reclaimed for framing.

The Branch meeting, in December 2008, was given over to the branch Bring and Buy Sale. The Branch President and **Peter Horsfield** auctioned each of the donated items, inducing, and cajoling the loosening of the purse strings. Thanks to their hard work, the donated items and the generosity of the purchasers we always show a healthy profit.

We managed to retain a presence at Regimental Remembrance Day, although numbers were down due to various health issues.

Grenadier Day was a great success from every point of view. There had been some Branch concern at travelling into Central London and how the venue at Wellington Barracks would shape up but those worries proved to be unfounded. The usual stalwarts staffed the stall, which went very well. We changed our focus somewhat this year by continuing with our soft toys theme but also introducing **Luke Spencer's** Grenadier doorstops, as an additional attraction.

In preparation for the branch Summer Lunch, **Luke Spencer, Lyn Jones, Peter Horsfield** and The Honorary Secretary travelled down to Pirbright, to make the initial arrangements. Whilst they were there, they were able to return the now framed print to Justin Moynihan. Equally important, they were introduced to the incoming **Sergeant Major, Gary Erskine**, of The Scots.

The Summer Lunch, as ever, was well supported and we welcomed **Captain R King-Evans** and his partner **Miss E Riis-Johannessen** as our guests on behalf of The Regiment. We managed a total attendance in excess of fifty and amongst those present were members of both London and Surrey & East Hampshire Branches. In his address after lunch, the President thanked them for their support. **Captain King-Evans** gave an entertaining and informative address of events within The Regiment.

The Branch President and his family invited members to visit their home at Bereleigh, in East Meon, Hampshire, on 19th July. Members, friends and families travelled by various means, all meeting up with the President at The Thomas Lord, in East Meon for a very welcome lunch. Refreshed, we travelled in convoy the two or three miles to Bereleigh. On arrival at the house

we were greeted by **Mr Tyrwhitt-Drake** who gave a short address on the history of the house and its acquisition by his family. He invited us to roam at will through the beautiful house and grounds, with views over the Meon valley. At the end of the afternoon, we congregated for tea and, before leaving, we all expressed our thanks for a most enjoyable day.

I think that that just about covers everything. Although the report concludes at this point, Branch life continues and we are already thinking about and planning for the year to come. Not least amongst our thinking will be the Branch's 75th anniversary in December 2010.

LEICESTERSHIRE & RUTLAND

(Formed 1927)

President: RH MURRAY-PHILLIPSON Esq OBE, DL.

Vice Presidents: SIR JOHN CONANT Bt; RE JONES Esq.

Chairman: R FLETCHER Esq.

Vice Chairman: L TABERER Esq.

Secretary: J MORREY, 28 Dumbleton Avenue, Leicester, LE3 2EE. Tel. (0116) 289 1169

Treasurer: B SMITH Esq.

Meetings: Second Sunday of each month (Lunch available if ordered through the secretary) at West Lodge, 55 Westcotes Drive, Leicester at 1230hours.

This year has been a reasonably successful one, with June being a full diary of events. Several Branch members attended the Parade on Remembrance Sunday, at Christ Church in Leicester. A Cross was placed in the Garden of Remembrance. The Chairman, **Ron Fletcher** read out the 'Grenadier Collect'. The weather was reasonably dry this year but bitter. Afterwards, we all marched towards the West Lodge for Sunday lunch.

A small party attended the Normandy Veterans' Association and the Memorial at Normandy Woods. A Church Service at Packington was followed by a further short service, in the Normandy Wood, where there is a monument blessed by the vicar. Later, we all congregated at the Working Men's Club at Hugglescote, for a fantastic buffet.

A small party was invited to attend the Memorial of the Cyprus & Korean Veterans.

The Vice President, **Mr Roy Jones**, on 30th May, celebrated his 80th birthday by undertaking a sponsored parachute jump, on behalf of the Colonel's Fund. The

weather was fine which assisted his successful parachute jump. Many people arrived to watch the safe landing and see Roy drifting down from the heavens. He ultimately raised, in the region of, £4,000 for the Colonel's Fund. Well done Roy a brave soldier. Later, **Roy Jones** received an invitation to attend Buckingham Palace, from the Duke of Edinburgh, to be thanked for his efforts, a memorable occasion.

This year, Grenadier Day was held at Wellington Barracks and was very well attended by approximately 10 members and partners. As usual, the Regimental Band gave a splendid show. The entertainment was excellent and a good day was had by the members who attended. This was exacerbated by the brilliant weather with temperatures soaring well over 22°C, encouraging **Ron Fletcher** and **Bob Barnett** to invest in regimental caps, to cover their delicate heads. The day was enjoyable and sticky!

In June, the Branch once again had a very successful Garden Party, which was held at Westcotes Lodge in Leicester, where we met and brought back a new member, **Mr Carl Mucklow**. He has since become our 'web master' and can be contacted on the email address above. As always, the Garden Party was well attended and a brilliant day had by all.

A coach trip was organised by the social secretary, **John Cowley**, and the Committee, to visit Windsor Castle in June. For the old soldiers and some Branch members this trip brought back many memories and was immensely enjoyed by everyone who attended.

Regretfully, I have to inform you that during the current year, we have lost two Vice Presidents of the Branch, **Rt Hon. Capt RT Constable Maxwell** and **Sir Nicholas Redmayne**. They will be sadly missed. Our Garden Parties that they attended each year, will never be the same. May God bless them.

LINCOLN

(Formed 1923)

President: Major D BRADLEY BEM.

Vice Presidents: Major JE CHAPPELL.

Chairman: JD MARSHALL.

Hon Secretary: Mrs AM MARSHALL, 84 De Wint Avenue, Lincoln, LN6 7DZ. Tel. (01522) 871 184.

Email: marshall84@ntlworld.com

Treasurer: N CROWTHER.

Meetings: Third Friday of each month at MS Therapy Centre, Outer Circle Drive, Lincoln at 1930hours.

A quieter year than 2008 but still busy. The branch membership has increased slightly; attendance at meetings has seen a small increase in numbers, with a

few new faces amongst the same loyal ones at Branch Events. The Annual General Meeting was held in March, with no changes to the Branch Officers.

A small number attended Regimental Remembrance Day; we travelled together by minibus and all stayed in a nearby hotel for the evening, which made a nice change not having to rush off at the end of the day, for the long journey home.

For Grenadier Day, we again stayed locally the evening before and were able to walk across to Wellington Barracks. Once again, another new venue for this event, and some were a little concerned about the smaller space; but the day had obviously been well planned and thought out and, from a visitor's point of view, ran really well. Again the weather was kind to us, which always makes this event more enjoyable.

The Annual Dinner and Dance was held on 31st October, at the Bentley Hotel, Lincoln, with the Regimental Dance Quartet in attendance. It was an enjoyable evening with 95 guests attending. Our Regimental Guest was **Captain Alex Forster**, who gave an up-to-date report on the Battalion's activities. We also invited the Deputy Mayor of Lincoln, **Councillor Geoffrey Kirby** and his wife **Valerie**. The local Grenadier Cadet Force again supported the dinner and had, amongst their number, the parent of a Grenadier serving in Afghanistan. A new addition to the Cadet staff is former **Gdsm Alex Harrison**, a local lad, who returned to civvy street following injuries received during the last Afghan tour. During the evening, we auctioned three items (all donated) for the Colonel's Fund, which brought in a total of almost £300. The Local Mayor's Officer (an ex Grenadier) is spearheading a local initiative, to raise funds for the Colonel's Fund – so as they say, "watch this space".



Branch Chairman Joe Marshall at the LCS Store collecting goods to send to Afghanistan.

The decision was also taken at a branch meeting, to send parcels to the local lads in Afghanistan. Almost everyone approached has been so generous, especially Lincolnshire Co-operative Ltd, who donated £200 worth of goods.

It was with great sadness that we heard the news from Afghanistan, at the beginning of November. This was particularly distressing, as two of them were from our local area and, **Matt Telford** in particular, was known to us through his time at the recruiting office. Our condolences go to the families of all those concerned.

It is also with regret that I must report the passing of **2629070 RW Ablett** and **2627542 R Blank**.

LIVERPOOL

(Formed 1920)

President: THE EARL OF DERBY.

Vice Presidents: Captain AD ANGUS MC; W NOLAN; SE KENEALY Esq; G PEERS; WF PENNINGTON.

Chairman: I GRIFFITHS.

Secretary: WF PENNINGTON, 11 Stretton Avenue, Wallasey, Cheshire, CH44 5UZ. Tel. (0151) 200 2261.

Email: frankpennington@ntlworld.com

Meetings: Last Thursday of each month (except August & December) 2000hours at the 'Premier Inns, Vernon Street, Liverpool.

The first meeting of the year our Annual General Meeting was held on Thursday 29th January 2009 at 8pm at the "Premier Inn" Vernon Street, off Dale Street, City Centre. The meeting was attended by 32 members.

Branch Treasurer **George Hughes**, stood down at this meeting due to other personal commitments that he has to perform this year. George took on the role of branch treasurer on the 26th January 2001, and has carried this office in a very efficient manner always making sure that everything was done correctly... which it was.

It was fitting that a presentation was made to him as a thank you from the branch, and at the conclusion of the Annual General Meeting the Branch Chairman **Ivor Griffiths** presented him with a Whisky Decanter and Two Glasses, suitably engraved with the Royal Cypher, his name, and from the Liverpool Branch.

The new Branch Treasurer is my wife **Barbara** who has been a Branch Auditor since 2004 with **George Peers**, and is conversant with accountancy, she will stand in until someone wants to come forward and take this role of office.

The Branch Chairman is still **Ivor Griffiths**, having taken this office in January 2007, he always keeps the meetings well controlled, a drink for all members present between the conclusion of the AGM and the start of the January meeting courtesy of **Captain Andrew Angus MC** a Vice President of this branch, but who resides in Eastbourne. Also returning to meetings was Life member **Bill Martin**, good to have him on board again.

Branch members were notified by post and invited to a free buffet incorporating a plate of "Scouse" plenty of Sandwiches, Spare Ribs, Meat Pies and Sausage rolls, finished off with a nice portion of Gateau, and a Free Pint. on Wednesday 15th April 2009. at 7pm. at the Liverpool public house in James Street, (next to James Street, Underground Station) City Centre,

This year 27 members attended and enjoyed a nice evening together, branch funds allowed it to happen simply because of the generosity at branch meetings, other branch functions including our Annual Dinner and Dance, Tours, and through Raffles and Donations.

Regimental Remembrance Sunday. A different format this year, after spending the last sixteen years at a hotel in the Slough area the night before the parade, this year the membership asked for a change. After more detailed negotiations with hotels in London, looking for a Dinner Bed and Breakfast tariff, the number of persons travelling did not matter, but the parking up of the coach does and if you can find a hotel with its own coach parking facilities it helps to keep the cost down for everyone.

Forty-seven members, wives and friends left Liverpool on Saturday 16th to spend the night at the Hilton Hotel, London Docklands. After a superb dinner in the hotel, we were invited to spend the evening in the Warders Mess, at the Tower of London, thanks to Yeoman Warder **Simon Dodd**.

Sunday and after breakfast, we left our hotel to take in a one hour visit to Covent Garden, and also a drop off at Buckingham Palace for the Guard Change. Early afternoon it was off to Wellington Barracks for the Chapel Service and march to Horse Guards with the Regimental Band and also to lay up the wreath at the Guards Memorial. It was a very big parade with the full Battalion and Nijmegen Company in attendance as well as a good turnout from the Association branches.

At the conclusion of the parade we made a hasty retreat to the "Holiday Inn" hotel at Rugby, for a three-course "Carvery" dinner. The branch subsidised this tour to the sum of £800.00.

Thirty-six persons travelled for our five-day trip to Scotland on Friday 22nd May, this year we stopped at the Loch Awe hotel, near to Oban.

Our excursions were of the varied kind from a trip to the Cruachan Power Station, situated deep inside a mountain of the same name, to view the turbines that are situated some 1,000 feet below the reservoir that powers this station. Afterwards we travelled through Glen Aray to the black and white town of Inveraray, planned in 1750 but taking 100 years to complete.

Another excursion took in the Isle of Mull and Tobermory, this being a circular trip with no less than three ferry crossings! Firstly across the Firth of Lorne, then over the Sound of Mull, and finally across Loch Linnhe. Once on Mull, the coach took us to the islands main town, Tobermory, after a few hours stay it was off to the small fishing community of Fishnish, where another ferry took us over to Lochaline on the remote peninsular of Morvern, a single track road taking us to the ferry at Corran on the banks of Loch Linnhe for a short sail across the narrow strait.

Our last excursion was to the town of Oban, Scotland's oldest and most popular resort in the Western Highlands, and to conclude the visit we returned to our hotel through the Pass of Glencoe, taking in its majestic scenery and its visitor centre. Our five day break gave us a Good Hotel, nice Food, Entertainment, and Excursions, but the weather was terrible. A good five day break spent amongst branch members, their wives and friends, who all enjoyed themselves, especially on the dance floor. We have spent the last three years in Scotland on holiday as a branch so next year we will probably try another holiday but not in Scotland, sometime in September where we can all get away and have another good laugh, that's what we go for.

On Wednesday 22nd July, branch members **Ian Atherton** and his wife **Yvonne**, **Tim Fitzgerald** and his son **Dominic**, and **Jeff Card** and his wife **Pauline**, all attended a **Garden Party at Buckingham Palace**, organised by the "Not Forgotten" Association, for members who receive a war pension, or have received compensation from the Armed Forces Compensation Scheme.

A visit to Italy, on the 6th September for seven days with branch chairman **Ivor Griffiths** and Poppy Travel, returning to the south of the country. From our base in Gaeta, we visited Anzio where Ivor landed with the 4th Battalion in 1944, paying our respects at the Beachhead cemetery, and also the main British cemetery. Other visits were to Minturno cemetery; we also followed the route of the allied advance to Caserta, also visiting the splendid palace. From Caserta we took the route to Naples, then followed the line of the allied advance north where General Von Vietinghoff's German 10th Army had prepared a number of delaying lines of defence. The Volturno River, and the Garigliano River, close to the ancient town of Minturno.

We also paid our respects at all the cemeteries in

Cassino, the British, American, Polish, and German, and before leaving the area we visited the monastery.

My chairman and I attended the Scots Guards dinner at the Adelphi Hotel in Liverpool, on Friday 16th October a male only dinner, but with diminished numbers unlike many of this associations branch dinners.

As I write we are into the final stages of our Dinner & Dance which will be held on Saturday 21st November at the Thistle Hotel, City Centre. Our Regimental representative will be **Captain JENB Shaw**. Adjutant, of the 2nd Infantry Training Battalion, Catterick Garrison, North Yorkshire.

In closing may I thank my branch Chairman **Ivor Griffiths**, for all his help in the running of this branch, at meetings and also with all the other daily aspects of running a branch. To the branch treasurer (my wife **Barbara**) in this her first year and for stepping in to maintain the accounts at the last minute. To all members who have turned out to attend our monthly meetings and to support them most generously.

It is with deep regret that I report the loss of the following members this year: **2618768 Warnock J** and **2623389 Mason R**.

LONDON

(Formed 1920)

President: Colonel ATW DUNCAN LVO, OBE.

Vice Presidents: Captain SIR JOHN LAMBERT KCVO, CMG; Brigadier MS BAYLEY MBE; Captain I REED MA; Major THE LORD FORBES KBE, DL, JP; Captain THE HON JONATHAN FORBES; Lt Col PR HOLCROFT OBE; Major TH HOLBECH MBE; Captain DD HORN; Lt Col RG CARTWRIGHT; Major CC WADE TD; Lt Col S TUCK BEM; Captain RAC DUNCAN; Captain CAG KEELING; Captain TBCH WOODS; Captain J LENAGHAN; HJL MANSELL Esq; GV FRANKLIN Esq; Captain JWH BUXTON; Captain A CLUFF; Major THE LORD GLENTORAN CBE; Captain R J B PINFOLD.

Chairman: HJL Mansell Esq.

Secretary: WH SMITH, 2 Coppens Green, Wickmeadow, Wickford, Essex, SS12 9PA. Tel. (01268) 735 911.

Email: mhunt98236@aol.com

Meetings: Third Wednesday of every month at the London District Sergeants' Mess, Wellington Barracks, from 1900hours, unless advised otherwise.

The Branch continues to be maintained in good order. Still marching together, although, with many limping, age has got a lot to answer for! Sadly it is the Golden Oldies that continue to offer their support and even though we endeavour to make the Branch friendly, welcoming and inclusive to all, attracting younger Members is proving difficult.

The usual monthly gatherings, held on the third Wednesday of the month are, at the time of writing, being held in the 1st Battalion Sgts' Mess, Wellington Barracks and it is hoped that we can continue to do so, until the Battalion leaves and returns to Aldershot later in 2010. These gatherings are also open to Members of other Branches, who may be in London. You are always welcome to join us.

Some of our meetings are of a daylight variety and in an effort to attract those reluctant to travel in the evening, we have now formed a Branch Lunch Club. Whilst this has been an initial success, we still wish to promote and reach out, not only to those Branch Members who are conspicuous by their continued absence but to others that are close at hand and who may wish to join us for a sumptuous lunch, in the Union Jack Club. Arriving on time for lunch and departing at a time that suits your travel and other arrangements accordingly.

There has been much for Members, together with guests, to enjoy within our social calendar. Over the past year, there has been a variety of functions, the first as always throughout our reporting year is the Christmas Draw and Lunch. Again this year held in the Guards Museum, courtesy of **Andrew Wallis**, the Curator, who continues to astonish with his ability to transform the Museum into a banqueting room, comparable to anything in London. The months that followed offered visits to King's Troop Royal Horse Artillery at their home, St John's Wood Barracks. One of the highlights of this visit is to be transported to Hyde Park, to view the musical ride and the firing of Royal Salutes. After a return to Barracks, there is a much enjoyed lunch, a tour of the stables, gun rooms etc. This makes as good a day as one could wish for.

On three occasions throughout the year, we have made visits to the Tower of London, included were a guided tour, witness the Ceremony of the Keys and to enjoy a traditional buffet within the warmth of the Yeoman Warders' Mess, courtesy of our Master of Ceremonies, former Grenadier, Yeoman Warder, **Simon Dodd**.

The Queen's Birthday Parade Rehearsals, the Beating of Retreat at Horse Guards and the Garter Ceremony, held at Windsor were also enjoyed by many, as was the visit to Epsom for the annual Derby Day jolly.

In addition to the aforementioned, Members of the Branch have been able to take advantage of invitations proffered by the Not Forgotten Association. These have included visits to the Queen's Birthday Parade rehearsals, a Garden Party at Buckingham Palace, Wimbledon for the All England Tennis Championships, an evening at the theatre in London's West End, St James's Palace for their Christmas Party and the

annual trip down the River Thames, enjoying a Christmas lunch on the way.

At the Annual General Meeting, all of the Executive Officers were re-elected for a further term, with the exception of the Treasurer, **Albert Streeter**, who after a number of sterling years (pardon the pun!) looking after Branch finances, decided to hang up his abacus. On behalf my fellow Executives and Branch Members, we offer our grateful thanks to Albert for all the effort he has put into maintaining our finances in such an exemplary fashion. **Frank Hooley** has now taken the two paces forward and has assumed the role of Treasurer. **George Turton** continues as Welfare Officer and **Phil Lanes**, Social Secretary.

Although age and infirmity now blight our Membership, the Branch was again well represented on Regimental Remembrance Day, with many undertaking the march to Horse Guards for the wreath laying ceremony and the return to Barracks. Again, it was another memorable day for those Members of the Association who were there to witness the large turnout of serving Members, from the 1st Battalion and Nijmegen Company.

At the National Remembrance Day Parades in November, Members attended both the opening of the Garden of Remembrance at Westminster Abbey and took part in the Cenotaph Parade leading the Household Division. During the March Past, wreaths were offered up to be laid on the Cenotaph, to honour those Grenadiers and others who gave their lives in service of Sovereign and Country.

Nine Members of the Branch were to take advantage of the Regimental Headquarter organised trip, to commemorate the Celebration of the 65th Anniversary of the Liberation of Nijmegen. This proved to be a most moving and humbling experience, which will stay in our memories for a long time to come. Our congratulations must go to those who made the arrangements for the trip and for making it possible for us to take part.

It is with sadness I have to report that the following have joined the Holding Battalion and we offer our condolences to the respective families for their loss: **6460500 A Causton; 2414088 N Chittock; 2623454 R Hayes; 2624678 A Hodges MBE; 22692224 K Solley.**

Subject to sufficient notice representation and/or Regimental Wreaths were sent.

"LEST WE FORGET"

Throughout the year, much support has been received from both Regimental and Association Headquarters. I take this opportunity to offer our grateful thanks to all involved, especially **Lance Sgt Ellingham**, for his outstanding contribution to the needs of, not only this

Branch, but all others. Hopefully one day some one will recognise his ability and devotion to all things Grenadier, by awarding him a sash.

We now look forward to 2010, when the London Branch will celebrate the ninetieth (90th) anniversary of its formation in 1920 but also to the return of the 1st Battalion to Wellington Barracks. Our thoughts and prayers are with them at this time and will be throughout their continued deployment in Afghanistan.

In conclusion, I offer my grateful thanks to the President of the Branch, **Colonel ATW Duncan LVO OBE**, my fellow Executive Officers and those loyal Members of the Branch for their continued support.

MANCHESTER

(Formed 1914)

President: Awaiting Appointment.

Vice Presidents: F GREEN; I WILLIAMS.

Chairman: I WILLIAMS.

Secretary: RA FALLON, 58 Newhouse Road, Heywood, Lancs. OL10 2NU. Tel. (01706) 360818.

Email: robert.fallon@talktalk.co.uk

Treasurer: AE JENNINGS.

Meetings: First Tuesday of each month, (except August), at 2000hours at Lower Broughton Royal British Legion, Great Clowes Street, Lower Broughton, Salford, M7 9RQ.

I am pleased to say that following my comments on poor attendances at the branch functions over the previous year, the events of last year were well attended and it looks as though we are beginning to get back some of the enthusiasm the branch has been missing.

The annual dinner/dance went very well with 111 members and guests sitting down to a fabulous five course meal followed by a disco until midnight. Our guest for the evening was **Capt Andy Keeley**, who gave a very informative talk on the regiment and the role they are playing over the next year. Each year we present the Inkerman Cup to a non member who has done a great deal of work for the branch. In 2008 it was presented to **Hayden Hooper's** wife **Dot** for all the work she has done selling branch goods on our stall at Grenadier Day, and always stepping forward to sell raffle tickets at the dinners and coach trips. Last year it was presented to another stalwart of the branch wives, **Mrs Sheila Pugh**, who has always stood next to Dot on the stall. Our branch goods have always been popular and raised a lot of money for the branch, in fact, it is one of the biggest fund raisers for the Manchester branch. The other main fund raiser is our Grand National sweepstake.

Grenadier Day 2009 was a very successful trip with a full coach going down to Wellington Barracks and our

stall selling £1,396 worth of goods, add to that the fine weather we had made it a very pleasant day out. A note for all the Grenadiers out there who like the polo shirts we sell each year, we only buy enough each year for the day, we don't carry a stock of them. So if you see them on our stall get in quick as they do sell very fast.

Forthcoming events for the branch start with our annual dinner/dance on Saturday 24th April 2010 at Buile Hill Park banqueting suite, Salford starting at 1830hrs. The order of dress is formal and we will have the normal 4 to 5-course meal and a disco. For full details of our functions go to our website, it is available via the Association website just go to links and click on Manchester Branch.

The next outing is a trip to the regimental remembrance weekend where we will be going down to Windsor on the Saturday 15th May to attend the Windsor Tattoo, and then onto Wellington Barracks for the Parade on Sunday 16th May 2010. I am pleased to say that the coach for this trip is almost full.

Grenadier Day this year is a weekend so we are going down to our usual hotel at Slough, Berks which is only 45 minutes away from Littlecote Hall, so the branch can enjoy the full two days. The coach is filling up so by the time this goes to print we should have sold all the places.

It is with sadness that I report the loss in the last year of the following comrades **3535533 Fred Heathcote**, **22213401 John James Limbert** (non member), **2624035 Maurice Liversey** and non member **Sid Owen** for whom I have no details, they will all be missed.

Finally I would like to say thank you to **Capt Rolfe** and **LSgt Jay Ellingham** for all their hard work in keeping everything together so well.

MARCH

(Formed 1968)

President: Captain CNR BROWN.

Vice Presidents: Captain (QM) TA ROLFE; Mrs M BEVAN; W GIBBS; Mrs P MASON.

Chairman: D PARR.

Secretary: CM WHITEBROOK, 21 Davie Lane, Whittlesey, Cambs, PE7 1YZ. Tel. (01733) 350 059.

Email: whitebrook9834@hotmail.co.uk

Branch HQ: The Conservative Club, March.

Meetings: Second Wednesday March, April, June, August & October.

The past year has been a relatively quiet one for the Branch. Although we have suffered the loss of one associate member due to increasing dementia, the

remainder of the Branch members have enjoyed remarkably good health, the wheezes, aches and strains of increasing age apart.

The bi-monthly meetings of the Branch in the Spring and Summer months continue, and although the attendance could improve, we do have an enjoyable evening together. The tales of “daring do” and the anecdotes of the past years, often bring back memories of a more active life. The social functions held over the past year have been well supported and members, widows, families and friends have joined together, not only at the Annual Lunch, but also for a Sausage and Mash Lunch, as well as the traditional Christmas Lunch. The thanks of the Branch must be expressed to our hosts, The Conservative Club (March)

Members of the Branch attended Black Sunday, the Queen’s Birthday Parade, Grenadier Day, and the Sergeants’ (Past & Present) Club Dinner. Branch members have also joined with both the Cambridge and Lincoln branches of the Association at different functions, and also joined with The Royal British Legion and the Cambridgeshire Regiment Association, on social functions. This has enabled the Branch to advertise itself, and to make contacts in the constant quest to track down more Grenadiers, to join us.

The Branch Secretary, accompanying a veteran member of the Cambridge Branch (**Alf Lawrence**), was amongst those who attended a wonderful weekend in Holland. The organisation of the weekend in celebration of the Liberation of Nijmegen was superb and all of those who attended were, to put it mildly, spoilt rotten. The organisational ability of **Jay Ellingham**, assisting **Captain Rolfe**, led to a fault free tour. No doubt other articles within the Gazette will cover this event, but all I will report is that those who didn’t attend will never fully realise what they missed. Pity about the passport though!



Alf Lawrence (Cambridge Branch) in full flow!

MATLOCK

(Formed 1955)

President: Awaiting appointment.

Chairman: W PICKFORD.

Secretary: FA KNIGHT, 9 Croft Avenue, Parwich, Nr Ashbourne, Derby, DE6 1QG. Tel. (01335) 390357

Meetings: Last Friday of each month at 2000hours (except August and December), at the Conservative Club, Dale Road, Matlock.

Traditionally our year started on Sunday 2nd November 2008 with the Chairman **Bill Pickford**, Assistant Secretary **John Wright** together with Members **Norman Taylor**, **Margaret** and **Bill Bishton** attending Edensor Parish Church, Chatsworth Estate, where a Wreath was laid on behalf of the fallen.

Our very successful Spring Luncheon was held at Bakewell (19 Hole) Golf Club which is set in beautiful surroundings with an extremely pleasant Club Room. Combined with good food, good company, this made for a very enjoyable day by all. The fact that we raised a meaningful amount for the “COLONEL’S FUND” made it even more worthwhile.

This was the second year running we have used this venue and we are most grateful to our Member **David Rawson** and the Golf Club Committee for making this possible.

Our Autumn Luncheon was held at Haddon Hall, Bakewell by kind permission of the owner **Lord Edward Manners**.

This was meticulously organised by Member **David Rawson** and his wife **Tina**, assisted by Secretary **Fred Knight**, Assistant Secretary **John Wright** and **Michael Carnell**. Everything went to plan.

Introduced by our Chairman **Bill Pickford**, those in attendance included our Host/Guest of Honour **Lord Edward Manners**, our Guest Speaker from Association HQ **Captain A Butcher** (who gave us a very informative update on the Regiments activities combined with his own experiences of Army life), our Chairman’s wife/Treasurer **Mrs Vera Pickford**, plus welcome Representatives from other local Branches making the total number attending a record 52.

We are delighted with the amount raised by our Branch in aid of “The Colonel’s Fund” which to date now totals £1,735. We hope in the coming year to continue fund raising for this worthy cause.

The Matlock Branch Meetings continue to be well attended and our thoughts are particularly with long serving Members **Stan Bellaby** and **Ian Morton** who have not enjoyed the best of health in recent times. We wish them well.

MEDWAY

(Formed 1976)

President: The Rt Hon The LORD KINGSDOWN KG, PC.

Vice Presidents: Lt Col P HARRIS MBE; Lt Col S TUCK BEM; Capt CD LEIGH-PEMBERTON; Capt AJH HOLLOWAY, MP.

Chairman: PA FRANKS.

Hon Secretary: AJ WEST BEM, 10 Saxons Drive, Maidstone, Kent, ME14 5HS. Tel. (01622) 208 480.

Meetings: First Wednesday of each month at the Rochwood Club, HM Prison, Rochester, Kent.

The first major event of the reporting year should have been the Christmas Draw. Despite 91 members and guests attending a most successful evening in 2007, the following year we struggled to find 50 so it was with great regret that we were forced to cancel. Prior to that members had represented the Branch at all the local Remembrance Sunday parades and services, with the bulk of us attending Rochester Cathedral as usual.

In February the Branch entered two teams in the Mayor of Maidstone's Charity Quiz Night and both did better than usual coming 23rd and 30th out of 43 teams. This was followed by an excellent Race Night at the Rochwood Club in April, organised by **Doug Warner** and run by **John Chapman**. Everyone got involved with this 'hands on' experience and many got over excited during the races themselves.

Regimental Remembrance Sunday in May was, as usual, an excellent 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.

Grenadier Day at Wellington Barracks in May proved to be very well organised and was enjoyed by all. The Golf Challenge again made a few bob for the Branch despite more being paid out to successful participants than in previous years. Practice over the years is obviously paying off for some of them. The Boyton Cup shoot took place in the Dismounted Close Combat Trainer and the Branch was quite pleased to take third place in the battlefield scenario. It was so different to previous competitions and all enjoyed the experience despite some ladies being just a tad uncomfortable in the body armour they had to wear. My thanks go to those who worked hard on the day.

Armed Forces Awareness Day took place on a very hot day in June in Chatham and about a dozen members joined around 600 other veterans plus many service men and women on the march from Fort Amherst to the Historic Dockyard where there were a whole host of activities to enjoy.

A visit to Sittingbourne Dog Track in August proved to be an excellent night and the 25 who went all enjoyed the races and most came away having made a profit. I think only **Allen Simmons** came away with less than he took but made up for it during a subsequent visit.

We ended the reporting year with 54 members and guests, enjoying our 33rd Annual Dinner and Dance, held at the Grange Moor Hotel in Maidstone. Unfortunately there was a distinct lack of 'brass' at the top table. **Captain Charles Leigh-Pemberton** had selected that very day to get married and of course, **Uncle Robin** and **Aunt Rose** were invited to attend the occasion which explains why our **President** and **Lady Kingsdown** couldn't be there either. We all wish Charles and his new bride all the very best for the future. **Colonel Paul Harris** was having a few problems with his olive harvest in Spain so he and **Pauline** could not get away. There were also a larger than usual number of members recovering from illness or operations who would normally have been there. However, all present paid particular attention to **Major Martin David MC** as he gave an excellent report on the Regiment, particularly that part concerning the Battalion on operations in Afghanistan. The dinner culminated in the presentation of a Regimental plaque to the hotel as a mark of thanks for their hospitality for nine out of the last 15 years.

Concerning Branch membership, we now have, in addition to our President and four Vice-Presidents, 82 past, five serving, eight honorary and associate members and 13 widows on our books, a total of 118. We have had our share of illnesses and operations this year with a couple of very close calls but all, thankfully, have come through their trials safely. We have gained three new members this year – **23402196 Eric Dean**, **22955825 John Garwood** and **23862953 Peter Smith** – and it's a pleasure to have them on board. We have also welcomed a new lady to the branch with congratulations going to **Nigel** and **Heather Bird** on their marriage in August. We have said farewell to **Glen Jones**, Coldstream Guards, who has been a major supporter for most of the life of the Medway Branch. He is very much more involved with his medals group since retirement from the police and we thank him for his hard work and loyalty over the years and the immense contribution he has made.

The Branch Shooting Club continues to flourish and congratulations must go to **John** and **Kay Chapman** for winning the gents and ladies shooting trophies (again), to **Mike Allingham** for winning the guest trophy and to **Albert Ince** for being awarded the wooden spoon. After winning the latter four years in succession, **Peter Hinds** has lost this most prestigious prize but is determined to regain it next year.

As usual my final words are to give thanks to the

Branch and to the ladies for their support over the last 12 months, especially to the other committee members – **Pat Franks** (Chairman), **Len Ross** (Vice Chairman) and **Peter Hinds** (Entertainments). Special thanks go to **Ted Mew** who was forced by circumstances to stand down as Welfare Officer after five years in post. He did a great deal of work and refused any reimbursement of travel expenses during his time. There are certainly a large number of members, families and widows who are grateful for his visits.

NORFOLK

(Formed 1938)

President and Chairman: Captain PJS Allen.

Vice Presidents: Captain TRE COOK; Major JFQ FENWICK QC; Captain DJT LENG; Captain H STRATTON; NHH NEWSUM Esq; JM BATTEN Esq; CHW MICHELL Esq; Mr BL BARBER; Lt Col HML SMITH; Mr R.F. BARWICK.

Vice Chairman: J FEAKINS.

Treasurer/Secretary: CR WARREN, 10 Highland, Poringland, Norwich, NR14 7QU. Tel. (01508) 494 379, Mob. 07885 088387

Email: christwrr@btinternet.com

Meetings: Second Friday of January, April (AGM), July and October at the Royal British Legion, Aylsham Road, Norwich, at 2000hours.

Norfolk Branch members continued to keep active during 2009 with a number of trips, meals and a Regimental Band Concert in the county. We can now muster 77 Grenadier Members with eight Associate and Honorary Members together with 16 widows, making a total of 101 Branch Members. This year we recruited a new member, **24185883 Gordon Walker**, who served between 1971 and 1985 in the 1st Battalion. We were also very pleased to hear that we also have our first serving member for a number of years, **Gdsm 30082596 Julian Denton**, who comes from Thorpe St Andrew near Norwich.

The big event of the year was the band concert, which was held on Sunday 26th April 2009, in St Andrew's Hall, Norwich. The band was on superb form and played to a packed house and all thoroughly enjoyed the experience. Apart from enjoying the music, the main aim of the concert was to raise funds for the Colonel's Fund by way of ticket sales and a 'bucket' collection on the night. The event was steered by our President, **Captain P Allen** but special thanks must go to **Russell Barwick** who did much of the donkeywork in respect of the organisation. Our appreciation must also go to the many other branch volunteers who sold tickets on the door, shook the buckets on the night and helped in all manner of ways. The branch managed to raise the

magnificent sum of £4,500, which was duly sent to the Fund. Further thanks must also go to a Grenadier widow, **Molly Birch** who raised £150.00 within her own family, to swell the collection.

Russell Barwick was made a Vice President at the AGM on 17th April 2009, for his enthusiastic service to the branch and, in particular, his tremendous effort in organising the band concert at fairly short notice.

On Sunday 17th May 2009, 25 colleagues attended the Black Sunday Service, which continues to be an important event for the branch. We are very grateful to **Chris Harrison** for once again driving the coach and keeping costs for the branch to a minimum.

The annual luncheon on Sunday 10th May 2009 was held as usual at the Park Farm Hotel, Hethersett, which is a superb setting with wonderful food. **Colonel Smith** gave a comprehensive update on Regimental matters, including the plans for the Battalion in 2010. Our warmest thanks must go to **John Feakins** our vice chairman and social secretary who organised this event and the Black Sunday Trip. John, who also masterminded the raffle, raised £169.20 (20p?) for branch funds. We are also grateful to **Ross Donaldson** for preparing and printing the luncheon menus to a very high standard.

The dining club goes from strength to strength under the excellent stewardship of **Ross Donaldson** and is reported on elsewhere. We met at the Stower Grange for our 100th dinner in August and Club Trips included seeing the band again at Thursford for 'Beating Retreat' and a visit to Bletchley Park. **Ross** was re-elected again as club secretary and we all look forward to more exciting events in the years to come.

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

(Formed 1929)

President: Lt Col E H LAUBREY-FLETCHER DL.

Vice Presidents: Major THE LORD BRASSEY of APETHORPE OBE DL; Captain THE HON TI BRASSEY; Major J F C MAGNAY; Lt Col J S SCOTT-CLARKE; Major J M HIRST; Captain R WILLMOTT DL; Col D J C RUSSELL-PARSONS, C MANNERS Esq.; J SPILLER DCM; C BROWN MBE, A E JARRETT; A J CRAWLEY; Col R E H AUBREY-FLETCHER; P GOUDIME JP.

Chairman: T FROST.

Secretary: M A BRITTON 12 Raisins Field Close, Ecton Brook, Northampton. NN3 5LA. Tel. 01604 416101.

Email: nhantsgrenadier@aol.com

Treasurer: TBA.

Meetings: First Thursday of every month at 20:00 hours at the Royal Naval and Royal Marines Club, Lorne Road, off Barrack Road, Northampton.

In April 2009, 60 Grenadiers, families and friends of the Northamptonshire Branch met to celebrate the Branch's 80th Anniversary.

Following the loyal toasts, the Branch President **Lieutenant Colonel EHL Aubrey-Fletcher DL**, outlined the current activities of the Branch.

On Regimental Remembrance Day, members of the Northamptonshire Branch journeyed to Wellington Barracks to pay their respects to members of The Regiment, and hoping to see former colleagues. Our party arrived at the Barracks at 11.30am. The ceremony at the Guards Chapel seemed more poignant this year, remembering those who fell in Afghanistan, as well as those members of the Regiment who were lost in earlier conflicts.

The Branch, again, attended Grenadier Day in numbers and set their stall up early, ready to receive the thousands of expected visitors.

The entertainment was to the usual high standards, with something for everybody to enjoy and we are now planning the 2010 Grenadier Day event, so if you have any ideas for the stall, let us know.

In November 2009, members of the Northamptonshire Branch went to Aylesbury Branch luncheon to show support, following significant changes within that branch.

Finally, any current or former members of The Regiment, or family members, who wish to be involved with the local Branch, please feel free to contact the Secretary.

Again, 2009 was not without its challenges, but the Northamptonshire Branch is alive and well, as this report clearly shows.

It does not seem like 12 months ago that I put together the Branch report for the 2009 Gazette. The year has been quite distressing and therefore challenging. But as I have said previously, we are determined to enter the future on a sound footing with a good branch to pass on to the younger Guardsmen of today.

The year commenced, once again, with members parading on Remembrance Day in Burnley town centre. The weather was cold but dry. The President **Mr J Wilkinson** laid a Regimental wreath at the cenotaph. Unfortunately, the microphone was only working intermittently and had everyone straining to hear the ceremony but the band as always was superb. Many other members throughout the district paraded in their own towns and villages, so the Regiment was well represented. After the parade, we all enjoyed a social lunch at the Fairways Hotel in Prestwich, near Manchester.

The Branch Members had a Christmas Social at the Moorcock Inn Country Hotel, Waddington, Clitheroe with good food, drink and excellent company. A truly memorable time was had by all who attended.

The Branch AGM at the Oaklea Tavern, Accrington, was uneventful. This was an opportunity for members to air their views and maybe take on a role as an official for the Branch. There were no changes to the officials of the Branch.

The Royal Society of St George invited Branch members to a concert, 'It's that Knight Again', at the Thwaites Theatre in Blackburn, on the 7th March. An enjoyable night was had by all who attended.

A Mass was held at St Albans, Blackburn to mark the 3rd anniversary of Laying-Up of the Standard at

NORTH LANCASHIRE

(Formed 1953)

President: Mr JA WILKINSON.

Vice Presidents: D KING Esq; G LOFTHOUSE Esq; Captain M OWEN; R PAKER Esq; J WHITE Esq; HG HENDERSON Esq.

Chairman: R PACKER Esq.

Secretary: Lady R EMMONDS. Westview 57 Aspen Drive Brunshaw Park Burnley, BB10 3FB. Tel. (01282) 451208. Mob. 07738 562357.

Email: rosemary.emmonds@nhs.net

Meetings: First Thursday in month (except January and August) at the Oakley Tavern Club, Whalley Road, Accrington, Lancs, at 2000hours.



the end of April, with everyone congregating at the club afterwards.

The Branch Annual Dinner and Dance was held on the 30th May, at the Sparrow Hawk Hotel, in Burnley Lancs. An enjoyable evening with approximately 60 guests attending. Our Regimental Guest speaker was **Lieutenant Nigel Torp-Petersen** who gave an up to date report on the Regiment's activities. Other guests were the Wigan & St Helen's Branch Secretary **Graham Young** and his good lady **Amanda**. Also, we had **Wilf Robinson** from the Household Division, Blackpool. I am sure everyone had an enjoyable time catching up with old friends and comrades. I would like to thank **Graham Young** for helping me with the raffle on the night.

The Branch weekend in London for the Queen's Birthday Parade, Trooping of the Colour was a great success with good weather. The ladies went to see a show in the evening, while the gentlemen relaxed. A good weekend was enjoyed by everyone who attended.

In July, one of our Branch members, former Grenadier Guardsman **Bill Entwistle**, an 87-year-old veteran of the Second World War, rubbed shoulders with royalty at a gala event for wounded service people, at Buckingham Palace, meeting the Duke of Kent and the forces' sweetheart **Dame Vera Lynn**. Bill served on the African and Italian fronts with the 6th Battalion, after signing up in 1941. He said, "It was absolutely fantastic and everyone was so friendly. The best thing is that it didn't matter what rank or how famous you are. I was introduced to **Prince Michael**, held hands with **Vera Lynn**, had my picture taken with **Bernard Cribbins** and saw **Rolf Harris**. Dame Vera's records were very important for morale, during the war and she was just as beautiful as I imagined." He is still grinning from ear to ear!

Many members gathered for the Annual Bowls Competition, in September. The weather was excellent, keeping everyone on the green. The ladies put on a first class buffet as always and I would like to express my thanks for their support. Last year, **James Singleton** from the North East Branch of the Coldstream Guards Association, managed to steal the trophy by just a few points. But this year, I am very proud to announce one of our Branch Members, Grenadier Guardsman **Ernest Reid**, won the trophy and it was kindly engraved by Coldstream Guardsman **Ivor Singleton**.

By kind invitation of the Blackburn Sea Cadets Branch, members attended the Trafalgar Dinner in October, which was held at the Somme Barracks, Blackburn, which is the home of the Territorial Army.



The Commodore gave a superb account of Nelson's life and I am sure that all that attended had a good evening.

Finally, it is with great sadness that we report the loss of **23879764 Lawrence Newlove** and **25162541 Michael Joseph Goggings**.

And I would like to announce and welcome new members to our Branch: **24753239 Sergeant Mark Lobley**; **24829518 Signals Warrant Officer Marcus Pollitt** and **30038982 Danny Lee Bentley**.

I would like to express my thanks to the team at Regimental Headquarters, for their help throughout the past year, Wigan & St Helen's Branch Secretary **Graham Young** for his guidance and the Branch Members, whose regular support is invaluable.

NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE

(Formed 1933)

President: AEH HEBER-PERCY LL, JP.

Vice President: Rev TM CARTER DL, JP; Major R WOOD-FIELD; M S ROBINS Esq.

Chairman: K WRIGHT.

Hon Secretary: D G ROBINS, Nabb Cottage, Nabb Lane, Alton, Staffordshire, ST10 4AY. Tel. (01538) 702 974. Mob. 07968 037082

Email: david.robins@hotmail.co.uk

Meetings: Second Monday of each month at 2000hours at the Milton Bowls Club, Stoke-on-Trent.

The Branch continues to hold monthly meetings at the Milton Bowls Club in Stoke on Trent with, on average, 14 or 15 members present and, probably, more social banter and story telling than “agenda items”.

However, we always get through the business on hand with welfare high on the agenda. The highlight of the year, as ever, was the trip to London for Regimental Remembrance Day. It is always something very special for those of us who attend. Several members also enjoyed Grenadier Day. Two trips to “The Smoke”! Sadly the advancing years of some of our more “regular” members is making the travelling increasingly difficult.

Our AGM was, this year, held in the beautiful gardens of Hodnet Hall, the home of our President, after which he and **Mrs Heber-Percy** entertained us to a splendid meal. We were, again, on parade at the Stoke on Trent Armed Forces Parade. With **ex-Sergeant Major Alan Higgins** carrying the Branch Standard, we were, it goes, without saying, the smartest old-soldiers (and assorted others) on parade.

It was good to march behind bearskins and scarlet tunics albeit that they were worn by the Grenadier Cadets of the Staffordshire ACF Corps of Drums. They didn't let us down.

Every couple of months, or so, a group of members meet at a local Gastropub for lunch. We all know that that sounds awful but the food is good and not overpriced. After trying to fit in and be a bit trendy, ties were not worn on the first visit, proposal now abandoned! Might this explain, in part, the Association's recruiting problem? With this in mind, we appreciate all of the hard work done by the Association Working Group and the Association Steering Committee planning for the future of our Association.

We, again, visited the Shropshire Branch for an excellent Sunday lunch and thank them for their Hospitality. Remembrance Day will see us at the National Arboretum and, hopefully, we will be there again early in December for the, long awaited, dedication of the Guards' Memorial. Congratulations to all involved.

We also look forward to our Christmas gastro lunch – with ties. We are indebted to the Association team, or is it trio? at Wellington Barracks and thank them for their ongoing help and support. Our thoughts and prayers are with the Battalion and we wish them luck and God speed for a safe return.



NORTHUMBRIA

(Formed 1926)

President: Colonel JM CRASTER MA.

Vice Presidents: THE DUKE OF ABERCORN (Lord Lieutenant of Co Tyrone); SIR HEW HAMILTON DALRYMPLE Bt, GCVO; Captain SIR CHARLES FERGUSON Bt; Major JD MAGILL CRICHTON MAITLAND.

Chairman: Mr J KEEGAN.

Hon Secretary: W POTTS, 6 Whitley Grove, Newton Aycliffe, Co Durham, DH5 4NH. Tel. (01325) 313 614.

Hon Treasurer: M SPENCER.

It has been a rather sad year to begin with the loss of all our brave comrades in Afghanistan and we pray that we have no more casualties.

January 24th: Burns Night was a great success with an excellent fare and good music with no complaints.

March 6th: A passing out parade at Catterick Garrison at 12.00 hours was rather disappointing with low numbers. Perhaps a Friday is not the best time to have them.

March 21st: I made my annual visit to the Regimental AGM at Wellington Barracks, very informative.

April 3rd: A passing out parade Catterick Garrison, we were marked absent never mind.

May 9th: Northumbrian Branch AGM at The Masonic Hall, Darlington which proved very popular with an extremely good lunch. We were delighted to have the company of **Capt. Tutu** who recently returned from his tour of Afghanistan. He gave a most interesting talk on the conditions our boys are enduring; it gave us all food for thought. Attendance could have been better, however it was a family party enjoyed by all.

July 22nd: Not Forgotten Association held their Annual Garden Party which I attended. A most pleasant surprise I met General **Sir Evelyn Webb Carter** and **Lady Webb Carter**. The last time we met was fifteen years ago when he visited us at Northumbria Branch Lunch. It made my day.

September 12th: Cleveland Household Division Branch Dinner Dance held at Middlesbrough Masonic Hall dancing to the “Little Big Band”. Our numbers were low but we all had a most enjoyable evening.

September 19th: Yorkshire Branch Lunch at St George Hotel Harrogate which was first class as usual, only to be expected by the Yorkshire Branch.

November 8th: Remembrance Service at Ripley North Yorkshire in conjunction with Yorkshire Branch with an excellent turnout of the Old and Bold.

I shall be having my knees attended to in the near future and hopefully I expect to attend our Christmas Lunch on 6th December. I shall be marking time for a while.

As usual many thanks to Regimental Headquarters for their valuable assistance. It is greatly appreciated.

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

(Formed 1914)

President: Awaiting Appointment.

Vice Presidents: VE AXWORTHY BEM; G SEVERN. Sir ANDREW BUCHANAN Bt.

Chairman: T HOPEWELL.

Secretary: V BRADLEY, 47 Willerby Road, Woodthorpe, Notts, NG5 4NZ. Tel. (0115) 926 6721.

Email: vic.bradley@tiscali.co.uk

Website: www.grenadierguardsnotts.org.uk

Treasurer: Mr R Topley.

Meetings: Second Friday each month at The Victory Club, Church Drive, Daybrook, Nottingham.

It is usual for me to open my report with the details of new members, but this year I regret that I have to announce the loss of our Branch President Captain **RM Micklethwait** who sadly passed away on the 17th September 2009. The funeral was held at St Joseph's Church, Oakham, on the 24th of September, and I am pleased to report that we arranged a "Guard of Honour" of members of our branch, and four representatives of the Leicester branch, plus the local Recruiting Sergeant, **Peter Hales**, who was resplendent in his uniform. Many former officers of The Regiment attended, and we were all invited back to Preston Hall for refreshments where we paid our respects to his widow **Mrs Jane Micklethwait**. We now await the news of his successor. With a lighter heart I can now announce two new members to the branch: **22545839 BR Simmons** and **25010134 S Piotrowski**.

We were promised by the Met. Office a, "Barbecue Summer" which did not materialise, but we were blessed with good weather for all of our outdoor events.

Regimental Remembrance Day (Black Sunday) was held on Sunday 17th May and we managed a better turnout than the previous year, with many of our members marching, although "Anno Domini" is catching up at last with a few of us.

On Grenadier Day Sunday 21st June, again we had a good turnout and generally we all enjoyed ourselves, although some were not pleased with the general layout. You can't please everybody. The big surprise was that the two teams we had in "The Boyton Cup" did well.

The Annual Dinner/Dance was held at our usual venue, The Trent Bridge Cricket Ground, Nottingham, on Saturday 25th April. It followed its usual format and was enjoyed by all who attended. **Captain Micklethwait** and his lady attended, but he was not too well. He carried out his duties as well as he could and we all admired his fortitude.

On Saturday 27th June it was "Armed Forces Day" and a parade was arranged to march from Nottingham Castle to The Old Market Square for a Drumhead Service. Several of our members joined in and did us proud. The salute was taken by **Sir Andrew Buchanan Bt.** (Ex Coldstream Guards) The Lord Lieutenant of the County, who is also one of our Vice Presidents.

Early in May I was contacted by the Vicar of the local church in the small old mining village of Jacksdale. Following the First World War a memorial statue of a British soldier was erected in the centre of the village. It stood there for many years until one night in a violent storm the soldier was blown from the plinth and shattered. Many years passed when the vicar decided to replace it with a new soldier. Money was raised to fund the scheme and it was finally announced that the new statue would be unveiled on Sunday 14th June 2009, and he asked could we, along with other groups, attend the opening ceremony and participate in the march past. We of course mustered a number of volunteers and joined in the ceremony. Again it was a beautiful summer's day and there was a very large turnout of local people and dignitaries who all enjoyed themselves. One of our members **Mr Jeff Smith** pointed out that he was born in the village just a few streets away from the memorial. The salute was taken by our Vice-President **Sir Andrew Buchanan Bt.** The Lord Lieutenant of the County.

Now as summer moves into autumn we start to look forward to the coming events. On Saturday 3rd October 2009 we held our Annual Veterans luncheon at our new venue, The Welbeck Banquet Suite, West Bridgford. The food was excellent and was enjoyed by all who attended. In the past we have always funded the cost of the meal to the Veterans and we did so on this occasion, but had to announce that next year it would be too expensive to continue doing so. It is with regret that we have to take this step, but we feel sure that this popular event will continue to be fully supported in the future. It was at this event that we decided to honour our long serving and popular Vice-Secretary, Web Master and Editor of our Newsletter **Mr Geoffrey Hallam** with a bronze statuette of a Grenadier Guardsman. He was not aware that there was to be a presentation and his total shock was a joy to behold. A photograph of the presentation is enclosed.

Our Christmas Party and Christmas Draw will be held on Monday 14th December 2009 at The Victory Club Arnold, Nottingham, the venue where we hold our regular monthly meetings. For the "last century" it has been run by **Vic Axworthy** BEM but at last he has had to hand over the reins because of his continued

disability. Our thanks go out to him and his wife **Jill** for all the past good work. We welcome **Steve Ryall** and his wife **Karen** who have volunteered to take on this onerous task. We wish them well. **Karen** also does the table seating arrangements and prints the menus for all our functions.

To end my report I have to regrettably append below the names of those members who have died during the course of the year in addition to Captain **RM Micklethwait**.

ROLL OF HONOUR

2623309 LFT Orchard; 23754718 D Icke; 22545126 JE Russell.



OXFORDSHIRE

(Formed 1936)

President: Colonel ET HUDSON CBE.

Vice Presidents: Lt Col. RH HEYWOOD-LONSDALE MBE, MC, ERD, DL; THE HON MRS RS TYSER; Captain MA COOKE; Major AH GRAY; LORD WATERPARK; SIR JOHN GRAHAM Bt, GCM; Major GIM STROUD; THE HON GEOFFREY SOMERSET; THE VISCOUNT ESHER; Captain JRH WILLS; Major DPG IRVINE; D MASON Esq; Major General THE LORD ALVINGHAM CBE, DL; Major PFL KOCH de GOOREYND; M COCHRANE Esq DL (Scots Guards); D PALMER Esq DL; Major RT MAUNDRELL; C DAFF; Major RM POTTER (Scots Guards).

Chairman: D THOMPSON.

Hon Secretary: PL COOK, 37 Glebelands, Headington, Oxford, OX3 7EN. Tel. (01865) 451 714.

Email: Pelecoglebe@yahoo.co.uk

Treasurer: Mrs J SHAYLER.

The Branch Annual General Meeting was held this year for the first time at the newly opened TA Centre at Edward Brooks Barracks at Shippon near Abingdon on the 30th April. Again my thanks go to the usual few who always seem to attend this event, we still do not appear to be able to get our younger Members to attend and one wonders what will happen when the old and bold who regularly attend are no long in a position to do so. **Chris Savage** who joined the Committee a few years ago sent us his resignation because he would be shortly leaving the Oxfordshire area due to his work moving to the Bristol area, we wish him very well. Joining our ranks is **Keith Lewis** who became a Branch Member a few years ago and has been active in Branch affairs.

Unfortunately again this year we did not hold an Annual Garden Party which in past years has always been a well supported and popular event. Hopefully we will in the future find a location to provide our Members with a Garden Party that they will again be able to enjoy.

Due to the lack of support for running a stall the Branch was not represented at Wellington Barracks on Grenadier Day, again we hope that this will not happen in the future. Members of the Branch attended and met up with old friends.

The Branch Dining Club which is organised by **Peter Brooks** continued to take place with Pub Lunches bi-monthly with great success during the early part of the year. Unfortunately in the later part of the year these have had to be put on hold due to Peter having two serious operations, which I am glad to report appear to have been successful and he is well on the road to a complete recovery. He hopes to be able to organise something during the Christmas period.

Once again the Branch Annual Luncheon was held at The Freemasons Hall, Banbury. This event which seems to be very popular again attracted 78 persons who were served another excellent meal. Our guest speaker was **Major Trevor Roper MBE TA**, who spoke of his role as a Welfare Officer involved with the care of injured personnel at Selly Oak and Hedley Court.

The Regimental Representative was **Major Marcus Elliot-Square** who also informed us of his new role and also the current news of the Regiment, Nijmegen Company, the Band and Headquarters. We thank them both.

We had attending from other Branches and Household Associations **Mr George Slade, Mr Bill**

May, Vice-Presidents of the Reading Grenadier Guards Association and Bill's wife **Lesley**, Chairman of the Aylesbury Branch of the Grenadier Guards Association **Mr Laurence Jeffrey** and his wife, **Mr Kieron Mallon** Chairman of the newly formed Banbury District Household Division Association, **Mr Barry Padwick** Secretary of the Reading and Oxford Coldstream Guards Association and his wife **Pat**. A regular visitor to our Branch from the Norfolk Branch **Mr Roy Ibson** and a friend were also present. Our thanks to all the above for their support and also to all the guests of Members who also give us their support.

Sadly we have to report the deaths of the following Members **Mr Harry Salmon (14592539)** and **Mrs Eeles** the widow of **Jack Eeles** DCM the Branch was represented at their funerals, we send our condolences to their families and friends.

We wish to express our thanks for the courage and determination shown by our younger Members who are serving with the Battalion and hope they will all return home to their families safe and well in the spring of 2010.

On ending this report I and the Oxfordshire Branch which no doubt is like many other Branches in the Association would like to see some of the younger Members whom we have on the nominal roll to attend the next Annual General Meeting and get involved.

In closing I would like to thank the Branch President **Colonel Hudson CBE**, **Don Thompson** Chairman, Vice-Chairman **David Wright**, Treasurer **Janet Shayler**, Accountant **Mr Colin Hessey** and all Members of the Committee for their help during the last twelve months.

READING

(Formed 1913)

President: Lt Colonel HS HANNING.

Vice Presidents: Major General BC GORDON LENNOX CB, MBE; Major GVA BAKER; THE HON MRS JEREMY MONSON; JG SOUTHERN Esq.; D McMAHON Esq., RVM; G. SLADE Esq.; WJ MAY Esq.

Chairman: Mr P FLOWERDEW.

Secretary: THERESA DAY, 1 Harness Close, Reading, Berks, RG2 8PF. Tel. 0118 9868328.

Email: t.day661@btinternet.com

Treasurer: SUSAN ABERY.

At our Branch AGM, we were delighted that our President, the Chairman, together with other committee members agreed to continue and we were very pleased that **John Southern** agreed to come back on board. **John Harrison** our Treasurer became an Honorary Member of the Association and we are delighted to have an ex Bank Manager in control of our accounts. The branch is delighted that **The Hon Mrs Patricia Monson** agreed to become a vice president, our first lady in this post. During the year, **Ian King**, the late Queen Mother's Piper agreed to become an Honorary Member as did **Richard and Derren White** who displayed their military model soldiers at Grenadier Day.

Regimental Remembrance Day was a day to remember with the Regiment and Association on Parade. The Reading Branch was honoured in that our Chairman **Philip Flowerdew** was one of the wreath bearers.

Grenadier Day at Wellington Barracks was held on a lovely summer's day. **Mrs Rolf**, the widow of a Warrant Office and her family have for many years made homemade jams and marmalades and brought pictures



Some of The Hon Mrs Monson's Picnic Tea Party guests.

to sell for branch funds. They did a really good trade this year. **Philip and Pam Flowerdew** (our chairman and his wife) set up an amazing stall with their family of all things Grenadier, which was very popular. It was an excellent day.

Mrs Monson once again invited the branch to a picnic tea party in her lovely garden. Once again, thanks to **Julie McMahon** for the suggestion, we all brought our own picnic; it saves such a lot of work. We were lucky with the weather once again and we all had a most enjoyable afternoon as you can see from the photo. **Mrs Monson** surprised everyone when the ice-cream man turned up with music playing and she treated everyone to an ice cream. It was an afternoon to remember.



Pictured left to right: Mrs Elizabeth Townsend, daughter-in-law and granddaughter of Mr Bob Woods, Mrs Elisabeth Hanning, The Hon Mrs Jeremy Monson.

On the same day, Reading Borough Council held an event to mark Armed Forces Day in the Forbury Gardens, in the centre of Reading. Our vice president **John Southern** was there as C & J Medals and promoted our branch with photos and memorabilia.

On the 4th October, we held our Branch Lunch. This year 90 guests attended who all enjoyed a successful and excellent Lunch, having been piped in by Ian King, our new honorary member. The President gave an introduction to our speakers. They were **Major "Skid" Dorney** on the Management of Stress and Trauma of all soldiers serving in areas of conflict; the **Regimental Adjutant** who brought us up to date with the 1st Battalions move to Afghanistan in September; the secretary who said a few words about the branch; and one of our Chelsea Pensioners who spoke movingly of his time in the Grenadiers. We also had as guests **Sgt Fear**, currently teaching cadets at Winchester, and his wife and also three Chelsea Pensioners – it was great to see them in their scarlet uniforms. Our other guests were the parents of a guardsman serving in Nijmegen Company, at the moment. After lunch, we had a fantastic raffle – many thanks to all those who brought gifts to be raffled. We thank our members and friends from the Coldstream, Welsh, Irish, and Scots Guards and all who attended for making our Branch Lunch so enjoyable.

Albert (Sid) Cuss who was a WWII veteran passed away recently and his funeral service was attended by branch members.

Many thanks to **Trevor Rolfe** and **Jay Ellingham**

at **RHQ** and we send good wishes to all other branches of the Reading and District Branch, and wish you all a very successful 2010.



Taken at the Reading & District Branch lunch, pictured left to right: Chairman Philip Flowerdew, Lewis Prangle, Pamela Flowerdew, Colin MacDonald and Norman "Mitch" Mitchell.

SHROPSHIRE

(Formed 1927)

President: WSI KENYON-SLANEY OBE, KstJ, DL. Esq.

Vice Presidents: AEH HEBER PERCY Esq; SIR PETER HOLCROFT Bt, JP; Major RG WOODFIELD MBE; Captain D VERNON; R DUNN Esq; C BECK Esq; Lt. Col. FS ACTON; Mr G PRITCHARD; HW SPENCER; Major INGLIS-JONES; Captain G WHITAKER.

Chairman: HW SPENCER Esq.

Secretary: C BECK, 133 Victoria Road, Bridgnorth, Shropshire, WV16 4LL. Tel. (01746) 761 501.

Treasurer: F DAWE.

Meetings: No venue for meeting at present time.

We ended 2008 with our Christmas lunch at the Hill Valley Golf and Country Club at Whitchurch, our guests being the Association President **Col EH Houstoun** and his wife. 63 members sat down to an excellent meal and heard an equally excellent address about the Regiment's role in Afghanistan given by **Col Houstoun**, who also congratulated the Branch Chairman **Mr HW Spencer** on becoming Vice President of the branch in recognition of the long years served as Chairman, and thanked him for his work.

We are now looking forward to our Christmas lunch at the Lord Hill in Shrewsbury on Sunday 29th

November. Our last lunch at the Hill Valley Golf & Country Club was a great success with 43 members attending. Among them were members of the North Staffs, Wolverhampton, Nottingham & Essex branches who assured me that they had a very enjoyable meal at an excellent venue. We invited **Major Joe Coleman** to be our guest at the lunch, and to welcome him to Shropshire where he will be taking up his new post with the Shropshire Army Cadet Force. We wish him all the best and hope to see him at our functions. He assures me he will attend when he can.

Our congratulations go to **Major Inglis-Jones** and his wife **Arabella** on the birth of their daughter earlier this year. We wish them all the best. Also to thank them for their kind offer to hold a garden party at their home in June of next year. I know our members are looking forward to this event. Also congratulations to **Mr** and **Mrs G Pritchard** on the birth of the grandchild, born to their daughter **Adele** and son-in-law **Mark**. Both mother and baby are doing well, and we look forward to seeing **George** and his wife **Audrey** at the Christmas lunch. Both have suffered ill health of late but are now getting better. Our Welfare Officer **Mrs M Pierce** has had to reluctantly give up the post she has held for as long as I have been secretary, about 15 years or more, due to ill health, but I am pleased to report she is in good spirits and attends lunches on a regular basis, but has stopped doing the raffle at lunches, having organised them for some 25 years or more. I and the committee agree it is time she relaxed and enjoyed the branch functions. We thank her for all the years she has worked on behalf of the branch.

It is with sadness that I have to report the death of one of our Vice Presidents, **Sir Peter Holcroft Bt JP** who had been living abroad for a considerable amount of years and has been a Vice President for many years. We also lost one of our associated members, **Rod Kettle**, who although being ex Royal Navy attended our lunches along with his wife, and he also used to look forward to reading the Grenadier Gazette. He was always among the first to order a copy every year, and will be missed at our lunches. Our condolences go to both families.

I now have to start to arrange the dates of branch lunches and our AGM for 2010, so that should keep me focused for a while!

In closing I would like to thank all at RHQ for all the help given to myself throughout 2009, and to hope every one in all branches has a good Christmas and a prosperous 2010, and remain in good health!



SPALDING

(Formed 1954)

President: Major SJE TURNER (Scots Guards).

Chairman: ROY STOCKER Esq.

Hon Secretary: MR STEVENSON, 30 Crown Drive, Spalding, PE11 2HU. Tel. (01775) 725 535.

Meetings: Last Thursday of each month at Royal British Legion Club.

Today we alter the clocks. Not a pleasant thought as any sign of summer has definitely gone. Unfortunately this also brings the deadline for this article perilously close, visions of losing my name, forfeiting all privileges and close arrest are become very real. So eyes down!

Members travelled down to Regimental Remembrance Day courtesy of **John Cross** and his mini bus, all reported a very poignant service and an excellent parade. Some also journeyed to Wellington Barracks for Grenadier Day which was thoroughly enjoyed.

We joined together for a luncheon in the Spring and in July we were invited to the home of **Pearl** and **Trevor Leavesley** where we sat in the sunshine in their lovely garden and had afternoon tea. A pleasant way to meet together whilst raising funds. More money was raised for The Colonel's Fund, and members helped with the collections in aid of The Royal British Legion and the Army Benevolent Fund. The Chairman and Secretary spent an evening with the young people of The Army Cadet Force which culminated in the presentation of The Grenadier Guards Association shield for consistent good turnout. It was indeed a smart young man who received it and a lot of interest was shown on life in the Regiment – by the girls as well as the boys! Branch members attended the November Remembrance Parade in the town and also the August service in the Peace Garden. Both occasions enjoying support from townfolk.

I am aware that the success of the Branch is due to many people. I thank our members for their enthusiastic support, the wives who enhance every social occasion, **Jo Stocker** and her band of helpers who provide the tea and wads at all meetings. I would also like to pay tribute to those members from other Regiments in the Household Division our Branch would not be viable without them especial thanks go to the "leader of the pack" our President, **Major Turner**, Scots Guards. I suppose we could be likened to a bag of allsorts but we could never be called a motley crew! We are grateful to **Trevor** and **Jay** whose advice is always there at the end of the phone.

Finally we are thinking of the Battalion far away in Afghanistan. The tours to these hot spots seem to come

around in an inordinately fast time. I am sure that these lads know that the thoughts and prayers of all members are with them. They can also be assured that the country as a whole is in admiration of their bravery and dedication. A saying which originated in the Crimean War and was used frequently in The First World War was “Lions led by Donkeys”, over 90 years later it is very apt again. We salute the lions – enough said about the donkeys.

SUFFOLK

(Formed 1926)

President: Colonel DHC GORDON LENNOX.

Vice Presidents: His Grace THE DUKE of GRAFTON; Major CXS FENWICK LVO; Major FAO CLAKE.

Chairman: FA WALLACE.

Secretary: AE JONES, 7 Flemying Road, Bury St Edmunds, IP33 3UZ. Tel. (01284) 755 856.

Treasurer: P WOOD.

In our 2008 report, the final achievement of unveiling the back stone to the **RSM Middleditch**, Waterloo veteran's grave, somehow became lost. So my report includes a small résumé

It is almost unbelievable that **Major Frank Clark** started his research, wrote the book and other articles about our hero, in 1994. This was followed by various battles with authorities, church and civil, to preserve this regimental icon being eroded by time. It is unbelievable that it has taken 14 years to achieve and time was not wasted, for in 2008, the Branch finally won the battle. The inscription is now fixed safely on the back of the original gravestone which also records the 350th Anniversary of the formation of the Regiment. At an unveiling ceremony, former Grenadiers and representatives of Nijmegen Company were present.

In March 2009, the Branch was represented at **George Potter's** funeral. **George** was 90 and a stalwart Grenadier. He joined the regiment 20th February 1940 and was given the Regimental Number 2618115. **George** was too late for Dunkirk but was a Sergeant of the Machine Gun Platoon, 3 Coy 1st Battalion when he fought with them in North West Europe. **George** was very open person and a great Grenadier. We will miss him.

We sent coaches to both Remembrance Sunday and to Grenadier Day.

On Sunday 28th June, our President and his wife, **Colonel & Mrs David Gordon Lennox** opened their wonderful Palladian House, Saxham Hall, to the Branch for their Summer Sunday Lunch. It was also an

opportunity to meet our newly appointed Regimental Adjutant, **Major Grant Baker**; and his wife **Tessa**. The lunch was well supported with a host of guests from neighbouring Grenadier and other Guards' Division Branches.

On Friday 5th December, we held our Annual Christmas Dinner and draw at the Cedars Hotel in Stowmarket, to close an eventful year.

SURREY AND EAST HAMPSHIRE

(Formed 1931)

President: Lieutenant Colonel JOHN SMILEY Bt.

Vice Presidents: General SIR DAVID FRASER GCB, OBE; Lt Col HMP DeL'ISLE; Lt. Col. TJ TEDDER; Lt. Col. DJ WEBSTER; Lt. Col. GR WHITEHEAD RVM; Maj B LANE; Major AR TAYLOR MBE; Captain JG MILLN; Captain CH COX TD; Mr S KEYWORTH MBE.

Chairman: Mr A REID.

Secretary: Mr R BALL, “Westfield”, 63 Horndean Road, Emsworth, Hampshire, PO10 7PU. Tel. (01243) 375068.

Email: bobball291@msn.com

Welfare Officer: Mr A HUGHES.

Treasurer: Mr T TAYLOR.

Committee: Messrs P HODGKINSON BEM; W SEWELL BEM; S. KEYWORTH MBE; N. NICHOLLS; N MILLER; Mrs P. DOWLAND.

Meetings: Third Wednesday of each month at 2000hours at the Sergeants Mess, ATR, Pirbright.

The last event of the year, the Branch Christmas Draw Lunch, held on the 7th December 2008, at Merrist Wood Golf Club proved once again, to be a great success, with over 80 people attending. Many thanks were given to **Mrs Pat Dowland** and **Mrs Elsie Beale** for collecting over 130 prizes!

The Surrey & East Hampshire Branch Annual General Meeting, was held on the 21st January 2009, at the Sgts. Mess, ATC, Pirbright Camp and was, once again, well attended. **Mr Andy Reid** was re-elected as Chairman and **Mr David Bell** as Honorary Secretary.

Due to **Mr Sam Keyworth MBE** wishing to stand down as Treasurer, **Mr Terry Taylor** was elected into this position. All Committee members were re-elected with the addition of **Mr Neal Miller**. **Mr Alan Hughes**, Welfare Officer was to take on some of the Honorary Secretary's duties, together with **Mr Peter Hodgkinson BEM**, taking the positions of Social Secretaries to the Branch. Many thanks were extended

to **Mr Sam Keyworth MBE** for all his hard work over the past year.

A different approach this time of turning our Branch Annual Dinner into a Lunch, following requests from members who preferred to travel in daylight. Our Guest Speaker, **Major ED Paintin**, Officer Commanding Nijmegen Company, accompanied by his wife, gave an excellent update on the Regiment present and future. However, although the Lunch was successful, it has been decided to revert to an evening Dinner/Dance for the 1st May 2010.

Grenadier Day at Wellington Barracks proved to be an interesting day but with fewer branch stalls. With members arriving early to set up the stall and unable to proceed due to the activity on the square, we watched the Band and Guardsmen showing how to improve one's marching! Once the coach arrived with members and stock, we were soon set up and ready to sell our ladies' homemade cakes, proving once again, how popular they were as we had sold out by three o'clock! This year, we had samples of carved wooden plaques engraved with the Association Cypher and with "Pick a Straw" and other contributions to the stall, our Treasurer was very happy with the final figure. The entertainment proved very popular again. The day drew the usual visitors and tourists to the railings of Wellington Barracks, who were very keen to join us, what sales we would have made, if it were possible to admit them!

We are indebted to our Chairman, **Mr Andy Reid**, for raising funds from selling donated unwanted Army and Grenadier memorabilia, from generous members of the Branch. These contributions are indeed very gratefully received and helped funds significantly.

With good weather and fishing, the four teams, Surrey Police, Environment Agency, Aldershot Garrison Angling Club and members of the Surrey & East Hants Branch took part in the **Bob Bennett** Fishing Match at Henley Park in July. The late **Mr Bob Bennett** had been a Chairman of the branch and his daughter and son presented the prizes. The Environment Agency won the Match Cup again this year and many prizes in the raffle. A cheque for £330 was given to the RSPB, **Bob Bennett's** favourite charity.

The Branch Annual BBQ was held at the Chairman's house, in September. A big thank you, was extended to **Andy** and **Babs** for an afternoon with plenty of lovely food and for all their hard work in making the event so successful for our members.

Sunday Lunches, held on the last weekend of every month, are still popular and a good chance for all members to meet up and enjoy each others company, catching up on news and a chat with each other.

The next Christmas Draw Lunch is in December 2009, arrangements are under way and that is another year gone by.

We have had the opportunity, with the help of Regimental Headquarters and **Jim (Chalky) White**, to register nine new members and two Honorary Members to the branch this year. Five are serving members in Afghanistan.

Since our last report, we have had to say farewell to the following Branch Members:

Captain John Garnet Milln; 236862949 John Barney; 5345849 Bert Cable and **Major Brian Lane**.

Our prayers and condolences to all their families.

"LEST WE FORGET"

Finally, many thanks go to all members, families and friends as well as the Committee, for their continued support throughout the year to this branch; to **Captain Trevor Rolfe** and **LSgt Jay Ellingham** for their knowledge and patience, thus enabling us to play our part in the Association; and for the continued information and updates of the Regiment from Regimental Headquarters.

SUSSEX

(Formed 1947)

President: Captain JR GREENWOOD MBE, DL.

Vice Presidents: Lt Col TEM DONE; Captain JS GREENWOOD; AD MAYHEW Esq.

Hon Vice Presidents: Colonel JC RICHARDSON.

Chairman: MW BRACKSTON.

Secretary: DG MONEY MBE, 42 Orchard Road, Burgess Hill, Sussex, RH15 9PL. Tel. (01444) 243284.

Email: grengdsassn@uwclub.net

Meetings: Formal meetings on the second Thursday in the month at lunchtime (1115hrs-1430hrs) except in January and February when there are no meetings and also in April which is the month of the Branch Annual Dinner. Contact the Branch Secretary for further details.

Time to sit and write the branch report and I wonder if other Branch Secretaries are like me, wondering just where they are going to start. Meetings go along, as usual, with the very regular members, with their wives coming along and sometimes we get a surprise and see a new face which is very nice indeed. We do try to make everyone who is there feel most welcome and hope that they will come again. As I have mentioned before, we hold our meetings at The Royal British Legion Club in

Lancing, where we have a separate room and where the bar, for the replenishments of drink, is just the other side of the door. For the past few meetings, we have been able to welcome **John Mayes** from Seaford, who although a member of the Caterham Branch, likes to get along each month for a chat with other Grenadiers. Unfortunately, I do get one or two “apologies for absence” each month with members or wives who have hospital appointments, dental appointments, or are lucky enough to be on holiday, so sometimes we don’t get a full show. If any members of other branches are holidaying in the Brighton or Worthing area at the times we hold our meetings, then they are, of course, most welcome to come along and have a sandwich and a drink. Just ring my number, see the Branch Heading, to confirm when and what time the meeting will be held.

We have been a bit lucky, this year, in having new members to the branch join, so things are looking up but it is hoped that they will be able to make some appearances at our meetings and functions. In the order of them joining the branch: **23596571 Mr Peter Marzetti** of Horsham, who served in the 1st Battalion; **24048607 Mr Malcolm Peaty**, also of Horsham and who transferred to us from the Kingston on Thames Branch; **22213135 Mr Henry Wadey** of Petworth, who served in the 1st Battalion and HQ 1st Guards Brigade; next we have **22213166 Mr Ted Dove**, from Polegate who also served with the 1st Battalion and HQ 1st Guards Brigade at the same time as Henry Wadey, and then there was **22451317 Mr Michael Gammons** of Arundel, who served in the 2nd Battalion, and finally **24076201 Mr Geoff Fishwick**, who transferred to us from the Caterham Branch and served with the 1st Battalion.

Our Branch Dinner in April followed the usual formal occasion and our President **Captain Richard Greenwood** welcomed our two Guests and all those who were in attendance. We had as our speakers **Mr Andrew Wallis**, The Curator of the Guards Museum, and what an excellent choice as a Chief Guest he made. The audience thoroughly enjoyed his speech, which was reflected in the applause he received. Next up was the Regimental Adjutant, **Major Grant Baker**, who told us all about what was going on in the Regiment and what was going to happen in the future. The members, I am sure, were appreciative of his speech because we do like to know what is happening in the Regiment. We had good service and good food from the hotel, which is expected and given, and after our President gave his thanks all round, I conducted the rather large raffle draw and then we all mingled with our friends to chat and have a few drinks. I have already booked our 2010 dinner, which will take place on **St George’s Day Friday 23rd April**. If you are in the area of Worthing at this time and would like to attend, you can always

give me a call. We do obtain special room rates at the Hotel and you would be very welcome.

I did see a few of our members at Regimental Remembrance Day and what a good overall parade it was and always will be, when the 1st Battalion and Nijmegen Company are on parade. The weather was excellent for the march to Horse Guards Parade and back and I thoroughly enjoyed it. I can’t stand too long these days but once the Band starts playing, I get the urge to step out in Grenadier fashion.

We again had a branch stall at Grenadier Day which was held in Wellington Barracks and it turned out to be a really good day, as far as the venue and the weather were concerned. Hard work on the stall though but we did, with monetary donations from our branch members, raise £378 for the branch funds. I have to say that it is just the usual three members, including myself, with our wives and **Roy Prior**, with our very stalwart Coldstream friend, **Stan Benger**, we have manned our stall for the past number of years and we are beginning to wonder how much longer we shall carry on. I feel certain that we shall be at Littlecote in 2010 but will have to decide what we shall do after that, either plod on or send our branch stall fittings to the great Regimental Day in the sky!!

It has been my sad duty to record the names in the Obituary List of **Major Michael Wise**, a Vice President of the Branch, who passed away in November 2008 following years of poor health, in 2009, **2614353 Mr Harold Lattimore** of Eastbourne, who served in the Recce Troop of the 2nd Tank Battalion. He was 91 and died in January. He was followed by **2614534 Arthur Canham** of Horsebridge, who was 92 and died in May. He survived his wife by about eight weeks. Arthur served in the 1st and 6th Battalion and was a survivor of the Battle of Mareth and became a POW when in Italy. **2621863 Jack Reynolds**, our oldest member at 96, from Hastings, died on the last day of May. Jack originally came from Coalville, Leics and joined the Regiment in 1940. He served with the 5th and 3rd Battalions in North Africa and Italy and was at one time servant to Lord De’Lisle when he was Major Sidney. More recently, in August, **2625993 Roy Manser** of Saltdean died following a long illness. He served in the 3rd Battalion in Palestine and then Malaya.

Letters of condolence and Poppy wreaths were sent on behalf of the branch and branch members were in attendance at all of the 2009 funeral services. Very recently, as I write this, and which will be mentioned at length elsewhere, branch members were in the church in Hove during the full military funerals for one of our Serving Branch Members, **Gdsm Jamie Janes**, who was sadly killed in action in Afghanistan.

In closing my report, I must once again thank **Jay**

Ellingham at Headquarters and I am sure that all Branch Secretaries much appreciate all that he does for them. Finally on behalf of all Sussex Grenadiers I send warmest good wishes for a good New Year and in the future to all Grenadiers and their families everywhere.

TAMWORTH

(Formed 1965)

President: Awaiting Appointment.

Vice Presidents: AW Wale.

Chairman: AW Wale.

Secretary: AW Wale.

Meetings: 2nd Sunday of the Month

Thought small in number and the years catching up on us all, we are able to find a volunteer to carry the standard on Remembrance Sunday. Three of the members made it to the Queen's Birthday Parade and thought the Micks were magnificent. The trip was enhanced by a new rail service of one hour four minutes from Tamworth to Euston.

A fortnight earlier an equally memorable trip was made to meet friends old and new on Black Sunday before the excellent and reverent service in the chapel.

Unfortunately we were unable to make Grenadier Day because of massive track maintenance work, but we look forward to next year.

WALSALL

(Formed 1974)

President: Major EBM VAUGHAN ERD.

Vice Presidents: M DOYLE; G PHILLIPS.

Chairman: B DOYLE.

Treasurer: F BALL.

Secretary: VACANCY.

Meetings: Second Wednesday of each month at Short Heath Royal British Legion Club, Church Road, Willenhall, WV12 5PT.

It seems impossible that a whole year has gone by since I submitted my last report. Well it has, so here I go again.

The branch appears to be ticking over nicely and our treasurer, **Fred Ball**, informs me that we are doing well financially. Our monthly meetings are still well attended, considering the fact that we are all getting a

little older. It is an unfortunate fact that the age factor also brings along with it illness and infirmity, however we keep coping.

On a lighter note we held our annual dinner at The Terrace Restaurant where, once again we enjoyed an excellent meal and a wonderful evening. The guest from The Regiment was **2nd Lt Jonathon Lindley**. What a fine young gentleman and a credit to The Grenadier Guards. He gave a very informative talk about what has, and what is going on in the Regiment at the present time. I am sure he also had a pleasant and enjoyable evening

In December we held a short meeting at Short Heath British Legion and, afterwards, we had our usual social evening. The ladies between them produced a lovely buffet, with lots of tasty morsels, which everyone enjoyed. We held a raffle, from which we made a good profit.

In March, about 50 of us boarded a coach and made our way south to Eastbourne for a short holiday. The hotel was quite nice and was pleasantly situated on the promenade of the resort. It was amusing to see three of us stopping in wheelchairs to pose for a photograph. I thought (why should England tremble!). We went on three excursions i.e. Brighton, Hastings and Rye. We were lucky and the sun shone for us the whole week. A good selection of food was served to us for the duration of the holiday and everyone had a good time.

This year, I missed Regimental Remembrance Sunday because I was ill but those who did go gave me a full report. I was told that the service in the chapel was again very touching and, of course, the music was, as it always is, superb. Those who were able to, did their duty and marched to Horse Guards Parade for the laying of the wreath. I was informed that all on the march were very smart indeed. Afterwards most of them had a drink and reminisced with friends from the past.

Always a very nice day I think.

June brought us back to Wellington Barracks for Grenadier Day and we all thought what a good venue it was. The stalls and the arena were all close to each other which made it easier to get from one place to another. I think that this helped the branch stalls to do better than they would normally do. All the events in the arena were interesting and this goes for the side stalls as well. The toilets were well situated and very clean. Most people remarked on how good they were. A good day was had by all.

Last year, we went to Liverpool for a day trip. We enjoyed it so much that we went again in July. No arrangements had been made as to what we were going to be doing on the day, everyone made their own minds up as to what they did. Most went to see the refurbishment of the riverside and were amazed at the wonderful job that has been done. It has really made the city into a great place to visit. Again, we all had a very good trip.

Our last outing was to Cosford Air Museum in August. Those who went took their own transport because nowadays coaches are far too expensive for short trips. The museum itself is really interesting, lots of things to see and do. It is a must for a visit.

After the October meeting, we had a bring and buy sale. We also had a raffle from which the branch made yet another good profit. This sort of event helps to keep the branch running financially and the members enjoy it.

It was extremely sad to hear the news breaking about the Grenadiers who are losing their lives and getting badly wounded in Afghanistan. All Walsall branch members send deepest sympathy to their wives, families and friends. This message also goes to all other British forces who are serving out there

Now, on yet another sombre note I must inform you of the passing away of **Mr Arthur Hodson, Mr Brian Stringer, Mr Alf (Tug) Wilson and Mr David Styles**. God bless them and may they rest in peace.

May I now take this opportunity to thank **Captain Trevor Rolfe** and his team at RHQ for the help that they have given to me over the past year. I send Best Wishes to all association members and all Grenadiers who are serving in The Regiment from the Walsall Branch.

WESSEX

(Formed 1949)

President: Lt Col A C McC. MATHER CVO, OBE.

Vice Presidents: JTS BOWER Esq; DC GORE-BROWNE Esq; Captain MW GRAZEBROOK MC ERD; Captain CJ HOPE; Lt Col A HEROYS; Major RW HUMPHREYS; MFMO JODRELL Esq; THE LORD MONTAGUE OF BEAULIEU; Captain (QM) BE SHEEN; Major TTR LORT-PHILLIPS; Colonel DV FANSHAWE LVO, OBE; Major MJ JOYCE MBE; HGW SWIRE Esq MP, Major PH CORDLE; Lady Clare LINDSAY; Capt CTF FAGAN DL; Capt CR ACLAND.

Chairman: B FLEMING. Tel. (01425) 615 673.

Secretary: Mrs K A WILCOX, 48 Hammonds Way, Totton, Southampton, Hants, SO40 3HF. Tel. (023) 8086 5980.

Hon Treasurer: Mrs A CREW.

Welfare Co-ordinator: G MILLWARD.

Meetings: Third Monday; January to October, at 2000hours at the Ringwood Conservative Club, 22 Christchurch Road, Ringwood.

The Branch continues to meet monthly in Ringwood; a feature of this year was the 'Pot Luck Lunch' held at the beginning of August, at the home of our new President in Chirton. Thirty members attended; the weather was excellent and the food delicious. A happy day was had by all.

In early August, a party went to Highgrove to look at The Prince of Wales's garden. We were very lucky to get there in one piece, not having our usual chauffeur, **Garry Crew** but were very lucky to have a wonderful tour once we had arrived, guided by **John Aylmer**, who had once been a Grenadier. We had to have a slightly revised route around the garden, due to the rain the previous night.



The Wessex Branch has enjoyed another successful year. 2008 concluded with a well attended and enjoyable Christmas Draw, in the Conservative Club in Ringwood, organised as always by **Bill and Glenda Butt**.

October saw our Annual Luncheon which was held as usual in Bournemouth. Sixty-two members and their guests came. Our Guest of Honour, **Rear Admiral Colin Cooke-Priest CB CVO**, who had recently retired as the Senior Gentleman Usher to The Queen,

and his wife Sue, gave us an amusing talk followed by **Lieutenant Colonel Tim Jalland** accompanied by his wife **Liz**, who brought us up to date with Regimental matters particularly the 1st Battalion's deployment to Helmand Province.

As another year passes, Branch affairs have been managed by **Barrie and June Fleming**, our Chairman and by **Kathleen Wilcox**, our Secretary. All financial matters are carefully dealt with by our Treasurer, **Anne Crew**, and **George Millward** keeps us abreast of welfare matters. Finally, when a draw needs an organiser, **Bill and Glenda Butt** are there at the forefront. Our grateful thanks to our Committee for all the work they do on behalf of the Branch.

As we write, we as a Branch are thinking of the 1st Battalion; we wish them a very successful tour of duty in Afghanistan and look forward to their safe return.

WEST KENT (TUNBRIDGE WELLS)

(Formed 1951)

President: Major THE VISCOUNT DE LISLE MBE, DL.

Vice Presidents: K RICHARDSON Esq; C WELLINGS Esq MM; ED SMITH Esq.

Chairman: C WELLINGS MM.

Hon Secretary: W FULLER, 18 Sheffield Road, Tunbridge Wells, Kent, TN4 0PD. Tel. (01892) 518 029.

Email: bill.fuller@hotmail.co.uk

Meetings: The Constitutional Club, Sandrock Road, Tunbridge Wells, Kent, on the first Thursday in every month at 1945hours, October to December, also February to May inclusive.

WIGAN, ST HELENS AND DISTRICT

(Formed 1974)

President: Captain L SCHOLES.

Vice Presidents: Captain (QM) TA ROLFE.

Chairman: Mr A PRICE.

Secretary: GRAHAM YOUNG, 18 Hesketh Meadow Lane, Nr Warrington, Cheshire, WA3 2AJ. Tel. (01942) 605 401.

Email: gyoung24433@blueyounder.co.uk

Well another year is over and it's been a busy year for the branch. It started with our AGM in January, with the committee standing down and with our new President taking the helm, the committee was voted back on in full. The President thanked **Mr Alan**

Price for doing a very good job has Branch Chairman. We did not vote for a Chairman this year as now we have a President who takes a very active role in the branch.

The first social event of the year was our St George's Dinner which was held on the 26th April with a total of 26 members and their families sitting down to a informal dinner, to celebrate our Patron Saints Day. A raffle was held with a few members winning (well, **Barry Taylor and John Edwards**); I must say a big thank you to the staff at the Robin Hood, for an excellent meal and an excellent price.

The big news in April was **Eric Radcliffe** stepping down as the Branch Treasurers. In his words, it was time for the young blood to have ago; he has been the Branch Treasurer for as long as I can remember and has served the branch like the good Grenadier he is. He hands over the helm to **Steve Boys** (and I thought I had big boots to fill in taking over from the late **Les Corns**), **Eric Radcliffe** (our then Treasurer) made a trip to Poland, to the ancient city of Torun, on the banks of the river Wisla. Eric went on this trip accompanied by a few family members of the late **Thomas Dainton RASC**, he was a local man from Atherton Lancashire. Thomas was a POW in Stalag XXA Fort XIII Torun, from 1940-1945 and endured a forced march from Poland to Germany towards the end of the WWII. The purpose of the visit was to view a memorial at the entrance to the POW camp. The memorial idea came from Thomas's son Paul, who had painstakingly charted his father's life. Eric told us that at the time of his visit, the memorial was a stone in front of a five barred gate, onto which he had the honour of putting in place a poppy wreath, which he had taken on behalf of the branch. Eric has since returned and has informed us that the money, which has been donated has been put to very good use in creating a more suitable and fitting memorial, to all the men who suffered such harsh conditions in the camp. We, as a branch, are proud to have helped in making a donation to such a worthy cause.

The next event of the year was the annual trip to London, for the Black Sunday Parade. This year, we had a change of hotel. The hotel was situated on the docklands with views across to the O2 arena, with a few pubs (the men were happy) and a 'shopping mall' close by (to keep our ladies happy). After the evening meal, most of the group went for a few hours to Covent Garden where we were entertained by the number of street artists; one man was juggling a chain saw, whilst sitting on a unicycle!

Back on the coach for the return journey to the hotel, we were entertained by the results of the Eurovision Song Contest (where's that chain saw juggler when you need one).

Well it was “up with the larks” next morning, with a hearty breakfast had by all, it was off to Wellington Barracks, so that we could do a bit of sightseeing before the parade. Before the parade, it was great for the members to meet old friends and mates from around the country again, many having not met since last year’s parade. The rain held off whilst the Association Members marched alongside the serving members of the Regiment. Afterwards, it was a few more beers with old mates and a catch up on what we had all been doing for the past twelve months. All too soon, it was back on the coach, back to the hotel for our evening meal and an evening of leisure.

On Monday morning, after another good breakfast, we made our way to Warwick Castle, where we had time to explore the castle at our leisure. Some members ventured all the way to the top of the ramparts. All too soon, it was back on board for the last leg of the journey home. Wigan & St Helen’s Branch would like to thank the members of the Manchester Branch and members of the Stretford Household Division for their support on this trip. We hope you all join us again for future trips. I would like to thank **Sara and John Edwards** for organising a successful trip (I may not have been there in person but I was in spirit). **Sara** would like to thank all the people who helped her to serve the drinks on the journey.

A couple of our members attended Grenadier Day at Wellington Barracks. From the bits and pieces I have heard, the day went very well with lots of stories swapped and more than a few beers sunk.



President Capt Les Scholes presents Mr Eric Radcliffe with forage cap and clock at the annual dinner dance.

The next social event was our Annual Dinner, which was held at the Lowton Civic Hall, Lowton with around 95 members and guest sitting down to an excellent meal and the night’s entertainment. **Captain Trevor Rolfe** was the guest speaker, probably the last time the branch will see him in the role as the Association General Secretary. The branch presented him with a

pocket watch so that he can keep an eye on the time and comes back “up north” and sees us in the future. (As *Assistant Editor of the Gazette*, I have the opportunity to make an insertion here and there! I would like to add here, how very grateful I was to receive the pocket watch, I will put it to very good use, that I can assure you, I will still be coming up to Lancashire for the foreseeable future and will endeavour to attend the Branch Annual Dinner when I can. Many thanks again, for your hospitality, **Trevor**). We also had the pleasure again of **LSgt Ellingham** and his good lady **Bonnie**.

The president presented **Eric Radcliffe** with a Regimental Clock and a Forage Cap on a plinth, for all the work he had done as Branch Treasurer. He also read out Eric’s past army career for which we have to thank Eric’s granddaughter. She told him she was doing a project at school on what their grandparents did during the war, so a big “thank you” to Sophia. During the dinner, we were entertained by a quartet from the Lancashire Artillery Band and after dinner, we were again entertained by **Ray Jones**, an excellent male vocalist. Then we danced the night away to the sound of **Dennis Hammond’s** sound disco. The last person did not leave until gone 1am. A good night was had by all.

By the time you have read this, we will have held our Christmas Lunch. Other dates for the future are Grenadier Day 26th June 2010 and Annual Dinner Dance Saturday 10th October 2010

For any more information on this branch please log on to our website www.wigansthelensgrenadierguards.co.uk.

All that remains for me to say is a big thank you to all the our ladies, Thank you all for your support.

WINDSOR

(Formed 1926)

President: Major BT EASTWOOD LVO, MBE.

Vice Presidents: Major MB HOLLAND; Major E HEMPSALL; Lt Col SIR JOHN SMILEY Bt; Captain DW LING; R MURCOTT Esq; Major General SIR MICHAEL HOBBS KCVO, CBE; Mr JA STEEL BEM; RA DOBSON Esq; Mrs SR HOWELL.

Chairman: JA STEEL BEM.

Secretary: RC GILBERT, 84 Kennel Lane, Warfield, Bracknell, Berks, RG42 2EX. Tel. (01344) 485 307.

Email: gilbert@suebob.fsife.co.uk

Meetings: First Wednesday of each month, at the Grenadier Club, Maidenhead Road, Windsor, at 2000hours.

The last month of 2008 started with the Christmas Draw, being held on the evening of the Branch meeting on Wednesday 3rd. Over 90 prizes had to be won, which had been donated by local businesses and

branch members. BLESMA used the club for their Christmas Lunch on Saturday 6th and the Coldstream Guards held their Christmas Draw on Tuesday 9th. Branch and Club Members sat down to a delicious Christmas Dinner on Saturday 20th December.

The Over '60s Club held their final meeting in December, a big thank you to **Ray Murcott**, **Sam Collins** and **Vic Craske**, for all their hard work in helping to run the club over many years. On Saturday 17th January 2009, they all attended a lunch, at the Club, served up by the Branch Officers and Committee Members.

Once again, we wined and dined our good ladies to a Valentines Dinner and Dance on Saturday 14th February.

The Branch AGM was held on Wednesday 1st April. After the Secretary had given an over-view of the past year's events, a short break was taken when Members enjoyed the buffet provided by our ladies. The President, **Major BT Eastwood LVO MBE**, addressed the meeting and offered the Treasurer, **Mrs Sheila Howell**, the position of Vice President and she accepted. This was welcomed by all members present. Sheila has been the Branch and Club Treasurer since November 1994, after the death of her husband Doug. She does a great job and is always on hand to help out with any event at the Club. **Bob Gilbert** was asked to become a Trustee and he accepted. The Branch Officers and Committee were elected for the following year.

On the third Saturday in May, members enjoyed an evening of entertainment with "Morning Glory", later followed by a fish and chip supper. At lunchtime the next day, The Gloucestershire Branch called in on their way to the Remembrance Sunday Service and Parade, in London, and again on the way home, for the usual fish and chip tea, before continuing their long journey home.

The Saturday evening before Grenadier Day, we had the company of our friends from the Manchester Branch and other Grenadiers that were in the area. On the Sunday, the Branch had a full coach to travel to Wellington Barracks. We set up a stall of Roll the Dice and Trash and Treasure that generated money for the Branch Funds. The weather stayed fine and members enjoyed meeting old friends.

We held our Annual Dinner and Dance in the club on Saturday 4th July, and were privileged to have as our guest of honour **Lt Col (QM) DJ Webster** and his wife **Maureen**. The numbers attending were the same as last year but unfortunately, our Chairman **Mr Tony Steel BEM** was unable to attend due to ongoing treatment. Those who did attend enjoyed an excellent meal provided by the outside caterers, followed by dancing to the disco.

The next large event in the Club was the Autumn

Dinner, Country and Western Night, on Saturday 20th October. Members and Guests were entertained to country music whilst enjoying a western meal of sausages, beans and mash.

The small team of Committee Members have been working very hard throughout the year, not only the day to day running of the club but also holding monthly car boot sales, to raise funds to help maintain club premises.

The club continues to hold the Friday night Bingo sessions and Quiz Nights, on the last Wednesday of the month, with a Fish and Chip supper.

The Club is also open Saturday Nights, 19.30 hours to 23.00hrs and on Sunday Lunch times 12.00 to 15.00 hours. If any members of the Association and their families are in the area, you are more than welcome to visit the club.

It is with deep regret that I report the loss of our Vice President, **Brigadier DH Blundell-Hollinshead-Blundell**; (2629081) **Mr B Bell**; (2618948) **Mr AJ Butler**; (23252140) **Mr C Bowden (formerly Mr R Mann)**; (2616561) **Mr WR Salisbury** and **2621243 Mr CB Skeet RVM**.

Finally, I must thank the members of the Branch, especially the loyal Committee Members, for their hard work and support over the last year.

WOLVERHAMPTON

(Formed 1917)

President: Major EBM VAUGHAN ERD.

Vice Presidents: Mr S BENNETT, Mr F WHITE.

Chairman: Mr L THOMAS.

Secretary: JENNY SNEAD, 92 Van Diemens Road, Wombourne, Wolverhampton, WV5 ODE. Tel. 01902 896547.

Email: jenny_snead@yahoo.co.uk

Meetings: Last Tuesday of each month, at the Linden House, 211 Tettenhall Road, Wolverhampton.

Our Annual General Meeting was held in February this year and attended by 14 members. Our Chairman, **Len Thomas** agreed to continue, but our Secretary and Treasurer, **Cliff Wills** stood down as he could not commit himself 100 per cent due to health reasons. **Mrs Jenny Snead** was elected Secretary and **Mr Brian Gillon** elected Treasurer.

Our members, with family and friends, meet up for Sunday lunch at The Bell, Trysull every three months which makes an enjoyable social event. We attended Black Sunday at Wellington Barracks which is a good

opportunity for members to meet with old friends. We also had a good trip to the Major General's Review in May on a lovely sunny day, and Grenadier Day was a successful event.

Our thanks also go to Chasetown Football Club who have part sponsored the Grenadier Guards Football Team on their visit to the USA this year, and also for their invaluable support to the Colonel's Fund, as the Club has raised more than £4,000 over the past year, through collections and charity matches. Our thanks go to **Mick Joiner** and **John Donnelly** of Chasetown Football Club for their hard work.

Two of our members, **Mervyn Rowe** and **John Payne** took part in the Association trip to Nijmegen in September and found the event very moving.

Our final major event for the year will be our Dinner and Dance to be held at the end of November.

Finally, I would like to thank everyone at Headquarters for their help.

WORCESTER & HEREFORD

(Formed 1923)

President: Captain HL GRAY-CHEAPE JP, DL.

Visc Presidents: Lt Col PR HOLCROFT OBE; Major DJC DAVENPORT CBE, DL; THE Rt HON LORD SANDYS; Lt Col K EDLIN MBE; Lt Col LCA RANSON TD; Major RG WOODFIELD MBE; Col SIR THOMAS DUNNE KCVO; SIR GEOFFREY DEAR QPM, DL, LLB; Lt Col TW JALLAND; D SPENCER Esq; GJ ROSE Esq; JA BARTLET Esq; Capt D Morgan.

Chairman: REG SEALE DL.

Secretary: TERRY HEWLETT, 12 Sheldon Park Road, Bevere, Worcester, WR3 7YA. Tel. (01905) 452159. Mob. 07962 25677.

Email: terryhewlett@ymail.com

Treasurer: DC SPENCER.

After all the events of last year, this has been a most unusually quiet year for the Branch. I am glad to report however that our meetings have been very well attended and the interest shown in the Branch is as strong as ever

We held our Annual General meeting on Sunday 17th February, at the Worcester Rugby Club, with 45 members attending. I am thankful that all the officers of the Branch agreed, once again, to continue in Office. The meeting was followed by an enjoyable lunch.

We had a reasonable turn-out for Regimental Remembrance Sunday. At Grenadier Day, in June, members and their families had an excellent time at Wellington Barracks, London. The weather was good and those who attended said the HQ staff should be thanked for putting on an excellent show, more like the old days. Considering the size of the Branch however, I feel we should have more members attending these two important Regimental events.

During June, our Chairman's nephew Gregory Seal organised a team of pram pushers. This raised a grand total of £2,500 which he and his team have donated to the Colonel's Fund. Congratulations to them all.

Later in July, the Branch once again were invited by the 214 Battery R A (volunteers) to a shoot. This event is getting very popular, with 12 teams this year, competing for the Mayor's cup. Although we must again have had the oldest team shooting, we did not disgrace ourselves but came 6th out of 12 teams. During the evening, we also took the opportunity to shoot for the Branch Boyton Cup, which this year was won by **Ken Allen**.

Eighty-six members and friends attended our Annual Lunch at the Chateau Impney Hotel, Droitwich, on Sunday 20th September. Our guests of honour were **Lord and Lady Cobham and Lieutenant Colonel and Mrs Tim Jalland. Lord Cobham** who proposed the toast to the Regiment gave a very interesting and humorous speech, outlining his family's history and their connection with the Grenadiers. **Lt Col Jalland** gave a detailed update on the Regiment and proposed the health of the Branch and the Association.

In November, 50 members went to the Birmingham Tattoo at the National Indoor Arena.

Our very busy year was completed, when 103 members and their families attended a Christmas Lunch held at The Raven Hotel, Droitwich. This was not a formal lunch, just a nice time to get together before the seasonal rush.

Sadly, the year has once again taken its toll on members. It is my sad duty to report the death of; **262459 F Bennett; 23252647 A J Wilkes; 22545026 T Adams and 23187340 J Dingley**. Our condolences go to all their families.

We invite members of other Branches to join us for our Band Concert to be held on the 10th September 2010 at the Malvern Theatre. Details of the event can be obtained from the Branch Secretary.

Finally, I would like to thank everyone at Headquarters, London for all their help, and to members of the Branch, especially the committee members and their ladies, for all their support.

YORKSHIRE

(Formed 1948)

President: THE LORD HOTHAM DL, JP.

Vice Presidents: THE Rt HON THE EARL OF HAREWOOD; Major PJ DIGGLE; PHD HIELD Esq; P STANLEY Esq; LR LINFORD Esq; THE MOST HON THE MARQUESS OF ZETLAND; D BURNETT Esq; Brigadier D J MADDAN; W WALL Esq.

Chairman: A DANIEL.

Treasurer: Mrs A FLANAGAN.

Secretary: GEORGE FLANAGAN, Bartindale Farm, The Row, Hunmanby, Filey, North Yorkshire, YO14 0JD. Tel. (01723) 892479.

Email: aniceflanagan@hotmail.co.uk

They say time flies as you get older – I didn't realise just how fast! 2009 has flown by, although the Branch hasn't been idle. The Branch AGM in March was the starting point, with a change of Honorary Treasurer, as **Bill Wall** stepped down, after a very successful stint in office, turning the Branch's fortunes round and putting us on a sound footing. The Branch showed its gratitude with a small presentation by the Branch President, The Right Honourable, **The Lord Hotham**, during which he asked Bill to become a Branch Vice-President, to which he said, he would be honoured to become.

A good turnout for Regimental Remembrance Day at Wellington Barracks saw some members and families meeting with friends, old and new. As members get older, it is sometimes the only occasion when we can collectively, organise transport and accommodation, to enjoy a good weekend in London – including the evening visit to the Sgts' Mess, where many a modern Lance Sergeant has been instructed on the best way to handle the 303 and to get that extra shine, by a veteran with more than two pints inside him! The strange thing is that, instead of making their excuses and drifting off to the other end of the bar, the young lads seem genuinely interested and make the visitors very welcome indeed, our grateful thanks to all mess members for their warm, generous hospitality.

A new event for members, this year, was an indoor bowls session, organised by **John Fear** and his wife **Ann**. It was combined with an enjoyable lunch and another event organised with members of the West Yorkshire Regiment Association, on a twice a year basis, if our joints hold up to the pressure and casualties remain low, we could all enjoy it and make it part of our social calendar in future.

In an effort to boost Branch Funds a little, we are running a 'Bonus Ball' game, based around the lotto results on Saturday Evenings. A slow start from

members but hopefully, it will pick up support and give our funds a much needed boost. Winners, each week, receive half of the money paid in for that week, the other half going to Branch Funds.

Our Annual Luncheon was again held in September, in Harrogate, a great turnout included **Bill Potts** and **Marion Ascough** (Northumbria Branch Secretary), **John Scott** and his table of six (a regular attendee, Scots Guards, Durham & Yorkshire Branch), also another splendid effort from **Joseph Whelan** and his family, with a table of ten. Our guest speaker was **Captain Dave Groom**, Second in Command of the Guards Training Company at Catterick, along with his delightful wife, **Dani** and two trainee guardsmen, were good company, well turned out and a credit to **Captain Groom**. I think they enjoyed the alcohol they won on the raffle, as well as the break from training.

Our members, along with some Scots' Guards and Household Division Club Members, attended the Annual Remembrance Day Parade and luncheon at Ripley Castle near Harrogate. A wreath, on behalf of the Branch, was laid by our Chairman **Anthony Daniel** and 35 enjoyed a warming, three-course luncheon at a nearby village pub.

In finishing my report, may I, on behalf of the President, Officers and all Members of the Yorkshire Branch, express our sadness at the losses the Battalion has suffered during this tour in Afghanistan – our thoughts and prayers are with all their loved ones and those awaiting the Regiment's return, in 2010.

Obituaries: It is with sadness, that I have to report the loss of Yorkshire Branch Members in 2009 – **(22955615) Alan Chandley** from Sheffield and **(2614186) George Doyle** from Pontefract. They will be missed. Our thoughts are with their loved ones.

Many thanks for all at RHQ for their tremendous support and organising this year. **Trevor**, gentlemen – we salute you.

NORTH AMERICA

(Formed 1972)

President: Major J WHYTE (Queen's Own Rifles of Canada).

Chairman: E POWIS Esq.

Vice Chairman: J GAUNT Esq.

Secretary: Mrs E PICKERING, 45466 Thomson Line, Belmont, Ontario. N0L 1B0. CANADA.

Email: rpickering@wwdc.com

Hon Treasurer: BJ HARDING Esq.

Sgt In Waiting: D MILLS Esq.

This has been a year of change in the Branch. Early in the year, the President, **Major Ralph Bentley** (Life Guards), retired due to ill health and was replaced by **John Whyte**, formerly Grenadier Guards, also a retired Major from the Queen's Own Rifles of Canada.

On a sad note, six Grenadier members of the Branch have died, namely: **23445713 Brian Hadlow; 2618952 Rev Ernest Phipps; 22213214 John Fretwell; 2615820 Douglas Ingram; 2294066 Albert Tustin and 22498647 Alan Poyner**. Also, four members of the Branch from other Regiments have died.

The Branch was saddened by the death of **Colonel Oliver Lindsay** in April and the Chairman, **Eric Powis**, attended the Memorial Service in London. **Colonel Lindsay** was a good friend of the Branch and his visits to us will be missed.

On a more cheerful note, we have had our usual gatherings over the year and will be meeting in late November for our annual Christmas Brunch which signals the start of the Festive Season.

At the Annual General Meeting in April, all members of the Executive agreed to serve for another year, so no change there.

The Hon. Secretary was in England in September and visited Regimental Headquarters and also enjoyed a very pleasant lunch at the Union Jack Club with members of the London (UK) Branch. We are in regular contact with this Branch.

Our thanks are due to **Captain Trevor Rolfe** and **LSgt Jay Ellingham** for all their efforts and regular communications to keep us informed. The efforts of **Jim White** are also appreciated for his weekly 'missive' which many of our members receive.

On behalf of the North American Branch, best wishes are sent to all Grenadiers worldwide.

AUSTRALIA

(Formed 1971)

President: ALAN TALMARSH.

Vice Presidents: G. RILEY Esq; E. BADLEY Esq.

Secretary: PATRICK O'DONOGHUE, 67 Victoria Street, Howlong 2643, New South Wales, Australia. Tel: 02 6026 8147; Mobile: 0409 678 652.

Email: patrick17@bigpond.com

Welfare Secretary: Mrs A. BARNEY.

THE Australia branch of The Grenadier Guards with sadness bid fair well to three outstanding Grenadier Guardsman who gave there all in time of war. All living into their early nineties.

"Lest We Forget"

That was the year that was, 2009 will go down as the year we will all remember that hurt us all through the world. with the recession that effected every one. We in Australia were hit again with the exchange rate taking a bite out of our British pensions. On the bright side we are heading for a recovery. The Branch is still the largest branch of Guardsman in Australia. As you would know we have members through the country and some we will never meet, but we keep in contact via -mail, telephone and our newsletter **The Grenade**. We have a very large supply of DVDs that we send out to our members. Our new email addresses are:

patrick1771gmail.com
gmail.com.

Kind regards to all, Patrick O'Donoghue, Hon Secretary.

It is with deep regret that I report the passing of: **Ron Rainsford 2625531**. Ron served both in the Grenadier Guards as well as the RAF 6th Btn, and was laid to rest in Queensland.

Bill Grandfield MM 2614198 Grenadier Guardsman 1st 5th and 6th Btn. Bill was laid to rest in NSW in July 2009.

Bill Cousins 2620962 Grenadier Guardsman 5th and 6th Btn was laid to rest in September in Adelaide South Australia. Lest We Forget.



Bill Cousins 1942.

TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS

President: Brigadier DH FUMBLE-POTTINGSHED-FUMBLE OBE MC.

Chairman: HARRY STEADFAST MM.

Secretary: ALISTAIR CAMERONIAN, 9 Bamboo Terrace, Caicos Island, C15 9XZ.

Email: Turks&urks@assnhq.com.cai.

Meetings: At each Full Moon or whenever hungry.

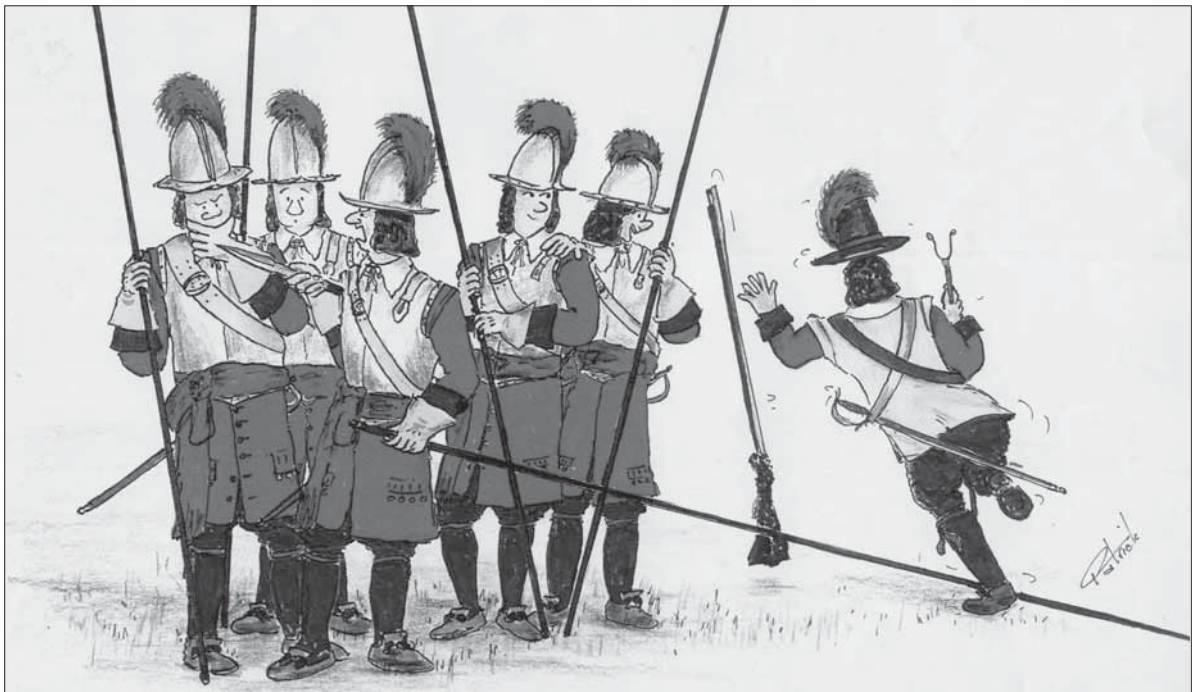
Lock 'em up!

We are amazed to discover that the Association is tying itself into all sorts of intricate knots over its future. Papers, Discussions, Steering Committees and Working Parties are everywhere.

The solutions are really so simple and follow immemorial regimental practice. If a Grenadier is slow to join the Association, lock him up. If he shows reluctance in paying his subscription, lock him up. If he doesn't turn up at branch events, lock him up. If, having dutifully turned up, he is slovenly dressed or doesn't buy enough raffle tickets, LOCK HIM UP for Heaven's sake.

As in the old days, schoolboys were beaten on principle, because they were there and not necessarily for any misdemeanour. Locking up should become a matter of policy, to the great advantage of the Association. How better to compel men to enjoy each other's company, discover each other's vicious habits and form lifetime friendships, than in a guardroom cell? The more locked up together, the smaller the cell becomes and the better they get to know each other. Add slop pails and other necessary horrors and the atmosphere will thicken noticeably. The food, of course, will be wholesome and regular. If someone wants more than his share, he can apply to his neighbour for help. OK, this might result in the odd bloody nose, broken head or ruptured spleen, but what's that between friends?

Fortunately we can assure you that exactly the right person is on hand to get the scheme moving. We came across him in 1985 when he was Sergeant Major **Trevor Rolfe** of the 2nd Battalion, who was stationed in Belize. The Commanding Officer, **Lieutenant Colonel John O'Connell**, put to sea with his Tactical HQ in HMS Arrow, bound for the Turks and Caicos; two Hercules were on standby at Airport Camp, with a large platoon in readiness to assist in putting down a drugs ring. He managed to wheedle his way into the team as the Task Force Sergeant Major and had it been necessary to go into action, would undoubtedly have locked them all up with the greatest relish!



Pikemen & Musketeers.

Wh o at en ere

Who and Where?



Malta 1956 –Who are they?



A Grenadier returns to Germany, but where?



Gazette 2009

Who? What? When? Where?

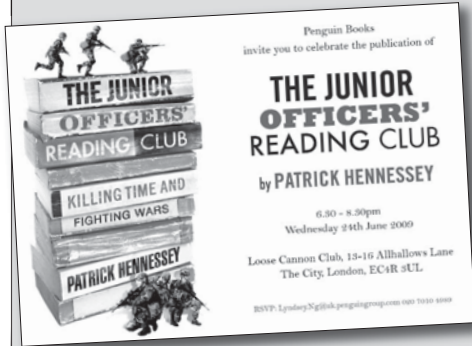
Page 129 – The Queen's Company Marching at Ease from Shorncliffe Station to St Martin's Camp 1959.

Page 130 – Three Eminent Grenadiers – Major Len White MBE, Major Tom Astiles MBE and Captain Don Mason.

Page 30 – Lt Col Gordon Whitehead RVM said that he recognises Major BT Eastwood LVO MBE and Academy Sergeant Major RP Huggins MBE, but who is the dashing young Corporal? The picture was taken the day after the Corporals' Mess Draw!!!

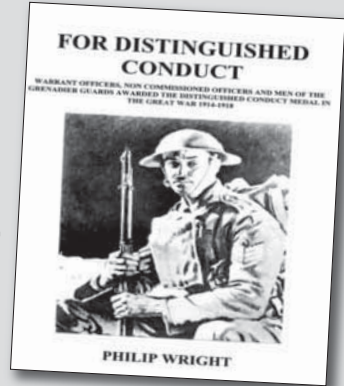
Grenadier Books

If you are not already supplied you are reminded that the following books are available:



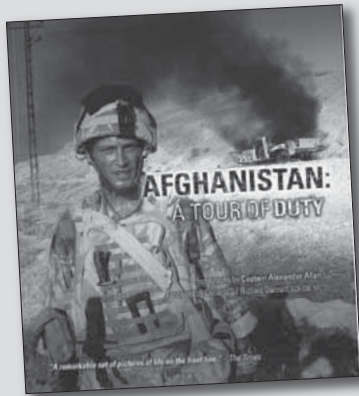
The Junior Officers' Reading Club

Patrick Hennessy



For Distinguished Conduct

Philip Wright



Afghanistan

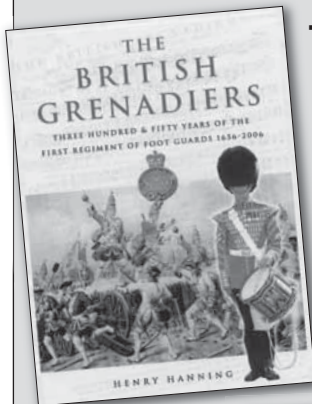
A Tour of Duty

Captain Alexander Allen



Excellence in Action: A Portrait of the Guards

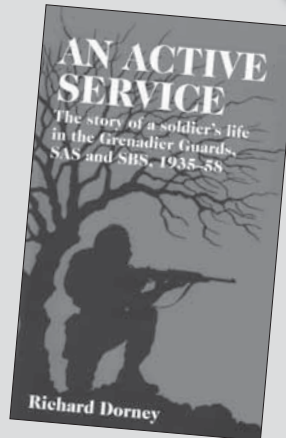
Rupert Uloth



The British Grenadiers

350 Years of the First Regiment of Foot Guards 1656-2006

Henry Hanning



An Active Service

The Remarkable Sid Dowland 1935-1958

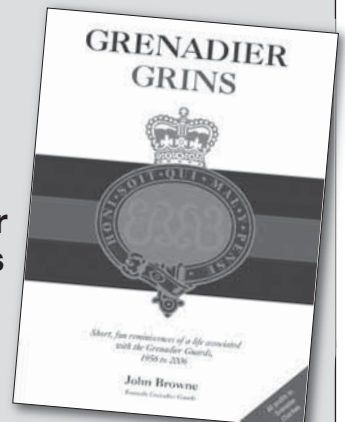
Richard Dorney



Grenadier Grins

A Life Associated with the Regiment 1956-2006

John Browne



DIARY OF EVENTS

As at 5th February 2010

This list covers events, which have been notified to the General Secretary at the time of writing, and therefore this Diary of Events is far from complete.

2010

Mar	20	Association AGM
Apr	10	London Branch Dinner
	18	March Branch Lunch
	23	Sussex Branch Dinner
	24	Manchester Branch Dinner
	24	Nottingham Branch Dinner
	25	Bath Branch Lunch
May	01	Surrey & East Hants Branch Dinner
	06	North Lancashire Branch Dinner
	09	Norfolk Branch Lunch
	11	Presentation of New Colours
	16	Regimental Remembrance Day
	17	First Guards Club Dinner
	29	Major General's Review
June	05	Colonel's Review
	06	Kingston Branch Lunch
	10	Birthday of The Duke of Edinburgh
	12	The Queen's Birthday Parade
	20	Colonel's Fund Main Event – Belvoir Castle
	21	Birthday of Prince William of Wales
	26	Grenadier Day – Littlecote House
Jul	03	Windsor Branch Dinner
Aug	15	Birthday of The Princess Royal

DIARY OF EVENTS

Sept	10	Worcester Branch Band Concert
	15	Birthday of Prince Henry of Wales
	TBC	Association Battle Field Tour
	19	Reading Branch Lunch
Oct	03	Worcester Branch Lunch
	16	Medway Branch Dinner
Nov	01	Articles in for 2011 Gazette
	01	Order your 2011 Grenadier Calendar
	06	Sergeants Past & Present Annual Dinner
	11	Field of Remembrance
	14	Remembrance Day, Cenotaph Parade
	14	Birthday of The Prince of Wales
	19	Walsall Branch Dinner
	20	Liverpool Branch Dinner
Dec	05	Worcester Branch Christmas Lunch
	05	Bath Branch Christmas Lunch
	11	Nottingham Branch Christmas Lunch
	12	Kingston Christmas Lunch



Roll Call.



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