

# The Grenadier Gazette

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THE GRENADIER GUARDS



# 2009



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## EDITORIAL

### Foreword The Lieutenant Colonel Brigadier D J H Maddan

The connection between the serving Regiment and the wider Regimental family has been perfectly demonstrated over the last year by the fund raising activities of the Colonel's Fund. 2007 was the year between tours in Afghanistan and during it we have raised more than £900,000, which will be used to alleviate the distress of those who have suffered on operations. The Association, the First Guards Club, the serving Regiment, the Band and our Regimental friends have all contributed fulsomely and their generosity in time or money or both has been terrific. With Lt Col Patrick Holcroft leading the enterprise, the demands on you have been high but the response has been magnificent and I am very grateful for all of your efforts. We have also been particularly fortunate in the active engagement of the Colonel.

This year we are gearing ourselves up for the deployment of the First Battalion to Helmand in October. We welcome to the Regiment Lt Col Roly Walker, formerly Irish Guards, who has taken over as Commanding Officer.

### Editorial Notes Grenadiers between Afghanistan Tours

The Nation is certainly demanding much from the Army and the 1st Battalion continues to meet a great many of those demands. Now in Wellington Barracks they are preparing to go to Afghanistan again after what is a common (certainly for infantry and Foot Guards battalions) but remarkably short period 'off the line'. Between these deployments they have been asked to do a multitude of separate activities, as well as packing their bags for London from Aldershot, and it is with great pride that we see what they have achieved. Their manning is good, and getting even better, and the level of combat experience in the Regiment is at its highest for a long time.

Reading the features on the Second World War, it would be interesting to ask whether the kit a guardsman carries today in Afghanistan is unrecognisable from his predecessor 50, 30, or even 10 years ago. Certainly his personal clothing and equipment has been transformed with an improved helmet, better (but heavier) body armour, underslung grenade launchers and helmet mounted night

vision system as well as newer communications and vehicles. This is quite a training bill for a Battalion which is now much further from a local training area.

It has been humbling to hear and see the courage of our families, and particularly the bereaved families from Afghanistan in 2007. At the same time, we salute our seriously injured whose courage and selfless commitment to the Regiment has been a shining example to us all. They seem to show no self-pity, rather an indomitable enthusiasm for the future.

Everybody in the Regiment will be pleased to hear that the seriously injured soldiers are continuing to make good progress. Readers will note the Regimental efforts going into the provision of medical care and welfare for them. This is going on across the Army and a revealing statistic is that over 3000 casualties have returned to medical care in the UK from operations in Afghanistan and Iraq since 2001. Regimental money will be spent on improving the lives of Grenadiers and their families, as well as the way they are cared for. The Regiment is particularly grateful to the Association Branches for their generous support for the Colonel's Fund, which has done so much to support the injured. This is all a team effort, and serious team effort has gone and will continue to go into this.



**Gdsm Blaney back  
on public duties**

### Contributions

The Editor would like to thank the stalwart team behind this issue of the Gazette. It has been fascinating to see a myriad of reactions from Grenadiers across a variety of venues when approached for a contribution – some unprintable, some still but with their contributions locked in their imagination, and others who have stood to a generous commitment of their time. I would like to thank Brigadier George Norton who so has so cleverly linked perspectives of Lashkar Gar and Northern Ireland, as well as Philip Wright and Frank Clark, our more regular feature-writers. Edmund Wilson and Jeremy Bagshaw become valued contributors this year in



adding their important additional (and unedited) perspectives.

It is interesting to see the Cheltenham Branch of the Association dominate the pages of this journal in amongst all the reports for the Association.

Readers will enjoy the fascinating adventures written up by Jonathon Lindley and Ben Jesty – I would encourage similar scribing from their peers next year to record and advertise exactly what separate Regimental figures have achieved both in their ambition, planning and activities. Congratulations go to the Queen's Company who have contributed more than all other companies in the quantity and quality of their features this year. Well done also to the Band and Nijmegen Company for their comprehensive and interesting pieces.

This 2009 journal will go to France, Canada and Australia with the hope that we can capture the exploits of our affiliated Regiments in the next turn of the wheel. This Gazette features the latest Regimental creation from James Hart-Dyke (back cover). We remain very grateful for his skill in leaving the Regiment an impressive legacy of the demanding 2007 tour.

## An Invitation to help the Gazette

*'I have an idea which will develop the Gazette.'*

As an Editor, the question I have often asked is whether we have done justice to the 'year that was' and whether we have the best system that allows us to draw upon the experience and multiple talents of the serving and retired Regiment. If the answer is 'no', then you may be able to help us do take the Gazette further. We are certainly not expecting Service papers, or Junior Officer Essays (although we would be delighted to receive them!). This sport is not limited to any rank, of course. It could be that anybody has an insight, 1-2 short paragraphs, reflections, stories, anecdotes, cartoons or artwork to rival even the Hart-Dyke masterpieces, which would add colour to our journal. Do not assume that it will not be included – this is a promise that potential input and features will always be welcomed and considered for inclusion. Do contact Regimental Headquarters – email could not be simpler: [regltreasurer@grengds.com](mailto:regltreasurer@grengds.com)

## Aalton Bridge Naming Ceremony

On the subject of international contributions, we are very grateful to Wim Rhebergen who has written such a

detailed account of the liberation of Aalton in 1945. In naming the Aalton Bridge the King's Company Bridge, Regimental Headquarters do acknowledge that this might infer a lack of recognition of No 2 Squadron of the 2nd Battalion in the same action. They would want to make it clear that this was entirely unintentional and it is hoped that the article by this distinguished Dutch citizen goes some way towards redressing the balance.

## Final Notes

These notes would not be complete without offering many congratulations to Neil England on his very deserved MBE in the latest New Year's Honours List. Many congratulations also go to the three Grenadier WO1s coming off the latest Appointments Board – WO1 Chant as the current Sergeant Major of the Battalion, who made such a mark on 1st Battalion the Staffordshire Regiment all those years ago when 110 Grenadiers went to the Gulf in 1990, and who continues to leave such an impact on every Grenadier since; WO1 Vacher, the most efficient and brilliantly organised RQMS any Commanding Officer would wish to have, who is Sergeant Major of the Honourable Artillery Company; WO1 Andrews, who has done a remarkable number of impressive jobs as a WO2 and who went to Kuwait on promotion. All their promotions are richly deserved against a backdrop of intense competition across the whole Household Division and the wider Army.

As to the subject of editors, many Grenadiers will have seen that there has been a 'changing of the guard' at the helm of the Guards Magazine. After 15 remarkable years, Colonel Oliver Lindsay has passed the huge editing baton to General Peter Williams. As a very part-time contributor to his magazine, it is difficult not to reflect what Oliver has done in those 15 years and sixty editions. It takes enormous devotion and real skill to do what he has done – the Guards Magazine is genuinely the envy of all Divisions and Corps, and wider amongst the other services. In a busy Central Staff job, the library of his magazines sitting on my desk is consistently being raided, lauded and touted as the best that people have ever come across.

There are countless people who now wish him well with his health. We would also wish that he might return occasionally to a Grenadier fold in future contributions. He certainly deserves his retirement after doing so much for the 'other' magazine.

Roll on the next edition of this one, though – our thoughts are with Grenadiers serving on operations, recovering from the way it has changed their lives, and then the Battalion as it prepares for its exercise in Kenya and its tour in Afghanistan later in the year.

## Regimental Headquarters

Regimental Headquarters is staffed by 15 permanent staff, of whom three work on a part-time basis. Captain James Fox masterminds our Officer Recruiting, which is progressing well; last year we commissioned 7 Officer Cadets from RMA Sandhurst, and two young officers transferred in to the Regiment, one from the Household Cavalry and one from the Royal Engineers. RQMS Andy Hill is responsible for the general administration of RHQ, is responsible for the smooth-running of Regimental 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 Tony Bayliss (who has replaced LSgt Joe Tack) and Mrs Jill Lindsay. Gdsm "Biscuits" Brown is the RHQ Orderly/Driver and provides invaluable support. The Association General Office is run by Captain Trevor Rolfe, who also wears the hat of Regimental Treasurer, and he is ably assisted by LSgt Jay Ellingham and the redoubtable Mr George Turton. The Archives are under the control of that Regimental icon, Lieutenant Colonel Conway Seymour and he is assisted on a day to day basis by Mrs Nayna Shah; Major Philip Wright is an invaluable part-time Archivist and Chris Sharp helps out with photographs.

In addition to the usual annual activities of Regimental Remembrance Sunday, the 1st Guards Club Dinner, Grenadier Day and the Sergeants Mess Past and Present, the Regiment was honoured by the grant of the Freedom of the City of Lincoln, and King's Company Bridge was named at Aalten in Holland in recognition of the King's Company, supported by No 2 Squadron, capturing a bridge on the outskirts of the town on 30th March 1945. And then there was the fund raising appeal for the Colonel's Fund, but more of that on the following



**HRH The Colonel meets Association members at Regimental Remembrance Day.**



**The RHQ Marathon Team**

pages; suffice it to say here, that it was a major focus for Regimental Headquarters throughout the year.

As a little extra pastoral activity, Captain James Fox, RQMS Andy Hill, LSgt Joe Tack and LSgt Jay Ellingham ran the London Marathon on behalf of the Colonel's Fund. It was an excellent achievement and they managed to raise just under £3000.

The Ceremony at Aalten, covered in more detail later in this edition, took place on the 5th May on a gloriously warm sunny day. There were representatives from Regimental Headquarters, the Battalion and the Association, along with 3 musicians from the Regimental Band. We formed up at the Town Community Centre and then marched behind a Dutch Civic Band and a number of WW2 Jeeps (belching asphyxiating fumes!) to the Bridge where the naming ceremony took place. Thereafter we marched back to the Community Centre for lunch and numerous speeches. It was a most enjoyable day.

Hot on the heels of the Aalten event, came the Freedom of the City of Lincoln on the 7th and 8th of May. On the 7th May, the Mayor and City Council gave a lunch in the Guildhall. This was followed in the evening by an excellent Band Concert, given by the Regimental Band in Lincoln Cathedral. On the 8th May, the Lieutenant Colonel accepted the Freedom of the City on behalf of the Regiment, and the Mayoral party then went outside to find the Queen's Company, Nijmegen Company, and the Regimental Band, commanded by the Commanding Officer of the 1st Battalion formed up opposite the War Memorial, after a General Salute, inspection, speech by the Mayor and response by the Lieutenant Colonel, the Regiment marched through the streets of the city with "bayonets fixed, drums beating and Colours flying". It was a most moving occasion, and was followed by a lunch for all participants, given by the City. Events culminated with the Annual Dinner Dance

of the Lincoln Branch of the Association, which was a resounding success. The Mayor, the City Council and the people of Lincoln gave us a very warm welcome and were most hospitable. RQMS Andrew Hill was heavily involved in the detailed planning for the two days and is to be congratulated on how smoothly it all went.

Regimental Remembrance Sunday took place on Sunday 18th May and is covered in detail later in this edition. However, it is worth recording here how marvellous it was to have all available members of the 1st Battalion and Nijmegen Company on parade and it was a moving moment when the "Past" members of the Regiment gave 3 cheers for the "Serving" Regiment; their attendance was very welcome, and I hope it is a trend that will continue whenever possible .

Grenadier Day took place at Lille Barracks Aldershot on Sunday 28th June, and it was marvellous to have the 1st Battalion in residence which made the day all the more enjoyable. Captain Trevor Rolfe, ably assisted by RQMS Hill, and LSgts Ellingham and Tack and by the Quartermaster's Department of the 1st Battalion put an enormous amount of work into ensuring that the day went outstandingly well. It is covered in greater detail later in this edition.

In short, it has been a very busy year for Regimental Headquarters and I am very grateful for everyone's very hard work throughout the year.

All those that were injured in Afghanistan on OP HERRICK 6 are making good progress in their recovery, all Grenadiers are now clear from Headley Court except for routine checkups. The level of dedication these soldiers have shown in their road to recovery is admirable.

LSgt Ball has now been posted to Household Division and Parachute Regiment Centralised Courses as an instructor, where he is involved on NCO Cadres and Pre



**Gdsm Blaney.**

have made full recoveries and are serving in the Signals and Anti Tank platoon. Gdsm McGhee and Harrison have chosen to leave the Regiment.

The Colonel's Fund is still providing financial assistance to those that were injured in Afghanistan. Money has been spent on a variety of life changing facilities.

## The Colonel's Fund Grenadier Guards

The Colonel's Fund, Grenadier Guards, came into being during the Autumn of 2007, as a result of an earlier initiative by Captain Anthony Roupell, a former Queen's Company Officer, who decided to cycle the gruelling Etape phase of the Tour de France to raise money for Grenadiers affected by recent active service.

Lieutenant Colonel Patrick Holcroft very nobly agreed to take on the burden of being Chairman of the fund-raising appeal, in spite of his many other commitments. An Executive Committee was formed under his leadership which met for about two hours on most Monday evenings throughout the year, planning all the various fund-raising activities. HRH The Colonel very kindly agreed to become Patron of the Appeal and gave unstinting support throughout the year. In December 2007, Captain Jeremy Quarrie joined the team as the Project Officer, followed in January 2008 by Mrs Sarah Travis as his assistant; Sarah left for a job in Oxford University which was nearer to her home, and was replaced by Miss Jessica Abel-Smith who was with us until the end of the year. Jeremy Quarrie and his assistant bore the brunt of organising the Appeal year and we are very grateful for their efforts.

The Opening Event took place at the Guildhall in the City of 21st February 2008. The event was attended by



**Gdsm Scanlon on HMS Liverpool at the outset of the South Georgia Expedition.**





**The Regimental Adjutant makes his point to a distinguished guest at the Lincoln Band Concert.**

HRH The Colonel and guests were given a moving presentation by Lieutenant Colonel Carew Hatherley, Commanding Officer of the 1st Battalion. Then The Colonel circulated through the room meeting a number of those who had been wounded and some of the families of the five Guardsmen who were killed, in addition to many of the other guests. The evening ended with the Regimental Band "Beating Retreat" outside the Guildhall. It was a most successful evening and got the fund off to a flying start.

The next major event for the fund was a Band Concert in Lincoln Cathedral on the evening before the Granting of the Freedom of the City. The Mayor of Lincoln, Councillor Hilton Spratt, kindly agreed that half the proceeds of the evening would be donated to the Colonel's Fund.

In June, there was a Clay Pigeon Shooting Day at Bisley Shooting Ground, generously donated by Anthony Roupell. It was a thoroughly enjoyable day with lots of shooting for the 27 teams that took part, a delicious lunch and a successful auction after lunch. A substantial amount was raised for the fund.

The next major event was the Band Tour by the Regimental Band which toured the country playing at 13 venues in as many days. It was an enjoyable tour and raised a significant amount. The Band Tour raised £47,000 for the fund.

The final large event was the "Closing Event" at the Hippodrome in Central London on 18 Nov 08. The Salisbury Family, who own the Hippodrome, gave it for one night to The Colonel's Fund. The resident show was a burlesque cabaret act called La Clique. About 650 people came to the event, including many members of the Battalion, and beforehand we held a small Reception, which was attended by The Colonel, to say thank you to those who had been particularly helpful during the year. The Colonel was on excellent form, La Clique performed brilliantly, and people danced into the small hours to the Regimental Dance Band. It was an outstanding and original evening, and in the unlikely event of anyone thinking that Grenadiers can be a bit stuffy, THINK AGAIN!

Of course there have been many other fund raising events and initiatives by individuals, groups and Association Branches throughout the year; the Vintners Hall Dinner, The Mayfield Concert, the Three Peaks Challenge and the London to Waterloo Bike Ride to name but a very few of many. All these efforts have been extremely hard work for those involved and both the hard work and the results are greatly appreciated.

The fund raising year has been characterised by amazing generosity by individuals, many of whom giving rather more than they could readily afford, and by organisations both great and small. The fund will remain open for donations in the future, but active fund-raising will be reduced to a minimal level. At the end of the year, just upwards of £930,000 had been raised which in the current economic climate is a fantastic result.

So what has it all been for? The fund is designed to assist Grenadiers and their families who have been affected by recent active service. To date, the fund has paid out under £5000 and this is because those who were severely wounded are looked after very well by "the system" in the period following their wounding. Nonetheless, there are areas when help is less easy to obtain, and this is where the fund has been able to help the few cases that have arisen. The area where "the system" is less able to cope is the area of mental illness or Post Traumatic Stress Disorder, especially when the symptoms are only recognised after a number of years, often after the soldier has left the service (10 to 15 years after the event that triggered the problem is not uncommon). Often, the Welfare Committee will only hear about a problem after it has become critical, and we will be left trying to help rebuild ruined lives.

However, we are seeking to be pro-active: one idea that is being carefully considered is to try and set up a system to improve communication throughout the Regiment encompassing both the serving Regiment, past members of the Regiment and the Association. This may take the form of a Regimental "Facebook" type offering or a variant thereof, which would be for the use of the whole Regiment, but a "spin-off" advantage might be that it would help people stay in touch and possibly mean that the Regiment would become more easily aware of people in need of help.

Allied to this idea, is the concept of a Regimental "Buddy Buddy" system in which all serving members of the Regiment (or non-serving for that matter!) would buddy up with someone else and then "look out for them" for life (?). Obviously, an idea such as this would require a massive "buy in" by individuals, but if it worked, again it would improve the chances of the Regiment knowing about people in need of help and in some cases, might prevent a drama becoming a crisis.

These are embryonic ideas, and any readers who would like to put forward ideas of their own are more than welcome to do so, and should email the Regimental Adjutant ([regtladjt@grengds.com](mailto:regtladjt@grengds.com)) in the first instance.

## SERGEANTS' (PAST AND PRESENT) CLUB

*President 2007 – Maj D Bradley BEM*

*President 2008 – Capt A J Keeley*

*Vice President 2008 – Mr D Adkins*

*Hon Secretary – WO2 RQMS Hill A*

*Vice Hon Secretary – LSgt Tack J*

### **Current Membership**

*Past 581, Serving 203, Honorary 21 - Total 805*



**LSgt Tack, Maj Bradley BEM, WO2 (RQMS) Hill.**

The Annual Sergeants' (Past and Present) Club dinner was held on Saturday 1st November 2008 at the Thistle Hotel Marble Arch, London. The hotel looked after the Club very well and the benefit of holding this prestigious event in Central London was obvious for all to see. Once again the administration and attention to detail by WO2 (RQMS) Hill and LSgt Tack ensured a suitably impressive successful evening for all.

Our Guest of Honour was to have been Brigadier George Norton CBE who commands 38 (Irish) Brigade. Unfortunately due to planned marches on Sunday 2nd November by Sinn Fein and Loyalists (Yes, we thought Peace reigned in Northern Ireland) during a welcome home parade for troops returning from Afghanistan, he had to cancel at the last minute. However in good Grenadier tradition the Regimental Lieutenant Colonel Brigadier David Maddan stepped up to the mark and the Regimental Adjutant Major Grant Baker read a very warm, sincere letter of explanation from Brigadier Norton which was well received by club members.

The Regimental Lieutenant Colonel gave an update on the Regiment's activities referring to recent activities, and also the qualities of the Sergeants' Mess which drew sound applause from all present.

Other Guests were Mr Victor and Mrs Maxine Barley. Victor is a very well known character within Household Division circles, particularly within the Sergeants' Messes. Their attendance marked the 50th year of Victor working for Carringtons, Mappin and Webb and his association with the Household Division and the Regiment in particular.

The President Major Dennis Bradley thanked him on behalf of the Sergeants' Mess for his service, loyalty and friendship.

We were superbly entertained by Fifth Avenue Dance Band and many enjoyed dancing until the early hours. Many of the more professional and dedicated socialites then moved to the 1st Battalion Sergeants' Mess to continue the movement! Well done the Sergeant Major!

The Annual General Meeting was held prior to the Dinner. Once the routine business had been conducted the President handed over to Captain A J Keeley as the President for next year.

### **The Committee now consists of:**

Captain J A Keeley	President
Mr D Adkins	Vice President
WO2 (RQMS) Hill A	Hon Secretary & Treasurer
LSgt Bayliss A	Vice Hon Secretary

### **Serving Committee Members:**

WO1 (RSM) Chant D	Sgt Major 1st Battalion
WO2 (CSM) O'Halloran M	Nijmegen Company
WO2 (CSM) Gillham S	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 all who assisted him and the members for their kind support over the last year which was very much appreciated. We now look forward to the next Annual Dinner on Saturday 14th November 2009.

## GIFTS TO THE REGIMENT

- 1 x Framed Grenadier drawing with roll of honour 1884  
*Donated to the Regt by Colin & Barbara Stokes*
- Silver Dish inscribed "Lt Col G.A.I Dury" from the Corps of Queen's Messengers 1950 - 1959  
*Donated to the Regt by Grahame R Fleming Q.C*
- 1 x Framed City of Lincoln Freedom scroll  
*Donated to the Regt by Lincoln City Council*



## The Regimental Band

Following what we had considered an unusually hectic 2007, our naïve dreams of a somewhat more sedate pace of life in the coming year were well and truly dashed as we quickly realised that the Band's workload for 2008 was to be exceptionally heavy. As expected, the year was to be largely dominated by engagements in support of the Colonel's Fund, Grenadier Guards. What we had not quite bargained for was the additional commitment of duty tours to Sandhurst and Germany at either end of the busy ceremonial season; it all made 2008 one of the busiest years in recent memory.

The turnover in personnel has been particularly high in 2008, with a steady stream of departures and arrivals throughout the year. Our sincere appreciation and heartfelt best wishes for the future go to Musician Gemma Clydesdale and LCpl James Brincat-Smith on completion of their service; to Lance Corporal Shane O'Neill on attachment to the Royal Military School of Music where he started three years on the Bandmaster Course last September; to Sgt Mark Hamilton on his recent posting to the Coldstream Guards Band; to WO1 (Bandmaster) Stewart Halliday on commissioning and appointment as Director of Music of the Heavy Cavalry and Cambrai Band in Catterick, and to WO1 (Senior Band Sergeant Major) Kevin Bird on retirement from the Army after 25 years service. Into the fold we welcome WO1 (Bandmaster) Chris King, who joins us following a spell as Training Development Warrant Officer at Headquarters Directorate Corps of Army Music; Sgt Richard Plampin on posting from the Band of the Welsh Guards, and Musicians Ben Hull, Sam Petchey and Alan Shellard fresh from Phase 2 training at Kneller Hall.



**Associate Composer  
Nigel Clarke.**

The year began with the welcome news that the eminent composer, Nigel Clarke, had accepted the Director of Music's invitation to take up the position of Associate Composer to the Band. As a former member of the Irish Guards Band and long-standing friend of the Grenadiers with a host of quality wind band compositions to his credit, Nigel was an ideal choice for the appointment and was soon hard at work on his first commission for the Band; a

composition that would form the centrepiece of our efforts in support of the Colonel's Fund later in the year.

Our first notable engagement came in early February as we headed for Camberley and a ten week tour of duty providing musical support to training at the Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst. An unquestionable (?)

highlight of the tour was the three long days spent on Old College Parade Ground undertaking our annual Spring Drills under the ever compassionate command of WO1 (College Sergeant Major) Butcher and his merry band of Grenadier Drill Instructors. Thanks to you all – the third degree burns and blisters have almost healed and we are slowly coming to terms with the psychological injuries! A brief respite from the seemingly endless round of parades, dinner nights and unfamiliar Regimental Marches came towards the end of March in the form of the much publicised State Visit of the President of France which saw the Band on parade with the Guard of Honour to greet Her Majesty and her guests on their arrival at Windsor Castle. We did manage to take advantage of the structured nature of life at Sandhurst to spend some quality time in the rehearsal room in preparation for a recording of music by the talented English composer, Philip Sparke. The recording was made over two days towards the end of our tour in the pleasant surroundings of Charterhouse School in Godalming and is due to be released early in 2009. Our time at the Academy eventually drew to a close on a blustery April morning with the customary end of term Sovereign's Parade; on this occasion in the presence of the Princess Royal.

After a short spell of Public Duties and a spot of well-earned leave we hit the road once again – this time bound for the city of Lincoln on the occasion of the granting of the Freedom of the City to the Regiment. We performed a highly successful evening concert to a packed cathedral as a prelude to the following day's celebrations as we led the 1st Battalion through the city streets to the obvious delight of the local population.



**Recording at Charterhouse.**

The following weekend saw our first visit to the new Wembley Stadium where we accompanied the singers Lesley Garrett and Kathryn Jenkins in the traditional pre-match ceremony at the FA Cup Final. The end of May brought another two gruelling days in the studio as we recorded the CD which was to accompany our forthcoming

nationwide concert tour in support of the Colonel's Fund. The CD is called *Fields of Remembrance*, which is the title of Nigel Clarke's stunning composition based around the march, Grenadiers' Return, and dedicated to all former and serving members of the Regiment. The programme is typical of that we would be performing later in the year on the concert tour and copies are still available from Regimental Headquarters, with all profits directed to the Colonel's Fund, Grenadier Guards.



***Fields of Remembrance* – available from Regimental Headquarters.**

June brought the usual heavy round of ceremonial commitments including Beating Retreat on Horseguards Parade, the Queen's Birthday Parade and Founder's Day at the Royal Hospital, Chelsea. An unexpected highlight of the year came towards the end of the month in the shape of an informal visit to the Band by The Colonel, who was treated to the first official performance of *Fields of Remembrance* in our rehearsal room at Wellington Barracks with the composer in attendance. The occasion coincided with the annual award of the Brian Johnston Memorial Prize to a member of the Band judged to have made a significant contribution to the Band's output above and beyond that required in the routine execution of his or her duties. Our congratulations this year go to LCpl Nathan Bowen who collected the award from Mrs Johnston in recognition of his outstanding service in the field of non-musical training.

Following our customary five day July appearance at the Royal Regatta in Henley, it was time for ten members of the Band to head north to Manchester and the University of Salford where, after two years of intense study, they were presented with their Masters Degrees in performance.

Congratulations go to the following:

Maj B Wassell MA (dist), WO2 A Wood MA, Sgt S Crooks MA, Sgt J Pickin MA, LSgt M Altree MA, LSgt N Penny MA, LCpl M Gibson MA (dist), LCpl L Henaghan MA, LCpl S Kerr MA and LCpl C Spencer MA.



In concert at Cheltenham Town Hall.

### ***The Colonel's Fund Concert Tour***

Sat 16th Aug 2008	Leas Cliff Hall, Folkestone
Sun 17th Aug 2008	Bristol Cathedral
Tues 19th Aug 2008	Hardwick Manor, Oxfordshire
Wed 20th Aug 2008	Walsall Town Hall
Thur 21st Aug 2008	Derby Cathedral
Fri 22nd Aug 2008	Stockport Plaza
Sat 23rd Aug 2008	Royal Hall, Harrogate
Sun 24th Aug 2008	Sheffield Cathedral
Tues 26th Aug 2008	Southwell Minster, Nottinghamshire
Wed 27th Aug 2008	Willows Arts Centre, Corby
Thur 28th Aug 2008	Cheltenham Town Hall
Fri 29th Aug 2008	Forum Theatre, Great Malvern
Sat 30th Aug 2008	Guildford Cathedral

With summer leave behind us it was time to embark on our epic tour in support of the Colonel's Fund, which saw us on the road for two weeks performing concerts to delighted and often capacity audiences in thirteen venues across the country. Starting on the south coast at



The 18th Century Band entertains at Guildford Cathedral.



**The Bikers on parade at Guildford (LCpl Adrian Snood, LCpl Shane O'Neill, Sgt Ian Ballard, LCpl Nathan 'Jim' Bowen).**

Folkestone's Leas Cliff Hall on 16th August, we steadily made our way as far north as Harrogate before returning south for the tour finale at Guildford on the 30th.

A major point of interest to our audiences throughout the tour was the presence of three slightly dodgy looking motorcycles proudly emblazoned with Grenadier Guards' insignia, parked either in or outside each of the thirteen concert venues. In an effort to boost the tour's fund-raising capacity, four members of the Band decided to purchase motorcycles worth no more than £500 to ride to each concert venue, inviting sponsorship for every mile successfully covered. Those in the know will appreciate that £500 does not go particularly far in the purchase of a quality motorcycle and will therefore understand the Director of Music's concern as to whether or not he would be bringing the baton down on a full band each night. Working on the principle that what he did not know would not hurt him, it was decided not to brief Major Wassell on

the number of bits that fell off Sgt Ballard's bike on the journey to Folkestone for the first concert! Amazingly the venture was a complete success with some 3,000 miles covered, no absences on stage and a healthy sum raised towards the fund.



**Standing ovation at Guildford.**

All agree that the tour was an immense success and a fantastic experience we will all remember for a long time to come; the highlights for us undoubtedly being the marvellous evening at Southwell Minster and the final concert at Guildford Cathedral. Our sincere thanks go to all members of the regional branches of the Grenadier Guards Association involved in the organisation, marketing and staging of this memorable series of events, which overall raised a creditable sum for the Colonel's Fund and brought immeasurable pleasure to thousands of people across the nation.

## Where to see the Regimental Band in 2009

Sun 22 Feb	Guards' Chapel	Sun 14 Jun	Guards' Chapel, Castle Hill; Windsor
Wed 13 – Sat 16 May	Windsor Castle Royal Tattoo	Sun 28 Jun	Grenadier Day; London
Sun 17 May	Memorial Sunday; Guards' Chapel	Wed 1 – Sun 5 Jul	Henley Royal Regatta
Sat 30 May	Major General's Review, Horse Guards	Sun 26 Jul	Guards' Polo Club
Sun 31 May	Guards' Chapel, Castle Hill; Windsor	Sun 2 Aug	Guards' Chapel, Castle Hill; Windsor
Wed 3 Jun	Household Division Beating Retreat; Horse Guards	Tue 8 Aug	Army Benevolent Fund - Beating Retreat & Concert; Thursford
Thu 4 Jun	Founder's Day; Royal Hospital, Chelsea - Household Division Beating Retreat; Horse Guards	Sat 19 Sep	Izegem Tattoo; Belgium
Sat 6 Jun	Colonel's Review; Horse Guards	Sat 3 – Sun 4 Oct	11th World Band Festival; Lucerne
Sat 13 Jun	Queen's Birthday Parade; Horse Guards	Sun 18 Oct	Guards' Chapel
		Fri 23 Oct	Royal British Legion Concert; Margate
		Sun 8 Nov	Remembrance Parade; Cenotaph
		Sun 20 Dec	Guards' Chapel

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



## BASIC TRAINING – Grenadiers in the 21st Century

*By Captain G Gask Company Second in Command Aug 06 – Jan 09*

We are all of the opinion that basic training, whether at the Guards Depot in Caterham for the old or Pirbright for the bold, and here at Catterick for the remainder, was the toughest ever conducted and far harder than any one else's basic training could ever have been. I suspect, however, that the training has not changed that much and that the change in social and home environment that young men have enlisted from has had the most effect.

In my time here at Catterick, Grenadier staff have worked hard to keep up with the hectic programme that the Regiment has undertaken: the short notice tour in Iraq with 20 Armoured Brigade followed by an incredibly short order turnaround and subsequent deployment to Afghanistan, in the hugely successful mentoring role, as part of 12 Mechanised Brigade. Now having moved to Wellington Barracks, public duties provide background for the main effort, preparation and deployment again to Helmand Province with 11 Brigade. Nijmegen Company meanwhile have continued to provide the necessary support to State Ceremonial, at the very highest of standards, while still managing recently to provide the infantry support element over Christmas in the Falkland Islands; the saying 'you're twice the man' in the Grenadiers hardly scratches the surface.

The Officers and Non Commissioned Officers of 14 Company here at Catterick have in that period produced



190 Guardsmen to take their place in the Regiment, playing a vital part on both operations and State Ceremonial. We have had our training team manning increased with an additional platoon commander, gold sergeant and three section commanders to enable us to meet the demand placed on us by the tireless work of Grenadier recruiters.

Over the past two years we have seen how lessons learnt in the harshest of operational environments have immediately impacted on how we train our guardsmen. The approach in the past of 'training for a war', in the generic sense, now has elements of the course aimed at 'the war' and current operational environment in Afghanistan. On Tactical Exercise 2 the fundamentals of patrolling are the primary training objective and rather than patrolling from a conventional harbour in a forestry block on the training area, we now utilise one of the many derelict farms, working from a forward operating base (FOB) teaching the trainee guardsmen the basics of task rotation, guards, QRF, patrol tasking and administration. A common theme mentioned by battalions on their return from Afghanistan has been the importance of the GPMG in the light role and mounted in sangars and vehicles; this has resulted in its planned return to the course in the near future. These are a few examples of how we have adjusted to the requirements of the contemporary operational environment but we have also ensured that we have concurrently prepared the trainee guardsmen in other infantry skills to ensure that all other demands placed on him can be met beside the very highest standards routinely expected on state ceremonial.

All Grenadier staff here at Catterick work very hard, particularly the section commanders, who besides



avoiding numerous pitfalls that training civilians in preparation for the realities of operations in Afghanistan involve, have also had to deal with the disappointment of missing out on the Battalion's deployments. All non commissioned officers who take up the challenge to train potential guardsmen in the 21st century undertake a difficult task, mentally challenging but equally rewarding and in all cases a real career enhancing experience.



*Lt Nigel Torp-Peterson shares his views about the Infantry Training Centre:*

I took over 2 Platoon, Number 3 Company during Herrick 6 in 2007 and was fortunate to stay in command for the rest of the tour. The guardsmen in that platoon were of a high calibre, robust, determined and trustworthy and largely because of them we all came through in one piece as a platoon despite some close calls. I became interested at this stage in taking a job at the Infantry Training Centre Catterick (ITC(C)) to see how trainee guardsmen (TGdsm) are transformed into the robust and ultimately smart individuals found in as contrasting locations as the Forecourt of Buckingham Palace and the Green Zone in Helmand Province.

ITC(C) is where the Army trains all infantry soldiers and the Foot Guards operate a training company within the second of the two Infantry Training Battalions. The Foot Guards course is 28 weeks long, two weeks longer than the line infantry courses, so that extra emphasis can be placed on drill turn out and bearing.

Most Foot Guards platoons are made up of trainee guardsmen from all five Regiments. Care is taken in each platoon to introduce the different Regimental customs early on. In my platoon, for example, the etiquette for the approach to the platoon office by TGdsm of different cap badges is up on the wall so there can be no misunderstanding. Furthermore it is normal practice to put

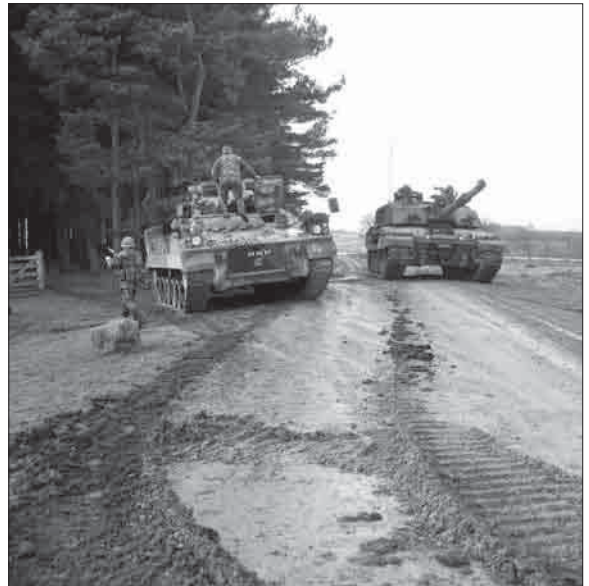
as many of the same cap badge into one section as possible with a section commander from that Foot Guards' Regiment so as to install Regimental identity as much as possible.

The trainee guardsmen arrive during the afternoon of the Sunday before Week 1 and come from all over the United Kingdom and further afield. They are a range of ages too. I have TGdsm from Botswana, Grenada and Kenya as well as from Bridgend, Stoke, Plymouth and Chelmsford. The oldest is 31 and the youngest 17.

They undergo a programme of lessons which start at a relatively slow pace and build to turn civilians with no military experience into guardsmen who could fit into a rifle section going away on operations on finishing the course.

A great strongpoint of the course is the experience of the instructors. Everyone in my training team has been to Afghanistan or Iraq at least once. This puts them on a firm basis to answer questions and explain why it is necessary to do certain drills. They are picked from the top 10 per cent of the Foot Guards Non Commissioned Officers and speaking about the individuals in my training team their enthusiasm and motivation is limitless. In Guards 26 Platoon I have 1 Scots Guards, 1 Grenadier Guards and three Welsh Guard constituting the training team.

Currently I am in week 9 which will see 26 guardsmen head out into the training area to the rear of ITC to embark on a four day exercise. An essential part of the training occurs in this environment. All the infantry tactics are reinforced from personal drills up to platoon attacks and later on in the course training converts from dry training using blank ammunition to live firing, once the TGdsm have mastered operating the rifle!



## Lt Col Carew Hatherley Outgoing Commanding Officer

### *Reflects on the year that was 2008*

2008 was the first year since 2003 that the Battalion was not deployed at some point on operations. In January when the Battalion came back off Christmas and Post Operational Tour Leave a period of recuperation began whereby we could get to grips with the lasting effects of the Afghan tour whilst at the same time preparing for what lay ahead.

Just over one month after we began recuperation the first Rifle Company deployed to the Falkland Islands as the regular Army detachment. In their turn, The Inkerman, then Number Two and finally The Queen's Company deployed along with elements of Support and Headquarter Companies. The Battalion covered the period from March to August and used it as an opportunity to rebuild Company integrity and even allowed Battalion Headquarters to have a quick run-out and blow away any cobwebs. Number Two Company also used the deployment to get some Adventure Training in Chile and the Anti-Tank Platoon sailed to South Georgia to conduct some mountain training. The height of winter in the Falklands was a welcome change to the searing heat of Helmand the previous year.

In July, whilst the Queen's Company were still in the Falkland Islands, the Battalion began the move from Lille Barracks in Aldershot to Wellington Barracks in London. By the end of August the move was complete and the battalion were settled into Wellington Barracks as the Queen's Company returned. Coming from a newly refurbished barracks in Aldershot the whole Battalion, and in particular the guardsmen, have been struck by the tired infrastructure and cramped accommodation they now inhabit. With the help of Headquarters London District, the Major General and our own resources we have set about doing what we can to make the barracks more cheerful.

From September to the end of December the majority of ceremonial duties in London and Windsor have been carried out by Grenadiers. Ironically this means that many of the guardsmen have spent much of their time living in the Guardrooms at the Royal Palaces. Supplementary duties included several Guards of Honour, the Cenotaph Parade and the State Opening of Parliament where the Queen's Company were able to carry the Queen's Company Colour the Royal Standard of the Regiment. This was the first time in four years they had the opportunity to do so. Christmas and New Year duties were

slightly more poignant than normal as it has not been lost on many Grenadiers that next Christmas they will be approximately half way through their second tour of Afghanistan. The various legacies of the last tour remain with us, but all those who endured major amputations are still serving (at mutual request) and are continuing to ably contribute in their own ways to the strong desire of all Grenadiers to excel both ceremonially and on the battle field. The Colonel's Fund continues to grow and is already helping those injured on recent operational tours.

Individuals and groups of particular note include: LSgt Thomas of the snipers and Corps of Drums who was presented with the Cutlers Sword by the Lord Mayor of London; LSgt Deen who is part of the Team GB Bobsleigh crew who are training for the next Winter Olympics, the Battalion Football Team who were unbeaten across the Army thereby winning the Army Shield, the Rugby Team who were runners up in the Army Shield and finally WO2 (RQMS) Farrell who was voted Most Outstanding Soldier of 2008 by readers of the Sun and an independent panel of judges. The final honours and awards following on from the last tour were also made public as Capt England was awarded an MBE for his outstanding efforts as the Welfare Officer and CSM Powell awarded his MSM for his year at Selly Oak Hospital as our Liaison Officer.



**WO2 (RQMS) Farrell is recognised as 'Most Outstanding Soldier of the Year' by The Sun newspaper Millie Award for service in Afghanistan.**

As part of the Battalion farewells to the old Commanding Officer both the entire Sergeants' and Officers' Messes were invited to break the thick ice and have their group photograph taken standing chest deep in the icy Serpentine. Loud cheers were heard from the Corporals and guardsmen as they stood on the bank with warm mugs of tea, having been spared the ordeal by the outgoing Commanding Officer. 2009 begins with a new Commanding Officer and heralds the start of solely pre-deployment training for a September deployment back to Afghanistan for a second tour.



## Lieutenant Colonel C R V Walker

**Lt Col C R V Walker** assumed command of 1st Battalion in January 2009. Born and raised in Kenya, schooled in England, he commissioned into the Irish Guards in 1993. He served with 1st Battalion Scots Guards in East Tyrone in 1994 as a Platoon Commander, and then 1st Battalion Irish Guards in East Tyrone (again) in 1995 as the Intelligence Officer. After a spell in the Recce Platoon and as an instructor at the Platoon Commanders Division, he spent four years on secondment which included further tours of Northern Ireland. He commanded Support Company 1st Battalion Irish Guards in the Armoured Infantry role in Germany before attending the Advanced Command and Staff Course in 2001-03. After a further period on secondment which included two tours in Iraq, he spent two years as Chief of



Staff 4 Armoured (late Mechanised) Brigade in Germany. On promotion to Lieutenant Colonel, he served a third tour in Iraq before a short stint in the MOD which included brief but frequent visits to Iraq (again) and Afghanistan.

Lt Col Walker is married to Kate (sister of the Grenadier, Charlie White Thompson, and they have three daughters (and a dog, pony, and numerous chickens...).

## WO1 (RSM) D J Chant

**WO1 (RSM) D J Chant** enlisted into the Grenadier Guards in June 1986. He attended SCBC in 1993 where he achieved a distinction and joined the Close Observation Platoon as a team commander for a South Armagh tour. He subsequently transferred to the Pathfinder Platoon in 1997. WO1 (RSM) Chant completed PSBC in 1999 where he achieved another distinction. On subsequent postings he took part in tours of East Tyrone, Kosovo and Bosnia, and served as both a Colour Sergeant and Company Sergeant Major instructor at RMAS. In 2006 he rejoined the Battalion as the Drill Sergeant and was attached to the 1st Battalion Royal Anglians as a liaison officer for Op



Herrick 6. During the same year he was appointed briefly the Regimental Quartermaster Sergeant and in 2008 he was promoted to WO1 and Regimental Sergeant Major of the 1st Bn Grenadier Guards.

## The Queen's Company at the National Cold Water Swimming Championships

### 2Lt Michael Dobbin

The Tooting Bec Lido (the UK's largest outdoor swimming pool) remains unheated all year round and offers "dippers" a bracing experience. Since 2005, the South London Swimming Club have hosted the National Cold Water Swimming Championships and sensibly choose January as the time of year for the contest. All races except for the endurance race take place over a 30m width of the pool, which is more than enough for a first timer in the four degree water. This year the Queen's Company entered a team into every event (including the 500yd endurance race) as a start to the series of adventure/endurance competitions they are completing in support of the Colonel's Fund.

Led by the Captain, Maj Alexander Cartwright, the team began with the freestyle 30m dash. On first

inspection competitors seemed to be dealing with the icy water rather comfortably; however as the Captain slid in his face rather gave the game away - to quote one officer: "It was bally cold". Fortunately, provision had been made for the recovery of hundreds of very cold competitors in the form of a jacuzzi and sauna; however, in true Grenadier style the team dined out on sausage baps, brownies and sloe gin all supplied by the Captain's mother!



**LCpl Dean going for gold while turning blue.**

Throughout the day the commentators gave regular support to the Colonel's Fund and the crowd were very much behind the 8 man Grenadier team. By 1130 the early competitions were over and attention turned to the team relays. The relay event requires teams of three gentlemen and one lady to form a team and swim four widths of the lido, preferably in interesting headwear. Headwear was not a problem, and neither were the ladies once three hardy souls had been recruited to help the cause. The sight of bearskins cutting through the icy waters of Tooting Bec Lido was, one suspects, a first in the pool's 100+ year lifetime.

The commentators ensured the company received healthy support as the team secured the wooden spoon in every relay event entered. Indeed, the heart of the crowd was won and the level of support was superb; over £100 was made through donations by members of the public watching the competition. As the relay finals drew to an icy finish and the local choir sang arias about the joys of cold water swimming, focus turned to the endurance event. It is recommended that only swimmers of considerable cold water swimming experience enter this potentially lethal exercise - the designated platoon commander was therefore kindly informed by the organisers that, as a complete novice, he would be unable to take part; he did little to resist the decision and returned to the team quietly relieved. Unhappy with the decision, the guardsmen and non-commissioned officers found the organiser and persuaded her to let him swim a portion of the event (2 lengths). The rest of the team happily cheered on from the comfort of their warm kit ensuring that he did not get out until the full five lengths were completed in a time of 13mins and 18secs - quite long enough in the near freezing water on his birthday!

As the waters settled and the platoon commander drifted into hyperthermia, one could only marvel at how wonderfully British the day had been - cold weather, hardy souls, a choir, cups of tea and the Queen's Company. Throughout the day there was huge support for the Colonel's Fund and donations continue to be given through the website. Furthermore, there was much interest into the team's future events which include the Devizes to Westminster 125 mile canoe marathon, London to Brighton cycle ride and Tough Guy Competition - more details can be found on the website [www.bmycharity.com/v2/thequeenscompany](http://www.bmycharity.com/v2/thequeenscompany).

## The Corps of Drums Kings Day Concert Bruges 26 November 2008

After a highly successful trip to Bruges with Nijmegen Company in September 2008, the Corps of Drums was invited back to play at the Kings Day Gala Concert on the 26th November 2008, in front of Prince Laurent and



**Drum Major Betts leads out the Corps of Drums.**

Princess Claire in one of Belgium's most prestigious events of the year.

On Monday 24th November the Corps of Drums departed London for the 6 hour coach trip to Bruges. On arrival, we were to make our way to a small town called Lombardsijde, where we were accommodated with 14 Artillery Regiment. The barracks itself was quite basic but it had all the creature comforts to make our stay as comfortable as possible.

That evening we met our liaison officer, Captain Jan De Vos of the Belgian Navy. He had been given the challenging task of entertaining British soldiers for the next 2 days, but was unfazed by the challenge ahead of him. We were in store for a pleasant and interesting week.

That night we were taken to Military Command West – Flanders, in the centre of Bruges, where we were invited into the bar for a couple of free drinks and a guided tour of the Command HQ. Once the Corps had finished up the last of the beer, we were kindly taken to the local cinema to watch the movie 'In Bruges', which was highly entertaining.

On the second day we made our way back to Military Command West to meet up with Captain De Vos and our second day of activities. After a few coffees in the Headquarters we made our way to the embankment of the winding canals of Bruges, to be met by our tour guide and take part in the highly recommended boat trip: the only way to see the city.

From there we were taken to one of Belgium's best preserved military history sites, the "Trench of Death". This was one of the only trenches occupied solely by Belgian soldiers in the Great War 1914 – 1918. For 3 years the German front line was only 20 meters away. It was quite a grim place and a harsh reminder of the sacrifices made by all Allied forces in the war.

Day 3 and this was the day of the Concert. Again we made our way to Military Command West, or FOB Bruges as it was now known. On arrival we were granted some free time to ourselves to carry out a spot of shopping and sightseeing in our own time. Roughly an hour and half later and with hundreds of packs of Belgian chocolate, we regrouped to make our way to the concert hall in Bruges. On arrival we were treated like real VIPs. We had our backstage passes,

our own changing rooms and rehearsal areas and invites to the after show reception- this was all very new!

Once we had settled at the concert hall the 'Drums' made their way to a British war cemetery, where Drum Major Betts laid a wreath on behalf of the British Armed Forces. The Last Post was sounded by LSgt Orrell, which is always a very stirring and touching moment for any British soldier. Once the wreath lying ceremony was complete it was back to the concert hall for the main event, the Kings Day Gala Concert.

On arrival to the hall we had time to carry out some rehearsals and made our way to the stage area. It was then it hit home as to just how big this 'gig' was. Behind us was going to be a full symphony orchestra, to our front just meters away was the seating area for the Prince and Princess of Belgium. The concert hall was 5 tiers high all around, similar in size to the Royal Albert Hall. It was enough to give even the most senior of drummers the butterflies.

At 8 o'clock the concert began with various performances acting out the military history of Belgium - of course with our turn to come. At approximately 8.45 PM, and up to the year 1656 in the show, it was the turn of the British Grenadiers to take place in Belgium's military history. The Brigade Call was sounded by Sgt Bennett and Drummers Called beaten by the Side Drummers of the Corps of Drums in preparation to march onto stage. As we marched on the clapping and cheering was immense and any butterflies that there were soon disappeared. However it was not until we marched off to the rising sound of the British Grenadiers that we got our full reward. As the rolls struck up and the fifes kicked in the crowd including the Prince and Princess of Belgium stood to give the Corps of Drums 1st Battalion Grenadier Guards a standing ovation, clapping along in time with the music and with roars of appreciation. It was a feeling like no other.

The end of the concert invited all acts and bands back onto the stage for the concert epilogue and a last chance for the crowd to show their appreciation for the hard work put into the concert by all. It was quite an honour to be invited into something on this scale.

The next morning, with the concert behind us, we climbed back on the transport for the journey back to London with the thought of what we had just achieved for not only the Corps of Drums but for the Regiment. It was a most amazing and memorable experience.

## The Queen's Company Ski Trip

### - Rollin' Deep on Tignes

Overcoming mild last minute panics with the grace and coolness under fire which typified their last year, the Queen's Company embarked upon what was for many their first adventurous training in a number of years.



Preparing for the descent.

Treated to some exceptional late season snow anticipation might have turned to frustration as the true extent of the ambition of the trip sunk in - of 36 men undertaking the Basic Ski Proficiency, only 4 had ever put skis on before! It is testament to the determination of the guardsmen, not to mention the saintly patience and professionalism of our instructors, no matter how baffled they were at times by our unique 'Guards' mentality, that every single man who came on the expedition gained the qualification.

Height is no advantage to a skier and with the Company average currently above 6 ft 3" it was always going to be a challenge for many. Matters were not helped by the weather indecisively vacillating between blinding glare and dangerous sunburn, and zero visibility freezing blizzards. Nonetheless, even Guardsman Jallow overcame his triple jointed legs (his distinctive Bambi-like pose and beanie a familiar site to all on the slopes by the end of the week) and in a number of first-timers we found budding future ski-team competitors (perhaps even a future professional dancer in LCpl Mooney and a future helicopter pilot in LCpl Maynard).

There are those who question the value of adventurous training, deride such trips as either 'jollies' or distractions. To any of those we would point to the majority of the Company who spent the first day in Tignes baffled, bruised and on their backsides but who struggled on, pushed themselves and achieved something many thought they would not be able to after their tentative first tumbles. A well-earned and fantastic time was had by all.



**Lt Neil Strachan, Captain of the Ski-Team and organiser of the trip, models the unorthodox but undeniably stylish Folie Douce Order.**



## The Javelin Platoon in South Georgia - Ex Cape Reach

### 26 May – 07 June 2008

*By Capt B J R Jesty*

During its Falkland Islands Deployment, the Javelin Platoon had the good fortune to be given the opportunity to take part in Exercise CAPE REACH, a force projection exercise intended to demonstrate that British Forces South Atlantic Islands have the capability to operate on South Georgia at very short notice.

South Georgia is located 800 miles to the east and slightly south of the Falklands. It is mountainous terrain with many glaciers and has a population of eleven scientists and government workers, none of whom live on the island permanently. The island is most famous for being Ernest Shackleton's final destination when he set off to find help for his shipwrecked men on Elephant Island in 1915. It is now visited every year by cruise ships that bring tourists to enjoy its unspoilt natural beauty and rich wildlife. Interestingly the only land-based animals are rats and reindeer, which were both introduced by settlers, predominantly Scandinavian whalers.

The land component on Ex CAPE REACH consisted of a section of the Falkland Islands Defence Force (FIDF) lead by Major Pete Biggs and WO2 (CSM) Tooby RM and a section of the Javelin Platoon. Pete grew up on South Georgia when it was a thriving whaling

economy and WO2 Tooby is a Royal Marine Mountain Leader. Hence they drew upon a huge amount of experience of mountains and South Georgia in particular. The soldiers of the FIDF have a dual role as a local militia and also mountain rescuers. The concept was that the FIDF would therefore provide the mountain expertise to train and guide us novice mountaineers on the island so that we could carry out military/civil operations. The time taken for us to sail aboard HMS Liverpool, a Royal Navy Type 42 Destroyer, from the Falkland Islands to South Georgia was used to carry out lessons in cold weather survival, avalanche awareness, kit and equipment preparation, mountain movement and mountain climbing amongst other things. A destroyer is not really ideal terrain for trying to teach such lessons. At one point we were practising mountain movement by attaching ourselves to folded tables and wall fittings, using them to simulate a rock face.



**LCpl Garrett and Gdsm Swann make friends.**



**The view.**



**The first camp.**

We were landed on South Georgia by the ship's Lynx and whilst waiting for the full team to land, most of us had an opportunity to go and greet a couple of Gentoo penguins that were lolling by the sea and were as interested in us as we were in them. Once we were complete, we set off inland aiming for Echo Pass where we were to pitch camp as a base for carrying out training on the peaks nearby. We pitched camp as planned having made good progress up the valley in spite of often plunging into the snow up to our knees and having to abseil down a particularly unstable, steep face. Whilst pitching our tents one of the violent gusts which we would become very accustomed to, blew away one of the FIDF's two man tents. As it disappeared over a mound we thought we might be getting a little cosier that night, however a determined chase brought the tent back intact. The first night passed uneventfully and on Sunday morning we set off into the hills to practice what we had learnt on the ship and a few new skills - ice axe arrest, glissading, walking with crampons, belaying, snow bollards and put these to the test by investigating the following day's route up through Echo Pass.

The air temperature was around minus ten, occasionally a little lower, but the regular gusts of up to fifty knots dropped the temperature to between minus thirty and forty. In such temperatures goretex becomes like cardboard, gloves freeze within a minute of taking them off; it can take ninety minutes to boil half a litre of snow; tents and zips freeze solid; snow can freeze to your face in seconds and the driving snow can bury a tent overnight. We discovered this last little trick of the weather on Monday morning in my tent when we woke to find our tent had almost collapsed with the weight of snow on it. It took us forty-five minutes to dig our way out, delaying the group's departure for Echo Pass. In spite of the late start we made good progress that day up over the pass with our bergans, which weighed in excess of 100 pounds. Even though we were wearing snow shoes we still regularly slipped into snow up to our knees and had to change regularly from snow shoes to crampons as we moved from snowdrifts to ice. Reaching the top of the

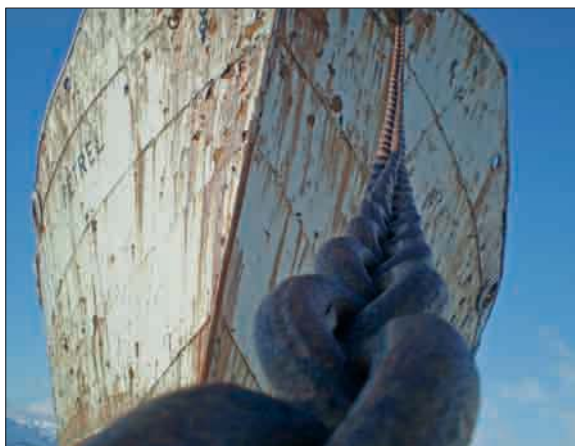
pass and heading down the other side of the ridge towards Gull Lake and Grytviken was a welcome boost, even though we would not reach either of them until Tuesday morning.

On Monday night we pitched camp again in the fiercest gusts yet encountered, during which we later heard that HMS Liverpool had been dragging her anchor in Grytviken Bay. On Tuesday morning the other four man tent collapsed and its occupants awoke to find themselves buried in the snow, which caused a certain amount of schadenfreude for those of us who had received little sympathy when the same thing happened to us the



**Grytviken.**

previous morning. Tuesday dawned with bright blue sky and perfect photographing weather, we had to push the pace because we still had quite some way to go to make our 1100hrs rendez-vous with HMS Liverpool. Yet we reached the ridge above Grytviken with a little bit of time to explore the remarkable remains of a once bustling whaling town containing the most southerly church in the world. A lot of money has been spent on making the town safe for visitors; some of the old



**The Petrel in Grytviken harbour.**



**The descent to Grytviken.**

buildings that were an asbestos hazard have been pulled down leaving just the guts of the old whale processing machinery exposed to rust slowly in the Antarctic air. Having visited the museum and the grave of Sir Ernest Shackleton who died in Grytviken harbour in 1922 making a return journey to South Georgia, we were picked up by launch and returned gratefully to the warmth and unsteadiness of HMS Liverpool which immediately made best speed for home to try to clear the iceberg fields before darkness fell.

Our thanks must go to the Captain and all ranks of HMS Liverpool for their outstanding hospitality and generosity of spirit while we were getting in their way on the passage to South Georgia and back. Without the excellent instruction and inspiring enthusiasm of WO2 Tooby the exercise would have been a shadow of what it eventually was and of course the expertise and friendship of all ranks of the FIDF will be appreciated by all the Grenadiers who had the privilege to take part in Exercise CAPE REACH.



**Farewell to Grytviken.**



## In Patagonia

*By Lt Jonathan Lindley*

'Have gone to Patagonia' famously served as a one-line resignation telegram for Bruce Chatwin as he set off on the journey that made his name as a travel writer. To my relief, the suggestion that I should do likewise was delivered 'with coffee'.

Making the most of the deployment to the Falkland Islands, 19 members of Number Two Company crossed to southern Chile to undertake the Torres del Paine 'W' and extraction. This 100km mountaineering circuit crosses from open pampas to mountain glaciers around the south of the 'Towers of Paine' massif; named (as a number of expedition members were keen to note) after the local mountaineer rather than the sensation. The group would also complete the Summer Mountain Proficiency Adventure Training Award.

After a brief stop over in the Falkland Islands, the expedition had some familiarity with feelings of remoteness. Arriving in the principal staging post, the town of Punta Arenas took these to a new level. Perched on the edge of Chile and the shore of the Straits of Magellan, Punta Arenas is arguably the southernmost city in the world. The last time it featured in European newspapers was when Shackleton used it as his base to extract his 1915 expedition from Elephant Island. The town centre felt like a combination of a French ski resort and the OK Corral, with a sharply segregated naval base bolted on.

Soon leaving the town behind us, the expedition moved up into the Torres del Paine National Park. Condors and guanacos started to appear. Setting out with mapping that lacks a national grid system, using only latitude and longitude, contributed to a sense of endeavour, whilst intermittent rope bridges provided a further touch of 'Indiana Jones'. These atmospherics could only be



**Gdsm Martin with the Torres del Paine in the background.**



**Gdsm Dawson enjoying a rope bridge. Gdsm Clark and Eduardo, a local guide, look on.**

heightened by pleas of the deleterious effect of tents and hard ground on LCpl Jackson's 'childbearing hips'.

On the second day, the expedition set out at 3am to catch the sunrise on the face of the towers themselves, but poor visibility limited the view. Over the following days, the park threw most types of weather at the expedition; wind that bent the poles in the orange Vango tents, as well as a peculiar fridge-like chill of the campsites near the glacier, and a few solid downpours. In the main, this combination of intermittent rain and strong winds proved fortuitous, unlike Welsh rain which soaks you while never moving above a fine drizzle, the combination of temperate wind and showers meant you could be rained on without being wet. Fauna proved a further challenge; we lost a day's rations to local wildlife, some of which gnawed through rucksacks to get the food. Whilst there were some sound fieldcraft lessons learnt, the transition to non-tactical field life proved unsettling for some. When told at the first day's route brief that there might be a late finish, a tentative question was raised by Guardsman Thompson "Sir, does that really mean we can cook after last light?".

The latter stages of the trek were dominated by the Glacier Grey, an outcrop of the Southern Patagonian Ice Field, and the lake it flowed into. We skirted the glacier, with a clear view down into the crevasses and a Foxes' mint blue of the main ice flow, and camped beside the lake. Guardsman Mellor proved his mettle one morning when caught stripping down in the water, as a small iceberg washed past!

One of the Chilean guides suggested that we round off the expedition with a barbecue, and that he knew a local gaucho who could provide. Thoughts immediately turned to chicken legs and sausages in a Surrey garden - what arrived were three staked-out sheep and a bonfire. After a week on rations, being passed a whole leg-and-shoulder of lamb was a notable challenge, but the guardsmen rose to the occasion. The gaucho also brought along a number of horses and Number Two



**Glacier Grey.**

Company now boasts a passable mounted section, although Sgt Owen made clear that he is happy to leave any such command to LCpl Perreira.

The expedition returned to Punta Arenas the following day, and bid a grateful goodbye to two of the JSMEL instructors, Captain Dan Waterston of the REME and Captain Gavin Hendrie of the AGC(SIS). Major John Tolan of East Midlands OTC, the Senior Instructor, was to join us in the Falkland Islands for a

few days. Thanks are also due to Smith and Williamson Investment Management, Mr Tony Chambers and the Berlin Infantry Brigade Memorial Trust Fund for their generous support for the expedition. There was little respite for the expedition members, however. Within 48 hours of landing at Mount Pleasant expedition members were manning the QRF or out on patrol, online as part of the Falkland Islands garrison.



**Gdsm Stray reaches the summit.**

## GOC's Inter Unit Summer Sports Day

It was anything but a summer's day on Wednesday 24 September 2008 when six Grenadier teams mounted the transport to take part in the GOC's Summer Sports Day being held in Windsor.

In total six sports were being played: football, basketball, volleyball, squash, tug of war and the relay race. All the results of the six sports would then be totalled for an overall winner on the day. Teams were selected in the Battalion on an availability basis and the driving force of SSgt Pierce (our APTCI) and final team list were not produced until the evening prior to the competition. The competition drew some healthy competition including the Coldstream Guards and the HCMR so a lot was on stake. The new arrivals in London District were keen to make their impact.

The football, captained by WO2 (RQMS(M)) Bate, won all its games. It was said that it could do nothing wrong. Everyone was where they were supposed to be when the ball was passed, less the opposing keepers! The basketball, captained by Maj Broad, won all games with an aggressive, tall and skilled side that both gave as good as they got and scored more points than anybody. The volleyball came a joint second but were given third place. Captained by LSgt Horton, they were masters of fair play but were lacking slightly in team

cohesion which lost them the competition. The squash team, captained by LSgt Thompson, were placed fifth but it was not from lack of effort as the bruises showed from collisions with many walls on the court. Sgt Roberts led the Tug of War team. It was not the biggest team but failed to lose a pull during the whole competition. The relay race comprised of 4 runners all completing a 1.5 mile circuit. It was impressive with an average time of 7min and 45 second per runner being achieved. On the last leg the Battalion were in third place by a good 400m until Gdsm Taylor on the last leg put in a 6 min 15 sec leg and earned a well deserved second place.

In all the day was a great success, even though a little damp, and played by all units in the spirit befitting that of being a member of the Armed Forces.



**The Grenadier Teams - 3 Wins, 1 Second Place and Overall Winners.**



## Christmas in the Falkland Islands

With the continued commitment of the Army to deployments in Afghanistan and Iraq, it is unsurprising that the smaller independent units are asked to help cover the less attractive and less glamorous deployments and operational commitments around the world. Nijmegen Company therefore found itself the perfect remedy to the usual bleak and cold Winter Guards and State Ceremonial Calendar. The company was tasked with fulfilling the Falkland Islands Roulement Infantry Company commitment for November and December of 2008. This in itself was not a bad deal. For starters it would mean another summer and if ever there was a period in the Falklands, which could be described as high summer, November and December was it. Secondly it would mean that the Company would have ample opportunity to train and operate dressed in combats rather than the usual ceremonial uniform.



**Captain Swanston (the London Regiment), Major Paintin and Lieutenant Hamilton at Wreck Point.**

So, the Company prepared itself with baited breath and a high degree of anticipation. Sennybridge, with its usual rain infested and demanding terrain, was selected as the most suitable location to conduct our initial build up training. With stories from the 1st Battalion's deployment to the Falklands over the winter months firmly in our minds, the characteristic Sennybridge weather and terrain were seen as an entirely appropriate training environment in which to prepare for the tour. Thankfully Sennybridge did not disappoint; we were greeted with the obligatory rain cloud as we passed over the famous cattle grid onto the area. Once on the ground the platoons quickly came to grips with the testing training programme which included field craft, platoon and section drills and also navigation which would prove extremely useful down in the Falklands.

With training complete and everyone in a fit and healthy state to deploy, the Company found itself once again in the delicate hands of the Movements staff at RAF Brize Norton. Brize has undergone a slight metamorphosis, with the installation of a food kiosk and newspaper shop as well as the provision of Internet terminals. All the recent additions to the facilities would make the inevitable four hours of waiting in the departures hall slightly less intolerable. The Company also discovered that the flight down to the Falklands was sub contracted out to a private company which meant that as well as having an aircraft with an onboard entertainment system playing some reasonably up to date music and films, it was also staffed by flight attendants who were found by the guardsmen to be more aesthetically pleasing than the usual RAF crew.

The flight down was broken into two distinct legs with a three hour stop over in the Ascension Islands where the RAF did their very best to coral as many people as they could into the smallest terminal space in the world. After a couple of uncomfortable hours we embarked on our final leg of the journey with the highlight being the arrival of two F3 Tornados alongside to guide us in.

On our arrival the delighted faces of the Company whom we were to replace said it all. With the hand over completed in good order and with a healthy book full of useful hints and suggestions, the Company settled in to its new role.

With the last elements of C Company, The Yorkshire Regiment Company happily and safely departed, the Company set about the task of deterring any would be aggressors through several patrols of the Islands and adopting an overt presence in and around MPA. Individual sections set off each week on week-long patrols to each corner of the Falkland Islands. Their



**Captain Forster and Major Paintin on the way back from Onion Range. Yet another rock river to cross.**



methods of insertion and extraction were varied with both the Royal Navy Patrol vessel, HMS Clyde, and British International helicopters. Those who had not experienced either helicopter or ship borne operations found themselves faced with new challenges and new experiences. Some guardsmen discovered that they were natural sea-farers whilst others turned green and welcomed their delivery by rigid raider, (renamed rigid blender) onto the distant beach.

The local population were very welcoming and hospitable wherever we encountered them, with most patrols seeking shelter in outlying barns from the incessant wind. All patrols kept civil and military relationships at the forefront of their minds with many becoming dapper hands at mending fences, castrating sheep and general labour in the outlying farmsteads. All became very adept at walking across the very soft spongy ground, which sapped the strength from one's legs in an instant. The terrain throughout the Islands proved to be very arduous and great for physical training. Rock rivers, proved hazardous, whether wet or dry, and took hours to cross with heavily laden guardsmen gingerly leaping from rock to rock. All patrols soon became adept at navigating their way over this difficult terrain and living out in often extremely windy and challenging conditions.

The highlight of the deployment to the Falkland Islands was a large scale week long Company exercise, which employed all the assets available to us in theatre and was designed to be demanding at all levels. The exercise started with Platoons initially conducting platoon attacks onto selected targets, inserting by Rapid Air Landing out of low flying C130 aircraft and by Rigid Blenders. This was followed in the second phase by a helicopter insertion and beach landing from HMS Clyde

into Ajax Bay. The objective was a Company level clearance of the Wreck Point peninsular. The Vice Chief of Defence Staff, General Sir Timothy Granville-Chapman paid a visit to the Company during the attack and was delighted to speak to as many guardsmen, seniors and officers as he could. With the peninsular cleared of enemy forces, the Company extracted by helicopter to Onion Range, a fantastic facility, for a seriously demanding live firing package, which had been put together by Company Sergeant Major O'Halloran. With all three platoons challenged over two days of live firing, the Company finished the exercise with a march and shoot competition followed by a platoon race in CEFO, on foot, in time for tea and toast.

It was not all hard work during our stay in the Falklands. Every platoon took the opportunity to utilise the fantastic adventurous training facilities and visit some of the local tourist attractions. Company Headquarters spent an afternoon riding some seriously badly behaved horses with Company Sergeant Major O'Halloran once again proving that he has equally good control over other forms of life than soldiers. A visit to Sea Lion Island for some of the Company saw guardsmen coming face to face with some imposing Elephant Seals and vast numbers of penguins who were as curious in us, as we were in them.

Christmas Day saw those that had not departed on the first flight back to Blighty assembled in the cookhouse for the Christmas Day lunch, served by the officers and seniors, to the utter bewilderment of the RAF, and the inevitable food fight with the Mercian contingent who had recently arrived. As a parting gift CQMS Williams was selected from a cast of many to have a familiarisation flight in a Tornado. After his flight many enjoyed his animated account of observing his favorite poster on the



**Nijmegen Company at Ajax Bay.**



The Falkland Island KAPE tour was not drawing the right calibre of potential recruit.



Wise words from the Vice Chief.



Reference penguin, Half left of penguin...

roof of the Rapier Battery outpost from the rear seat at 300 knots, much to the amusement of the assembled culprits.

Altogether the Company had had a very successful tour with some excellent training having been conducted and some valuable lessons having been learnt at all levels.



## Lashkar Gar to Lisburn - Sublime to the Ridiculous?

***Brigadier George Norton CBE***



I was sitting in the shade, contemplating the lot of the Helmand Task Force as it grappled with the Taliban in temperatures exceeding 45°C, when the Task Force Commander wandered up to me. “Great news, George” he said, “you’ve been selected for Type A command, but I bet you will never guess which brigade you’ve been given.” And he was right. This was my second operational tour in Afghanistan in as many years, and I had assumed that, if lucky enough to be given command of a brigade at all, the choice would play to this experience. But I was wrong, for in 4 months’ time I was to return to Northern Ireland to command 38 (Irish) Brigade, having left the Province ‘for the last time’ about 7 years before as the Captain of the Queen’s Company. So the Military Secretary did indeed work in mysterious ways, but was I complaining?

When I received this welcome news, I was mid way through Op HERRICK 6 as Deputy Commander of Task Force Helmand. I had spotted the job as I sat in the Ministry of Defence, and the choice of having my work “green inked” by the VCDS for another year, or deploying to Helmand with 12 Mechanized Brigade – which included our own 1st Battalion – was something of a ‘no brainer’. So what was my role? As with everything in the military, it broke down into 3 parts: first and foremost, it involved deputising for and working hand-in-glove with the Brigade Commander, John Lorimer, a Parachute Regiment officer. Secondly, I was to represent the military within what was known as the Helmand Executive Group. This body, headed up by a 1\* from the Foreign Office, was responsible for the

delivery of the overall campaign in Helmand, in which the military played just a part. The theory was that progress in Helmand could only be made if we supported the Afghan Provincial Government by means of a ‘comprehensive approach’, with the military delivering a level of security sufficient to enable the social, political and economic progress necessary to convince the people to support the legitimate government rather than the Taliban alternative. I had to ensure that the Brigade never lost sight of the campaign context as it planned and conducted its operations, whilst at the same time providing the military input to the cross departmental planning process. The third part of my existence was very much linked to this, and involved working on a daily basis, alongside the 1\* Foreign Office representative, with the Provincial Governor and his Provincial Council. Isadullah Wafa, for that was his name, was a likeable rogue in his latter 60s who by instinct favoured the long established tribal approach to governance, rather than the quasi democracy imposed on Afghanistan by the International Community. This contradiction was to account for hours of my existence, drinking tea and eating an array of meals the origins of which didn’t bear thinking about – ‘the sacrifice of ones intestines on behalf of Her Majesty’ made by generations of our forebears in this and other parts of the world. So that was my lot, which could not have been more stimulating or rewarding, and as I left Helmand at the start of September 2007, I even flattered myself into thinking that we had made some progress.

So I returned home; packed my boxes; and set off for the ‘Emerald Isle’, but to find what? After 38 years, Operation BANNER had drawn to a close only 3 months before as the process of ‘normalization’ had edged forward,



**Ian Paisley, former First Minister of Northern Ireland with Martin McGuinness - the ‘Chuckle Brothers’.**





and Northern Ireland once again found itself subject to the rule of a devolved Government. And what a devolved Government, especially for anyone whose military experience had been limited to the early days of the ‘Troubles’: the First Minister was the former firebrand and current leader of the Democratic Unionist Party, the Reverend Ian Paisley, and the Deputy First Minister a man of equal renown by the name of Martin McGuinness, former commander of the Provisional IRA in Londonderry, and



**Ian Paisley, leader of the DUP.**

subsequently PIRA’s Army Council member responsible for operations in the North. You had to pinch yourself to believe it, especially as the ‘C h u c k l e Brothers’, as they were affectionately

known, seemed ready to embrace one issue after another which would previously have triggered a bombing campaign, or strident cries of “never, never, never”. Within days I found myself sitting next to Ian Paisley at the Royal British Legion’s Festival of Remembrance; sharing a joke with him at an event in Hillsborough Castle; and flying back to England in the same aeroplane as McGuinness. Surreal it most certainly was, but apparently the only way out of the miseries of the last 38 years. The Northern Ireland Assembly was dominated by the Democratic Unionist Party and Sinn Fein, both of which had replaced their more moderate counterparts (the Ulster Unionist Party and the SDLP) in 2003, and were – and still are – grappling with the final but highly controversial elements of devolution, namely responsibility for policing and justice. For Sinn Fein, it was the Westminster Government’s undertaking to devolve control of this critical function that had won their political commitment; for the DUP it was a cause for major concern, calling for a leap of faith that would see ‘poacher turned gamekeeper’ in the most

**Belfast during ‘The Troubles’.**



extreme form. It was the failure of the two parties to agree how and when to make this bold step that resulted in the daily workings of the Northern Ireland Executive freezing over in mid 2008, as well as in a surge in Dissident Republican activity as individuals lost faith in the political process. It has been with this surge of activity that we have been living for the last 6 months.

So what does this surge in Dissident Republican activity mean? It doesn’t mean that the Provisional IRA have returned to the armed struggle, for all the indicators would suggest a continued commitment to the political process. For the Real IRA and the Continuity IRA, however, it has amounted to a series of attempts to kill members of the Police Service of Northern Ireland (the successors to the Royal Ulster Constabulary) and the deployment of the full gamut of devices with which many readers will be familiar, to the extent that the Chief Constable has recently stated that “Northern Ireland is currently experiencing the highest level of dissident threat in any of the last 5 years”.



**On patrol in Belfast.**

Responsibility for meeting this threat sits with the PSNI, in conjunction with the Security Service. Whilst routinely ‘off the streets’, the Army continues to play a supporting role, helping to counter the ever-present IED threat and standing by to provide both Royal Engineers Public Order teams and Infantry support in the event of public disorder. For my part I continue to attend the

Secretary of State's Security Policy Meetings alongside the Chief Constable and the Head of the Security Service, just as did my 3 and 2 star predecessors.

But what of the military presence in Northern Ireland? 'Normalization' has seen us capped at 5,000 Regular Servicemen, and command reduced first to 2 star (Aug 07) and more recently to 1 star level (Jan 09). Headquarters Northern Ireland is gone, as indeed are 3, 8 and 39 Infantry Brigades and 107 (TA) Brigade, all of which have been replaced by the single 38 (Irish) Brigade. Of the 50 former military locations, only 10 now exist, with the principal Regular locations now centred on Ballykinler, Lisburn, Belfast (Palace Barracks) Antrim and Aldergrove. Thiepval Barracks in Lisburn is now the home of Headquarters 38 (Irish) Brigade, which looks inwards and is increasingly Territorial Army in nature, and Headquarters 19 Infantry Brigade, which recently moved from Catterick and is preparing to deploy to Helmand in March. All of the South Armagh patrol bases are closed; the Baruki sangar and South Armagh observation towers have been dismantled; and both Bessbrook Mill and Drumadd Barracks in Armagh are awaiting alternative use.

So is it fun? Unquestionably, although I fear for my liver, for the choice of 'starred' officers available to the Northern Irish community is limited pretty much to one, and the people remain remarkably generous. Recruiting is very much on the up, with numbers increasing both from the North and from the Republic, to the benefit of the Micks and the Royal Irish in particular. We continue, meanwhile, in our efforts to convince people from all parts of the community that the Army is based in Northern Ireland to train and prepare for operations overseas – just as it is in GB – and not to support the PSNI. It will take a long time to change perceptions, and many will continue to hate us for years to come, but many others are passionate in their support of a military presence – as the turnout of over 50,000 in Belfast demonstrated when troops returned from operations in November 2008 – and an increased maturity in the political situation allows for those diverse positions to exist side by side. So would a member of either Battalion who deployed to the Province at the start of the 'Troubles' recognise the place? Possibly not. But would they enjoy it today? You bet!

## HMS Illustrious

The Grenadier Guards are proud to have a maritime tradition as ancient as any Regiment can boast. During the 17th Century the 3rd Battalion of the Regiment served and fought as Marines in His Majesty's ships in the wars against the Dutch. As a consequence the Drums of the 3rd Battalion continued to play Rule Britannia before the National Anthem at Tattoo. This relationship with the Senior Service has continued and the Grenadiers have forged a strong relationship with our affiliated ship, HMS Illustrious.

This relationship has manifested itself in numerous exchanges of which the Grenadiers seem to have enjoyed the more favourable. 10 guardsmen flew to Gibraltar in late 2008 and accompanied the aircraft carrier on its return journey to Portsmouth. In return, the Queen's Company hosted Lt Jim Thompson in a South Atlantic winter where he was introduced to a particularly wet Onion Range complex covered in snow! In January 2009 HMS Illustrious docked in Greenwich and amongst many senior guests including the First Sea Lord, Admiral Band, the Commanding Officer, Senior Major and Adjutant were invited to the Taranto Dinner Night on 11th November. This particularly auspicious day commemorates a significant Fleet Air Arm battle during which the Italian Fleet was virtually neutralised in one attack from HMS Illustrious' swordfish aircraft. An excellent night was followed by a reciprocal arrangement on

dry land in the confines of the St James' Palace Officers' Mess where a chosen few from the Ship's Ward Room were invited to dine with the Captain of the Queen's Guard. A fantastic night was had by all on both occasions and as the Grenadiers bid farewell to their Commanding Officer Lt Col Carew Hatherley so do HMS Illustrious to Captain SJ Chick RN who is to be succeeded by Captain Ben Key RN. We wish them both continued success in the Future and hope that our affiliation will only be strengthened in 2009.



Taranto Night Dinner, HMS Illustrious, 11th November 2008.

## The State Opening of Parliament

While boisterous jostling and confused shouts echoed in the corridors of the Palace of Westminster as MPs registered their traditional 'irritation' at being summoned to the Lords for the Queen's Speech, a contrasting calm descended upon the 108 Grenadiers of the large Guard of Honour for the State Opening of Parliament; it was stood at ease and gratefully patrolling in pairs during what was the shortest Queen's speech in recent times (upon hearing which one waggish Lance-Corporal was heard to wonder whether perhaps her Majesty had spotted that it was Her Company stood Guard outside and shortened it on purpose as a favour). The Queen's Company had time to reflect on a busy year and a short sharp return to state ceremonial duties.

Barely had the Falkland Islands snow melted from the treads of their boots before the Company were being bounced around the square at Wellington for a bout of 'Autumn Drills' to warm them up to the coming public duties season. The arguments over the origins of Spring Drills are fierce and wide but there can be have been few marking time under the watchful eye of the Sergeant Major and Drill Sergeants who did not wonder if things had been taken a tad beyond whatever Queen Victoria had once intended.

Half-measures, however, have never been the Grenadier way and certainly not for the Queen's Company under the Captain, Major Cartwright, and WO2 (CSM) Hampson, marching and dressed off the easy target of Gdsm Smith D, the right hand man at 6ft 11in. Rehearsals for the event were crammed between Queens Guards and over precious weekends and even, incongruously in the 4am dark, involving surely the shortest bus trip the Army has ever made from Wellington Barracks to Parliament Square. And it was from the windows of the said bus that even the most reluctant



**2Lt Olly Holcroft, the Queen's Company and the Leviathan.**

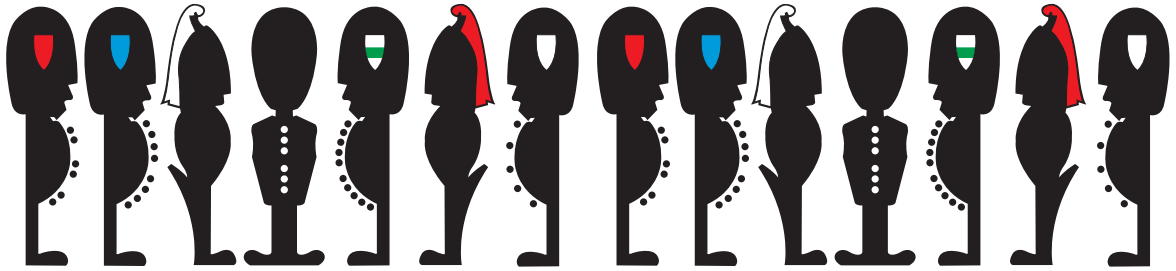
naysayers on the Early Morning Rehearsal were able to observe the outlandish drill of the Senior Service and recall their pride in being foot guardsmen, ensuring they halted that bit sharper and stood that bit straighter.

The Ensign, 2 Lt Olly Holcroft, persevered manfully with the Leviathan Queen's Company Colour, the Royal Standard of the Regiment – billowing in resplendent crimson and lowered in solemn salute to the electric crack of the rifle drill behind reserved only for those very special occasions when the Company Commander herself is taking the salute. The well-picked words of the Garrison Sergeant Major had fallen on receptive ears and were recalled during arm aching minutes as the final ranks of the mounted escort made their way back towards the Mall and thoughts turned to camp and Christmas lunch. It says much about the current commitment of the Armed Forces that there were guardsmen on their first Guard of Honour who have already completed two, even three operational tours in the last three years; young non-commissioned officers who have spent more time in the deserts of West Asia than on the tarmac of London. It says as much about the panache of the Household Division that they were as smart as ever and that a fine tradition was immaculately upheld.



**Streetlining.**





## Horse Guards News

### VIEW FROM HORSE GUARDS

#### OPERATIONS

At the time of writing the Household Division has been enjoying its first Christmas for some time without troops committed to operations in the Middle East. Last year saw D Squadron Household Cavalry Regiment and the Guards Parachute Platoon with 16 Air Assault Brigade and 1st Battalion Coldstream Guards and Right Flank 1st Battalion Scots Guards (the first armoured infantry to deploy there) with 52 Infantry Brigade in Afghanistan. This came on the back of 2007 which saw the 1st Battalion Irish Guards deploy to Iraq and 1st Battalion Grenadier Guards to Afghanistan. This year sees the Household Cavalry, 1st Battalion Grenadier Guards and 1st Battalion Welsh Guards deploy to Afghanistan while 2010 sees 1st Battalion Irish Guards go too. 1st Battalion Coldstream Guards are also likely to go in the near future.

This is probably the most heavily committed to operations that the Household Division has been since the Second World War. Happily the Division has not been found wanting and the bravery, tenacity and all round fighting performance of the regiments and personnel has been first class. The non-commissioned officers, in particular, have been excellent.

There has of course been a cost. Nine members of the Household Division have been killed and many, many wounded since June 2007.

Suffice it to say that the Household Division is doing as much operational service as, if not more than, any other part of the Army.

#### PUBLIC DUTIES AND STATE CEREMONIAL

The seemingly regular deployment of the London-based Foot Guards battalions as well as the Line Infantry battalion leaves a shortfall for routine Public Duties. While Nijmegen Company, 7 Company and F Company take up much of the strain, Land Forces

Command has had to provide reinforcement companies from across the Field Army to bolster numbers; fifteen other regiments and corps in 2007/2008 and 9 in 2009/2010. This has gone well with the units concerned finding the experience positive, but the training burden has fallen to the Foot Guards and, of course, the spectacle is not the one expected near the Palaces. Notwithstanding the significant upheaval, the standard of Public Duties and State Ceremonial has been substantially maintained and the Major General remains certain that it has been right not to hold the Household Division back from operations to do Public Duties.

The programme of battalions for the Queen's Birthday Parade has been very tight. 1st Battalion Welsh Guards provided the escort last year at relatively short notice and 1st Battalion Irish Guards will provide it in 2009 with 1st Battalion Grenadier Guards interrupting their Pre-deployment Training to provide the Street Liners.

#### MANNING

The Household Division is increasingly well-manned. The Household Cavalry is already fully-manned and set to remain so. The Guards Division is at 96% of its establishment – third amongst the divisions of Infantry after the Gurkhas and Rifles (who have absorbed an additional battalion's-worth of manpower). By 1st July 2009 1st Battalions Grenadier, Coldstream and Welsh Guards will be at or nearing full strength; 1st Battalion Irish Guards will be some 40 over strength and the Scots Guards still some way off. By December the Division will, as a whole, be over strength although this will mask a continued under manning in the Scots Guards. As a result the Major General has asked Lieutenant Colonel Foot Guards to explore the possibility of reinforcing the 1st Battalion Scots Guards with a platoon from a better manned battalion. Meanwhile officer recruiting remains buoyant across the board with more applicants than places. The issue

remains one of retention although there are signs that the economic downturn is persuading people to stay. Two officers have rejoined in the last 6 months.

### ORGANISATION

The Household Cavalry has an excellent model with the armoured reconnaissance regiment in Windsor and the Mounted Regiment in London. This works extremely well. 90% of new troopers pass through Knightsbridge first so the mounted ceremonial role provides an excellent common bond for Household Cavalrymen. It is truly remarkable that young men straight out of initial training achieve so much on a horse so quickly and move on more mature and confident to reconnaissance duties.

The Guards Division is now adjusted to the new deployment following the Future Army Structure reorganisation. 1st Battalion Scots Guards left Munster last Autumn ending the Foot Guard's relationship with the town that has existed since the end of the Second World War. They are now the Guards armoured infantry battalion and reside in Catterick. Guardsmen from across the Household Division can and do serve in it. The remaining battalions move every two to two and half years in the light infantry role between Aldershot (in deployable brigades) and London (in the Public Duties role, though also deployable as we have seen these last few years). Following this plan, 1st Battalion Grenadier Guards replaces 1st Battalion Welsh Guards in Aldershot in late 2010 early 2011 (subject to ongoing work) while the 1st Battalion Irish Guards in Aldershot and 1st Battalion Coldstream Guards in Windsor swap in February 2009.

### THE LONDON REGIMENT

One of the consequences of the Future Army Structure reorganisation in 2004/05 was that the Territorial Army Infantry battalions were aligned with Regular Infantry regiments. All regiments, less the individual regiments of Foot Guards and the Gurkhas, were allocated one or two TA infantry battalions which now bear the name of those Regular Infantry regiments. In the case of the Foot Guards, the London Regiment was affiliated to the Guards Division as a whole (rather than to any individual Foot Guards regiment). This was a very positive step as the Household Division, never having had any Territorial Army, has much to gain in terms of reinforcement for operations, Regular posts, a logical TA regiment for leavers to go to, and a network in London that should support recruiting. The Household Division now provides

the Training Major, Adjutant, Quartermaster, Regimental Sergeant Major and a few Permanent Staff Instructors. Soldiers of the London Regiment wear the blue-red-blue flash on their sleeve. As far as the Army is concerned, the London Regiment is in the Guards Division and a company served with much distinction alongside 1st Battalion Grenadiers on its last tour of Afghanistan. Indeed the London Regiment is set to provide another company to support 1st Battalion Scots Guards in 2010.

### BASING

The Army estate in London remains in poor condition due to lack of funding, and some battalions, companies and bands are not well-located with regard to their routine work. Meanwhile, there is much improvement of the estate elsewhere in the Army which means that the comparison is getting worse. Consequently the Major General has decided that the battalion must not be left in Wellington Barracks in the long term because the barracks is simply not big enough to provide single-man rooms for that number of people, let alone future armoured vehicles and sports facilities. Equally, Nijmegen and 7 Companies must be moved to Central London from Woolwich and all five Foot Guards bands given proper facilities in Central London.

Therefore, the Major General plans to move the Wellington Battalion to a much-improved Hounslow Barracks, and to concentrate the three independent companies and all five Foot Guards Bands in a refurbished Wellington Barracks, in short creating a forward mounting base for Public Duties and State Ceremonial. The proposal has been endorsed by the chain of command although the detail remains to be finalised.

Meanwhile, the Line Infantry battalion will have moved (in 2010) from Hounslow to new accommodation at Woolwich.

For the Foot Guards, this plan will leave two battalions in Aldershot, one in Windsor and one in Hounslow. Because these are all within easy reach of each other, families will not have to move when battalions change station thereby getting the stability that the rest of the Army is achieving. This laydown will also enable us to further stabilise the rotation of Foot Guards battalions between stations which will make them more permanent members of their brigades. This should avoid any feeling that Foot Guards battalions are merely transient members of deploying brigades, to which some attribute the frequent splitting up of Foot Guards battalions on operations.



Sandhurst Grenadiers.

Photo courtesy of Tempest Photography.

## RMAS: An Overview

The Grenadier contingent at RMAS continues to grow. We have real strength in depth at Officer, Warrant Officer and CSgt levels. Our level of experience in comparison to not only other Foot Guard Battalions, but the Infantry as a whole, is deemed to be of the highest order. Internally we provide real operational advice and experience on exercise and in the classroom. Externally, speakers such as the Commanding Officer, Adjutant and Sergeant Major, Major Martin David and Captain Paddy Hennessey have done much to enhance our reputation further. Particular thanks also go to Platoon Commanders from the tour to deliver the Voice of Experience presentations. Lieutenants Cordle, Harries, Kuku and Torp-Pieterse have done sterling work giving up their time to present to the OCdts. CC081, which commissioned in December 2008, said that the presentation they received from Major David and Captain Hennessey on Herrick 6 was the best they had seen the entire year.

It is clear that Sandhurst continues to offer not only the very best of facilities, but also some of the most rewarding times for members of the Directing Staff. With a stable platform from which to live a personal life, professionally it offers much satisfaction. All members of the Directing Staff can work with OCdts on the Regular CC to TA potential officers and Professionally Qualified Officers such as Doctors, Padres and lawyers. For those who aspire to serve at the Academy they can be assured that it remains the place to be to ensure a broad spectrum of professional variation and a stability that is hard to be found at any other training establishment or role outside of the Field Army. The significance of training officers of

the future is not lost on any aspect of the chain of command. It holds the very highest of profiles and three times a year a Representative of the Sovereign will take the Commissioning Parade. In December 2008, the Chief of the General Staff, General Sir Richard Dannatt not only inspired some fine drill from all on the square, but gave an impassioned and stirring speech to those commissioning.

In order to ensure the continued feeling of a Grenadier community it is essential that all who are eligible consider Sandhurst as their primary option. We have made a large impact on the fabric of the society here and it needs to be continued. With the Battalion returning to Afghanistan we very much remain at the forefront of all the OCdts minds. This experience will be invaluable to the continued ascendancy of the Regiment.

On Sandhurst Station there is also strong Grenadier representation. The Former Army Staff College, now known as the Army Medical Directorate, is home the Trauma Risk Management Cell, headed by Major Skid Dorney and ably assisted by WO2s Davis and Scully.

### Grenadiers at RMAS (as at Jan 09)

**Platoon Commander** - Capt JCM Greaves

**Assistant Chief Instructor (Plans) Juniors** -

Capt NA England MBE

**Commissioning Course** - CSMs Snazle, Westlake, Gillham

**Commissioning Course and Skill at Arms Wing** -

CSgts Bearder, Byrne, Childs, O'Brien, Wiese

**Communication, Information and Systems Wing**

- Sgt Churm

**Regimental Police Staff** - LCpl Newton



## *The CSgts Cadre: a perspective by CSgt O'Brien*

Having been chosen by the Directing Staff at the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst (RMAS) Pre Selection Cadre in February 2008, CSgt Byrne and I set our sights on gaining one of the few esteemed places available as a CSgt Instructor. Having completed the multitude of courses that are mandatory to be considered for a place on the Selection Cadre, we set about putting top tips that were provided by previous Sandhurst successors to best practice. This advice paid huge dividends. Firstly the ASLS course at ATR Pirbright. This teaches the new coaching methods that are used by the Army as laid down by ARTD. This was a power point endurance event that would test the patience of a saint; however everything learned was to be the new way of thinking and teaching at Sandhurst. So we duly embraced it! The ASLS course ran back to back with the Cadre. So the first day of the Cadre was the last day of the ASLS course. Day 1.... Smash!! We arrived in the foyer of Victory College: a building not too unlike a cold war bunker. Greeted by various

members of the Directing Staff and a process of reception ensued. Lessons were dished out, a training programme of what to expect was promulgated and things seemed to calm down.

The rumours of cliques and a non informing weekly evaluation were quickly dispelled, making the cadre more enjoyable. We learned a lot from each other. Days went by, PT sessions went by and soon before we knew it Ex Long Reach was upon us. This is a trip to the Black Mountains in Wales with an 80km tab interspersed with command tasks to be completed at a number of check points. There is a mixture of both manned and unmanned check points. The unmanned tend to be at all the highpoints and the manned, and the ones with command tasks, tend to be in the low ground. They are evenly distributed as mentally and physically demanding tasks, although it does not always seem so at the time! As a CSgt team we are given no quarter by the Directing Staff and treated as an OCdt team. Given that OCdts do this after only six weeks of basic training ensured that we were committed to success throughout! The whole exercise was authored by Captain N England.

## Slippery Memories of a Drummer

*Brian (Boy) Brenchley*

Sixty years ago in Windsor the Corps of Drums was dismounting Castle Guard and marching the Old Guard back to barracks. As we wheeled out of the castle Watty Grant, the Bass Drummer, lost his footing on the downward slope and immediately ended up sitting in the middle of the road, still beating the hell out of his drum - he didn't miss a beat either. Once the Guard had all passed round him he stopped, unhooked the drum and dashed after the Corps regaining his place with applause from the onlookers.

Something similar happened in 1947/48 while I was with the 1st Battalion at Chelsea. We were returning to barracks having just completed the Guard Change at Buckingham Palace. The heavens opened and Drum Major 'Swiv' Peterson was going berserk trying to get the drummers (side & bass) to get the covers on their drums. The said drummers were reluctant to open their drum cases, which were secured to their drums with two white blancoed straps, as they were an absolute Pig to get perfectly rolled. Nothing much was happening so 'Swiv' decided to speed things up by leaving his position at the front of the Corps and dashing down the side bellowing his orders. We were crossing the Victoria Junction at the time, still cobbled and tram lines to boot. Yes, he lost his footing and ended up on his backside - not amused as you can probably imagine. The stuff hit the fan once he got us back to barracks. He vented his scorn on the whole Corps regardless of which instrument you played.

## **Beating Retreat 2009**

### **A Floodlit Military Music Spectacular**

The Massed Bands of the Household Division present an evening of military music on Horse Guards Parade, Whitehall, Central London on  
Wednesday 3rd and Thursday 4th June 2009 at 9.00 pm.

#### Featuring:

The Mounted Bands of The Life Guards and The Blues and Royals.

The Bands of the Grenadier, Coldstream, Scots, Irish and Welsh Guards.

The Corps of Drums of the 1st Battalion Grenadier Guards, 1st Battalion Coldstream Guards and 1st Battalion Irish Guards.

The Pipes and Drums of the 1st Battalion Scots Guards and 1st Battalion Irish Guards.

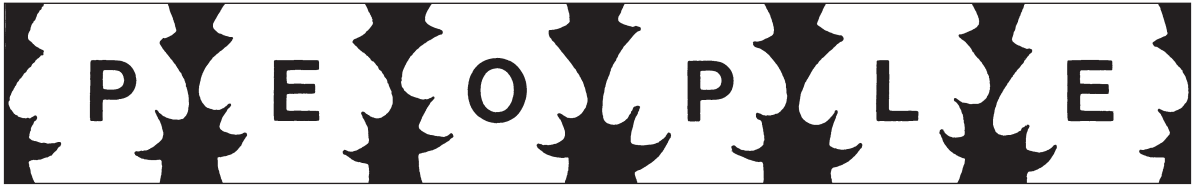
#### Supported by:

The King's Troop Royal Horse Artillery.

'Special Guests' His Majesty The King's Guard from Norway.

Tickets are available from [www.ticketmaster.co.uk](http://www.ticketmaster.co.uk) and by telephone on **0844 847 2435** and cost £15 each, tickets for OAPs/ Students/Children under 16 will cost £10 each. A family ticket (2 adults and 2 children under 16) is available for £40. Wheelchair access is available at a cost of £15 allowing free entry for a carer.





## WHERE ARE THEY THIS YEAR?

*By Maj Edmund Wilson Irish Guards*

Why is an Irish guardsman writing for the Grenadier Gazette? It is not that I am thinking of transferring – it is more that I took over from **Maj Johnny Wrench** in August last year and am now the Foot Guards man in the Army Personnel Centre Glasgow. So what's the situation with those Grenadier officers for whom I am responsible (Majors and below) as well as those in the more senior positions?

Starting, logically, with the Regimental Lieutenant Colonel, **Brig David Maddan** remains in command of 15 (North East) Brigade, maintaining his position as 'King of the North' with responsibility for an enormous swathe of land stretching from Hadrian's Wall to half way down the M1. Similarly, **Brig George Norton MBE** remains in command of 38 (Irish) Brigade across the water in Northern Ireland.

But whilst Grenadier Brigadiers are in charge of large tracts of Northern Ireland and northern England, Grenadier influence does not end there. **Col Richard Aubrey-Fletcher** is still the Deputy Commander of Tidworth and Bulford Garrison. This has been the scene of vast building works, transforming it from a collection of ageing Victorian barracks to a garrison area of new, modern buildings with fantastic facilities. Similarly, **Col David Hutchison** is the Chief of Staff of Project Hyperion. This is a small team with a huge task; their task is both to transform the way in which the Army works, and also where it works. It involves the co-location of Headquarters Land Forces (currently in Wilton) and Headquarters Adjutant General (currently in Upavon) at a single site in Andover. This should result in a more unified senior Army 'voice' as well as slightly reduced staff numbers amongst a number of other strands; it has been described as a once in a lifetime chance to make a real difference to the way that the Army does business. Finally, **Col Greville Bibby**, who many will know commanded 1st Battalion Coldstream Guards following his earlier career as a Grenadier, has recently deployed as Deputy Commander of Task Force Helmand in Afghanistan, a post previously filled by **Brig George Norton**.

Moving on to Lieutenant Colonels, the headline news is that command of the 1st Battalion has changed. In January 2009, **Lt Col Carew Hatherley** moved on after a highly successful tour to be a Team Leader in the Army Inspectorate. This is a key post in a new organisation, tasked (I think!) with ensuring that the Army is doing its business properly, legally, safely, but above all that it is doing it well.

His tour in command was dominated by the Battalion's tour in Afghanistan, where the Battalion had its first taste of that country. He has handed over to **Lt Col Roland Walker**. His will not be a name familiar to some readers. He is a former Irish guardsman of impeccable military pedigree who has now fully bought into the Grenadier ethos. Elsewhere at Lieutenant Colonel level, things are relatively stable. **Lt Col Jeremy Levine MBE** remains in his technical post within the Land Warfare Development Group (LWDG), **Lt Col Richard Winstanley OBE** continues as the man in charge of Lessons Learnt, also in the LWDG, and **Lt Col Tim Jalland** remains at the Army Training and Recruiting Directorate. **Lt Col Rob Mills** is on the move, however, and in summer 2009 will become Senior Military Assistant to the Force Commander of the UN Mission in the Democratic Republic of Congo. Many congratulations, though, go to my predecessor **Maj Johnny Wrench** who was successful in his quest for promotion and will become a Lieutenant Colonel at the end of June 2009. He is currently based at the Defence School of Languages for a year (where he has already picked up his French A Level), and moves in Summer 2009 to Paris where he will attend the French Staff College. He obviously did well out of Glasgow; his family grew with the birth of a son, he was promoted and he even secured himself a job in Paris for a year!

At Major level, there have been many changes. **Andrew James** has returned to the Battalion as Senior Major, **Simon Soskin** having moved on to Headquarters Land Warfare Centre, where he is responsible for training strategy. Staying with strategy, **Martin David MC** is at Headquarters Infantry, where he is responsible for the Infantry's personnel strategy. **James Bowder MBE** is moving in March 2009 to be Chief of Staff 11 (Light) Brigade in Aldershot. He will not be far from the Battalion, though, which deploys with 11 Brigade to Afghanistan in Autumn 2009. **Richard Maundrell**, who remains for the moment Equerry to His Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh, has been selected against tough competition for the Advanced Command and Staff Course at Shrivenham, whilst **Mike Griffiths** (an avowed and inveterate traveller) has moved with his family from Valencia in Italy to Suffield in Canada where he is co-ordinating the staff effort of those of the British Army Training Unit in Suffield. Whilst the Irish Guards have provided the Grenadiers with a new Commanding Officer, the Grenadiers have reciprocated the arrangement by providing **Maj Guy Denison-Smith** as Battalion 2IC for a year, although not on transfer – Guy will remain a Grenadier to his bootstraps! **Marcus Elliot-Square** is soon to become responsible for Army Ceremonial policy in

the MOD; **Dominic Alkin** has picked up a cracking job as Chief of Staff of the project team responsible for the next generation of medium size armoured vehicles, whilst **Jim Green** returns from his initial staff appointment to command a company in the Battalion.

It has been a decent year for promotions. **Acting Maj Ed Paintin**, commanding Nijmegen Company, has picked up substantive promotion, whilst **Capt Piers Ashfield**, the Adjutant, has also been selected for promotion. Both will attend the Intermediate Command and Staff Course at the Defence Academy in early 2010. Many congratulations to them both.

Younger officers have also been busy. **Rupert King-Evans** is now Adjutant of the Honourable Artillery Company, **Simon Gordon-Lennox** is on the staff of 11 (Light) Brigade, and **James Shaw** is now Adjutant of 2nd Battalion Infantry Training Centre in Catterick. Staying with training of young soldiers, **Folarin Kuku**, having recovered from wounds sustained in Afghanistan, is at the Army Foundation College in Harrogate, whilst **Nigel Torp-Petersen** and **Will Harries** are both extending Grenadier influence at the Infantry Training Centre.

The officer corps is growing as well. Eight officers have been commissioned from Sandhurst, but in addition **Lt Garth Banks** has transferred into the Regiment from the

Royal Engineers and **Lt Tom Whitby** has transferred into the Regiment from the Life Guards. All are most welcome additions.

Last but, of course, by absolutely no means least the Late Entry officers have been busy as well. Amongst others, **Maj Vern Overton** completes his time in Belize in summer 2009 and returns to the UK. **Capt Gordon Gask** finishes as Second in Command Guards Company at Catterick, returning to the Battalion as the Regimental Career Management Officer, although he has handed over in Catterick to **David Groom**, thus maintaining the Regimental footprint in that key role. **Maj Vince Gaunt OBE** has recently become the Quartermaster in the Battalion, ably assisted by **Capt Bernie Broad** who is now the Quartermaster (Technical)

So in sum, officers across the Regiment continue to be spread far and wide. Grenadiers are serving in all parts of the world, from Canada, through Europe, Africa and onto Afghanistan. It has been a busy 12 months and will continue in the same vein. I look forward to working on behalf of all Grenadier officers for whom I am responsible, with my main effort being to ensure that all their needs are met, so that they maximise their chances of reaching a level in accordance with their (in)competence!

## Brigadier George Norton CBE

**George Norton** joined the 1st Battalion in Hounslow in 1985 where he enjoyed a summer of public duties with Number 3 Company under Adrian Drage's sympathetic tutelage. He moved with the Battalion to Münster in 1986 as the Mobile Anti Tank Section Commander, remaining with the platoon for 3 years (including his first Northern Ireland tour) until appointed Adjutant of the 2nd Battalion in Caterham to Andrew Joscelyne and then Gerald Lesinski, supported by the inimitable combination of Kevin Fairchild, Steve Marcham and David Beresford – the Sergeant Major and Drill Sergeants of the moment.

He married Lexi in 1990, and on the misguided assumption that this meant he could speak German, the Military Secretary sent him to the German Armed Forces Staff College in Hamburg. His Regimental service thereafter consisted of a tour as the Captain of The Queen's Company, which began and ended in Northern Ireland and included an exercise in Jamaica, and 2 years as Commanding Officer of the 1st Battalion in Windsor, when he had the unusual privilege of twice commanding The Queen's Birthday Parade. More recently he had the good fortune and considerable pleasure of seeing the Battalion excel in Afghanistan in his capacity as Deputy Commander of the Helmand Task Force.

As a major he served on the staff as Military Assistant



to the Chief of Staff of the ACE Rapid Reaction Corps (who is now Black Rod in the House of Lords), deploying for 11 months to Sarajevo; as a lieutenant colonel he was a member of the Directing Staff at the JSCSC; and as a colonel he served in the Ministry of Defence as Secretary to the Chiefs of Staff Committee

(with a break to attend the Higher Command and Staff Course), and completed tours of Afghanistan in 2004 and 2007, first as Director Plans and Policy within the Combined Forces Command Afghanistan in Kabul and subsequently as Deputy Commander Task Force Helmand. He was appointed MBE in 1998 (Bosnia); CBE in 2008 (Afghanistan); and was awarded the US Bronze Star in 2004 (Afghanistan).

He is currently commanding 38 (Irish) Brigade, and fears for his liver as he attempts to fill the seats of a total of 8 'stars' previously available to Northern Irish society.



## Captain Neil England MBE

**Captain Neil England** joined the Army from Basingstoke Army Careers Information Office in 1982 and after a brief weekend at Sutton Coalfield, was selected into the British Army and placed in the Grenadier Guards.

As a Junior Leader at Sir John Moore Barracks in Shorncliffe Kent, Capt England 'Passed Out' as Junior CSM and headed to the Guards Depot for the final period of his year's Household Division education.

He joined the 1st Battalion in Hounslow under the watchful eye of the then Capt ET Bolitho in No 2 Company. Later in the 2nd Battalion, and the Inkerman Company, he enjoyed tours of Canada, America, Botswana and the Falkland Islands. In 1992 he was posted back to the Guards Depot before successfully completing the Instructors Cadre at the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst at the age of 26 and serving there until 1996. Moving back to the 1st Battalion in Ballykinler, Northern Ireland as CQMS No 2 Coy, he was promoted to WO2 and took up the appointment of No 2 Coy CSM until the Battalion returned to Elizabeth Barracks UK.

After both being Drill Sergeant and RQMS (T), he was promoted to WO1 and became the Sergeant Major of New College at his Sandhurst 'stomping ground'. He was



commissioned in 2005 and returned to the 1st Battalion as the Training Officer in Aldershot, with his energy and experience perfectly complementing the Battalion's preparation for Iraq in 2006. He switched to a very different role as the Welfare Officer for the impending tour of Helmand Province, Afghanistan on Op HERRICK 6. He was

awarded the MBE for everything he achieved in this role – he was original, tireless and leaves a legacy that will be very difficult to follow.

Now back at Sandhurst and responsible for training again, Neil enjoys watching Academy Pace Sticking rather than competing (he has a very impressive collection of prizes in this regard). He is a keen squash player (despite being beaten by the odd Commanding Officer in Belfast), a quick runner but most of all a spender of vast amounts of money on his two teenage children, James (19) and his daughter Hope (17).



Winning the Firefight, Garmsir, Helmand Province, Afghanistan, 13 May 2007 by artist Michael Alford.

## ARTICLES BY MAJOR P A J WRIGHT

### Infantry-Tank Cooperation

### August 1918

The last "100 days" of the First World War marked the end of trench warfare on the Western Front. Fighting became more mobile once again until the Armistice was signed on 11 November 1918. A series of Allied victories began with the Battle of Amiens on 8 August 1918 where the British demonstrated their ability to fight making use of every arm, infantry, tanks, engineers and artillery in which they not only broke into, but broke through the German lines. Despite the large number of surrendering German forces, these advances were not a stroll behind a retreating army. The German army did not give any indication of disintegration in the field. The German machine-gunners in particular continued to fight with indomitable courage.

The 1st Battalion Grenadier Guards, as part of 3rd Guards Brigade, attacked on 23rd, 24th and 25th August. At 3pm on 23rd they were sent to protect the right flank of the 2nd Brigade and take the heights south of St Leger. They were commanded by Major the Hon W R Bailey, as the Commanding Officer, Lord Gort, was away temporarily commanding 1st Guards Brigade. There was just time to issue verbal orders and to collect the Company Commanders for a conference. Starting at about 3.45pm they had advanced 5000 yards and taken all their objectives by 6pm. The Brigade Commander, in a letter to the Lieutenant-Colonel Commanding the Regiment, wrote; "They were magnificently manoeuvred by their company and platoon commanders in great depth on a very wide extension. ...the finest attack in open warfare that has ever been made."

At 7am on 24th August, the Battalion attacked once more, but this time was held up by intense machine-gun fire with all communications with the leading companies cut off for the remainder of the day. During the morning Germans could be seen moving forward in small parties and the sniping and machine-gun fire became more intense. By the time Lord Gort returned to the Battalion that evening, Bailey had been wounded and the losses had been such that the total fighting strength was down to seven officers and just over two hundred men. On learning that the Brigade was to continue the attack the following day supported by tanks, Lord Gort's first act was to go round the line and impress on the surviving officers that the men should get as much rest as possible and that defensive measures that night should be undertaken mainly by patrols.

After conferring with the officers commanding the 2nd Battalion Scots Guards, the 1st Battalion Welsh Guards and the tanks, Lord Gort explained the details of the attack and issued orders to his Company Commanders. At 4.30am next day the attack started. A very thick autumnal mist covered the ground which made it difficult for the three tanks supporting the Battalion to find their way. Communications from the tanks were limited to a red flag meaning "Out of action" and a green flag meaning "Am on objective". Carrier pigeons were transported in some tanks. The rate of advance was 50 yards a minute over good ground but this was reduced to 15 yards a minute over heavily shelled ground. 3 Company led the advance supported by one tank, which broke down. When the fog lifted Lieutenant E G Hawkesworth, the Company Commander, was badly wounded. He was down to forty men quite unsupported and ordered them to fall back.

The King's Company and 4 Company moved up supported by one tank with another working on the southern flank. The fog was still dense and as the first tank advanced, it was engaged by an isolated machine gun. Guardsman D Llewellyn, having reconnoitred ahead and located the machine-gun post, led the tank forward. However, armour-piercing bullets were used and the engine and water tank were penetrated. Llewellyn then set off to find the other tank which could be heard working in the fog. After an unsuccessful attempt to get it going in the right direction, it eventually succeeded in moving forward at 8.30am supported by the King's Company and a platoon of 4 Company. Soon afterwards the fog lifted and it was immediately put out of action. The enemy engaged the disabled tank with a field-gun and the Battalion was pinned down by very heavy and concentrated machine-gun fire. That night it withdrew and was relieved by the 2nd Battalion.

The number of casualties during the three days' fighting was 13 officers and 258 other ranks out of a total of 18 officers and 489 other ranks. The Battalion captured 250 prisoners, one field-gun and 20 machine-guns in addition to several trench mortars. It needed to rest,



**Acting Lt Col Viscount Gort, VC  
1st Battalion Grenadier Guards  
1918.**



**A combined tank and infantry attack during the last '100 days' of the First World War.**

reform and reorganise before pushing forward to attack the strong defences of the Hindenburg Line, the Canal du Nord.

Llewellyn, a former coal miner from Glamorgan, was awarded the DCM. His citation reads: "During operations he displayed magnificent gallantry and a superb contempt of danger worthy of the highest commendation, inspiring all around him by his personal courage. In the major portion of the attack the fog was dense, and hostile fire was directed on a Tank. He reconnoitred ahead, and led it forward to the enemy machine gun nest, which he located. Later he went off in the fog to find another Tank, whose engine could be heard, meeting on the way several parties of the enemy, whom he killed. Although wounded he continued in action until the objective was gained."

Llewellyn's actions demonstrated the importance of communications between tanks and infantry and that, in certain situations, infantry needed to take the leading role, not tanks. The idea that tanks would lead, infantry would follow, ignored the fact that tanks were acutely vulnerable in close country with poor visibility and were subject to the attention of an ever-growing arsenal of anti-tank weapons. The need for mutual support between tanks and infantry would make the introduction of new tactics essential.

## Gallantry and Ability at Neuve Chapelle

The battle of Neuve Chapelle, which began on 10th March 1915, was called off after 3 days' fighting. British casualties were some 13,000. The German losses were about the same. The 1st Battalion Grenadier Guards'

casualties amounted to 16 officers and 325 men. A private letter written by command of King George V to the Lieutenant-Colonel Commanding the Regiment read: "The King has read your letter of 17th March, and is much distressed to hear how terribly the Battalion has suffered. It is indeed heart-breaking to see a good Battalion like this decimated in a few hours."

Ten days after the battle Major-General T Capper, commanding the 7th Division, sent the following message to the Battalion: "The Divisional General has now received the report of the action of Neuve Chapelle on March 10-14. He desires to express his appreciation of the 1st Battalion Grenadier Guards, which maintained a difficult position in the open under very adverse circumstances. The conduct of Lance-Corporal W Fuller and Private E Barber and the grenade-throwers of the Battalion commands the admiration of everyone who heard of their exploits and testifies in the highest degree to the gallant spirit which animates this Battalion."

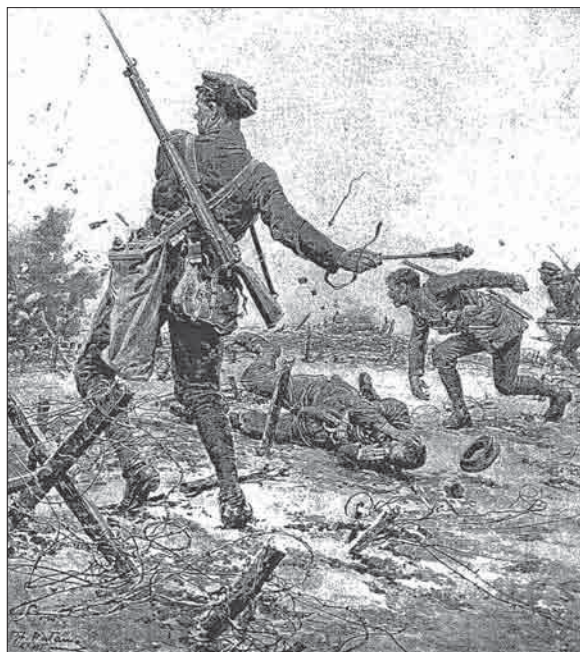
The grenade-throwers were commanded by Captain W E Nicol, who had joined the Battalion with a draft of 65 men on 11th January. He was appointed Bombing Officer and his advance with his bombers on 12 March was watched with admiration by the whole line. The Germans could be seen streaming away pursued everywhere by the Grenadier bombers and surrendering in large numbers. Nicol was subsequently awarded the DSO. His citation reads: "For gallantry and ability at Neuve Chapelle from 10th to 14th March, 1915, when he was largely instrumental in the capture of a great number of prisoners by reason of his able handling of the hand grenade company."

No less than seven VCs were won on 12th March at the height of the British offensive. Two of them were awarded to Lance-Corporal W D Fuller and Private E



**Major W E Nicol DSO, 1st Battalion Grenadier Guards.**





**Capt W E Nicol's bombers advance at Neuve Chapelle.**

Barber from Nicol's grenade company, who set off separately into the maze of trenches. Barber advanced by himself down one of the enemy's communication trenches with a bag of bombs. When a bullet from one of the enemy snipers struck the bombs he was carrying, he threw them away, and they exploded. Gathering up a fresh supply from a dead man, he rushed along, throwing them with such effect that a large number of Germans put up their hands and surrendered. He continued his advance alone and was responsible for taking over 100 prisoners.

Fuller saw a number of Germans trying to retreat through the network of communication trenches after one of their strong points had been taken. He worked his way around the head of the German column and killed the leading man with a grenade. The remaining Germans, approximately 50, surrendered to him as they were short of ammunition. He was blocking their escape route and had plenty of grenades left. He was quite alone and unsupported at the time. Fuller received his VC from the King in June 1915, who also decorated him with the Russian Order of St George at Sheffield later that year. He left the Regiment for medical reasons in 1916 and joined the Somerset Constabulary. He died in 1947 aged 54.

Barber was killed in action by a sniper and his name is on Le Touret Memorial for those with no known graves. He was 22 years of age. His mother received his VC from the King. Nicol was promoted to Major. His grenade company went on to take a large number of prisoners in a German

communication trench at Festubert where he was wounded on 29th May. He was mentioned in dispatches on 31 May. Four months later he was hit in the head by a shell fragment at Loos and died from his wounds on 1st October. He was 32 years of age. Many thought that he too should have received the VC for his conspicuous gallantry at Neuve Chapelle.



**Private Barber dashes forward in advance of his party to bomb the enemy.**



**King George V presenting the Order of St George to Corporal Fuller VC.**

## Dental Decay and Delay

Since as early as 1660 regimental surgeons have been required to preserve soldiers' teeth. Surgical chests included instruments for scaling, gum treatment and extraction. Grenadiers in particular had to have strong teeth to bite the cap off the fuse of the grenade before lighting it. Musketeers also needed their front teeth to pull the wooden cap off the powder cartridges before pouring the charge into their muskets. However, with the introduction of breech loading weapons, the need for healthy teeth was no longer so essential. Dental disease

was not considered a problem by commanders who were far more concerned by epidemics, such as cholera or typhus, which could decimate an army.

When the Boer War started in 1899 dental decay was a major problem due to the increased consumption of sugar. Of 69,000 men inspected 4,400 were not accepted due to: "loss or decay of many teeth." Since its formation in 1880, the British Dental Association had been pressing the Government for some form of dental treatment for soldiers, but the request fell on deaf ears. One solution was to ship out a consignment of mincing machines to make the biscuit and beef rations easier to chew. Field medical kits included four dental extraction pliers.

The debilitating pain of toothache and inadequate dental care are vividly described by Brevet Major the Hon A V F V Russell, Adjutant of the 3rd Battalion Grenadier Guards, in letters written to his mother. He arrived at Cape Town on 15 November 1899, was wounded at Belmont a week later and recovered to take part in the fighting at the Modder River and Magersfontein. On New Years Day 1900 he started the new century with toothache and a swollen face: "the same thing as I had at Pirbright some time ago. In the evening Profieit, the doctor, lanced the gum and I was alright although my gum was swollen."

On 6 May 1901 he was again bothered with toothache: "These hard biscuits make one's teeth break, and as mine have not been seen to for one and a half years it is not really to be wondered at that they become troublesome." Four days later the pain was so bad that he rode into Colesberg where: "I bought some cocaine and obtained a blessed relief from my tooth, and so was able to have a very pleasant time. This euphoria did not last and on 13 May, as there was no dentist in Colesberg, he went again to the doctor: "who rammed a great thing into my gum and injected cocaine and morphine which caused instantaneous relief."

In between operations against the Boers in July Russell managed to visit a dentist at Cradock with mixed results: "He said he must pull out three teeth; he gave me gas and I found he had only pulled out one; he said I struggled so under gas he could do nothing. So I told him to try without gas. He made four more unsuccessful attempts with every different kind of forceps and finally succeeded in smashing up the tooth completely."

The next day he returned and the dentist pulled out another enormous molar without gas. Although he was assured that, apart from the broken tooth, the jaw was now in order he concluded: "I do not propose visiting the good gentleman again. I don't somehow think he is a very good dentist."

On the evening of 31 December 1901 he again had severe toothache and his face was swollen. He wrote: "Again I do not feel cheery. And tonight we are expected

to march right out of one year into the next. This will be my second festive season which has gone unmarked." Peace was declared on 1 June 1902 and in August Russell visited a dentist in Port Elizabeth to get his teeth seen to in the hope of returning to the Battalion: "with my teeth, I trust settled for some time." Three weeks later on 11 September the Battalion embarked at Cape Town for home. Russell went on to become Assistant Military Attaché in Berlin from 1910 to 1914. He served in World War 1 and, despite his poor teeth, lived until 1966.

During the Boer War Frederick Newton Pedley, a dental surgeon and founder of Guys Hospital Dental School, was allowed to go out to South Africa at his own expense. His first surgery was a tent and he was overwhelmed by soldiers with dental problems. After six months he returned to England and, as a result of his report to the War Office, four dentists were contracted to treat the troops – the first paid dentists to serve the army on active service. Out of 208,000 men in South Africa 6,900 were admitted to hospital for dental reasons and about one third of these had to be sent home.

Now the problem was recognized, but it took a few more years for something to be done about it. There was much talk and various measures were adopted but, in August 1914, the British Expeditionary Force arrived in France without a single dentist. However, Major E R M Fryer, 3rd Battalion Grenadier Guards, wrote about Ypres in July 1917: "On 18th I had the interesting experience of being shelled in the dentist's chair. This was at the Casualty Clearing Station near St Sixtes, which is a favorite target for naval gunners." The Royal Army Dental Corps was not established until 1921.



**Officers of the 3rd Battalion Grenadier Guards at the Modder River 1899 – Major The Hon A V F V Russell in braces seated at the table.**



## Communications at Kruseik

The battle known as “First Ypres”, in which the regular battalions of the British Army were decimated, lasted from 19th October to 20th November 1914. After the first great German offensive of the war had been halted on the Marne and pushed back to the River Aisne, each side moved to encircle the opponent's northern flank. On 17th October the 1st Battalion Grenadier Guards commanded by Lieutenant Colonel M Earle landed at Zeebrugge and went on to take part in the defence of the Ypres sector. The Battalion occupied a frontage of nearly a mile in length under heavy shell fire and constant attack for seven days. Within one month of its landing, its strength of 30 officers and 1100 men was reduced to 6 officers and 120 men, which were formed into a single company.

On 23rd October every man was braced for an assault by several German divisions. Communication was difficult and unreliable, made by messenger or runner and where possible by telephone, although lines communicating with the rear were frequently cut by gunfire. During 25th October there was particularly heavy artillery fire concentrated on the village of Kruseik. Between 7 and 8 pm the Grenadiers were attacked and Lieutenant R S Lambert's platoon of 2 Company became isolated. The enemy had captured the trench on its right and also the houses behind it. There was a gap of 200 yards between the platoon and the next trench on the left. Volunteers were called for to go back and bring up reinforcements. This was an extremely hazardous task as the ground was being heavily shelled by the enemy with the aim of preventing reinforcements from arriving.

Two unsuccessful attempts were made before Sergeant A J Mills set out alone under heavy fire. Although wounded and with shells continually bursting around him, he succeeded in reaching the support trenches only to be told there were no reserves available. He continued to Battalion Headquarters and explained the situation to the Commanding Officer. A platoon of 3 Company was ordered to accompany Mills back to his position and managed to partially clear the enemy from the houses. In the morning some 40 to 50 dead Germans were counted in front of Lieutenant Lambert's platoon. The Scots Guards captured 200 prisoners, cleared all the Germans out of the village and, before darkness fell, the Kruseik ridge had been recaptured. The Battalion losses were heavy but far exceeded by those of the enemy.

However, the following morning the Germans renewed their attack with the whole of their artillery fire concentrated on Kruseik. The shelling reached such a pitch that as many as sixty shells a minute were falling



**Sergeant Mills returning for reinforcements under very heavy fire.**

around each trench. The shells blew in the trenches and buried half a dozen men at a time. Some had three feet of earth on top of them, and many were suffocated before they could be dug out. By 2.30 pm the enemy had broken through on the left and also on the right beyond the Scots Guards. Finding his flank exposed, Lieutenant-Colonel Earle gave the order to retire but this vital message did not reach the fire trenches for a long time and was never received by the King's Company.

Lieutenant W S Pilcher of the King's Company managed to get back through the Germans to ask for orders, and finding everyone gone, returned in the open to the Company and reported to Major A O W C Weld-Forester that the Battalion had retired. Meanwhile, Lieutenant G E Hope, the Signals Officer, turned back on his own initiative to warn the King's Company and even got some of the First Division to come to its assistance. At about 4pm the King's Company fought their way back through the village taking heavy casualties, especially from machine-guns in the windows. A message that the Company was about to retire was never received by a platoon of 3 Company or an isolated King's Company platoon, which were both overwhelmed. Only half of 2 Company's platoon got away. On the roll being called that evening the strength of the Battalion was 17 officers and 650 other ranks.





**Lt G E Hope, MC Signals Officer, 1st Battalion Grenadier Guards.**

Sergeant Mills was awarded the DCM, together with another runner, Private P J A Heslington. Their identical citations read; "For gallantry on 24th and 25th October 1914 in keeping up communication between companies under very heavy shell and rifle fire." A married man from Cheltenham, Sergeant Mills was killed in action, aged 24, while serving with the 3rd Battalion in trenches north of Neuve Chapelle on 19th November 1915. He is buried in the Royal Irish Rifles Graveyard at Laventie.

## LCpl Greenwood and the Popham Panel

James Greenwood, from Bacup in Lancashire, enlisted in the Grenadier Guards in November 1915. He was twenty-three years old and, having studied spinning and weaving intensively, had been managing India Mill, a large cotton factory in Bacup. After training at Caterham, he joined the 2nd Battalion in France a year later and by January 1917 had become the Commanding Officer's orderly and been put in charge of a D mark 3 telephone for the first time. By early July he was using a power buzzer to send messages by line.

At the start of the Third Battle of Ypres, on the 31 July, he took part in the advance from Boesinghe over the Yser Canal. At midday, during the attack, he spread

out a GE7 (Popham panel) and got communications with the Battalion's contact aeroplane. A system of Popham panels had been developed for ground to air signals. Strips of black and white cloth panels measuring eight feet by one foot were laid out on the ground to provide visual signals to aircraft flying over the battlefield at pre-arranged intervals. Rain fell and the battlefield became a quagmire. The objective was held for two days, during which Greenwood was not only soaked through and covered with mud, but his signals kit and rifle were blown up by a shell.

On 9 October he took part in the offensive to cross the Broembek River and was put in charge of a pack mule taking up the rum. He was promoted to Lance Corporal on 15 November and fought with the Battalion during the attack on Gouzeaucourt and the capture of Gauche Wood on 1 December. On Christmas Day, 1917, he went home on leave in England until 9 January 1918. He was sent to 3rd Army Signal School in March 1918 for a three week course on the use and care of telephones, laying, operating and maintaining lines and the use of visual equipment. In June he returned to the School and qualified with distinction to become an Assistant Instructor of Signalling. He took the whole school on flag drill for the Commanding Officer to pass them out and was invited to stay on as an instructor.

In August 1918, the 2nd Battalion Grenadier Guards, as part of 1st Guards Brigade, took part in the general advance by the Guards Division fighting its way across the Canal du Nord, on the Hindenburg Line. On 27 August the Battalion, with the 2nd Battalion Coldstream Guards on its left and the Sixty-second Division on its right, attacked the enemy's trenches in and south of Ecoust and Longatte. Lance Corporal J Greenwood, who had celebrated his twenty-sixth birthday two days before, was the Commanding Officer's signaller.

At 7 am, zero hour, the leading companies moved off to close up with the supporting artillery barrage. Almost immediately they came under deadly and accurate machine gun fire and were unable to advance. The right of the 2nd Battalion Coldstream Guards had also suffered severely and was unable to push forward. The enemy were entrenched at the top of a rise 200 yards in front and the slightest movement attracted a torrent of lead. This made it impossible to get communication by runners in any direction or to collect the wounded, which had to remain on the fire-swept ground until dark.

Two runners had already been killed when a contact aeroplane flew above at the pre-arranged time. Lieutenant-Colonel G E C Rasch, the Commanding Officer, asked Greenwood to send the pilot a message for assistance. Standing up, he used his Lucas electric signal lamp to illuminate the Popham panel with a combination of letters



**Cpl Greenwood's medals.**

and numbers in Morse code. The Battalion call sign, D23, meant "HQ is here". XXX meant "held up by machine gun fire" and OOO "further bombardment required". From the information he received the pilot was able to obtain information for the Commanding Officer about the enemy's strength and the situation on the flanks.

Despite the Battalion's casualties of 12 officers and 287 other ranks there had been no appreciable gain of ground. In a message, which Major-General Fielding, the Divisional Commander, afterwards sent to Brigadier-General de Crespigny, he said: "All Battalions of the 1st Guards Brigade discharged their duty splendidly. The attack delivered by the 2nd Battalion Grenadier Guards and the 2nd Battalion Coldstream Guards on August 27 not only inflicted heavy losses on the enemy and brought in a large number of prisoners, but also compelled him next day to relax his hold on the high ground south of Croisilles."

Lance Corporal Greenwood was awarded the DCM "For conspicuous gallantry during an attack. When communication by runners was impossible, and it was of vital importance to get a message back as to the position of the battalion, he stood up under intense machine gun fire and delivered fifteen exposures on the Popham panel to a contact aeroplane, thus enabling the battalion commander to receive information as to the position on the flanks and the strength of the enemy. He showed splendid courage and initiative, and by his action ensured the success of the operation."

The citation does not mention that, while finally looking for the aeroplane's identification number, he was hit by a bullet in his right temple which exited via his left temple. He lay where he was until nightfall when some of his friends, including Corporal G F G Turner, set out to find him. They were startled to find him still breathing. He was unconscious for weeks and blind for months. He received his DCM in the Blinded Soldier's and Sailor's Hospital at Regents Park and was discharged "No longer fit for War Service" on 18 October 1918, just over three

weeks before the armistice was declared.

Gradually, acceptable sight returned to his right eye but never to the left. He had met a girl in London during his early months in the Grenadiers and they married soon after the war. His wife and her family gave him unfailing support during those difficult years and the marriage was very happy and endured for over sixty years. He maintained that he had been a fool to set upon a course which cost him his career, but paradoxically, the comradeship and pride engendered by the Grenadiers remained an inspiration to him throughout his life.

***Postscript:** Corporal Fred Turner himself won the DCM during the battle of the Canal du Nord "when he maintained communications between battalion and company headquarters under conditions of the utmost difficulty and danger." He ended a life of exceptional service as General Secretary of the Grenadier Guards Association and as a Military Knight of Windsor. The author is indebted to Mr Kenneth Green for the photograph of his father and much of the additional information about him.*

## Sandbaggers

*By Major Frank Clark*

In his book 'The British Grenadiers', Henry Hanning wrote about the post Waterloo period:

It was a time of great political upheaval. Until a police force was established in 1829 it fell to the Army to maintain law and order. Even after that date troops were frequently called out to disperse crowds, protect property and provide escorts for bullion, prisoners and important visitors. Guards were placed on important public buildings and it was even necessary sometimes to protect theatres from the effects of rowdy behaviour. On one famous occasion, the Cato Street conspiracy, a serious plot to murder several members of the cabinet, it fell to a detachment of Grenadiers to be on duty at Newgate Gaol when the conspirators were executed. It was usual after hanging to cut off the heads of the victims. On this occasion the officers were eating breakfast with the governor of the gaol when a servant hurried in to borrow the largest carving knife so that the job could be tidily finished.

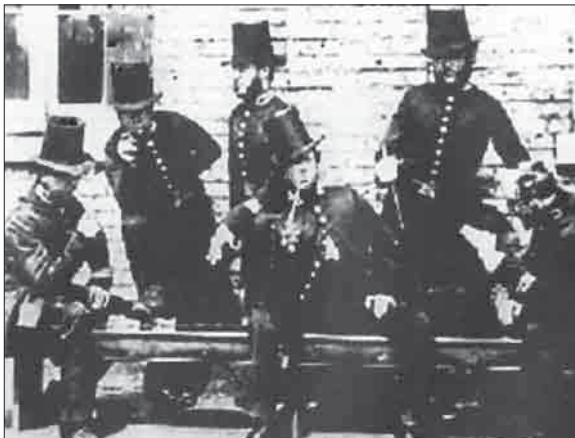
In 1826 the 2nd Battalion were called upon to deal with riots in Manchester and were commended for their orderly conduct during the disturbances.'

It was clear that there was a dire need for a Police force in London so in June 1829, the Home Secretary Sir Robert Peel selected Colonel Charles Rowan to become the senior Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police (or Metropolitan Police Magistrate). This was probably on

the advice of the Duke of Wellington who had been impressed by Rowan as second-in-command of the 52nd Foot at the Battle of Waterloo, where he was wounded, and made a Companion of the Bath (CB) for his outstanding services. Rowan was to provide the military discipline and organisation that it was felt necessary for the new police force. Within twelve weeks, he recruited, trained, organised, equipped and deployed a force of nearly one thousand men. Rowan's military experience led him to organise London into six divisions, each of eight sections, divided in turn into eight beats. Under the beat system, each constable almost overlapped the next. It is possible that it was Rowan's idea to fit the police out in more civilian-styled blue uniforms rather than the scarlet and gold that Peel had originally envisaged. Rowan, however insist that his men were drilled and laid down the highest standards of conduct, dismissing men for the slightest infringement even before the police had begun patrolling the streets of London. During the first two years of the force's existence, half of its original constables were dismissed, mainly for drunkenness, absenteeism, and frequenting pubs and fraternising with prostitutes while on duty. Officers were to ensure that they treated members of the public with respect and courtesy at all times. On 16 September 1829, the new constables were sworn in at the Foundling Hospital. The new force first took to the streets at 6:00 p.m. on 29 September.

A police researcher, Leonard Bentley, transcribing the hand written Metropolitan Police orders from 1829 to 1857, came across an entry for 8th July 1833 which puzzled him. It stated that a Sergeant William Randall was dismissed "for making use of improper language respecting the Grenadier Guards calling them "Sandbags".

Rowan's 52nd stood to the right of the Grenadiers at Waterloo and he was only too aware of their gallantry



'Peelers' Police force around 1830.

and did not tolerate the use of this grave insult against the Regiment. It was enough to warrant the dismissal of a serving Police Officer; but why was it such a serious matter? Word usage changes with time. Now 'To Sandbag' can among other meanings, be the practice of purposely placing oneself in a weaker position so to give a deceptive impression that one is less skilled than one truly is, thus gaining an advantage. Today the word sandbag has lost much of its earlier derogatory meaning. In those days to have been branded a sandbagger would have them labelled as the scum of the earth.

A clue lies in an old Chambers Dictionary (circa 1884) it stating; Sand'-bag'ger, a robber who uses a sand-bag to stun his victims.

So Randall might have labelled the Grenadier Guards, low criminals, thugs, foot pads, cowardly muggers and he was rightly dismissed. What provoked him to do this? It is not recorded, yet, about 20 years later the Grenadiers were proud to be called 'Sandbags' after the defence of the Sandbag Battery at the Battle of Inkerman during the Crimean War.

Perhaps this article will flush out more potential reasons for this intriguing label?

## Race up Hell's Highway

*By Arthur (Razor) Payne*

*Preface by Frank Clark: On Black Sunday a few years ago I meet an old Grenadier who I had not seen for years. We served together in Operation Market -Garden (1944). This old chap was Arthur (Razor) Payne and a bit of a character and a staunch Grenadier.*

*Razor's Regimental devotion is best characterised by his insistence that during his time in Tesco's that the staff remove their Tesco's tie. His reasoning was clear; the tie was of the identical pattern to the Brigade tie and only members of the Division were entitled to wear it.*

### **The background to Razor's story.**

*Since the initial attack by XXX Corps 17th September, through the German front line, progress on the ground was halted by quick enemy reactions in blunting the advance along the centre line and cutting this narrow road of communications (called 'Hell's Highway' by the US Paras). The Germans' resilience proved costly to the Allies in time and men, as they formed ad hoc Kampfgruppen (Battlegroups), which were able to repeatedly effect penetrations and disruptions; more often than not the road was well within artillery and tank range.*





**'Razor' Payne and Frank Clark.**

**Dear Frank,**

You asked me what I could remember of our drive up Hell's Highway. As you will see my memory is still good. I think if one leads a 'Hum-Drum' sort of life, events from the past, now long gone become clearly etched on one's perception. Nearly all my friends were in the Reconnaissance Troop, 2nd Battalion (Armoured) Grenadier Guards. (I must hasten to add I never was a member of this elite and raffish body).

My story begins at a small Belgium railway station just outside Brussels. I had driven a Cromwell tank all the way from Beny Bocage in Normandy for the 30 Corps Armoured Delivery Squadron, being on detachment to them as a tank driver. At this stage all Guards Armoured Division personnel of the Corps were collected in the main station building and informed that we were now on strength of the Divisional Forward Delivery Squadron (FDS). A long line of tanks could be seen on rail flat wagons and among them were several American Light Tanks General Stuart M5A1 (lovingly called by everyone, Honey) used by the Armoured Battalion's Reconnaissance Troop. At this stage we were entrained into cattle trucks and were now in our respective regimental groups. So we were all Grenadiers in my cattle truck. Some had seen action in Normandy and others were new boys. We proceeded through the outskirts of Brussels and soon near the frontier with Holland. Detraining late at night, we were taken to a muddy field festooned with small tents dimly lit by oil lamps. I well remember groping my way into one of these tents and its recumbent forms, dead to the world taking up all the sleeping space; however a cheery voice greeted me. "Razor you old sod, what are you doing here?"

Yes! Frank, it was you and was I very glad to see a familiar face. In the morning we were informed that the 2nd Battalion Grenadier Guards, our battalion had lost men and tanks in their battle up the 'Corridor', the life line to Nijmegen and Arnhem beyond. They were in need of replacement personnel and tanks. Three Sherman and two Honey tanks were available to replace lost vehicles.

As I remember, there were too many gunner/radio operators and few drivers in the reserve pool, therefore the three Sherman tanks were fully crewed and armed leaving the two Honeys under crewed with only a driver and just one man to sit in the turret to act as commander. (The normal crew of a Honey was four.) You and I were detailed to drive the Honeys. The man in my turret was 'Boxer' Brown, a stalwart Birmingham lad. I can't remember who was in the tank with you, Frank.

So our convoy of the three Shermans, two Honeys, two Three-Ton Trucks lead by an officer in a scout car, set off. It was explained the 'front' was only the width of the road and each side was no mans land' under constant German observation and heavy concentration of shell fire. We were informed the road had been called 'Hell's Highway' by the Yank Paratroops and was frequently cut by strong enemy units of self-propelled guns (SP guns) and infantry. I was somewhat dismayed at this, as we had no main gun ammunition for our 37 mm turret guns on board our two Honeys. We had a few boxes of .300 mm machinegun rounds in belts for our Browning machineguns. The three Sherman tanks, one of which was a Firefly, driven by a guy called Quinn, an ex Paratrooper and in my squad at the Guards Armoured Training Wing at Pirbright Surrey. A Firefly was armed with a 17 pounder gun which was a match for German tanks, while the other Shermans had a .75 mm gun only suitable at close range.

We were all right as far as Eindhoven as it had been secured by allied forces. Beyond this town the tree lined road stretched away into the distance, running in a dead straight line along its cobbled length. We could now hear shell bursts and German Spandau machinegun fire in the distance. The road was flanked by trees, and wooded areas crossed by rough tracks. Along the first few miles we encountered several burnt out trucks, one was still on fire. Other vehicles were laying overturned in roadside ditches. Three knocked out Sherman tanks were our next encounter, no unit or squadron markings were visible, as they were completely burnt out. At this stage of events we came under fire ourselves, great red balls of fire came at us from our left flank, in some instances stripping the bark from roadside trees. Heavy concentrations of high explosives were now landing on the roadside verges and sometimes on the road itself. I remember we drove fast and pressed on through the shelling as fast as we could go, finally coming to a deep roadside depression on our right. Enemy fire was now coming down too close for comfort, so our convoy plunged down the steep bank, off the road. Our officer then decided to lay up pending nightfall, however soon after he decided to send out the Sherman troop to reconnoitre our right flank. Not, I felt a very wise move I thought, but the officer was in charge. I suppose we were sitting ducks on that bloody road and there was no way we



**Two Honeys.**

could have gone further in daylight. The Sherman tanks left the road on our right as the enemy fire seemed to be coming from the distant tree line. We could now hear the deep boom of Sherman tanks, 75 mm and some sporadic small arms fire. After about a two hour wait, one lone Sherman returned, the 17 pounder Firefly. Guardsman Quinn's face was streaked with black powder burns. Of the other two Sherman there was no sign but some members of the missing tank crews were riding on the back of the Firefly. We learnt that the other two Sherman tanks had been knocked out, and had brewed up. Three crew members had been killed. The officer now decided that the two Honeys were the most needed tanks and that they should proceed on their own to Nijmegen. He rightly decided that no movement by daylight was possible so we were to move off as soon as it became dark, with you in the lead position. Showing no lights at all, being guided only by the white painted roadside trees, you set a cracking pace; never before have I driven a tank so fast, 50 mph plus, I would think. The shelling soon started with great gouts of earth erupting on both sides of the road. I thought this is bloody dangerous. Your tank ahead of me suddenly slewed and I thought for a while you had been hit but in fact you swerved to miss a bloody great shell hole in the road. I followed suit just missing a tree and causing my mate in the turret, near decapitation from a low branch, We were now rocketing down a slight hill into a small township shrouded in darkness, we were still moving very fast and beyond this point the shelling eased; however sporadic bursts of Spandua MG fire lit the night sky. It passed well over our heads. Driving on through the night, dawn broke as we came to the massive Grave Bridge over the River Maas. Everywhere there were the remains of the carnage of the American 82nd Airborne Division who had taken and held the bridge. I remember the scattered wrecks of hundreds of gliders and Dakotas, some with dead Airborne troops

still inside. Parachutes of every hue and colour along with weapon containers lay around on the soggy marshland. We made a short halt here to examine the scene. Only then did the full portents of the action dawn on us. On we went and came into the outskirts of Nijmegen still in the early hours of the morning; sporadic shelling had started again. The battle was progressing and the bridges had not been taken. Finally a lone 15 cwt truck flagged us down and guided us to a park which was the Forward Delivery Squadron (FDS) in the centre of this wrecked and desolate town. Me 262 jets were now overhead dropping anti personnel bombs, scattering them at random. I can't recall where we parked our tanks. But during the course of the morning a jeep from B Echelon turned up to guide us in our Honeys to the location of Recce Troop. Our two companions remained at the FDS, while you and I were once more on Battalion strength. We sped along deserted shattered streets until finally turning down a dusty forest track at the western town outskirts. We passed B Echelon located by sort of crossroads in this dusty wilderness until seeing a line of Honey tanks parked just off the track, the smell of wood smoke and M&V (meat and vegetable) stew filled the air; we had not eaten for two days. We were not greeted by the Troop Commander Captain Michael Webster but by the Troop Sergeant Dusty Smith (I meet him again in 1992 on Remembrance Sunday at Whitehall in London. He was proudly his Military Medal ribbon. He told me that he was late of the Scotland Yard Flying Squad)

Anyway Sergeant Smith supported a large colt .45 on his hip, on taking in the other troop members standing around, many were sporting Paratroopers' knives in their belts, many with German Lugers and all wearing bright yellow parachute silk scarves around their necks. I felt I had never seemed a more villainous collection of brigands in my life. They seemed totally unimpressed by our tale of woe; after all they had been there and back. They knew what it was about. Anyway only one of us was required to stay. I was never a hero and it was to my everlasting shame that you volunteered to stay. As for me, I set off along the dusty track bound for the B Echelon and temp quarters with 'Robo' on the Petrol Wagon.

With Best Regards, Your old Pal, Razor.

**Note:**

*Reinforcements were always recycled. As a tank was knocked out the fit surviving crew joined the pool. Although I was formally with 2 Squadron I was now part of Recce Troop in HQ Squadron and within the hour I was on a patrol in Nijmegen while the battle raged about us but that's another story. Razor died in 2003 aged 80 but left an interesting collection of his experiences. **Frank Clark***

