



Grenadier Guards Association

FOUNDED 1913

Patron: Her Majesty the Queen

President: Colonel E.H. Houstoun OBE

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Distribution: All Grenadiers

Newsletter Summer 2008

The Colonel's Fund – Interim Report

Introduction

This letter provides a brief report on the progress achieved by The Colonel's Fund since inception in November 2007, together with some thoughts on what Grenadiers and friends can do to help during the second half of this year.

The Fund currently stands at about £450,000 and we have been truly overwhelmed by everyone's generosity and enthusiasm. Thank you all so much. However, it is equally clear that this initial enthusiasm will need to be maintained for the remainder of the year, if we are to reach our target figure.

The Fund

The Colonel's Fund is a sub fund of the Regimental Charities, administered by Regimental Headquarters and reports to the Regimental Trustees. His Royal Highness The Colonel, is our Patron and we are aiming at a funding target of £750,000 by the end of 2008. The intention is that the Fund will provide immediate grants (it has already done so) and an endowment fund for future cases. Active fundraising will take place this year only and thereafter, the Fund will remain open, with 5% being donated from all

Regimental fundraising events, until further notice.

Fundraising

Fundraising efforts to date have been centered around a few successful major events, notably the Etape du Midi in 2007, the Vintners Hall and The Guildhall, in the City of London; and by two particularly significant donations from private charitable trusts. Additionally, there have been a large number of exceedingly generous individual donations from both within the Regimental family, and from outside, together with a tide of smaller sums which have all helped to raise the total.

Looking ahead, fundraising events will include the following:

August; Regimental Band Tour of 14 English Cities; details on The Colonels Fund Website.

October – November: A London Theatre Event, (details to be confirmed)

In parallel, private fundraising activity will be continuing throughout the Summer and Autumn. For example, the 1st Battalion and the Regimental Association have arranged a myriad of events up and down the Country, from band concerts to bicycle rides.

Grants

The Fund has been raised to help all those Grenadiers and, where appropriate, their immediate families, who have been killed or seriously injured as a result of operational service.

The first donations from the Fund have already been made to certain members of the 1st Battalion. In addition, The Regimental Welfare Committee, which has been given wide discretion by the Trustees, is currently examining a number of other cases. In those circumstances where Government has a clear responsibility to fund but the process is proving to be rather slower than we would wish, the Fund may choose to apply money more quickly. However, every effort will be made to obtain reimbursement in full.

How you can help?

If we are to reach (or even exceed) our target sum, we would be most grateful for any help you can give in any of the following areas:

- Would you like to give a donation (if you have not already done so)?
- Can you donate or persuade someone else to donate any interesting auction prize, e.g. a day's shooting, stalking or fishing, a week skiing or a holiday house?
- Will you arrange your own fundraising event, however modest, and simply send a cheque to The Colonel's Fund?
- Will you arrange an event with help from the Project Officer?
- Do you know of any Private Charitable Trusts which might be amenable to an approach from the Fund?

Website and Contacts

We very much hope that, by now, you have all seen the new website (www.thecolonelsfund.com) which is being updated regularly and is now the prime means of communication. If you would like

to help in any way at all, please will you get in touch with any of the following?

The Project Officer
projectofficer@grengds.com
Telephone: 0207 414 3281/385

Regimental Adjutant
regtladjit@grengds.com
Telephone: 0207 414 3280

Finally, thank you for all your continuing support and your tolerance when, on the odd occasion, the administrative machinery may have been a little faulty.

Remembrance Day 2008

Remembrance Day 2008 took place on 18th May in the Guards Chapel, this year particularly well attended. The serving Grenadiers and their families came to pay their respects, particularly to their fallen comrades. After the service, some 900 to 1000 Association and serving members marched with the Regimental Band and the Household Division Corps of Drums Association to the Guards Memorial, where the Colonel of the Regiment laid a wreath.

Grenadier Day 29th July 2008

It is with most grateful thanks to The Commanding Officer Lt. Col. Carew Hatherly that Grenadier Day was able to take place in Lille Barracks, Aldershot for the second year running. It was a really fantastic team effort.

It was a magnificent day. The weather was excellent. Many Branches had stalls selling a variety of memorabilia, the Soldiers' Wives and Girlfriends (SWAGS) of the Regiment were notably in evidence, with yet again, a never ending supply of tea and cakes.

The arena events surpassed anything that we have had before.

1st Battalion

On 27th November, the tour of Afghanistan was poignantly marked by the Battalion conducting a Reformation Parade. This saw the members of Number 3 Company and the Grenadier Members of the Brigade Recce Force reform back into the normal 1st Battalion Companies. The Parade was attended by the Colonel, who had a chance to speak with many of the soldiers and their families after the parade, before having lunch in the Officers' Mess.

On 30th November, the Battalion departed on a much needed stint of Post Operational Tour Leave. This ended on the 22nd January, which was a fantastic 7 week break.

Since coming back from leave, the Battalion has been as busy as ever, with many of the Companies conducting adventurous training. The Inkerman and The Queen's Company have both been skiing. Number 2 Company took part in the 3 Peaks challenge and also conducted a mountaineering expedition in Chile.

All this, whilst the Battalion prepares to deploy the first of the three rifle Companies on a 6 week tour of the Falkland Islands. On 1st April, the Inkerman Company were complete and in post in the Falkland Islands, they were to be relieved in place 6 weeks later by Number 2 Company and they likewise by the Queen's Coy. While in the Falklands, the Companies concentrated on building fitness as well as developing general infantry skills, particularly making use of the fantastic range facilities out there. The Companies provided a locally based Quick Reaction Force (QRF) for the Islands for the duration of their time there.

In May, some members of The Queen's Company attended a bridge naming ceremony in Aalten, Holland. This bridge was liberated by The King's Company in March

1945. The bridge was named 'The King's Company Bridge'.

Also during May, The Queen's Company along with Nijmegen Company and the Regimental Band took part in a parade through Lincoln in celebration of the city granting the Regiment its freedom.

During early July, the Battalion will move from Lille Barracks, Aldershot to Wellington Barracks London.

Nijmegen Company

Since arriving at their new home in Woolwich, the Company has conducted a live range firing package at Lidd and Hythe ranges, in Kent.

The Company had been involved with the usual busy calendar of state ceremonial and public duties which included the State Opening of Parliament and the Remembrance Day Parade.

Notably on 3rd March, the Colonel of the Regiment visited the Company to ensure that they have settled in and to be taken on a tour of the barracks.

Sgts' Mess

The Mess commenced the usual shift around of individuals in appointment. Most importantly, Sgt Major Keeley will be handed over to Sgt Major Chant in May. This triggered a number of changes in appointment. DSgt Bate will take over RQMS(M), CSM Munro will take over DSgt, CSM O'Halleron will take over CSM Nijm Coy, DSgt Farrall will take over RQMS(T). CSM Westlake(2 Coy) will take post as CSM at RMA Sandhurst. CQMS Walker(2 Coy) will step up to CSM 2 Coy. CQMS Day will take over as CSM Support.

Of particular note, Sgt Maj Keeley has been awarded his Commission; Taking up the appointment of Second in Command of Support Company.

Sgt Maj Butcher (Old College RMAS) has also been awarded his Commission he has been appointed Battalion Welfare Officer.

Regimental Band

The Regimental Band began the year by moving and have been located at the Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst, as the resident band. They are meeting the demanding requirements of a typically busy and full Sandhurst schedule. The Band remained at RMAS until 11th April.

On 7 May, as part of the celebration of the granting of the Freedom of Lincoln, the band held concert at Lincoln Cathedral, as well as supporting the march through the town, on the following day.

Regimental Headquarters and Forthcoming Events

RHQ, under the Regimental Adjutant Major Grant Baker and RQMS Hill, continue to be the home of the Regiment and provide an ever increasingly important role, as the 1st Battalion begin their move back to London and ceremonial duties. With its home at RHQ, The Colonels Fund (Grenadiers Wounded in Action) continues to go from strength to strength with the fantastic level of support from those both in and outside of the regimental family. For an accurate and up to date report of the current status of the fund, as well as details of forthcoming events, please see the webpage online.

Aalten Tour 5th May 2008 The King's Company Bridge by LSgt Jay Ellingham

The trip started on Sunday 4th May 2008, leaving Wellington Barracks @ 0900hrs and heading off to Dover, then onto Aalten. We arrived at the hotel just outside Arnhem around 2030hrs!!! Some of us went out to sample the night life and food.

Monday 5th May

All 22 of the party moved to Aalten for the day. On arrival, we were met with a reception of tea & coffee etc..., there was a speech by Wim Rhebergen after which the Mayor of Aalten invited all guests to march to the Bridge, about 3km in a temperature of at least 26c! The marching party consisted of six members of The Queens Company, lead by Major MP David, MC, The Captain of The Queen's Company, the Regimental Adjutant, Major GVA Baker, the Battalion Adjutant, Captain P L Ashfield and all those able to march. Those unable to march got in to WWII Vehicles and with the Aalten Town Marching Band up front followed by The Queen's Company, the Association party and with most of the town in tow, we set off.

At the bridge:

The Regimental Adjutant gave an impeccable speech in Dutch! The unveiling of the Plaque by the Mayor and Mr W Price (Ex King's Company) was followed by the Wreath Laying by the Dutch Defence Attaché, Col J PC Heal RM, Most of the town had turned out for the event.

Then we marched and drove back to the 'De Pol' (Community Centre) for more speeches and presentations. I can honestly say we were all looked after very, very well with soup and rolls and beer!



Tuesday

Nijmegen Bridge and the sites of Nijmegen town, then off to Heesch to Grenadiersstraat and then to the two fallen Grenadiers, in the Heesch Cemetery, (2623697 Guardsman F J Cokayne Age 19 & 2614197 Serjeant 2614197 G F Clay age 28), Back to the ferry and back home.

Next year I hope to take a party going to Pont-a-Marq & Lille.

After lunch we set off for Arnhem to 'John Foster's Bridge' Then on to Oosterbeek Church and Cemetery, where a Grenadier Lies (Lt Col Sir William Richard De B. Des Voeux. Bt. Died 20th September 1944, Aged 32.

That night more samples of the Arnhem night life!!!



Household Division – National Arboretum

From the Regimental Adjutant Major GVA Baker

The current Major General has been considering the best form of representation for the Household Division, at the National Arboretum. There had been a 'tree-based' plan, but he takes the view that trees are an unreliable form of monument. He is currently considering something more solid, which may well incorporate the old Regimental Badges that were outside the main gate to Chelsea Barracks. I'm not sure when a decision on this will be reached, but I know that

He believes that the main Memorial for the Foot Guards is the Guards Memorial on Horse Guards, and that the important thing for the Household Division Memorial, at the National Arboretum is to 'get it right' rather than go for a quick fix.

Needless to say, I do not propose that we should do anything regimentally until the Household Division plan is announced. I

would urge you not to start a fund at this stage, nor to 'do your own thing', but wait for the Household Division plan to emerge, after which it should become clearer as to what, if anything, we should do as a Regiment.

Concerts:

Please see attached diary of events and Band concert dates.

www.army.mod.uk/bands/grenadier_guards

Cenotaph Parade:

We are still waiting for details but should you wish to attend, please submit your names to LSgt Ellingham, who will let you know in due course.

Obituaries:

Please find attached a copy of the Obituaries as at the date of this newsletter.

Websites and e-mail addresses:

The Association Website is at:-
www.grenadierguardsassn.freeserve.co.uk

The Battalion website is at:-
www.army.mod.uk/grenadier
Those wishing to undertake research should send their requirements to:
grenadierenquires@grengds.com

For contact with Association HQ:-
assnco@grengds.com
regltreasurer@grengds.com

For Derek Money, the website manager:-

grengdsassn@uwclub.net

For Grenadiers Reunited:-

jim@grenadier.eclipse.co.uk

www.grenade.org.uk

Was generated for the 350th Anniversary, has been a success and has now been continued for a further period.

The Association Headquarters will be closed for block leave, from the 28th July to 18th August 2008 inclusive.

Urgent information and messages can be obtained/left by telephoning L/Sgt J Tack, telephone number 020 7414 3284
regtlaffairsnco@grengds.com

Best wishes to you all and have a wonderful summer.

Trevor A Rolfe
Captain
General Secretary
Grenadier Guards Association.

Enclosures:

Christmas Cards Application Form
Dairy of Events August to December.
Price List
Obituary List