



# THE GRENADIER GUARDS ASSOCIATION

## BRISTOL BRANCH

### PRESIDENT

*Major General Sir Evelyn Webb – Carter  
KCVO OBE*

### CHAIRMAN

*Mr K Jones*

### TREASURER

*Mr A F Lock*

### HONORARY SECRETARY

*M Allen Esq*

# BRANCH NEWSLETTER

# JANUARY 2011

### BRISTOL BRANCH CONTACT DETAILS

#### HONORARY SECRETARY

MATTHEW ALLEN

51 VOWLES CLOSE

WRAXALL

BRISTOL

BS4 8 1PP

07891 238866

[bristolsecretary@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:bristolsecretary@hotmail.co.uk)

[WWW.BRISTOLGRENADIERS.ORG.UK](http://WWW.BRISTOLGRENADIERS.ORG.UK)



## 2011 DIARY OF EVENTS

<u>JANUARY</u>			No Branch Meeting.
<u>FEBRUARY</u>	Monday	7 <sup>th</sup>	Branch Meeting.
<u>MARCH</u>	Monday	7 <sup>th</sup>	Branch A.G.M.
<u>APRIL</u>	Monday	4 <sup>th</sup>	Branch Meeting
<u>MAY</u>	Monday	2 <sup>nd</sup>	Branch Meeting.
	Sunday	15 <sup>th</sup>	<b><i>Regimental Remembrance Day, Wellington Barracks.</i></b>
	Saturday	28 <sup>th</sup>	The Major General's Review, Horse Guards Parade.
<u>JUNE</u>	Saturday	4 <sup>th</sup>	The Colonel's Review, Horse Guards Parade.
	Monday	6 <sup>th</sup>	Branch Meeting.
	Wednesday	8 <sup>th</sup>	Beating Retreat, Horse Guards Parade.
	Thursday	9 <sup>th</sup>	Beating Retreat, Horse Guards Parade.
	Saturday	11 <sup>th</sup>	The Queens Birthday Parade, Horse Guards Parade.
	Saturday	12 <sup>th</sup>	<b><i>Grenadier Day, Lille Barracks, Aldershot.</i></b>
<u>JULY</u>	Monday	4 <sup>th</sup>	Branch Meeting.
<u>AUGUST</u>			No Branch Meeting
<u>SEPTEMBER</u>	Monday	5 <sup>th</sup>	Branch Meeting.
<u>OCTOBER</u>	Monday	3 <sup>rd</sup>	Branch Meeting.
<u>NOVEMBER</u>	Monday	7 <sup>th</sup>	Branch Meeting.
<u>DECEMBER</u>	Monday	5 <sup>th</sup>	Branch Meeting

Branch Annual Dinner – Date to be confirmed



## BRISTOL BRANCH ANNUAL DINNER 2010

The Branch Annual Dinner 2010 was held in the magnificent setting of the Branch's new home at the Royal Artillery Grounds on Whiteladies Road in Bristol. Some Eighty Branch Members and Guests were seated at the dinner, we were delighted to welcome Captain Foralin Kuku from Support Company, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion Grenadier Guards as our Regimental speaker, we were equally delighted to have present, Branch Life Vice-President The Lord Wigram. Also in attendance were the Branch President, Major General Sir Evelyn Webb-Carter and Lady Celia Webb-Carter, and Branch Vice Presidents, Colonel Hills and his good Lady who had made the long journey from their home in Cornwall. And Colonel Ranson who had travelled down from Gloucestershire. We were also honoured to welcome Mr Colin Knight of the Gloucestershire Branch and L/Sgt James Thompson and his wife Emma who had travelled from Aldershot, where they are now posted with the Battalion.



THE BRANCH PRESIDENT AND COLONEL HILLS  
SHARE AN AMUSING STORY

The evening commenced at 7pm with guests arriving for pre dinner drinks and some 'catching up' with old friends in the Officers Mess of the Artillery Grounds, With very modest bar prices and excellent surroundings the ambience was extremely relaxed, some guests enjoyed the 2010 Trooping the Colour which was playing on the large screen television in the Mess. By 8pm all guests were assembled and went through to the Dining room for what can only be described as a fantastic Dinner. Preparations for the evening had been organised and overseen by Branch Member WO2 Alan Chick who is at present posted to the Artillery Grounds. Sergeant Major Chick had, as expected for a Grenadier, excelled in his preparations, the table settings were breath taking with each table adorned with numerous pieces of silverware and Regimental ornaments, the place settings were meticulously laid out and would not have been out of place at a Regimental function.

The Dinner and Service were of the highest quality, several guests were heard to comment on the excellent standard of the meal, all credit for this goes to Sgt Major Chick and his team, they looked after us extremely well. After dinner the Branch President read out the Royal messages and all present toasted Her Majesty the Queen, and His Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh we were then entertained by Captain Kuku, our guest speaker from the Regiment who was very informative and amusing in telling us of Battalion life at present. The Branch President then made his customary address and thanked everyone for attending and supporting the Branch, the President went on to comment on the venue and thanked Sgt Major Chick for his fantastic effort in making the dinner a resounding success.

We were then entreated to a speech by Vice President Mr Chris Savage, who, to the discomfort of some Branch Members present, gave us a very amusing reminder of Branch activities from the previous year, Chris then explained that the Branch, Household Division plaque board had been refurbished by the Branch Chairman, Keith Jones after an extended period of languishing in the basement of the British Legion in Kingswood and falling into a state of ill repair. Chris informed those present that the Board had originally been unveiled by Lord Wigram at the Kingswood British Legion some Thirty years ago, and asked Lord Wigram if he would be so gracious as to re-unveil it after its refurbishment this evening. Lord Wigram was delighted to oblige and commented on how pleased he was to see the board returned to its former glory after all these years.

All present agreed that the evening had been a resounding success And called on Sgt Major Chick to make arrangements for the venue to be available for the Branch Dinner in 2011.



LORD WIGRAM UNVEILS THE REFRUBISHED  
HOUSEHOLD DIVISION PLAQUE BOARD

## FORTHCOMING EVENTS

### BRISTOL BRANCH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Monday 7<sup>th</sup> March 2011  
Officers Mess, Royal Artillery Grounds, Whiteladies Road, Bristol

Branch Meetings are held in the Officers Mess at the Artillery Grounds. And proceedings for all meetings commence at 20.00. The A.G.M. Will be chaired, as usual, by the Branch President. This is an ideal opportunity for Branch members to have a say on how the Branch is run, and to put to the committee any ideas that you think would benefit the Branch. Dress for the A.G.M. is Blazer or Lounge Suit with Regimental tie. All Branch Members are encouraged to attend.

### REGIMENTAL REMEMBRANCE DAY

Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> May 2011  
Wellington Barracks, London.

The Branch will be running a coach to London for Regimental Remembrance Day, as usual the coach pick up points will be Redcliffe pay & display car park and Downend Somerfield car park, Timings for the coach will be the same as last year, with the coach departing Redcliffe at 08.00 and Downend at 08.30 this will enable us to arrive in central London in time to allow every one the opportunity to seek out Lunch Venues, it is anticipated that the coach will leave Wellington Barracks between 16.30 & 17.00, We will, as per last year, be stopping on the return journey, at the Guards Club in Windsor for a fish and chip supper (price not included in coach fare) and hope to be arriving back in Bristol at approximately 20.00 The cost for the return coach travel is £15.00 per person. However the Branch Committee have decided, that to encourage more people to attend, to offer a discounted price of £10.00 per person for bookings and FULL PAYMENT taken before 31<sup>st</sup> March 2011. All bookings after this date will be liable to payment of the full fare, This is likely to be a very popular trip, so Branch members wishing to attend are encouraged to book their places as soon as possible by contacting the Branch Secretary. A deposit of £10.00 is payable upon booking coach places, also please inform the Secretary of your preferred coach pick up point when booking.

### GRENADIER DAY

Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> June 2011  
Lille Barracks, Aldershot

The 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion are currently preparing to move from Wellington Barracks and will be settled into their new home at Lille Barracks in Aldershot by June, therefore Grenadier Day this year will be held at Aldershot with the Battalion in attendance. This proved to be a huge success when the Battalion were previously stationed here. Coach pick up points remain unchanged and timings are Redcliffe 09.00 and Downend 09.30. The cost for coach travel is £15.00 per person and as with Regimental Remembrance Day a discount is available for early payments. If you book and PAY IN FULL before 30<sup>th</sup> April 2011 the cost of return coach travel will be £10.00 per person. A deposit of £10.00 is payable upon booking also please inform the Branch Secretary of your preferred pick up point when booking.

\* \* \* \* \*



# GRENADIER GUARDS



## VICTORIA CROSS AWARDS



COLONEL, THE HONOURABLE HENRY HUGH MANVERS PERCY KCB

3<sup>RD</sup> BATTALION, INKERMAN (CRIMEA) 5<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 1854

### Citation Reads

The Grenadier Guards were at some distance from the sandbag battery, Colonel Percy charged singly into the battery, followed almost immediately by the Guards. The walls and parapet were held by the Russians who kept up a continuous musketry fire. Colonel Percy found himself with a number of men from various regiments who had charged too far at the Battle of Inkerman, in the Crimea 5<sup>th</sup> November 1854. They were very nearly surrounded by Russians and were without ammunition. Although he was wounded, Colonel Percy, using his knowledge of the ground, extricated these men, around 50 in number, whilst all the time under heavy fire from the Russians then in the Sandbag Battery, brought them safely to where fresh ammunition could be got, enabling them to renew the fighting. Lieutenant General Percy (later of the Royal Irish Fusiliers), was created a Knight Commander of the Bath, He also held the Legion d'Honneur and served as an M.P. For North Northumberland from 1865 – 1868, in 1874 he was Colonel of the 89<sup>th</sup> Regiment of foot. Died 3<sup>rd</sup> December 1877 at London. (Memorials, St Nicholas Chapel, Westminster Abbey & Alnwick Cstle) V.C. Location – Alnwick Castle, Northumberland.

\* \* \* \* \*

BREVET-MAJOR SIR CHARLES RUSSELL

3<sup>RD</sup> BATTALION, INKERMAN (CRIMEA) 5<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 1854

### Citation Reads

At the Battle of Inkerman, in the Crimea, on 5<sup>th</sup> November 1854, Brevet-Major Sir Charles Russell offered to go and dislodge a party of Russians if anyone would accompany him. The volunteers included Sergeant Norman, Private Anthony Palmer and Private Bailey. Their example was soon followed. Sir Charles killed the first Russian, who barred his way, with a pistol. They met with heavy resistance, but their skill with a bayonet brought success. During the action Private Bailey was killed. Major Russell fought bravely, and in a single combat, with a Russian, wrenched the rifle from his grasp. Lieutenant Colonel Sir Charles Russell was commissioned into the Grenadier Guards by the Duke of Wellington, a personal friend of his father's. He saw action at Alma, Balaclava, Inkerman and Sebastopol. Died 13<sup>th</sup> April 1883 at Reading, Berkshire. (Memorial, interred in Family Vault in All Saints Church, Swallowfield. V.C. Location – Grenadier Guards Regimental HQ.

\* \* \* \* \*

PRIVATE ANTHONY PALMER

3<sup>RD</sup> BATTALION, INKERMAN (CRIMEA) 5<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 1854

### Citation Reads

During the Battle of Inkerman, Crimea, on 5<sup>th</sup> November 1854, Brevet-Major Sir Charles Russell offered to dislodge a body of Russian soldiers from the Sandbag battery if anyone would volunteer to go with him, Sergeant Norman, Private Anthony Palmer and Private Bailey volunteered. The attack succeeded. Private Palmer was present when the charge was made in defence of the Colours. Sir Charles Russell also witnessed Private Palmer make a single charge against the enemy. He undoubtedly saved Sir Charles' life when he shot an assailant who was about to bayonet him. Died 12<sup>th</sup> December 1892 at Manchester. (Memorial, on Grave at Heywood Cemetery, Rochdale, Lancashire.) V.C. Location – Grenadier Guards Regimental HQ.

\* \* \* \* \*

PRIVATE ALFRED ABLETT DCM

3<sup>RD</sup> BATTALION, SEBASTOPOL (CRIMEA) 2<sup>ND</sup> SEPTEMBER 1855

### Citation Reads

On 2<sup>nd</sup> September 1855 during the siege of Sebastopol, in the Crimea, a burning shell fell into a trench containing two cases of ammunition. Private Ablett, realising the danger to which all in the trench were exposed, seized the shell in his hands and threw it over the parapet, where it immediately exploded on touching the ground, but not one man suffered any injuries. Sergeant Ablett was later to become a Police Inspector at Millwall docks, London. Died 12<sup>th</sup> March 1897 at Weybread Suffolk. (Memorial, on Grave at Weybread Churchyard, Suffolk) V.C. Location – Grenadier Guards Regimental HQ.

**PRIVATE EDWARD BARBER**

**1<sup>ST</sup> BATTALION, NEUVE CHAPELLE (FRANCE) 12<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 1915**

**Citation Reads**

On 12<sup>th</sup> March at Neuve Chapelle, France, Private Barber ran in front of the grenade company to which he belonged, and threw bombs on the enemy with such effect that a very great number of them surrendered at once. When the grenade party reached Private Barber they found him alone and unsupported, with the enemy surrendering all about him. Private Barber was killed during this action. (Memorial, Le Touret Memorial, France) V.C. Location – Grenadier Guards Regimental HQ.

\*\*\*\*\*

**LANCE – CORPORAL WILFRED DOLBY FULLER**

**1<sup>ST</sup> BATTALION, NEUVE CHAPELLE (FRANCE) 12<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 1915**

**Citation Reads**

On 12<sup>th</sup> March 1915 at Neuve Chapelle, France, Lance Corporal Fuller saw a party of the enemy trying to escape along a communication trench. He ran towards them and killed the leading man with a bomb, the remainder, nearly fifty, seeing no means of evading his bombs, all surrendered to him. Lance Corporal Fuller was quite alone at this time. Died 22<sup>nd</sup> November 1947 at Frome Somerset. (Memorial, on Grave at Frome, Somerset.) V.C. Location – Guards Museum, London.

\*\*\*\*\*

**LANCE – SERGEANT JOHN HAROLD RHODES DCM**

**3<sup>RD</sup> BATTALION, YPRES (BELGIUM) 9<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 1917**

**Citation Reads**

On 12<sup>th</sup> October 1917 near Houthulst Forest, east of Ypres, Belgium, Lance Sergeant Rhodes was in charge of a Lewis Gun covering the consolidation of the right front company. He accounted for several of the enemy with his rifle as well as by Lewis gun fire and on seeing three of the enemy leave a pill-box he went alone through our barrage and hostile machine-gun fire and got into the pill-box. There he captured nine of the enemy including a forward observation officer connected by telephone to his battery. Lance Sergeant Rhodes brought back these prisoners together with valuable information. Killed in action at Fontaine, Notre Dame, France. 27<sup>th</sup> November 1917. (Memorial, Rocquigny-Equancourt British Cemetery, France.) V.C. Location – Grenadier Guards Regimental HQ.

\*\*\*\*\*

**CAPTAIN GEORGE HENRY TATHAM PATON MC**

**4<sup>TH</sup> BATTALION, GONNELIEU (FRANCE) 1<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER 1917**

**Citation Reads**

On 1<sup>st</sup> December 1917 when the unit on his left was driven back, leaving his flank in the air and his company completely surrounded, he exposed himself fearlessly in order to readjust the line, walking up and down within fifty yards of the enemy, all the time under withering fire. He was the last to leave the village after having, personally, removed several of the wounded men. He again readjusted the line, and regardless of all danger, exposed himself to the enemy. The enemy counter attacked four times, and each time Captain Paton leapt on to the parapet to stimulate his command. After the enemy had broken through on his left, he again mounted the parapet, and with a few men who had been inspired by his example, forced the enemy to withdraw once more. There was no doubt that this action saved the left flank. Captain Paton was mortally wounded shortly afterwards. (Memorial, on Grave at Metz-en-Couture Cemetery (British Sector) France. V.C. Location – Grenadier Guards Regimental HQ.

\*\*\*\*\*

**CAPTAIN THOMAS TANNATT PRYCE MC**

**4<sup>TH</sup> BATTALION, VIEUX BERQUIN (FRANCE) 11<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 1918**

**Citation Reads**

After being ordered to attack a village, he led two platoons forward, moving from house to house, killing some thirty of the enemy, seven of whom he accounted for personally. The following day, along with some forty men, the remainder of the company having become casualties. Starting around 08.15, his left flank was surrounded by the enemy and they were subjected to enfilade fire. He and his men beat off no less than four hostile attacks during the day, killing many of the enemy. Bringing up three field guns, to within three hundred yards of his position, the enemy, firing over open sights, were gradually knocking in the trench. By 18.15 that evening the enemy were within sixty yards of his trench. Captain Pryce called upon his men to cheer loudly, charge the enemy and fight to the last. With the Captain in the lead they left the trench and by using their bayonets, drove the enemy back some one hundred yards. The enemy approached again, thirty minutes later, in greater numbers and the Captain had only seventeen men left and not one round of ammunition. Determined not to surrender, he again led his men in a charge. They were last seen in a fierce hand to hand struggle with a superior number of the enemy. Captain Pryce, with approximately forty men had held up an enemy battalion for over ten hours and undoubtedly stopped the advance through the British line and had a great influence on the battle. Captain Pryce was reported missing on the 13<sup>th</sup> April, but was later found to have been killed in action on that date. (Memorial, Ploegsteert, Belgium. Llandysilio Church and war memorial) V.C. Location – Grenadier Guards Regimental HQ..

**LIEUTENANT COLONEL THE VISCOUNT JOHN STANDISH SURTEES PRENDERGAST GORT**  
**GCB CBE DSO - (2 BARS) MVO MC**  
**1<sup>ST</sup> BATTALION, PREMÝ RIDGE (CANAL-DU-NORD, FRANCE) 27<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 1918**

**Citation Reads**

On 27<sup>th</sup> September 1918 at the Canal du Nord near Flesquieres, France, Lieutenant Colonel Gort led his battalion under very heavy fire and although wounded, when the battalion was held up, he went across open ground to obtain assistance from a tank and personally led it to best advantage. He was again wounded and after lying on a stretcher for a while, insisted on getting up and directing the further attack which resulted in the capture of over two hundred prisoners, Two batteries of field guns and numerous machine guns. He refused to leave the field until the success signal had gone up on the final objective.

He had an extensive military career, becoming Field Marshal and Chief of the Imperial General Staff 1937-39, C-in-C British Field Force 1940, Aide-de-Camp to King George VI until 1944, during this time also C-in-C Gibraltar until 1942, C-in-C Malta until 1944, from 1944-45 he was High Commissioner for Palestine and Jordan, Commandant the Honourable Artillery Company 1943-46. Died 31<sup>st</sup> March 1946 at London. (Memorial at St John the Baptist Church, Penhurst, Kent.) V.C. Location – unknown.

\* \* \* \* \*

**PRIVATE WILLIAM EDGAR HOLMES**

**2<sup>ND</sup> BATTALION, CATTENIERES (FRANCE) 9<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 1918**

**Citation Reads**

On 9<sup>th</sup> October 1918 at Cattenieres, France, Private Holmes carried in two men under the most intense fire and while he was attending to a third case he was severely wounded, in spite of this he continued to carry in the casualties and was shortly afterwards mortally wounded. By his self sacrifice this man was the means of saving the lives of several of his comrades.

(Memorials, Carnieres Cemetery, France. Didbrook Church, Gloucestershire.) V.C. Location – Grenadier Guards Regimental HQ.

\* \* \* \* \*

**LANCE CORPORAL HARRY NICHOLLS**

**3<sup>RD</sup> BATTALION, RIVER ESCAUT (BELGIUM) 21<sup>ST</sup> MAY 1940**

**Citation Reads**

Close to the River Escaut in Belgium, Lance Corporal Nicholls, on 21<sup>st</sup> May 1940, continued to lead the section, although wounded in the arm by shrapnel, in a counter attack against superior enemy opposition. In the advance over a ridge, the situation became critical. Rushing forward, he put three German machine guns out of action. He continued his attack, over a second ridge, against a massed enemy infantry, until all his ammunition was gone. He was wounded four times but refused to stop until all his effort was spent. He was then taken prisoner. Lance Corporal Nicholls was presented with his Victoria Cross ribbon by the German Commandant at the POW camp in Poland. Died 11<sup>th</sup> September 1975 at Leeds, Yorkshire. ( memorial, on Grave at Southern Cemetery, Nottingham.) V.C. Location – Grenadier Guards Regimental HQ.

\* \* \* \* \*

**MAJOR WILLIAM PHILIP SIDNEY KG GCMG GCVO**

**5<sup>TH</sup> BATTALION, ANZIO BEACH HEAD (ITALY) 8<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 1944**

**Citation Reads**

Major Sidney led an attack that was successful in driving out the enemy from a gully, during the period 7<sup>th</sup> / 8<sup>th</sup> February 1944, after they had penetrated into the wadi, south west of Carroceto Ridge. Along with a crew of a three inch mortar, he personally led an attack, using a Tommy gun and hand grenades, driving them out of the gully. With the mortar attack continually firing, he and a 'handful' of men positioned themselves on the gully's edge in order to stave of the enemy, who were now attacking in some strength. The majority of Germans were kept at bay, but a number of them managed to get into a ditch twenty yards from Major Sidneys position. He attacked with his Tommy gun, in full view of the enemy, engaging them at point blank range and forcing them to withdraw, leaving behind several dead. On returning to the gully's edge, he ordered all back, apart from two guardsmen, to collect ammunition and grenades. In their absence they were attacked again and Major Sidney was struck in the face by a grenade, which bounced off and exploded. One of the guardsmen was killed, whilst he and the other guardsman were both wounded. Single handed and with a thigh wound, Major Sidney held back the enemy for five minutes until their ammunition arrived, when they again forced back the enemy. The Major, weak from loss of blood, was not able to be removed until darkness fell, owing to the closeness of the enemy.

Major Sidney went on to become Viscount de L'Isle, and son in law of Field Marshal Viscount Gort VC. Died 5<sup>th</sup> April 1991 at Penhurst, Kent. (Memorial, St John the Baptist Church, Penhurst, Kent.) V.C. Location – unknown.

\* \* \* \* \*



*“Rangers of Connaught !  
It is not my intention to expend any powder this  
evening, We will do this business with cold steel.”*

**General Sir Thomas Picton  
Address to the 88<sup>th</sup> Regiment of Foot  
( The Devil's own )  
Before the assault on Badajoz  
6<sup>th</sup> April 1812**

