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14 December 2021

All Grenadiers

THE INTEGRATED REVIEW

Introduction

In November 2021 the results of the Integrated Review and how it will shape the British Army were released, under the title '*Future Soldier*'. This was set against how Global Britain will treat and react to threats in a new, more competitive age. It focuses on securing Britain's interests, both at home and overseas, and in the next three years *Future Soldier* will transform the British Army to meet expected challenges and be better prepared for a broad range of potential conflicts across the globe.

The Household Division will reconfigure and take its place within the Army's new order of battle. Throughout the planning process, the Major General has striven to protect our collective and shared heritage without any loss of cap badges. He has secured a series of roles that preserve the best of what we do in London, enhance our future and importantly keep us relevant as a fighting force. He has done an excellent job.

The Household Division

To understand where we will fit in to the new organisation, you first need to know what happens to the remainder of the Household Division after October 2022. There will be a small reduction in size to the Household Cavalry Regiment in Bulford. The Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment at Knightsbridge remains broadly unchanged. The Foot Guards remain as five, distinguished and evenly sized regiments but they will be administered in one of only four new Divisions of Infantry and grouped with the Parachute Regiment.

Geographically, the five battalions of Foot Guards will remain where they are stationed now. Two battalions in Aldershot (1 GREN GDS and 1 IG), two in Windsor (1 COLDM GDS and 1 WG) and one in Catterick (1SG). Rotating through three distinct roles, two on more than one occasion during a 16-year cycle, at any time there will be two Light Role (LR) battalions in the Field Army, both in the 1st Division, a single battalion in London District and one battalion in the Security Force Assistance (SFA) role. Separately and not involved in the rotation or roles described above, 1 SG will remain a Light Mechanised battalion based permanently in Catterick, with two years in every six spent in Cyprus, starting in 2027.

Next Autumn, after the Queen's Birthday Parade, 1 IG are the first to take on the SFA role, for 4 years. With a much-reduced establishment, this new role requires a substantial readjustment to the

battalion's ORBAT although the formation, concurrently, of two Irish Guards Public Duties Incremental Companies (PDICs) will partially compensate. In this new role the battalion will focus on military capacity building around the world. In 2027 they will handover to 1 COLDM GDS.

Familiar to those who served in BAOR, the new lexicon for combined arms brigades is a Brigade Combat Team (BCT) and the two Foot Guards LR battalions will each spend up to four consecutive years at a time within 4 (Light) BCT. The LR and SFA roles in the Field Army will provide many, diverse opportunities, some overseas and offer greater variety for Guardsmen of all ranks to build upon their core soldiering skills.

The commitment of one battalion to State Ceremonial and Public Duties (SCPD) in London (one less than now) will be matched by a reduction in SCPD output, mainly over the Autumn and Winter months, the tempo determined by the Major General and based upon the troops he has available. This commitment will be for two years and the incumbent battalion will be supported by five PDICs, slightly smaller than now, including Nijmegen Company (apart from 2025-26). At varying points in the cycle, all five regiments will find PDICs and I believe this will be a marked improvement with more efficient use of the manpower available. In this 16-year cycle, no battalion will now spend more than 4 years on SCPD, half the time at present. This is good for retention.

Furthermore, the Household Division will be aligned to the 2nd Battalion Rangers in Keogh Barracks, Aldershot, so Guardsmen will be able to serve there having passed the aptitude process. The Guards Parachute Platoon remains open to those willing to test themselves on P Company. For those extra Regimentally employed and progressing upwards, rewarding opportunities at Catterick, Harrogate, Brecon and Sandhurst will be unaffected. Also, I expect the steady flow of Grenadiers serving with the United Kingdom's Special Forces to continue. The upshot is there will be much more movement of Grenadiers across all these organisations, offering more variety and giving all ranks opportunity for a more fulfilling and diverse career.

Another key aspect of *Future Soldier* is closer integration between the Regular Army and the Reserves. For the Foot Guards this means a much closer relationship with the London Regiment. The Defence Council, through the Army Board, has directed that the London Regiment be redesignated 1st Battalion London Guards and for the four senior regiments of Foot Guards to each raise a Reserve company to serve in the London Guards.

The Grenadiers

As planned, the 1st Battalion leaves London District in February 2022. Following an intense work-up, from June 2022 elements will then deploy on Op SHADER, the UK's support to operations in Iraq for 12 months. Thereafter, for another 18 months or so, the 1st Battalion remains in 4 BCT, until early 2025, afterwards returning to London District and more SCPD for a further two years. In 2027 it again returns to the Field Army in the LR. Overall, for the next 9 years this means little significant change in the size or shape of the Regiment until 2030, when the 1st Battalion is then forecast to take on the SFA role.

For now, Nijmegen Company remains a PDIC in Wellington Barracks and is still due to be presented with New Colours in 2024, trooping them afterwards on the Queen's Birthday Parade. In 2025 it then moves to Aldershot to be co-located with the 1st Battalion for 2 years, still in the SCPD role. When the 1st Battalion returns to 4 BCT in 2027, Nijmegen Company will return to Wellington Barracks as a standalone PDIC again.

After due consideration, from April 2022 the existing G Company LONDONS, based in Kingston (South West London) will be redesignated as Ypres Company, Grenadier Guards, serving in 1st Battalion London Guards. We selected this name quite deliberately, following the same criteria used for the naming of both the Inkerman and Nijmegen Companies. A similar redesignation will take place for the Coldstream, Scots and Irish Guards. Ypres Company will be the senior company in the London Guards, and those serving in G Company today will shortly transfer into the Grenadiers, thereafter wearing the grenade and adopting all our customs and traditions. They will become Guardsmen. This is the biggest change for the Regiment to come from the *Future Soldier* programme and it will need to be thought through quickly and comprehensively, so that it works well and benefits all. I am tasking the Regimental Adjutant to form a small implementation group to work with Regimental Headquarters London Regiment to make it so.

Finally, I turn to the Regimental Band. It has built up an enviable reputation and is deemed one of the best in the British Army. Although now officially part of the Corps of Army Music, its connection to the Regiment runs deep and I am pleased that the Band remains unaffected by this Review.

Summary

Although this outcome appears complex and there will be challenges ahead, I firmly believe that the result offers balance across the Household Division and assures our Regimental future. The rotation allows Grenadiers to develop more specialist knowledge and skills, serving in the Field Army for longer, with all the associated opportunities this brings. Importantly, the cards are stacked in favour of our central skill as light role infanteers and our ceremonial skill-set will be assured through the continuance of Nijmegen Company, which all new, young Guardsmen will continue to join after they complete their basic training at Harrogate and Catterick.

The Integrated Review was perhaps the deepest and most far-reaching Defence Review since Options for Change in the early 1990's, which resulted in placing our 2nd Battalion into Suspended Animation and the formation of Nijmegen Company. Fortunately, we are not facing such drastic cuts this time; indeed, we are set to get bigger.

I will endeavour to keep you updated, primarily through the Gazette and regular articles in the Guards Magazine.

C R V Walker (signed electronically)