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December 2018

The Sandbag Battery, November 5th, 1854, The Battle of Inkermann, Crimea



Walter Gathercole's Crimea Medal
Officially impressed
"W. GATHERCOLE. GREINADIER GDS"
Four clasps ALMA, BALACLAVA, INKERMANN,
SEBASTOPOL

Crimean War – Sandbag Battery KIA

The Battle of Inkerman on the morning of 5 November 1854 has been described as “The Soldier’s Battle” in reference to the sheer ferocity of the fighting, and the small parties of men who fought in isolation in the freezing and foggy conditions.

Pauloff’s force of 15,000 men advanced down the axis of the post road towards the northern and north eastern sides of Home Ridge and Fore Ridge. The main focal points of the battle became the Barrier, The Sandbag Battery and the crest of the ridge above them.

The defence of the Sandbag Battery took place in thick fog against overwhelming odds and is one of the epics of British military history.

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Notice of Next Meeting

The next CMHS meeting will be held on
Tuesday, December 18th, 2018 19:00 (7:00 pm)
At the Petty Officers' Mess, HMCS Tecumseh.

The unofficial agenda of this meeting will be:
Introduction of guests, Minutes of last meeting Correspondence, Membership report
Treasurer's report, Old business / New business Break, Show & Tell
The President, **Allan Ross** would like to invite everyone to remain after the meet-
ing for an informal time of fellowship.

The Russians launched 7,000 men against the Sandbag Battery, which was defended by 2,000 British soldiers, including the Guards Brigade with a strength of 1,215 under Major General Henry Bentinck.

The Guards Brigade was comprised of:
3rd Battalion, Grenadier Guards - 405

1st Battalion, Coldstream Guards - 438

1st Battalion, Scots Fusiliers Guards-372

On that day the Guards Brigade lost nearly half their numbers in the space of an hour. It was a particularly iconic battle for the Grenadier Guards, 3rd Battalion, Queen Victoria's premier Foot Guard regiment, who were the only regiment to take their Colours into the battle.

Cut off and isolated from the rest of their Division, the Grenadier Guards defended the Sandbag battery and beat off repeated determined attacks. The Colour Party was surrounded and was reduced to 100 men. The Colours were passed from hand to hand, regardless of rank, as they fought through a mass of Russians, all bent on the capture of the precious symbols of a British Regiment.

The Adjutant, Captain Higginson, later General Sir George Higginson, described the scene:

"Clustered round the Colours, with scarcely a round of ammunition left, the men pressed slowly backwards, keeping their front full towards the enemy, their bayonets ready at the charge. As a comrade fell, wounded or dead, his fellow took his place and maintained the compactness of the gradually diminishing group that held on with unflinching stubbornness in protecting the flags. More than once from the lips of this devoted band of non-commissioned officers and rank-and-file came the shout, "Hold up the Colours!"

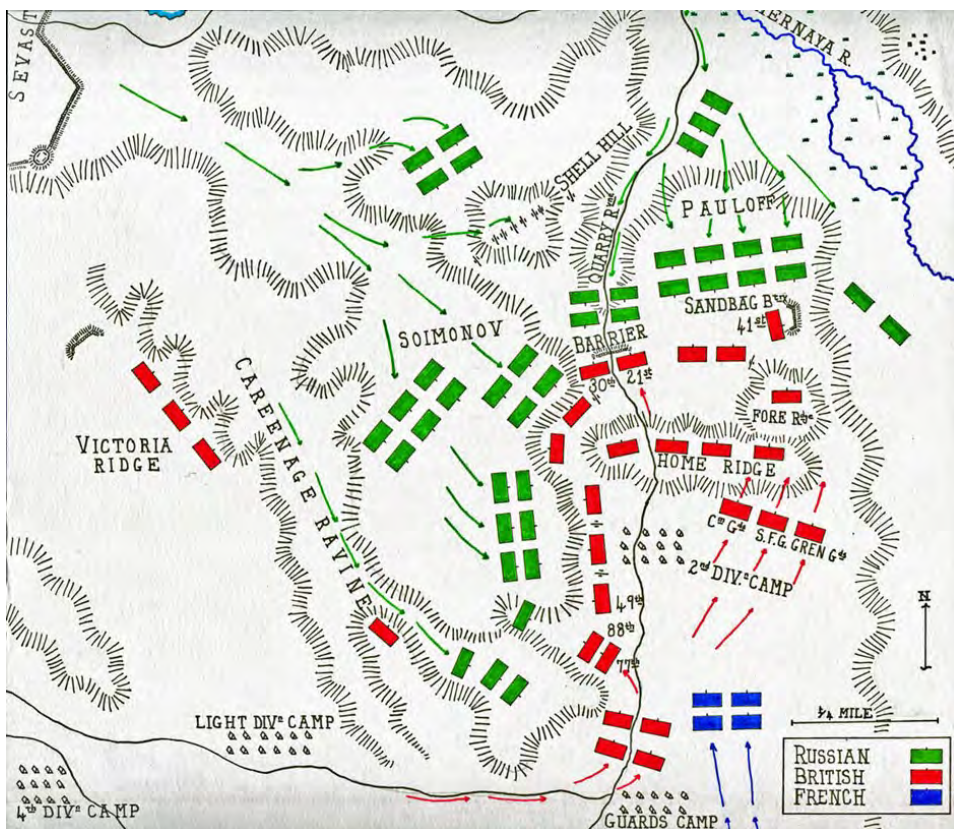
The intense hand-to-hand fighting lasted 6 hours but they eventually managed to fight their way back to the British lines. The Battery had changed hands seven times. There were so many acts of bravery that the Grenadier Guards 3rd Battalion earned three VCs that day.

At the end of the battle they had suffered 234 dead and wounded, a casualty rate of almost 60%. Amongst the more than 100 dead was Private Walter Gathercole.

**6393. Private. Walter Gathercole. 3rd Battalion, Grenadier Guards.
Killed-in-Action 5th November 1854.**

Walter Gathercole was born in Cressingham, near Swaffham in Norfolk in 1833. He enlisted into the Grenadier Guards on 30 November 1852. At the time of his formal attestation at King's Lynn on 2 December 1852 he is shown as being 19 years of age and having worked as a Gamekeeper. Served for 1 year and 339 days before his death in action while defending the famous Sandbag Battery at Inkermann on 5th November 1854.

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Meeting held on November 20, 2018 at the Petty Officer's Mess, HMCS Tecumseh

1. Meeting called to order By President Allan R. at 7:00 PM. 25 members in attendance.

2. Minutes of Previous Meeting. Discussed no correction. Member Mike C. moves that the Previous Meeting Minutes be accepted. Seconded by Bob M.

3. Newsletter. - Received, no comments or concerns.

4. Treasures Report.

Report by David G for Floyd S. Lists of monies collected from book auctions, donations etc.

Listing of expenditures. David reports, with last month expenses, a slight increase over April balance. Member Cathy E. moves that the Treasures report be accepted as reported. Seconded by David G. Approved.

5. Membership Report.

Report by David G. for Floyd S. Total 35 members (4 Life, 2 Hon, 29 Regular) with 29 having paid their 2019 dues. Member Mike C. moves that the Membership report be accepted as reported. Seconded by Brian H. Approved.

6. Correspondence:

- Society received the MCC of C 2018 Summer and Fall Journal issues.

7. Announcements:

- Military Museums Events:

- "Tour of Duty - Canadians in Vietnam" Lecture Series

- Nov 21 - Vietnam War Protest in Posters.

- Nov 23 - Nursing in Vietnam.

- Nov. 28 - Vietnam Images by curator Rory Cory.

- 3rd Annual Calgary Militaria Show, Hillhurst Sunnyside Community Centre. Information & Registration packages will be mailed out to contact listed and are available upon request.

8. Old Business.

- Dave L. completed bylaw wording changes based on AGM motions passed. Draft approved.

Copies will be emailed to membership.

9. New Business:

- Dave L. discusses the need for membership involvement, same few members cycle through the Societies Executive, other members need to step up, commitment 1 meeting a month.

- Society Holiday Soiree discussed, Glenmore Inn selected for event, Allan R. will explore availability, possibly the 3rd Friday in January.

- Motion tabled by Martin U. "That the Society covers the Holiday of the meal and table wine for the holiday soiree". Seconded by Cathy E. Motion Passed.

- Motion Tabled by David L. "That the monies required to cover the cost of the Holiday Soiree be taken from the Societies Reserve Fund." Seconded by Bob M. Motion Passed.

- Motion tabled by Susan E. "That the Society cease with the donations of food for the Veterans Food Bank and replace with cash donations only". Seconded by Mike C. . Motion Passed.

- **A vote for the 2018 Maurice Harvey Trophy Recipient was conducted. Congratulations to recipient Allan Ross.**

BREAK

10. Book Raffle & Auction:- David G. handles book raffle.

- Auction Items.- David Gale donated the following two books to be auctioned, *Juno Beach* by Ted Barris and *The Living Unknown Soldier* by Jean Yves Naour.

11. Show and Tell:

Garrett L.: Photo Album, RCAF wireless air gunner 434 Squadron.

Brad M.: Delhi, India pickups. Indian Army medal group post WW2 including a medal for non-combat service and 1965 Pakistan Medal; selection of George VI & VII coins.

James Bak.: Grandfathers WWI 1914-1919 LSH medal group and photo album.

James Bal.: Discusses Remembrance Day service at the Memorial Drive Field of Crosses.

Alan M.: Discusses Remembrance Day Service and Dinner at the Horton Legion.

Bob M.: Fed. Selection of medals including Rep. of Germany and Korea Peace Keeping, Italian Red Cross, Korea's War Service.

Mike C.: Medal Group to Singleton Wyndham Muncey, Boer War & WWI service.

Frank C.: Original WWII, US M9A1 Field Range Finder, made by Enterprises Canada under contract with Barr and Stroud in Britain and Issued to the US Army.

David G.: Framed WWI medal group to Charles W. Gale, British Royal Engineers, includes 1914 Star, with rank of "Boy" at age 14.

Mike C.: Selection of WW2 documents found in a purchased book; framed Boer war medal

12. Adjournment:

President Allan R. calls for motion to adjourn. Member Susan E. moves to adjourn. Seconded by member Marjorie N.

Meeting Adjourned at 19:03

The next CMHS meeting will be held on

**Tuesday,
December
18th, 2018
7:00 pm**

At the
Petty Officers'
Mess
HCMS Tecumseh

This story and all captions and pictures were supplied by Member Roy Akins of St. Albert.

Thank you

GRENADIER GUARDS.

NOMINAL LIST OF KILLED AND WOUNDED AT THE BATTLE OF IMKERMAN, ON NOV. 5, 1854.

KILLED.

Officers—Lieutenant-Colonel E. Pakenham, Captain Hon. H. Neville, Captain Sir Robert Newman, Bart.

WOUNDED.

Colonel Frederick Hamilton, Lieutenant-Colonel Hon. H. Percy, Lieutenant-Colonel R. Bradford, Captain A. Tipping, Lieutenant Sir James Ferguson, Bart., Lieutenant C. Sturt.

KILLED.

Sergeants.—John Algar, Reuben Cook, Richard Parkinson, John Cowell.

WOUNDED.

Richard Minor, James Hughes, Thomas Dawson, William Walker, James Keeling, Thomas Rushent.

KILLED.

Corporals—George Barton, Peter Medlicott, Henry Lomax, John B. Davey.

WOUNDED.

James Lee, Alfred Evans, Robert Cowen, James Clark, Frederick Yates, William Bowers, Joseph Wadsworth, Thomas Horsman, John Swinburn, John Horspolo, Benjamin Owen.

KILLED.

Drummers—Robert F. B. Crotch.

WOUNDED.

George Robinson.

KILLED.

Privates—Wm. Wright, Wm. Andrews, Joseph Dobinson, John Smith, Thomas Rule, James Hill, George Piddlesden, John Crouchley, John Guest, Peter Columbine, James Heaton, John Steel, Robert Sellars, Jas. Hancock, Henry Shardlow, Wm. M'Ginnis, James Cooper, Wm. Beard, Thomas Bailey, Wm. Partridge, George Eastaff, Joseph Day, Robert Turner, James Margenson, German Burrows, Squire Baldwin, James Varney, George Winfield, Nathaniel Turnell, George Cox, James Varney, Ellis Milnes, James Hobbethwaite, Richard Charlott, Walter Gathercole, James Yeomans, Wm. Bates, Wm. Bridgman, Henry Bear, Robert Compton, Josh. Cook, Adam Fitton, Joseph Holmes, Charles Mustow, Evan Hughes, George Bates, Wm. Hall, John Fullerlove, Henry Serjeant, Isaac Osmand, Wm. Dible, Richard Thurlby, Henry Woelven, Jesse Heasman, James Sparrow, James Lodge, Arthur Howell, Thomas Smith, Wm. Smith, Henry Sharp, Peter Flynn, Jacob French, James Dell, Wm. Davies, Wm. Henson, Richard Trimby, Richard



Continued ¹¹

Rank & Name	Class for	Remarks
Private Walter Gathencole	Sebastopol	
John Gaddley	do	
George Grover	do	W.O. 19/12/56.
Edward Gallier	do	
William Creatney	do	
Richard Gelling	do	W.O. 19/12/56.
John Gellens	do	
Thomas Canton	do	W.O. 19/12/56.
James Greenwood	do	W.O. 19/12/56.
Joseph George	do	
George Green	do	
Thomas Green	do	W.O. 19/12/56.
Richard Gelling	do	Dead
John Gell	do	Dead M.O. 30/4/56
William Gout	do	Dead W.O. 17/12/56.
William Gossall	do	Dead M.O. 30/4/56

SEBASTOPOL CLASP



43 No 1
 2nd Batt. Grenadier Guards
 Nominal Return of Officers & Non Commissioned Officers
 present at the Action of Balaklava on the
 25th of October 1854.

Rank & Names	Remarks	Reg ^t No	Rank & Names	Remarks
George Gammon		3382	John Hunt	
Mathew Griffin		4442	James Hargreaves	
Abraham Greenwood		4456	James Hamman	
Thomas Gell		4483	William Hyde	Died 16 Jan
Richard Griffin		4739	John Holder	
William Gibbis		4853	James Hawthorn	
Thomas Greenfield		4985	Thomas Holmes	
William Gime		5114	Clannore Hall	
Walter Gathencole	Killed 5 Nov	3251	James Hawes	
Charles Gilham		5277	Benjamin Holroyde	
Henry Gilbert		2958	Simon Ham	
Thomas Genders		4926	Thomas Haiter	
James Greenwood	Died 4 Jan	5316	Benjamin Hall	
William Gilbert		6278	William Holroyde	2.9

BALAKLAVA CLASP



3 rd Batt Gren Guards Continued				14	15
Ref. No	Rank & Names	Medal	Clasps		Remarks
			Alma 20 Sept	Inkermann 5 Novemr	
4102	Private Matthew Griffin	Crimea	Alma	Inkermann	
4992	" Richard Griffin	Crimea	Alma	Inkermann	
54109	" Thomas Genders	Crimea	Alma	Inkermann	
46312	" William Gorton	Crimea	Alma		Killed 20 Sept Alma
6090	" William Gurne	Crimea	Alma	Inkermann	
62144	" Charles Hillard	Crimea	Alma		Killed 20 Sept Alma
6393	" Walter Hutchins	Crimea	Alma	Inkermann	Killed 5 Nov Inkermann
5294	" Charles Kelham	Crimea	Alma	Inkermann	
5756	" Richard Parling	Crimea	Alma	Inkermann	
5806	" John Grimshaw	Crimea	Alma	Inkermann	
5387	" William Gant	Crimea	Alma		
5976	" Robert Gates	Crimea	Alma		Died 10 Oct before Sebastopol
5102	" John Bell	Crimea	Alma		

Alma and
Inkermann
Clasps

Other Grenadier Veterans of the War in Crimea



Sergeant William Powell, 3rd Battalion Grenadier Guards, 1856



Charles Manners, William Webster and Henry Lemmen of the 3rd Battalion Grenadier Guards, 1856