

A Short History of the Coldstream Guards 1650-2021
(Regimental Headquarters, Coldstream Guards, 2021)



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Introduction

The Coldstream Guards is the oldest, continuously serving, regular regiment in the British Army. The Regiment has a long and distinguished history at home and abroad, in war and peace. As part of the Household Division, one of its principal roles is the protection of the monarchy and, due to this, it often plays a central role in state ceremonial occasions. The Regiment has consistently provided formations on deployments around the world and fought in the majority of the major conflicts that the British Army has been engaged in, distinguishing itself on numerous occasions.



1st Battalion, Queen's Birthday Parade 2018
(Coldstream Guards Facebook page)

incremental company (Number 7 Company, maintaining the customs and traditions, as well as carrying the Colours of 2nd Battalion), a Regimental Band, and elements at training establishments as well as officers and other ranks on extra regimental employment. Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II is the Colonel-in-Chief, and Lieutenant General Sir James Bucknall KCB CBE is the Colonel of the Regiment.

The Regiment has been in continuous service and has never been amalgamated. It was formed in 1650 as 'Monck's Regiment of Foot' and was then renamed 'The Lord General's Regiment of Foot Guards' after the restoration in 1660. With Monck's death in 1670 it was again renamed 'The Coldstream Regiment of Foot Guards' after the location from which it marched to help restore the monarchy in 1660. Its name was again changed to 'The Coldstream Guards' in 1855 and this is still its present title.

Today, the Regiment consists of: Regimental Headquarters, a single battalion (the 1st Battalion), an independent



1st Battalion on Exercise in Kenya 2019
(Coldstream Guards Facebook page)

History

1. Origins and Formation of the Regiment (1650-1661)

The Regiment, initially named 'Monck's Regiment of Foot', was officially established on the 13 August 1650 when Parliament authorised General George Monck to raise a new regiment as part of the New Model Army. Soldiers for this new regiment had been assembled the previous month, drawn from five companies of Haselrig's Regiment who were part of the garrison at Newcastle, and from five companies of Fenwick's Regiment based at Berwick-upon-Tweed. Monck was the first Colonel of the Regiment and proved of central importance to the formation of its character and professional reputation.



Cromwell and his army at the Battle Dunbar, 3 September 1650 (Wikipedia)

The Regiment's first action came at the Battle of Dunbar (3 September 1650) where it played a key role in attacking the centre of the Scottish army. It was involved in fierce hand to hand fighting where it broke Lower's Regiment and the Scottish army was soon in rout, including four companies of 'The King's Lyfe Guard of Foot', regarded as the direct predecessors of the Scots Guards. Monck and his regiment were then involved in Cromwell's campaign to subjugate Scotland and Monck was later created Commander-in-Chief in Scotland.

After Cromwell's death in 1658, his son Richard Cromwell struggled to retain authority, and 'The Generals' in England became increasingly influential and radical, threatening the authority of Parliament. Having watched events from the Scottish border, Monck decided to march on London from his headquarters at Coldstream to try and influence events in the English capital. He crossed the Tweed and entered England on 2 January 1660 and proceeded with 7,000 men, including his own regiment, in a long winter march south.

Monck's troops arrived in London on 3 February, by which time 'The Generals' had resigned but Parliament remained unpopular and it was decided to restore the monarchy. Charles II returned to England in May 1660 and Monck was installed as a Knight Companion of the Order of the Garter and created Duke of Albemarle and Lord General of the Army in recognition of his role in the restoration. Monck's Regiment, now renamed 'The Lord General's Regiment of Foot Guards', would later be granted the unique honour of having the Garter Star as its regimental badge in light of Monck's recognition. However, despite Monck's Regiment being an older formation, it was placed after the First Regiment of Foot Guards in the seniority of the new standing army due to the Regiment having served Parliament during the Civil War, while the First Foot Guards had been raised by Charles in Bruges during his exile. Monck's Regiment symbolically paraded at Tower Hill on 14 February 1661 and laid down its arms and took them up again as it officially



Monck's Regiment at Tower Hill, 14 February 1661 (britishempire.co.uk)

became part of the English (and subsequently the British) Army under Charles II.

2. Establishing a Reputation (1661-1792)

After the restoration, the Regiment soon found itself taking part in operations around the globe. From 1664 it provided detachments for naval service, with substantial numbers of the Regiment fighting at sea as marines during the Second Anglo-Dutch War (1665-1667) and a battalion of eight companies was formed to serve in the Low Countries during Third Anglo-Dutch War (1672-1678). Monck died in 1670 and the Regiment was renamed The Coldstream Regiment of Foot Guards.

Members of 'the Coldstream' fought at Tangier in 1680 and seven companies of the Regiment fought at Sedgemoor (6 July 1685), helping to put down the Monmouth Rebellion. After the 'Glorious Revolution' both battalions (a 2nd Battalion having been formed by grouping companies of the Regiment together since at least 1684) served abroad against the French in the War of the Grand Alliance (1688-1697). This marked the start of a long period of campaigning against the French which would continue, on and off, for well over a hundred years. The Regiment experienced defeat at Landen (29 July 1692), Steenkirk (3 August 1692) and Camaret (18 June 1694). A battalion of the Regiment was also present at the siege of Namur (July-September 1695).

During the War of Spanish Succession (1702-1713), six companies of the Coldstream took part in various operations along the Spanish and Portuguese coasts before reinforcing the garrison during the Siege of Gibraltar (1704-1705), and formed part of the force that captured Barcelona (1705-1706). Members of the Regiment also formed a composite Guards Battalion which fought at the Battle of Almansa (25 April 1707). In May 1708, six companies were sent to Flanders as part of Marlborough's Army, taking part in the Battle of Oudenarde (11 July 1708), the Siege of Ghent (December 1708) and the Battle of Malplaquet (11 September 1709).



The Battle of Fontenoy, 11 May 1745
(britishempire.co.uk)

The 1st Battalion proceeded to the continent in May 1742 during the War of Austrian Succession (1740-1748) and fought at the Battle of Dettingen (27 June 1743), the last battle in which a British monarch (George II) fought in open battle, and were in the thick of the action at the Battle of Fontenoy (11 May 1745), where it sustained about 240 casualties. The Coldstream were not heavily involved in the response to the '45 and, after following the 'Young Pretender's' retreat north, returned to London in case of a French invasion.

The Regiment saw active service during the Seven Years' War (1756-1763). In 1758 the 1st Battalion took part in two substantial raids on the French coast and in July 1760, the 2nd Battalion formed part of a Brigade of Guards which fought at the Battle of Wilhelmstadt (24 June 1762).

With the outbreak of the American War of Independence (1775-1783) a composite Guards Battalion was assembled, for which the Coldstream provided a proportion of officers and other ranks. It was present at the Battle of Long Island (27 August 1776), the capture of Forts Washington and Mifflin (November 1776), the Battles of Brandywine (11 September 1777),

Germantown (4 October 1777), Monmouth (28 June 1778), Young's House (3 February 1780), and Cowan's Ford (1 February 1781). It also fought at the Battle of Guilford Court House (15 March 1781) where as part of two Guards composite battalions sustained 40 killed and 150 wounded. The Guards were at the Siege of Yorktown (September-October 1781) and made prisoners of war after the town's surrender and were later returned home in 1783.



The Battle of Guilford Court House,
15 March 1781 (britishbattles.com)

3. The French Revolutionary and Napoleonic Wars (1792-1815)

With the advent of the French Revolution, Britain was soon at war with the French again. In 1793 the 1st Battalion was sent to Flanders as part of a Brigade of Guards within the British contingent under the command of its Colonel, His Royal Highness, The Duke of York. They distinguished themselves at the Battle of St. Amand (8 May 1793) where casualties amounted to 73, including the battalion's Sergeant-Major who was wounded and taken prisoner. The Duke of York subsequently wrote to his captives offering to pay for his care.

The battalion was engaged in the Siege of Valenciennes (June-July 1793), the Battle of Lincelles (18 August 1793), the Siege of Dunkirk (August-September 1793) and the actions at Vaux (17 April 1794) and Caesar's Camp (23 April 1794). It then took part in the retreat north through Holland during the bitter winter of 1794-1795, reaching Bremen in late March and returning to England in May.

The two Light Companies of the Coldstream took part in a disastrous expedition to Ostend in May 1798 under General Coote. When the Irish Rebellion (1798) broke out the 1st Battalion was sent to Ireland and the following year the Grenadier Companies of the Regiment took part in another expedition to Holland.

The next major campaign came in 1800 when, after taking part in an expedition to Vigo, eight companies of the 1st Battalion joined Sir Ralph Abercromby's Army which was prepared for operations in the Mediterranean. The Coldstream came ashore during the Battle of Aboukir (8 March 1801) where it sustained nearly 100 casualties. The battalion fought at the Battle of Mandora (13 March 1801) and then at the Battle of Alexandria (21 March 1801) where it lost 60 casualties. After returning home the battalion took part in an abortive mission to Germany in 1805 and an expedition to secure the Dutch fleet at Copenhagen in 1807.

The Coldstream embarked on a major series of campaigns when the British Army was deployed to fight in the Peninsular War (1807-1814). The 1st Battalion was dispatched to join the force commanded by Sir Arthur Wellesley (later the Duke of Wellington) and landed near Lisbon in March and April 1809 where it was involved in the lightning campaign north to take Oporto. The battalion was present at the Crossing of the Douro (12 May 1809) and led the pursuit of Soult's retreating army through northern Portugal. It caught up with the French rear-guard at Salamonde (16 May 1809), as it was slipping across the Cabado and the Guards managed to capture a gun and some prisoners.



Private, Coldstream Guards
in uniform as at the Battle of
Talavera, 27-28 July 1809
(britishempire.co.uk)

The Coldstream were heavily engaged at Battle of Talavera (27-28 July). They occupied the centre of Wellesley's position and on 28 July were in the heart of the action and after firing a volley and charging, they became dangerously exposed to the French reserve infantry as well as to the threat of cavalry and intense artillery fire. After sustaining heavy casualties in a short time, the 1st Battalion 48th Foot quickly came to their aid and stabilised what had become a desperate situation. The Coldstream lost almost 300 officers and other ranks during the battle.

While the 1st Battalion was fighting in the Iberian Peninsula, the Flank Companies of 2nd Battalion accompanied Lord Chatham's expedition to Walcheren in late July 1809 and were present at the Siege of Flushing. Like the rest of the army, the battalion suffered greatly from the effect of 'Walcheren Fever' (now known to have been a combination of malaria, typhus and lymphoid fevers) whilst serving in the wetlands of the Scheldt estuary until they were evacuated in late December.

Two further companies of the 2nd Battalion were sent to Cadiz in March 1810 and the following year took part in General Graham's campaign to attempt to relieve the siege. At the Battle of Barrosa (5 March 1811) the Coldstream fought hard to counter the French attack on the army's left flank and Graham himself led the companies forward, at one point knocking their

muskets up with his sword and shouting 'cease fire and charge'. The two companies lost over 50 casualties in the two hours of fighting.

Meanwhile, the 1st Battalion was still serving under Wellington. They were lightly engaged at the Battle of Bussaco (27 September 1810) and accompanied the army behind the Lines of Torres Vedras in the winter 1810-1811, being quartered at Cartaxo. The battalion fought at the Battle of Fuentes de Oñoro (3-5 May 1811), took its turn in the siege lines before Ciudad Rodrigo (January 1812), covered the Siege of Badajoz (March-April 1812) and fought at the Battle of Salamanca (22 July 1812), where the Light Company took an exposed position in the village of Arapiles, suffering 30 casualties during the battle. During the unsuccessful Siege of Burgos (September-October 1812), the Coldstream suffered nearly 200 casualties in the siege lines before taking part in the arduous retreat to the Portuguese border that winter.

During Wellington's 1813-1814 campaign it fought at the Battle of Vittoria (21 June 1813) and took part in the Siege of San Sebastian, during the storming of which (31 August 1813) the Coldstream lost 34 casualties. It was present at the Passage of the Bidassoa (7 October 1813), the Battle of Nivelle (10 November 1813) and the Battle of the Nive (9-13 December). They then formed part of the part of the army sent to invest Bayonne when, despite the Treaty of Paris having been signed on 11 April 1814, the Governor decided to hold out and organised a sortie on 14 April 1814. This tragically resulted in great loss to the Coldstream with over 160 casualties just after the official end of the war and their return home. Six officers of the Regiment were buried in a cemetery created on the site of the Regiment's encampment outside Bayonne, and Queen Victoria later visited this cemetery in 1889. This cemetery still exists today and is maintained by the Regiment with the help of local school children.

Companies from the 2nd Battalion were sent to the Netherlands in November 1813 as part of an expedition under Sir Thomas Graham. They were involved in the siege and assault on Bergen-op-Zoom, losing 31 men. When peace came the battalion remained on the continent and was moved to Brussels.

With Napoleon's escape from Elba, the 2nd Battalion took part in the Hundred Days' Campaign of 1815. It was rushed to join the Battle of Quatre-Bras (16 June 1815), and subsequently withdrew to the ridge at Mont St Jean with the rest of the army.

During the Battle of Waterloo (18 June 1815) the Light Company formed part of a mixed force defending Hougoumont under the overall command of Lieutenant Colonel Macdonnell of the Coldstream. Numerous attacks on the farm-complex and surrounding wood and orchard took place during the day with various break-ins occurring. Most famously, Macdonnell along with Lieutenant Colonel Wyndham, Ensigns Hervey and Gooch, Corporals James Graham and Joseph Graham (brothers) and some soldiers from the Third Foot Guards rushed forward to close the North Gate; Wellington later noted that the success of the battle depended on the closing of the gate. Over the course of the day more companies from the Regiment were fed into Hougoumont to help with its defence, until only two of the ten companies (Numbers 7 and 8) remained on the ridgeline with the colours. In the course of the battle some of



The Coldstream Guards in the wood in front of Hougoumont during the Battle of Waterloo, 18 June 1815 (Image courtesy of the National Army Museum, London)

the buildings caught fire and some of the wounded were burnt alive. In all, the 2nd Battalion lost 84 killed and a further 220 wounded. The battalion remained in France as part of the army of occupation until 1818 when it returned home to duties in London.

4. War and Peace (1815-1914)

During a period of relative peace, the Coldstream conducted its duties in London, protecting the Royal Family and various important locations around the capital. One notable event was its part in the apprehension of those involved in the Cato Street Conspiracy; an attempt to



1st Battalion at the Battle of the Alma, 20 September 1854 (Image courtesy of the National Army Museum, London)

assassinate cabinet ministers in 1820. In 1839 the 2nd Battalion went to Canada after a revolt had broken out and remained there on garrison duties until 1842.

With the outbreak of the Crimean War (1853-1856), the 1st Battalion formed part of a Brigade of Guards sent to the Crimea and after landing there its first action came at the Battle of the Alma (20 September 1854) where it helped take the Great Redoubt. At the Battle of Inkerman (5 November 1854) the battalion fought in thick fog with units holding onto ground under their own initiative and it was due to this low level of command that the action became known as the 'soldiers' battle', with the Coldstream losing 208

casualties during the engagement. During the winter of 1854-1855 the battalion was involved in the Siege of Sevastopol (October 1854-September 1855) before returning home in 1856.

Both battalions of the Coldstream continued with their home duties until called upon to conduct various operations in Africa. In 1882, the 2nd Battalion formed part of a Brigade of Guards sent to Egypt where it fought at the Battle of Tel-el-Kebir (13 September 1882). The Regiment provided two officers and forty other ranks for the Guards Camel Regiment, for an expedition to the Sudan in 1885 to relieve Khartoum. That same year the 1st Battalion was sent to Suakin in the Sudan against the remnants of the Mahdi's army and members of the Regiment also formed part of a composite Guards company to Ashanti in 1895 to overthrow King Prempeh.

With the outbreak of the Second Boer War (1899-1902), the 1st and 2nd Battalions of the Coldstream were sent to Cape Town and were soon moved up country to relieve Kimberley and were involved at the action at Belmont (23 November 1899). At the subsequent Battle of Modder River (28 November 1899), the Coldstream were pinned down under fire for twelve hours and the Regiment suffered 92 casualties. At the Battle of Magersfontein (11 December 1899) both battalions were held in reserve but later thrown into the battle and suffered over 90 casualties. Both battalions continued to fight against the Boer Commandos and the Coldstream provided troops for the Guards Mounted Infantry Companies. The Coldstream returned home from South Africa in October 1902 and the 3rd Battalion (formed on 1 December 1897) was sent to Egypt in 1905 where it remained until 1910.



The Coldstream Guards, Second Boer War, c. 1900 (Image courtesy of the National Army Museum, London)

5. The First World War and its Aftermath (1914-1939)

Following the outbreak of war, all three battalions of the Coldstream were landed at Le Havre by 14 August 1914 and advanced to the Belgian frontier. These units soon found themselves



The Coldstream at the Battle of Landrecies, 25 August 1914 (britishbattels.com)

on the retreat from Mons, covering some 200 miles in thirteen days. During the retreat, the 2nd and 3rd Battalions fought at Landrecies (25 August) and at Villers-Cotterets (1 September). Later in September, as part of the allied attack along the Marne, the 2nd Battalion captured 100 prisoners and seven machine guns whilst crossing the Petit Morin. The 1st Battalion was hard pressed as it crossed the Aisne and in the ensuing battle sustained 388 casualties in two hours.

The Coldstream took part in the First Battle of Ypres (October-November 1914) and on 23 October all three battalions

faced a major German attack. The 1st Battalion attacked a German position near Gheluvelt (26 October) but a huge German counter attack overran two companies and the battalion headquarters and gradually drove off the rest of the battalion and supporting units off the position. Later, the British counter attacked and recaptured Gheluvelt but with substantial losses, the 1st Battalion losing every officer other than the Quartermaster, Lieutenant Jock Boyd, who could only assemble 60 men. After reinforcement, the 1st Battalion was again sent into the line at Gheluvelt on 1 November, where they sustained a further 100 casualties. Meanwhile the 2nd and 3rd Battalions were also badly mauled and had to combine their strength and fight a running battle from 29 October for twenty days defending Polygon Wood until they were finally relieved on 17 November. In total, during the First Battle of Ypres the three battalions of the Coldstream had suffered a total of 2,418 casualties.

In January 1915 all three battalions were again in action. The 1st Battalion suffered 200 casualties whilst defending the line on 25 January and the 2nd and 3rd Battalions made a successful attack themselves towards the end of the month. At the Battle of Loos (25 September- 8 October 1915) the Guards Division, initially held in reserve, was pushed forward later on the first day. The 1st Battalion of the Coldstream successfully attacked Hill 70 but suffered under a ferocious bombardment two days later which resulted in some 270 casualties. The Guards continued to conduct periods in the line in heavily waterlogged conditions and at one point two men from the 4th (Pioneer) Battalion (raised in August 1915) drowned in a listening tunnel.

The Coldstream entered the Battle of the Somme (July-November 1916) on 15 September taking part in the attack at Flers-Courcelette, with the village of Les Boeufs as its objective. After going over the top, the attack soon stalled in the face of devastating fire and a great deal of confusion followed across the Division with all three battalions of the Coldstream becoming intermingled with other Guards units and the Coldstream lost 1,219 casualties. The Guards Division was committed on 25 September to, once again, try and take Les Boeufs, this time proving successful in the endeavour.



Lieutenant Colonel John Campbell leads the 3rd Battalion into action wearing his Adrain helmet and holding his hunting horn used to rally his men at Flers-Courcelette, 15 September 1916 (J. Paget (ed.), *Second to None* (Pen and Sword, 2000))

During the Third Battle of Ypres, also known as Passchendaele (July- November 1917), the Guards spent time in the line in June and July which included taking part in various trench raids. On 9 October, the Guards Division was again involved in a major attack and the Coldstream suffered from the effect of machine gun fire from pillboxes which were gradually cleared, but casualties across all four battalions were 426 all ranks.

At the Battle of Cambrai (November-December 1917) the Guards Division took part in an attack but after an initial success were forced to retire with the 1st Battalion losing 220 men. While in billets behind the line the 1st Guards Brigade was suddenly called upon after a German attack on 30 November broke through the British line and into the village of Gouzeaucourt. The 2nd and 3rd Battalions were involved in the counter-attack to retake the village and the following day succeeded in pushing the Germans even further back but at the cost of 470 casualties across the two battalions.

In response to the German Spring Offensive (March-July 1918) the Coldstream were sent in on 23 March but were forced to give ground on 25 March and faced another major German attack on the 28 March which they fended off. The Coldstream lost 279 casualties

during March as a result. The 3rd Battalion was moved north to Hazebrouck where the companies were spread very thinly but managed to hang on until support arrived.

During the Hundred Days Offensive (August-November 1918) the Guards Division launched an attack on 21 August and by 23 August had captured Moyenneville. The 2nd Battalion took St Leger on 27 August but with the loss of 308 casualties. The 1st Battalion attacked a German position on the Canal du Nord on 27 September and took 300 German prisoners and thirty machine-guns but at the cost of 151 killed, wounded and missing. On 19 October the 4th (Pioneer) Battalion laid bridges across the Selle river for a successful attack which followed the next day. In early November the 1st Battalion took eight field guns but in the three days fighting lost 175 casualties. The Armistice soon followed which marked the end of a hard fought attritional war on the Western Front.

Unlike the rest of the army, the Guards did not experience a massive expansion during the war and were kept as elite regiments with only a few battalions. In total 20,000 men served at one time or another in one of the four Battalions of the Coldstream on the Western Front. In total 3,860 soldiers from the Regiment were killed and 10,277 were wounded or taken prisoner. During the war, members of the Regiment were awarded seven Victoria Crosses, 46 Distinguished Service Orders (with one received an additional bar), 143 Military Crosses (eight with a bar), 159 Distinguished Conduct Medals (six with a bar), 521 Military Medals (22 with a bar) and 520 Mentioned in Despatches.

After the First World War, the Coldstream returned to being a three-battalion regiment, with each battalion conducting public duties at home as well as being sent on service overseas. The 3rd Battalion went to Turkey in 1922 as part of 1st Guard Brigade to help keep the peace after the Paris Peace Conference of 1919, the 2nd Battalion was sent to Shanghai in 1927 to help protect British commercial interests and the 1st Battalion went to Sudan and then Suez between 1932-1933. The 3rd Battalion was then sent to Palestine from 1936-1939 before it returned to Alexandria.

6. The Second World War (1939-1945)

With the declaration of war, the 1st and 2nd Battalions of the Coldstream soon landed at Cherbourg and moved forward by rail to establish themselves near to the French-Belgian border. With the German invasion of the Low Countries and France on 10 May, 'Plan D' was initiated and the British Expeditionary Force (BEF) raced forward into neutral Belgium to establish a new line along the river Dyle. The 1st Battalion first came into contact with the enemy on 14 May on the Mechelen-Louvain canal where it had to repulse a major attack the following day. Late on the 16 May the battalion withdrew due to German success to the south. The 2nd Battalion stationed themselves at the village of Leffdaal, east of Brussels, and on the night of the 15 May the battalion was ordered to withdraw. The retreat continued for days with little sleep and regular contact with the enemy. Eventually they took up position along with the rest of the BEF along the Scheldt river. The 2nd Battalion was fiercely engaged and lost thirty casualties but held onto the position. However, after pressure along the allied line the BEF started to withdraw further toward Dunkirk on the 22 May. On 30 May the 1st Battalion fought a sharp action to push the Germans back over the Bergues-Furnes canal and the following day and night the battalion embarked, landing back in England on 1 June. The 2nd Battalion was then ordered to act as part of the rear guard as the rest of the army was evacuated. Their position became untenable on 1 June as German armour started to cross the Bergues-Furnes canal and on 2 June the battalion was gradually picked up and returned to England.

Having returned home the 1st Battalion was converted to an Armoured Battalion in 1941 and formed part of what would become the famous Guards Armoured Division and in 1942 it received Crusader tanks. The 4th Battalion, which had been raised in October 1940 became a Motor Battalion before itself being converted to an Armoured Battalion, receiving Churchill

tanks in spring 1943 and, as part of 6th Guards Tank Brigade, formed part of 15th (Scottish) Division.

The 3rd Battalion, which was stationed in Egypt at the outbreak of war, found itself on hand to fight in the North African campaign of 1940-1943. The battalion formed part of a diversionary attack against the Italian-Libyan force at Maktilla and this offensive saw General Wavell achieve a significant victory in the region. The battalion, as part of 22nd Guards Brigade, was rushed forward to the Sidi Barrani, Sollum and Halfaya Pass and on 15 April was attacked at Sollum where it suffered thirty-seven casualties. It was attacked again the following month and was gradually forced back. The Coldstream were part of the counter-offensive over the same ground 15-16 June but were defeated and withdrew to hold a strongpoint at Mersa Matru. The battalion then took part in Operation Crusader (18 November-30 December 1941) and despite not being initially committed, was later involved in the attack on the Sidi Rezegh escarpment. On 10 December it advanced across the desert to Agedobia but on 21 January 1942 Rommel's counter-offensive pushed the army back with the Coldstream forming part of the rear-guard. The battalion took up its position in the 'Gazala Line' which ran from Tobruk to Bir Hacheim and occupied the 'Knightsbridge Box', a two-mile square piece of desert. After facing various attacks, the 3rd Battalion pulled back on 12 June and established itself at Acroma. The battalion continued onto Tobruk where it faced a major attack on 20 June, where considerable confusion led to the forward platoons being overrun and the new Commanding Officer, Lieutenant Colonel Willie Forbes, being captured. The situation became impossible as formations in Tobruk began to surrender, but the Coldstream, now under Major Sainthill, decided to try and break out and many found their way through minefields and the enemy to relative safety. From the battalion, 388 were captured but 200 had avoided this fate. After Tobruk, the 3rd Battalion formed a composite battalion with the 2nd Scots Guards and took post along the Alamein Line from 9-29 July 1942. From September 1942 to February 1943 the Battalion recuperated and trained in Syria ready to be called upon again when needed.

The 2nd Battalion, having itself recovered from the 1939-1940 campaign in Belgium and France, was back in action when to landed at Algiers on 22 November 1942 as part of Operation Torch. It soon moved towards Tunis and the battalion took part in an attack on Longstop Hill on 22 December but unfortunately, after the position was relieved by the Americans, it was lost to a successful German counter-attack. On the 24 December the battalion was ordered to retake Longstop and by point-of-bayonet established themselves back on the hillside. A fierce German attack on Christmas Day forced the battalion to withdraw with the loss of almost 200 in what was ultimately an unsuccessful episode. The battalion again saw action near Medjez throughout February 1943 before moving to Sbiba where they were engaged by German armour on 19 February, before moving again to the Thala valley on 22 February and then following up Rommel's withdrawal. The battalion drove 100 miles to El Aroussa and on 28 February was involved in an attack on a strongpoint and eventually pushed the Germans off. After this, the battalion spent three weeks conducting mobile defensive operations before being withdrawn to rest on 23 March. The battalion, after recuperating in Syria, re-joined the Eighth Army in February 1943 and saw off a German attack 6 March. On 14 March the battalion took part in a preliminary attack on the German line which ultimately failed with the loss of 136 casualties. The battalion continued to conduct various patrols in the following period as the Germans withdraw. The 2nd Battalion once again found itself part of efforts to take Longstop Hill during the night of 25-26 April 1943 and the following day it was heavily shelled and forced to withdraw with the loss of eighty casualties. The 2nd and 3rd Battalions were then involved in the advance on Tunis, which fell on 7 May and then subsequently in the follow up actions on the Cape Bon Peninsula before the Axis forces capitulated on 12 May.

After the victory in North Africa, the 3rd Battalion landed at Salerno on 9 September as part of the allied invasion of Italy and engaged the enemy the following day, taking part of



3rd Battalion at Monte Camino, December 1943
(Paget, *Second to None*)

Monte Corvino airfield and helping to shore up another position along the Fosso Canal. The Coldstream were hard pressed on 22, 23 and 24 September whilst fighting in the hills over Salerno and on 25 September it attacked Cappezano, known as Point 270. The battalion returned to Salerno on 26 September; the three weeks of action had cost a total of eighteen officers and 223 other ranks. The battalion was again in action throughout October 1943 and a major battle took place at Monte Camino during November and December. The attack failed and the division was ordered to withdraw, the battalion having lost twenty-one killed and sixty-eight wounded. The battalion remained in action until the 10 December when it was eventually relieved and after the gradual allied advance the Coldstream again found themselves

in the line, this time around Trimonsuoli, from 13 January and faced a major counter-attack on 21 January. After holding on for eight days they took part in the attack on Monte Natale with over 100 casualties being sustained during the period.

During this period, the 2nd Battalion had remained in Tunisia since the Axis surrender and a detachment had taken part in the capture of the island of Lampedusa. The battalion was moved to Italy and landed at Naples on 5 February and took up position on the slopes of Monte Ornito on 8 February. By 20 February the battalion had lost thirty-three killed, 157 wounded or missing and fifty to exposure and frostbite. On 5 April the battalion took over a sector below Monastery Hill at Monte Cassino. After a period of rest, they returned on 5 May and during the major attack that followed on the 11 May the battalion's role was to make their presence known while other major attacks went in and the Monastery was successfully taken by Polish troops on 18 May. The 2nd Battalion continued to follow up the Germans and on 27 May were ordered to take the hills of Monte Piccolo, which was achieved during some fierce fighting.

The 3rd Battalion entered Rome on 6 June 1944 and was ordered to capture Florence. The battalion was then engaged in various actions clearing numerous positions on hill-tops as the Germans gave ground. Florence was reached on 4 August, an advance of some 270 miles and over the course of the ten weeks of fighting it had cost the battalion fifty-three killed and 156 wounded. After this the battalion moved to Siena to recuperate. Meanwhile, the 2nd Battalion had similarly advanced on 6 June and on 17 June reached Perugia. The battalion was also involved in a series of running battles as it pushed the Germans back and continued the advance until ordered to rest on 7 August.

Both 2nd and 3rd Battalions then moved on to attack the major defensive portion of the 'Gothic Line'. After this the 3rd Battalion came across the aftermath of the Marzabotto massacre. The battalion continued to fight in the area around Gardaletta until being relieved on 18 January 1945. In September 1944 the 2nd Battalion was back at Arezzo and from October to December took various stints in the line in the advance towards Monte Penzola. The 3rd Battalion was sent home and the 2nd Battalion continued on the Italian front and fought on the plains of the Po river. The battalion fought on 14 April near La Pioppa where they sustained light casualties as it drove the enemy off and it continued to push forward in the following weeks in a running battle towards the river Po which was crossed by the Coldstream on 30

April. The following day the German armies surrendered in Italy and the 2nd Battalion were immediately sent to Gorizia to work with the Americans to protect it from being annexed by Yugoslavia.

While the 2nd and 3rd Battalions had taken part in years of hard fighting in the Mediterranean theatre, the 1st Battalion (which had been converted to an Armoured unit, re-equipped with Sherman and later also Sherman Firefly tanks) had remained in England, since the evacuation from Dunkirk, along with newly raised 5th Battalion. Both battalions formed part of the Guards Armoured Division, the former with 5th Guards Armoured Brigade and the latter with 32nd Guards Brigade. The 4th Battalion (equipped with Churchill tanks) was also in England preparing for future operations and was itself part of 6th Guards Tank Brigade attached to 15th (Scottish Division).

On 18 June 1944 the 5th Battalion embarked to join the allied army which had begun landing at Normandy from 6 June to invade North-West Europe. However, tragedy also struck the same day when a V1 flying bomb hit the Guards Chapel in the middle of a service. The Band of the Coldstream Guards was playing during the service and the Director of Music, Captain Windram, along with five Musicians, sixteen further members of the Regiment and 100 other members of the congregation were killed.

The 5th Battalion was involved in Operation Epsom and the 1st and 5th Battalions took part in Operation Goodwood. The 4th Battalion took part in Operation Bluecoat and attacked Hill 309 on 30 July. The period 31 July – 11 August saw the Coldstream engaged in a series of engagements as the Guards Armoured Division (including the 1st and 5th Battalions) and 15th (Scottish) Division (including the 4th Battalion) fought to push the Germans back. On 31 July the 5th Battalion, along with tanks of 2nd Battalion Irish Guards, advanced on Point 238 but with the armoured element struggling to get onto the hill, the infantry of the Coldstream moved forward themselves being held up by effective enemy fire and dug in at Point 192 until on 1 August a flanking movement managed to help secure the hill. Meanwhile, the tanks of 1st Battalion had been supporting the attack on St Charles-de-Percy on 2 August. On 4 August elements the 1st Battalion were involved in a renewed attack on St Charles-de-Percy and Maisoncelles, while Number 3 Squadron supported the 1st Battalion Welsh Guards in their attack on Montchamp which proved unsuccessful. On 4 August, the 4th Battalion helped to clear Montchauvet Ridge before supporting the attacks around Estry and a heated engagement towards the Bois des Monts. All three battalions continued to fight in Normandy during a series of running battles until ordered to rest in August ready for the advance on Belgium.

Guards Armoured set off on 29 August and joined General Horrocks's XXX Corps that day for the advance into France. The Division made quick speed towards the Seine and the Somme Rivers encountering pockets of German resistance en route and on 2 September they received the order to advance on Brussels with all speed. Covering over ninety miles in a day, Guards Armoured spearheaded the liberation of the capital, after which they prepared for the advance into Holland. The Coldstream began to move on 5 September and took Beverloo, Heppen and Bourg Leopold and the 1st and 5th Battalions lost twenty-two and ninety-five casualties respectively at Heppen.

Guards Armoured then took part in the Operation Market Garden. The 5th Battalion of the Coldstream fought around Escaut for several days



5th Battalion at Arras, 1 September 1944 (Wikipedia)

in September 1944 and the Coldstream Group (1st and 5th Battalions) met up with the 82nd US Airborne Division on 20 September, with Number 3 Squadron taking part in a counter-attack at Mook and on 23 September elements attacked Vokel.

The 4th Battalion had also been busy since the fighting in Normandy and on 7 September 1944 had been ordered forwards and by 29 September had reached Eindhoven before moving on Mook. As part of 3rd Division the battalion took part in the attacks on Overloon and Venraij on 12 October, after clearing various towns on the way, rested back at Helmond on 20 October. On 24 October, now back with 15th (Scottish) Division, the battalion advanced north and was ordered to capture Tilburg, entering the town on the 26 and 27 October. On 30 October they supported an infantry attack near Vreekwijk as well as other towns but the mud made the movement of armour very difficult. The Coldstream then had two weeks to refit at Helmond before they returned to Venraij and were involved in fighting again, although the ground proved difficult and their Churchill tanks could not be used to full effect.

All three battalions of the Coldstream in North-West Europe were involved in trying to stem the flow of the German offensive in the Ardennes in December 1944. During Operation Blackcock the 4th Battalion supported attacks by 43rd (Wessex) Division on Scheierwaldenrath, Putt and Waldenrath in snowy conditions and freezing temperatures. The battalion continued to Dremmen. During Operation Veritable, the battalion struggled forward encountering minefields, flooded ground and stiff resistance but managed to help take Cleve on 11 February 1945. Squadrons of the battalion were involved in trying to take Qualberg and Moyland which proved successful and the battalion was then involved in the attack on Goch, again fighting in wet conditions. On 28 February the battalion attacked Kervenheim and on 3 March supported the attack on Kappellen before being taken out of the line to refit at Winnekendonk having fought for twenty out of the last twenty-six days, losing five killed and forty-four wounded.

Meanwhile, on 11 February, the 5th Battalion were ordered to join the 51st (Highland) Division to give it much needed infantry and were tasked with taking a series of farms at Mull. The battalion then returned to the Guards Armoured Division, and was involved in the attack on Bonninghardt Ridge before cutting the Xanten-Rheinberg road as well as attacking the area around a large farm at Haus Loo.

The 4th Battalion took part in Operation Varsity, initiated on 23 March 1945. The battalion moved forward to link up with the US 513th Parachute Regiment who had been dropped in by parachute to capture key positions. This union with the Americans worked well as they rode on the Coldstream's Churchills in the drive towards Haltern during the push to Münster. Various villages and towns had to be cleared and the battalion helped take Dülmen, Buldern and then Albachten before entering Münster for a period to refit. During the six days of the advance the battalion only lost three killed, twenty-six wounded and eleven missing.

The 1st and 5th Battalion group was now complete as the rest of the 1st Battalion, apart from Number 1 Squadron, took part in the advance further into Germany. When a bridge over the Twente Canal was reported intact, Number 2 Squadron was rushed forward to try and secure it. This attempt failed as the bridge was blown as they sought to take it but elsewhere elements of the battalion had more success in their objective and Number 1 Squadron managed to take western Enschede. On 2 April a particularly successful action took place when Number 3 Squadron supported Number 3 Company in its attempt to take the River Ems. The Coldstream Group continued into Germany and took Boen in a river crossing and then moved onto Rotenburg, which was taken on 22 April after stiff resistance. The Group then helped the 5th Guard Brigade take Zeven before continuing with Guards Armoured on toward Hamburg. The 5th Battalion fought its last action on 4 May when it took the village of Hechthausen.

Separately, 4th Battalion had continued to push into Germany fighting at Ramlingen, Unterluss, Stadensen and Uelzen, crossing the Elbe on 30 April before liberating Hamburg as the war ended.

With the end of the war the Coldstream was again reduced to three battalions with the 5th Battalion being disbanded in November 1945 and the 4th Battalion likewise in July 1946. The 1st and 2nd Battalions returned to England in 1946, while the 3rd Battalion was brought back up to strength and sent to Palestine in October 1945.

During the course of the Second World War, the Coldstream had served in multiple theatres and in total some 17,470 had served in the Regiment since 1939. Of these 112 officers and 1,320 other ranks had been killed, 200 officers and 2,538 other ranks wounded and 800 all ranks taken prisoner. During the war, members the Regiment was awarded two Victoria Crosses, one George Cross, fifteen Distinguished Service Orders, 75 Military Crosses, fourteen Distinguished Conduct Medals and 114 Military Medals and 332 Mentioned in Despatches.

7. The Cold War (1945-1989)

With the end of the Second World War in Europe, all battalions of the Coldstream gave up their tanks and returned to their traditional infantry role. The 1st and 2nd Battalions returned to England in 1946 from Germany and Italy respectively, while the 3rd Battalion proceeded to Palestine to try and keep peace between the Arab and Jewish populations and in March 1948 the 1st Battalion went out to relieve them in this task.

The 2nd Battalion had, amongst other things, continued to perform public duties in London before it was ordered to Malaya in 1948. Here, it set about flushing out the Communist Terrorists and resettling villages until the battalion handed over responsibility in July 1950. As part of the British Army of the Rhine (BAOR), the 2nd Battalion was stationed at Krefeld in 1952 and handed over to the 1st Battalion in 1955, who themselves were stationed there for three years before moving to join the 3rd Battalion in Hubbelrath. The 3rd Battalion was placed into suspended animation in October 1959.

The 2nd Battalion was sent to Kenya in 1959 where it was based at Gilgil and half the battalion was sent to Bahrain in case of a suspected attack by Iraq in 1961. At one point the situation got very serious and the small force moved forward to take an airfield in Kuwait and in September 1961 the half battalion in Bahrain was sent to Zanzibar to help restore order during elections. The battalion returned home in March 1962 and was stationed at Wellington Barracks, London. In 1962, the 1st Battalion was sent to British Guiana and after an initially quiet period had to deal with riots that had broken out in April 1963 before returning to Windsor in July.



2nd Battalion, Aden, 1964-5 (Paget, *Second to None*)

The 2nd Battalion was sent to Aden in 1964 and its companies were spread out across the mountainous positions in Radfan, their tasks involving fighting dissidents, patrolling and clearing mines. In May 1965 a crisis occurred in Mauritius and Number 1 Company was flown there from Aden and after a period of turbulence the situation died down and the battalion returned to Pirbright in October 1965. After a brief period in back in Germany and brief time training in Libya, the 1st Battalion was itself deployed to Aden in October 1965 and

primarily conducted security duties in Aden Town and dealt with various incidents during its tour, which proved less violent than the 2nd Battalion's experience.

A composite platoon from the 1st and 2nd Battalions of the Coldstream was sent to Malaya in 1966 as part of Number 9 Company Irish Guards, itself attached to 1st Battalion Scots Guards. In 1967 Number 2 Company was sent to British Honduras for six-months and returned home in February 1968.

The 2nd Battalion moved to Münster in March 1969 before it found itself deployed to West Belfast in 1970, the first tour by the Regiment to Northern Ireland during 'The Troubles'. The 1st Battalion went to Northern Ireland after the 2nd Battalion had left in 1970 and was based in County Londonderry. In 1971 the 1st Battalion was temporarily moved to Belfast and after returning home by April was suddenly sent back to Northern Ireland in October for a third time in light of rising tensions, this time to Londonderry. The battalion returned home in February 1972 but was again called upon to return to Northern Ireland in late July that year, again to Londonderry.

The 2nd Battalion deployed to West Belfast in December 1972 and were sent to Cyprus in May 1974 for peace-keeping duties after the Turkish invasion earlier that year. The 1st Battalion formed part of the Berlin Infantry Brigade in 1972, undertaking various duties until it redeployed to West Belfast in November 1975. The battalion returned to Chelsea Barracks, London, the following year luckily without sustaining any fatalities and was back in BAOR in 1977, stationed at Fallingbosten. The 2nd Battalion spent an 18-month period in Northern Ireland, from September 1976 and assumed responsibility for a large area of County Londonderry and County Tyrone including various urban centres. The 1st Battalion returned to West Belfast in 1978 and 1979 saw elements of the 2nd Battalion deployed to Rhodesia in the wake of the civil war there, with the battalion monitoring a Rhodesian Brigade and training the Rhodesian Army. The 2nd Battalion took over from the 1st in Germany in 1980. The 2nd Battalion was sent to West Belfast in 1982 before returning to Fallingbosten. The 1st Battalion themselves arrived for a five-month tour of South Armagh just after the 2nd Battalion had left Northern Ireland.



2nd Battalion, Northern Ireland, 1976-7 (Paget, *Second to None*)

The 1st Battalion deployed to the Falkland Islands in 1984 and in the aftermath of the war there was no real threat of a new invasion but there was the possibility of Argentinian Special Forces operating in sabotage attacks on the Islands. The battalion was back at Caterham for over a year when it then went to Hong Kong in February 1986. It was stationed here for two years undertaking four tours of the Border with China apprehending illegal immigrants before returning to Wellington Barracks, London in 1988.

Meanwhile the 2nd Battalion had deployed to South Armagh in July 1986 before it returned to Wellington Barracks and in 1988 was once again sent to Cyprus. The 1st Battalion was again sent to Belfast and arrived in September 1988 where it was augmented by a Company of the 1st Battalion, The Duke of Wellington's Regiment.

8. Recent History (1989-Present)

The 2nd Battalion returned to South Armagh in 1991 for six months where it sustained one fatality during the tour, while the 1st Battalion was called upon in 1991 for the Gulf War, known as Operation Granby. The 1st Battalion had been suddenly mobilised at the end of December



1st Battalion, Gulf War, 1991 (Paget, *Second to None*)

(UK) Armoured Division in very poor weather which led to some delays and thousands of prisoners had to be held in hastily made cages. The battalion moved forward again in bad weather into the hills of North-Central Kuwait where they remained 1-4 March before moving back to Al Qaysumah to guard prisoners at Maryhill Camp. It then moved to Al Jubayl to undertake the same task on 13 March. The Coldstream was awarded 'Gulf 1991' as a Battle Honour for its part in the war.

The 1st Battalion returned to Münster in October 1991 but was soon called upon for an emergency tour of Northern Ireland to East Tyrone in 1992 where it was spread across various locations in Cookstown, Dungannon and Portadown and sustained one fatality. The battalion was deployed to Bosnia in November 1993 as part of a United Nations force, returning to Münster in May 1994. In 1996 the 1st Battalion returned to South Armagh while Number 7 Company was attached to 1st Battalion Scots Guards for a six-month tour to West Belfast. The 1st Battalion was dispersed to Bessbrook, Crossmaglen, Forkhill and Newtownhamilton, while Number 7 Company spent their tour at Fort Whiterock and in the Woodbourne North Area, with no fatalities sustained in either formation. The 1st Battalion returned to Münster before moving to the UK in February 1998 after over six years abroad.

In 1999 it was again in South Armagh and was located at Bessbrook Mill, Forkhill and Crossmaglen and Newtownhamilton. There were no casualties during the six-months and the battalion provided security whilst trying to reduce the military profile in order to bring a sense of normality to the region, before returning again to Windsor in March 2000. The battalion was stationed in Londonderry between May 2001 and May 2003 and this period marked the last of eighteen tours the Coldstream had undertaken of Northern Ireland since 1970.

In April 2005 the 1st Battalion deployed to Iraq on Operation TELIC VI. Number 1 Company went to Al Amarah with the 1st Battalion The Staffordshire Regiment Battle Group, while Numbers 2 and 3 Companies were with A Company of the Staffords in Basra in the 1st Battalion Coldstream Guards Battle Group based out of the Shatt al-Arab Hotel. In Basra it was involved in the incident at the Al Jamiyat Police Station on 19 September with Number 2 Company helping to keep rioters away from the Police Station, which was suspected of holding captive two members of the SAS. The battalion suffered two fatalities during the tour, both due to roadside bombs.

The Coldstream undertook three separate battalion deployments to Afghanistan (2002-2014) while there were many smaller scale deployments on other tours to the same country supporting other units. The 1st Battalion first deployed to Afghanistan on Operation HERRICK VII (November 2007-April 2008) and was split down working as separate companies rather than as one formed body. Number 1 Company was in Kabul providing security to Police District 9, while the majority of the battalion fought in Helmand Province. Number 2 Company served with the Right Flank Company, 1st Battalion Scots Guards as armoured infantry operating out of Warrior vehicles and Number 3 Company worked out of Forward Operating Base Keenan for the majority of the tour. Despite various serious incidents and near misses, the battalion did not suffer any fatalities, however, the Coldstream did lose one Guardsman killed whilst serving with 1st Battalion the Welsh Guards on HERRICK X (May-October 2009).

The 1st Battalion returned to Afghanistan on HERRICK XI (November 2009-April 2010), as part of 'the surge' during the campaign, deploying in October, with Number 1 Company arriving prior to the rest of the battalion. Number 2 Company was split down to occupy various Afghan National Police outposts, while Battalion Headquarters and Numbers 1, 3 and 4 Companies worked out of various Forward Operating Bases across Helmand. The Battalion lost six soldiers as a result of Improvised Explosive Devices, all of which were sustained by Number 1 Company.



1st Battalion, Afghanistan, 2010 (Coldstream Guards Facebook page)

The 1st Battalion deployed for its third and final time to Afghanistan during Operation HERRICK XX (February-December 2014). The battalion was required to provide two rifle companies and elements of the Support Company were tasked with being the Kabul Support Unit. Number 1 Company operated out of Camp Souter, while Number 2 Company provided force protection to the mentoring activities at the Afghan National Army Officer Academy. No casualties were sustained during this tour. Overall, the Coldstream had lost seven members of the Regiment during its various deployments to Afghanistan and five soldiers were awarded Military Crosses as well a number of other awards for their conduct during this period.

Since the War in Afghanistan the Coldstream has remained busy and has deployed in small groups on various tasks, from deploying on Operation TORAL in Afghanistan to fighting Daesh in Iraq. During one of these many small-scale deployments one Guardsman was killed by an elephant while deployed on Counter-Poaching operations in Malawi in 2019. The Regiment has undertaken various training exercises and has continued to conduct public duties in London and had provided soldiers to assist in the response to the Covid-19 Pandemic (2020-2021).

9. The Regiment Today

The Coldstream Guards consists of various formations and elements. Regimental Headquarters is located at Wellington Barracks in central London from which the Regiment is run on behalf of the Colonel by the Regimental Lieutenant Colonel and Regimental Adjutant with a small staff of soldiers and civilians.



Corps of Drums, Windsor Castle, 2016
(Coldstream Guards Facebook page)

Number 1 Company (with numbers 1, 2 and 3 Platoon), Number 2 Company (with numbers 4, 5 and 6 Platoon) and 3 Company (with numbers 7, 8 and 9 Platoon), as well as a Support Company (with the Corps of Drums, Reconnaissance, Anti-Tank, Sniper and Mortar platoons) and a Headquarter Company (Signals Platoon, Assault Pioneer Platoon and Pioneer workshop, Quartermaster's Department, Motor Transport Platoon, Tailors' Shop as well as attached arms, with a detachment from the Adjutant General's Corps, a Catering Platoon (Royal Logistics Corps) and Light Aid Detachment (Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers). The Corps of Drums is the Machine Gun Platoon as well as having its ceremonial role as drummers.

The 1st Battalion is based at Victoria Barracks, Windsor and consists of about 600 soldiers under the Commanding Officer, a Lieutenant Colonel, and is a light role infantry battalion. It rotates, usually every two years, between its light infantry role as part of 11 Infantry Brigade and as a public duties battalion in London District. The Battalion consists of a battalion headquarters, three rifle companies (each themselves consisting of three platoons) :

Number



Machine Gun Platoon (Corps of Drums),
UK, 2021
(Coldstream Guards Facebook page)



Number 7 Company, St James's Palace,
2021 (Coldstream Guards Facebook page)

Number 7 Company is an independent company which was formed in 1992 when the 2nd Battalion was placed into 'suspended animation'. The company is commanded by a Major and consists of 107 officers and soldiers in three platoons numbered 1, 2 and 3. Its primary role is as a Public Duties Incremental Company but is also a light role rifle company. It carries the Colours and maintains the traditions of the 2nd Battalion.

The Band of the Coldstream Guards is based at Wellington barracks and consists of 52 musicians under the Director of Music.

Number 13 Company consists of members of the Regiment who are in the Guards Training Company, 2nd Infantry Training Battalion at the Infantry Training Centre, Catterick, North Yorkshire.

Various members of the Coldstream Guards are also on extra regimental duty. This ranges from providing Equerries to the Queen to other officers who are in command and staff appointments across the army, NATO or attached to other militaries. The Regiment also

provides instructors at training establishments including the Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst as well as the Infantry Training Centre, including the Infantry Battle School and the Ceremonial Wing. It also provides Permanent Staff Instructors to Army Reserve and Officer Training Corps units and members of the Regiment also make up Number 6 (Guards) Platoon, in B Company, 3rd Battalion, The Parachute Regiment, while others are also members of UK Special Forces.



The Band of the Coldstream Guards, London, 2017
(coldstreamguards.org.uk)

Regimental Colonels



The First Colonel of the Regiment, George Monck.
(Wikipedia)



The Twenty-Ninth Colonel of the Regiment,
Sir James Bucknall.
(Regimental Headquarters, Coldstream Guards)

1. Captain-General George Monck, 1st Duke of Albemarle, 1650–1678
2. Lieutenant General William Craven, 1st Earl of Craven, 1678–1689
3. Lieutenant General Thomas Talmash (or Tollemache), 1689–1694
4. Lieutenant General John Cutts, 1st Baron Cutts, 1694–1702
5. General Charles Churchill, 1702–1714
6. Lieutenant General William Cadogan, 1st Earl of Cadogan, 1714–1722
7. Colonel Richard Lumley, 2nd Earl of Scarborough, 1722–1740
8. Field Marshal Prince William, Duke of Cumberland, 1740–1742
9. Colonel Charles Spencer, 3rd Duke of Marlborough, 1742–1744

10. Lieutenant General Willem Anne van Keppel, 2nd Earl of Albemarle, 1744–1755
11. Lieutenant General James O'Hara, 2nd Baron Tyrrawley, 1755–1773
12. General John Waldegrave, 3rd Earl of Waldegrave, 1773–1784
13. Field Marshal Prince Frederick, Duke of York and Albany, 1784–1805
14. Field Marshal Prince Adolphus, Duke of Cambridge, 1805–1850
15. Field Marshal John Byng, 1st Earl of Strafford, 1850–1860
16. Field Marshal Colin (Macliver) Campbell, 1st Baron Clyde, 1860–1863
17. Field Marshal Sir William Maynard Gomm, 1863–1875
18. General Sir William John Codrington, 1875–1884
19. General Sir Thomas Montagu Steele, 1884–1890
20. General Sir Arthur Edward Hardinge, 1890–1892
21. General Sir Frederick Stephenson, 1892–1911
22. General Lord William Frederick Ernest Seymour, 1911–1915
23. Major General Evelyn Edward Thomas Boscawen, 7th Viscount Falmouth, 1915–1918
24. Lieutenant General Sir Alfred Edward Codrington, 1918–1945
25. General Sir Charles Loyd, 1945–1962
26. General Sir Walter Arthur George Burns, 1962–1994
27. Lieutenant General Sir William Edward Rous, 1994–1999
28. General Sir Hugh Michael Rose, 1999–2009
29. Lieutenant General Sir James Jeffrey Corfield Bucknall, 2009–present

Names of the Regiment

Monck's Regiment of Foot – 13 August 1650

The Lord General's' Regiment or The Duke of Albemarle's Regiment – July 1660

The Lord General's' Regiment of Foot Guards - 14 February 1661

The Coldstream Regiment of Foot Guards - 1670

The Coldstream Guards - 1855

Battalions

- 1st Battalion, formed 13 August 1650; Extant
- 2nd Battalion: formed, 1684; placed into suspended-animation 1992 with Number 7 Company remaining as a permanent incremental company carrying the Colours and continuing the traditions of the 2nd Battalion; Extant as Number 7 Company
- 3rd Battalion: formed, 1 December 1897; placed in suspended animation, October 1959
- 4th Battalion: formed August 1915 (as 4th (Pioneer) Battalion); disbanded, 1919; re-formed (as 4th Battalion) October 1940; disbanded July 1946
- Reserve or 5th Battalion: formed (as Reserve Battalion), August 1914; renamed 5th Battalion, August 1915; disbanded 1919; re-formed, October 1941; disbanded, October 1945
- 6th Battalion: formed, 24 October 1941; disbanded, 3 October 1943
- Training Battalion: formed, 28 August 1939; disbanded, c.1945
- Holding Battalion: formed, early 1940; disbanded, c.1945
- Regimental Band: formed, 3 January 1685; Extant

Battle Honours

The Coldstream Guards have been awarded 113 Battle Honours to date. Forty-four of these are borne on the Colours of the Regiment and these are marked below with an asterisk.

No.	Battle Honour	Date of the Action
1	Tangier 1680*	1680
2	Namur 1695*	1695
3	Gibraltar 1704-5*	1704-05
4	Oudenarde*	1708
5	Malplaquet*	1709
6	Dettingen*	1743
7	Lincelles*	1793
8	Sphinx* [For Egypt]	1801
9	Talavera*	1809
10	Barrosa*	1811
11	Funentes d'Onor*	1811
12	Salamanca*	1812
13	Nive*	1813
14	Peninsula*	1814
15	Waterloo*	1815
16	Alma*	1854
17	Inkerman*	1854
18	Sevastopol*	1855
19	Tel-el-Kebir*	1882
20	Egypt 1882*	1882
21	Suakin 1885*	1885
22	Modder River*	1899
23	South Africa 1899 – 1902*	1899-1902
24	Mons	1914
25	Retreat from Mons*	1914
26	Marne 1914*	1914
27	Aisne 1914*	1914
28	Ypres 1914, 17*	1914, 1917
29	Langemarck 1914	1914
30	Gheluvelt	1914
31	Nonne	1914
32	Bosschen	1914
33	Givenchy 1914	1914
34	Neuve Chapelle	1915
35	Aubers	1915
36	Festubert 1915	1915
37	Loos*	1915
38	Mount Sorrel	1916
39	Somme 1916, 18*	1916, 1918
40	Flers-Courcelette	1916
41	Morval	1916
42	Pilckem	1917
43	Menin Road	1917
44	Poelcapelle	1917

45	Passchendaele	1917
46	Cambrai 1917, 18*	1917, 1918
47	St Quentin	1918
48	Bapaume 1918	1918
49	Arras 1918*	1918
50	Lys	1918
51	Hazebrouck*	1918
52	Albert 1918	1918
53	Scarpe 1918	1918
54	Drocourt-Queant	1918
55	Hindenburg Line*	1918
56	Havrincourt	1918
57	Canal du Nord	1918
58	Selle	1918
59	Sambre	1918
60	France and Flanders 1914-18	1914-18
61	Dyle	1940
62	Defence of Escaut	1940
63	Dunkirk 1940*	1940
64	Cagny	1944
65	Mont Pincon*	1944
66	Quarry Hill	1944
67	Estry	1944
68	Heppen	1944
69	Nederrijn	1944
70	Venraij	1944
71	Meijel	1944
72	Roer	1945
73	Rhineland*	1945
74	Reichswald	1945
75	Cleve	1945
76	Moyland	1945
77	Hockwald	1945
78	Rhine	1945
79	Lingen	1945
80	Uelzen	1945
81	North-West Europe 1940, 44-45*	1940, 1944-45
82	Egyptian Frontier 1940	1940
83	Sidi Barrani*	1940
84	Halfaya 1941	1941
85	Tobruk 1941, 42*	1941, 1942
86	Msus	1942
87	Knightsbridge	1942
88	Defence of Alamein Line	1942
89	Medenine	1943
90	Mareth	1943
91	Goch	1945
92	Sbiba	1943
93	Tunis*	1943
94	Hammam Lif	1943

95	North Africa 1940-43	1940-43
96	Salerno*	1943
97	Battipaglia	1943
98	Cappezano Volturno Crossing	1943
99	Monte Camino	1943
100	Calabritto	1943
101	Garigliano Crossing	1944
102	Longstop Hill 1942	1942
103	Steamroller Farm	1943
104	Monte Ornito*	1944
105	Monte Piccolo	1944
106	Capture of Perugia	1944
107	Arezzo	1944
108	Advance to Florence	1944
109	Monte Domini	1944
110	Catarelto Ridge	1944
111	Argenta Gap	1945
112	Italy 1943-45*	1943-45
113	Gulf 1991*	1991

Victoria Crosses

Thirteen members of the Regiment have been awarded the Victoria Cross. These are:

The Crimean War

Private William Stanlake – 1854 (sometimes known as Stanlack or Stanlock)
 Brevet Major (later Lieutenant Colonel) John Augustus Connolly - 1854
 Brevet Major Gerald Littlehales Goodlake - 1854
 Private George Strong - 1855

The 1914-1918 War

Lance Corporal (later Lance Sergeant) George Harry Wyatt - 1914
 Lance Corporal Frederick William Dobson - 1914
 Lance Sergeant (later Sergeant) Oliver Brooks - 1915
 Major and Brevet Lieutenant Colonel (later Brigadier General) John Vaughan Campbell - 1916
 Private (Acting Lance Corporal) Thomas Whitham - 1917
 Private (Acting Lance Corporal) Thomas N Jackson - 1918
 Lieutenant (later Honorary Captain) Cyril Hubert Frisby - 1918

The 1939-1945 War

Warrant Officer Class 2 (CSM) Peter Harold Wright – 1943
 Lieutenant (Temporary Captain) Ian Oswald Liddell - 1945

Trooping the Colour at the Sovereign's Birthday Parade (since 1895)

On Horse Guards unless otherwise stated.

Battalion	Date
2 nd Battalion	24 May 1897

1 st Battalion	21 May 1898
2 nd Battalion	3 June 1899
2 nd Battalion	26 June 1903
3 rd Battalion	24 June 1904
1 st Battalion	27 June 1908
3 rd Battalion	3 June 1919 (In Hyde Park)
1 st Battalion	3 June 1922
3 rd Battalion	3 June 1929
2 nd Battalion	6 June 1931
3 rd Battalion	3 June 1933
1 st Battalion	9 June 1937
2 nd Battalion	12 June 1947
3 rd Battalion	8 June 1950
1 st Battalion	10 June 1954
3 rd Battalion	13 June 1959
2 nd Battalion	2 June 1962
1 st Battalion	13 June 1964
2 nd Battalion	8 June 1968
1 st Battalion	3 June 1972
2 nd Battalion	12 June 1976
1 st Battalion	12 June 1982
2 nd Battalion	15 June 1985
1 st Battalion	17 June 1989
2 nd Battalion	12 June 1993
1 st Battalion	12 June 1999
Number 7 Company	17 June 2000
Number 7 Company	15 June 2007
1 st Battalion	16 June 2012
Number 7 Company	11 June 2016
1 st Battalion	9 June 2018

Distinctions and Traditions

Regimental Marches

Milanollo (Quick March)

Figaro (Slow March)

Motto: *Nulli Secundus* (Second to None)

The Coldstream is the only Regiment in the Household Division which possesses an official motto. The motto itself largely refers to the fact that despite being formed at an earlier date, the Regiment was placed second in the order of precedent after the First (now the Grenadier) Guards. This was due to the latter being formed in Bruges as a bodyguard to Charles II while Monck's original regiment was still loyal to Parliament at that time. The Coldstream Guards have never been styled the 'Second Foot Guards' and has maintained a distinct culture from the other Guards Regiments.

Garter Star

In recognition of this William III later extended the star of the Order of the Garter to be the badge of the Regiment in 1695 which it has continued to be ever since.

Uniform Distinctions.

Buttons in various uniforms appear in pairs.

White band on Forage Cap.

Bearskin Caps

An important change in the appearance of the Coldstream came in 1831 when William IV sanctioned that the wearing of the bearskin cap, then worn by the grenadier companies, should be extended to all companies of the guards. This was to copy the headdress worn by Napoleon's 'Old Guard' at Waterloo in 1815, who had been defeated by the British Foot Guards towards the end of the battle. The First Foot Guards had themselves already been renamed 'The Grenadier Guards' to mark this and the extension of the wearing of the Bearskin Cap across all soldiers in three of the Guards regiments was to similarly commemorate the victory at Waterloo.

To distinguish themselves from the Grenadier Guards, who wore white (grenadier) plumes on their left-hand side of their cap, the Coldstream adopted a red plume on the right side of the cap. When formed in 'Brigade Order', a commander in the centre of the line would be able to see the Grenadiers plume facing him, as that regiment would be stationed on the right flank, while the red plume of the Coldstream would similarly be facing him from their position on the left flank. No plume was worn by the Scots Fusilier Guards (later Scots Guards) who occupied the centre of the line.

Alliances

Royal Navy – HMS Albion

City of London Livery Company – Worshipful Company of Grocers

Canada – The Governor General's Foot Guards

Australia – 2nd battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment

France (Bond of Friendship with) – 2eme Regiment Garde Republicaine

Order of Precedence

After The Grenadier Guards and before The Scots Guards.