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of Defence

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11 February 2015

*Dear xxxxxxxxxxxx*

Thank you again for your email of 9 November 2014 requesting information about records held by the Guards Regiments.

I am treating your correspondence as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. May I please apologise for the delay in responding to you.

A search for the information has now been completed within the Ministry of Defence, and I can confirm that information in scope of your request is held. The information you requested is enclosed.

If you are not satisfied with this response or you wish to complain about any aspect of the handling of your request, then you should contact me in the first instance. If informal resolution is not possible and you are still dissatisfied then you may apply for an independent internal review by contacting the Information Rights Compliance team, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor, MOD Main Building, Whitehall, SW1A 2HB (e-mail [CIO-FOI-IR@mod.uk](mailto:CIO-FOI-IR@mod.uk)). Please note that any request for an internal review must be made within 40 working days of the date on which the attempt to reach informal resolution has come to an end.

If you remain dissatisfied following an internal review, you may take your complaint to the Information Commissioner under the provisions of Section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act. Please note that the Information Commissioner will not investigate your case until the MOD internal review process has been completed. Further details of the role and powers of the Information Commissioner can be found on the Commissioner's website, <http://www.ico.gov.uk>.

*Yours sincerely,*

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Army Secretariat

## Records Held by Guards Regiments

In answer to the questions:

- 1) How many service records does each of the Guards Regiments hold in its archive?
- 2) Other than for the Welsh and Irish Guards (founded in WW1), when does the run of service records begin for the Coldstream, Scots or Grenadier Guards?
- 3) How does each of the Guards Regiments index the service records in its archive?

### Grenadier Guards

- 1) The Grenadier Guards hold approximately 103,000 records.
- 2) Attestations dating back to the 18th century are held.
- 3) Records are indexed by Regimental/Army number, with a break being 1919/20.

### Coldstream Guards

- 1) The Coldstream Guards hold just under 100,000 records, with some double counting when Regimental numbers were replaced by Army numbers in about 1920
- 2) Records are held from 1800, although early records are only of soldiers who qualified for a pension.
- 3) Records are indexed by Regimental/Army number. This is supported by alpha based lists of surnames in a number of books.

### Scots Guards

- 1) Regimental Headquarters Scots Guards hold approximately 45,000 service records, this includes other ranks and officers.
- 2) The run of Service Records start at 1798 up to 2005.
- 3) Service records are indexed by Regimental Number and start at No.2 up to 2505.

### Irish Guards

- 1) The Irish Guards hold approximately 30,000 records.
- 2) Records run from formation, in 1900.
- 3) Records are indexed by Army number.

### Welsh Guards

- 1) The Welsh Guards hold approximately 47,150 records.
- 2) Records run from formation.
- 3) The records are organised in the following way:
  - The Machine Gun Regiment records are organised sequentially.

- Officers' records are organised alphabetically due to the much smaller number
- Other ranks records are organised into 4 groups. The first group is initial intake for Welsh Guards were transfers from other regiments. The second group are new intake and are numbered from 1 to 6490. The third and fourth groups came about when service numbers were issued to the MOD in batches. Initially, the Welsh Guards were issued 27266065 to 22741847, the next batch of issued numbers started at 21006062 to 25152731.