

# THE BLACK WATCH

ROYAL HIGHLANDERS



42ND

73RD

1725 — 1907



[Wauchope, Arthur Grenfell]

A Short History of  
**The Black Watch**  
(Royal Highlanders)

42nd

1725-1907

73rd

To which is added an Account  
of the Second Battalion in the  
South African War, 1899-1902

AM FREICEADAN DUBH

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TO

The Memory of

*MAJOR-GENERAL A. G. WAUCHOPE,*  
*C.B., C.M.G., LL.D.,*

WHO JOINED THE 42ND IN 1865, AND SPENT THE FOLLOWING THIRTY-THREE YEARS IN THE BLACK WATCH; WHEN SERVING WITH THE FIRST BATTALION IN THE THREE CAMPAIGNS OF ASHANTEE, EGYPT, AND SOUDAN, WAS THREE TIMES SEVERELY WOUNDED; WHO FOR FOUR YEARS COMMANDED THE SECOND BATTALION, AND AT THE BATTLE OF OMDURMAN WAS IN COMMAND OF THE FIRST BRIGADE; WHO AT THE BEGINNING OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN WAR WAS GIVEN THE COMMAND OF THE HIGHLAND BRIGADE, AND FELL, ON THE 11TH OF DECEMBER 1899, AT MAGERSFONTEIN, FIGHTING AT THE HEAD OF THE REGIMENT HE LOVED SO WELL.

# TITLES AND DISTINCTIONS OF THE REGIMENT.

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## THE BLACK WATCH (ROYAL HIGHLANDERS).

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THE ROYAL CYPHER WITHIN THE GARTER.

THE BADGE AND MOTTO OF THE ORDER OF THE THISTLE.

IN THE FIRST CORNER THE NUMBER OF THE BATTALION, IN EACH  
OF THE OTHER THREE CORNERS THE ROYAL CYPHER  
ENSIIGNED WITH THE IMPERIAL CROWN.

THE SPHINX, SUPERSCRIBED EGYPT.

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MYSORE — MANGALORE — SERINGAPATAM — CORUNNA.

FUENTES D'ONOR — PYRENEES — NIVELLE — NIVE.

ORTHEZ — TOULOUSE — PENINSULA.

WATERLOO — SOUTH AFRICA, 1846-7, 1851-2-3.

ALMA — SEVASTOPOL — LUCKNOW — ASHANTEE.

EGYPT, 1882, 1884 — TEL-EL-KEBIR — NILE, 1884, 1885 — KIRBEKAN.

SOUTH AFRICA, 1899-1902 — PAARDEBERG.



## PREFACE.

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THIS short history is published with the approval of the officers commanding the 1st and 2nd Battalions of The Black Watch.

The facts here collected have been compiled, for the most part, from the Regimental Records of the 1st and 2nd Battalions, and of the Perthshire Militia, from the official histories of the 42nd and 73rd, and from Stewart's 'Sketches of the Highlanders.'

Permission has been given by Lady Tullibardine and Mr J. W. Fortescue to make use of many new facts concerning the regiment contained in 'The Military History of Perthshire' and in 'The History of the British Army': in the former case this applies especially to the account of the Militia Battalion and to the raising of the 4th and 5th Volunteer Battalions in 1859. Thanks are also due to the officers commanding the six Volunteer Battalions and 5th Royal Highlanders of Canada for information they were good enough to collect and forward to me.

It has been the fortune of the regiment to be

engaged in many victories and in some reverses,—a fact that earned the saying, “First in the attack and last in the retreat”; but whether such victories as those of Seringapatam and Alexandria brought more honour than Fontenoy, Ticonderoga, or Mangalore, is hard to decide. This short account of many actions has been written in the hope that, by learning something of the valour of their predecessors, soldiers belonging to the regiment may be themselves encouraged in that way.

The narrative of the services of the 2nd Battalion during the South African War has been compiled, to a great extent, from the full record made by Major Cameron, then Adjutant, but unhappily never printed, and also with the aid of the personal recollections of many of those who served in the war. It is added at the request of many soldiers who were engaged in that campaign who hitherto have been unable to procure any account of the services of the 2nd Battalion in South Africa.

A. G. W.

PESHAWAR, 1907.



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PART I.

THE BLACK WATCH

## CHAPTER I.

FROM THE RAISING OF THE BLACK WATCH TO THE  
FORMATION OF THE SECOND BATTALION, 1779.

AFTER the Revolution of 1688 most of the Highland clans maintained a feeling of loyalty towards the Stewart family, but were obliged to submit to the Government of William III. A great number of the clansmen joined the unsuccessful rebellion of 1715, and their feeling of hostility to the English Government was increased by the law making it an offence either to bear arms or to wear the Highland dress. It was therefore decided by the Government that an effective method of preserving order among the clans, and also of enforcing the Disarmament Act, would be to employ a certain number of Highlanders as regular soldiers paid by the Crown and serving under officers belonging to the Whig clans.

It was not altogether an untried system. As has been shown by Mr Ross in 'The Military History of Perthshire,' independent companies of Highlanders had been maintained by the Crown, with short intervals, from 1667 to 1717, in which year they were disbanded on the advice of General Wade. But the difficulties which now faced the Government seemed to be most easily met by the employ-

ment of a local irregular force to quell local irregular disturbances.

1725 Consequently in 1725 four independent companies of Highlanders were raised, and the system proving an unqualified success, by 1729 two more companies had been embodied. From these companies the succession is unbroken to their formation in 1740 into a regular regiment of the line, and the origin of The Black Watch may thus undoubtedly be placed at least as far back as 1725.

This name was given to the independent companies, partly from the nature of their duties in preserving order and partly from the darkness of their uniform compared with that of the regular troops. Three of the companies consisted of 110 men each, three smaller of 70 men each. The three larger companies were commanded by Lord Lovat, Sir Duncan Campbell of Lochnell, and Colonel Grant of Ballindalloch. Men of good character and family were readily found to fill the ranks both for the privilege of bearing arms and wearing the Highland dress, and because companies were officered by landowners well known in the Highlands.

The officers were appointed chiefly from the Whig clans, such as Campbell, Grant, and Munro; the men were recruited from these, from Athole, and from the Highlands of Perthshire. The recruits were not only all men of fine physique, but also of some standing in their district, and many on joining were accompanied by gillies, who carried their master's baggage and firelocks on the march.

Even in England, and still more in Scotland at this time, the common feeling of contempt and fear towards the regular army was shown by the name

of Thomas Lobster, as the soldier who wore a red coat was called; the character of the recruit and the sombre hue of his dress freed the Highlanders of these independent companies alike from this contempt as from the nickname.

To maintain order in the Highlands the companies were broken up into detachments and quartered in Ross and Sutherland, through Inverness-shire, Athole, and Breadalbane, to the northern parts of Argyleshire.

Appreciating the value of such soldiers, the 1739 Government in 1739 increased their numbers by four additional companies, and formed them into a regiment of the line, with the Earl of Crawford as colonel, and The Black Watch now became part of the regular army.

Six months later the ten companies were mustered 1740 in a field between Tay Bridge and Aberfeldy, and numbered the 43rd Regiment.

Each soldier was armed with a musket, bayonet, and claymore: two pistols, a dirk, and a small shield were also allowed to be worn, but these were not provided by Government. The dress was a long plaid of The Black Watch tartan,<sup>1</sup> twelve yards long, plaited round the middle of the body and fixed on the left shoulder, a scarlet coat and waistcoat with buff facings and white lace. When not on duty the little kilt or philibeg of Athole tartan was worn. The pipers were given plaids of Royal

<sup>1</sup> While the companies acted independently, each commander assumed the tartan of his own clan, but when the companies were regimented under Lord Crawford, a Lowlander, a new tartan was designed and called The Black Watch tartan.

The details of dress and arms are taken from Stewart's 'Sketches of the Highlanders.'



Stewart tartan. The head-dress was a blue bonnet with dice border and a tuft of feathers.

- 1743 In 1743, much to the surprise and just anger of the soldiers, the English Government sent orders that the regiment was to leave the Highlands and march from Perth to London. The order was obeyed, but believing they were to be sent as slaves to the West Indies, some of the regiment mutinied, and fled from London with the intention of escaping to Scotland. The mutineers, who were without officers, succeeded in evading opposition until they reached Northamptonshire, where they were surrounded by regular troops to whom they surrendered. On their return to London three ringleaders were shot in the Tower, and 200 private soldiers were forced to serve in different corps abroad. In May the regiment embarked for Flanders, and joined the British army immediately after the battle of Dettingen.
- 1744 Quitting their winter quarters in Flanders, The Black Watch served under Marshal Wade and advanced into France as far as Lisle, but owing to the superior numbers of the French no important results were achieved, and Marshal Wade again retired to Flanders for the winter.
- 1745 The next year the Duke of Cumberland was appointed Commander-in-Chief of the British forces in Flanders, who then numbered about 25,000. Marshal Saxe, commanding the French army, set siege to Tournay at the end of April, and took up a strong position with a covering army of about 56,000 troops near Fontenoy. This position the Duke of Cumberland determined to attack, the allies numbering about 50,000 men.

On the 10th of May the advanced guard, of which

the Highlanders formed a part, drove in the enemy's outposts, and with great dash forced the French out of the village of Veson and occupied it themselves. The next day the Duke decided to attack the French main position, and drew up the army with the Dutch and Austrian forces on the left, the British just to the right of Fontenoy itself. The left attack was so half-hearted as to be a complete failure. The 43rd in Ingoldsby's Brigade were posted on the British right. This attack advanced in two lines on the main French position between Fontenoy and Redoubt d'Eu, from both of which a terrible cross fire of artillery was directed against the serried ranks of the British. The troops, however, steadily advanced without firing, their rifles at the shoulder, until within thirty yards of the enemy. At this range they poured in volleys on the French infantry, one regiment firing while two were loading. The French line was shattered by this fire, and the British advanced 300 yards into the enemy's camp. But unfortunately at this moment the French troops who had driven off the Dutch on the left, supported by all their reserves, now closed in, and the danger of the British being surrounded growing imminent, retreat was ordered about 3 P.M. This retirement was carried out in the most orderly manner, covered by the Highlanders and the 19th Regiment under Lord Crawford, who pulled off his hat to the regiment after the retreat had been successfully conducted, saying they had won as much honour as though they had gained a battle. The British and French armies each lost about 7000 men in the day's fighting. The conduct of the Highlanders, who were most gallantly led by their Colonel, Sir Robert Munro, was warmly

praised in the Gazette. The loss of the regiment was 30 killed, 90 wounded, and 12 missing. After some service under General Hawley, the regiment returned to England in October.

During this year three augmentation companies were raised, the men being recruited chiefly in Perthshire. One of these companies fought at Prestonpans on the 21st of September under General Cope, losing many killed and taken prisoners, the other two companies being employed in the Highlands.

1746 On the 15th of June, 5th of August, and 24th of August the regiment embarked with an expedition under General St Clair for North America, but on each occasion was driven back by contrary winds.

On the 15th of September the expedition sailed to Brittany, and landed, 8000 strong, on that coast near port L'Orient, to which place the force set siege. The defence proving too strong, the siege was raised and the expedition returned on board the fleet. The force was then landed on the peninsula of Quiberon in October, where a fort with eighteen guns was captured by The Black Watch and the Royals. Winter advancing, the expedition returned home, the regiment landing at Cork.

1747 In February the 43rd embarked for England, and subsequently sailed to Flanders, where they were again engaged in active service against the French.

1748 After spending the winter in South Beveland the regiment returned to Ireland. The augmentation companies were disbanded this year.

1749 The regimental number was now changed from 43rd to 42nd.

1751 The King's and Regimental Colours were authorised by Royal Warrant, dated 1st July.



Owing to French aggression in North America an 1756 expedition was ordered, and the 42nd landed in New York in June, forming part of the 1st Division under Sir James Abercromby. The army under Lord Loudon, though superior in numbers to the enemy, met with several reverses, and the 42nd remained inactive near Albany during 1756 and 1757, when Lord Loudon was recalled and Abercromby appointed Commander-in-Chief.

Before leaving Ireland parties had been sent to 1757 recruit in the Highlands. Three new companies were raised, and these with other recruits landed in America and brought up the strength of the 42nd from 600 to 1300 men. The captain of one of these companies was the same Thomas Stirling who, twenty years later, commanded the regiment in the American war. Throughout his service this officer devoted much attention to training his men in skirmishing and bush fighting, for which by birth, training, and tradition, they were so well fitted. As Mr Fortescue has rightly said, Highland regiments had all the qualities necessary to excel as Rifle regiments, and in these days of independent action and wide formations, it is well to remember that the 42nd was not only raised to do the duties of light infantrymen, but even before Fontenoy and throughout the American campaigns was constantly praised for this class of fighting, so natural to the character, spirit, and physique of the Highlander.

General Abercromby, with a force of some 15,000 1758 regular and provincial soldiers, embarked and crossed Lake George on the 5th of July, and after meeting some opposition on the march, attacked on the 8th Fort Ticonderoga, a place of great natural strength,



surrounded on three sides by water and morass, and fortified on the fourth side by a breastwork eight feet high and many formidable obstacles.

There was no artillery to prepare a breach, and the attack failed, chiefly from the lack of proper preparation and to the omission of scaling-ladders with the assaulting parties, and also owing to the fine defence made by the French under Montcalm. The Black Watch was detailed with the reserve, but at the first repulse advanced to the front and made attack after attack in vain effort to carry the works: only a few men, and these few all of the 42nd, succeeded in climbing the breastwork, but were immediately bayoneted as they reached the crest. After the assault had been maintained for four hours a general retirement was ordered, but not before the regiment in repeated attacks had lost 25 officers and 622 men, of whom 314 were killed. Nor were these the losses of defeat and disaster, but of persistent and most gallant attack made against every adverse circumstance, in the face of fearful odds and in the presence of terrible slaughter. Abercromby retired hastily to Lake George, and remained inactive in his former camp until the next year.

By special warrant, dated the 22nd of July, the regiment was honoured by being declared "The 42nd, or 'Royal' Highland Regiment of Foot."

As recruiting in Scotland had been so successful, it was decided to add a second battalion to the regiment. This was formed of the three companies who had already joined the 1st Battalion, and of seven other companies, now embodied at Perth.

In the autumn the 2nd Battalion was ordered to join an expedition then being collected against the

West Indies. Two companies proceeded with the first transports, and reached Martinique on the 15th of January. A landing was effected near Fort Royal; 1759 but as the enemy were found to be in great numbers, and the batteries near St Pierre too formidable to be attacked, it was determined to leave Martinique and direct the expedition against Guadaloupe. This was reached on the 23rd, and the remaining five companies of the 2nd Battalion here joined the expedition.

The troops landed on the 24th and took possession of the town and citadel. Outposts were thrown forward and skirmishes were frequent. On the 13th of February a detachment of the Royal Highlanders and Marines was landed on Grande Terre and captured Fort Louis. On another occasion the Highlanders, with drawn swords, captured two redoubts in rapid succession. This was tolerably smart training, Colonel Stewart observes, "for a young corps who, nine months before, had been herding sheep." The island was finally surrendered on the 1st of May, not before the 2nd Battalion had lost over 100 men, partly in the several actions, partly from fever. They were now ordered to join the 1st Battalion, and landed in North America early in July, the two battalions 42nd being posted to the second brigade of General Amherst's army. According to custom, the grenadier and light companies were formed into separate corps. Once again the 42nd embarked at the head of Lake George, sailed across, and followed Abercromby's route to Ticonderoga. This year, however, the French abandoned the fort without fighting, and Amherst advanced to Crown Point, where the army remained during the winter.

Next summer the force embarked in boats and  
1760 moved down the St Lawrence. On the 26th of August  
Fort Lévis was captured, and on the 4th and 5th  
of September the descent of the rapids was accom-  
plished, though sixty boats were wrecked and eighty  
men drowned. The force landed near Montreal, the  
only place of importance remaining to the French  
since the capture of Quebec by Wolfe, and on the  
8th the capitulation was signed, and Canada became  
part of the British power.

1761 Both battalions were quartered in Staten Island,  
and received orders to join a new expedition against  
the West Indies. The regiment reached Barbadoes  
in December, and there joined a force under General  
Monckton formed for the capture of Martinique.

1762 By the 16th of January the force was landed three  
miles from Fort Royal, the capital. The French occu-  
pied a strong position on Morne Tortenson, which was  
successfully attacked on the 24th, the Grenadiers  
and 42nd in the centre of the line storming post  
after post. The enemy withdrew to Morne Grenier,  
a hill beyond Morne Tortenson, but advanced three  
days later against the British lines. The attack  
failing, the Highlanders charged with drawn swords  
and drove back the enemy with great loss. On the  
7th of February the garrison surrendered, and Mar-  
tinique was delivered up to the British. General  
Monckton stated in despatches that the Royal  
Highlanders had particularly distinguished them-  
selves: the loss of the regiment was 12 officers and  
89 men.

As war had been declared against Spain, an attack  
on the island of Cuba was determined on. The 42nd  
joined the expedition, sailing against Havana, the

capital of the island, under Lord Albermarle. After a siege of forty days Moro Castle, the key of the Spanish position, was assaulted on the 30th of July, and captured, followed shortly after by the surrender of Havana and the whole island of Cuba, including nine Spanish battleships. During these operations the 42nd lost 12 men in action and 82 from fever.

The prize-money for this capture amounted for field officers to £564, private soldiers £4. The 2nd Battalion now transferred all men fit for service to the 1st Battalion, and was afterwards disbanded.

The peace of Fontainebleau now ended the Seven 1763 Years' War. The regiment bears no honours on the colours for the many actions in this or the following campaigns in North America, yet it was by the steady conduct of the regiment, and the ardour the soldiers displayed on those many battle-fields, that the 42nd was first known as a name famous in British history. The losses were severe. From 1758 to 1766 the 42nd had 409 killed and 563 wounded.

The regiment remained in America with the force kept there for the protection of the colonists, and was quartered at first in Albany. But in the spring the Indians made a great raid across the frontiers of Maryland and Virginia. The 42nd joined a column under a thousand strong, ordered, under Colonel Bouquet, to the relief of Fort Pitt. Towards the end of July this column, when crossing a pass beyond Bushy Run, was suddenly attacked by Indians. It was found impossible to disperse the enemy who, when night fell, covered the heights that formed the pass. The attack was renewed from all sides at dawn.



Colonel Stewart relates the troops were so encumbered by their wounded and the convoy of provisions for Fort Pitt, that it was impossible to drive off the Indians, who grew bolder with every attack, and the situation must have been most serious when Colonel Bouquet attempted a stratagem. The two light companies in advance were ordered to retire and fall into the square, and immediately the Indians rushed forward into the open. They were met by a vigorous charge, while the light companies doubled round a small hill and attacked them in flank. They were thus driven off with heavy loss. The regiment had 30 killed and 36 wounded, but succeeded in relieving Fort Pitt, where they passed the winter.

1764 The fighting between the back settlers and the Indians was incessant. To repress their attacks Colonel Bouquet marched in June with a column composed of the 42nd, some Light Infantry, 400 Virginians, and a detachment of colonists disguised as Indians, with their faces painted, far into Delaware, and so harassed the Indians in that territory that they kept peace for several years. The 42nd returned to Fort Pitt in January, and although they had experienced the extremes of heat and cold and every form of hardship, only three men died of sickness during the six months.

1765 The regiment remained at Fort Pitt until the following year, when they were quartered in Pennsylvania, but Captain Stirling's company was sent on a remarkable expedition down the Ohio, and then up the Mississippi to Fort Chartres in Illinois. Of this he took possession and occupied the Fort till the spring, and then rejoined the regiment after an absence of ten months and a journey of

over 3000 miles without the loss of a man. For this performance the company was thanked by the Commander-in-Chief.

The regiment was ordered home in the summer. 1767  
Many men volunteered to remain in America, some were transferred to other corps, others were discharged and settled in the country, and the 2nd Battalion was struck off the establishment of the army. These arduous campaigns in America brought the Royal Highlanders great credit,—services which no one better appreciated than the very colonists whom, ten years later, the 42nd were to meet as rebels on many battlefields.

The regiment landed at Cork, and remained in Ireland for the next eight years, and was on several occasions employed in quelling riots. At a review held in 1768 the regiment paraded at a strength of over a thousand rank and file, of whom all except two were born north of the Tay, and none in the front rank stood under five feet eight inches. This is all the more remarkable as the standard of height in the army a few years previously was only five feet two inches.

Officers carried fusils, and, when in full dress, the basket-hilted broadsword, but ordinarily wore light hangers. Sergeants were now armed with carbines in place of the Lochaber axe; muskets and bayonets were issued to privates, who also carried broadswords and pistols supplied by the colonel, though the two latter ceased to be used after 1776.

The jacket was of a rusty red colour, and after 1771 two years' wear was converted into a waistcoat, but after 1770 white waistcoats were issued in

their place. The plaid, also, after two years was reduced to the philibeg. Officers had always worn a plume of feathers, but it was only at this period that all ranks had their bonnets fitted with ostrich feathers in the present fashion. The sword-belts were of black leather; and a cartouch-box holding thirty-two cartridges was worn in front, above the purse, and fixed round the loins by a black belt, in which hung the bayonet. Goat-skin purses were first issued about this time in place of badger skin.

Colonel Stewart, from whose 'Sketches' these details are taken, tells how in the early days of the regiment there were many bards among the soldiers. Their poems often took the form of laments for the fallen, or recollections of their distant homes and glens. In 1756 Major Reid, who afterwards commanded the regiment, composed "The March of the 42nd," which was subsequently set to some verses beginning "In the Garb of Old Gaul," written by a private of the 42nd; and about this time the regimental chaplain wrote the Gaelic words to "The Highland Laddie."

1775 After an absence of thirty-two years the 42nd now returned to Scotland, but the next year was ordered to America to fight against the colonists who had rebelled. The ill success of this war was due rather to the Government at home than to the army in the field. The strength of the standing army was only 33,000, and the *personnel* of the navy less than half that number, but the real weakness of the country was shown when it was found necessary to hire 18,000 German mercenaries. Every available regiment was ordered to America, new

arms were issued, and the recruits taught the use of the firelock.

The regiment sailed from Greenock on the 1st of 1776 May, and landed in August at Staten Island, all except one company on board the transport *Oxford*, which was captured by an American privateer. This company after a few days overpowered the privateersmen, and navigated the *Oxford* to Jamestown on the Chesapeake. Unfortunately this place had recently been evacuated by the British, and the gallant company of Highlanders were once again made prisoners.

The men were taken to Boston, and every inducement, such as the offer of free grants of land, was put forward to persuade them to desert. Every man remained loyal, and all were exchanged during the next year, and rejoined the 42nd.

The 42nd now joined Sir William Howe's force, about 25,000 strong, in Long Island. Washington could only oppose to this some 18,000 troops, mostly entrenched on the Brooklyn Heights. On the 27th of August the regiment took part in the battle of Brooklyn, in which they lost 23 men, but the victory forced Washington to evacuate Long Island, and New York was recovered to the British.

On the 16th of September the 42nd was engaged near Bloomingdale, above New York, in a most successful affair of outposts, driving a large body of Americans back to their entrenchments: the fight took place in a wood, and was most stubborn, the regiment losing 60 killed and wounded.

On the 16th of November an assault was arranged against Fort Washington, the 42nd being detailed to make the feint attack, but after climbing the almost



inaccessible cliffs, the Highlanders charged gallantly forward, making some 200 prisoners, and meeting the troops of the real attack inside the works. The regiment lost 84 men, but the fort was captured with 2700 prisoners. The army soon after this went into winter quarters.

The regiment was then quartered at Pisquatus, 1777 near Amboy, a post on the line of communication to New York. On the 10th of May they were attacked by 2000 Americans, but drove them off with a loss of 200 killed, the regiment losing 47 killed and wounded. For this engagement the regiment was highly commended by Lord Cornwallis in General Orders, and awarded an extra ration of rum. In July the regiment joined in an expedition against Pennsylvania, and on the 11th of September was engaged in the victory of Brandywine, where the light company lost 22 men, the Battalion companies being in reserve.

Howe continued to advance with his whole army, but was considerably impeded by a force under General Wayne, detached by Washington to delay the march. To deal with this force General Grey was given a battalion of Light Infantry, the 42nd and 44th regiments. The flints were removed from the muskets so as to prevent the possibility of a shot being fired, and Wayne's camp was successfully surprised by night, 300 of his men killed and wounded and 100 more captured, and this with a loss of only three British killed and a few wounded.

At dawn on the 4th of October Washington made a determined attack on the camp at Germantown, and was only beaten off after a hard fight. The flank companies of the 42nd had 12 killed and

many wounded. The Battalion companies at this time were detached under Colonel Stirling to capture a redoubt at Billingspoint, built by the Americans to obstruct the navigation on the Delaware. This was easily accomplished, and the Battalion rejoined the main army, and in November went to Philadelphia for the winter.

During the spring the 42nd and the Queen's 1778 regiment were sent on detachment to the Jerseys, where they had a number of small but successful engagements with the Americans.

In May Sir Henry Clifton, who had succeeded Lord Howe in command, marched the army from Philadelphia to New York, and in September the regiment joined in another small but most successful expedition under General Grey against Bedford, on the Acushnet river, where they destroyed seventy American privateers and an immense quantity of stores.

The 42nd now took part in several enterprises on the Elizabeth and Hudson rivers, but no important results were achieved, and the regiment remained quartered near New York until the following spring.

In May the 42nd joined a small expedition that 1779 sailed from New York, and destroyed 137 American vessels and much shipping on the coast of Virginia.

During the summer the regiment formed the garrison of two forts at Stony Point and Vereplanks, but returned to New York for the winter.

At the end of March the 42nd sailed from New 1780 York, and on the 18th of April joined Sir Henry Clinton's army then engaged in the siege of Charlestown. The place surrendered after a siege of six weeks, the regiment losing 25 killed and wounded, and the army returned to New York.

1781 It became known in the autumn that Lord Cornwallis' army at York Town was closely surrounded, and Sir Henry Clinton embarked a force of 7000 men, including the 42nd, to his relief. Unfortunately the surrender took place before the transports reached the coast of Virginia, and Clinton's army withdrew to New York without fighting.

1782 The independence of the United States was this year conceded, the regimental establishment was reduced to eight companies of fifty men each, and the 42nd was stationed in Nova Scotia for the next five years. During the American war the regiment lost 85 killed and 286 wounded.

It is now time to consider an event most important in the history of the regiment, the raising of the 2nd Battalion.

## CHAPTER II.

FROM 1779 TO THE END OF THE WATERLOO CAMPAIGN.

SELDOM has England been in greater need of soldiers 1779 than at this time. France had declared war in the previous spring, and her forces now actively aided the American rebels. At war at once in Europe, America, and India, the army was fully occupied, while the evils of impressment and of the bounty system had lowered both the numbers and standard of recruits.

Hitherto men for the 42nd had been recruited exclusively in the Highlands, with the result that while desertions were common throughout the rest of the army, not one man had left the regiment unlawfully during the late wars.

Now, however, without attempting to raise the necessary number in Scotland, the authorities sent recruits to the 42nd without character or pride in the regiment, punishments ordered to check crime lowered the tone of the Battalion, and it was only the example of the older soldiers, and the traditions of the 42nd, that preserved the good name of the Royal Highlanders.

More effective, however, than sending unwilling men to the front was the action of the Government



in allowing Lord John Murray to raise a second battalion to the regiment of which he had been full colonel since 1745. This was authorised in July, and in spite of the fact that over 12,000 Highlanders had been enlisted during the past eighteen months, recruits were readily found for the 42nd, and in 1780 March the 2nd Battalion, 827 strong, was embodied at Perth. Lieut.-Colonel Norman Macleod was appointed commanding officer, and seven other officers were also transferred from the 1st Battalion.<sup>1</sup>

The 2nd Battalion marched to Fort George, where orders were received in the autumn to embark for 1781 foreign service, and in January joined an expedition under General Mathews directed against the Dutch colonists in South Africa. The expedition sailed from Portsmouth in March, but after capturing a convoy of Dutch East Indiamen in Saldanha Bay, it was found that a French squadron had reached the Cape before them, and the enterprise was abandoned.

At this time Hyder Ali, ruler of Mysore, had formed a league with the French in India, and as the British were already fighting the Dutch in Bengal, more troops were required, and the 2nd Battalion was ordered to Bombay. This was not

<sup>1</sup> Among these was a certain John Oswald, whose strange history is told by Mr Blaikie in the 'Military History of Perthshire.' The son of an Edinburgh goldsmith, he enlisted and rose to the rank of sergeant in the 18th Royal Irish Regiment, and then purchased a commission in the Royal Highlanders. He was transferred to the 2nd Battalion, which he accompanied to India, was made adjutant, in which appointment he evinced a most tyrannical disposition, and soon adopted all the habits of a Hindu. He was therefore relieved from his duties as adjutant, and then left the army. On the outbreak of the French Revolution, Oswald joined the Republican forces and was given the command of a regiment in which his two sons enlisted as drummer boys. In 1793 the three Oswalds were killed in action in La Vendée.

reached until February, and during the voyage of 1782 thirteen months 5 officers and 116 men died chiefly from scurvy.

The 2nd Battalion advanced in October with a small column against Palacacherri, not far from the coast of Malabar, but finding the fortress to be of great strength, the column withdrew to Paniané, defeating the Mysore troops on the way at Mungaracotah and at Ramguree. Paniané was now invested by a large army under Tippoo Saib and a French contingent under Monsieur Lally. The latter led a vigorous attack in the early morning of the 29th of November, but was repulsed chiefly by the fine charges of the Highlanders. Towards the middle of December Tippoo acknowledged defeat by crossing the Paniané river and retiring to the Carnatic. The conduct of the 2nd Battalion was thus noticed in General Orders: "The intrepidity with which the Highlanders repeatedly charged was most honourable to their character."

The 2nd Battalion now joined General Mathews' 1783 army at Cundapore, and marched through the Ghauts towards Bednor. Seven forts were captured before reaching the capital, which surrendered early in February; and Mangalore, a small fort on the coast, was also captured a month later. The 2nd Battalion was then ordered to march against Annanpore, which was taken at the point of the bayonet. The Highlanders remained here during April and then occupied Mangalore, where news was brought that Tippoo Sultan had recaptured Bednor and put General Mathews and its garrison to death. On the 28th of April Tippoo sent a force to besiege Mangalore, but this force was repulsed by the 2nd Bat-

talion with a loss of 23 men and the capture of all the enemy's guns. The Sultan, with an immense army of Mysories and a strong French contingent, then invested Mangalore, which was defended by Colonel Campbell of the 42nd and a small garrison: the British troops, who numbered only 369, belonged mainly to the regiment, the sepoy fit for duty being under 1500. Not a day passed until the 22nd of June without some of the garrison being killed or wounded. A month later peace was declared in Europe between France and England, and his French allies left the besieging army. The Sultan was thus compelled to consent to an armistice by which he agreed to provide the garrison with provisions. During the autumn several efforts were made to relieve the garrison by sea, but no reinforcements or stores were landed in the presence of the Sultan's army, because of some misunderstanding of the terms of the armistice. By the end of the year there was little rice left for the sepoy, half of whom were in hospital, while many others grew mutinous and deserted to the enemy: the British troops also were weakened by scurvy and starvation, but, in the vain hope of relief arriving,

1784 Colonel Macleod gallantly held out until the end of January, when the works being all shattered and provisions exhausted, the fort was surrendered, and the garrison marched out with all honours of war.

The garrison had thus kept employed the whole of the Sultan's main army for nine months. On the 30th of January the garrison embarked for Tillicherry, there being then fit for duty 160 British troops and 646 sepoy, showing a loss during the siege of more than half of the garrison.

The regiment had 5 officers and 17 men killed

and 80 wounded during the siege. Though unsuccessful in holding the place, even Tippoo acknowledged the gallantry of the defenders, and royal authority was granted in 1796 for Mangalore to be borne on the colours of the regiment, in consideration of the gallant conduct displayed in the defence of that fort. The East India Company also erected a monument in Bombay to the memory of the fallen.

The 2nd Battalion was employed in active service 1785 in the Upper Provinces of Bengal.

The 2nd Battalion was now constituted a distinct 1786 corps as the 73rd Highland Regiment. The 73rd Regiment long continued wearing The Black Watch tartan, but green facings took the place of blue. Pay was allowed for twenty drummers and two pipers. Ten companies remained serving in India, and one was stationed at home for recruiting purposes.

The 1st Battalion had remained in Nova Scotia 1789 until 1786, when they moved to Cape Breton, and then returned to England, having spent twelve years in America. The next year the 1st Battalion was quartered first in Glasgow and then in Edinburgh, and in 1791 the headquarters were at Fort George with several companies on detachment.

War had again been declared against Mysore. 1791 The 73rd was moved from Bengal and joined the force under General Abercromby, who was directed by Lord Cornwallis to meet his army near Seringapatam. After Abercromby had crossed the Ghauts news came that Cornwallis had been obliged to retire. Consequently Abercromby had to do the same.

The scheme, however, was carried to a more 1792 successful conclusion the next winter. Abercromby



led his force through the Ghauts and crossed the Cavery near Seringapatam in February, a few days after Cornwallis had defeated the Sultan's army. The two forces were then united, and Tippoo was compelled to sign a treaty ceding half his possessions to the East India Company.

The 42nd during this year was employed in quelling disturbances in Ross-shire.

1793 In 1793 England made an alliance with Holland, declared war against the French Revolutionary Government, and an army under the Duke of York was sent to Flanders.

Owing to the system of converting agricultural land into sheep farms, many Highlanders emigrated, and many who remained refused to serve in the army, consequently the strength of the 42nd was reduced at this time to under 400 men. Two independent companies were therefore raised, and the regiment thus reinforced proceeded to Hull, where it embarked for Flanders, and joined the British army near Ostend in October. After taking part in the successful defence of Nieuport orders were received to return home to England.

This year the 73rd was brigaded with the 72nd and 74th, under Sir David Baird, and advanced with a force under Colonel Braithwaite against the French settlement of Pondicherry. After a siege of two weeks the place surrendered, the 73rd losing three officers killed besides a number of men wounded.

1794 In June a division of 10,000 under Lord Moira was sent to reinforce the Duke of Cumberland, at that time hard pressed by the French, under Pichegru, in Flanders. The 42nd landed with this

force at Ostend, and was brigaded with the 19th and 54th: after a difficult march in presence of the enemy, Lord Moira reached the main army at Alost. As the French had 150,000 troops in Flanders at this time the Allies were compelled to retire, and in December the British army took post behind the river Waal. The winter was exceptionally severe, and the river, being frozen over, offered no formidable obstacle to the enemy.

On the 27th of December a French column 2000 strong crossed the Waal on the ice and captured Thuyt. General David Dundas was then ordered to attack the French with a force of ten battalions, including the 42nd. He therefore marched to Geldermalsen, a village to the north of Thuyt, and drove the French across the Waal on the 30th, in which action the 42nd had a loss of one officer and nine men. On the 4th of January the French again <sup>1795</sup> advanced and retook Thuyt. The 42nd occupied Geldermalsen, and some British cavalry piquets and two field pieces were posted in front. The next day the French dispersed these piquets and captured the two guns. The 42nd at once advanced and charged the enemy, making a number of prisoners and retaking the guns, with the loss of only four men.

Five months later, in recognition of this gallant action, the regiment was authorised to wear the Red Heckle, a unique distinction to which no other regiment has any claim.

A general retirement was now ordered. The troops experienced the greatest hardships on the march to Bremen, where they embarked on the 14th of April for Harwich. Nor were these sufferings altogether due either to the war or to the season.

The expedition had been wretchedly equipped: the only regiments that had even greatcoats had them given by public subscription, and of these the 42nd was not one; many of the later recruits had only linen jackets and trousers, and when flannel waistcoats were given it was at the expense of their officers; lastly, the commissariat and hospital departments were equally and incredibly bad.

Whatever the causes, during this retreat many regiments, especially those of the French emigrants, lost all discipline. Villages were looted, and hundreds of drunken men were frozen to death in a single night. Of the army which had left the Waal 21,000 strong only 15,000 embarked at Bremen. In contrast to this, the 42nd lost only 25 men during the whole campaign,—a fact partly due to the natural hardiness of the Highlanders, but even more to the fine spirit and good discipline ever displayed under the most trying circumstances.

1795 . Owing to the successes of the French Revolutionary armies in Flanders, Holland became an ally of France. The British Government therefore determined to attack Ceylon, then a Dutch colony. An expedition was fitted out, and the 73rd joined the troops under General Stewart, and landed, on the 21st of August, near Trincomalee.

To this force, consisting of the 71st, 72nd, and 73rd regiments and three sepoy battalions, Trincomalee surrendered after a siege of three weeks. Fort Batticaloe and the island of Manaar were then reduced, and finally Colombo, the last settlement remaining to the Dutch, surrendered in February: the defenders, though equal in numbers to the besiegers, only made one sortie, which was re-

pulsed with heavy loss by the flank companies of the 73rd.

The 42nd, now raised to a strength of over 1000 rank and file, embarked on an expedition under the command of Sir Ralph Abercromby, directed against the West India Islands, held by the French Republican forces.

The fleet, consisting of 300 sail, was, however, dispersed in a storm; regimental headquarters and five companies of the 42nd on board the *Middlesex* returned to Portsmouth, and in the following May re-embarked and were quartered at Gibraltar.

The remaining five companies, however, reached 1796 Barbadoes in February, and took part in the capture of St Lucia with Sir John Moore's Brigade: the garrison surrendered on the 23rd of May, though not before 748 of the British troops had been killed or wounded.

The expedition was then directed against St Vincent, on which island the force landed on the 8th of June, and two days later attacked the enemy posted on a fortified hill called La Vizie.

The five companies were ordered to make a feint 1797 attack, but after climbing up a most precipitous ridge they were joined by the Buffs, and captured three strong redoubts in rapid succession. The 42nd was pressing forward to the attack of the last redoubt, when the main attack proved successful and the enemy surrendered at discretion. The 42nd had 46 men killed and wounded in this attack. Six hundred of the enemy, however, made their escape, and joined the Caribbs on the farther side of the island. Against these a most trying form of bush warfare was maintained until September, when both



the French and Carribbs surrendered. Five thousand of the latter were given six months' provisions and transported to the island of Ratan.

Leaving St Vincent, the five companies joined Sir Ralph Abercromby's expedition against Porto Rico, where they landed on the 17th of April. Finding, however, that the fort was strongly held, the attempt was abandoned, and the five companies returned to Martinique.

Throughout this campaign the health of the 42nd had been good, though more than 12,000 men of the British forces died of fever between May 1796 and June 1797. While the fighting continued, only four men had fever in St Lucia, though within seven days after the surrender sixty men of the regiment went into hospital, and the same change was observed in St Vincent. The tropical sun and the constant rains made the climate a trying one, and there were many who regretted the change from the kilt and feather bonnet to white linen trousers and felt hat, which were worn by all troops in the West Indies.

From Martinique the five companies were ordered home, and landed at Portsmouth in July. They re-embarked at Portsmouth and joined regimental headquarters at Gibraltar, raising the Battalion to over 1100 strong.

1798 The 42nd was this year engaged in the capture of Minorca under General Stewart, the Spaniards surrendering the island without much resistance. The 42nd remained in Minorca till 1800.

1799 The 73rd, having arrived in Madras from Ceylon, joined the army under Lord Harris, numbering 21,000, and increased later by the Hyderabad Contingent of 16,000, and 6000 troops from Bombay. As the fol-

lowers were five times more numerous than the combatants, the difficulties of supply were immense. The force advanced from Bangalore at the rate of only five miles a-day against Seringapatam, where Tippoo Sultan had mustered 50,000 troops. On the 27th of March, at Malavelly, the enemy were defeated with a loss of 1000 men, and by the 19th the place was invested. Two days previously the 73rd took part in the capture of an important post containing a powder-mill, and on the 20th repelled a sortie and captured a line of the enemy's trenches, killing 250 of the defenders. On the 4th of May two columns of attack were organised, having a total strength of 4300 firelocks, the 73rd, 74th, and fourteen sepoy companies forming the right attack.

The assault was delivered a little after mid-day. The two columns advanced from the forward trenches to the river Cavery, which was here nearly 300 yards wide and waist deep in the centre; then climbing a stone wall on the farther bank, they crossed a deep ditch sixty yards wide, and finally rushing the breach gained the ramparts, and within two hours Seringapatam was captured and the Sultan slain.

The British lost 1500, the enemy 10,000. During the siege the 73rd had 21 killed and 99 wounded.

This achievement finally broke the power of Mysore, which had been for so long a menace to the British in Madras.

The gaps are many and serious in the Records and Official Histories of both Battalions. What is here written concerning the next two years is taken mainly from 'The History of the British Army,' by the kindness of Mr Fortescue.

After the fall of Seringapatam it still remained

to establish British authority in Mysore and crush a number of rebel leaders,—campaigns as arduous as they are little known, but for which the honour “Mysore” was subsequently granted for the regimental colours.

The chief of these rebels was one Doondia Rao, who put himself at the head of a number of freebooters, mainly men who had served in the disbanded army of Mysore. His force was not broken up until the end of August, and on the 16th of that month the flank companies of the 73rd distinguished themselves, after a march of twenty-five miles, in the assault and capture of Hollal.

Colonel Arthur Wellesley, who had originally been posted as ensign to the 73rd, and who afterwards became Duke of Wellington, was now given command of all the troops in Mysore. His task was a hard one,—to destroy an enemy who could live on the country, whereas his own troops were dependent on supply columns. It entailed some very hard marching on the infantry.

1800 By the end of the year, however, the power of several local rajahs had been completely broken; but near Munserabad a force composed of the flank companies of the 73rd and 74th and some sepoy was twice repulsed, and only captured the position with the loss of 140 on the 30th of April. In another enterprise the flank companies of the 73rd, with a small force of cavalry, marched sixty-two miles in twenty-nine hours, by which means they surprised and defeated a rebel chief near Guramandah.

Meanwhile Doondia Rao had again collected some 40,000 adherents, against whom Colonel Wellesley led a force, including the 73rd, that left Seringapatam

on the 21st of May. There was little fighting, but the marching was severe, and it was not till the 10th of September that the remains of Doondia's army were hemmed in and utterly destroyed near Conagul. After this the 73rd joined a column under General Campbell, who operated against some Polygar chiefs until the end of the year.

From this time until 1806 the 73rd was quartered in various stations in the Madras Presidency.

The 42nd this year took part in two fruitless expeditions: the first to relieve Genoa, which surrendered before the tooops landed; the second against Cadiz, where again the troops did not land, owing to the epidemic of fever raging in the town. After this they joined the expedition assembled at Malta to act against the French in Egypt.

The 42nd, sailing from Malta, reached Aboukir <sup>1801</sup> Bay on 1st March, and formed part of the reserve under Sir John Moore in Sir Ralph Abereromby's army. On the 8th of March 5000 troops embarked in 150 boats, and, in face of a very heavy fire of round shot, grape, and musketry, which sank several boats, landed immediately below the French position. Opposite the 42nd a French battalion and two guns were posted on some small sand-hills. These they charged, and drove the enemy out of their trenches before they had time to fire a second volley. Seeing this, a French squadron galloped up to their aid, but the 42nd, maintaining their steady order, opened fire on this fresh enemy and drove them off. The loss to the regiment on the 8th was 189 killed and wounded.

On the 13th, during the action of Mandora, the 42nd with some other troops were halted in the



plain for many hours, during which they had to submit to a distant cannonade to which they were unable to reply, the 42nd losing 33 men.

On the 21st of March the regiment was posted on the British right, near an old Roman camp, under Sir John Moore. About 4.30 A.M. the French made their main attack on the right of the British line. The left wing of the 42nd was posted in a small advanced redoubt. As the right wing advanced to join them, a French column, known as the "Invincible," was discovered advancing between the two wings of the regiment. The left wing faced about, and from both there poured such a fire that the column was forced to seek refuge in some buildings in rear, where the 200 survivors eventually surrendered, giving up their standard to the 42nd.

Immediately after this Moore reformed the 42nd, and led them himself against the rear battalion of a second French column. This the 42nd routed and, with the 28th Regiment, pursued for some distance. While in pursuit they were charged by two regiments of cavalry, but quickly rallying, drove the French horse back with loss.

General Menou then ordered his second line of cavalry to charge. Some of these charged the 42nd in rear, and Sir Ralph Abercromby was taken prisoner, though immediately after released by a corporal and a private of the 42nd. Though broken as a regiment, the Highlanders held their own in scattered groups, and before mid-day the French were compelled to withdraw on Alexandria.

Nothing could exceed the valour shown by the regiment: the 42nd had driven off two battalions of infantry, and had taken a principal part in

the destruction of two cavalry regiments. In such achievements the losses were severe: in the three days' fighting, of the 800 who had embarked on the 8th, 506 were killed or wounded, including 23 officers. Mr Fortescue, writing of this action, says: "The 42nd stands pre-eminent for a gallantry and steadfastness which would be difficult to match in the history of any army."

The right of bearing the SPHINX, with the word "Egypt" on the colours, was indeed a well-earned honour.

After a march of fourteen days along the banks of the Nile, the regiment reached Cairo,—which place surrendered to the British on the 22nd of June,—and was also present at the surrender of the French army under Menou at Alexandria in September.

The 42nd, having landed at Southampton, was 1802 received by George III. at Ashford, and then marched to Edinburgh. The regiment was now reduced to a strength of 400, 475 men having earned their discharge.

The 73rd was quartered at Pondicherry, ten years after having captured it.

When Napoleon massed an army at Boulogne, with 1803 the intention of invading England, a second battalion to the 42nd was raised by Lord Blantyre, and quartered at Fort George, eventually joining the 1st Battalion at Weely, in Essex.

The 1st Battalion 42nd was quartered at Gibraltar, 1805 and remained there for the following three years.

The 73rd embarked at Madras, and after a voyage 1806 of ten months landed at Greenwich, and was quartered at Stirling. Having transferred 512 men to other regiments in India, recruiting became urgent,

and parties were despatched all over Scotland for that purpose.

1807 The 73rd moved to Perth to improve recruiting.

1808 A second battalion was raised to the 73rd, at first four companies strong, eventually increased to 1000 rank and file.

The British army having driven the French out of Portugal, the Government ordered Sir John Moore to advance into Spain from Lisbon, and sent 10,000 men, under Sir David Baird, to Corunna to assist him.

The 42nd, at this time in Gibraltar, was ordered to join Sir John Moore's army in Portugal, which order was carried out in September.

Having advanced with the army under Sir John Moore past Abrantes, Almeida, and Salamanca, they reached Sahagun on the 20th of December. Sir David Baird's Division now joined from Corunna; the army was reorganised, and the 42nd in Bentinck's Brigade joined Baird's Division, the whole force numbering 29,000.

On the 23rd Moore learned from an intercepted despatch that the French forces in Spain were over 200,000 strong. He began the same day the famous retreat to Corunna, 250 miles distant, mainly along  
1809 poor roads covered in snow. On the 6th of January he offered Soult battle near Lugo, but the latter declined to attack. From the 9th to the 11th the troops marched day and night to Corunna, but the transports only arrived in the harbour on the 14th, on which day all the cavalry and artillery, except twelve small guns, were embarked.

The British army was now reduced to 14,500 men. With this force Sir John Moore occupied a position covering Corunna and facing the French army, 20,000

strong, formed up on a line of hills somewhat higher than those on which the British were posted. Hope's Division was on the left, Baird's on the right of the British line, which was here only about 1200 yards distant from a strong battery in position on the French left. Half-way across this intervening plain stood the village of Elvina, held by the picquets of the 50th Regiment. About mid-day Soult directed two columns against the British left and centre; but the main attack was made on the right, the brunt of which was borne by Bentinck's Brigade. The fire from the French battery, being only opposed by the few 6-pounders, swept the British position to the centre.

Elvina soon fell into the hands of the French. Then, Sir John Moore calling out, "Highlanders, remember Egypt," the 42nd and 50th charged forward, and after a fierce fight among the walls and hollow roads leading to the village, drove the French back on Elvina. Sir John Moore ordered the regiment to halt at the foot of the ravine, but the Light Company and some others, not hearing the word to halt, followed up the enemy till they were recalled by order of the Brigadier, and the regiment held this position till the close of the battle. The two French columns had failed in their attack on the British left and centre, the reserve under Paget was rapidly advancing on the right, and the long days of retreat and disaster seemed about to be ended by the utter defeat of Soult's army, when Moore was mortally wounded. Without his guiding mind the full measure of the success so hardly won by the soldiers was not to be reaped. Hope's Division not only held Elvina,



but was far in advance of its position in the morning; but the French being still in occupation of the heights above, the troops were withdrawn and embarked during the night. During this action the 42nd lost 215 killed and wounded.

On the 19th of December the 42nd had numbered 880: 40 were killed at Corunna, and 757 disembarked in England. Consequently, only about 80 men were lost during the retreat. It was remarked that the 42nd and the 50th behaved best during the retreat and lost heaviest at the battle. Though famous for a retreat, none the less the campaign had a great influence on the war, since it compelled Napoleon to concentrate all his forces in one corner of the Peninsula instead of conquering all Spain.

The victory at Corunna blotted out the scenes of indiscipline which disgraced the retreat, but the victory was marred by the death of Sir John Moore, with whom the 42nd had fought in America, Egypt, and the Peninsula.

1809 In July the 1st Battalion 42nd embarked with Lord Chatham's army on the disastrous expedition to Walcheren, where fever decimated the troops before they were able to act against the enemy, and the 42nd returned to England in September with only 204 men fit for duty out of 758 who had embarked in July.

The failure of the Walcheren Expedition had far-reaching results. Of the 38,000 who started with Lord Chatham, 7000 died, and 12,000 were invalided home. The effect on recruiting, especially in Scotland, was disastrous. The 2nd Battalion 42nd was only brought up to strength by enlisting 150

volunteers from the Irish Militia, and an order was promulgated discontinuing the use of the Highland dress for seven Highland regiments, of which the 73rd was one.

The 2nd Battalion 42nd sailed from Ireland under Lord Blantyre, landed at Lisbon, and joined Lord Wellington's army on the Guadiana.

The 1st Battalion 73rd, over 800 strong, embarked in two transports at Yarmouth on the 8th of May, and after touching at Madeira, Rio de Janeiro, and at Cape Town, landed on the 1st of January at Sydney, New South Wales.

Here Colonel Lachlan Macquarie, who commanded 1810 the 73rd, learned that the Governor of the colony had been deposed by the colonists, but with the help of the 73rd the rising was quelled, and eventually many of the local troops who had taken part in the revolt joined the regiment. The establishment was raised to 1200 rank and file, and Colonel Macquarie was appointed Governor and Commander-in-Chief of New South Wales, where the 73rd remained until 1814.

The 1st Battalion 42nd was quartered at Musselburgh. The French army, under Massena, advancing on Portugal, attacked the British at Busaco, where they were severely repulsed; the 2nd Battalion 42nd, being in reserve, lost only six men wounded. But as the French were in great strength, Wellington was obliged after this action to withdraw to Portugal, where he posted the army in the defences of Torres Vedras, previously prepared to cover the roads to Lisbon.

The 2nd Battalion 42nd took part in this famous 1811 defence of the heights of Torres Vedras, where

Wellington successfully opposed the French for three months. Greatly reduced by sickness and their supplies being exhausted, the French were compelled to retire into Spain, followed by the British.

During the pursuit, Wellington blockaded Almeida: to relieve this place, the French attacked the British army at Fuentes d'Onor on the 3rd of May, where the 2nd Battalion 42nd lost nine killed and wounded; and, on the 5th of May, the 42nd, commanded by Lord Blantyre, defeated a cavalry charge with signal gallantry, losing 25 men.

1812 Wellington began the campaign of 1812 by besieging Ciudad Rodrigo, at which the 2nd Battalion 42nd were present, and then formed part of the covering army during the siege of Badajoz.

The 1st Battalion 42nd landed in Portugal, and after absorbing the men of the 2nd Battalion numbered 1600, and with the 79th and 91st formed Pack's 1st Brigade in the VIth Division. Wellington now advanced on Salamanca, which was occupied on the 17th of June, and the forts captured ten days later.

Marmont then crossed the Douro, and after much manœuvring attacked the British position on the 22nd of July.

The 42nd, with the VIth Division, were at first in reserve behind the Arapiles Knolls. In the evening, when the IVth and VIth Divisions were outflanked, the Ist and IVth Divisions advanced into the firing line and the French were finally routed, the 42nd losing 12 men.

Wellington then marched to Madrid, and, turning northward, set siege to Burgos. On the 19th of Sept-



ember the 42nd displayed especial gallantry in storming an important outwork on Mont Saint Michael. This fort was carried at night, the men gallantly climbing the scaling-ladders, though numbers were bayoneted by the French as they reached the top. In this achievement the 42nd lost 205 men. Finally, the 42nd and 79th forced an entrance at the gorge, and resistance ended. Four attacks were unsuccessfully made on Burgos Castle, and a French army advancing, Wellington was forced to raise the siege on the 21st of October, and withdrew at first to Salamanca and finally into Portugal. Throughout the siege of thirty days the 42nd lost 49 killed and 248 wounded.

In May the 42nd again advanced with Wellington's army through Spain, driving the French out of Madrid, taking Burgos, and being present in the reserve at the battle of Vittoria. During the passage of the Pyrennes the 42nd was first posted under Pack at Esteram, and then took part in those arduous operations by which Wellington finally drove the French from Spain. 1813

Wellington then determined on the invasion of France, and crossed the Bidassoa on the 7th of October. On the 31st, the fortress of Pampeluna surrendered after a blockade of four months, during which the 42nd lost 14 men.

In the meantime Soult had prepared a strong position behind the Nivelle, with its right resting on the sea, defended by 80,000 French troops. Against this Wellington advanced with an army 90,000 strong, and at daybreak on the 10th the 42nd, with Clinton's VIth Division, forded the Nivelle and joined in the right attack under Hill on the heights



of Ainhoe. These were captured, and about the same time the French centre gave way, and the VIth Division continued gaining ground till night-fall, having spent twenty-four hours in continuous marching and fighting.

During the day the 42nd lost 28 killed and wounded.

Heavy rains rendered the further advance of the army impossible, and it was not till the 9th of December that Wellington was able to attack the French, now posted behind the river Nive. The 42nd again joined in the right attack, this time commanded by Beresford, and crossing the river at Ustaritz, the IIInd, IIIrd, and VIth Divisions forced the heights of Moguene, and the passage was secured.

On the following day, however, Soult made a bold counterstroke on the British remaining on the left bank of the Nive: the 42nd recrossed the river, but took no further part in the fighting, which only ended on the 13th, when Soult was finally driven to the Adour. In the five days' fighting the 42nd lost 29 men. The 42nd then went into cantonments near Villafranca for over two months. Brushwood huts were built, officers gave up some of their quarters to the many married women who still marched with the regiment, and, although rain was constant, rations meagre, and pay overdue, the recent victories and prospect of further conquest roused a general feeling of cheerfulness in camp.

1813 While Wellington was driving the French armies out of Spain, Napoleon was opposing the Allies in Germany. To strengthen the Swedish army in Pomerania, a force of 4000 troops, including the

2nd Battalion 73rd, embarked under General Gibbs towards the end of June at Harwich for Stralsund.

Separated during a storm from the convoy, the transport carrying the 73rd was pursued by a fast privateer and ordered to heave to. Colonel Harris, who commanded the Battalion, immediately ordered the light company to hide themselves under the bulwarks, and when the privateer came alongside with the intention of boarding the transport, the men of the light company sprang up and fired so well directed a volley that the privateer at once sheered off, and gave no further trouble.

After a few weeks in Stralsund, the 73rd was detached in order to join the force operating in Hanover under General Count Walmoden. Creeping between the great armies of Davoust and other French commanders, Colonel Harris led his small force by marches averaging nearly thirty miles through Pomerania and Mecklenberg, and succeeded in joining Walmoden near Ghorde in Hanover.

Marshal Davoust had sent Pécheux with 6000 men to the defence of Magdeburg. Hearing of this, Walmoden had marched rapidly and intercepted Pécheux on the night of the 15th of September. Marching to the sound of cannon on the following morning, the 73rd reached the field of battle immediately after the French had driven off an attack on their left flank. Walmoden ordered the Battalion to charge a body of infantry and two guns posted on a hill in the centre of the French position. This was achieved with small loss, and the guns captured. The French right now gave way, and they retired, leaving 800 dead and 1500 prisoners on the field. The only other regiment on British pay at this

action was the 3rd Hanoverian Dragoons, which bore Ghorde on its colours so long as Hanover remained a separate kingdom.

After this battle, the 2nd Battalion 73rd marched to Dannenberg in charge of the prisoners, and was then quartered at Rostock till November, when it was sent on transports to Yarmouth. Instead of landing, however, the Battalion was ordered to rejoin the brigade it had left in Stralsund, and on the 14th of December joined the forces under Sir Thomas Graham.

- 1814 In spite of the intense cold, Graham continued to operate against the French garrisons in Antwerp and Bergen-op-Zoom, and many encounters with the enemy took place. For their conduct on 2nd February in storming Merxem, a village near Antwerp, the 2nd Battalion 73rd was commended in despatches. On the 16th of March a detachment of 200 men of the 2nd Battalion, when holding Fort Frederick on the river Scheldt, was bombarded by a 74-gun ship and attacked by eight gunboats, but successfully held its own.

Antwerp was entered in April, and peace was declared soon after the abdication of Napoleon. The 2nd Battalion 73rd was then quartered in various cities of Belgium until the following June, when a British army was again concentrated on the French frontier, and the 2nd Battalion 73rd was posted to Alten's Division, and quartered near Soignies.

The opposing armies on the Spanish frontier had remained inactive during this winter, but at the end of February Wellington with 37,000 men advanced to attack Soult holding a position with about the same number of troops near Orthes.



At dawn on the 27th the 42nd, with the VIth 1814 Division, crossed the Gave de Pau, and joined in the centre attack under Picton. Making their way up from the river, the 42nd gallantly gained the lower ridges by 9 A.M., and there Picton's advance ceased for a time. Wellington, however, pressing with his left, and threatening Soult's line of retreat with a column under Hill, compelled the French to give way. The 42nd charged and captured a small village from which they had been exposed to rather a severe musketry fire, and the French retreat ended in an utter rout. In this action the 42nd lost 158 killed and wounded.

Following the retreating French, Wellington ordered the IVth and VIth Divisions under Beresford to cross the Garonne on the 4th of April, some fifteen miles below Toulouse, then, advancing northwards, he determined to deliver the main attack on the ridge of Mont Rave, which formed the eastern line of Soult's position. To achieve this, Beresford's column was obliged to make a flank march exposed to a heavy artillery fire from the ridge. With considerable loss the IVth and VIth Divisions carried this out on the 10th, and forming to their right flank attacked and captured the centre part of the Mont Rave ridge. Meanwhile the French had defeated the attack of 9000 Spaniards directed against the northern end of the ridge, and had also repulsed Picton farther to the right.

The issue of the battle therefore depended on Beresford's column of 13,000 bayonets. Of this force Pack's Brigade was ordered to lead the attack, and Malcolm, an officer of the 42nd, relates that General Pack rode up to the head of the regiment



and said: "General Clinton has been pleased to grant my request that, in the charge which we are now to make upon the enemy's redoubts, the 42nd regiment shall have the honour of leading on the attack: the 42nd will advance." The grenadiers of the 42nd led the way, and in face of a tremendous fire the 42nd and 79th moved up the ridge and, without firing a shot, charged the two principal redoubts of Colombette and Calvinet. These they captured with the bayonet, but not 60 men of the 42nd remained unwounded, and the French succeeded in retaking the redoubts. Pack, however, reinforced with the 91st, and aided by the advance of the remainder of Clinton's Division the redoubts were recaptured, and the French forced out of their position.

Sergeant Anton thus describes the situation in the redoubt before the retirement was ordered: "A brisk independent fire was kept up with more noise than effect on our not yet defeated enemy. Our muskets were getting useless by the frequent discharges. . . . The flag was hanging in tatters, and stained with the blood of those who had fallen over it. The standard, cut in two, had been successively placed in the hands of three officers, who fell as we advanced: it was now borne by a sergeant, while the few remaining soldiers who rallied around it, defiled with mire, sweat, smoke, and blood, stood ready to oppose with the bayonet the advancing column, the front files of which were pouring in destructive showers of musketry among our confused ranks. To have disputed the post with such overwhelming numbers would have been to hazard the loss of our colours, and could serve no general

interest of the army: we were therefore ordered to retire from the redoubt."

In this, the last of the great victories of the Peninsular War, the 42nd excelled themselves in the gallantry of their attack, but they had also to record a loss heavier than that of any other regiment: the 42nd had 27 officers and 406 men killed and wounded.

On the 14th of April Wellington entered Toulouse, and news arriving that Napoleon had abdicated, and that peace had been declared, the army was broken up, and the 42nd embarked for Ireland. The 2nd Battalion 42nd was this year disbanded at Aberdeen.

The headquarters and flank companies 1st Battalion 1814 73rd arrived in Ceylon from New South Wales on the 17th of August, having sailed from Port Jackson on the 24th of January round New Guinea and the Molucca Islands. The remainder of the regiment sailed on four other transports, the final party arriving in a brig at Colombo in August 1815.

The operations in which the 73rd were engaged in Ceylon in 1795 had left the interior of the island to the natives. The King of Kandy having maltreated some British traders, the 73rd joined in a force under General Brownrigg, and advanced into the interior by seven separate columns, the 73rd being broken up into four or five detachments and attached to the various columns. After much hardship the king was captured, and his capital taken in February 1815.

The 1st Battalion 73rd then returned to Colombo, with the exception of certain detachments left to maintain order in the interior.

When Napoleon escaped from Elba and regained

1815 power in France, the war was immediately resumed. The 42nd landed at Ostend in May, marched to Brussels, and was there brigaded with the Royals, 44th, and 92nd under Pack, whose brigade with Kemp's formed the Vth Division under Picton.

On the 15th of June Wellington learned of Napoleon's rapid advance into Belgium, and the next morning Picton's Division marched at daybreak from Brussels along the Charleroi road and reached Quatre Bras, a distance of twenty-two miles, at half-past two. In addition to his usual accoutrements each man carried four days' ration of bread, and three days' ration of beef and spirits. The latter was one English pint, and was mostly finished before the battle began.

There they found the Belgians hard pressed by the French Division under Ney. Pack and Kemp's Brigades immediately took post along the Namur road, having the 42nd on the right just to the east of the Charleroi road. Ney directed a heavy cannonade against these fresh troops, and then sent two strong columns to their attack. For this attack Wellington did not wait, but ordered the two brigades to advance in line. The forces had nearly met when the French fire slackened, the British troops lowered their bayonets and drove the enemy from off the ridge that here joins the Namur and Charleroi roads.

Shortly after this a regiment of Brunswick Hussars was pursued by some French Lancers past the right of the 42nd. Partly hidden by the tall rye, the whole body was mistaken for German cavalry. But the French Lancers quickly wheeled to their left and charged the 42nd in rear before the flank companies had time to complete the square. The leading sections of Lancers pressed on right into the



centre of the regiment, whose formation was broken. But their coolness and resolution, so well proved in the Peninsula, did not now desert the Highlanders. In a few minutes the Lancers were either all killed or made prisoners, and the regiment, reduced in numbers but not in steadiness, again formed square.

Squadron after squadron now attacked Pack's Brigade, while the fire from the French batteries so thinned the ranks that it became necessary to form the 42nd and 44th into one square. By five o'clock the ammunition was nearly exhausted, and the situation desperate. At length, a little before six, the arrival of Alten's Division formed a most welcome reinforcement.

At the head of Sir Colin Halkett's Brigade, which led Alten's Division, came the 73rd, having marched twenty-two miles from the neighbourhood of Soignies. The 73rd immediately took post on the right of Pack's Brigade, and repelled several charges of Kellerman's Dragoons who had now joined Ney. Halkett then advanced his brigade, and drove the French sharpshooters across a small ravine to their front. During this advance the Battalion lost 30 men.

Towards the end of the action the Cuirassiers made a final charge against Halkett's Brigade, but finding the squares in good order wheeled to their right, receiving a volley from the 73rd as they did so. This wheel brought them on to the right of Pack's Brigade, but, though now few in numbers, the 42nd and 44th stood firm to their ground, and forced the Cuirassiers to again retreat.

Wellington was now further reinforced, and drove the French back before nightfall to the heights of



1815 Frasnès, at the foot of which the British outposts were then extended.

The 42nd was especially mentioned in Wellington's despatches, but suffered a loss of 45 killed and 243 wounded. The 73rd lost 53 in all.

At 10 A.M. on the 17th Wellington learned that the Prussians had been forced back from Ligny: he was therefore compelled to retire on Waterloo, a movement covered by Halkett's Brigade, during which the 73rd had one officer and three men killed.

On the 18th of June Wellington drew up his army, 67,000 strong, on a low ridge, about two miles long, covering the road to Brussels. Pack's Brigade was posted to the east of this road in line of battalion columns, while Halkett's Brigade formed part of the right of the British line behind the Hougomont, but pushed a little in advance to suit the ground, the 73rd and 30th regiments being formed at first in columns of companies, and later into one square.

The French army, slightly stronger than the British, began the battle by an attack on the farm of Hougomont, shortly before mid-day. This was followed by an attack of 12,000 troops under D'Erlon, which was repulsed first by Picton's Division, now reduced to 3000 bayonets, and then driven off by a fine charge of Ponsonby's cavalry, closely followed by the Highlanders of Pack's Brigade. Throughout the day the 42nd maintained their ground with determination, and at sunset the 300 survivors joined in the final advance of the British line.

"Of all the troops," wrote Siborne, "comprising the Allied army, the most exposed to the fierce onslaught of the French cavalry and to the continuous cannonade of their artillery were the two squares posted in

advance of the crest of the Duke's position. They consisted of a battalion of the 1st Guards, and the 30th and 73rd regiments."

During the action the 73rd sustained eleven separate cavalry charges and maintained its own. The most terrible loss was caused by French guns following the Cuirassiers till close to the square, and then pouring in grape-shot, making regular lanes through the ranks, and giving fresh openings to the French cavalry.

About seven o'clock, when the Prussians were already attacking his right flank, Napoleon ordered a last assault on the British line. In this advance one battalion of the Imperial Guard moved out from the mass towards the 30th and 73rd regiments, drawn up in a four-deep line, scarcely exceeding in extent, such had been their losses, the front of the approaching column. After exchanging volleys, Siborne continues, the two British regiments ported arms, and with a loud cheer dashed forward at the charge, only to see through the clearing smoke their opponents flying in mass.

The long day of exposure to ceaseless attack, than which nothing is more trying to troops, was over. The British line advanced<sup>1</sup> down the slopes they had so tenaciously held, the Prussians simultaneously

<sup>1</sup> While this was being done, Sergeant Morris of the 73rd relates that Major Kelly ordered the 73rd colours, which were completely riddled, to be taken from their staves and rolled round the body of a trusty sergeant, who was instructed to take them to Brussels for safety, as there was no longer any officer available to carry them. These colours were carried until the 2nd Battalion was disbanded in 1817.

The next year the 42nd colours were officially reported on as being "entirely shot away, nothing but the bare poles left," and new colours were given to the 42nd in 1818.

attacked Napoleon's right in great numbers, and the French gave way at all points, their retreat ending in utter rout.

At Waterloo the 42nd had a loss of 50 killed and wounded out of 329 who went into action, 220 wounded being in hospital. The 73rd lost 289 out of 498. In the two actions the 42nd had 24 officers out of 33 killed or wounded, and of the 73rd only one officer escaped untouched.

The 42nd and the 73rd then marched to Paris, and were encamped in the Bois de Boulogne until December, when peace was arranged, and both battalions embarked for England greatly reduced in strength.

## CHAPTER III.

## CHANGES IN THE REGIMENT.

THE battle of Waterloo ended the great struggle between England and France, begun in 1793. It may not be out of place here to consider a few details omitted when tracing the rapid course of events which filled the last chapter.

The two Battalions of the 42nd had earned in Egypt and during the Peninsular War no less than eight honours for the regimental colours. The 2nd Battalion, so ably led by Lord Blantyre in the Peninsula, had been disbanded in 1812, and now the 2nd Battalion 73rd met with a like fate. Its life was short but not inglorious. The standard of training under Lord Harris was so high as to draw praise from such judges as Sir Thomas Graham and General Picton,—praise that received its justification on the field of Ghorde. In the last phase of the Napoleonic War, the regiment can boast of having had two battalions engaged both at Quatre Bras and at Waterloo,—a distinction shared by no other regiment in the army. But after 1818 neither Battalion was employed on active service for thirty years, and some points of difference with the present condition of the soldier may now be noted.



A quotation from Colonel Stewart's 'Sketches' has described the uniform of The Black Watch when first embodied. War ministers and commanding officers have ever since so rivalled one another in constant dress orders that it would be a tedious task even to mention the many changes, but a few points may be noticed. It was not until 1795 that the custom of powdering the hair ceased in the army, and until the time of the Peninsular War hair was worn in a queue ten inches in length. It was still cut long behind, and men wore beards and officers whiskers when the 42nd was quartered in Peshawar in 1865, and it was only shortly before that leather stocks had taken the place of a collar made rigid by a band of steel. Throughout, however, the general tendency has been towards the comfort and health of the soldier in regard to both his clothing and rations.

At the time of Waterloo officers wore a short-skirted coat covered with gold lace, scarlet waistcoats, and the collar of the shirt showing over a black silk stock. The white jacket was first worn with the kilt in 1821. Before that it had sometimes been issued as a waistcoat for barrack-room wear; when sleeves were added, men were charged 1s. 3d. "for the colonel's credit," and even so, its introduction was not popular. Sky-blue cloth trousers were worn till 1823, then blue-grey trousers were used for six years, when trews of regimental tartan were first introduced. A light grey frock was the undress coat, and white cashmere trousers with a gold stripe were worn at mess. The doublet and dark hose were not introduced until after the Crimean War, when the feather bonnet was also much reduced in size.

Until so recent a date as 1865 the 42nd kept the

flank companies to some extent separate from the battalion companies. The grenadiers were the tallest men in the regiment, and consequently in the old days were relied on for a special effort to make or resist a charge. The light company was trained particularly in sharp-shooting and skirmishing. It was during the Seven Years' War that the custom crept in of forming separate battalions composed exclusively of grenadier and light companies, which accounts for the fact that these companies were often in action when the Battalion was not otherwise engaged; but even before the Peninsular War it was found that the defects of withdrawing these companies from their own battalions were greater than the additional power so given to the divisional commander.

In 1792 there was barrack accommodation in all Britain for 21,000 men only. The strength of the army at that time was 45,000, and it was raised by the beginning of the next century to over 160,000. Partly for the good of the army, partly that the troops might act as a police force, Pitt caused 200 barracks, holding 140,000 men, to be built before 1804. Mr Fortescue has rightly said that in twelve years the British army was imperceptibly transferred from quarters in ale-houses to quarters in barracks.

Until the reign of George III., "the pay of a private sentinel" was fixed at eightpence a-day: of this, sixpence was set apart for his subsistence, and twopence was given over yearly to the commanding officer for clothing.<sup>1</sup> The further deductions

<sup>1</sup> These details are taken mostly from 'The History of the British Army,' by the kindness of Mr Fortescue.

of poundage<sup>1</sup> and hospital money<sup>2</sup> were abolished in 1791, and the year after several small allowances for "necessaries" and "bread money" were consolidated, and a private's daily pay was increased by twopence halfpenny. In 1797 this allowance was raised so as to make the private's pay one shilling a-day, though of this sum four shillings a-week was deducted for messing alone, and one shilling and sixpence for "necessaries," leaving at the most a weekly cash payment of eighteenpence. This is a great, if not fully appreciated, difference from the present day, when a trained soldier usually receives at least ten shillings a-week in cash, as well as a far better issue of rations and clothing.

A daily issue of small beer was made until 1800, when this allowance in kind was abolished, and a penny a-day given instead.

In 1813 one sergeant of every company was ordered to be designated colour-sergeant, and his pay raised to two shillings and fourpence a-day; but his duties of attending the colours in the field were not to interfere with his ordinary work.

The pay of an ensign and of a captain was fixed at four shillings and eightpence and at nine shillings and fivepence, respectively, from which sums there has been little change since 1783, a fact fully appreciated by those most concerned.

While his pay has increased, the weight carried by the infantry soldier has greatly diminished. Throughout the constant marches during the wars

<sup>1</sup> A charge of one shilling in every twenty, made on the ground of pay being given in advance.

<sup>2</sup> One day's gross pay charged annually towards the maintenance of Chelsea Hospital.

in America, a private carried with his arms, accoutrements, and clothing, one hundred and twenty-five pounds.<sup>1</sup> On the march to Ghorde Sergeant Maurice of the 73rd says a private carried fifty-five pounds: this included 120 rounds of ammunition but none of his clothing, and is only a few pounds less than the total weight now borne by a soldier on service. In the Crimea, Robb, a private in the 42nd, says in his reminiscences the field kit carried by each man consisted of two shirts, two towels, two pairs of socks, a hold-all, a pair of shoes, with extra leather for re-soling, and trews—all these inside the knapsack with the greatcoat and blanket folded on top; 60 rounds of ammunition; a wooden water-keg slung over one shoulder, and a haversack, with beef and bread, over the other. Such was the ordinary line of march order.

To understand how detested and how degrading was the practice of flogging soldiers for small offences, it is necessary to read the reminiscences of those who have themselves passed through the ranks. Two and three hundred lashes were punishments frequent even in the 42nd after the Seven Years' War; and it was common enough for a prisoner never to recover after undergoing a sentence, often given, of a thousand lashes.

Quartermaster - Sergeant Anton tells of many hardships borne by the 42nd in the Peninsula. Men were constantly in arrears of pay and of clothing, and the prices of "extras" were prohibitive. In the year of Orthes bread sold in the regiment at a shilling a pound, and boiled wheat was often eaten in its place. Sugar was half-a-crown the

<sup>1</sup> Official History, 5th Fusiliers.



pound, and tea and coffee were too expensive to buy. Men who had worn out their shoes were formed into one company, and marched in rear of the brigade. Before this year men had been allowed to straggle along the roadside, a practice known as "padding the hoof." The 42nd was the only regiment who wore the kilt in Pack's Brigade.

Even on active service many married women accompanied the troops, although the terrible hardships suffered by them during the Peninsular War led to an order restricting the custom; but Sergeant Anton relates that before Waterloo a number of married women evaded the guards at Ostend, and joined the 42nd at Ghent. He also says that greatcoats were called in and large blankets issued to serve as *tents d'abris*, many of which were sold in Brussels. A kit inspection was unexpectedly ordered on parade, and every man found deficient was tried by a drumhead court-martial, and then and there flogged.

In reading accounts of these battles, the difference between the present rifle and the old musket must be borne in mind. It is not far from the truth to say that the soldier of the Black Watch fought at Fontenoy with the same musket with which he defended Mangalore and which he carried at Waterloo. At Fontenoy men were ordered to reserve their fire until within thirty paces of the French line, and officers on either side spoke to each other before muskets were lowered from the shoulder: then when firing began, two battalions were busy loading while one delivered a volley. In the South African War fire was often opened at a range of over 2000 yards, and rapid

fire now implies a rate of over ten rounds a minute.

In 1840 percussion muskets were given to the 42nd, the first regiment to whom they were issued. This musket, like the old "Brown Bess" that it superseded, was a smooth-bore muzzle-loader, but had a more rapid rate of fire than the "Long Land Tower" musket with which the 42nd had been armed since 1825.

Little musketry, beyond loading exercises, was ever practised, and the few ranges that did exist were only about a hundred yards in length. So far back as 1680 a few rifles were given to the Life Guards, but it was not until the Peninsular War, and then only to Light Infantry, that they were generally issued. The Minié, the first rifle to use a long-shaped bullet, was introduced in 1850, and it was with this rifle that the 42nd fought in the Crimea.

During the Kaffir wars the 73rd was armed with the percussion musket, but the Colonial troops had such a variety of weapons that they carried their own bullet-moulds. In 1856 a few Enfield rifles were issued experimentally to the 73rd. This rifle weighed a little over nine pounds, was sighted to eleven hundred yards, and had a bore considerably smaller than the Minié barrel, which was nearly three quarters of an inch in diameter. In 1861 one company of the 73rd was given the Whitworth rifle, but this was never generally adopted, and the Enfield remained the weapon of the British army for nearly twelve years. In 1867 the Enfield rifles were converted into breech-loaders on the Snider system; and four years later the first issue was made of Martini-Henry rifles,

which were superseded in 1890 by the Lee-Metford Magazine rifle. Two years later cartridges of cordite, in place of black powder, were issued, since when no changes of first-rate importance have been made.

Colonel Stewart often emphasises the good relationship between officer and man in the 42nd: that the same feeling existed in the 73rd is evident by the tales of happy intimacy that broke the long monotony of the transport voyages, or the instances of devotion to individual officers on service.

No regulation could entirely sever the connection between two Battalions whose officers were transferred originally in part from the elder to the younger Battalion, and whose recruits, during many years, came from the same district. This is well brought out by Sergeant Morris, who relates that when the 2nd Battalion of the 73rd was making the forced march on Ghorde, and the men began to straggle towards the end of the day, Colonel Lord Harris used to send Hugh Mackay, an old piper over sixty years of age, who still wore a kilt of the Black Watch tartan, to the rear of the Battalion, and at the sound of his pipes the stragglers would all step briskly forward.

## CHAPTER IV.

FROM 1816 TO 1907.

BOTH Battalions landed in England at the end of 1815 December; the 42nd marched to Edinburgh, and was quartered the following year in Ireland.

The 2nd Battalion 73rd sent 300 men to the 1st Battalion in Ceylon, and as great reductions were being made in the establishment of the army, the 1816 2nd Battalion was disbanded on the 4th of May.

The 1st Battalion 73rd had left Colombo in order to take part in quelling an insurrection of the Candian chiefs, and was based on Trincomalee when the 300 men of the 2nd Battalion joined it. The campaign was successful, but the 73rd lost 10 officers and 366 men, partly in various small actions, but chiefly from jungle fever. One officer and 20 men were killed in action. The 73rd furnished nearly all the men fit to march towards the end of the campaign. The 78th regiment lost 400 men from fever and weakness brought on by lack of supplies.

On one occasion a patrol of the 73rd, when marching to Badulah under Lance-Corporal M'Laughlan, was attacked by a large force of natives, and two men of the patrol were killed. At great risk the remainder divided, — part remaining to protect the



bodies, part withdrawing to obtain help. This was successfully done, and the bodies saved from the usual mutilation. In recognition of this gallantry the Ceylon Government struck four medals, which were presented to Lance-Corporal M'Laughlan's party.

1821 The strength of the 73rd was now reduced to an establishment of 572, and the regiment was ordered home and quartered at Weedon. The 42nd was engaged this year and the next in the harassing duties of enforcing the Insurrection Act among the Whiteboys in Limerick and County Clare, the performance of these duties gaining high praise from the general officers commanding.

1823 The 73rd marched to Edinburgh Castle, furnishing detachments to Glasgow, Stirling, and Dumbarton Castle.

1825 Both Battalions were augmented from eight to ten companies, at a strength of 740 instead of 572. In the event of foreign service, each Battalion was to be divided into six companies of 86 men each, and four depot companies of 56 rank and file.

The six service companies of the 42nd were ordered to Gibraltar, while the depot companies remained in Scotland.

1826 The 73rd, after being employed in Halifax quelling the Yorkshire riots, returned to Ireland.

1827 The six service companies of the 73rd moved to Gibraltar, the four depot companies remaining in Ireland for the two following years.

1828 In consequence of an outbreak of yellow fever, the 42nd was quartered on the neutral ground, where it lost 1 officer and 56 men. The 73rd lost 2 officers and 35 men from the same cause.

The service companies of the 73rd were quartered in Malta, where they remained until 1834.

The service companies of the 42nd were quartered 1832 in Malta until 1834.

The depot companies 73rd moved to the Channel Islands.

42nd and 73rd were ordered to Corfu and the 1834 Ionian Islands.

The 42nd quartered in Edinburgh Castle. 1836

The 42nd quartered in Ireland. 1838

The 73rd ordered to Nova Scotia, and then, sailing from Halifax to Quebec, proceeded by steamer to Montreal.

The Canadian rebels appearing suddenly in great numbers on the Richelieu, the regiment was ordered to St John's on that river, and pursued the rebels in two columns,—the flank companies forming one, headquarters and the remaining companies the other,—as far as St Valentine, Napiersville. The force was under Sir John Colborne.

The 73rd returned to Montreal, the rebels having 1840 dispersed.

The 73rd, having returned to Montreal from Toronto and London, where it had been quartered in the previous year, left 150 men, who volunteered to join the Royal Canadian Corps, and moved to Quebec.

Until this year the lace on the coats of both the 42nd and 73rd was white, with a red "worm" one quarter of the width. The 73rd had continued to wear this lace from 1786, when it was the 2nd Battalion of the 42nd.

The 42nd sailed from Ireland to Corfu, and, in 1841 October, moved on to Cephalonia.

The 73rd moved from Quebec to England.

1842 The 42nd was augmented from 800 to 1200 rank and file, and divided into a 1st and a Reserve Battalion.

The Reserve Battalion this year furnished several guards of honour in Perthshire on the occasion of her Majesty visiting Scotland.

The 73rd was sent to Bradford and Halifax to suppress the riots in August.

Both Battalions 42nd were stationed in Malta, where they remained till 1847.

The 73rd, divided into six detachments, was employed in suppressing the Rebecca riots throughout the year, and was engaged in much harassing work, including many night marches.

1844 The 73rd was quartered in Dublin.

1845 The six service companies of the 73rd, 600 strong, embarked at Cork on the 20th of October on the troopship *Apollo* for Cape Town, and arrived at Teneriffe on the 12th and at Rio de Janeiro on the 17th of November. Owing, however, to England and France interfering in the war between Argentine and Uruguay, the service companies landed at Monte Video on the 7th of December, which town they defended till July 1846 against the Argentine army under General Oribe, the blockade on the land side being very close. Lieut.-Colonel Van der Meulen, commanding the 73rd, was in command of the British forces in Monte Video.

1846 The 73rd embarked at Monte Video on the 21st of July on the *Apollo* for South Africa, and reached the mouth of the Great Fish river, where on the 30th of August the transport was almost wrecked, the men behaving with the greatest coolness during the storm. Two anchors were lost during the night, so

next morning the best chance was held to be to slip the last anchor and set sail to try and weather the reef. This was successfully done. Eventually a letter was received from the Duke of Wellington expressing his warmest approbation of the conduct of the 73rd regiment during such a time of difficulty and danger.

The 73rd finally landed at Port Elizabeth, and proceeded to the Eastern Frontier, where the Kaffirs were in rebellion. Owing to the wretched condition of the waggon oxen, the march of a hundred miles from Port Elizabeth to Grahamstown took seventeen days.

Colonel Somerset was in command of the 2nd <sup>1847</sup> Division, which the 73rd now joined, and, marching across the Keiskamma and Buffalo rivers, encamped on the river Kei. From this camp several strong patrols were sent into Kaffraria. Three hundred men of the 73rd joined one of these, and were out for twenty-one days without tents, blankets, or camp-kettles. One officer of the regiment was killed when on detached duty with some Burghers. The frontier farmers, both English and Dutch, had joined the force in considerable numbers, and were of great use.

The force moved from the river Kei to King William's Town, and then advanced into the Amatola Mountains, where four officers of the regiment were ambushed and killed by Kaffirs on the 13th of November.

In December £4000, the value of cattle captured <sup>1848</sup> by the regiment, was distributed among the officers and men. The 73rd was quartered at Port Natal until the end of the year, when it returned to Cape Colony.



In 1847 both Battalions 42nd were quartered in Bermudas, and in 1850 the two Battalions were consolidated into one, consisting of ten service companies. But the next year the organisation was again changed—the 42nd was divided into six service companies and four depot companies. The latter were sent to Aberdeen, the former to Nova Scotia for one year, and were then ordered home.

1850 The Kaffirs again attacked the back settlers, and the 73rd was once more ordered to the Eastern Frontier of Cape Colony. The troops were divided into two divisions under General Somerset and Colonel MacKinnon, and for more than two years were employed on a series of harassing duties, long marches, no tents, short rations, and constant skirmishes with the enemy. It was essential that the operations should be carried out rapidly and at a distance, which made fatigue excessive.

1851 Sir Harry Smith, then commanding the forces, congratulated the 73rd in a General Order on having marched 2898 miles and maintained every post.

Early in April the Battalion was sharply engaged near Fort Cox, and again on the 16th, when 150 Kaffirs were killed. In December one wing of the 73rd had several encounters when advancing through the Amatola Mountains: the other wing, on the 4th of December, in Colonel Eyre's force, was suddenly attacked by Kaffirs when crossing the river Kei to the relief of Fort Butterworth.

The Kaffirs had built some breastworks on the farther bank. To turn these the grenadier company crossed the river higher up and charged down on the flank of the enemy, killing 40 of them. The passage

was then effected, and Fort Butterworth relieved the same night.

The service companies of the 42nd were quartered 1852 in Stirling, with detachments at Perth and Dundee.

The *Birkenhead*, when transporting some 500 soldiers to South Africa, struck a rock in Simon's Bay at 2 A.M. on the 26th of February. The soldiers were immediately formed up on the quarter-deck, while the women and children were passed into the boats. Ten minutes after the vessel struck she broke in two, and finally the captain advised all to jump overboard and swim for the boats. The officers, however, impressed on their men that this would endanger the lives of the women and children, and all stood firm in the ranks while the vessel sank. Three hundred and fifty-seven were drowned, including fifty-six of the 73rd, the largest number of deaths suffered by any one regiment on board.

The 73rd was engaged in operations under Colonel Eyre driving the Kaffirs out of the Amatola Mountains. On the 19th of June, after a long night march, the force stormed a strong position near the sources of the Buffalo River, and on the 18th of September finally defeated the chief, Macoma, at the Iron Mountains.

In November the 73rd formed part of the Orange River Sovereignty Force under Sir George Cathcart. This force reached Stormberg on the 22nd of November, and encountered 6000 well-armed Basuto horsemen on the 18th of December in the Berea Mountains. The engagement lasted from dawn till eight in the evening, when the Basutos dispersed, and their chief, Moshesh, sued for peace.

The 73rd had one officer killed and three men, and the force returned to Cape Colony.

- 1853 The 42nd was this year quartered at Gosport, with four companies at Weymouth. Peace was now arranged with the Kaffirs, and the 73rd marched to East London, where it embarked for Cape Town.
- 1854 The English Government, in alliance with France and Turkey, determined to make war on Russia, and the 42nd formed part of the British force that embarked at Portsmouth for Turkey. For the first time since 1808 the strength of the regiment was made up by recruits not all enlisted in Scotland, 200 volunteers from the Irish depots being accepted to raise the strength to 947.

On the 9th of June the 42nd landed at Scutari, and was brigaded with the 79th and 93rd Highlanders under Sir Colin Campbell, forming, with the Guards Brigade, the 1st Division under the Duke of Cambridge.

From Scutari the 42nd proceeded to Varna, and on the 14th the allied armies landed unopposed on the Crimea, thirty miles north of Sebastopol. The British force numbered 27,000, the French 30,000, and the Turkish 7000.

On the 20th the British army found the enemy drawn up on the heights beyond the Alma, the Russian right resting on Kourganè Hill, where were posted 17,000 troops and 42 guns. The battle began between one and two in the afternoon by the Light Division crossing the Alma, supported on its left by the 1st Division. The Highland Brigade advanced up the slopes in échelon of battalions, the 42nd leading on the right, the 93rd in the centre, and the 79th on the left.

“Forward 42nd” ordered Sir Colin Campbell, and the regiment passed over the crest and advanced

firing against two Russian columns, drawn up on the far side of the next hollow. A third and fourth column advanced from the left of the Brigade, but were taken in flank by the 93rd and 79th and driven off. The 42nd still advanced firing, but just before they closed upon the Russian columns the latter gave way and the hill was won. The 1st Division had thus defeated 12,000 Russians strongly posted, and that with the loss of only 500 men. The 42nd, at the Alma, lost 41 killed and wounded.

On the 25th of September, during the flank march towards Balaclava, a skirmish at Mackenzie's Farm took place.

On the 2nd of October the 42nd moved into position before Sebastopol and took part in the siege, and was in reserve on 25th October at the battle of Balaclava.

On the 19th of October Colonel Cameron, commanding the 42nd, took command of the Highland Brigade.

In May the 42nd with other troops sailed to 1855 Kertch, where they landed and captured the place without opposition. Seven years afterwards prize-money was awarded for this capture, a private's share being £3, 12s. 6d. The 42nd advanced to Yenikale, but returned to Balaclava on the 9th of June, and was then employed in the siege works. The regiment was, as a rule, in the trenches every second or third day, marching in the evening through the "Valley of Death," and remaining in the trenches for twenty-four hours.

On the 18th of June the 42nd formed part of the reserve in the assault of one of the outworks of Sebastopol. On the 24th of August the Battalion



marched to Kamara in consequence of the Russians having again appeared in force on the flank of the allied armies, but a few days after their arrival returned to Sebastopol, and on the 8th of September took part in the assault and capture. The following day the 42nd marched back to Kamara, and remained there until the end of the war in March 1856.

The regiment embarked at Kaniesh in the middle of June, and landed at Portsmouth on the 24th of July, and was quartered in Dover.

1856 The total loss of the 42nd in the Crimea was 39 killed and 227 who died of wounds and disease. Sixteen non-commissioned officers and men were granted the medal for distinguished conduct. The French war medal was given to 500 men of the British army. Eight non-commissioned officers of the 42nd received this for service in the trenches. Besides this, one colour-sergeant was made a member of the Legion of Honour.

The 73rd was sent again in this year to the eastern frontier of Cape Colony, on account of renewed trouble with the Kaffirs.

1857 Queen Victoria reviewed the 42nd on the 4th of August. Ten days later the 42nd embarked for India in six different troopships to assist in quelling the Indian Mutiny, and landed on the 2nd of November at Calcutta, whence it moved to the North-West Provinces.

When ordered to move to Cawnpore with all speed, the 42nd marched the last seventy-eight miles in under three days. Here the regiment was brigaded with the 93rd, 53rd, and 4th Punjab Rifles, under General Adrian Hope.

At the battle of Cawnpore, on the 6th of December,

the Brigade advanced, with General Inglis' Brigade on their left, covered by a screen of skirmishers, and drove the Gwalior Contingent, 10,000 strong, out of their position, pursuing them for fourteen miles and inflicting heavy loss on the mutineers. The other wing of the enemy, under the Nana Sahib, was also routed and pursued by the cavalry, supported by Hope's Brigade, beyond Bithoor. On the 9th, at Seria Ghat on the Ganges, the mutineers were again severely punished, and fifteen guns were captured before they were able to cross the river. The force marched to Futteygurh on the 28th, and on the 2nd of January was engaged in a skirmish at the Kallie Nuddie Bridge.

On the 28th of January the 42nd marched towards 1858 Mhow, attacking and defeating the rebels at Shumshabad. It then marched back to Cawnpore, entered Oudh, and on the 10th of February occupied the Dilkoosha Palace, about three miles from the Residency at Lucknow, where the mutineers were closely besieging the British under Outram. On the 2nd of March the 42nd led the successful attack on the Martinière, half-way between the Dilkoosha Palace and the Residency. After this it was engaged in the arduous operations under Sir Colin Campbell, culminating in the relief of Lucknow on the 20th of March. On this service the regiment had 47 killed and wounded.

The 42nd, 79th, and 93rd were after this employed with the Rohilcund Field Force. On the 15th of April, when on the march to Bareilly, four companies of the 42nd attacked Fort Ruhya from dawn till dusk, losing 41 killed and wounded: for gallant conduct on this occasion three men received the Victoria Cross.

On the 5th of May the 42nd lost 16 men during

the capture of Bareilly, chiefly in a fierce charge of Ghazees.

The 73rd embarked at East London for Calcutta, where 28 men died of cholera, and then proceeded to Benares.

1859 On the 16th of January, at Sisseya Ghat, on the river Sarada, No. 6 Company, when in camp with a few sepoy's armed with two field pieces, was attacked by a large number of mutineers. Twenty men of No. 6 Company had been sent at dawn to the river's edge, and it was not till the afternoon that these two small parties, fighting their way through the enemy, were able to join hands. Robb, in his *Reminiscences*, describes the feeling near to despair with which they fought towards evening, without food, without water, and ammunition steadily diminishing. At last, near sunset, two more companies relieved No. 6, who had lost 2 officers and 15 men. On the 15th of May they returned to Bareilly. During the Mutiny the 42nd lost 20 killed, 22 wounded, and 135 died of wounds and disease. No less than one officer, one sergeant, and six men were awarded the Victoria Cross for bravery in the field.

The 73rd was employed on active service in several detachments on the Oudh and Gorruchpore frontiers until the 24th of May, and after some small engagements with the rebel sepoy's, was eventually united at Dinapur.

1861 The 42nd lost 1 officer and 40 men from cholera when quartered at Agra.

On the 18th of July "The Black Watch" was officially added to the title of the regiment, this being the name by which it was first and most commonly known.

In December the 42nd marched from Agra, and reached Dagshai in April 1862.

The 73rd having transferred 334 men to other corps in India, embarked at Calcutta, and after a voyage of over four months, landed at Gravesend, where it was transferred in coasting steamers to Plymouth.

The 42nd proceeded by forced marches from 1862 Lahore to Pindi, owing to the disturbed state of the North-West Frontier.

On the 4th of August it was officially notified that, "in consideration of the 73rd being raised as the 2nd Battalion of The Black Watch, the regiment was to be known as the 73rd Perthshire Regiment." A year later the red-and-white fess chequy was added to the forage cap.

The 42nd marched to Peshawar, where it was 1865 stationed for two years.

The depot companies of the 73rd were abolished, and the Battalion proceeded to Limerick.

The depot companies of the 73rd were re-formed, 1866 and the 73rd ordered to China.

The 73rd landed at Hong Kong, and a detach- 1867 ment of 30 men and 29 women was sent to Japan.

In this year a severe epidemic of cholera broke out in Peshawar, on account of which the 42nd went into camp on the 23rd of May, the camp being moved a mile every day. In ten days 66 men had died. From Chumkunni Camp the 42nd marched to Cherat in the Kuttak Hills, where 16 more men died from cholera.

During this march the 42nd was constantly sniped by natives, armed with long flint-locks called



jizails, and often rifled for about a foot from the muzzle. The hillmen used these, though not with any great effect, up to 400 yards range. The Battalion marched from Cherat on the 17th of October, and arrived at Karachi on the 11th of December.

1868 Here it embarked for Suez, and travelled by rail from Suez to Alexandria, where it re-embarked for England, and was quartered in Edinburgh until the next year, when it moved to Aldershot.

1869 Breech-loading rifles, converted on the Snider system, were issued to the 73rd. The Battalion moved from Hong-Kong to Ceylon, and remained there until 1874.

1871 The 42nd moved to Devonport, where it was quartered for two years.

In 1872 the monument in Dunkeld Cathedral was erected to the memory of all officers and men of the Black Watch who had fallen in war.

1873 The 42nd embarked at Portsmouth on the 3rd of December, and arrived at Cape Coast Castle on the 17th of December, to join the British forces under Sir Garnet Wolseley sent to operate against Ashantee.

The affiliation of the 73rd depot with that of the 93rd Sutherland Highlanders ended, and the 73rd and 90th Regiments were temporarily linked together, with their depot at Hamilton.

1874 With great difficulty, and suffering many hardships, the British forces made their way from the coast through the jungle towards Coomassie. On the 31st of January the Ashantee army made the first determined resistance, their army, about 20,000 strong, being drawn up near the village of Amoaful. The 42nd, leading the advance in gallant style, crossed

a swamp in face of a heavy fire from the enemy, who was almost concealed in the thick undergrowth, and finally driving him from his position, occupied Amoaful that evening, with a loss, however, to the regiment of 9 officers and 104 men wounded.

Retiring farther into the interior, the Ashantees again offered determined resistance at Ordah-su on the 4th of February. The village was captured by nine in the morning, and Sir Garnet Wolseley in his dispatch thus described what followed: "The enemy then attacked the village in large numbers, and for some hours we could make no progress, but steadily held our ground. The 42nd Highlanders being then sent to the front, advanced with pipes playing, and carried the enemy's position to the north of the village in the most gallant style, . . . and we followed close upon the enemy's heels to Coomassie. . . . The troops had a most fatiguing day's work; no drinking-water was obtained during the day, and it was nearly six o'clock when we formed up in the main street of Coomassie."

As the Ashantee power was now thoroughly broken, and the troops were suffering from the unhealthy climate, the force immediately marched back to the coast, and the 42nd embarked on the 23rd of February for Portsmouth.

For services in this campaign Colonel M'Leod was made K.C.B. Two officers were made C.B., and five others received brevet rank. One non-commissioned officer was awarded the V.C., and ten non-commissioned officers and men received the Distinguished Conduct Medal.

On the 30th of March the 42nd was reviewed by

the Queen at Windsor, and on the 19th of May by the Czar at Aldershot.

In November the 42nd embarked for Malta, and was stationed there for the four following years.

The 73rd moved from Colombo to Cawnpore.

1875 On the 10th of December the 73rd moved to the camp of exercise at Delhi for inspection by the Prince of Wales in January 1876.

1876 The 73rd marched to Subathu, where it was stationed for two years, the Snider rifles being replaced in 1877 by Martini-Henry rifles.

1878 The 42nd was ordered to Cyprus, and in November to Gibraltar.

The 73rd was stationed at Lucknow, with one wing at Fyzabad until 1880, when the wing rejoined in Lucknow.

1879 The 42nd embarked at Gibraltar and landed at Cowes in the Isle of Wight, where it was inspected by the Queen.

1880 The 42nd moved to Aldershot.

When at Naini Tal two subalterns and four privates of the 73rd were killed in a landslip when bravely endeavouring to rescue others. A monument was erected and now stands in Lucknow to commemorate their valour.

1881 The 42nd was quartered at Edinburgh after an absence of twelve years.

The 73rd embarked at Bombay and was quartered at Portsmouth.

For many years the evils consequent on the neglect of some form of territorial organisation in the army had been realised, but it was not until this year that the system was thoroughly put into force. In the Seven Years' War, and again in the Peninsula, the

42nd had experienced to the full the value of a second battalion to refill ranks thinned by the wastage of war. In the Crimea the want of such a support was sorely felt by every regiment on service. The 42nd actually started to the war under strength, with 200 Irish recruits in the ranks, and in the ensuing Egyptian campaigns the value of the territorial system was shown in that more than 800 men, born and bred in the same district and recruited for the same regiment, passed from the 2nd to the 1st Battalion.

In extending the territorial system it was only natural that the 73rd Perthshire Regiment should again become the 2nd Battalion of the 42nd: kilts of the Black Watch tartan were again worn in this Battalion after an interval of 72 years, and the depot was transferred to Perth, where exactly 101 years before the 2nd Battalion had been embodied.

In June a General Order gave the designation of the regiment to be The Black Watch (Royal Highlanders).

The 1st Battalion, having left Edinburgh on the 7th of August for service against the Egyptian rebels under Arabi Pasha, landed at Alexandria on the 20th of August, and joined the Highland Brigade, with the 1st Highland Light Infantry, 1st Gordon Highlanders, and Cameron Highlanders, under Sir Archibald Alison, forming part of General Hamley's Division. 1882

Having re-embarked at Alexandria, The Black Watch landed at Ismailia on the 1st of September, and on the 11th moved to Kassassin, where the army was concentrated under General Wolseley, some 14,000 troops forming the striking force.

A night march was then made in attack formation



against the enemy in position at Tel-el-Kebir, which was reached at dawn on the 13th of September. The march across the open desert was completely successful: the position was hit off exactly and reached at the right moment, and the advance of the British was not suspected by the enemy until the troops were close on his trenches.

Before the night march began each brigade was formed up in two lines, each regiment having four companies in the first line and four companies in the second line at about 100 yards distance, the Highland Brigade leading the II<sup>nd</sup> Division.

Just as dawn was first appearing, and the position could be dimly seen some 300 yards from the first line, the enemy opened fire from his entrenchments. Immediately the order was passed to fix bayonets, and the charge was made without firing. The troops rushed some 150 yards forward into a ditch, and a minute after were over the parapet about the centre of the enemy's line. Some companies of The Black Watch were detached against a small fort on the right, which they quickly captured. In twenty minutes from the first charge the position was taken with the comparatively small loss of 60 killed. The Highland Brigade were the first troops into the trenches: the loss of the 1st Battalion was 10 killed and 43 wounded. This total defeat so dismayed the followers of Arabi Pasha that they offered little further resistance, and the rebellion came practically to an end. After the battle the Highland Brigade was encamped at Ghezireh till November, when the 1st Battalion moved into barracks in Cairo.

1883 The 1st Battalion spent part of the year at Suez and Heluan, and then returned to Cairo.

The 2nd Battalion was quartered at Aldershot.

Owing to the successes of the Arabs under Osman 1884 Digna and the consequent demoralisation of the Egyptian troops, followed by the fall of Sinkat, a British force was organised under General Graham, and despatched to Suakim to operate against the Arab army under Osman.

The Black Watch was posted to the Second Infantry Brigade under General Davis, and the whole force, numbering about 4500 troops, proceeded from Suakim and landed at Trinkitat, where a halt was made for a few days. On the 28th of February the force marched out in the direction of El Teb, and on the next day the two brigades formed one large square, of which the 1st Battalion formed the rear face.

At 11 A.M. the square was within 400 yards of the Arabs in position at El Teb, and though the enemy opened fire no reply was made, but the square continued to advance so as to take the position in the rear. When this had been achieved the direction was changed, the 1st Battalion forming the face nearest the enemy. As the square approached the bushes the Arabs charged again and again, but none succeeded in penetrating the square. The entrenchments and rifle-pits were then captured, the enemy retreating, leaving 2000 dead on the field. The British loss was only 30 killed and 132 wounded, of whom the regiment had 4 killed and 24 wounded.

The force under General Graham then returned to Suakim, but advancing again on the 11th of March to Baker's zareba, encountered the enemy at Tamai on the 13th. The force was this time divided into two squares, The Black Watch, York and Lancaster, and Marines forming the 2nd Brigade under General

Davis. Part of the front and left face of the square was formed by The Black Watch, the rest of the front and right face by the York and Lancaster Regiment.

This square advanced 400 yards in échelon to the right, and in front of the 1st Brigade, and was met by a heavy fire from the Arabs posted in a ravine 900 yards ahead of the square. When this distance was reduced to 150 yards, General Graham, who was riding beside the officer commanding The Black Watch, gave him the order to charge. The regiment at once dashed forward against the enemy, leaving a gap between the two faces of the square. Into this gap the Dervishes rushed, charging the York and Lancaster Regiment and taking The Black Watch in rear, the latter losing many killed, especially in the supernumerary rank. The situation would have been most critical had not the regiment, in spite of being placed at such a disadvantage, maintained a steady, well controlled fire on the enemy. This fire, aided by that of the 1st Brigade, soon had its inevitable effect on the Arabs, and the two brigades advancing in line drove the retreating enemy across the deep ravine, and all resistance ended, the Arabs having lost over 2000 killed.

The Battalion had 60 killed and 29 wounded.

A telegram was received from Lord Wolseley, Adjutant-General to the forces, "Well done, old comrades, The Black Watch." As it was impossible to pursue Osman any farther, the force returned to Suakim, where it re-embarked, and was again quartered in Cairo.

The Government having at length decided to send an expedition to the relief of General Gordon in Khartoum, a force of 7000 men was sent up the



Nile in the autumn under Lord Wolseley. To join this Nile column the 1st Battalion, 698 strong, proceeded by train to Assiout, where it embarked on two steamers and four barges, and reached Assouan on the 6th of October. In November it embarked in eighty-four whale boats, and by the end of the year the last company of the Battalion had passed Abu Fatmeh, the endless dangers and hardships met with when dragging the boats over the cataracts being only overcome by all ranks showing the utmost energy and determination.

On the 24th of January the 1st Battalion advanced 1885 from Hamdab as part of the river column under General Earle, about 3000 strong. On the 9th of February the column reached Dalka Island, where Colonel Stewart's party had been massacred in September 1884, and encamped a mile from the enemy, who were posted very strongly on some heights at Kirbekan.

On the 10th, leaving two guns and two companies of the South Staffords to engage the enemy in front, General Earle, with the remainder of the Staffords and The Black Watch, marched round the enemy's flank and delivered a most successful attack on his rear. This attack from so unexpected a quarter, and the rapidity and decision with which it was carried out, demoralised the Dervishes, who fled with a loss of 200 out of 800. The regiment lost 6 killed and 22 wounded.

In the meantime another column had marched across the desert to Abu Klea, a small party of whom steamed up the Nile and reached Khartoum on the 28th of January, to learn that General Gordon had been killed only two days before, and that Khartoum was in possession of the Mahdi.



The Government having decided to withdraw both columns from the Soudan, the river column descended the Nile to Hamdab, which was reached on the 4th of March, where the 1st Battalion held, at Merawi, the most advanced post of the expedition until the 24th of May. The descent of the Nile was then continued, and the Battalion was again quartered at Cairo on the 27th of June.

The 2nd Battalion moved from Aldershot to the Curragh.

From 1882 to 1886 the 2nd Battalion sent 830 men and four officers to maintain the strength of the 1st Battalion in Egypt and the Soudan.

1886 The 1st Battalion left Egypt and was stationed in Malta.

The 2nd Battalion was quartered in Dublin, and in July sent a detachment of 500 men to quell disturbances in the north of Ireland: this party rejoined regimental headquarters at the end of the year.

1888 The 2nd Battalion moved to Belfast, and the next year the 1st Battalion moved from Malta to Gibraltar.

1891 The 2nd Battalion quartered at Limerick for two years.

1893 The 1st Battalion moved from Gibraltar, headquarters and four companies to Mauritius, and four companies to Cape Town.

The 2nd Battalion quartered in Glasgow for two years.

1894 The 2nd Battalion quartered in Edinburgh.

1895 The municipal buildings of Perth, containing two stands of former regimental colours of the 2nd Battalion, were destroyed by fire.

The 2nd Battalion was inspected by the Duke of Cambridge at Edinburgh.

The 1st Battalion disembarked at Bombay, and 1896 was stationed at Subathu. A party of thirty men from the 2nd Battalion, under Lieutenant C. E. Stewart, proceeded to South Africa with the Highland company of Mounted Infantry.

The 2nd Battalion sent the band and pipers, and furnished a guard of honour at Balmoral on the occasion of the Czar's visit.

The 2nd Battalion moved from Edinburgh Castle to York.

The 1st Battalion was quartered at Umballa. 1897

The 2nd Battalion moved to Perham Down in 1898 August to take part in the manœuvres on Salisbury Plain, after which the Battalion was quartered in South Camp, Aldershot.

On war being declared against the Transvaal and 1899 Orange Free State, the 2nd Battalion mobilised 1011 strong, and landed at Cape Town on the 14th of November.

On arrival at Modder River on the 6th of December, the Highland Brigade, consisting of the 2nd Battalion The Black Watch, 1st Battalion Highland Light Infantry, 2nd Battalion Seaforth Highlanders, and the 1st Battalion Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, was concentrated under Major-General Wauchope, and, with the Guards Brigade, formed part of the 1st Division under Lord Methuen.

After a few days' halt Lord Methuen determined to make a night march on Magersfontein Kopje, and then deliver a frontal attack, supported by artillery fire.

The Highland Brigade advanced at 1 P.M. on the 10th of December, and some companies of The Black Watch, which were leading, approached within 1000

yards of the Boer trenches, then very weakly held. Meanwhile the batteries kept up a heavy but ineffective fire on the kopje. Lord Methuen, however, ordered the Brigade to withdraw, and the troops bivouacked for the night some three miles from the position.

A little after midnight the Brigade again advanced in quarter column, The Black Watch leading. Owing to a heavy storm and to the intense darkness of the night, the column had only reached a belt of scrub some 600 yards from the foot of the kopje when day began to break. The two leading companies of the regiment were in the act of deploying when the Boers suddenly opened so heavy a fire, mainly from trenches half-way between the Battalion and the kopje, as to render further organised movement impossible. Several parties, however, made isolated efforts to cross the open ground, but few succeeded in reaching the kopje.

The Brigadier, the Officer Commanding the Battalion, and many others were shot early in the battle, and thus, as no definite orders were issued, no coherent action took place.

About 1 P.M. the order to retire was given. This was carried out by all except the three leading companies of the Battalion, who remained where they had originally deployed till the evening, as no order of any sort ever reached them.

On the right of the Brigade the Guards had held their own with difficulty, and on the next day the whole force withdrew to Modder River camp.

The 2nd Battalion suffered heavily, losing 7 officers and 86 men killed, 11 officers and 199 men wounded.

1900 On the 3rd of February the Highland Brigade

moved to Koodesberg, where they had three days' fighting on the 5th, 6th, and 7th, losing two officers and two men killed, and seven wounded.

On the 11th of February a general advance was made under Lord Roberts, and after five hard marches the Highland Brigade reached Paardeberg, where the Boers, retreating from Magersfontein, were intercepted.

The force under Cronje held both banks of the Modder River, which was only fordable in few places, and whose deep-cut banks gave good cover to the defenders. At 6 A.M. the Brigade advanced in one long line, and when about 1500 yards from the enemy was met by a heavy fire. The ground in front of the Boer position was absolutely without cover, but the two and a half companies next the river managed to gain the right bank, where they maintained themselves throughout the day. The remaining companies on the left bank advanced within 500 yards of the Boers, and held this position till dark, when a general retirement was ordered. The Battalion had a loss of 19 killed and 79 wounded, only seven unwounded officers remaining fit for duty.

During the five succeeding days the Battalion formed part of the cordon of troops that surrounded the Boer laager, and on the 27th the Boers, to the number of 4100, were forced to surrender.

The Battalion then advanced with the force under Lord Roberts, was present at the battle of Poplar Grove on the 7th of March, and entered Bloemfontein on the 13th.

On the 31st the Brigade marched twenty-three miles towards Watervaal Drift in the endeavour



to assist the troops at Sanna's Post, but the Boers withdrew across the Modder, and the Brigade returned to Bloemfontein by three easy marches.

The Battalion, now only 490 strong, was here reinforced by a draft of 404 men, partly reservists, but 100 of whom had been formed into one company, the men and officers of which belonged to The Black Watch Volunteer Battalions. This company served as a ninth company throughout its year's service, and became the equal of any other company in the Battalion.

For the following six months the Battalion had continual hard marching and occasional fighting with the Boers in the Orange Free State. For the action at Bavian's Berg on the 4th of May The Black Watch was especially praised in Lord Roberts' despatches. On the 17th a march of thirty-four miles was made in 15½ hours, and on the 23rd of July, during the operations about Retief's Nek, five companies carried a strong Boer position in fine style with a loss of 2 officers and 17 men. The capture of this position was one of the chief factors that prevented the escape of the Boers, and led to the surrender of 4300 prisoners. In October the 2nd Battalion was sent to garrison Ladybrand, and remained there for the following eleven months.

This year Lord Hopetoun, then Governor-General, invited the English Government to send an Imperial Corps representing the British army to the inauguration of the Australian Commonwealth. Twenty-five non-commissioned officers and men of The Black Watch, under Lieutenant W. Green, were sent from the Perth depot, and, with corresponding detachments from other Highland regiments, joined

the Imperial Corps and landed in Australia at the end of the year.

This party took part in the inauguration ceremony held at Sydney on the 1st of January 1901, and was afterwards entertained by the municipalities of the principal cities in Australia and New Zealand. The men of The Black Watch detachment distinguished themselves in many of the sports held in honour of the Imperial Corps, W. Ross, formerly pipe-major of the 2nd Battalion, winning every open piping competition. The detachment returned home in April 1901.

The 1st Battalion left Kamptee and arrived at 1901 Durban on the 22nd of December, and was stationed at Harrismith.

The 2nd Battalion was ordered in September from Ladybrand to Natal, and was split up into several detachments. Headquarters and four companies were engaged in operations under Colonel Rimington, three companies under Colonel Spens in the Eastern Transvaal, and two companies under Colonel Byng in the Orange River Colony, while over 200 men were employed separately as mounted infantry.

The 1st Battalion while stationed at Harrismith 1902 was employed in the construction of blockhouses and in guarding the railway line. Several companies were sent out to take part in the operations of various columns until peace was concluded in June 1902.

Before this the various companies of the 2nd Battalion assembled at Harrismith, and, with the 1st Battalion, formed part of the garrison of that town. Throughout the war the 2nd Battalion lost

125 killed, 354 wounded, and 62 who died from disease.

In October both Battalions left South Africa. The 1st Battalion was stationed at Edinburgh, where medals for the South African War were presented by the King, and the 2nd Battalion was ordered to India and stationed in Umballa.

1903 Headquarters and four companies of the 2nd Battalion marched to Solon for the hot weather.

1904 1st Battalion quartered in Fort George.

2nd Battalion moved to Peshawar by train.

1905 Headquarters and four companies of the 2nd Battalion marched to Cherat for the hot weather. The cemetery of the sixteen men of the 42nd who died there in 1867 was put in order and permanently preserved.

The 5th Royal Scots of Canadian Highlanders become an allied regiment.

1906 1st Battalion quartered at the Curragh.

The fever in Peshawar was very severe during this winter, the 2nd Battalion only mustered 450 for General's inspection out of a total strength of nearly 1100.

1907 The 2nd Battalion proceeded by a route march of twenty-four days from Peshawar to Sialkot.



























RECORD OF THE PERIODS OF SERVICE OF  
THE SEVERAL BATTALIONS WHO HAVE  
CONSTITUTED THE BLACK WATCH  
(ROYAL HIGHLANDERS).

Six independent companies of Highlanders raised 1729  
under the title of "The Black Watch."

Formed into a single regiment and numbered the 1739  
43rd.

Number changed from 43rd to 42nd. 1749

The regiment designated "Royal." 1758

A Second Battalion was raised. After serving in  
the West Indies the men were absorbed into the 1st  
Battalion, in 1762; the remainder returned to Scot-  
land, and the junior officers placed on half-pay.

The 2nd Battalion disbanded. 1763

A Second Battalion was raised at Perth. After 1797  
serving in Mysore this was constituted a distinct  
corps as the 73rd Highland Regiment, although the  
connection between the two Battalions was not  
entirely severed.

A Second Battalion was raised to the 42nd. After 1803  
serving in the Peninsular War the men were absorbed  
into the 1st Battalion in 1812, and the Battalion dis-  
banded at Aberdeen in 1814.

A Second Battalion was raised to the 73rd. After 1806

serving in Flanders and through the Waterloo campaign, the men joined the 1st Battalion then campaigning in Ceylon, and the 2nd Battalion was disbanded in 1817.

1842 The 42nd divided into a 1st and a Reserve Battalion until 1850, when the two Battalions were consolidated.

1881 The 73rd Perthshire Regiment, granted this title in 1862, after a separation of ninety-four years, was again constituted as the 2nd Battalion The Black Watch, and a General Order gave the title of the regiment, The Black Watch (Royal Highlanders).

SUCCESSION OF FULL COLONELS, LIST  
OF ORIGINAL OFFICERS, &c.

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SUCCESSION OF COLONELS.

1739. John, Earl of Crawford.  
1741. Hugh, Lord Sempill.  
1745. Lord John Murray.

42nd.

1787. Sir Hector Munro of  
Foulis.  
1820. John, Earl of Hope-  
toun.  
1823. Sir George Murray.  
1844. Sir John M'Donald.  
1850. Sir James Douglas.  
1862. Lieutenant - General  
The Marquis of  
Tweeddale.  
1862. Sir Duncan Cameron.  
(Died 1888.)

73rd.

1786. Sir George Osborne.  
1786. Sir William Meadows.  
1796. Gerard, Viscount  
Lake.  
1800. George, Lord Harris.  
1829. Sir Frederick Adam.  
1835. William, Lord Harris.  
1845. Sir Robert Dick.  
1846. Sir John Grey.  
1849. General Clarges.  
1857. General Falconer.  
1860. Sir Micheal Creagh.  
1860. General Orlando  
Jones.  
1865. General Sir H. Davie.

1888. General Lord Rollo.  
1907. General Sir John M'Leod.



OFFICERS WHO RECEIVED COMMISSIONS,  
DATED 25<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 1739, IN "THE  
HIGHLAND REGIMENT," COMMONLY  
CALLED THEN, AS NOW, "THE BLACK  
WATCH."

*Colonel*—John, Earl of Crawford. (Died 1748.)

*Lieut.-Colonel*—Sir Robert Munro of Foulis. (Killed at  
Falkirk 1746.)

*Major*—George Grant (brother of the Laird of Grant).

*Captains.*

George Munro of Culcairn. (Killed in 1746.)	Colin Campbell, junior, of Monzie.
Dougal Campbell of Craigh- nish.	Sir James Colquhoun of Luss.
John Campbell of Carrick. (Killed at Fontenoy.)	Colin Campbell of Ballimore. John Munro.

*Captain Lieut.*—Duncan Macfarlane.

*Lieutenants.*

Paul Macpherson.	George Ramsay.
Lewis Grant of Auchterblair.	Francis Grant, son of the Laird of Grant.
John Maclean of Kingarloch.	John Macneil.
Alexander Macdonald.	
Malcolm Fraser (son of Cul- duthel). (Killed at Ber- gen-op-Zoom 1747.)	

*Ensigns.*

Dougal Campbell.	(Killed at Fontenoy.)	Archibald Macnab, son of the Laird of Macnab. (Died Lieut.-General 1790.)
Dougal Stewart.		
John Menzies of Comrie.		Colin Campbell.
Edward Carrick.		Dougal Stewart.
Gilbert Stewart of Kincaigie.		James Campbell of Glenfalloch. (Killed at Fontenoy.)
Gordon Grahame of Draines.		

*Chaplain*—Honourable Gideon Murray.

*Surgeon*—George Munro.

*Adjutant*—Gilbert Stewart.

*Quartermaster*—John Forbes.

ORIGINAL LIST OF OFFICERS BELONGING TO  
THE 2ND BATTALION THE BLACK WATCH.<sup>1</sup>

1779.

*Colonel*—Lord John Murray.

*Lieut.-Colonel*—Norman Macleod of Macleod.

*Major*—Patrick Græme of Inchbraco.

*Captains.*

Hay MacDougall.	Thomas Dallyel. (Killed at
James Murray.	Mangalore.)
James Drummond of Perth.	David Lindsay.
John Macgregor.	John Grant of Glenmoriston.
Colin Campbell of Glenure.	

*Lieutenants.*

John Grant.	Alexander Dunbar.
Alexander Macgregor of Bal-	John Oswald.
haldy.	Eneas Fraser.
Dougald Campbell.	Alexander Maitland.
James Spens.	Alexander Rose.
John Wemyss.	

*Ensigns.*

Charles Sutherland.	John Macdonald.
John Murray Robertson.	William White.
Alexander Macdonald.	Charles Maclean.
Robert Robertson of Lude.	John Macpherson.

*Chaplain*—John Stewart.

*Adjutant*—Robert Leslie.

*Quartermaster*—Kenneth Mackenzie.

*Surgeon*—Thomas Farquharson.

*Mate*—Duncan Campbell.

<sup>1</sup> Of these, eight, including Lieut.-Col. Macleod, were transferred from the 1st Battalion.

## THE 3RD BATTALION THE BLACK WATCH.

(ROYAL PERTSHIRE MILITIA.)

TOWARDS the end of the eighteenth century the danger from invasion was very considerable. This was all the more evident as so large a proportion of the regular forces was employed outside of Great Britain, and the difficulties of recruiting grew yearly more urgent. The system of impressment was rightly intensely unpopular, and the bounty system was a practical and expensive failure. The Government, therefore, determined to raise a militia force by means of the ballot: an Act to this effect was consequently passed in 1794 for England, and three years later its scope was extended to Scotland.

In May 1798 the 9th, or Royal Perthshire Militia Regiment of Foot, was embodied at Perth at a strength of 320 officers and men, with the Duke of Atholl as Colonel. The strength was soon increased to nearly 500, and the regiment remained embodied until April 1802, when it was disbanded after the Peace of Amiens.

In the same year, however, a new militia force was established, and, by a warrant dated the 12th of March 1803, the Royal Perthshire Militia was



embodied at Perth in April, and numbered the 68th Militia.

The 3rd Battalion of The Black Watch is the lineal descendant of this regiment, no break occurring during the eighty years which passed before the present title was adopted, and the connection with the original 9th Perthshire Militia is close, as many men who had served in the earlier Battalion re-engaged in the second, and the Duke of Atholl was again appointed Colonel.

The uniform was also the same, consisting of a scarlet jacket with blue facings, white waistcoat, blue pantaloons, and black gaiters. The hair was powdered and worn in a queue, and pigtails were not done away with until 1808.

In June 1803 the establishment was fixed at 980 rank and file, and the regiment was sent to Haddington, where it was stationed for two years.

In 1805 the regiment embarked for Ramsgate, and was quartered in various parts of Kent till 1810, when it returned to Scotland.

During the Peninsular War the Militia served not only as a force to repel invasion, but also as a great reserve to the regular army. Between 1803 and 1813, 100,000 militiamen passed into the line, of whom over 700 were furnished by the Perthshire Militia.

In 1811 the regiment was employed in guarding French prisoners of war at Penicuik, and in the following year was presented by Lord Kinnoull, then Colonel, with "very elegant" colours. It is interesting to note that these colours were given back to Lord Kinnoull in 1855 on the regiment being changed into the Perthshire Rifles.

In 1813 the regiment marched to Plymouth, but

returned to Scotland the following year on board a sailing ship, and was disembodied at Perth after eleven and a half years' service.

In 1815, owing to Napoleon returning to power, the regiment was again embodied, but after being stationed at Newcastle for a short time, was disembodied at Perth in February.

During the next fifty years the Militia received little or no encouragement, and only five trainings were held between 1816 and 1854.

In that year, however, the dangerous situation brought on by the Crimean War caused the Militia throughout Scotland to be reorganised, and the regiment, now named The Royal Perthshire Rifles, was embodied at Perth.

The uniform was changed to that of a rifle corps—dark green with red facings; and Lord Kinnoull retained the appointment of Colonel, though succeeded by Sir Thomas Moncrieff the next year.

Only 280 privates joined at Perth, but this number was increased later, and 143 men passed into the line during the embodiment.

The regiment was disembodied in 1856, and the next year, though not embodied, the whole regiment, except three privates, volunteered to serve in India or elsewhere. Though not accepted, the regiment received the thanks of the Queen for this offer to assist in quelling the Indian Mutiny.

The pay of militiamen when embodied was fixed at the same rate as for the line, nominally a shilling a-day for the private soldier, who also received a bounty on joining. This was afterwards wisely altered, by giving each man who completed his training a sovereign in addition to his pay.

In 1859 the regiment assembled for a few weeks' training at Perth, and trained there annually for twenty-eight days until 1893, except in 1876 when the training was held at Dorking, the regiment taking part in the manœuvres of that autumn.

The services of the Militia in sending drafts to the regular army during the Peninsular War had not been altogether forgotten, and in 1867 the Militia Reserve was instituted, though it became neither a strong nor efficient reserve to the line until the reforms begun in 1872 had had effect. But in 1878, in consequence of the Zulu War, 113 reservists of the Perthshire Militia were called upon for service, and were attached for four months to the depot of The Black Watch at Perth, thus forming a strong potential reserve to meet the wastage of war had the campaign been prolonged.

In 1881, when the territorial system was definitely established, the Perthshire Rifles was linked to The Black Watch as the 3rd Battalion, and the present title and uniform adopted. Though worn by the officers and permanent staff, the kilt and feather bonnet were not issued to other ranks, who wear trews of The Black Watch tartan and glengarry bonnets with the regimental badge.

In 1882, when the 42nd was engaged in active service in Egypt, all but 31 men of the 3rd Battalion, then 774 strong, volunteered for service. The offer, however, was not accepted.

In the same year Lord Stormont, who had commanded the Battalion for twenty-three years, died, and was succeeded by Colonel Smythe of Methven, who held the command until 1897, when he resigned

and was succeeded by the Master of Rollo, the present commanding officer.

From 1893 to 1899 the annual training was held at Barry Camp, six companies taking part in the manœuvres on Salisbury Plain in 1898.

During the Boer War the 3rd Battalion was embodied from December 1899 to December 1900, and was stationed at Montrose, except during the four summer months spent at Barry Camp. While the Battalion was embodied five drafts composed of 163 Militia reservists joined the 2nd Battalion in South Africa, and formed a most useful and welcome addition to the ranks, thinned by the losses of Magersfontein and Paardeberg. There is, however, another side to the problem. No battalion can lose 25 per cent of its best men without some loss in efficiency. For many years the Militia had striven to perform two antagonistic duties—to furnish drafts to the regular battalions, and at the same time to remain effective fighting units. In 1902 the choice was made, and however great the loss may be to the line, the abolition of the Militia reserve allows the Militia in times of national danger to remain at its utmost height of strength and efficiency. The 3rd Battalion itself was ready to serve in South Africa, but was not called upon to do so.

The 3rd Battalion furnished the Queen's Guard of Honour at Ballater from the end of August to the middle of November 1900, and in the following year the usual training was made voluntary.

In 1902 the annual training was held on Salisbury Plain, after which the Battalion took part in the review before the Queen, held that summer at



Aldershot. Since then the annual trainings have taken place at Barry Camp, where the appearance and efficiency of the Battalion has been highly praised by succeeding inspecting officers.

In 1907 the strength of the Militia Battalion was 19 officers, 37 sergeants, and 702 rank and file.

## THE VOLUNTEER BATTALIONS THE BLACK WATCH.

THE first Volunteer corps raised in the present regimental district of The Black Watch were two companies embodied in Perth in 1794—an example that was widely followed in the succeeding years; but all Volunteer corps were disbanded in 1802 after the Peace of Amiens, although re-formed on the resumption of war in the following year.

In 1808, however, the Government passed an Act to replace the Volunteer force by a "Local Militia," to be raised, if necessary, by ballot. In Perth, Forfar, and Fife there were few districts, if any, where the necessary numbers of volunteers were not forthcoming without the employment of the ballot. On the conclusion of peace in 1815 this force was disbanded, and it was not until 1859, when an invasion by France was feared, that Volunteer corps were again established.

The importance of the Volunteer movement was rightly appreciated by our possible invaders, and though more valued each year at home, it was not, perhaps, until the South African War that the Volunteer battalions were given the occasion not only of showing their readiness to serve the country when required, but also of proving by the excellence of

their services the value of the material that exists in this branch of our army.

Nowhere was this more clearly seen than in the 42nd Regimental District. Each of the six Volunteer battalions sent a contingent to the three service companies that joined the 2nd Battalion in South Africa. Each of the first two companies that voluntarily left Scotland served for a year with the 2nd Battalion, taking their part with and performing the same hard work as any of the regular companies, and it was only because the war ended in June 1902 that the third company had a shorter period on active service.

Whatever schemes of army reform are adopted by the country, the services rendered by the Volunteers in the South African War, and the example set by these companies, will never be forgotten by the regular Battalions, and every regular soldier of The Black Watch will start the more confidently on his next campaign, knowing the support that is ready to come from the Volunteers of Perth, Forfar, and Fife.

The corps formed in 1859 and 1860, though raised under different titles, are the same corps that were affiliated to The Black Watch in 1881. The narrative will therefore be clearer if a short separate account be given of the services of each Battalion from the date of its first embodiment to the present day.

THE 1ST (CITY OF DUNDEE) VOLUNTEER  
BATTALION THE BLACK WATCH.

(LATE 1ST FORFARSHIRE.)

SOUTH AFRICA, 1900-1902.

DUNDEE.

THE citizens of Dundee were among the first to give practical shape to some of the proposals born of the Volunteer movement in 1859.

On the 20th of May it was determined at a public meeting, held in Dundee, to form a regiment, and within a fortnight 300 men had started drill. It was not till November, however, that authority was granted by the Lord Lieutenant of Forfarshire to form a corps, when the Volunteers became known as the 1st Forfarshire (Dundee) Rifles.

In 1859 six companies were raised; two more were added in the next year; and in 1900, when the need for volunteers was great, a further two were raised, making the present establishment of the Battalion one of ten companies.

In 1881 the Battalion was affiliated to The Black Watch under the territorial system, and in 1887 the title of the Battalion became the 5th Volunteer Battalion The Black Watch, and three years later, when Dundee was constituted a city, the sub-title, City of Dundee, was added, as at present.



The Battalion sent 600 rank and file to the three royal reviews held in Edinburgh in 1860, 1881, and in 1905.

During the South African War the Volunteer Battalions sent three strong service companies to join the 2nd Battalion on service. With each of these companies the 1st Battalion sent a good contingent. The first was formed of 23 non-commissioned officers and men under Lieutenants Alastair Valentine and Elmslie Tosh; the second of 17 men under Lieutenant A. B. Corrie; and the third of 26 men under Lieutenant C. E. C. Walker. In addition to these 70, nearly 90 others served in the war, chiefly in the Imperial Yeomanry. Seven died of enteric fever in South Africa, in whose memory a brass memorial has been placed in St Mary's Parish Church of Dundee.

The Battalion is now little short of 1000 strong, and has been commanded by Lieut.-Colonel H. Hill, V.D., for some years. The Honorary Colonel is always the Lord Provost of Dundee.

The uniform has always been that of an English line battalion, with blue facings, and a drab uniform is also worn. The pipers have kilts of The Black Watch tartan, and are dressed similarly to those of the regular Battalions.

THE 2ND (ANGUS) VOLUNTEER BATTALION  
THE BLACK WATCH.

(LATE 2ND FORFARSHIRE.)

SOUTH AFRICA, 1900-1902.

ARBROATH.

IN 1854 a pamphlet that was widely read at the time was published, urging the formation of a Volunteer force on the very lines that took practical shape a few years later. The author, Colonel John Kinloch, may thus claim to be, in some ways, the originator of the Volunteer movement, and in 1859 he was forward in the raising of independent Volunteer companies. A year later the companies raised at Arbroath, Montrose, Brechin, and Friockheim were formed into the 1st Administrative Battalion, Forfarshire Rifle Volunteers; and those raised at Forfar, Newtyle, Glamis, Tannadice, Kirriemuir, and Gortachy were formed into the 2nd Administrative Battalion, under the command of Colonel John Kinloch.

In 1874 the two Battalions were amalgamated under Colonel James Dickson, who held the command until 1888. In 1880 the various companies were consolidated into one unit for all purposes, and the title of the regiment became the 2nd Forfarshire Rifle Volunteer Corps, or Angus Rifle

Volunteers. The next year the Battalion was affiliated to The Black Watch, and in 1887 received its present designation.

The regiment was present at the three royal reviews held in Edinburgh in 1860, 1881, and in 1905, and was represented at the Coronation of King Edward by nine non-commissioned officers and men under Lieut.-Colonel Davidson, V.D., who now commands the Battalion.

In February 1900, 20 men under Captain R. H. Millar enlisted for special service in South Africa with the 2nd Battalion, and joined the 1st Volunteer Service Company, which was commanded until the return home by Captain Millar. Twelve non-commissioned officers and men served with the 2nd Volunteer Service Company, and 19 non-commissioned officers and men went out with the 3rd Service Company, with Captain J. Buyers in command. Besides these, 3 officers and 11 men served in the Imperial Yeomanry.

The Battalion at present is over 700 strong, and is divided into twelve companies.

The uniform of the original companies was varied, but by the time of the amalgamation the Battalion was clothed in a scarlet tunic with blue facings, blue trousers with scarlet piping, and a shako. In 1876 a glengarry with diced border was substituted for the shako.

After the affiliation, the uniform was assimilated to that of The Black Watch, except that tartan trews are worn in place of the kilt.

THE 3RD (DUNDEE HIGHLAND) VOLUNTEER  
BATTALION THE BLACK WATCH.

(LATE 3RD FORFARSHIRE.)

SOUTH AFRICA, 1900-1902.

DUNDEE.

THIS corps was formed in 1860 under the title of the 10th Forfar Rifle Volunteers (Dundee Highlanders). Shortly afterwards a second Highland company was raised, and in 1868 these two companies were amalgamated, and four additional companies raised, the whole forming one unit for administrative purposes, with regimental headquarters at Dundee.

In 1881 the Battalion was affiliated to The Black Watch, and some years later received its present designation.

The regiment was present at the three royal reviews held in Edinburgh in 1860, 1881, and in 1905.

The Battalion sent a strong contingent with each of the Volunteer Service Companies that joined the 2nd Battalion in South Africa. In the spring of 1900, 22 non-commissioned officers and men went out under Captain H. K. Smith, 24 non-commissioned officers and men served with the second company, and 32 non-commissioned officers and men served



in the third company. Besides these, 2 officers and 11 men served in other corps during the South African War.

The Battalion has had three well-known men as honorary colonels. The first was Sir James Stewart Richardson of Pitfour. On his death the late Earl of Airlie succeeded to the appointment, which is now held by Field Marshal Earl Roberts.

In 1905 Lieut.-Colonel William Smith, V.D., after commanding the Battalion for eighteen years, died, and was succeeded by Lieut.-Colonel Charles Batchelor, V.D., the present commanding officer.

The strength of the Battalion is now over 670.

The original companies wore the kilt of The Black Watch tartan, and it was not till 1882 that this was abandoned for trews. The regiment now has a scarlet tunic, and the uniform in almost all respects resembles that of the line Battalions.

THE 4TH (PERTHSHIRE) VOLUNTEER BATTALION THE BLACK WATCH.

(LATE 1ST PERTHSHIRE.)

SOUTH AFRICA, 1900-1902.

PERTH.

IN 1859 and 1860 eighteen separate companies of Volunteers were raised in Perthshire, but were shortly afterwards formed into two Administrative Battalions for the purposes of training and organisation, though the companies still continued to make their own financial arrangements. Of these companies those belonging to Perth, Dunblane, Coupar-Angus, Crieff, Alyth, Doune, Callendar, Birnam, and Auchterarder were formed into the 1st, or Perth, Administrative Battalion, and are now the 4th Volunteer Battalion of the Black Watch.

The first commanding officer of the Battalion was Sir William Keith Murray, who was succeeded in 1861 by the sixth Duke of Atholl.

Until 1863 Government gave no financial aid to the Volunteers, but in that year the present system was adopted, by which a grant is given to each member of a corps who attains to a certain prescribed degree of efficiency.

In 1869 the Battalion headquarters was fixed at Perth, where it still remains. In 1880 the ad-

ministrative system was abolished, and the companies ceased in any way to be independent units; the Battalion was re-named the 1st Perthshire Rifle Volunteers, with an establishment of 700 all ranks, divided into seven companies.

Under the territorial system of 1881 the Battalion was affiliated to the county regiment, and became the 1st Volunteer Battalion of The Black Watch, and in 1888 received its present designation of the 4th (Perthshire) Battalion.

In 1893 the present commanding officer, Sir Robert Moncrieffe, V.D., succeeded to the command, and the strength of the Battalion which was then 446 is now 658.

The Battalion was present at the three royal reviews held in Edinburgh in 1860, 1881, and in 1905.

On the outbreak of the South African War, three more companies were raised in Perth, and a contingent of 22 men joined the 1st Volunteer Company, for service in South Africa, in January 1900. Further contingents of 18 men and 6 men joined the 2nd and 3rd Service Companies in 1901 and 1902 respectively, making a total of 46 who served in South Africa with the 2nd Battalion of the regiment. The 2nd Service Company was commanded throughout its period in South Africa by Captain R. M. Christie of the 4th Battalion. Twenty-seven men also joined the Imperial Yeomanry and other corps that served in the war.

The uniform of the original companies raised in 1859 was very varied, but the Battalion uniform is now a doublet, with kilt and trews of The Black Watch tartan, and a glengarry bonnet.

In 1875 the Glenalmond Cadet Corps was formed and affiliated to the 4th Battalion. This corps has been well supported in the college, and has been very successful in the Public Schools' shooting competitions. In 1888 Glenalmond won the "Spencer Cup," a performance since then twice repeated; the corps has also twice won the "Veterans' Trophy," and was once second for the "Ashburton Shield." In 1878 the corps adopted the Highland dress, and now wears a grey doublet with black facings, kilt of the Murray tartan, sporran and spats of The Black Watch pattern, and a glengarry bonnet.

The corps is at present commanded by Lieutenant A. W. Brown of the 4th Volunteer Battalion The Black Watch.



THE 5TH (PERTHSHIRE HIGHLAND) VOLUNTEER BATTALION THE BLACK WATCH.

(LATE 2ND PERTHSHIRE.)

SOUTH AFRICA, 1900-1902.

BIRNAM.

OF the eighteen companies that were formed in Perthshire in 1859 and 1860, four were raised at Taymouth, Aberfeldy, Killin, and Glendochart, and in the latter year were formed into one corps under the command of the late Marquis of Breadalbane.

In 1869 the Volunteer force was reorganised, and the Battalion was formed of companies from Aberfeldy, Killin, Blairgowrie, Coupar - Angus, Alyth, Strathtay, St Martins, Birnam, and Pitlochry, with headquarters at Birnam,—a system that continues to the present day.

In 1880 the administrative system was abolished, and the Battalion was re-named the 2nd Perthshire Highland Rifle Volunteers, and in the following year became, under the territorial system, the 2nd Volunteer Battalion of the Black Watch, and in 1888 received its present title.

In 1897 the Marquis of Breadalbane was appointed to the command; and in 1900, on the outbreak of war, three additional companies were raised at Blair-

gowrie and Birnam, though since then these have been disbanded.

Of the review held in 1860 Queen Victoria wrote in her diary, "Lord Breadalbane, riding at the head of his own body of 500 Highlanders, looked magnificent, and was loudly cheered."

Eight companies took part in the review of 1881; and in 1905, 24 officers and 455 non-commissioned officers and men were present with the Black Watch Brigade in the review at Edinburgh.

During the South African War the Battalion reached a strength of 955, and sent a contingent of 22 men with the 1st Service Company to South Africa. 31 men under Lieutenant F. H. Buchanan-White went out with the 2nd Service Company, and nine men under Lieutenant T. Ferguson served with the regiment in South Africa in the 3rd Service Company. Besides these, 30 non-commissioned officers and men served with the Imperial Yeomanry, chiefly in Lovat's Scouts and in the Scottish Horse.

The present strength of the Battalion is 27 officers and 627 rank and file, and is commanded by the Marquis of Breadalbane.

From their formation in 1859 the Highland companies have worn the kilt, those from Breadalbane and Strathday wearing Breadalbane tartan; but since 1883 the uniform has been a doublet, with kilt or trews of The Black Watch tartan, white spats, and a glengarry bonnet.

THE 6TH (FIFESHIRE) VOLUNTEER BATTALION THE BLACK WATCH.

(LATE 1ST FIFESHIRE.)

SOUTH AFRICA, 1900-1902.

ST ANDREWS.

TEN separate volunteer companies were raised in 1859 at Dunfermline, Kirkcaldy, Leslie, Lochgelly, Colinsburgh, Cupar, St Andrews, Falkland, Newburgh, and Anstruther, and in the following year were formed into one Battalion and called the 1st Fifeshire Rifles, with Battalion headquarters at St Andrews, where they have remained ever since.

In 1881 the territorial system was adopted, and in 1888 the Battalion received its present title of the 6th Volunteer Battalion of the Black Watch.

The Battalion has been well represented in the three Royal Reviews held at Edinburgh. In 1860 The Fifeshire Rifles mustered 500, in 1881 over 900, and in 1905 the 6th Battalion sent 621 of all ranks to join the Black Watch Brigade, which was so highly praised both for discipline and appearance.

The Battalion now consists of thirteen companies, and is over 1200 strong, and has been commanded for some years by Sir Ralph Anstruther.

During the South African War the Battalion did good service, sending 33 non-commissioned officers

and men to join the 2nd Battalion of the regiment in South Africa—thus earning for the Battalion the right to the honour of South Africa 1901-1902. Besides these, 6 privates also joined the 2nd Battalion as reservists, and 1 officer and 32 men served with the Imperial Yeomanry.

The full dress uniform has a helmet, scarlet tunic with blue facings, and blue trousers, the Thane of Fife badge being worn. The marching order dress is khaki with a slouch hat. The dress of the pipers is very similar to that of the regular Battalions, except that a black cock-tail is worn with the glengarry, in place of the feather bonnet.



## THE FIFTH REGIMENT ROYAL HIGHLANDERS OF CANADA.

IN 1905 the 5th Royal Scots of Canada, as the regiment was then designated, became the allied regiment of The Black Watch,—an arrangement that gives as much satisfaction at present as it may, at some future date, prove mutually advantageous. It is therefore by no means out of place to give a short retrospect of the history of this fine corps.

Immediately after the surrender of Montreal to Amherst in 1860, a militia force was raised that did good service, first against the Iroquois Indians, and later, from 1812 to 1815, in the war against the United States. These corps were disbanded, and though others were formed during the first half of the century, it was not till 1862 that "The Fifth" was raised. In that year indignation at the conduct of the Federal Government over the "Trent" affair was fully as great in Canada as it was in England, and simultaneous with the arrival of regular troops from the mother country was the formation of many militia and volunteer corps in the Dominion.

Among the first of these was the 5th Royal Light Infantry, organised in eight companies of 55 rank and file each. Shortly afterwards the Highland company of the 1st Prince of Wales Regiment of Canada

was absorbed by "The Fifth," and, in 1866, number two company of the Montreal Light Infantry was also transferred, thus connecting "The Fifth" with the old Montreal Militia.

The uniform was that of a British Light Infantry regiment, but with silver lace and buttons. The head-dress was a shako with green ball; but in winter a shaggy fur cap, resembling a busby, was worn. The Highland company wore a green coatee faced with red and gold, tartan trews, feather bonnet and red plume.

During the Fenian Raids of 1866, the 5th Royals sent one company to St John's, where a force of 3000 regulars and volunteers was assembled, while the remainder of the regiment were encamped at Hemingford during the month of June. Again, during the Fenian Raids of 1870, one company was sent to St John's, and was followed a few days later by the regiment. The Fenians, however, were soon routed, and the regiment returned to Montreal.

For some years after 1870 but little energy was shown in the Militia force, but in 1875 the 5th Royals was reorganised, and became known as the Fifth Royal Fusiliers, having two flank companies mainly composed of old soldiers of the Seaforth Highlanders. These Highland companies wore a doublet and tartan trews, the other four companies the uniform of a Fusilier battalion.

In 1877 there were serious disturbances in Montreal between the Orange Lodges and the Irish Catholic Union. Among other regiments the Fifth was called out in aid of the civil power, and was thanked in General Orders for its services. The next year, although given only four hours' warning,

the regiment entrained for Quebec, and suppressed some riots in that city.

It was now found that the presence of the two Highland companies had attracted many Scotsmen to the other companies: permission was therefore granted to alter the title of the regiment to the 5th Royal Scots Fusiliers, and in 1884 to the 5th Battalion, Royal Scots of Canada. The uniform was changed to that of a Highland regiment. The kilt was made first of the Lorne tartan, out of compliment to Lord Lorne, then Governor-General, but was afterwards changed to The Black Watch tartan, and the Royal Stewart tartan for the pipers. In 1895 feather bonnets were adopted, in 1899 the dark hose, and the uniform now exactly corresponds to that of The Black Watch, except for the badges and sporran.

The present motto and badge, a Boar's Head, with the words "Ne Obliviscaris" in the garter under it, were authorised in 1885.

In 1897 four non-commissioned officers were selected from the regiment to join the body of Canadians sent to represent Canada at Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee in London, and four others were selected to be present at King Edward's Coronation in 1902.

In 1898 the Canadian Government were asked to send a militia regiment to represent Canada at Portland, Maine, where a celebration was held on the 4th of July of the fiftieth anniversary of the completion of the Grand Trunk Railway. The 5th Royal Scots had the honour of being selected, and six companies, at a strength of 368 rank and file, went to Portland, where they received many compliments and much praise for their discipline and

soldierly bearing. Three years later the regiment took part in a great review, held on the Heights of Abraham, in honour of the visit of the Duke and Duchess of York to Canada.

In 1900, 100 men of the regiment were sent to quell some riots at Valleyfield, and although so many of the militia were injured by stones thrown by the rioters that it became necessary to fire ball ammunition over the heads of the latter, the steady discipline of the regiment was maintained and the riot suppressed. For this service complimentary notice was taken in the Dominion Parliament.

In 1904 the peace establishment of the regiment was fixed at 419, to be raised on war footing to 1060. Two years later a 2nd Battalion was formed, and at the annual inspection of 1907, 698 of all ranks were present on parade. The title of the regiment was also altered to the 5th Regiment, Royal Highlanders of Canada.

The regiment has frequently been represented in Canadian teams at Wimbledon and Bisley, and has won many prizes for individual and team shooting there and at the meetings of the Dominion Rifle Association in Ottawa.

The splendid service of Canada in sending over 7000 men to the South African war is well known. In 1899 the strength of the regiment was under 400, yet no less than 5 officers and 49 non-commissioned officers and men volunteered their services and took part in the war. Of these, 35 joined the 1st Canadian Contingent raised in October 1899,—a time when the Empire had greatest need of trained soldiers,—and served in the Royal Regiment of Canadian Infantry. Good



service was rendered in many actions, and at Paardeberg two—Corporal Goodfellow and Private Wasdell—were killed.

Here this short retrospect may well end, for as the South African war proved the closeness of the ties between Canada and the mother country, so a future time may show the practical advantages of regiments allied in goodwill as in name.

## THE REGIMENTAL COLOURS.

BOTH Battalions have carried many stands of colours during their service, and the authorised pattern has been changed from time to time.

The first colours officially sanctioned for the Royal Highlanders date from 1751, in which year the Royal Clothing Warrant of the 1st of July directed the king's colour to be the great Union, as then marshalled. The regimental colour to be buff, with the Union in the first corner, and in the centre of the colour, XLIII., within a wreath of roses and thistles, and the crown over.

By Royal Warrant of 1768 the 42nd, or Royal Highlanders, was authorised to bear, in the centre of its colours, the King's Cypher within the Garter, and crown over. Under it, St Andrew with the motto, "Nemo me impune lacessit." In the three corners of the second colour the King's Cypher and crown.

Next to these in seniority came the colours borne by the 2nd Battalion from its formation in 1779 till its separation as the 73rd Foot. They are now preserved in Dunvegan Castle, Isle of Skye, and are the oldest existing complete stand of colours in Scotland. Both colours have the Royal Cypher on a blue ground within the Garter, and the crown over.

The regimental colour is blue with the Union in the first, and the Royal Cypher, reversed and interlaced with the crown over, in the other three corners. In these colours the Union wreath is omitted.

The colours carried by the 42nd in Egypt in 1801 are now preserved at Novar House, Ross-shire, those carried in the Crimea and during the Indian Mutiny in Dunkeld Cathedral.

In 1802 a Sphinx, within a wreath of laurel, with the word EGYPT over, was authorised to be carried on the regimental colour.

After the battles at Quatre Bras and Waterloo the colours of the 42nd were officially reported on as "entirely shot away, nothing but the bare poles left," and new colours were issued in 1818.

The colours of the 2nd Battalion 73rd were also completely riddled with shot, but no new ones were presented before the Battalion was disbanded in 1817.

The colours as now authorised for both Battalions are thus correctly described:—

*Battalion King's Colour.*—The Union throughout, with the titles in letters of gold on a crimson centre according to regulation, and the crown over.

*Battalion Regimental Colour.*—Blue, having in the first corner the number of the Battalion and in each of the other three corners the Royal Cypher surmounted by the crown. On a crimson centre the ancient badge of the regiment, the Royal Cypher within the Garter, and the crown over. The other badges, namely, the St Andrew and Cross Badge, and the motto of the Order of the Thistle, and the Sphinx, the regimental titles and battle honours, &c., according to regulation.

## REGIMENTAL BAND AND PIPE MUSIC.

THE records of old regimental music are very meagre, but a healthy dislike of needless change in pipe music, and in all regimental custom, makes it possible that the airs now played have been regimental airs for a longer period than any records show.

The following information is taken mainly from a book of pipe music in manuscript written in 1853 by W. Ross, then pipe-major of the 42nd. Ross was afterwards appointed piper to Queen Victoria, and frequently used to come over from Windsor to Aldershot, where the 2nd Battalion was stationed in 1884, and on its departure he presented this book to the officers.

How far the 2nd Battalion now plays the same regimental airs played when it was the old "second 42nd" is hard to say, but when the two Battalions were formed again into one regiment, the 73rd very properly gave up its march past, "My Love is like a Red, Red Rose," and again adopted the band and pipe music proper to the 2nd Battalion of The Black Watch. It is worth recording that it was not until 1877 that the 73rd gave up "The Highland Laddie," which, since 1780, had been the Battalion march past, and the commanding officer ordered the change destined to last only for four years.

The regimental quick march is, for the pipes, "The



Highland Laddie," and for the band, "All the Blue Bonnets are over the Border." The slow march, "In the Garb of Old Gaul," has been the regimental slow march for the band since 1770, when the music was written by Colonel Reid, who commanded the 42nd. This composition was adapted to some verses anonymously published a few years earlier,—verses that were written originally in Gaelic, according to Stewart of Garth, by a private of the 42nd, after the regiment returned from America at the end of the Seven Years' War.

The Black Watch Assembly is part of the pibroch, "The Gathering of the Clans," and is now played in both battalions as the "Fall in."

The old Staff Parade Assembly is the quick march, "The Lads with the Kilts" (Gilliun an Fheillidh), and formerly, ten minutes before parade, the pipers played through the lines, and then, without playing any tune, marched to the rear of the parade-ground. In the meantime the Staff Parade fell in on the directing flank of the Battalion facing outwards, all the non-commissioned officers above the rank of lance-corporal were drawn up by their proper companies on the right flank, next to them came the pioneers, and then the band and drummers. Five minutes before parade the pipers again played "The Lads with the Kilts," marching in front of the Staff Parade, turned about at the end of the parade-ground and marched back, so as to fall in on the left of the drummers. Then, after the inspection of the Staff, the Battalion fell in on the playing of "The Gathering of the Clans."

The procedure is now a little different. The orderly piper plays "The Lads with the Kilts" on

the parade-ground, and the Staff Parade falls in, is inspected by the adjutant, and dismissed. The piper then plays "The Gathering of the Clans," and the Battalion falls in. Then, on a ceremonial parade, after the companies are sized, as a signal for the markers to form up, all the pipers play a quickstep in double time: until recently this quickstep was "The Campbells are Coming," but this has now been altered in the 1st Battalion to "Cam ye by Athol."

The Royal Salute was formerly part of the pibroch, "War or Peace" (Cogadh no Sith), but this has been given up for many years, and the brass band now plays "The King," preceded, as this air is by old regimental custom, by the regimental slow march. "In the Garb of Old Gaul" is also played by the band for the General Salute.

On occasions such as a Guard of Honour at Ballater, when no band is present the pipers play the Royal Salute, instead of "War or Peace." The pibroch played has for many years been "The Queen's Salute," composed by Pipe-Major Ross when Queen's piper.

The "Prepare to Charge" is "The Campbells are Coming," played by each piper behind his own company in quick time; and the regimental "Charge" is "The Highland Laddie," played in double time.

It seems certain that all Highland regiments originally played certain airs on the pipes before meals, but this is a custom that the 42nd has not practised for many years. In the 2nd Battalion the orderly piper plays "Bundle and Go" as a signal for the orderly men to assemble at the cook-house, and ten minutes afterwards, for the "sit down," is played "Brose and Butter."

Half an hour before Officers' Mess the regimental custom is for the orderly piper to play a quick march, and at the mess hour a pibroch. After mess, on a guest night, when the king's health has been drunk, all the pipers play "The Highland Laddie" round the mess-table; the pipe-major then plays a pibroch. After this all the pipers march in without playing, with their pipes on their shoulders, strike up in the mess-room, and play two strathspeys and two reels, and then march out again without playing.

For "Lights Out" the orderly piper plays "Donald Blue."

On St Andrew's Day, at reveillé, the brass band parades and plays "Hurrah for the Highlands," "May Blossom," and finishes with the regimental quick march "All the Blue Bonnets are over the Border."

The Crimea reveillé was originally played on the 15th of each month to a setting without drums; but an undoubted improvement has been made in that both Battalions now play this reveillé with both drums and pipes.

It begins with two slow marches, "The Soldier's Return" and "Johnny Crockle," the latter an air that was originally taken from a drum-and-fife band. This is followed by the slow march, "Sae Will we Yet," and "Johnny Crockle" is repeated. Then comes a reel, "Miss Girdle," followed by the slow march, "Chisholm Castle," the whole being brought to an end by "Hey, Johnny Cope."

## THE RED HECKLE.

[An account of how it was won, taken from the manuscript written by Ronald Cameron, by permission of Mr Andrew Ross.]

A MOVEMENT of the army having taken place on the last days of December 1794, the 42nd Regiment, quartered at Thiel, received orders to march late on the night of the 31st December towards Bornell, distant about 20 miles, on the opposite side of the River Waal, and arrived about 4 o'clock, 1st January 1795, near the bank of the river, having taken a circuitous march, as also a number more Regiments, and rested till daybreak, when an attack was made, and we drove the French across the river on the ice, and held a position on its banks until the morning of the 3rd, when a partial retreat took place, leaving strong Picquets. Early on the morning of the 4th the Picquets were overpowered by the French, and obliged to retreat towards the village of Guildermanson, where the 42nd and other corps were stationed; the cavalry of the French pushed their way through the retreating Picquets to the very ranks, some of which fell into our hands, a Trumpeter remained with the Regiment for some time after our arrival in England, and which was given over to the York Rangers for a trumpeter at the formation of that corps.

The —— Light Dragoons were stationed in front of the village to cover the retreat of the Picquets with their two field pieces, and instead of resisting the charge of the



French Cavalry they immediately retreated at a furious rate to the rear of the Village, leaving their guns in possession of the French, who commenced dragging them off.

An A.D.C. (Major Rose) came and ordered the Commanding officer (Major Dalrymple) of the 42nd to advance and retake the Guns of the — Light Dragoons, which was immediately complied with, with the loss of 1 man killed and 3 wounded.

The Guns were dragged in by the Regiment, as the harness had been cut and the horses disabled by the French; there was no notice taken of this affair at the time, as all was bustle and confusion.

A farther retreat took place on the 5th to Beauharen, where the Prince of Orange had a Palace, which the 27th, 28th, and 42nd Regiments occupied for the 6th and 7th. On the 8th January 1795 commenced a retreat across the Rhine, and continued till early in April, when the British Army embarked at Bremelie (Bremen), in Hanover, for England, and landed at Harwich.

Much had been said and conjectured about the conduct of the — Light Dragoons on the 4th January 1795, and altho' it was rumoured that some distinctive mark was to be awarded to the 42nd Regiment, but it never was thought that the transfer of the Red Feather from the — Dragoons was to be the distinctive mark conferred. The — Light Dragoons were substituted with a white feather and yellow top.

On the 4th June 1795, when quartered at Rayston, near Cambridge, after firing three rounds in honour of H.M. George the IIIrd birthday, a Box containing the Feathers arrived on the Common, which were distributed to the officers and men, the Commanding officer giving a speech, the subject of which was, that the honour of wearing the Red Feather was conferred on the 42nd for their gallant conduct on the 4th January 1795.

The officers and men placed the Feathers in their Bonnets and marched into Raystone, and in the evening were paid the arrears due for 18 months, with a caution to keep close to their Billits and be regular. It will not be long till there will be but few who can give any account of How, Where, or When the transfer took place, but I dare say there are individuals still at Raystone who remembered sharing in the washing of the Red Feather of the Forty-Twa.

(Signed)      RONALD CAMERON,  
*Late of the 42nd Regiment.*

RAISING THE 2ND BATTALION 42ND  
ROYAL HIGHLANDERS.

NOW 2ND BATTALION THE BLACK WATCH.

THE following Government announcement appeared in 'The Scots Magazine,' August 1779.

"Forty-second, or, Royal Highland Regiment,—To all North-Britons in general, but chiefly to you, O ye Highlanders! is this advertisement addressed.—You who, uncorrupted by the universal depravity of your southern countrymen, have withstood, immoveable as a rock, all the assaults of surrounding Luxury and Dissipation: You who, while others, effeminated by voluptuous refinements, and irrevocably lost to honour, lolling in the arms of Pleasure, can see the danger of their country with criminal indifference; or, slaves of a traiterous and rebellious faction can behold BRITANNIA insulted by her inveterate foes, the French and Spaniards, and yet dare even to dispute whether she ought to be assisted! You, O ye hardy race! Ye Highlanders! who have yet arms unenervated by luxury capable to defend your King and Country! to you BRITANNIA addresses herself! She invokes your aid! She calls upon you to exert that well-known military ardour which has long distinguished you from all the nations of the earth, and has ever rendered you the admiration and terror of your enemies! She points to the field of Honour! She directs you to your Own Regiment, the XLIIId, or, Royal

Highlanders, commanded by the Rt. Hon. General Lord John Murray, of which a Second Battalion is now raising. And though she scorns to allure the brave by any other motives than the love of glory and of their country, every gentleman-volunteer, who is willing and able to serve his Majesty in this honourable and uncontaminated corps, shall receive FIVE GUINEAS reward, and ONE GUINEA extraordinary if he inlists before the 24th of September, by repairing to the drum head, or applying, &c.—

“*N.B.*—The officer will not part with a good recruit, notwithstanding the terms above offered, for the difference of a few guineas, as it is only young fellows of spirit he wishes to inlist.”



FAREWELL ADDRESS  
OF  
GENERAL SIR COLIN CAMPBELL, G.C.B.,  
TO  
THE HIGHLAND BRIGADE.

SOLDIERS of the 42nd, 79th, and 93rd, old Highland Brigade, with whom I passed the early and perilous part of this war, I have now to take leave of you. In a few hours I shall be on board ship, never to see you again as a boy. A long farewell! I am now old and shall not be called to serve any more, and nothing will remain to me but the memory of my campaigns, and of the enduring, hardy, and generous soldiers with whom I have been associated, whose name and glory will long be kept alive in the hearts of our countrymen. When you go home, as you gradually fulfil your term of service, each to his family and his cottage, you will tell the story of your immortal advance in that victorious *échelon* up the heights of Alma, and of the old brigadier who led you and loved you so well. Your children and your children's children will repeat the tale to other generations when only a few lines of history will remain to record the discipline and enthusiasm which have borne you so stoutly to the end of this war. Our native land will never forget the name of the Highland Brigade, and in some future war that nation will call for another one to equal this, which it can never surpass.

Though I should be gone, the thought of you will go with me wherever I may be, and cheer my old age with a glorious recollection of dangers affronted and hardships endured. A pipe will never sound near me without carrying me back to those bright days when I was at your head and wore the Bonnet<sup>1</sup> you gained for me, and the honourable decorations on my breast, many of which I owe to your conduct. Brave soldiers, kind comrades, farewell!

CRIMEA, CAMP, KAMARA, *9th May* 1856.

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<sup>1</sup> After the battle at the Alma, Lord Raglan rode up and highly complimented Sir Colin and his Brigade. The old Brigadier said he had a favour to ask his Lordship which he hoped he would not refuse: to wear a bonnet with his Brigade while he had the honour to command it. The request was at once granted, and the making up of the bonnet was entrusted secretly to Lieutenant and Adjutant Drysdale, of the 42nd. There was a difficulty next morning as to the description of heckle to combine the three regiments of the Brigade. It was at last decided to have one-third of it red to represent the 42nd, and the remaining two-thirds white at the bottom for the 79th and 93rd. Not more than half a dozen knew about the preparation of the bonnet, and these were confined to the 42nd. A Brigade parade was ordered on the morning of 22nd September on the field of Alma, as the General was desirous of thanking them for their conduct on the 20th. The square was formed in readiness for his arrival, and he rode into it with the bonnet on. No order or signal was given for it, but he was greeted with such a succession of cheers again and again, that both the French and English were startled into a perfect state of wonder as to what had taken place. Such is the history of the Bonnet.

INSCRIPTION ON THE REGIMENTAL MONUMENT  
IN DUNKELD CATHEDRAL.

(UNVEILED ON THE 2ND APRIL 1872.)

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In Memory of  
THE OFFICERS, NON-COMMISSIONED OFFICERS,  
AND  
PRIVATE SOLDIERS  
OF THE  
42ND ROYAL HIGHLANDERS, THE BLACK WATCH,  
WHO FELL IN WAR,  
FROM  
CREATION OF THE REGIMENT  
TO  
THE CLOSE OF THE INDIAN MUTINY,  
1859.

THE TEN INDEPENDENT COMPANIES OF THE FREICEDAN DUBH,  
OR BLACK WATCH, WERE FORMED INTO A REGIMENT ON  
THE 25TH OCTOBER 1739, AND THE FIRST MUSTER  
TOOK PLACE IN MAY 1740, IN A FIELD BETWEEN  
TAYBRIDGE AND ABERFELDY.

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Here 'mong the hills that nursed each hardy Gael,  
Our votive marble tells the soldiers' tale ;  
Art's magic power each perished friend recalls,  
And heroes haunt these old cathedral walls.

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ERECTED BY THE OFFICERS OF THE CORPS.  
1872.

INSCRIPTION ON THE MANGALORE MONUMENT  
(NOW IN BOMBAY CATHEDRAL).

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THE HON'BLE EAST INDIA COMPANY  
 Dedicate this Memorial of  
 BRITISH JUSTICE  
 TO THE MERITS AND SERVICE OF  
 LIEUTENANT-COLONEL JOHN CAMPBELL,  
 WHO IN THE CRISIS OF  
 THE GENERAL WAR IN INDIA,  
 MDCCLXXXIV.,  
 DEFENDED  
 M A N G A L O R E,  
 DURING A SIEGE OF EIGHT MONTHS, AGAINST THE  
 UNITED ARMS OF  
 MYSORE AND FRANCE,  
 AND AFTER EXTORTING FROM THE INEXORABLE SULTAUN  
 AN INVOLUNTARY EULOGY, WITH HONOURABLE TERMS  
 FOR HIS SMALL BUT BRAVE GARRISON, SUNK,  
 AT THE AGE OF THIRTY-THREE, UNDER  
 THE HARDSHIPS EXPERIENCED IN THE DISCHARGE OF  
 HIS DUTY TO  
 HIS KING AND COUNTRY.



## THE BLACK WATCH ASSOCIATIONS.

IN 1901 an Association was formed in Edinburgh, partly with the idea of giving to all who had left The Black Watch a means of keeping in touch with the regiment, but chiefly with the intention of forming an association that might assist members to find employment on leaving the regiment, and give help to any member who, through old age or lack of work, found himself in temporary difficulties.

Similar associations have been formed both in Glasgow and, more recently, in Fife.

About a hundred officers, past and present, of the regular Battalions have joined these associations, and annual subscriptions are sent from both officers' and sergeants' messes to support the funds.

Every year an increasing amount of work is done and more help given to old soldiers of the regiment, their wives or their widows; and every autumn an annual dinner is held in Edinburgh, where many past and present officers, non-commissioned officers, and men of the regiment meet.

## BIBLIOGRAPHY.

THE following list of books dealing directly with the history of the regiment is added, partly because it may be of some general interest, but mainly in the hope that any one who knows of other old books giving information of the regiment will kindly write to the Adjutant, The Regimental Depot, Perth, stating the name of the work and where it may be obtained :—

- The Regimental Records of the 1st and 2nd Battalions The Black Watch.  
 The Regimental Records of the Perthshire Militia, now the 3rd Battalion The Black Watch.  
 Cannon's Official History of the 42nd, 1729-1844.  
 Cannon's Official History of the 73rd, 1779-1850.  
 The Annual Register.  
 Sketches of the Highlanders. General Stewart.  
 A History of the Highland Clans and Regiments. Keltie.  
 Records and Badges of the British Army. Chichester.  
 Standards and Colours of the Army. Milne.  
 War Medals of the British Army. Carter and Long.  
 The Black Watch. Andrew Picken.  
 Reminiscences of a Campaign. John Malcolm, 42nd.  
 Retrospect of a Military Life. Q.M.S. Anton, 42nd.  
 Fontenoy, The Campaign of. Skrine.  
 Mangalore, The Siege of. By an Officer Present.  
 Recollections of a Military Life. Sergeant Morris, 73rd.  
 Military Reminiscences (Polygar Campaigns). Colonel Welsh.  
 History of the 42nd, The Black Watch. Groves.  
 History of the Black Watch. Forbes.  
 Five Years in Kaffirland (Second War). Mrs Ward.  
 Campaigning in Kaffirland.  
 The 5th Regiment Royal Scots of Canada. Captain Chambers.  
 History of the British Army. J. W. Fortescue.  
 A Military History of Perthshire. Lady Tullibardine.  
 Memoirs of Sergeant Donald Macleod, late 42nd.  
 Reminiscences of a Veteran. Alexander Robb, late 42nd.



PART II.

THE 2ND BATTALION IN  
SOUTH AFRICA





## CHAPTER I.

FROM THE BEGINNING OF THE WAR TO THE HALT AT  
BLOEMFONTEIN, MARCH 1900.

THE long negotiations with the Presidents of the Transvaal and the Orange Free State having ended in a declaration of war, the British Government was compelled to organise an army corps of some 47,000 troops to reinforce the weak British garrison in South Africa. 1899  
October

A force of 10,000 had been sent in September, mainly from India and the Mediterranean, but it was not till the 7th of October that the reserves of the home army were called out, when three infantry divisions and one cavalry division were mobilised.

Of this force the 2nd Battalion of The Black Watch formed part of the Highland Brigade, commanded by Major-General Wauchope.

The Reserves answered the call almost to a man, and the mobilisation was carried out as smoothly as it was rapidly. Of the 1011 officers and men who embarked for South Africa, 581 were serving with the Battalion, and 430 belonged to the first class army reserve, all of whom had served previously with the regiment.

On the 22nd of October the Battalion entrained at Aldershot for Tilbury Dock, where it embarked on

1899  
October

the transport *Orient*, though a slight accident to the screw, followed by a thick fog, delayed the departure for thirty-six hours.

The following were the officers of the battalion :—

*Officer Commanding*—Lieut.-Colonel Coode.

*Second in Command*—Major Duff.

*Adjutant*—Captain MacFarlan.

*Quartermaster*—Lieutenant Studley.

*Medical Officer (Attached)*—Lieutenant Douglas, R.A.M.C.

"A" *Company*.—Captain Eykyn ; Lieutenant Wauchope ;  
2nd Lieutenant Nunneley.

"B" *Company*.—Captain Stewart ; 2nd Lieutenant Ramsay ;  
2nd Lieutenant Bulloch.

"C" *Company*.—Captain Cumming Bruce ; Lieutenant  
Edmonds ; 2nd Lieutenant West.

"D" *Company*.—Major Cuthbertson ; Lieutenant Harvey ;  
Lieutenant St John Harvey.

"E" *Company*.—Captain Elton ; Lieutenant Berthon ; 2nd  
Lieutenant Gordon.

"F" *Company*.—Major Berkeley ; Lieutenant Hamilton ;  
Lieutenant Drummond.

"G" *Company*.—Major Maxwell ; 2nd Lieutenant Grant ;  
2nd Lieutenant Ruthven.

"H" *Company*.—Lieutenant Cameron ; Lieutenant Tait ;  
2nd Lieutenant Innes.

The transport *Orient*, with the 2nd Battalion and half a battalion of mounted infantry on board, left Tilbury on the 24th of October, and stayed a few hours to coal at St Vincent, where a cablegram gave news of the battle outside Ladysmith on the 30th of October. This served to increase the eagerness to reach South Africa ; for even then the majority feared that the Boers might submit before the Battalion landed.

1899  
November

After an uneventful voyage, the Battalion disembarked at Cape Town on the 14th of November and

proceeded the same evening in two trains to De Aar. Thence the Battalion moved to Naauwpoort, which was threatened by a Boer commando, and remained there for some days, being employed in building earthworks, and making a reconnaissance towards Colesberg, where the Boers were in force. From Naauwpoort the Battalion returned to De Aar, and after a few days' halt at Orange River Station, the right half Battalion proceeded by train to Modder River, where they were shortly joined by the left half who had marched parallel to the railway from Orange River Station.

1899  
November

At De Aar an order was issued that all claymores were to be sharpened and the scabbards coated with khaki paint. At Naauwpoort, however, claymores were ordered to be left behind, and officers carried service rifles instead: sporrans were also discarded, and khaki aprons were worn over the kilt in front.

Here the concentration of the Highland Brigade took place under Major-General Wauchope, with Major Ewart as Brigade-Major, and Captain Rennie and Lieutenant Wauchope as A.D.C. and galloper respectively.

1899  
December

The Highland, or 3rd, Brigade was composed of—

2nd Battalion The Black Watch.

1st Battalion The Highland Light Infantry.

2nd Battalion Seaforth Highlanders.

1st Battalion Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders.

The Guards Brigade and Highland Brigade formed part of the 1st Division under Lord Methuen.

After a halt of four days, required to complete the mobilisation of the troops and their transport, at 2 P.M. on the 10th of December the Brigade moved from



1899  
December Modder River Camp, the Battalion leading the Brigade. On nearing the enemy's position at Magersfontein, the artillery kept up a heavy but ineffective fire on the kopje, and the Battalion advanced in attack formation, the leading companies being ordered to carry the spur of Magersfontein kopje that runs towards the Modder. This movement, however, was counter-ordered by Lord Methuen, the shelling of the kopje ceased, and the Brigade was withdrawn two miles to the bivouac, which was reached after sunset.

On the night of the 10th orders were issued for a night march, to be followed by a deployment and assault of Magersfontein kopje. The point of attack was the east point of the main ridge. The Black Watch was posted on the right, Seaforth Highlanders in the centre, the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders on the left, with the Highland Light Infantry in reserve. The assault apparently was not to take place before the position had been shelled.

The Brigade moved off in the above order at 12.30 A.M. in mass of quarter column, led by Captain Benson, R.A., who had previously reconnoitred the position, and fixed the compass bearing for the direction of the march.

Not only was there no moon, but until half-past two the night was rendered doubly dark by a mass of black cloud that rolled up from the west, and burst into a thunderstorm over the Brigade. The searchlight from Kimberley, the ultimate goal of Lord Methuen's force, flashed out from time to time, its glare showing up strangely against the incessant lightning.

Although it appears level enough in daylight, the

1899  
December

veldt near Magersfontein is not only somewhat uneven but is crossed by occasional belts of low scrub, and notwithstanding that the left guide of each company carried a rope knotted every ten yards, men were constantly stumbling and falling in the intense darkness. Partly owing to this, and even more to the fact that the magnetic compasses were deranged, either by the thunderstorm or by the ironstone in the rock, the advance was seriously delayed. The men, however, made every effort to respond to the General's repeated orders urging the column forward, but it was nearly half-past three before the Brigade reached the point of deployment, an hour behind their time.

Already the outline of the kopje could be discerned some 700 yards distant to the right front of the Brigade, which was thus evidently west of the intended line, and there remained no time to extend under cover of darkness.

Fresh orders were therefore issued. The leading Battalions were ordered to deploy to the right instead of to the left, while "A," the leading company of The Black Watch, moved forward, extended to five paces interval, with "B" Company in support.

"A" Company had advanced some 200 yards, when a tremendous fire broke out from some trenches 150 yards in front of the kopje, and from bushes to the right as well as from the hillside itself.

"B" and half "C" Companies fixed bayonets and doubled up into line with "A," and at once opened fire. The General sent back an order to bring up reinforcements on the right of "A" Company: this order was given to Colonel Coode, commanding the Battalion, who was unfortunately hit shortly after-

1899  
December wards, and General Wauchope himself was killed about the same time. Consequently the Brigade was left without any further orders. Some officers thought the position would be charged in column, and ordered bayonets to be fixed, but the majority considered that the original plan of deploying for attack would be adhered to. As no definite orders



Rough Plan of Magersfontein  
Scale: About 2" to a mile.

A. P. W.

were given, no coherent action took place. "A," "B," and half "C" Companies pushed a little forward and held their ground till nightfall, losing half their numbers in fifteen hours' fighting. Meanwhile the remainder of "C" and "D" Companies, in accordance with the order which had been passed along to them, moved up on the right and gained ground immediately below the kopje. The remaining com-

panies deployed farther to the right, and, as it was still only light enough to see a man at fifty yards, the men of different companies mingled together and the left half Battalion became mixed with the Seaforths: a few also pushed forward straight to their front and joined "B" Company.

The Battalion was thus deployed to the right, and, under the steady fire of the Boers, an organisation of any general forward movement became impossible.

A few hastily collected parties, however, advanced up the slopes of the kopje, and were either all shot down or compelled to withdraw. One of these parties, led by Captain MacFarlan, charged half-way up the kopje, but was forced back with heavy loss, partly from our own artillery fire. Some of The Black Watch and some Seaforths, under Lieutenant Wilson, reached a point farther to the right on the kopje, but were also forced to withdraw, a number being captured.

At 7 A.M. part of the centre of the Battalion were forced to retire away from the kopje, as they suffered heavily from our own artillery fire.

At 10 A.M. the enfilade fire from the bushes on the right became increasingly heavy. Many men had been shot down, and it was no longer possible to pass ammunition along the line. Slowly the Highlanders on the right were forced to withdraw, but the fighting was very obstinate, each side alternately gaining and losing ground.

About 1 P.M. Colonel Hughes-Hallett, commanding the Seaforths, now the senior surviving officer, gave the order to the troops on the right to retire, so as to be better able to meet the Boer turning movement

1899  
December



1899  
December

directed against the right flank of the Brigade. The order, however, was passed along the Seafortths to the whole of the line held by the centre of the Brigade. Naturally heavy losses were incurred during this retirement, which would have been avoided had Lord Methuen's order to hold on till nightfall reached the troops. As it was, the centre of the line withdrew out of effective rifle range.

At 3.30 P.M. the Boer Artillery opened fire, and the Brigade was withdrawn two miles to the place of bivouac. The Battalion was eventually joined after dark by the survivors of "A," "B," and half "C" Companies, and also by a party from the extreme right under Lieutenant Ruthven, who, having gained touch with the left of the Guards Brigade, was the only officer in the Battalion who received the order to hold on till nightfall.

On the 12th the whole force stood to arms at 3.30 A.M., and then marched back to Modder River Camp, under fire from the Boer guns.

The Battalion went into action 25 officers and 918 men strong, and lost 93 killed and 209 wounded during the fight. The following officers were killed:—

Lieut.-Colonel J. H. C. Coode; Captain the Hon. J. F. Cumming Bruce; Captain and Adjutant W. MacFarlan; Captain E. G. Elton; Lieutenants H. C. W. Berthon, N. G. Edmonds, N. N. Ramsay.

The following were wounded:—

Majors A. G. Duff, T. M. Berkeley, N. W. Cuthbertson; Captain A. R. Cameron; Lieutenants F. G. Tait, J. Harvey, W. St John Harvey, A. G. Wauchope, the Hon. M. C. A. Drummond, R. A. Bulloch, H. E. Douglas, R.A.M.C.

There were also 42 men taken prisoners, some of whom were wounded; some were bandsmen who acted as stretcher-bearers, and others were among the survivors of those who made the brave but ineffectual rushes up the kopje in the early morning.

1899  
December

Some months later the regiment received a tribute worth recording.

A Landrost, who fought at Magersfontein as Commandant of those Boers opposite whom the regiment had deployed at dawn, came into possession of a revolver and some equipment marked "Wauchope."

Thinking these to have been the property of General Wauchope, he sent them to his widow in Scotland, stating in a letter that he was impelled to do so because of his admiration for the conduct of The Black Watch, which he had witnessed throughout the day, and by his deep regret at hearing of the death of the General who had led the regiment so gallantly into action.

It is as needless to emphasise the loss suffered by the Highland Brigade by the death of its commander as it is to select any point in his character or career for praise. He devoted his life as he had spent it to the good of his troops, and all who served under him knew what was lost by his death.

On the 16th and 17th of January reconnaissances were carried out against the Boer position at Magersfontein.

1900  
January

Lieut.-Colonel Carthew Yorstoun from the 1st Battalion took over command from Major Maxwell. Captain Hamilton acted as Adjutant until Captain Cameron rejoined at Bloemfontein, and on the 26th Colonel Hector Macdonald took over the command of the Highland Brigade.

1900  
February

On the 3rd of February two squadrons 9th Lancers, one battery Royal Field Artillery, and the Highland Brigade moved eight miles out of camp, and on the following day marched another seventeen miles along a sandy track to Koedoesberg, on the left bank of the Riet River.

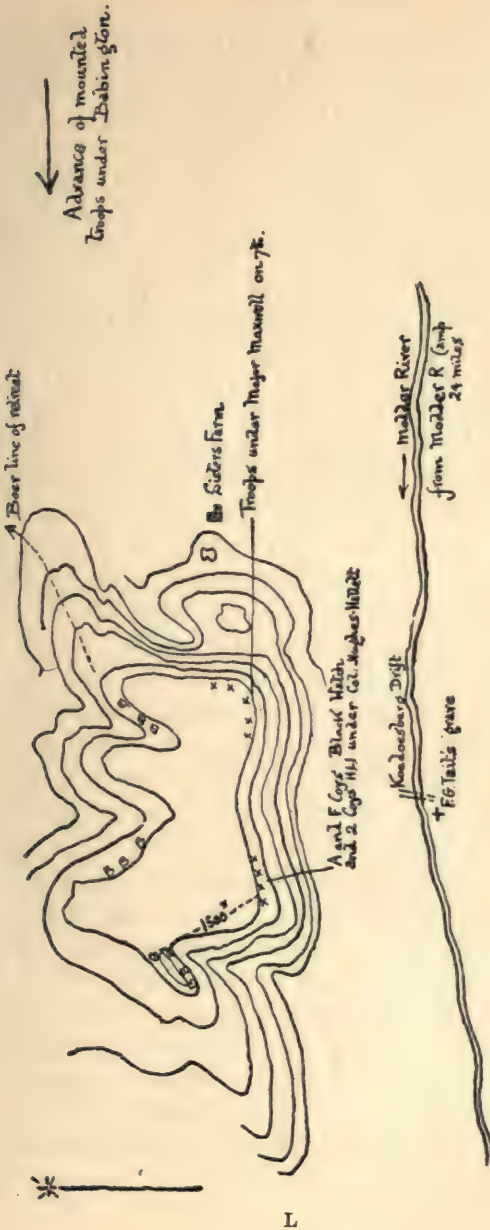
This march was made under a blazing sun, without a single halt; men sank ankle-deep in the soft sand, and as there had been but little marching and very heavy outpost-duty in Modder River Camp, all ranks found this one of the most trying marches of the campaign.

On the 5th the Battalion crossed to the right bank of the Riet and attacked the Boers, who had retired from Koedoesberg Drift and occupied a strong position on some hills in rear. The attack was renewed on the 6th, and the hills finally cleared on the 7th. A cavalry brigade arrived from Modder River, but too late to intercept the retreat of the Boers, who rode off during the night.

The Battalion lost Captain Eykyn, Lieutenant Tait, and two men killed and seven wounded. On the 9th the force returned to Modder River Camp.

The Highland Brigade, which now formed part of the IXth Division under General Colville, was inspected on the 11th of February by Lord Roberts, who made them a most complimentary speech.

On the 12th the Brigade moved by rail to Enslin, crossed the frontier of the Orange Free State on the 13th, and after five hard marches, averaging sixteen miles each, reached Paardeberg. During this march only 25 men fell out and 51 were admitted to hospital. The Battalion began this last march to Paardeberg at 5 P.M. on the 17th, and reached their



ACTION AT KOEDOESBERG

B. Boers  
G. Boer Gen.

A. J. W.



1900  
February

bivouac on the left bank of the Modder River at midnight, from which, on the morning of the 18th, the Boer camp on the right bank was plainly visible.

At 5.30 A.M., when the men were at breakfast, the Brigade fell in facing the Modder, and moved off to the right in file from their bivouacs. The Black Watch in the front line, Seafortths and Argylls in the second line, were all extended to five paces, and finally formed up roughly parallel to the Modder, opposite to the point held by the Boers. The position chosen by Cronje was well provided with cover both by the bushes and the deep-cut banks; the river had risen on the 17th, and was fordable only in few places, though the water was some fifteen feet below the level of the plain. The Boers held both sides of the Modder, and the 1500 yards between the Brigade and their objective offered not a vestige of cover.

At 6 A.M. the Brigade advanced and was met by a heavy fire, the second line moved up into the first, and the three Battalions became merged into one long line and responded with independent firing, though not a Boer was to be seen. "A," "B," half "C" Companies, followed by "G" Company of The Black Watch and one company of the Seafortths, being next the river, reached the near bank about seven o'clock without great difficulty. Piper Cameron of the regiment volunteered to search for a ford, and was the first man to cross; the remainder linked arms in parties of ten, and, hanging their ammunition pouches round their necks, plunged in, and reached the farther bank in safety.

Once over they formed line, and, wheeling to

1900  
February

their right, gained a position farther up the river on the north bank. Here they encountered a heavy fire from Boers concealed in a donga running at right angles to the river, but their advance against this position was checked by the brigade-major, who ordered them to halt, as they were masking the fire from the left bank.

In the meantime the advance of the remaining companies and the rest of the Highland Brigade on the left bank had come to a standstill. Colonel



BATTLE OF PAARDEBERG  
 Scale: About 1 1/2 miles to 1"

Yorstoun had intended to hold back his right and sweep the south bank with his left; but as the three companies on the left had gained the far bank, a gap was made in the line, and the Boers, who occupied both banks, began to move down the river, directing a heavy cross fire on our troops. To meet this attack the companies on the left bank advanced by rushes to within 500 yards of the Modder, which "E" Company eventually gained, driving the Boers out of their entrenchments and across the river. This was achieved between nine o'clock and mid-day,

1900  
February

and from then till dark the Battalion maintained this advanced position.

About seven in the evening an order to retire on the morning's bivouac was received and carried out by the troops on the left bank. The order, however, did not reach "B" Company, under Captain Stewart, on the right bank; that company therefore remained on the right of the 19th Brigade, where hasty entrenchments were thrown up, and the position held all night.

At dawn on the 19th this party occupied the donga, which the Boers had evacuated during the night; but about ten o'clock they received orders to cross the river and rejoin the Highland Brigade. This they did in a somewhat exhausted state, having had nothing to eat since their interrupted breakfast at five o'clock on the morning of the 16th.

The Battalion went into action 13 officers and 640 non-commissioned officers and men strong. Lieutenant J. G. Grieve and 17 men were killed; Lieut.-Colonel A. M. Carthew Yorstoun, Major the Hon. H. E. Maxwell, Major T. M. Berkeley, Captain J. G. Hamilton, Lieutenant G. H. Goddard, R.A.M.C., and 73 non-commissioned officers and men were wounded.

The following day Major Cuthbertson took over the command. Captain Hamilton, who had been wounded slightly in two places, refused to go sick, but was unable to ride, so Lieutenant J. Harvey took over the duties of adjutant, and there remained only five company officers fit for duty. These, however, were joined in a few days by Captain MacRae, who had brought out the men attached to the Cameron

Highlanders, and by Lieutenants Laverton and Evans from home. 1900  
February

From the 19th to the 23rd the Battalion formed part of the cordon of troops surrounding Cronje's laager, and on the 23rd moved so as to guard the rear of the British lines, which were now threatened by the advance from the south of a separate force under De Wet. There was, however, no serious engagement, and Cronje surrendered with his whole force, amounting to 4100 Boers, on the 27th of February, the anniversary of Majuba.

On the 1st of March three-quarter in place of half rations were issued, and the Battalion moved to a new camp higher up the Modder. On the 3rd the river was crossed, and on the 4th the Battalion reached the Brigade camp at Wolver Krantz, and joined the main army advancing on Bloemfontein. The whole force was placed on half rations from the 5th to the 7th. March

On the 7th the Battalion was present at the action of Poplar Grove. The Highland Brigade, having their right on the south bank of the Modder, moved at 4.30 A.M., searching the scrub as they slowly advanced. "A," "B," and "C" Companies, under Captain Rennie, crossed the river and moved up the left bank, where they came under desultory fire, but suffered no loss. About two in the afternoon the Boers, who were led by Kruger and Steyn, were forced to evacuate their position owing to a wide turning movement of the cavalry on the right, and shortly afterwards, when the leading companies of the Battalion reached the trenches, they found that the Boers had retreated in such haste as to leave their dinners cooking in the deserted camp.



1900  
March

A memorable scene was now visible from the captured position. Three or four miles to the front were long lines of Boer waggons trekking towards Bloemfontein,—on the left were the VIth Division, and beyond them the 19th Brigade and Mounted Infantry, while far to the right stretched the VIIth Division with the cavalry, under General French. Narrow as the distance was that separated the two opposing forces, it was enough to prevent anything decisive from being achieved, and each side continued to press on their eastward march.

On the 8th of March the Highland Brigade re-crossed to the left bank of the Modder, and two days later was present at the action of Driefontein. Continuing the march without a pause, the Battalion on the 15th entered Bloemfontein, where it halted until the 30th of March, very badly off as regards shoes and clothing.

On the 16th Lord Roberts sent for Major Cuthbertson, who had been in command since leaving Paardeberg, and highly praised the Battalion and its services.

The regiment had now not only fought in two of the principal battles of the campaign, but the wastage of war had caused a loss of 500 men,—exactly one-half of the number that had embarked at Tilbury five months previously.

All ranks, therefore, welcomed a fortnight's halt in Bloemfontein, and although the rains soon turned the camping-ground into a swamp, the Highland Brigade had less sickness than any other troops in the garrison.

Before the end of the month Major Livingston

joined from the depot, and Major Willshire, from the 1st Battalion, was appointed second in command, *vice* Major Duff wounded and invalided home. Captain Cameron returned from hospital and was appointed adjutant. Captain Sir E. Stewart Richardson, of the 3rd Battalion, Lieutenant Lord George Stewart Murray, of the 1st Battalion, and Captain Bald, also joined the Battalion at Bloemfontein.

1900  
March

## CHAPTER II.

FROM MARCH 1900 UNTIL SEPTEMBER 1901, WHEN  
THE BATTALION LEFT LADYBRAND.

1900  
March

ALTHOUGH great numbers of Boers surrendered at this time, it became necessary towards the end of March to send a column against a force under De Wet operating in the direction of the Waterworks.

At 5.30 A.M., on the 31st of March, the Highland Brigade moved out of Bloemfontein only 1500 strong, as the Highland Light Infantry had not yet rejoined, and halted about mid-day for an hour at Bushmans Kop, where rumours of the disaster at Sanna's Post reached it. The Brigade then marched on Watervaal Drift with the intention of intercepting the Boers now retiring on Winberg, and at 4 P.M. extended for attack against the enemy, who were holding the bed of the Modder River. These, however, soon withdrew, and the force crossed and bivouacked after a march of twenty-five miles, having spent eighteen hours without a meal. By three easy marches the Brigade returned to Bloemfontein on the 16th of April, and remained there till the 23rd.

April

The Battalion had entered Bloemfontein only 490 strong, but was now reinforced by the arrival of 404 men in a draft consisting of men belonging to

LVERHOEK

STANDERTON ○

*River Vaal*

○ Villiersdorp

○ Frankfort

HEILBRON

1 July

2 July

3 July

29 May

15 Aug.

4 July

5 July

Lindley

26 May

○ Reitz

6 July

7 July

10 Aug.

8 July

BETHLEHEM

9 July

8 Aug.

6 Aug.

HARRISMITH

○ 4 Aug.

22 July

24 July

23 July

29 July

Witzies Hoek

○

Miles.

30

40

50

C.B.H.  
1907









Section D and the Militia Reserve, besides the 1st Volunteer Company under Captain Miller and Lieutenants Valentine and Smith. The Volunteer company acted as the ninth company, and became officially known as "K" Company in the Battalion.

1900  
April

The Highland Brigade under General MacDonald, with a few guns and details, now formed the IXth Division under General Colville.

On the 24th of April the Highland Brigade marched out of Bloemfontein, the Highland Light Infantry re-joining the Brigade on the road to Winburg. Considerable opposition was met with on the way, especially on the 4th of May at Bavian's Berg, where the Battalion when leading the column on the march deployed, and carried the ridge held by the enemy in half an hour, with a loss of only three men wounded.

This rapid deployment and advance without a pause up the steep face of the Berg so dismayed the Boers that the reserves in the rear, instead of reinforcing their advanced parties, joined with them in a hasty retreat.

After this action General Colville, commanding the force, expressed himself as highly pleased with the conduct of the Battalion; and General Roberts in his Official Despatch said, "The Black Watch distinguished themselves, and were very well led."

The Brigade reached Winburg on the 6th of May, and remained there for ten days. On the 8th "E" Company was sent out on detachment, and did not rejoin the Battalion till October. On the 17th the Battalion paraded with the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders at 9 P.M., under General MacDonald, and reached Zand River, a distance of eighteen miles, at 5 A.M. on the 18th. At 9 A.M. the march was con-

May



1900  
May

tinued to Ventersberg, sixteen miles distant, which was reached at 3 P.M.: the Battalion thus covered thirty-four miles in eighteen hours, and displayed throughout an admirable spirit and discipline.

Here the force halted till the 23rd. Colonial felt slouch hats were now taken into wear, and generally approved of, though hardly sufficiently thick to keep off the heat of the sun in hot weather.

On the 23rd of May General MacDonald's force marched from Ventersberg to Roode Krall, where they joined the rest of the IXth Division under General Colville. A draft of 120 Militia reservists and young soldiers joined here: though equal in zeal, they were not of such good physique as were the men of the first draft.

On the 24th the Battalion marched as rear-guard 17½ miles to Blauw Kop, and on the following day marched the same distance to Spitz Kop. On the 26th, when the Battalion formed the advance-guard, rather a heavy fire was opened from Bloemberg, a long ridge that barred the road to Lindley, killing many of the advanced party of the Eastern Provincial Horse, 80 of whom accompanied the Brigade. From 8.30 A.M. to 12 noon the Battalion held the Boers in position till they suddenly retired, owing to a turning movement of the Seafortths and Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders.

The Battalion lost 10 men, one of whom was wounded at a range of 2500 yards. That night the force bivouacked a mile beyond Lindley, and all through the following day's march the Battalion acted as rear-guard, and was constantly engaged with the enemy until the Rhenoster River was reached about eight o'clock that evening.

On the 28th, being opposed by both rifle and artillery fire in a naturally difficult country, and one that lent itself to the peculiar tactics of the Boers, the force only covered three miles; but on the 29th, although again constantly engaged, the column marched the twenty-two miles to Heilbron, where were found many of the enemy who had been wounded in the previous four days' fighting.

1900  
May

Here a halt was made until the 8th of June: the daily ration now consisted of  $1\frac{1}{4}$  lb. of meat,  $\frac{1}{4}$  lb. of flour, and  $\frac{1}{4}$  lb. of biscuit, without either sugar or jam.

June

One hundred of Lovat's Scouts joined the force at Heilbron: their officers were attached to The Black Watch in the army list, but the unit remained independent, and proved itself to be of the utmost value.

On the 9th the force marched with Lord Methuen's column from Heilbron to the railway, having a slight engagement at Honing Spruit; but on the 18th of June returned, *via* the Rhenoster River, to Heilbron, where they remained until the 26th. The Battalion mustered 722 men fit for duty out of a total of 738—"E" Company still being on detachment.

After moving on Paarde Krall and returning to Heilbron, the Highland Brigade, less the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, with two batteries and some mounted troops, marched to Bethlehem, which was reached on the 9th of July, as much as twenty degrees of frost being registered at night. Here a halt was made till the 22nd, when the Highland Brigade advanced towards Retief's Nek, which forms the entrance from the north into the Brandwater Basin. This basin, which is enclosed by the Caledon River and the Wittebergen hills, through which there

1900  
June

are only five passes, was at this time occupied by 8000 Boers. Realising that they were about to be surrounded, Steyn and De Wet escaped with 2000 Free Staters on the 22nd through Slabberts Nek, the north-western pass. On the next day the Battalion was detailed as left flank guard, and ordered to attempt the capture of a ridge over which a bridle-path led into the Brandwater Basin. By 8 A.M. the Battalion succeeded in occupying a long kopje about 1400 yards from the main ridge held by the Boers, and remained on this position throughout the day.

July

At 5 P.M. three companies were left posted on the kopje to keep down the enemy's fire from the front and from both flanks. The remaining six companies were formed into two lines, the men being extended at two or three paces interval. The six companies were formed up under cover on the north-west of the kopje, and advanced steadily over the perfectly open ground intervening between them and the Boer position. The three covering companies continued firing sectional volleys until the head of the attack was within 200 yards of the Boer position. The six companies then carried the ridge in fine style, without firing a shot, and opened fire on the Boers scrambling down the precipitous slope to the Brandwater Basin. This was the only advantage gained on the 23rd by any of the British force. Here the Battalion bivouacked, having lost Major Willshire, killed, and Lieutenant Smith and 17 men wounded during the day. This success turned the Boer position at Retief's Nek, and enabled the force to occupy that Nek on the 23rd, and with little further opposition the advance into the Brandwater Basin was successfully carried out.





1900  
June

July





On the 25th the Battalion was shelled for some hours, but only one man was wounded. In the evening the Battalion moved down the bridle-path and bivouacked south of Retief's Nek. On the 25th The Black Watch and Highland Light Infantry joined General Bruce Hamilton's force and marched outside the Wittebergen hills towards Naauwport Nek, the northern entrance to the Brandwater Basin.

1900  
July

On the afternoon of the 26th the Battalion made a frontal attack against a ridge held by the Boers near Bamboes Hoek. Fire was opened on "A" Company at 1000 yards range, "B," "C," and "H" Companies quickly reinforced, and the position was rushed, with the loss of six men wounded. On the next day the Battalion returned to their former bivouac, and on the 28th rejoined General Macdonald near Naauwpoort Nek, which they occupied on the 29th. Prinsloo, having now no means of escape, surrendered with 4313 Boers and great quantities of stock. On the 30th the force moved to Golden Gate, and after four more marches in bitterly cold weather reached Harrismith on the 4th of August, and hoisted the British flag amid great enthusiasm.

1900  
August

The force left Harrismith on the 5th of August for the march to Heilbron. On the 8th much clothing was destroyed in a great veldt fire, and some men were injured by exploding cartridges, when trying to suppress it.

Bethlehem was reached on the 9th, where a draft of 75 Militia reservists from the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders joined the Battalion.

On the 14th five Boer guns opened fire on the column near Witpoort, and an engagement took



1900  
August

place, the Highland Light Infantry losing 40 men. The Battalion did not suffer, being in reserve. On the next day the force entered Heilbron, which had been abandoned to the Boers, and encamped on the same ground as before, remaining there for eight days. On the 25th of August the force marched out, reached Kronstadt on the 29th, and after a march of 140 miles arrived at Tafel Kop on the Vet River on the 12th of September.

At 7 A.M. on the following morning the Battalion moved off as advance-guard, and encountered a force of 700 Boers and three guns on the left bank of the Vet River. The Boers crossed the river and, chiefly owing to our shell fire, left 30 waggons behind. The force bivouacked that night some four miles from the Vet River.

1900  
October

From the 13th of September till the 3rd of October the Battalion was constantly on the march until Kronstadt was reached. There was little or no fighting, but all the farms in the Doornberg were burned. A draft of 126 young soldiers arrived at Spitfontein on the 19th. At Kaalfontein, on the 30th, a flash of lightning killed a corporal of the Highland Light Infantry, attached to the Battalion, and injured some other men. At Kronstadt the Battalion entrained and reached Bloemfontein on the 4th of October. Helmets were now taken into wear, as the sun was becoming too hot for felt hats.

The Battalion was now ordered to march to Ladybrand, as the Boers in that district who had surrendered had risen again. Marching from Bloemfontein on the 5th, Ladybrand was reached on the 13th of October, and the Battalion, together with a squadron of Yeomanry and two guns, R.F.A., formed

the main part of the garrison for the following eleven months.

1900  
October

The district is one of the most fertile in Orange River Colony, and the town had then a considerable English population. The Caledon River runs about five miles from the town, and forms the boundary between the colony and Basutoland,—a



Rough Plan of Ladybrand District  
Scale: About 8 miles to 1".

A.P. W.

boundary the Boers never dared to cross. The road from Bloemfontein to Maseru, the capital of Basutoland, runs just south of Ladybrand, and was kept open by a line of posts. "D," "C," and half of "K" Companies and regimental headquarters were billeted in the town and formed its garrison; the outskirts of the town and the Church Square were fortified

1900  
October

and formed the outer and inner lines of defence. "A" and "B" Companies held a steep hill to the west of the town, called Platberg, from which a line of hills continued to a big kopje at Modderpoort, five miles north of Ladybrand. This was held by "H" Company. Eastwards from this to the Caledon River, the country being flat and open, was sufficiently watched by two mounted posts. A detachment of "H" and "G" Companies under Major Berkeley was posted beyond Coomissie Poort at Zwartlaagte, eighteen miles south-west of Ladybrand, to guard that part of the road to Bloemfontein: this post was also connected with Ladybrand by half "K" Company at Zooiplats, which post also served to keep open the Maseru road. A signal station was established on a spur of the Platberg, which maintained communication with every detached post.

The area thus held by the Battalion was twenty-two miles in length by five miles in depth. The defences were continually strengthened, and the town surrounded by wire entanglements except for four entrances. This was doubtless one reason why the place was never attacked by the Boers, who were constantly encountered in considerable numbers by mounted troops reconnoitring beyond the outposts.

On the 13th of October "E" Company, 66 strong, returned from the Transvaal.

On the 6th of November 80 mounted infantry were raised in the Battalion and left the district under Lieutenant Ruthven. A second detachment, about 30 strong, and subsequently largely increased, was raised in December for local work, and for securing wheat and forage from the farms of the district. In this

work the regimental Mounted Infantry and Yeomanry had several brushes with the enemy. 1900  
October

On the 1st of March the farm of Rondeberg on the Caledon River, about six miles north-east of Ladybrand, was garrisoned, though the owner continued to live there with his family: near this farm, on the 2nd, the mounted troops encountered a party of Boers, one of whom was killed. 1901  
March

On the 3rd of April the 1st Volunteer Service Company left for home. This company had done most excellent work with the Battalion, the conduct of the men had been beyond reproach, and the departure of so useful a body was regretted by all ranks. April

During the spring the regimental Mounted Infantry were, on several occasions, engaged when wheat was being removed from farms at some distance from Ladybrand, and in the performance of this duty were frequently fired on by the Boers, but met with very few losses.

A typical incident occurred at Waverley Mill near Rondeberg on the Caledon. Intelligence was obtained that the Boers intended to seize the large stores of wheat in the mill, as all the supplies on their own farms had already been seized. Six men and a lance-corporal were therefore sent to guard the mill. The manager also slept in the mill, and an intelligence officer was living in a house about a hundred yards distant.

On the night of the 6th of May about 40 Boers suddenly attacked. The double sentry had just time to run in, one man running to the mill, the other to the house of the Intelligence Officer. The Boers attacked both this house and the mill. The May



1901  
May attack on the mill was beaten off, but the Intelligence Officer was shot dead in his house, and the Boers were kept out only by the fire of the single sentry inside.

On the 26th of May a squadron of the second contingent of Imperial Yeomanry arrived in Ladybrand.  
June On the 17th of June this squadron and the regimental Mounted Infantry encountered a party of 30 Boers, killing one and capturing another.

July In July the 2nd Volunteer Company under Captain Christie arrived from home. On their way up from Cape Town they had been stationed at Edenberg, and their place was now taken by "B" Company.

The regimental Mounted Infantry, now numbering about 80 men, were stationed at Modderpoort, and worked under the command of Captain Hamilton. On the 9th of August they captured Mequatling Nek Farm, which was held by 14 Boers, who surrendered after considerable resistance.

August On the 21st of August orders were received that the mounted troops in Ladybrand were to co-operate in a combined movement of several columns under General Elliot by seizing Mequatling Nek. This was successfully carried out by Captain Hamilton before dawn on the 22nd.

It was also decided to make an effort to capture a party of 30 or 40 Boers who had been living in a farm called Evening Star, about fourteen miles north-east of Modderpoort.

This operation was considered safe because General Elliot had been informed of it, and one of his columns was due to arrive at Evening Star on the 22nd.

A party of 65 regimental Mounted Infantry under

1901  
August

Lieutenant West was therefore detailed to attack the farm. This party arrived, as ordered, at dawn on the 22nd, but seeing lights in the farm Lieutenant West deemed a surprise impossible, so he decided to occupy the lower slopes of a steep conical hill rising a little to the north-east of the farm, and counted on being able to hold his own till the arrival of General Elliot's column. It was his reliance on the arrival of this column that determined Lieutenant West to remain where he was and not make an effort to force his way back.

At dawn the Boers, to the number of 150 or 200, opened fire from all sides. This fire they maintained all day, but only one of the defenders was hit, though all suffered severely from thirst. In order to cover their horses the men were posted in detached pickets at the foot of the kopje, only five men holding the top. At 8 P.M., when it became dark, Lieutenant West gave orders to build sangars, and also that a few men at a time might fill their water-bottles from the pool below. Suddenly the Boers, who had approached the kopje under the cover of a belt of trees, opened a heavy fire at close range. Under cover of this fire another party, advancing with equal skill and boldness, engaged the pickets, and passing between them captured the top of the kopje. Fired at from the front and from behind, the pickets surrendered in detail. Our loss was one man killed and five wounded; the Boer loss about the same.

It was not till 10 P.M. that definite news reached Captain Hamilton at Maquatlings Nek that Lieutenant West's party was surrounded by Boers. He

1901  
August

immediately sent to General Broadwood's column requesting that a relieving force should be despatched to Lieutenant West's assistance. This was done, but the force only reached Evening Star Farm after dawn on the 23rd, to find that Lieutenant West had surrendered and the Boers withdrawn, taking away the captured horses and rifles but leaving the men free.

On this affair a Court of Inquiry was subsequently held, whose Opinion, exonerating the officers and men from all blame, was confirmed by the Commander-in-Chief.

September

In September the Northumberland Fusiliers took over the various posts in and around Ladybrand from the Battalion.

The regimental Mounted Infantry, now 170 strong, were ordered to remain under Captain Hamilton, with Lieutenants West and Blair, for local work round Ladybrand. On the 18th, "E" "F" and "G" Companies under Major Maxwell left for Bloemfontein, and on the 25th, headquarters with the remainder of the Battalion also marched out, and received a very hearty send off from both the English and Dutch residents of Ladybrand.

It was now nearly two years since the regiment had left Tilbury, and the natural regret at leaving Ladybrand, which had been held for over eleven months, was intensified when the Battalion was ordered to be broken up into several detachments so as to strengthen various columns operating on the Natal border.

As it was eight months before the regiment was again to be united, an account of regimental head-

quarters under Colonel Yorstoun is first given in the next chapter; this is followed by a short record of each detachment while separated from headquarters, the narrative ending with the embarkation of the Battalion for India. 1901  
September



## CHAPTER III.

REGIMENTAL HEADQUARTERS UNDER COLONEL YOR-  
STOUN, SEPTEMBER 1901 TO MARCH 1902.1901  
September

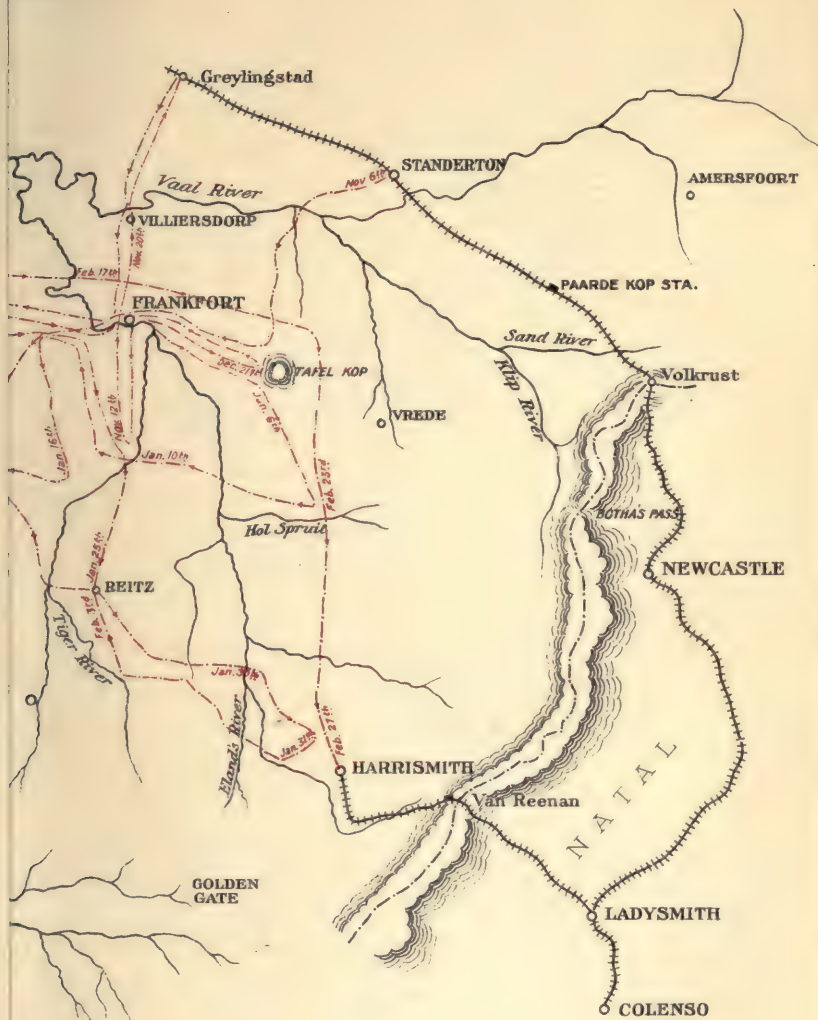
THE war had made but little progress during the eleven months that the Battalion had been quartered in Ladybrand, although at Middleberg an effort had been made to arrange terms of peace, but with September came the spring rains, converting much of the veldt into a natural grazing-ground, and the spirits and determination of the 35,000 Boers remaining in the field were greatly strengthened.

The proclamation of the 7th of August, threatening severe penalties on all who failed to surrender by the 15th of September, had proved a complete failure, and a force of nearly 2000 Boers under Botha had gathered on the Natal and Zululand borders with the evident intention of making a second invasion. To meet this, numbers of British troops were concentrated in these districts, and The Black Watch was ordered to move rapidly to Northern Natal.

The methods of conducting the war had completely changed since the Battalion had been last on trek. Blockhouses were built first in order to protect the railway, against which the Boers had made many successful raids in the beginning of the year. Later

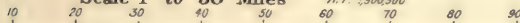
HEWING TREKS OF  
 CK WATCH.  
 903.

o ERMOLO  
 Blaauwkop



Scale 1" to 30 Miles

R.F. 1:300,000



E. M. M.  
 1907.









came the idea of converting the lines of railway or road into barriers, through which the Boers could not pass. 1901  
September

Large tracts of country were thus gradually divided up into well-defined areas, which rendered possible the destruction of all supplies available to the commandos, and also the "driving" or hemming them in against a line of strongly held blockhouses.

The method of carrying out the drives was as follows: the columns were divided into several sections each, marching parallel to each other by day, and at night connected by a continuous line of posts; every officer and man on these posts was on duty each night. The posts usually consisted of six rifles each, and were 100 or 200 yards apart. The infantry were frequently carried on waggons, as the distances covered were great, and the work most arduous both by day and night.

It was after the middle of September, when the Battalion had left Ladybrand, and headquarters with "A," "C," "D," and "H" Companies, under Colonel Yorstoun, arrived in Bloemfontein at the end of the month, when they immediately entrained for Dundee in Northern Natal. There they were joined by "B" Company, under Captain Mowbray, who had been stationed at Edenberg since July, and shortly afterwards by "L," the Volunteer Company under Captain Christie. Here "H" Company, under Lieutenant Ferguson Davie, was ordered to halt, but the five remaining companies under the commanding officer were sent to guard a section of about ten miles on the Natal side of the Buffalo River, from above Rorke's Drift to below De Jager's.

"H" Company moved from Dundee to Tintown, October

1901  
October

near Ladysmith, and remained there until the beginning of November, when it rejoined headquarters at Standerton.

On the 15th of October "B" and "D" Companies, under Captain Farquharson, were ordered to hold a post in the road between De Jager's and Vryheid. On the 15th "B" Company marched back to railhead, and joined "H" Company near Ladysmith, while "D" Company remained to hold the new post at Wolves Kop, near Vryheid.

In the meantime Major Maxwell's detachment had reached Ladysmith; from there "F" Company was sent on the 10th of October, under Lieut.-Colonel Berkeley, to assist in building blockhouses near Van Reenan's Pass, and remained there till the 26th of October, while "E" and "G" Companies went by train to the Lower Tugela, and marched into Zululand with Dartnell's column, as related in 'Detachment Records.'

Here the detachment left Dartnell, and joined "B" and "H" Companies at Ladysmith on the 26th of October. "F" Company also arrived that day from Van Reenan's Pass, and on the same night "F" and "G" Companies were ordered to entrain for Newcastle, where they joined General Spens' column. On the 30th "L" Company also joined this detachment from headquarters.

"A" and "C" were thus the only two companies remaining with Colonel Yorstoun, who received orders on the 30th of October to cross the Buffalo and march to Rooi Kop. The march was continued the next day, but the river was found to be so greatly swollen that the last waggon was not over De Jager's Drift until nine o'clock that night. Half an hour

afterwards a telegram arrived ordering the Battalion back to Dundee; consequently, though the men were somewhat exhausted, the return march was begun at 3.45 A.M., and Dundee reached the same evening.

1901  
October

On the 2nd of November headquarters with "A" and "C" Companies joined Rimington's column at Standerton, where "D" Company also arrived from their post near Vryheid. Here they were met by a draft of 115 men from home, under Lieutenant C. B. Henderson, with Lieutenants Wavell and Robertson; and two days later "E" Company, under Captain MacRae, and "B" and "H" Companies, under Captain Mowbray and Lieutenant Ferguson Davie, all arrived from Ladysmith and rejoined headquarters.

November

Colonel Rimington's column consisted of the Inniskilling Dragoons, 3rd New South Wales Mounted Infantry, six companies of The Black Watch, and five guns.

This column left Standerton on the 6th, crossed the Vaal at Robert's Drift and moved south to Tafel Kop. Then, after crossing the Wilge river at Frankfort, the movement was continued south to Aasvogel Kranz, which was reached on the 12th. This drive, which was made in combination with other columns, met with small success. On the return to Frankfort on the 14th, a convoy was sent into Heilbron for supplies.

Two days later, "A" and "C" Companies, under Captain Rennie, were sent to join the column under Colonel Byng, who was operating at that time in the Kronstadt and Lindley district, but "B," "D," "E," and "H" Companies remained with Colonel Rimington, whose column left Frankfort on the 18th and reached Villiersdorp on the Vaal two days later.



1901  
November

The next morning fifty railway volunteers on the Transvaal side were captured by Beyer's commando. The column quickly engaged and drove off the Boers, and made their commandant prisoner. The northward march was then continued to Graylingstad, where information was received on the 25th that Wilson's column was in difficulties near Lindley.

Starting at sunset, the column reached Villiersdorp about midnight, only to find that the river had risen, and the Boers had moved the pont to the south bank. A number of the regiment volunteered to swim the river, and, meeting with no opposition, soon picketed the village and sent across the pont. It was now only with great difficulty that even the mounted troops could ford the river; one Australian was drowned during the passage, and it was after six o'clock on the evening of the 26th that the last of the infantry was ferried across.

From Krom Spruit, some thirty miles south, Rimington sent the baggage with "E" and "H" Companies to Heilbron, and moved rapidly towards Lindley with the mounted troops and "B" and "D" Companies on waggons. Wilson's column was relieved after some sharp skirmishing, and the whole force was united at Heilbron on the 28th of November.

Although for the next three weeks the marching was almost continuous, nothing of importance occurred until, on the 21st of December, when Rimington's and Damont's column were in the neighbourhood of Tafel Kop, the Boers attacked the latter and captured two guns and a pom-pom. These, fortunately, were retaken by Rimington's column on the same day, together with a number of prisoners.

From Christmas to New Year Rimington remained in Frankfort, his command being increased by the addition of Damont's force and by a battery of Royal Artillery transformed into mounted infantry, and by some Canadian Scouts.

1902  
January]

The column had only one halt of two days between the 6th of January and the 4th of February, and marched on an average thirteen miles a-day.

On the 31st the column captured 21 prisoners and 13 waggons, and two days afterwards halted near Harrismith, where the headquarters of the 1st Battalion then were stationed.

On the 2nd of February the column marched from Harrismith westward to Reitz, from which point they co-operated with Byng's column and other forces in a drive towards the railway angle at Wolverhoek, which resulted in the capture of some 300 prisoners.

February]

On the 10th of February the column marched to Heilbron, and was joined there by a draft of 116 men under Lieutenant H. F. F. Murray from home. Headquarters and 130 men remained to strengthen the garrison at Heilbron; the remaining 200 men, under Captain Wilson Farquharson, continued with Rimington's force.

After a few days' rest the columns faced about, and a combined drive was organised that swept the whole country from the Vaal on the north to the blockhouse line running between Kroonstad, Bethlehem, and Harrismith on the south. When the left of the line was between Frankfort and Villiersdorp about the 18th, the right section held the Wilge river; then the columns under Rimington and Byng wheeled to the south,—a movement that brought them into line eastwards from Frankfort

1902  
February

to the Drakensberg by the 20th; this wheel completed, the march was continued due south in the direction of Harrismith.

At 2 A.M. on the night of the 23rd the Boers broke through the line at Holspruit and inflicted severe loss on the New Zealand contingent. Part of "B" Company was about half a mile from the spot, and came under fire, one sergeant being killed.

On the 27th Harrismith was reached, the whole operation yielding over 800 prisoners.

March

Regimental headquarters arrived at Harrismith by train from Heilbron on the 10th of March, and ten days later "E" and "H" Companies, who had been in garrison at Heilbron since the middle of February, also reached Harrismith, but were sent immediately to hold a line from Eland's River Bridge to the Wilge river.

The regiment now became part of the permanent garrison of Harrismith, and remained there until the end of September.

Small impression is conveyed of the labours borne by the regiment when on trek by a monotonous chronicle of the shifting camps. There was little fighting and few forced marches, but the detail of two ordinary days may give some idea of what the men were constantly called upon to undergo.

On the 16th of January the troops rose at 4 A.M. from their bivouac. No tents were carried, and for many months officers were allowed only thirty-five pounds of kit, though this was afterwards increased, while the men had only two blankets and a few necessaries. After a five hours' march the column outspanned during the heat of the day, reaching

1902  
March

camp at 5 P.M. The mid-day halt was necessary if only for the oxen, but shade was seldom to be found on the open veldt, and lying halted in the sun the heat was often very trying.

Parading again on the same day at 9 P.M., waggons fortunately on this occasion were obtainable for the men, and the column moved off in the same direction from which it had started. Soon the rain came down in torrents; it became impossible for the waggons to cross a small drift on the road, and the column came to a halt, while everyone sat in the mud waiting for dawn. Camp was not reached till six the next morning, the column, in the endeavour to overtake some Boers, having thus marched three miles in eight hours. At 3 P.M. the column again moved off, and reached camp about seven in the evening.

When it is added that this was followed by a wet night on picket duty with a start before dawn for a similar day's work, and that if there was no rain at night there was usually a dust-storm by day, then some of the hardships of trekking may be better realised.

The following were the officers who served with Battalion headquarters, and "B," "D," "E," and "H" Companies on Rimington's column:—

Lieut.-Colonel Carthew Yorstoun, Captains Wilson-Farquharson, C. Mowbray, C. MacRae, and A. R. Cameron, the adjutant; Lieutenants Ferguson Davie, J. Mackenzie, P. A. Duff, H. F. Murray, C. B. Henderson, A. P. Wavell, and R. Erskine Scott attached from the 3rd Battalion.

On the 2nd of March "A" and "C" Companies from Byng's column rejoined headquarters, and on



1902  
March the 21st "F," "G," and "L" Companies also reached Harrismith from Spens' column. This last arrival completed the concentration of the Battalion in the neighbourhood of Harrismith.

April On the 2nd of April the 3rd Volunteer Service Company arrived under Captain Buyers, with Lieutenants Walker and Ferguson, and took the place of "L" Company on the blockhouse line, and became known as "M" Company in the Battalion. On the 4th "E" and "H" Companies were sent to the blockhouse line between Bethlehem and Retief's Nek; and on the 3rd "F," "G," and "L" Companies relieved some companies of the 1st Battalion and occupied the lines between Eland's River and Tigers Kloof.

May On the 25th of May a draft of 162 men, under Captain Dawes, joined the Battalion from home, and six days afterwards, at the conclusion of the Vereenigen Conference, the terms of surrender were signed by the Boer leaders and the war came to an end.

For seven months the Battalion lay at Harrismith, but few of the pleasant memories associated with the time at Ladybrand were renewed here. The inevitable reaction set in as soon as the war was over. Country and climate were equally unattractive. The constant dust-storms rendered the performance of military duties odious, and comfort impossible.

But one circumstance partly mitigated the tedium. The frequent interchange of officers, and the constant flow of men from one Battalion to the other, had brought about many personal friendships between both officers and men, but the two Battalions of

the regiment had been quartered together only on two previous occasions, in 1815 and in 1828, and the opportunity was now made use of to promote a closer intimacy.

During these months many inter-regimental contests took place at football, at polo, and at golf, and in this and in other ways a feeling of nearer friendship was established.

During the three months following the treaty of peace the demobilisation of the British forces in South Africa was carried out. The 1st Battalion of The Black Watch was ordered home, the 2nd Battalion to India. The first troops to leave South Africa were detachments specially selected from every regiment to attend the Coronation of King Edward.

Twelve men of the Battalion, under Captain Wilson-Farquharson, left Harrismith in June in order to be present at the Coronation in London.

In June the various detachments rejoined the regiment in the town of Harrismith, and the 3rd Volunteer Company went home. These were followed by some 350 reservists, and 150 men, with less than two years' service to complete their engagement, were transferred to the 1st Battalion, while 240 men were received from the 1st Battalion,—mainly men of over eight years' service who had taken a bounty in India to extend their service with the colours. Some 70 men of the Battalion remained in South Africa in civil employment, and on the 1st of October the Battalion left Harrismith in two trains for Durban. The men were crowded into open trucks, and as the train moved slowly through Van Reenan's Pass all were

1902  
May

1902  
May soaked in heavy rain, the floors of the trucks standing an inch deep in water until the arrival in Durban.

The lack of events during the later stages of the war, the tedium and monotony of the months spent in Harrismith, with the needless discomfort of the final journey, combined to make all ranks thankful to see the last of South Africa, where the bodies were now laid of so many of those comrades who had left England nearly three years earlier, under conditions so greatly altered, fired by hopes so little realised.

October On the 2nd of October the Battalion, 736 strong, embarked on the s.s. *Ionian* for Bombay, under orders for Umballa, to begin this, the third tour in India.

## CHAPTER IV.

RECORDS OF THE VARIOUS DETACHMENTS, FROM  
SEPTEMBER 1901 UNTIL THE END OF THE WAR,  
JUNE 1902.

HAVING now followed the movements of the Battalion headquarters until the regiment left South Africa, it remains to give some account of those companies that acted on various detachments when away from headquarters. These are given as follows:—

“E” Company—May 1900 to October 1900.

“B” Company—July 1901 to October 1901.

“E” and “G” Companies—September 1901 to October 1901.

“F,” “G,” and “L” Companies—October 1901 to March 1902.

“A” and “C” Companies—November 1901 to March 1902.

Regimental M.I.—September 1901 to June 1902.

Detachment with 12th M.I.—November 1900 to April 1902.

Detachment with 22nd M.I.—February 1901 to May 1902.

Detachment with No. 9 Armoured Train—May 1901 to May 1902.

The narrative is concluded by some tables, giving the losses suffered and the honours gained by the Battalion, to which is added a record of the fifty-nine officers who served with the Battalion during the war.



## DETACHMENT RECORDS.

"E," OR CAPTAIN MACRAE'S COMPANY.

*May 1900 to October 1900.*

1900 THE company under Captain MacRae and Lieutenant Evans left the Battalion at Winberg on the 8th of May, and formed part of the escort of a convoy to the Vet River, and thence to Kronstadt, where they were ordered to join the main army under Lord Roberts. Marching as rapidly as possible, they overtook the rear of the army on the Vaal River, and were attached to the Guards Brigade, with whom they entered Johannesburg. On this march of six days, rations for only three were issued to "E" Company, but in spite of this they managed to cover forty-four miles in forty hours. On reaching the Vaal they found themselves without provisions of any sort, and were only able to make the last march and join the main army after cooking and eating a few sheep that they fortunately found on the veldt. Subsequently they were attached to the XIth Division, and were detailed as permanent escort to the two 4.7 naval guns. With the naval guns they were present at the fighting on 4th June outside Pretoria, and at Diamond Hill on the 11th, 12th, and 13th of July.

At one time the Highland Brigade had been

under orders for the Transvaal, and, in order to 1900 collect various drafts together, a provisional Highland battalion was formed at Erste Fabricken, twelve miles east of Pretoria. Captain MacRae was placed in command of this Battalion, which included 150 men of The Black Watch, made up of "E" Company, a draft, mainly of Militia reservists, brought up from Cape Town by Sergeant-Major Anderson of the 2nd Battalion, a party of volunteers of The Black Watch under Lieutenant Tosh, and some released prisoners who had been captured at Magersfontein.

This Battalion, however, was soon disbanded. One party, under Lieutenant Tosh, joined a construction train, while about 240 men were sent to guard the bridge at Silvertown. Of these, 40 men of The Black Watch, under Sergeant-Major Anderson, rejoined the Battalion in Kronstadt at the end of August.

"E" Company joined in the general advance eastwards, and were present at the fighting near Belfast, the 24th to the 27th of August. Still acting as escort to the naval guns, they joined General French's force at Carolina on the 5th of September, and marched to Devil's Kantoor, meeting with continuous opposition. Thence they marched to Barberton and, after escorting the naval guns back to Pretoria, rejoined the Battalion at Ladybrand on the 23rd of October.

On this service "E" Company earned the following clasps: "Johannesburg," "Diamond Hill," "Belfast," besides the clasps for "Paardeberg," "Driefontein," and "Cape Colony," when serving with the Battalion.

"B" COMPANY, UNDER CAPTAIN C. MOWBRAY.

*July 1901 to October 1901.*

1901 "B" COMPANY, under Captain C. Mowbray and Lieutenant R. A. Bulloch, left the Battalion at Ladybrand in July 1901, and formed part of the garrison at Edenberg, O.R.C., for two and a half months.

Leaving this in September, the company marched to Norval's Pont, and proceeded by train to Kronstadt, where they joined Colonel Spens' column for a short time, and accompanied his force to Dundee, in Natal. Here the company remained for ten days, when, on the arrival of regimental headquarters, they rejoined the Battalion.

During October "B" Company were employed at Ladysmith for a fortnight in guarding Boer prisoners, after which they again rejoined headquarters in the beginning of November at Newcastle.

"E" AND "G" COMPANIES,  
UNDER MAJOR THE HON. H. E. MAXWELL.

*September and October 1901.*

(Detachment with Colonel DARTNELL'S Column.)

TOWARDS the end of September the Battalion head- 1901  
quarters, with six companies, were sent to Northern  
Natal, while "E," "F," and "G" Companies, leaving  
Ladybrand on the 18th of September, proceeded to  
Ladysmith. "F" Company, under Major Berkeley,  
was ordered to Colenso, but "E" and "G" Companies,  
under Major Maxwell, remained at Ladysmith to  
guard Boer prisoners till the 26th, when they en-  
trained for Durban, under orders to join Colonel  
Dartnell's column in Zululand.

This they did at Railhead, and marched with the  
column to Eshowe, where they halted for four days,  
the detachment being employed in digging entrench-  
ments. Leaving Eshowe on the 9th of October, the  
column marched in three days to Melmoth, where  
they again halted for some days to entrench. Here  
the detachment left Dartnell's column, returned to  
Durban, and reached Ladysmith on the 26th of  
October. "E" Company then left the detachment  
and rejoined headquarters at Standerton. In the  
meantime "F" Company had been employed in  
building blockhouses near Van Reenan's Pass, and



1901 were now ordered to join "G" Company at Ladysmith, and the two companies under Major Maxwell entrained the same night for Newcastle, where they joined General Spens' column. On the 30th "L" Company also joined this detachment from Battalion headquarters.

The officers who served with the detachment in Zululand were—Major The Hon. H. E. Maxwell; Captain C. MacRae; Lieutenants C. W. Gordon, D. C. ff. Comyn.

"F," "G," "L" COMPANIES,  
UNDER MAJOR THE HON. H. E. MAXWELL.

*October 1901 to March 1902.*

(Detachment with General SPENS' Column.)

THIS detachment joined General Spens' column at 1901 Newcastle, in Natal, at the end of October 1901.

On the 2nd of November the column, marching by Botha's Pass, reached Standerton on the 17th.

On the night of the 10th, when "F" and "L" Companies were engaged in seizing a drift over the Wilge River, they encountered some Boers at dawn, killing two and capturing two.

From the 22nd of November to the 3rd of December the detachment, with some guns and mounted infantry, the whole under the command of Brevet Lieut.-Colonel Berkeley, were employed in covering the construction of blockhouses between Standerton and Ermelo.

On the 3rd Spens' column joined the force under General Bruce Hamilton. On the 7th the detachment and some mounted infantry, under Lieut.-Colonel Berkeley, occupied Blaauwkop, a steep kopje north of Standerton, and were stationed there until the middle of March.

On the 17th of January a wood-cutting party, 1902 under Lieutenant Bulloch, was attacked by some fifty

1902 Boers, but the latter quickly retired on the approach of reinforcements.

On the 14th of February the Boers attacked a fatigue party while working at a drift on the Vaal. One man on the farther bank who was unable to swim would have been made prisoner had not Sergeant Baxter of "F" Company swam across the river and returned, bringing the man safely over. For this Sergeant Baxter was mentioned in despatches, and subsequently received the distinguished conduct medal.

While the detachment was at Blaauwkop several small raids on farms were made at night by about twenty officers and men, who were able to obtain ponies. These raids were organised by an intelligence officer at Blaauwkop, and by their means, and by the capture of Boers who surrendered during the drives, the detachment made some sixty prisoners while at Blaauwkop.

In the middle of March the detachment was relieved by the Scottish Rifles, and rejoined the regimental headquarters at Harrismith on the 23rd.

The officers who served on this detachment were—Major The Hon. H. E. Maxwell; Brevet Lieut.-Colonel T. M. Berkeley; Captain R. M. Christie; Lieutenants R. A. Bulloch, acting adjutant, C. W. Gordon, C. C. Lamb, J. Mackay, F. Buchanan-White, A. B. Corrie.

"A" AND "C" COMPANIES,  
UNDER CAPTAIN J. G. RENNIE, D.S.O.

*November 1901 to March 1902.*

(Detachment with Colonel BYNG's Column.)

AT the end of November 1901, "A" and "C" Com- 1901  
panies were sent from Colonel Rimington's column  
to join Colonel Byng's column. During December  
and January the column was based on Kronstadt  
and operated in the Lindley-Heilbron district, the  
detachment being frequently employed as escort to  
convoys.

From the 6th to the 8th of February the column  
took part in a drive towards the railway angle at  
Wolverhoek, marching fifty-six miles and having con-  
stant night work. On the 13th the column crossed  
the railway near Gothenburg, and took part in a drive  
towards Harrismith from the 14th to the 21st. This  
drive resulted in the eventual capture of nearly 900  
Boers, though one party broke through near Vrede,  
and succeeded in inflicting severe loss on the New  
Zealanders, who were holding a nek on the right  
of the detachment. The drive was continued till  
the 27th, when Lord Kitchener visited the column  
and expressed himself highly pleased with the work  
done by the detachment, and said that they had  
earned a rest.



1902 The detachment was therefore sent to Harrismith, its place in Colonel Byng's column being taken by a similar one from the 1st Battalion of the regiment.

The officers who served in this detachment were—  
Captains J. G. Rennie, J. T. C. Murray; Lieutenants  
W. P. Nunnely, D. C. ff. Comyn, A. E. Parker, C. B.  
Henderson, R. M. Robertson.

REGIMENTAL MOUNTED INFANTRY,  
COMMANDED BY CAPTAIN J. G. HAMILTON, D.S.O.

*September 1901 to June 1902.*

WHEN the Battalion left Ladybrand in September 1901, the Regimental Mounted Infantry, consisting of 170 non-commissioned officers and men under Captain Hamilton, remained there for duty until January 1902, when they were ordered into Bloemfontein and joined a column under Colonel Western.

On the 14th of February, when near Fauresmith, the Mounted Infantry were ordered to surround a farm, reported to be held by Boers. They galloped to the farm at dawn, and fire was opened on them from the pickets; but, fortunately, there were no casualties, and they soon discovered the farm was held only by some of the Royal Sussex Mounted Infantry.

On the 3rd of March the Mounted Infantry and a 1902 squadron of Yeomanry, all under Captain Hamilton, made a night march, and after galloping the last six miles, rushed a Boer laager at dawn. One Boer was killed, ten captured, also many horses and cattle and 8000 sheep, all of which were brought into camp, in spite of the Boers following up and attacking the rearguard.

On the 23rd of March the column crossed the Vaal at Commando Drift and formed one of six columns operating under Colonel Rochefort in the Transvaal.

1902 This force took part in a combined drive on Klerksdorp against General Delarey's commando. The Mounted Infantry marched without baggage, carrying two days' rations on the saddle.

A party of the Regimental Mounted Infantry were instrumental in saving from capture a party of Royal Artillery Mounted Rifles, who were surrounded by Boers.

This party, under Lieutenant Gordon, were on the extreme left of the line, and moved to the sound of firing. Gaining a slight ridge, they opened fire on some Boers 400 yards distant, in pursuit of some men who belonged to Colonel Keir's column. This unexpected fire checked the Boers, who withdrew, leaving their prisoners free to join Lieutenant Gordon's party, though not before they had stripped them of all clothing.

During this drive an unusual incident occurred, when a storm of wind and rain was blowing straight into the faces of the advancing line. Colonel Western, seeing a party of some 250 Boers crossing the front, at once gave the order to charge. The line started to gallop, but was brought to a complete standstill, the horses turning round and refusing to face the storm. In ten minutes the storm had dropped, but the Boers had passed out of sight.

The marching on this drive was very severe. From 9 P.M. on the 23rd to 7 P.M. on the 24th, over ninety miles were covered. On the 25th the column marched the remaining twelve miles to Klerksdorp, and starting on the 26th, did the return march of over 100 miles in under thirty-six hours.

During April the force operated on Bloemhof in South Transvaal.

On the 15th the Mounted Infantry took part in 1902 an operation against a laager at Schweitzer Reneke, covering forty-four miles in the night, and capturing 60 prisoners at dawn on the 16th. Several similar marches were made during the month, and another 30 prisoners were captured.

From the 7th to the 11th of May the force took part in General Ian Hamilton's successful drive against the Mafeking railway, concentrating on Vryberg.

On the return march to Bloemhof, the Boers attacked Colonel Western's column on the night of the 16th, firing from 150 yards distance. They were driven off, but not before they had killed several horses and wounded one man of the regimental Mounted Infantry.

The detachment remained at Bloemhof till peace was declared, when they marched to Bloemfontein, and in July joined the 12th Mounted Infantry at Bloemfontein. There they remained till August, when they rejoined the regiment at Harrismith.

The officers who served with this detachment were—Captain J. G. Hamilton; Lieutenants C. C. West, C. W. Gordon, A. E. Parker, and J. M. Blair.



DETACHMENT OF 12TH MOUNTED INFANTRY,  
UNDER THE HON. C. M. H. RUTHVEN, D.S.O.

*November 1900 to April 1902.*

1900 ON leaving the regiment at Ladybrand in November, the detachment of 50 Mounted Infantry proceeded to Pretoria, and was there incorporated with the 12th Battalion Mounted Infantry, made up from the Highland and Scottish regiments. The Black Watch and Highland Light Infantry detachments formed the third company of the 12th Battalion.

Having lost most of their Basuto ponies from horse sickness, the detachment was at first employed on patrol duties near Pretoria, but by the end of March was ready to take part in a night march, resulting in the capture of 15 Boers near Magato's Pass.

1901 The column consisted of the 12th and 20th Battalions Mounted Infantry, two 12-pounders, two pom-poms, and a colt gun, the last under Lieutenant Peareth of the 3rd Battalion of The Black Watch. While in the Transvaal there was also a half battalion of infantry with the column.

Towards the end of April the 12th Battalion moved by train first to Nylstroom and thence to Pietersburg, and on the 7th of May No. 1 and No. 3 Companies joined Colonel Grenfell's column, seventy

miles north-east of Pietersburg. On the 11th, after 1901 a pursuit of fifty miles, the 12th Mounted Infantry enforced the surrender of part of Vorster's commando. After this 25 men of the detachment under Lieutenant Ruthven were ordered to act as escort to Captain Ballala Taylor in an unsuccessful search for bar gold.

Accompanying Grenfell's column in a trying march over Bastards Nek to Zand River Poort, the mounted men, without any baggage, pursued Commandant Beyers, overtook him on the 1st of July, and galloped to the Boer laager, capturing 100 prisoners with many waggons and cattle. The column then returned to Nylstroom, and engaged in some most arduous operations, as the enemy were numerous, and the country difficult in the extreme.

On one occasion No. 1 Company 12th Mounted Infantry were checked when in a narrow valley, but No. 3 Company rapidly advancing up a parallel watercourse, took the party of Boers in rear, and after a short encounter at close quarters made four prisoners, one of whom was wounded by Sergeant Millar of the detachment at closest range.

On the 4th of August the detachment was under fire at decisive range for two hours, but only one man was hit.

On the 12th of August the Mounted Infantry, 200 strong, when advancing up a valley were attacked by some 300 Boers from three sides, but after some difficulty they gained a commanding ridge, and forced the enemy to withdraw with a loss of four men killed. A few days later No. 3 Company captured seven Boers at Tarentalstraat.

1901 On the 21st of October, after a forty-mile night march, the column, now under Colonel Dawkins, captured 56 men of Staden's commando, and on another night, 20 men of Hans Botha's commando. During a march from Nylstroom to Pieenars River the column took 37 prisoners, and repulsed a night attack made by the Boers during a thunderstorm.

From the 1st to the 20th of December the column captured 130 prisoners: the 12th and 30th Mounted Infantry were then transferred to the Orange River Colony, and took part in some ineffectual movements near Harrismith under Colonel Rawlinson.

1902 In February and March 1902 the detachment was engaged in some big drives, and subsequently moved to Klerksdorp.

During one of these drives the detachment was ordered to capture some carts: this was done, but two men of The Black Watch continued to pursue two Boers till they laid down their arms and surrendered. The Boers, however, regained their rifles and opened fire, wounding one of the privates. The other private attempted to close with these treacherous foes, but was killed in the attempt. The detachment had a long gallop to catch up the column, and two men, who formed part of the escort to the carts, were captured, their horses having broken down.

The detachment was on the march for twenty-six hours, and covered eighty-five miles before it returned to the blockhouse line.

Towards the end of March the force was engaged in some unsuccessful attempts against General Kemp's commando.

From the 7th to the 11th of April the detachment

took part in the same drive under General Ian 1902 Hamilton in which the Regimental Mounted Infantry were also engaged.

After the declaration of peace the detachment rejoined the regiment at Harrismith at the beginning of June.



DETACHMENT WITH THE 22ND BATTALION  
MOUNTED INFANTRY.

*February 1901 to May 1902.*

1901 THIS detachment was formed at home, and consisted of 60 young soldiers, Second Lieutenants Baillie Hamilton and Duff, Sergeants Parker and Weir, who had been previously invalided from the regiment. After a short training at Salisbury Plain the detachment landed at Cape Town in February 1901, was formed into part of the Highland company of the 22nd Mounted Infantry, and joined Colonel Henry's (afterwards Colonel Sitwell's) column at Orange River Station in May 1901.

Lieutenant Baillie Hamilton was invalided home, but Lieutenants Forrester and Comyn joined the detachment before the end of the year.

In June the detachment had its first encounter with the Boers, and was subsequently constantly employed in the Free State, and took part throughout August and September in General Elliot's very successful drive against the Modder River.

Until January the detachment was employed in some operations near Boshof, and on the 13th, when escorting a convoy to Griquatown, was sharply engaged. A month later, when Erasmus attacked the convoy near Boshof, the Highland company were again engaged for over two hours.

In March the 22nd Mounted Infantry joined 1902 Colonel Rockfort's force and took part in several combined drives.

A draft of 40 men from the 1st Battalion The Black Watch raised the strength of the detachment to 80 strong,

After General Ian Hamilton's drive, the 8th to the 11th of May, the detachment rejoined Battalion headquarters at Harrismith.

DETACHMENT WITH No. 9 ARMoured  
TRAIN, UNDER LIEUTENANT THE HON. M. C. A.  
DRUMMOND.

*May 1901 to May 1902.*

- 1901 A DETACHMENT of 25 men from the Battalion formed the infantry crew of No. 9 Armoured Train, which was completed by a detachment of artillery with two naval 12 - pounders and two Maxim guns. From June to September the train worked north of Bloemfontein, preventing the Boers from crossing the line. In the autumn, at the time of the threatened invasion by Louis Botha, the train worked on the Natal line as far south as Mooi River, and was then employed in the Free State.
- 1902 From February to May the train was employed patrolling the line during the many drives made against the railway, and on the 11th of May, at Klip River, brought effectual artillery fire to bear on the Boers, who were then pressing the 28th Mounted Infantry. On the 22nd the train was sent to Pietersburg district, and was employed during the surrender of Beyer's commando. The detachment rejoined the Battalion at Harrismith in the month of June.

## CHAPTER V.

## THE BATTALION DURING THE WAR.

THE numbers who served in the Battalion during the war were composed as under:—

	Officers.	Men.	Total.
Time serving . . . . .	55	1242	1297
Reserve of officers . . . . .	4	...	4
Army Reserve . . . . .	...	617	617
Militia Reserve . . . . .	...	238	238
Militia . . . . .	5	...	5
Volunteers . . . . .	10	340	350
R.A.M.C. . . . .	2	...	2
Civilian temporarily commissioned	1	...	1
Total . . . . .	<u>77</u>	<u>2437</u>	<u>2514</u>

The First-Class Army Reserve were excellent, and no praise could be too high for them. Their discipline, physique, and fine spirit were all that could be desired.

The Reserve non-commissioned officers were well acquainted with their work, and were of great service.

The men of Section D, Army Reserve, also worked well, and showed great endurance.

The Militia Reserve men suffered at first on joining the Battalion from want of physique, training,



and practice in marching. Their spirit, however, was admirable, and during the latter part of the campaign there was nothing to distinguish them from their comrades.

The First Volunteer Company was composed of men as willing as intelligent, and of excellent spirit. With the advantage of being grafted on to a regular Battalion of their own regiment, they quickly became as useful a body of men as any company in the Battalion.

The Second Volunteer Company was also an excellent company; and while the Third Company was animated by the same spirit, yet, joining the regiment as it did so late in the war, this company had not the same opportunities of proving its merits as had its two predecessors.

However, it may truly be said that the mutual association and experiences gained in this campaign have made the regular Battalions of the regiment feel happy that they can count on such valuable aid in time of war from their volunteer Battalions, and at the same time have made the men of the latter even more eager than before to give this help.

## BATTALION LOSSES.

THROUGHOUT the war the Battalion had 124 killed, including 13 officers; 344 wounded, including 19 officers; and 62 non-commissioned officers and men died from disease, of whom enteric fever accounted for 46.

At Magersfontein 93 were killed and 209 wounded; at Paardeberg 18 were killed and 78 wounded; and at Retief's Nek Major Willshire was killed and 16 were wounded.

The officers killed include Brevet-Major Scott Turner, when on special service in Kimberley; Brevet-Major F. D. Murray, when serving with the Scottish Horse at Vlakfontein; and among the officers wounded is included Captain The Master of Sempill, when serving with Lovat's Scouts.

Of the number of those who were invalided home there is no record; but in 1899 the Battalion embarked 1011 strong, and various drafts brought the total number who served with the Battalion to 2514.

Adding to this 240 men who were transferred from the 1st Battalion, the total amounts to 2754.

To the 736 men who left Durban with the Battalion must be added the 300 volunteers, 342 men who left Durban for England previously to the Battalion, 70 who remained as civilians in the

country, 125 killed, and 62 who died from disease,—giving a total of 1635, which, with 150 transferred to the 1st Battalion, gives a total of 1785.

The difference between 2754 and 1785, equal to 969, gives approximately the number who were invalided home from wounds or disease, of whom more than 200 rejoined during the war. The percentage of killed to those who died of disease among the British troops during the war was little more than one to ten: in the Battalion the percentage was almost exactly as two to one (124 to 64).

This marked difference shows not only how relatively severe were the losses in action, but also that both officers and men paid attention to health and sanitation. The Battalion was thus constantly as ready for action as for severe marching.

## BATTALION HONOURS.

THE Battalion record for engagements is as follows:—

The advance on Kimberley, including the action at Magersfontein.

Operations in the Orange Free State, including the actions at Paardeberg, Poplar Grove, Driefontein, and Vet River.

Operations in the Orange River Colony, including the actions at Rhenoster River, Wittebergen, and Witpoort.

Operations in the Transvaal and Zululand frontier of Natal.

The Battalion headquarters earned the Queen's Medal and the King's Medal. On the former the Battalion gained the following clasps: Paardeberg, Driefontein, Wittebergen, Cape Colony, Orange River Colony, and Transvaal. On the King's Medal, South Africa 1901, South Africa 1902.

The following honours were authorised to be worn on the regimental colours: South Africa 1899-1902. Paardeberg.



OFFICERS, NON-COMMISSIONED OFFICERS, AND MEN,  
MENTIONED IN DESPACHES.

Lord Methuen's Despatch, the 15th of February  
1900—

Corporal Gaynor.

Lord Roberts' Despatch, the 31st of March 1900—

Lieutenant - Colonel Carthew Yorstoun; Major  
Cuthbertson; Lieutenant Hamilton; 2nd Lieu-  
tenant West; Pioneer-Sergeant Howden; Lance-  
Corporal Forret; Privates M'Gregor, Hastie, and  
Piper Cameron.

Lord Roberts' Despatch, the 2nd of April 1901—

Captain Rennie; Lieutenant Wauchope.

Lord Roberts' Despatch, the 4th of September  
1901—

Majors Maxwell, Berkeley, Livingston; Captains  
Farquharson, Stewart, Cameron, Hamilton; Lieu-  
tenants Ruthven and Studley; Sergeant-Major  
Anderson; Colour-Sergeant Millar; Sergeants  
Harrison, Wilson, Signalling-Sergeant Weir;  
Pioneer - Sergeant Howden; Lance - Sergeant  
Gaynor; Corporals A. Hamilton and D. Millar;  
Lance-Corporals Foot, Forret, and M'Intosh;  
Privates M'Gregor, Murdoch, Ormonde, and  
Smith; Pipers D. Cameron and A. Burns;  
Pioneer J. Hastie; Lance-Corporal Forrester, 6th  
Battalion I.Y.

Lord Kitchener's Despatches, the 8th of December  
1901, the 8th of April 1902, the 1st of June  
1902—

Sergeant Parker; Captain Bald; Lieutenant Grant;  
and Sergeant Baxter.

Lord Kitchener's Despatch, the 23rd of June 1902—

Captain Farquharson; Lieutenants Ruthven, Drummond, Studley; Sergeant-Major Anderson; Colour-Sergeant Miller; Sergeants Grant, Niven, Wilson, and Leicester: Lance-Corporals Forret and Noble.

#### REWARDS.

C.B.—Lieutenant Colonel Carthew Yorstoun.

D.S.O.—Major the Hon. H. E. Maxwell; Captains J. G. Rennie, A. C. Bald, D. L. Wilson-Farquharson, J. G. Hamilton; Lieutenants A. S. Grant, A. G. Wauchope, the Hon. C. M. H. Ruthven, and the Hon. M. C. A. Drummond.

Brevet-Lieutenant Colonel—Majors T. M. Berkeley and P. J. C. Livingston.

Brevet-Major.—Captain A. R. Cameron.

D.C.M.—Sergeant-Major Anderson; Colour-Sergeant Millar; Sergeants Harrison, Baxter, Wilson; Pioneer-Sergeant Howden; Lance-Sergeant Gaynor; Lance-Corporal Forret; Privates M'Gregor, Ormonde, Smith; Piper Cameron; Pioneer Hastie.

## SERVICES OF OFFICERS IN THE SECOND BATTALION.

OF the twenty-eight officers who went to South Africa in October 1899, the following were killed:—

Lieutenant-Colonel Coode; Captains Cumming Bruce, MacFarlane, Elton, Eykyn; Lieutenants Tait, Edmonds, Ramsay, and Berthon.

Wounded—

Majors Duff, Maxwell, Berkeley (twice), Cuthbertson; Captains Cameron and Hamilton; Lieutenants J. Harvey, St J. Harvey, Tait, Wauchope, Drummond, and Bulloch.

The following served throughout the war without going home:—

Majors Maxwell and Berkeley; Captains Rennie (who joined from the Highland Brigade Staff), Cameron, and Hamilton; Lieutenants Ruthven, Bulloch, West, and Studley.

Lieutenants Grant, Drummond, and Gordon were invalided home, but rejoined the Battalion.

Major Duff was appointed second in command of the 1st Battalion, which he joined in India.

Major Cuthbertson and Captain Stewart were appointed D.A.A.G. to the IXth Division, and Signalling Officer to the Highland Brigade, respectively, in April 1900, and did not rejoin the Battalion.

Lieutenant A. S. Grant was sent in the autumn of 1900

to command an armoured train on the De Aar-Kimberley-Mafeking line. He served with this train continuously till the end of the war; and during the latter period, for his very exceptional services, he was given the local rank of captain and the command of a section of the line, including three armoured trains.

Besides the officers previously mentioned who came out with the Battalion in October 1899, the following officers subsequently joined the Battalion:—

Lieutenant-Colonel Carthew Yorstoun, from the 1st Battalion, took over the command from Major Maxwell at Modder River in January 1900, and held the command throughout the war.

Major E. M. Willshire, on being appointed second in command from the 1st Battalion, joined the 2nd Battalion in March 1900 at Bloemfontein, and served with the Battalion until he was killed in action at Retief's Nek in July 1900.

Major P. J. C. Livingston joined from the regimental depot in March 1900, and served with "A" Company until November 1900, when he was appointed D.A.A.G. in Cape Town, and subsequently to the command of the troops in De Aar.

Captain C. W. MacRae had been sent to Gibraltar with 113 soldiers who had insufficient service to accompany the Battalion in October 1899 to South Africa. These men had been attached to the Cameron Highlanders, and were brought to South Africa by Captain MacRae, who joined the Battalion with Lieutenant L. P. Evans in March 1900, both officers serving with "E" Company until the end of the war.

Lieutenant Laverton joined in March 1900, was invalided home the following February, and rejoined in April 1902.

Captain Wilson-Farquharson joined from the regimental Depot in April 1900, and served with "D" Company until the end of the war.

Lieutenant N. A. B. Baillie Hamilton joined the Battalion in April 1900, but was invalided home from Bloemfontein.



He returned to South Africa with the 22nd Mounted Infantry in 1901, and served for four months in the Transvaal with the 23rd Mounted Infantry in 1902, but did not rejoin the Battalion.

Lieutenant G. C. Lamb joined in April 1900, and served with the Battalion until the end of the war.

Lieutenant D. C. ff. Comyn was transferred from the East Surrey regiment, joined "E" Company at Pretoria in June 1900, and later on served with the 22nd Mounted Infantry.

Lieutenant D. MacKenzie received a direct commission from St Andrews University, joined "D" Company in May 1900, and served with the Battalion until December 1901, when he received a civil appointment in Johannesburg.

Lieutenant A. E. Parker, who was attached from the 3rd Battalion, joined in May 1900 at Roodekraal, and was appointed to the 2nd Battalion in December 1900, with which he served until the end of the war.

Captain J. B. Pollock joined the Battalion at Kaalfontein in September 1900, but left on transfer to the 1st Battalion in April 1901.

Lieutenant J. M. Blair received a direct commission from the Hampshire Volunteers, with which regiment he had served as lieutenant in the Volunteer company for some months in the Transvaal, and joined The Black Watch in August 1901 at Ladybrand, serving in "C" Company until he joined the Regimental Mounted Infantry in Ladybrand.

Lieutenant R. E. Forrester was posted to the regiment from the Scottish Yeomanry, and joined the 2nd Battalion at Ladybrand in October 1901. He served with "D" Company till he joined the 22nd Mounted Infantry.

Captain J. G. Collins, on promotion from the 1st Battalion, joined the 2nd Battalion at Heilbron in December 1901, and served with "B" Company till the end of the war.

Lieutenant H. F. F. Murray arrived in South Africa in 1901, but was invalided home, and did not join the Battalion until February 1902, when he was posted to "D" Company.

Lieutenants C. B. Henderson, A. P. Wavell, and R. M. Robertson, joined the Battalion at Standerton in November 1901, and served with "D," "C," and "A" Companies respectively.

Captain J. T. C. Murray was promoted from the 1st Battalion in July 1901, but was invalided home with sunstroke, and it was not till the end of November that he joined Captain Rennie's detachment with Byng's column. He was then appointed to command "A" Company, with which he served till the end of the war.

Lieutenant P. A. Duff came to South Africa with the 22nd Mounted Infantry in February 1901, with which he served till the following January, and joined the Battalion when headquarters were serving with Rimington's column in the beginning of 1902.

Lieutenant N. G. B. Henderson joined the Battalion at Harrismith in April 1902.

Captain E. Dawes joined the Battalion at Harrismith in May 1902.

## SERVICES OF OFFICERS.

## OFFICERS ATTACHED FROM THE 3RD BATTALION.

The following officers were attached from the 3rd (Militia) Battalion The Black Watch.

Major Angel Scott joined in April 1900, and served with the 2nd Battalion for a few months, when he was appointed press censor at Cape Town.

Lieutenant Sir Edward Stewart Richardson joined in March 1900, from the Queensland Contingent to which he had been attached, and served as assistant transport officer till October, when he left the Battalion on transport duties to a mounted corps in the Orange River Colony.

Lieutenant D. Campbell joined in May 1900, and served with "H" Company until November 1900, when he was appointed to the 1st Battalion then in India.

Lieutenant P. L. Mowbray joined the Battalion in Bloemfontein in April 1900; in August 1901 he was sent from Ladybrand to perform remount duties in Natal, and did not rejoin the Battalion.

Lieutenant R. E. Scott joined the Battalion on 1st November 1901 at Standerton, and left at Harrismith in 1902.

## OFFICERS FROM THE VOLUNTEER BATTALIONS.

Captain R. H. Millar (2nd Angus Battalion), Lieutenant H. K. Smith (3rd Dundee Highland Battalion), and Lieutenant A. Valentine (1st City of Dundee Battalion),

served with the 1st Volunteer Company, and were attached to the 2nd Battalion from April 1900 to April 1901. Lieutenant H. K. Smith was wounded at Retief's Nek, but returned to duty in October 1900.

Captain R. M. Christie (4th Perthshire Battalion), Lieutenant A. B. Corrie (1st City of Dundee Battalion), and Lieutenant F. H. Buchanan-White (5th Perthshire Highland Battalion), served with the 2nd Volunteer Company, and were attached to the 2nd Battalion from July 1901 to April 1902.

Captain J. Beyers (2nd Angus Battalion), Lieutenant T. Ferguson (5th Perthshire Highland Battalion), and Lieutenant C. E. C. Walker (1st City of Dundee Battalion), served with the 3rd Volunteer Company, and were attached to the 2nd Battalion from April 1902 to June 1902.

Lieutenant E. Tosh (1st City of Dundee Battalion) was appointed to the 1st Volunteer Service Company, and embarked in May 1900 for South Africa. But instead of joining the 2nd Battalion he was ordered, with his detachment of twenty men, to the Transvaal, where he was employed until 1901.

#### SERVICES OF ATTACHED OFFICERS.

Captain W. H. C. Mowbray, formerly of the 1st Battalion, joined in April 1900 at Ladybrand, and served with "B" Company until 1901. He commanded "B" Company when on detachment in 1900.

Lieutenant Lord George Stewart Murray was attached from the 1st Battalion, and joined the 2nd Battalion at Bloemfontein in March 1900, but left shortly afterwards on appointment to General Colville's staff.

Lieutenant C. M'Lean joined the 2nd Battalion in April 1900, but was invalided home at the end of the month, and then promoted into the 1st Battalion.

Lieutenant Ferguson Davie, formerly of the 2nd Battalion, although naturalised as a citizen of the United States, joined the Battalion at Roodekraal in May 1900, and was



appointed to "H" Company, which he commanded until the war was nearly at an end.

Captain A. C. Bald, formerly of the 1st Battalion, joined the 2nd Battalion at his own expense from British Columbia in March 1900, and served for seven months as Transport Officer to the Battalion. In October 1900 he left to do transport duties, and latterly repatriation duties, in the Orange River Colony and Transvaal.

The following officers were also attached to the Battalion:—

Lieutenant Douglas was the first Medical Officer. He came out with the regiment and served until the battle of Magersfontein, where he was wounded. He received the Victoria Cross and D.S.O. for his services on that day.

His place was taken by Lieutenant A. Goddard, who joined in January 1900, and served with the Battalion until it was split up on leaving Ladybrand in September 1901.

Lieutenant Grieve joined from an Australian Volunteer Corps, of which he was Adjutant, in January 1900, and served in "F" Company until he was killed at Paardeberg when assisting a wounded man.

Lieutenant J. Mackay, who had been in the Australian Marine, joined the Battalion in April 1900, and served with "F" Company until the regiment left Ladybrand in September 1901, when he was sent on repatriation duty in the Orange River Colony. Lieutenant Mackay remained in South Africa after the war, and died in Tasmania in 1906.

There were thus no less than 77 officers and 2437 non-commissioned officers and men who served during the war in the 2nd Battalion.

BOOK OF DAYS

1725-1907



## JANUARY.

1. 1847. Active operations commenced against the Kaffirs.
2. 1858. Affair at Kullie Nuddie Bridge.
3. 1874. Landing at Cape Coast Castle for the Ashantee War.
4. 1795. Action at Guildermalsen, for which the Red Heckle was conferred.
- 5.
6. 1858. The Highland Brigade marched on Mhow, which was found deserted.
7. 1762. Successful action at Martinique.
- 8.
9. 1829. Return to Gibraltar after the outbreak of yellow fever.
10. 1812. Repulse of sortie by French besieged in Ciudad Rodrigo.
11. 1809. Reached Corunna after a retreat of 250 miles.
12. 1845. Colonel Van der Meulen takes command of British forces in Monte Video.
13. 1814. First attack on Antwerp; first attack on Martinique, 1759.
- 14.
15. 1859. Gallant defence of Sisseya Ghat by Captain Lawson and No. 6 Company.
16. 1809. Battle of Corunna.
- 17.
- 18.
19. 1809. Embarked at Corunna for England.  
1812. Capture of Ciudad Rodrigo.
- 20.
- 21.
- 22.
- 23.
24. 1762. Capture of Morne Tortenson.  
1885. Advance from Hamdab of the Nile River column.
- 25.
26. 1858. Defeat of the mutineers at Shumshabad on the march to Mhow.
- 27.
- 28.
- 29.
- 30.
31. 1874. Battle of Amoaful.



## FEBRUARY.

- 1.
2. 1814. Storming of Merxem.
3. 1814. Second attack on Antwerp.
4. 1874. Battle of Ordasu and capture of Coomassie.
5. 1762. Capture of Martinique.
6. 1874. Left Coomassie for the coast.
7. 1900. Fight at Koedoesberg.
- 8.
- 9.
10. 1885. Battle of Kirbekan.
- 11.
- 12.
13. 1777. Engaged at Amboy, Jersey, and North America.
- 14.
15. 1783. Capture of Fort Anantapoor.
- 16.
17. 1900. Battle of Paardeberg.
18. 1815. Capture of Candy.
- 19.
- 20.
- 21.
- 22.
23. 1801. Sailed from Bay of Marmorice to expel the French from Egypt.
24. 1885. Commenced descent of Nile from Huella.
25. 1784. Evacuation of Mangalore.
26. 1852. Wreck of the *Birkenhead*. Charge and capture of Hyder Guhr Fort.
27. 1783. Capture of Bednor.  
1814. Battle of Orthes.
28. 1822. County Limerick placed under the Insurrection Act.
29. 1884. Battle of El-Teb.

## MARCH.

- 1.
2. 1858. Army takes position before Lucknow.
- 3.
- 4.
5. 1782. Arrival at Bombay after a voyage of thirteen months.
- 6.
- 7.
8. 1801. Landed in Egypt. Battle of Aboukir.
9. 1858. Storming of Martinière at Lucknow.
10. 1851. Attack of convoy near Fort Cox, South Africa.
- 11.
12. 1858. Occupation of the Begum's Palace, Lucknow.
13. 1884. Battle of Tamai.
- 14.
- 15.
16. 1814. Bombardment of Fort Frederick on the River Scheldt.
17. 1851. Engagement in the Amatola Mountains, South Africa.
- 18.
- 19.
- 20.
21. 1801. Battle of Alexandria.
- 22.
- 23.
24. 1855. Night march in a snowstorm, under Sir Colin Campbell, from Balaclava to Tchernaya.
25. 1749. The number of the regiment changed from 43rd to 42nd.
- 26.
27. 1799. Battle of Malavelly.
- 28.
- 29.
- 30.
- 31.

## APRIL.

- 1.
2. 1872. Regimental monument unveiled at Dunkeld Cathedral.
- 3.
- 4.
5. 1799. Siege of Seringapatam commenced.
6. 1900. Action at Bavian's Berg.
- 7.
- 8.
- 9.
10. 1814. Battle of Toulouse.
11. 1815. Joins the Brigade under Sir Colin Halkett in Belgium.
- 12.
- 13.
14. 1776. Capture of the troopship *Oxford* when sailing to America.
15. 1858. Storming of Fort Rooyah.
- 16.
17. 1799. Capture of the chief redoubt outside Seringapatam.
- 18.
19. 1743. Marched for England. First time out of Scotland.
- 20.
- 21.
22. 1858. Affair at Sarsee, near Allugunge.
- 23.
- 24.
- 25.
- 26.
- 27.
- 28.
- 29.
- 30.

## MAY.

1. 1747. Landed in Holland to join the army under the Duke of Cumberland. Capture of Guadaloupe.
- 2.
3. 1811. Battle of Fuentes d'Onor.
4. 1799. Assault and capture of Seringapatam.
5. 1858. Battle and capture of Bareilly.
6. 1783. Successful sortie from Mangalore.
- 7.
- 8.
- 9.
10. 1777. Engagement of Pisquatua.
11. 1745. Battle of Fontenoy.
12. 1780. Capture of Charlestown.
- 13.
- 14.
- 15.
- 16.
- 17.
18. 1733. Defeat of Tippoo Sultan's army outside Mangalore.
19. 1900. Thirty-four mile march to Ventersberg.
- 20.
- 21.
- 22.
- 23.
- 24.
- 25.
26. 1900. Action of Bloemberg Ridge.
- 27.
28. 1743. Embarked for Flanders to join the army under Lord Stair.
- 29.
- 30.
- 31.



## JUNE.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
4. 1795. The Red Heckle presented to the regiment on George III.'s birthday.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.
9. 1854. Landed at Scutari and brigaded under Sir Colin Campbell.
- 10.
- 11.
- 12.
13. 1854. Guards and Highland Brigade embark at Scutari for Varna.
- 14.
- 15.
16. 1815. Both Battalions engaged at Quatre Bras.
- 17.
18. 1815. Both Battalions engaged at Waterloo.  
1855. Assault on Sebastopol.
19. 1852. Assault and capture of Murray's Krantz, South Africa.
- 20.
21. 1759. Surrender of Ticonderoga.
- 22.
- 23.
- 24.
- 25.
- 26.
- 27.
28. 1778. Battle of Monmouth, Jersey, North America.
- 29.
- 30.

## JULY.

1. 1846. Siege of Monte Video raised.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
7. 1758. Assault of Fort Ticonderoga.
- 8.
- 9.
- 10.
- 11.
- 12.
- 13.
- 14.
- 15.
16. 1809. Marched to Ramsgate to embark for the  
Walcheren expedition.
17. 1810. Landed at Leith to recruit after the Walcheren  
expedition.
- 18.
- 19.
- 20.
- 21.
22. 1758. Regiment made "Royal."  
1812. Battle of Salamanca.
23. 1900. Engagement at Retief's Nek.
- 24.
25. Battles of the Pyrenees began.
- 26.
- 27.
28. Battles of the Pyrenees ended.
29. 1762. Assault and capture of Moro Castle, Cuba.
30. 1789. 2nd Battalion The Black Watch raised at Perth.
- 31.

## AUGUST.

1. 1795. Siege of Trincomalee began.
- 2.
- 3.
4. 1900. British Flag hoisted in Harrismith.
- 5.
6. 1813. Landed at Stralsund and joined the army under General Gibbs.
7. 1882. Leave Edinburgh for the Egyptian campaign.
- 8.
- 9.
- 10.
- 11.
- 12.
- 13.
- 14.
- 15.
- 16.
- 17.
- 18.
- 19.
20. 1832. Disembarked at Alexandria.
21. 1795. Capture of Trincomalee.
22. 1776. Capture of Pondicherry.
- 23.
- 24.
- 25.
- 26.
27. 1776. Battle of Brooklyn, Long Island.
- 28.
- 29.
30. 1846. s.s. *Apollo* nearly wrecked off the Great Fish River, South Africa.
- 31.

## SEPTEMBER.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
5. 1778. Action on the Acushnet River.  
1854. Sailed from Varna for the Crimea.
6. 1750. Investment of Montreal.
- 7.
8. 1855. In General Orders to lead the assault at the Redan.
- 9.
10. 1847. Renewal of the Kaffir War.
11. 1777. Battle of Brandywine.
12. 1861. By General Order, Horse Guards, dated 8th July, the title The Black Watch restored.
13. 1882. Battle of Tel-el-Kebir.
14. 1854. Landed in the Crimea.
- 15.
16. 1813. Battle of Gorde.
- 17.
- 18.
19. 1812. Assault of Fort St Michael, Burgos.
20. 1777. Attack under "No Flint Grey."  
1854. Battle of the Alma.
- 21.
22. 1828. Encamped on neutral ground on outbreak of yellow fever, Gibraltar.
- 23.
- 24.
25. 1854. Flank march from 7 A.M. to 10 P.M. Belbee to Tchernaya Heights.
26. 1854. Battle of Balaclava.
- 27.
- 28.
- 29.
- 30.



## OCTOBER.

- 1.
2. 1800. Sailed from Gibraltar for an attack on Cadiz.
- 3.
4. 1777. Battle of Germantown, America.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.
9. 1805. Embarked at Portsmouth for an expedition to the West Indies.
- 10.
- 11.
- 12.
- 13.
- 14.
15. 1838. Marched from Bareilly to stop the escape of the mutineers from Oude.
- 16.
17. 1854. Bombardment opened on Sebastopol.
- 18.
- 19.
- 20.
- 21.
22. 1899. Embarked at Tilbury for South Africa.
- 23.
24. 1798. From Gibraltar to the attack and capture of Minorca.
25. 1739. The Black Watch formed into a regiment No. 43.  
1854. Battle of Balaclava.
- 26.
- 27.
- 28.
- 29.
- 30.
31. 1813. Surrender of Pampeluna.

## NOVEMBER.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
4. 1746. Landed at Cork from an expedition on the coast of France.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.
- 9.
10. 1813. Battle of Nivelle.
11. 1852. Expedition starts in Orange River Sovereignty.
12. 1884. Embarked in boats at Assouan for the Wady Halfa.
13. 1847. Four officers ambushed and killed by Kaffirs.
14. 1854. Great storm in the Crimea,—not a tent left standing.
1899. Landed at Cape Town.
- 15.
16. 1777. Attack and capture of Fort Washington, America.
- 17.
- 18.
- 19.
20. 1782. 2nd Battalion The Black Watch besieged in Paniané by Tippoo.
- 21.
- 22.
- 23.
- 24.
- 25.
- 26.
- 27.
- 28.
29. 1782. Defence of Paniané successful.
30. 1815. Marched from Paris to embark for England.

## DECEMBER.

1. 1851. Fight during the crossing of the Kei River, South Africa.
- 2.
- 3.
4. 1851. Passage of the River Kei.  
1873. Sailed for the Gold Coast.
- 5.
6. 1863. From Lahore, by forced marches, for Rawalpindi, arriving on the 19th. Engaged with the mutineers at Cawnpore.
7. 1845. Landed at Monte Video.
8. 1857. Engaged at Seria Ghat on the Ganges.
9. 1813. Battle of the Nive.
- 10.
11. 1899. Battle of Magersfontein.
12. 1782. Tippoo raised the siege of Paniané.
13. 1851. Engagement against Sandili.
- 14.
- 15.
- 16.
17. 1873. Arrived Cape Coast Castle. Fight in the Berea Mountains.
18. 1813. Joined the army under Lord Lyndoch.
- 19.
20. 1852. Defeat of the chief Moshesh near Stormberg.
- 21.
22. 1776. Engaged at Black Horse, Delaware.
- 23.
24. 1808. 2nd Battalion 73rd raised.
- 25.
- 26.
- 27.
- 28.
- 29.
- 30.
- 31.

## HOME.

YE links that bind us to our place of birth,  
 Ye sacred feelings cherished at its hearth,  
 But that your magic makes a desert fair,  
 Man were a sad and homeless wanderer.  
 Home, where the morn of life in brightness rose,  
 Home, where we hope its peaceful eve will close,  
 Thine the first friendship, and the earliest love  
 That time and distance strengthen—not remove ;  
 And with thy peaceful scenes are closely joined  
 The thousand pleasing pictures of the mind,  
 That, bright as stars, along a cloudless sky  
 Shine through the silent night of memory.

—Lines written by John Malcolm of the 42nd Regiment,  
 when serving in the Peninsular War.

## THE FIRST HIGHLAND REGIMENTS.

“I sought for merit wherever it was to be found: it is my boast that I was the first Minister who looked for it and found it in the mountains of the North. I called it forth, and drew into your service a hardy and intrepid race of men, who, when left by your jealousy, became a prey to the artifice of your enemies, and had gone nigh to have overturned the State in the war before the last. These men in the last war were brought to combat on your side, they served with fidelity as they fought with valour, and conquered for you in every part of the world.”

—Speech by the elder Pitt in vindication of the employment of Highland Regiments, of which The Black Watch was the first raised of the eighty-six during the four wars between 1739 and 1815.

“SCOTLAND EXPECTS THAT THEY WILL NOT TARNISH  
 THE CHARACTER ENTRUSTED TO THEM.”

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