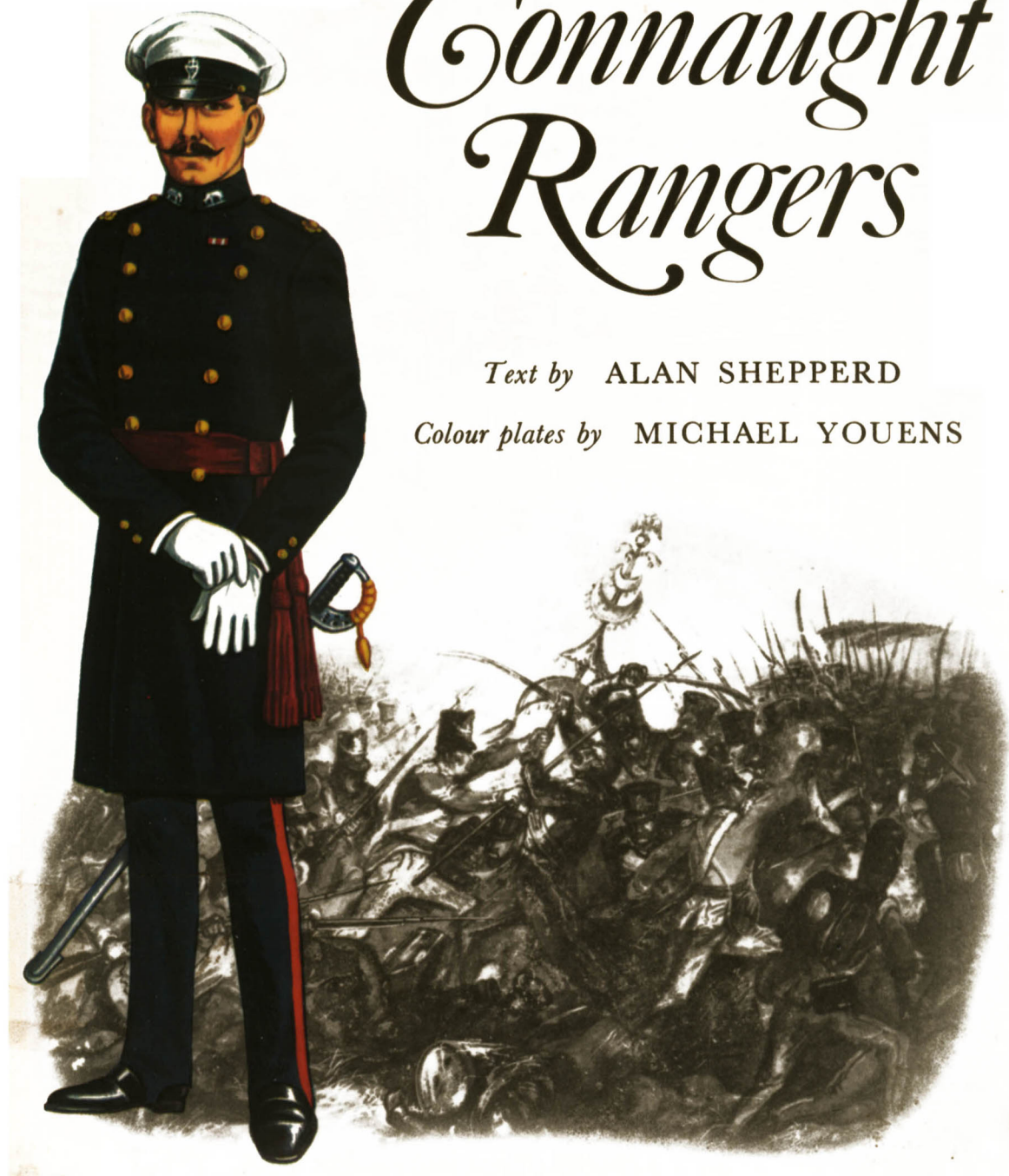


OSPREY · MEN-AT-ARMS SERIES

The Connaught Rangers

Text by ALAN SHEPPERD

Colour plates by MICHAEL YOUENS



MEN-AT-ARMS SERIES
EDITOR: PHILIP WARNER

The Connaught Rangers

'THE DEVIL'S OWN'

Text by ALAN SHEPPERD

Colour plates by MICHAEL YOUENS



OSPREY PUBLISHING LIMITED

Published in England by
Osprey Publishing Ltd, P.O. Box 25,
707 Oxford Road, Reading, Berkshire
© Copyright 1972 Osprey Publishing Ltd

This book is copyrighted under the Berne Convention. All rights reserved. Apart from any fair dealing for the purpose of private study, research, criticism or review, as permitted under the Copyright Act, 1956, no part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic, electrical, chemical, mechanical, optical, photocopying, recording or otherwise, without the prior permission of the copyright owner. Enquiries should be addressed to the Publishers.

SBN 85045 083 7

Printed in Great Britain by
Jarrold & Sons Ltd, Norwich

The Origins



SEPTEMBER 1793

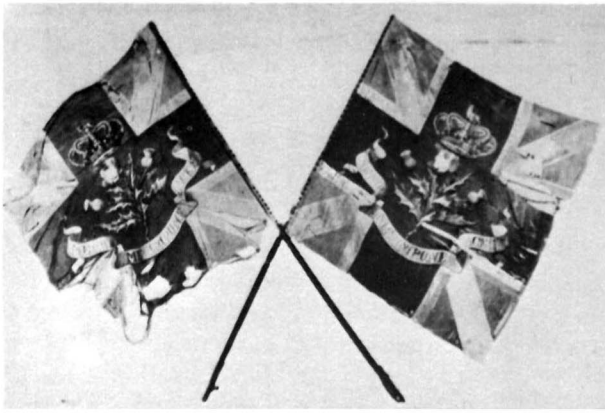
Within days of the execution of Louis XVI the Revolutionary Government of France declared war on Great Britain and Holland. The date was 1 February 1793. France had never been so unprepared. The army had shrunk to 150,000 effectives – less than one fifth of its nominal strength. Eighteen months previously two-thirds of the officer corps, after generations of hereditary service to the King, had resigned and discipline had plummeted; nor had it been properly restored by those elected to command by popular vote in their place. The soldiers themselves were poorly armed and destitute of pay, clothing and equipment. The British were unprepared, but for a different reason. In the ten years following the Peace of Versailles the army had been cut back to 44,000 officers and men, hardly enough to find the weak overseas garrisons, and only a few thousand men remained for the defence of the realm or to carry out any offensive overseas. The urgent need was not just for recruits but for many more regiments. Among the first of the new regiments to be raised were De Burgh's, on 25 September 1793, and the Scotch Brigade the following day. These two regiments, later numbered 88 and 94,

became united under the Cardwell Reforms as the two regular battalions of the Connaught Rangers. As we shall see the coincidence of the dates of their formation was only one of the ties that bound them together for over a century and a quarter of devoted service to the British Crown.

THE SCOTS BRIGADE

It is a matter of historic interest that the Connaught Rangers can claim a direct link with the ancient Scots Brigade that was raised in 1572 for the War of Dutch Independence. The Scots Brigade remained in the service of the Netherlands for over two hundred years and for the majority of this period the regiments were officially held to be part of the armed forces of the Scottish and later British Crown. As early as 1577 the regiments carried the white St Andrews Cross on a blue background as their Colour and under their national flag won undying fame. The Brigade recruited in the Lowlands, marched to 'Scots duty', and in the very early days wore the old time great belted plaid. When, under the Truce of Trèves in 1609, Spain granted independence to the seven United Provinces, the Dutch retained the Brigade to garrison the southern frontiers. In nearly a hundred actions against the Spanish the Brigade had gained a high reputation, and it was at this period that two of the regiments served under Gustavus Adolphus, the Swedish soldier-king, whose country was invaded by the Danes. Within a few years, war with Spain again broke out and dragged on until 1648, with the Brigade constantly occupied in guarding the Dutch frontiers and taking part in many siege operations.

In recognition of two of their greatest feats of arms, the defence of Breda and siege of Bois-le-Duc, the Scots Brigade was awarded the proud designation 'the bulwark of the Republic' by the Prince of Orange. Sixty years later his son, William of



The last colours carried by the Scots Brigade in Holland and laid aside in 1782 remained in that country for over a century until 1884. They were then recovered through the personal intervention of Lord Reay and laid up in St Giles's Cathedral, Edinburgh. (National Army Museum)

Orange landed at Torbay and the Brigade, in their red coats lined in blue, white and yellow to distinguish the three regiments, marched with him. Under King William the Brigade was soon back on familiar ground, this time to fight the French, notably at Steinkirk, Landen and the taking of Namur. Shortly before the accession of Queen Anne the English regiments in the Dutch service were withdrawn and the Scots Brigade was increased to six regiments. Under Marlborough the Brigade won distinction at Ramillies, Oudenarde, Lille, Tournay and Malplaquet. In the long years of peace that followed the Brigade was kept on garrison duty, but when Holland was drawn into the War of the Austrian Succession, to face the well organized armies of Marshal de Saxe, the Brigade was called on to make great sacrifices. This was due to the parsimony of the Dutch Government that had failed to maintain adequate regular forces. At Fontenoy where the Dutch attack failed, Col. Donald Mackay was killed at the head of his regiment. He had succeeded his father in command and was the grandson of the veteran Gen. Hugh Mackay, who as a young officer seventy years previously had reorganized the Brigade at the request of the Prince of Orange. The bitterly contested defensive battles of Roucoux and Laffeld followed, both fought to protect the fortress of Maastricht.

In the autumn of 1747 the Scots Brigade fought their last battle at the fortress of Bergen-op-Zoom, an important fortress besieged by the brilliant and successful Count Lowendahl. A few days later

the London newspapers carried a despatch that had appeared in the *Hague Gazette*, 'The two battalions of the Scots Brigade have as usual done honour to their country; which is all we have to comfort us for the loss of such brave men, who from 1,450 are now reduced to 330, and those have valiantly brought their colours with them, which their grenadiers recovered twice from the midst of the French at the point of the bayonet.'

There followed many years of frustration and disillusionment. The British Government, desperately short of troops for the Seven Years War and the War in America, repeatedly applied for the return of the Brigade. But the Dutch were loath to lose their best troops, and politically their sympathies lay with Britain's enemies. Finally, in 1782, the officers of the Brigade were given the straight choice of renouncing their oath of allegiance to the British Crown, or resigning and leaving Holland. As for the regimental traditions, the uniform, colours and ancient marching airs, all were to be changed. All three regimental commanders and the majority of the officers immediately resigned and returned to England, where as the Peace of Versailles had meanwhile been signed they came on to half pay under a special Act of Parliament. The colours carried at Bergen-op-Zoom remained in Holland for over a century before they were finally handed over and laid up in St Giles' Cathedral, Edinburgh. During the years of crisis preceding the outbreak of the War of the French Revolution the officers of the Scots Brigade petitioned his Majesty on four occasions to revive the Brigade in the service of the Crown. Only the outbreak of war stirred the Government to action. In the summer of 1793 the three senior officers who had returned to England received their 'letter of service', giving His Majesty's approval to the raising of three new battalions. Shortly afterwards the *Gazette* announced the appointment of no less than twenty-six officers of the Scots Brigade to serve in the reformed Scotch Brigade.

THE SCOTCH BRIGADE

Regimental depots were established at Irvine, Dunfermline, Linlithgow and, when recruiting started for a fourth battalion, at Dalkeith five



Battle of Seringapatam. (National Army Museum)

miles outside Edinburgh. The command of this battalion went to Lt.-Col. Thomas Scott of the 53rd. In the flurry of invasion scares so many units had been raised, however, that few were up to strength; a situation much deplored by that admirable administrator the Duke of York, who had recently been appointed Commander-in-Chief. As the result of a series of amalgamations, Lt.-Col. Scott found himself, in 1796, commanding the Scotch Brigade as a single battalion in Gibraltar.

Within months the Brigade was sent to the Cape of Good Hope as reinforcements, to face a threat by the Dutch to recapture the colony. The Battalion was brigaded with the 86th under the command of Maj.-Gen. David Baird, a highly respected officer who knew how to train and lead these two 'remarkably fine bodies of men'. In India, war against Tippoo Sultan was imminent and towards the end of 1798 the Scotch Brigade and the 84th under the command of Gen. Baird, sailed for Madras. Here a large force was assembling under Col. Arthur Wellesley, for the invasion of Mysore and the capture of Seringapatam.

The last company of the Scotch Brigade did not reach Madras until the following February, by which time six companies of the battalion had left to join the 'Grand Army' about to advance on Seringapatam. Under Capt. James Campbell this company was temporarily detached to take part in a remarkable naval action.

CAPTURE OF THE LA FORTE

The *La Forte*, a fast and strongly armed French frigate, had for some time been operating in the Bay of Bengal, capturing merchant men and terrorizing the coastal shipping. The only British naval ship available was the frigate *Sybille*, recently in dock and undermanned through sickness amongst the crew. Within three days of their arrival, five officers and nearly a hundred men of the Scotch Brigade were again at sea serving as marines on the *Sybille*, which cleared for action and sailed immediately. After dusk on the ninth day of the search faint flashes were seen a great way off. The Captain of the frigate decided that the flashes could be reflections from gunfire



The breach of Ciudad Rodrigo, 19 January 1812. (National Army Museum)

beyond the horizon. The *Sybille* immediately changed course; a shadow slipping through the water in a light breeze under a starlit sky. On board 370 men crouched at their action stations in complete darkness. After an hour three ships appeared on the horizon. All were brightly lit up and the largest could soon be seen to have a double row of ports.

The French admiral, intent on putting a prize crew on the two merchantmen, hardly gave a glance to the approaching vessel, whose watch, he thought, must be asleep – another blundering Indiaman that would prove an easy prize. It was well after midnight when the *Sybille* came within range. The first few desultory shots from *La Forte* were ignored and it was some time before the French realized that the darkened ship heading straight towards them was no helpless merchantman. Now on *La Forte* ‘all was shouting and noise’, and the frantic beat of drum, urging the crew to action stations, could be clearly heard across the water, as the *Sybille* rapidly closed on an opposite tack. The French, in their excitement, badly misjudged the range and their broadsides passed clean over the *Sybille*, which still showed no light or

movement on deck. Suddenly the British frigate turned close under *La Forte*’s stern: in a moment the tarpaulins screening the battle lanterns were snatched aside and a double-shotted broadside crashed into the Frenchman’s stern at forty yards range. The action continued for nearly an hour with the two ships less than twenty yards apart, an ideal range for the ‘marines’ that lined the *Sybille*’s bulwarks. At one point the French attempted to disengage and sail away, but the sailors loosing the sails were shot down almost to a man, and soon afterwards *Sybille*’s guns brought the masts and yards crashing down. The effect of the ‘unremitting fire’ which caused great havoc on the quarter deck and fo’c’sle of the *La Forte* is reflected in the respective casualty lists. While the *La Forte* lost 65 killed and 85 wounded, the casualties on the *Sybille* were only 5 killed and 16 wounded.

SERINGAPATAM

The advance on Seringapatam took nearly two months. Of the 37,000 troops only just over 5,000 were Europeans. Three of the four British batta-

lions were formed into an assault brigade under Baird, the 12th, the 74th and the six companies of the Scotch Brigade, which mustered 559 all ranks with Maj. Skelly in command. Lt.-Col. Scott commanded a brigade of Madras Native Troops throughout the campaign. The forces available to Tippoo were estimated at 59,000 men, which included a large body of rocket troops, but only half-hearted attempts were made to delay the advance into Mysore. The invading force faced tremendous logistic problems. Transport for the baggage, commissariat and grain merchants amounted to 120,000 bullocks. In addition there were hundreds of personal retinues accompanied by elephants, camels, more bullocks and coolies. The non-combatants outnumbered the fighting men by five to one and the average advance with this conglomeration of men and beasts, which covered twenty square miles, was only five miles a day.

The siege operations had to be pressed forward as soon as Seringapatam was reached, as the troops were half starved owing to the difficulties of provisioning the huge army. The Scotch Brigade played a major part in driving back the outposts, and by 2 May the trenches were sufficiently advanced and the siege guns in position. Between the nearest parallel and the north-west corner of the fortress a branch of the River Cavery flowed. A practicable crossing point, some 280 yards across and not more than three feet deep, had already been reconnoitred by the engineers. Within forty-eight hours the batteries had breached the main ramparts and the assault was ordered for the next day. At this date the Sultan's force for the defence of the fortress totalled nearly 22,000 men. Gen. Baird, who had old scores to pay off, volunteered to lead the attack. The European infantry battalions, mostly represented by their grenadier or flank companies, were joined by twenty-eight companies of Native infantry to make up nearly 5,000 men for the assault. The troops had moved into the trenches during the night but the attack was delayed until the hottest period of the day, when it was hoped that much of the garrison would be stood down and resting. Shortly after 1.00 p.m. Baird called out, 'men are you all ready?' Those near him replied, 'Yes' and with a shout 'then forward my lads' he scrambled

over the parapet and ran forward straight into the water to where low stakes marked the ford. The rush of men was met by a heavy fire of grape, musketry and rockets, causing a number of casualties, particularly among the supporting troops that were now leaving the trenches. The wide ditch below the rampart was almost filled with fallen masonry and hardly checked the men racing forward from the river bank. A staff officer watching the attack later wrote, 'after a short and appalling interval we saw the acclivity of the breach covered with a cloud of crimson and in a few minutes afterwards observed the files passing rapidly to right and left.' Six minutes after Baird's order to advance the British flag was seen waving from the ramparts. The orders were for the assault columns to swing outwards and clear the ramparts and the Scotch Brigade led the right-hand column. The Grenadier company, under Capt. Molle, drove the Sultan's troops before them until they met a strong force led by French officers. The arrival of the flank companies, however, restored the situation. Soon the two columns moving round the ramparts were within sight of each other and began to fire down onto the terrified mass of Mysorean troops, who struggled to escape out through the far gates. As volley after volley cut into the swaying mass, panic spread and the Sultan was shot down, unrecognized amongst the mass of struggling men. Then the sepoys moved in and the number of Mysoreans that died that day in Seringapatam was reckoned as 10,000.

In the general order issued after the battle Major Skelly received special mention. The Scotch Brigade lost 13 men killed and 80 wounded. Capt. Hay was killed during the siege, and four officers were wounded in the assault. The capture of Seringapatam cost the Grand Army over 1,500 casualties of which 367 were in the assault.

The East India Company granted a medal for Seringapatam, but the British troops were not allowed to wear it for over fifty years. So far as is known, none of the Scotch Brigade ever received the medal. A small batch (nineteen silver and two bronze medals) was sent on to the battalion in Spain but these were presumably stolen *en route*. Similarly the Naval General Service Medal with bar for the *Sybil* action was eventually granted, but of the 365 survivors only a midshipman and

three seamen could be traced. None were ever issued to the gallant 'marines'. During the Mahratta War the Scotch Brigade led the assault at Asseerghur and were in the forefront of the Battle of Argaum. After the storming of Gawilghur, a fortress previously considered impregnable, Maj. James Campbell and the light company under Capt. Frederick Campbell received the special thanks of Maj.-Gen. Wellesley. In 1851 the issue of an India medal was authorized and four officers and forty men of the battalion were alive to receive the medal.

94TH (SCOTCH BRIGADE)

In 1802, while the battalion was in Madras, it was given a new title – 94th (Scotch Brigade). The allocation of this low number caused much bitterness in a regiment that claimed more than ninety years seniority over the Coldstream Guards. In 1808 the battalion returned to Dunbar in Scotland. Its services in India had not been forgotten by the East India Company on whose representation the following was published in the *London Gazette*, dated 16 April 1807:—'His Majesty has been graciously pleased to approve of the 94th Regiment bearing the Elephant on their Colours and on their Appointments as an honourable and lasting testimony of their distinguished Services in India.' It was also about this time that the title 'Scotch Brigade' was dropped from the Army List. Early in 1810 the 94th joined Sir Arthur Wellesley's army in the Peninsula. The 88th Connaught Rangers were already there.

88TH CONNAUGHT RANGERS

- 1793 Connaught Rangers raised by Hon. John Thomas de Burgh (mainly in Connaught) and moves to Chatham.
- 1794 Numbered 88th. Moves to Jersey then to Holland to join Duke of York. Terrible deprivations of winter campaign.
- 1795 Withdrawn to England, owing to typhus. 543 out of 773 men unfit for duty.
- April
- September Lt.-Col. William Beresford takes over command.

- November/ Embarks for West Indies; transports
- December scattered by storms and only three companies reach Grenada.
- 1796 Battalion reunited in England and spends the next two years in Jersey. Strength 400.
- 1799–1800 Stationed in Bombay.
- 1801 Ceylon, then to Egypt under Gen. Baird and marches from the Red Sea to the Nile to reach Alexandria.
- 1802 Egypt. Lands in England the day war is declared against France.
- 1802–6 Anti-invasion role on South Coast. Inspected by Maj.-Gen. Sir Arthur Wellesley and warned for a 'secret' expedition, originally to Chile.

The Peninsular War

1808-14



BUENOS AIRES

The Connaught Rangers embarked in September 1806 but did not sail for two months. Reaching Cape Town at the end of March 1807, the expedition learned that Buenos Aires had been recaptured by the Spanish and that this was now their destination. The force of eight battalions and three cavalry regiments (two of which were dismounted) sailed up the Rio de la Plata. The river was twenty miles wide, but shallow water extended from the banks for up to eight miles and naval bombardment was impossible, so the troops disembarked on 28 June some thirty miles from Buenos Aires. The 88th had been almost continuously at sea for

nearly ten months. The direct route to the city was across marshy land, which was intersected by many muddy streams, and the winter rains had turned the whole area into a swamp. The invading force was thus faced with a difficult and circuitous route (of nearly fifty miles) further inland. The conditions were appalling and the men unfit. There was no shelter from the rain and many streams had to be crossed. In negotiating the swamp to reach the high ground, five out of sixteen guns and all but a ton of biscuits (the only rations landed) had to be abandoned. On 3 July, after a five days' march, during which two of the brigades lost their way, the outskirts of the city was reached. Here the Spanish Viceroy, Gen. Liniers, waited with a force of unknown strength. Spasmodic skirmishing continued for thirty-six hours before Maj.-Gen. Whitelocke, the British commander, launched his attack on the morning of 5 July. Every available man was employed, some 5,000 all ranks, divided into thirteen small columns. The columns were ordered to advance down the streets that were laid out in a conventional chess board pattern and led straight to the waterfront. The 88th found 560 all ranks organized into two columns under Lt.-Col. Duff and Maj. Vandeleur. In the city the Spanish General could call on some 15,000 men, a third of whom were partisans in organized groups, and the support of nearly fifty guns. This well-armed force was held well back in ambush positions close to a main defence line, which was protected by strong barricades and covered by the artillery. But this was not all, as the citizens had barricaded their houses and were ready to resist with improvised grenades and any other weapons to hand.

The core of the defence was centred on the Cathedral Square and a fort on the waterfront and several of the little columns were allowed to advance down silent and deserted streets until they were almost within sight of the beach. As soon as fire was opened from the houses and rooftops, Maj. Vandeleur led his men forward at the double. Ahead was a breastwork of bullock hides filled with earth and a six foot deep ditch which was negotiated under heavy fire. But the only exit from the street was up a narrow ramp enfiladed at 200 yards range by guns from the fort, and the men of the 88th were falling fast from the steady

fire of marksmen posted on every rooftop. The trap had been carefully set. Any attempt to occupy nearby houses was beaten back and men sheltering in the ditch, behind the dead bodies of their comrades, were shelled by a field gun firing from a side street. Eventually ammunition ran out and the survivors, who were completely surrounded, were forced to surrender.

The column under Lt.-Col. Duff actually reached their objective, which was a church not far from the Cathedral, without a shot being fired, but suffered a similar fate. While attempting to break down the heavy doors of the Church, the party came under such a devastating fire from the surrounding houses that the only course open was to sheer off into side streets, where the remnants of the force occupied three houses for several hours. Finally a handful of survivors surrendered. By the early afternoon the fighting had died down all over the city. The British casualties amounted to over 1,000 killed and wounded and nearly 2,000 prisoners, compared with the Spanish losses of over 30 guns and 1,000 prisoners and an unknown number of killed and wounded. Gen. Whitelocke decided that the task of occupying the province, even if he eventually captured the city, was beyond his means so an agreement to exchange prisoners and evacuate the province within ten days was signed in 7 July.

The British troops felt humiliated and certainly had lost confidence in their commander. Lt.-Col. Duff, in giving evidence at the subsequent court martial of Gen. Whitelocke, stated that he had deposited the Colours at his headquarters before the attack to avoid their possible capture. He also recounted the astonishing incident of his reserve companies being ordered by his Brigadier to remove the flints from their muskets and leave them on the ground before being sent up as reinforcements. This pig-headed instruction related to an equally unrealistic general order: 'the whole [force] to be unloaded and no firing to be permitted on any account!' So much for a regimental commander's opinion of the tactical handling of the battle of Buenos Aires, in which the Connaught Rangers lost 20 officers and 220 men killed and wounded. Within a year of arriving back in England the battalion (now under the command of Maj. Vandeleur) was under orders to go to the

aid of their recent enemy and landed at Lisbon in April 1809. Their Colonel, Lt.-Gen. Beresford, was given command of the Portuguese Army to which the Connaught Rangers were temporarily attached.

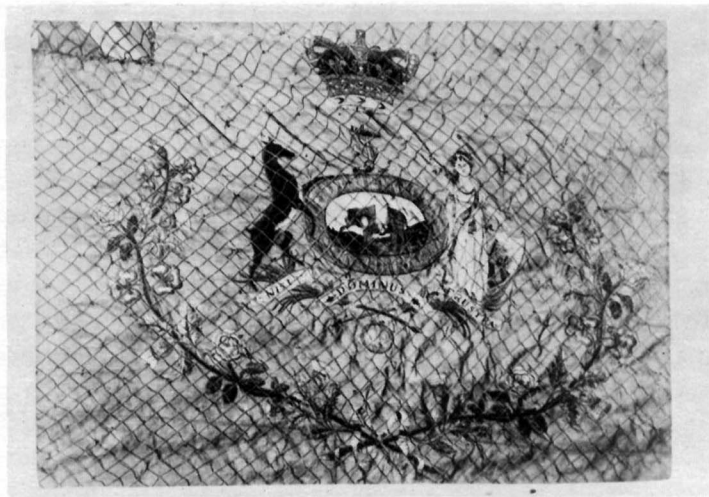
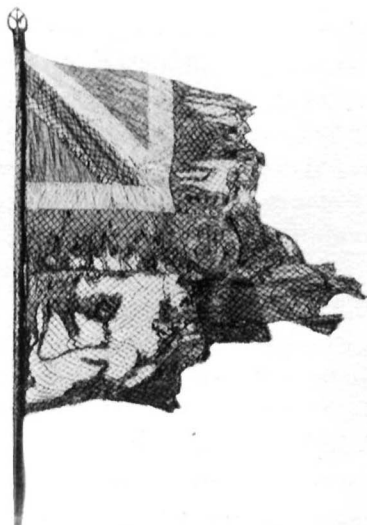
88TH (CONNAUGHT RANGERS) IN THE PENINSULA

After the passage of the Douro the Connaught Rangers joined 3 Division to take part in the campaign for which Sir Arthur Wellesley received the title Viscount Wellington. A month's march up the valley of the River Tagus, in pursuit of the French under Marshal Victor, brought the British, now joined by a Spanish army, to Talavera and the crossing of the river Alberche. Wellesley, threatened on his open flank and frustrated by the wretched supply arrangements that he had unwillingly left to the Spanish, was forced to stand and fight a defensive battle. On the afternoon of 27 July, 3 Division, having covered the disorderly retreat of the Spanish across the river Alberche, was moving back through wooded ground towards Talavera itself. The main body, which included

the Connaught Rangers, was halted in a clearing close to the ruined walls of the Casa de Salinas. Covered by the smoke of some burning houses, the French slipped across the river and past the rear-guard. The first volley killed many men who had been comfortably resting in the shade. Both the 87th and 88th were thrown into confusion and were only rallied to the rear after some difficulty. Wellesley galloped back and was nearly captured, and the French were only driven back after the Division had lost nearly 450 men.

THE BATTLE OF TALAVERA

That evening the Allied troops formed up on the line of the Portina, a stream that flowed down from the mountains to the Tagus at Talavera. The key to the position was a ridge on the left of the ridge, the Cerro de Medellin, and the 88th were hardly in position on its slopes when the first French attack was launched. On the right, four Spanish battalions panicked and ran. But for Wellesley's personal intervention the battle might have been lost there and then. The fighting continued throughout the following day with two



The Peninsular Colours of the 94th (Scotch Brigade). Left: the King's colour; right: detail of the central device on the Regimental colour. The Regimental colour has the customary Union canton in the upper left-hand corner. The elephant badge, conferred on the 94th by the King in October 1806 in recognition of their services in the East, is in the centre with the arms supporters and motto of the City of Edinburgh (Nisi Dominus Frustra). Around the elephant badge is a ring bearing 'Edinburgh' above and 'Scotch Brigade' below

separate assaults on the British position. Overnight the French pulled out, having suffered over 7,000 casualties in their attempts to crush the British, whose loss of 5,363 men represented a quarter of Wellesley's force. In the two days' fighting the Connaught Rangers lost 136 including four officers killed. In their support role on the ridge, the battalion had more than a taste of French shelling and the previous day's lesson on the value of sentries in close country had been learned the hard way. Talavera showed Wellington as 'the first General of his time on the field of battle' and the 'superiority of courage, steadiness and discipline' of the British soldier in their first major action against the French in Spain.

THE 88TH AT BUSACO

While the abortive Siege of Cadiz was in progress, at which the 94th played a distinguished part, the French forces in Spain rose to 300,000 and by July a strong force of 65,000 men was assembled near Ciudad Rodrigo under Marshal Massena for the invasion of Portugal. Wellington, having fortified the Lines of Torres Vedras and made his own supply arrangements, sent Gen. Hill to watch the frontier further south and waited for Massena to advance. As Wellington slowly pulled back through the valley of the River Mondego the French, who were desperately short of transport, were drawn further and further into hostile territory which had been completely denuded of all supplies. Just north of Coimbra, and covering the approach to the road that led south to Lisbon, is the Serra do Busaco. Hill was recalled and by the evening of 26 September Wellington had 5,000 men in position on the nine-mile-long ridge between the convent of Busaco and Penacova on the Mondego. The ridge, except for a succession of rocky peaks, stands up to 500 feet above the surrounding countryside and is covered with heather and gorse. The sides are precipitous in places and seamed with boulder-strewn ravines. Three roads crossed the Serra do Busaco and Wellington had to split his force to cover each of these approaches, but to assist the movement of reinforcements a road had been specially constructed along the reverse side of the ridge.

Picton's 3 Division held the central position

covering the road up from the little village of San Antonio de Cantara. Believing the British were on a narrow front and preparing to withdraw by the main road past the convent, Massena ordered Marshal Ney with 22,000 men to attack in this direction, while Marshal Reynier with a further 15,000 infantry took the centre road and had the task of clearing the ridge up to the convent. Overnight, Picton was reinforced by a Portuguese brigade, plus the 8th Portuguese Regiment, and had moved the 88th to cover a deep and narrow gully that led up into the centre of his position between his own two brigades. Soon after dawn on 27 September Reynier's divisions, totalling twenty-six battalions formed into two columns, started to toil up the steep slopes north of San Antonio. The assembly of the right-hand column (Gen. Marle with about 6,600 men) had already been spotted and Picton sent four companies of the 45th to reinforce Wallace, commanding the 88th.

The other French column, climbing up towards the head of the San Antonio pass, was met with a storm of grape and musketry and were brought to a standstill, having suffered heavy casualties. Picton, judging the situation was in hand, and hearing the sound of heavy fighting on his left front, despatched the remainder of the 45th and a battalion of the 8th Portuguese in that direction and galloped off himself. With no road to guide them Marle's battalions had climbed obliquely up the slope and, coming under the well directed fire of Lightburne's Brigade, had swung back below Wallace's position and begun to penetrate between the 88th and the detached companies of the 45th. Wallace, who had sent Major Dunne to watch where the French attack might develop, immediately saw the danger of the 45th being overwhelmed. The light companies were already engaged with the French skirmishers but without hesitation Wallace moved the remainder of the battalion rapidly towards the head of the gully where the 45th had been posted. By now a number of French sharpshooters were ensconced on a rocky crag on the crest of the ridge. Wallace having sent his grenadiers and two other companies to deal with them had only six companies left. After their long climb the French regiments were intermixed and the men were much out of breath. Nevertheless they surged forward intent on sweeping away

the weak force resolutely formed on the crest of the ridge. At this moment the Connaught Rangers suddenly appeared on their right. At close range a single volley struck the mass of men debouching on to the ridge. Wallace, jumping from his horse, led the charge straight down the slope into the flank of the French column. His orders had been 'Press on the rascals to the muzzle,' and the shock of the charge brought fearful havoc to the crowded ranks. Wellington, who had witnessed the charge, had meanwhile brought up two guns, which poured grape into the flank and rear of the French. Their leading regiment gave way and carried with it the other two regiments, surging back from the bayonets of the 88th who were now joined by the 45th and 8th Portuguese. The whole of Marle's division was now in full flight down the slope and the slaughter only ended when the French guns forced the jubilant Allied infantrymen back to their positions. Picton's arrival with reinforcements soon dealt with the remaining French skirmishers among the rocks on the summit of the ridge. A second attempt by the French to reach the San Antonio pass was similarly foiled and beaten back by the arrival of Leith's division that had arrived at the double from the southern end of the Serra, over two miles away along the road below the crest. To the north, opposite the convent, Marshal Ney's attack had also failed and the overall French losses amounted to 4,600 including five Generals and over 300 officers. The British casualties amounted to 631 and the Portuguese about twenty less. The brunt of the casualties was borne by two regiments, the 45th and the Connaught Rangers, which between them lost 284 officers and men. Immediately after the action Wellington personally congratulated Wallace with the words, 'I never saw a more gallant charge than that made just now by your regiment', a tribute to the regiment that was repeated in his official despatch. Marshal Beresford and Gen. Picton had meanwhile arrived and added their congratulations, but the soldiers had not forgotten their first encounter with their Divisional Commander, at which Picton had made an angry remark about 'Irish robbers and Connaught footpads'. A certain Pte. Cooney indeed greeted him with, 'Well, General, where were you this morning? We had a warm job of it, but our Colonel did it nately:

are we the Connaught footpads now?' These remarks brought an immediate reprimand from Col. Wallace but Picton had taken them in good part. In addition to Wallace, one other officer of the Connaughts received particular mention in Wellington's official despatch. This was Capt. Dansey. Armed with a musket and bayonet, he had led his company with exceptional gallantry in the desperate hand-to-hand fighting to evict the French sharpshooters from the rocky crag that overlooked the site of the Connaught's vital charge.

THE 94TH JOIN 3 DIVISION

In 1810, after defending Cadiz, the 94th returned to Lisbon. Marching north they met the stream of wounded men sent back after Busaco, ahead of the army withdrawing to the Lines of Torres Vedras. The battalion joined the second brigade of 3 Division which was holding a forward sector of the Lines. Their introduction to the Divisional Commander was somewhat dramatic! Some of the 94th had been caught stealing sheep and looting a wine store. The following Sunday, during the Church service in their billeting area, Picton stalked into the pulpit and addressed his 'congregation' in the bluntest soldiers' language, concluding with the damning words, 'you are a disgrace to your moral country, Scotland!'

For the next four years the 88th and 94th served side by side in Picton's 'fighting division', and one of their proudest battles was Fuentes de Onoro in May 1811. But during the remainder of the summer, 3 Division was kept busy with the siege first of Badajoz and then of Ciudad Rodrigo. The soldiers thoroughly detested siege work. For the more intelligent men, who were pulled out of other companies to become temporary engineers, there was a change of routine and a chance to work with the much admired but mysterious 'sappers', of whom there were all too few in the army. For the average soldier, who had to dig the parallels and saps, and man the trenches for weeks on end under the very muzzles of the fortress guns, it meant hard, dangerous and unspectacular work. The opening of the first parallel at Badajoz is described by a sergeant of the 94th:

'We marched down towards the town for the purpose of breaking ground: it was fortunately



The storming of the castle at Badajoz, 6-7 April 1812.
(National Army Museum)

very dark, and as we kept the greatest silence the French were not aware of our approach . . . we formed a line across the front of the town where two thousand entrenching tools had been laid. We were then told our safety depended on expedition, for if the French discovered our presence before we had worked ourselves under cover, a warm salute might be expected.'

Nearby, an officer of the 8th was getting his first taste of siege operations. 'I scarcely ventured to breathe until we had completed a respectable first parallel and when it was fairly finished, just as morning began to dawn, I felt irrepressibly relieved.' Wellington, however, had no proper siege artillery. When Marshal Marmont, who had replaced Massina, advanced in strength, he moved back to cover the frontier.

WINTER QUARTERS

Winter quarters in Portugal were quite appalling. The poverty of the inhabitants and countryside, which had been burned and pillaged by the French and earlier denuded of supplies on

Wellington's orders, offered no comfort and little shelter. Most of the British troops were in rags and the men's shoes were of such poor quality that they were in tatters after a week or so, or sucked off and lost in the sea of mud that threatened to engulf the billets. There were no tents, and the soldiers' sole protection from the torrential rain, and freezing conditions, was a thin patrol coat and a single blanket. The officers fared better. Some had provided themselves with oilskin cloaks and when the baggage came up they could at least change into dry clothes, which were not necessarily of regimental pattern. Wellington judged both officer and man by his conduct in action and there was a total disregard of any uniformity of dress. Col. Wallace knew the quality of his 'boys' in action and equally respected their 'aisy' manners and nonchalant disregard of any regulation that they considered unimportant. The men were 'drilled' as hard as any in the army, but off parade the officers never tormented or fussed over them. When the Brigadier asked a certain Pte. Rooney to which squad he belonged, Rooney was unable either to reply in English, or give the answer

through his sergeant. The incident caused much amusement within the Brigade, but both the Brigadier and Col. Wallace knew that there wasn't a man in the battalion who didn't know his place in the company and how to use his musket.

CUIDAD RODRIGO

By the New Year, Wellington was ready to march again on Ciudad Rodrigo. The siege train had arrived, and the supply system had been reorganized. At dawn, on 4 January 1812, 3 Division was under arms. Snow had fallen overnight, and the column moved off in sleet, which turned to freezing rain.

By the evening of 7 January, Ciudad Rodrigo had once again been invested. The fortress was well supplied with artillery and ammunitions, but was under-manned and poorly vitalled. Gen. Barrie, described by Marmont as a detestable officer, commanded the garrison of something over 1,800 troops. The town stood on a hill and was surrounded by a medieval wall 32 feet high. This in turn was enclosed by a *fausse-braie* or low rampart and ditch, constructed so far down the slope, however, that the wall itself was ill protected from direct fire. In contrast to the precipitous southern face of the fortress which overlooked the River Agueda, the ground to the north fell gradually towards a little stream, with beyond two ridges covered by outworks. It was here, against the north-west corner, that Wellington decided to make the main assault. On the night of 8 January, 1 Division captured the redoubt on the Great Teson, and work on the first parallel was started immediately only 600 yards from the town. Within a week the fortified convent of Santa Cruz had fallen to 4 Division and the second parallel had been opened, only 150 yards from the town. At this short range, the French started using fireballs at night to light up the working parties at which, on one such occasion, Sgt. Fraser of the 94th seized a spade and 'regardless of the enemies' fire ran forward to where it was lying, and having dug a hole, tumbled it in and covered it with earth.'

By 19 January, two breaches had been achieved, and Wellington ordered the assault for that same night. Picton's Division was to storm the great

breach, while the Light Division stormed the lesser breach to its left. At the same time, a Portuguese brigade would make a feint attack on the San Pelayo Gate. Mackinnon's Brigade provided the storming party of 500 volunteers and the honour of finding the forlorn hope went to the 88th and Lt. Mackie and twenty men of his company. Two battalions of Picton's other brigade (which was under the temporary command of Lt.-Col. Campbell of the 94th) and the remainder of Mackinnon's Brigade provided the reserve. The 5th and 94th had the task of capturing the outer wall and ditch to the right of the great breach, so as to cover the main assault.

As the 88th waited in the darkness, Picton rode up. His address was characteristic. 'Rangers of Connaught! It is not my intention to expend any powder this evening. We'll do the business with the cold iron.' The cheer that followed almost drowned the sound of the signal gun for the attack. With Picton and Mackinnon at their head the troops moved rapidly into the trenches that led towards the breach. Contrary to Wellington's intentions, the 94th arrived at the breach via the inner ditch a few moments before the main storming party, and both then scrambled to the top of the breach. Here there was a check, as there was a drop of between 12 to 16 feet to the street below and the crush of men was being swept by grape-shot from two heavy guns that enfiladed the gap itself. At this moment there was a shattering explosion as a large mine was fired. Maj.-Gen. Mackinnon and his A.D.C., Lt. Beresford of the 88th, were killed and over 150 other officers and men were killed or wounded. As those behind pressed forward the two flanking guns continued to take a heavy toll. Sgt. Brazil and two privates (Swan and Kelly) of the 8th unscrewed their bayonets to use as daggers, and leapt across the intervening trench on their left. In a desperate hand to hand struggle they killed four of the French gunners, and the fifth in attempting to escape was killed by men of the 5th who had now reached the top of the breach. While the gun opposite was similarly being silenced, Lt. Mackie had jumped down into the street and led the survivors of the storming party in pursuit of the French who were now falling back on the citadel. Here no resistance was offered, and the gates were opened

in order to surrender. At this moment, Lt. Gurwood of the 52nd, who had led the assault of the lesser breach arrived. Having a good command of the French language, he promptly arranged to escort the Governor back to Wellington's headquarters. Controversy over Mackie's claim to Gen. Barrie's sword, which in fact was surrendered to Gurwood, continued until after Mackie's death over forty years later. 88th and 94th both claim to have been first into the town.

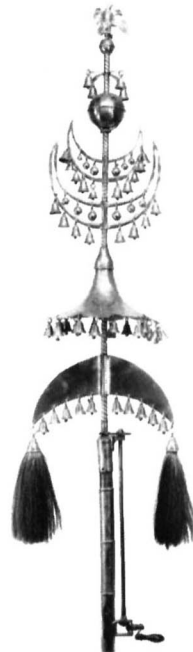
Wellington's army suffered more casualties during the siege than in the assault, 553 as against 499 in killed and wounded, and the French casualties must have been small in view of the fact that 1,700 surrendered. In the assault, the 88th lost Lt. Beresford and 20 men killed, while 5 officers and 46 men were wounded. The 94th lost 2 officers and 5 wounded, while 13 other ranks were killed and 48 wounded.

For some hours after its capture Ciudad Rodrigo was the scene of serious disorders, with mobs of soldiers loose in the streets in search of liquor and plunder. During this wild house-to-house search a dozen deserters were discovered, including five men from Picton's division. All were court martialled and sentenced to be shot. Two of the deserters belonged to the 88th and one of these, Pte. Mangin, was pardoned by Wellington on account of his previous excellent conduct. Unfortunately, the pardon was not read out until Mangin had witnessed the execution of the others, and found himself standing alone in front of his own grave before the complete division formed in hollow square. The experience unhinged his mind and he died from the shock a few hours later.

BADAJOS

Within a month the men of 3 Division were once again working in the trenches – this time knee deep in mud, close under the walls of Badajoz. The siege operations lasted twenty-one days and cost the Allies 1,000 officers and men, but during the assault the losses to the British alone were three times this figure. On the night, 6/7 April, the Light Division and 4 Division struggled side by side for two hours to surmount the breach. Their losses were terrible. Two regiments, the 43rd and 52nd, of the Light Brigade lost 37 officers and

624 men. When the recall was finally sounded, with the dead and dying heaped against the *chevaux-de-frise*, made of sword-blades set in huge tree trunks, and in the ditch filled with burning carts and every kind of explosive missile, not a single officer or man of either division had penetrated the defences. By a quirk of fate it was the flank attacks, by Leith's 5 Division down by the River Guardian and by 3 Division, that eventually captured the castle on the opposite side of the town, and turned defeat into victory. It was the sound of bugles from Leith's columns, marching



'The Jingling Johnnie'

towards them along the line of the retrenchment, that first brought doubt to the jubilant defenders at the breaches. When the call of bugles sounding the advance replied from the castle, the French started to waiver and slip away to the rear. Within an hour the gallant and resourceful garrison commander, Gen. Phillipon, had abandoned the town and crossed to Fort San Christobal where he surrendered early the following morning.

Picton's attack had preceded the main assault at the breaches by about twenty minutes. From the start things began to go wrong. Surprise had been lost when a rifleman of the vanguard fired back at a sentry on the rampart, and the nine battalions found themselves having to cross a mill dam in single file in the face of well-directed fire. For three-quarters of an hour every attempt to

escalade the rampart was beaten back. Not only were the ladders too short, but the men crowded in the ditch were caught in a terrible cross-fire from two bastions. Picton, already wounded, led a second attempt himself, but was forced to draw off the leading battalions. By now the second brigade had negotiated the dam and moved further to the right below the castle walls. At this point the rampart, damaged during a previous siege, was about ten feet lower and the grenadier officers of the 5th succeeded in raising several ladders. The first officer to reach the rampart, Lt. MacAlpine of the 88th, was killed a few moments later, but the new attack had taken the defence by surprise and the French were slowly driven back. After an hour of confused fighting in the dark passages of the castle (which contained most of the garrison's food and ammunition), the French abandoned the citadel but succeeded in

barricading the main gate from outside. Shortly afterwards, the sound of the tramp of marching troops was heard and a voice in English demanded admission. But Picton was not easily fooled. When the gates were thrown open the visitors, four companies of the French 88th Regiment, were met with a volley and a charge.

At Badajoz the 88th lost 16 officers killed or wounded, and upwards of 225 men, the heaviest casualties of any battalion in the division. The 94th, however, had been the last to cross the dam, and was spared the ordeal of the first attacks. The sack of Badajoz went far beyond anything that had occurred at Ciudad Rodrigo. Order was only restored on the third day, when a complete brigade of British troops was marched in with orders to clear the town. Wellington, who had broken down and wept openly when he learnt the extent of the casualties, was now so angry, one of



The 88th at the Battle of Salamanca, 22 July 1812. At this battle it was the Connaught Rangers who captured from the French their historic and much-prized trophy the 'Jingling Johnnie' or set of Turkish bells

his staff reported, that he would 'hardly thank the troops' for taking the town.

SALAMANCA

The year 1812 proved the turning point of the war in the Peninsular, and greatly enhanced Wellington's reputation that hitherto had rested on his successes against ill-armed native troops in India. Now he was to prove himself in a battle of the manoeuvre against the finest troops in Europe. After the Battle of Salamanca, fought on 22 July 1812, Wellington became a General of the first rank.

The opposing forces were roughly equal, with about 47,000 men on either side. Wellington's army included some 15,000 Portuguese and a small Spanish force – the remainder were British. Learning that Marmont would shortly receive large reinforcements, Wellington moved his baggage train to the rear and took up a concealed position south-east of the town to cover his lines of communication back to Ciudad Rodrigo. Marmont, however, believing that Wellington had already started a retreat, moved the majority of his troops in a wide, sweeping movement so as to threaten the Allied right flank and cut off their line of withdrawal. The route chosen by the French led them through wooded and undulating country and the leading divisions got very strung out. This gave Wellington the opportunity to attack while the French army was divided and off balance. As soon as the outflanking movement was spotted, Wellington switched 3 Division from their position covering the ford at Cabrerizos to a lay-back position on his right flank in front of the village of Aldea Tejada.

Issuing orders for his main body, which was still hidden from the French, to be moved forward, Wellington galloped over to 3 Division, this being the nearest to the French columns now approaching Monte de Azan. Picton was recovering from his wounds and on sick leave in England, and Wellington's brother-in-law, Sir Edward Packenham, was commanding the division. The time was about 5.00 p.m. and the men, who had been resting after their forced march, were called to arms as Wellington arrived at top speed. His orders were short and to the point: 'Ned, move on with the 3 Division; take the heights to your front;

and drive everything before you.' As their Commander-in-Chief galloped back to the centre the division moved off in four columns. On the right was a mixed force of light cavalry, then came Wallace's Brigade (with Maj. Seton commanding the 88th), the Portuguese Brigade and finally the left brigade, commanded by Lt.-Col. James Campbell of the 94th.

The objective was 2½ miles away, but much of the advance was screened by intervening hills. The last 1,000 yards, however, had to be covered in the face of the French skirmishers and of some twenty field guns that were rushed forward onto Monte de Asan. Undeterred by this harassing fire, the division pressed forward to reach the crest line without serious opposition. On the summit, the French columns were in some confusion and still only half formed. At this moment, a terrified horse bolted right across the front of Wallace's Brigade dragging the bleeding corpse of Maj. Murphy of the 88th, who had been shot as he led his company over the crest. The sight so stirred the blood of the men of the 88th that they became quite uncontrollable, and Packenham turning to Wallace, shouted, 'Let them loose!' With a great shout all three regiments surged forward. The charge was irresistible, and the leading columns of Thomières' Division dissolved into a mob of panic-stricken fugitives. One of these regiments, the 101 Line, was practically annihilated, losing their eagle and over 1,000 men. It was from this regiment that the historic and much-prized trophy, the 'Jingling Johnny' was captured by the Connaught Rangers. By now four more British divisions had come up in line with 3 Division, and a general engagement ensued. The climax came with the dramatic and decisive charge of Le Marchant's heavy dragoons, and by sunset the French were in full retreat. The Allied losses were around 5,000, a third of those of the French. But for the Spanish abandoning their post guarding the vital bridge over the river Tormes, the French losses might well have been doubled.

THE RETREAT FROM BURGOS

After Salamanca, the 88th and 94th formed part of the garrison of Madrid. As guests in the liberated capital the troops settled down to enjoy the

fruits of victory. Every place of entertainment was thrown open, with public balls for the officers and free seats at theatres and bull fights for all. The interlude, however was short-lived. In late October, Wellington was forced to recall 3 Division, raise the Siege of Burgos and fall back into winter quarters across the frontier. The retreat from Burgos is a classic example of the fortitude of the British soldier, and equally an example of Wellington's skill as a tactician when faced with heavy odds. In torrents of rain, shaken by ague and weakened by dysentery and fever, with their clothing in tatters and mostly without shoes, the troops struggled back with the French hard on their heels. The commissariat failed. No camp kettles or rations ever arrived, and a few handfuls of acorns saved many men from death by starvation. Grattan, the chronicler of the 88th, at least had a pair of serviceable shoes, but remarks that for three weeks he could never take them off, for his feet were so swollen that he could not get them on again. His silk-lined frock coat, made out of a cassock belonging to a priest captured at Badajoz, was in rags, 'A mere spencer and no longer the object of envy that he had sported on the boulevards of Madrid.' Many men owed their lives to Col. Lloyd of the 94th. Marching at the rear of his brigade, Lloyd piled his horse with the knapsacks of men who were in the last stages of exhaustion. Time and time again, a soldier who had collapsed and was ready to accept death or capture rather than attempt to go on, would be hoisted into the saddle, while Lloyd himself led the horse back with the rear-guard.

THE END OF THE PENINSULAR WAR

The following summer, Wellington's army was on the move again, marching north, and this time it was the French who were in retreat. Lloyd exhorted his men to even greater efforts in the forced marches that led to the victory at Vittoria and the crossing of the Pyrenees. Lloyd was killed in the Battle of Nivelle. He was only 30 years old – a professional soldier of the highest quality, known as a wit and for his courage and herculean strength throughout the army, and as a leader whose first thought was always for the men he led. One of these later wrote:

'When he came into camp he was never a moment idle, either reconnoitring the enemy's position, or drawing charts of the roads, etc. He scarcely allowed himself to rest, and was always up an hour or two before the bugle sounded: but he would never allow the men to be disturbed before the proper time. But then he expected them to be alert . . . all his motions were double quick and he detested nothing so much as laziness.'

Within six months the French had again been beaten at the Battle of Orthes, Toulouse had fallen, and the war was over.

The 88th from 1814 to 1881



In mid-June the 88th were despatched to Canada to reinforce the garrison that for two years had been defending the frontiers. The Americans, taking the opportunity of twisting the British lion's tail, had declared war in support of France, and had already gained naval supremacy on Lake Erie. Under the command of Lt.-Col. Macpherson the Connaught Rangers landed at Quebec on 3 August and immediately sent a detachment to Fort William Henry. Within a few weeks the majority of the battalion was in action at Plattsburg at the head of Lake Champlain. Gen. Sir George Prevost, the Governor-General of Canada, had crossed the frontier with about two brigades and reached the west side of Plattsburg Bay. The Americans under Brig.-Gen. Macomb were seriously outnumbered. While Prevost waited for his gun-boats to sail up the lake, militia and volunteers

flocked to join Macomb. In the ensuing naval action, an American flotilla won the day. The locally constructed vessels on both sides were 'little better than a collection of shattered wrecks', but the British gun-boats were forced to retreat. Meanwhile, the leading British troops had crossed the River Saranac, and driven the much weaker force of American troops from their redoubts. In this skirmish, the Light Company of the 88th under Capt. Nickle and Lt. Delme showed considerable dash. Their Brigadier, Sir Thomas Brisbane, was so confident that he offered to take the American fort with his brigade alone in twenty minutes. Prevost, however, would not agree and ordered a general withdrawal; a decision which led to his recall to England where, but for his death the following January he would have faced a court-martial for his incompetent handling of the operation.

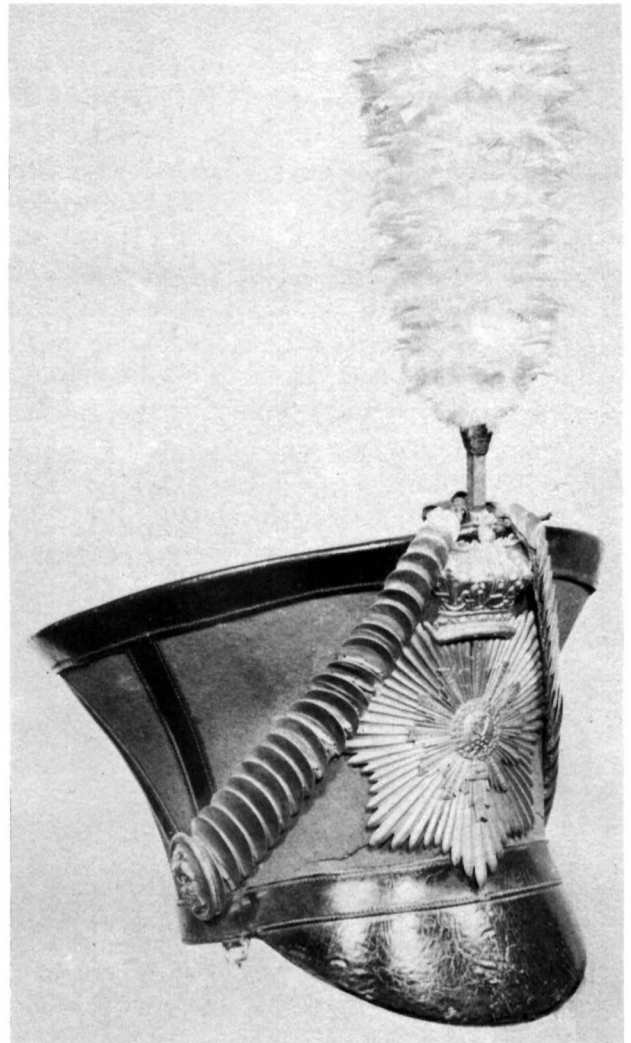
REGIMENTAL MEDALS

In 1818, shortly before he was promoted Major-General, Col. Wallace handed over command to Lt.-Col. James Fergusson of the 43rd. It was at this time that Wallace instituted the award of regimental medals. A number of N.C.O's and men had fought in as many as twelve general actions and been wounded three or even four times. Wallace's proposal for recognizing such exceptional service combined with good conduct received the approval of the Duke of York himself. The Regimental Medals, in the form of a silver Maltese cross for the first class and of the usual shape for the second and third classes, were manufactured at the expense of the officers. The first class medal was given for twelve actions; the second, for seven to eleven actions; and the third, to those who had been present in six or fewer actions.

THE CRIMEA

The Regiment left Liverpool in April 1854 for the Crimea under the command of Lt.-Col. Shirley. The night before the battalion marched out of Fulwood Barracks, Preston, to embark at Liverpool there had been 150 men absent from tattoo, but much to the disappointment of the

men waiting to fill the ranks, all were present the next day. The passage to Scutari took a fortnight. The battalion spent the next six weeks in the Turkish barracks that later became the base hospital, where Florence Nightingale and her devoted staff slaved under appalling conditions not only to save the lives of the wounded but against endemic disease and Government ineptitude. The 88th was brigaded with the 19th and 77th Regiments under Brig.-Gen. Buller in the Light Division, commanded by Lt.-Gen. Sir George Brown. Brown, known throughout the army for his churlish manner and belief in the efficacy of the lash, was over 70 years old. The next three and a half months were spent near Varna in Bulgaria where ninety of the Connaught Rangers died of cholera and many more were left in hospital.



Officer's shako, 88th, 1835-40

Before the campaign in the Crimea opened, the losses from this cause alone in the French and British armies amounted to 10,000 casualties. Hard living was the order of the day. Fourteen men shared a bell tent and the only extra clothing allowed was the small kit carried in a knapsack. The commissariat arrangements were so defective, that but for Col. Shirley's careful day-to-day hoarding of part of the ration there would have been no breakfast (of bread and coffee) before the morning parade, which often lasted from 8.00 a.m. to 1.00 p.m.

THE ALMA

The landing at Kalamita Bay, 25 miles from Sevastopol, started on 14 September. Knapsacks were left on board and the men's kit was reduced to a spare shirt and a pair of boots wrapped in a blanket. Three days' rations, consisting of salt pork and biscuits, were issued. The Battle of the Alma took place six days later. The first shots were fired by the Russians at the skirmish line of the Light Division positioned on the extreme left of the British line. This was shortly after 2.00 p.m., and the 88th had already been under arms for eleven hours. Having waded across the river, the 88th advanced under shell fire (coming from the Great Redoubt) some 400 yards into more open ground, somewhat on the flank of the Russian



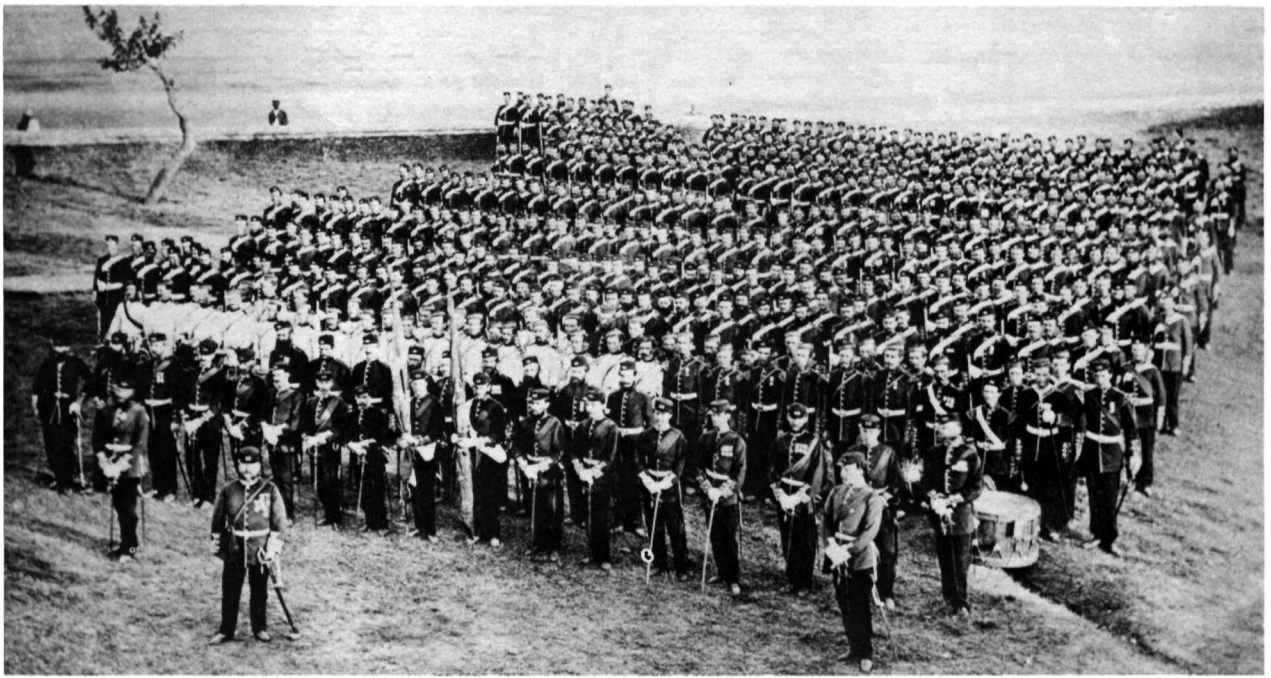
'Listing for the Connaught Rangers' by Lady Butler, 1879

positions. Seeing a large body of Russian cavalry on the high ground ahead, Gen. Brown halted the 77th with orders to face left and the 88th with orders to form square. The remainder of the division, including three companies of the 88th who did not hear the order to halt, continued to advance against the Great Redoubt, urged forward by Brig. Codrington. Gen. Brown, meanwhile, shouted in vain that the regiments were to be dressed in proper line. After much confused fighting and heavy casualties the Great Redoubt was captured, but this success was short-lived as a strong Russian column was close at hand for a counter-attack. In the m le  a bugler sounded 'the retire' and the survivors of Codrington's Brigade and the three companies of the Connaught Rangers were seen scrambling back down the slope towards the river.

The advance of the Guards and Highland Brigades into the gap left by the Light Division brought the battle to its climax. As the Highlanders advanced past the two battalions that were still halted, their Brigadier, Sir Colin Campbell, urged them to join in the attack, but Buller held to his decision to guard the flank. By about 6.00 p.m. the Russians were in full retreat and the Connaught Rangers moved forward after sunset to bivouac amongst the dead and wounded on the slopes of Kourgani Hill. Here the grim work of collecting the wounded men and burying the dead continued for the next two days. Overall, the casualties of the 88th were very light, except in those companies that had taken part in the first attack of the Great Redoubt.

INKERMAN

When the church bells of Sevastopol rang out early on Sunday 5 November, it was to call the people to prayer for the success of a Russian counter-offensive by 30,000 troops who were already on the march. The attack was directed on the Heights of Inkerman on the extreme right of the British position. With insufficient troops for the siege itself, this flank was only guarded by pickets found from the divisional camps spread along the high ground opposite Sevastopol. The nearest of these was the camp of 2 Division which was next to that of the Light Division. As usual Buller's Brigade



The 88th at Agra, en route for Rawalpindi, 1866. (National Army Museum)

had paraded before daylight. Four companies of the 88th under Col. Shirley, who was in command of the divisional trench guard on that day, had already marched off. One company was on night picket on the Middle Ravine and its relief had also left camp. The four remaining companies (mustering eight officers and about 280 men) were preparing breakfast. It had been raining all night, and there was no sign of the heavy mist and fog lifting. At about 7.00 a.m. Brig. Codrington, who had been visiting the pickets since before dawn, heard an exchange of shots. As he turned to gallop back to camp, the sound of heavier firing spread away to the flank.

Within minutes of the alarm sounding, the men of the 88th in camp were under arms, and led by Brevet-Colonel Jeffreys set off towards the coast road that led up to 2 Division's camp. On the ridge below the camp a desperate struggle was taking place. Maj.-Gen. Pennefather, who was in temporary command of 2 Division, was collecting every man he could find to reinforce the outpost line. There was in fact no line, no cohesion, no chance to reconnoitre or to make any plan, other than to despatch each party as it arrived into the swirling mist with orders to hold the ridge at all costs. The 'half battalion' of the 88th soon found

themselves posted at the head of the Mikriakoff Glen. Shells had already begun to fall on the ridge, but in this area the Russian infantry were still hidden by the dense fog. Capt. Browne, trying to discover what was going on, asked an officer with one of the pickets who replied, 'Oh! you will soon find out, there are about 6,000 Russians on the brow of the hill.' As the 88th advanced into the glen the Russians poured down the opposite bank, but the broken ground which was covered with shrub and the dense fog hindered the attackers more than the defence. The Light and No. 7 Companies, charging down hill, drove some of the Russians before them until they were virtually surrounded and forced back to where the other two companies were making a stand near the head of the glen. Led by the sound of the regimental bugle call, the four companies managed to join up near the crest of the ridge, but by now their ammunition was nearly expended. The situation was critical. Maj. Maxwell set off in search of ammunition and reinforcements and succeeded in locating Gen. Pennefather, but not a round nor a man was available. The General's orders were quite explicit: 'The 88th must stand their ground, give the Russians the bayonet, or be driven into the sea.' The arrival of Moore, the Quartermaster,

with bat-ponies loaded with ammunition, who by some miracle had tracked down the Regiment, and of No. 2 Company from the Middle Ravine, could not have been more timely. By now the fog was lifting and very effective fire was opened at 800 yards range against Russian guns on Shell Hill. By about 1.00 p.m. the Russians had lost 12,000 men and their attack was called off. The casualties amongst the 15,000 British and French troops that had been committed was less than 4,300. The 88th lost 119 killed and wounded, one-third of their number engaged. They had been the first troops of the Light Division to reach the scene of action and, as Capt. Stevens later wrote, 'two of the companies penetrated further into the Russian position than any of the troops that subsequently came up.'

THE 94TH FROM 1814-18

The Battle Honour 'Serhingapatam', the first to be won by the 94th (Scotch Brigade) was the last that

battalion was destined to receive. Between 1814 and 1818 the British regular army was reduced by 160,000 all ranks, but the politicians clamoured for still more cuts. In 1818, ten months after Serhingapatam was added to the eight battle honours won by the 94th in the Peninsular, the Battalion was disbanded. Of the 900 men who landed at Lisbon in 1808 only 150 survived the war. The Peninsular colours were handed over to the veteran Commanding Officer, Sir James Campbell, and as a token of their respect and affection he was presented by the officers with a splendid sword of honour.

THE 94TH RECONSTITUTED

Five years later, almost to the day, with the threat of serious trouble in the West Indies, as well as in Ireland, the 94th was reconstituted along with five other regiments of foot. Five officers of the old 94th, including Lt.-Col. Allan, were gazetted to the newly raised regiment. The headquarters was



Officers of the 94th - a cartoon drawn at Newport, 1873. (National Army Museum)

established in Glasgow and recruiting opened all over the United Kingdom with such success, particularly around Edinburgh and in County Cork, that within a month the establishment had been more than filled. In fact, when the recruits assembled in Glasgow, there were 1,007 men for an establishment of 617, and volunteers were posted to the 96th and 99th. Lt.-Gen. Sir Thomas Bradford, who had commanded a Portuguese Brigade, was appointed Colonel of the Regiment. A few years later he was succeeded by Lt.-Gen. Lord Keane under whom the 94th had served in the Peninsular. The links with the old Scotch Brigade were further cemented when Sir James Campbell, who had served with the regiment since 1802 right through the Mahratta and Peninsular Wars, was appointed Colonel of the 94th in 1831.

RESTORATION OF THE BATTLE HONOURS

In 1874, when the regiment was stationed at Currah under the command of Lt.-Col. John Taylour, notification was received from Horse Guards that Her Majesty had been graciously pleased to approve of 'the Honours and Distinctions previously born by the Scotch Brigade being carried on the Regimental colour of the 94th Regiment of Foot.' The reasons for permission being withheld for the Regiment to resume the historic title, 'the Scotch Brigade', have never been disclosed. Many of the intervening years, since the raising of the 'new' 94th, had been spent on garrison duties overseas, with long stretches in India. The period of 'little wars', interrupted only by the near disasters in the Crimea, was soon to end. Slowly the army set about putting its house in order with the abolition of purchase, the institution of short service and introduction of modern weapons such as the Martini-Henry breech-loading hammerless rifle which was issued in 1871.

South Africa



THE ZULU WAR

The Battle of Ulundi, in which the Zulus suffered a final crippling defeat, took place three months after the 94th landed at Durban in April 1879. Four companies (twenty officers and 593 men) under Lt.-Col. Sydenham Mathus were part of a force of 5,000 with twelve guns and two Gatlings under Lord Chelmsford. The final advance to within a mile and a half of King Chetewayo's 'capital' was made with the infantry and guns marching across the Mahlabatini Plain in an enormous hollow square covered by a cavalry screen. The kraals ahead appeared deserted, but at about 8.30 a.m. black masses of Zulu warriors, estimated at 20,000 men in all, were seen moving down from the surrounding hills and slipping through the tall grass to form a great 'sprawling semi-circle', slowly closing in to ring the red-coated square. The 94th were posted at one of the corners of the rear face of the square. The men had been marching in column of twos but had now closed up and were halted in four ranks facing outwards, a movement that had left about 100 yards of trampled grass for a field of fire. It was here at the corners of the back of the square that the most determined attacks came, falling on the 94th and the 2/21st. The latter had their colours uncased and can claim to be the last British regiment to carry their colours in action. Again and again the Zulu regiments charged, but they were swept back by volley-fire and the 9-pounders. Chetewayo's Royal Regiment now advanced from Ulundi Kraal, but its attack was

broken up by shrapnel before the massed warriors could deploy. Shortly afterwards, the 17th Lancers moved out of the square from behind the 94th. The action had lasted a bare half-hour. A thousand dead warriors ringed the square, but none lay within twenty paces of the men who now cheered the Lancers forward as they charged the retreating Zulus. Of less than a hundred British casualties, those of the 94th, with 2 killed and 13 wounded including their adjutant, Lt. Brooke, were heavier than in any other unit. It is of interest to note that the 88th were at this time operating in the coastal area within forty miles of Ulundi. The two regiments, however, never met, as the 88th were ordered back to the Cape en route for India.



One of a pair of huge elephant tusks which were formerly Chief Sekukuni's badge of office. Captured by the 94th (Connaught Rangers) in 1879, one tusk was presented to Queen Victoria, while the other, shown here, was made into a snuff horn and presented to the officers' mess of the 94th

SEKUKUNI CAMPAIGN

The 94th now joined the Transvaal Field Force for operations against Sekukuni, a Chief whose powerful confederation of tribes in the Transvaal was in open revolt. The tribesmen occupied a fortified mountain area, the key to which was an isolated hill at the head of a ravine, overlooking Sekukuni's 'town', known as the 'fighting kopje'. This 100-ft mass of piled boulders was honey-combed with caves, protected by stone barricades, and was garrisoned by a large force well supplied with water. The town was attacked at dawn on 28th November 1879 and the action lasted twelve hours before the garrison of 'the fighting kopje' was finally forced to surrender by being dynamited out of their caves. The life of Col. Baker Russell, the Force Commander, was saved by Pte. Woods of the 94th who, seeing a rifle put through a cleft in the rocks, rushed forward as the hidden native fired. Woods was severely wounded by the shot

that must otherwise have killed his officer. Woods was recommended for the Victoria Cross but nothing came of it. At about the same time, however, Lt. T. J. Dewar of the King's Dragoon Guards, who was attached to the mounted company of the 94th, having been severely wounded, was being carried down the hillside by six of the native contingent. Suddenly forty of the enemy left cover and made a rush for the party, at which the Swazis dropped the wounded officer and ran off. The only soldiers anywhere near were Ptes. Francis Fitzpatrick and Thomas Flawn, who immediately ran forward and engaged the oncoming tribesmen. Finally, with one man covering the retreat and the other carrying the officer on his back, the two Irishmen brought Dewar into safety. Both men were awarded the Victoria Cross. Sekukuni was captured a few days later by a detachment of the 94th commanded by Capt. E. S. Brook. Meanwhile, two huge elephant tusks, the Chief's badge of office, had been discovered after the capture of the town. One of the tusks was later presented to Queen Victoria and the other was mounted in silver by Lt.-Col. Murray and presented to the officers' mess of the 94th.

BRONKHORST SPRUIT

Within a year the Transvaal became the seat of Boer resistance to British rule, and at the end of November 1880 the 94th was ordered to begin concentrating at Pretoria. The headquarters with two companies under Lt.-Col. Robert Anstruther set off to march from Lydenburg, unaware that further instructions warning of the possibility of hostilities had been delayed on route. On the fifteenth day of the march the column, totalling just under 250 all ranks with three wives and three children, was approaching Bronkhorst Spruit. A mounted Boer suddenly rode up and handed the Colonel an ultimatum, demanding a reply to a letter they had sent to the Governor of Pretoria, and said that any further advance would be taken as an act of war. The Colonel replied, 'I have orders to proceed with all possible despatch to Pretoria, and to Pretoria I am going, but tell the Commandant I have no wish to meet him in a hostile spirit'. The messenger turned and as he galloped back towards a wood only 200

- 1 Fusilier, Scots Brigade (Gordon's Regiment), 1760
- 2 Musketeer, Scots Brigade (Dundas's Regiment), 1777-83
- 3 Grenadier, Scots Brigade (Dundas's Regiment), 1777-83



1



2



3

- 1 Private, Battalion Company, Scotch Brigade, 1794
- 2 Officer, India Service Dress, Scotch Brigade, 1779-1807
- 3 Private, Battalion Company, 94th (Scotch Brigade), c. 1812





1



2



3

- 1 Regimental Colonel, 94th Foot, 1823
- 2 Officer, Battalion Company, 88th Foot, 1842
- 3 Private (Heavy Marching Order), Flank Company, 88th Foot, 1844

- 1 Sergeant, 88th Foot, 1853
2 Corporal, 88th Foot, Crimea, 1856
3 Pioneer, 88th Foot, Crimea, 1856

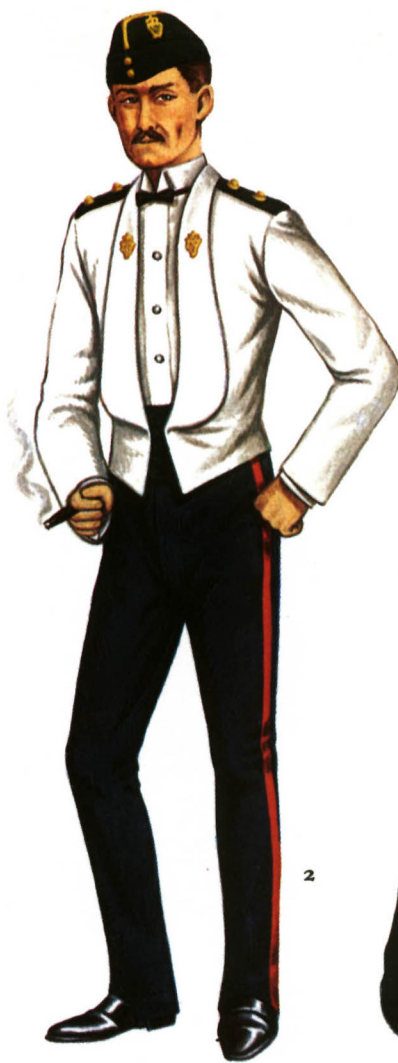




- 1 Officer, 88th Foot, Zulu War, 1879
2 Officer (Undress), The Connaught Rangers, 1890
3 Bandsman (Home Service Dress), The Connaught Rangers, 1897

- 1 Private, Mounted Infantry Company, 1st
Bn., South Africa, 1901
2 Officer (Full Dress), The Connaught
Rangers, 1902
3 Private, 1st Bn., India, 1902





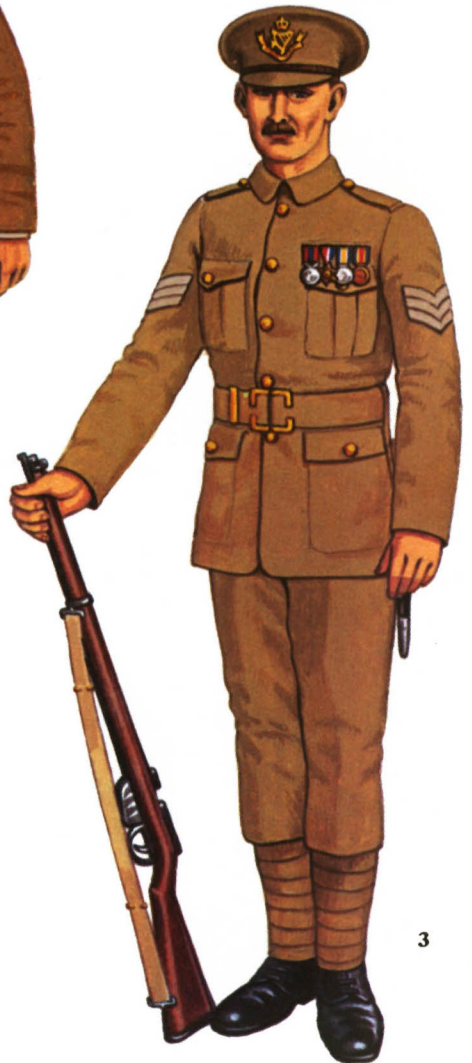
1 Officer (Full Dress for India), 1st Bn., 1911
2 Officer (Mess Dress for India), 1911
3 Officer ('Frock Coat' Undress for India), 1st Bn., 1911



1



2



3

- 1 Sergeant, 2nd Bn., India, 1908
2 Private, 1st Bn., Mesopotamia, 1916
3 Sergeant, The Connaught Rangers, 1922

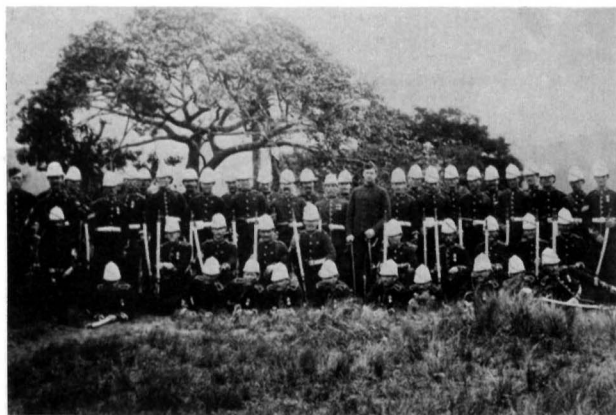
yards away he fired a shot into the air. At this signal a murderous fire came from both sides of the track. Col. Anstruther was hit immediately and in less than fifteen minutes six out of seven of the officers and over 150 men had been killed or wounded. The Colonel was hit five times and the Adjutant was killed in the act of passing the Colonel's orders for the ceasefire to be sounded. A truce was arranged by Lt. Hume, the only remaining company officer, who later paid tribute to the devoted work of the regimental surgeon, E. C. R. Ward who himself had been wounded. Surgeon Ward was faced with attending to over 100 wounded, and with an average of five wounds per man, it was sixteen hours before he had dealt with every case, in addition to arranging for the pitching of tents and provision of food and water. The Regimental colours were smuggled out by Conductor Egerton, of the Commissariat and Transport Department, and Sgt. Bradley who volunteered to walk to Pretoria to get medical assistance. Mrs. Fox, the Sergeant-Major's wife, had been seriously wounded and the colours were at first hidden under the blanket on the stretcher on which she lay. The two men walked out of the camp under the eyes of the Boers with the colours wound round their bodies under their uniforms, and on reaching Pretoria handed them to the Colonel of the 21st for safe custody. In April 1881, during the Armistice, and after the surviving wounded had reached Pretoria, the colours were formally handed back to Capt. F. B. Campbell at a special ceremonial parade held jointly by the 21st and 94th. All three wives, Mrs. Fox, Mrs. Maistre, a sergeant's wife, and Mrs. Smith, the

wife of the Bandmaster, were awarded the Royal Red Cross for their courageous conduct and devotion in attending the wounded during the action and the three months they were held prisoners of war. Apart from members of the Royal Family, these three ladies were amongst the earliest recipients of this award. Mrs. Smith later received the silver medal of the Order of St John of Jerusalem. The devoted work of Surgeon Ward unfortunately went unrecognized, except by his comrades, many of whom owed their lives to his skill.

THE CONNAUGHT RANGERS AT COLENSO

The 1st Battalion under Lt.-Col. Brooke, arrived in South Africa at the end of November, 1899. The attempted relief of Kimberley had resulted in the British being defeated at the Modder River and Magersfontein. Gen. Buller's attempt to cross the River Tegel to relieve Ladysmith brought a third defeat within five days. At the Battle of Colenso, which was fought on 15 December and came as the culminating disaster of the 'Black Week', the Connaught Rangers were in 5 Brigade commanded by Maj.-Gen. A. F. Hart, of whom Baring Pemberton writes, 'This dashing Irishman might have stepped straight out of the Crimea for all his apparent ignorance of what had been achieved in gunnery and small arms over the last fifty years'. It was, however, Gen. Buller's tactical ineptitude that denied any possibility of success.

The Boers, with only a third of the British strength, occupied carefully concealed and entrenched positions amongst a tangle of kopjes and ridges that overlooked the far bank of the river. The river itself has been described as a 'swirling, muddy torrent'. The British advance was made in broad daylight over an open plain in full view of the Boers, and nearly 20,000 men were committed to a three-pronged attack. The advance was ordered for 4.30 a.m. but Maj.-Gen. Hart's brigade had been paraded early so that half an hour's drill could be carried out. Having satisfied himself that the men were 'well in hand', Hart ordered the advance in quarter column. His instructions were to make for Bridle Drift immediately west of the junction of Doornkop Spruit and the Tugela, and to cross the river at this point.



Mounted Infantry Company, 94th, at Pretoria, 1880.
(National Army Museum)



Officer's full dress, 94th, c. 1878. Lieutenant J. MacSwiney died of wounds at Bronkhorst Spruit, 20 December 1880. (National Army Museum)

To assist him Hart was given a guide and an interpreter, together with a tracing from a sketch map that was based on a land registration survey. The topographical features had in fact been drawn from some distance away by a Royal Engineer Officer a day or so previously. On the sketch map the Bridle Drift was misplaced by a mile, and as the guide knew that this crossing point was impassable, he led the Brigade towards some rapids near his own kraal which he knew to be just fordable breast high. Unfortunately, the kraal was at the furthest point of a tongue of land formed by a very prominent loop in the river.

The Boer commander, Louis Botha, had made careful plans to overwhelm the British by a surprise counter-attack after they had started crossing the river. The sight, however, of four battalions advancing in close formation into a constricted area where they were hemmed in on three sides by a broad, and fast-flowing river, was

too much for the Boer gunners who opened fire. Within moments, there was an eruption of rifle fire from the Boer trenches which covered all three sides of the loop in the river. Instinctively, the advancing regiments deployed and many men ran forward eager to get at the enemy. Not all were trapped in the loop, but the Connaught Rangers, and the Royal Dublin Fusiliers from that moment on were pinned to the ground. Although a general withdrawal was eventually ordered (at about 10.00 a.m.) it was another eight hours before the last parties could be extricated from their untenable positions in the loop. A handful of Connaught Rangers had managed to reach the river's bank about 200 yards from the Boer trenches. A Boer describes the plight of the six survivors, 'Finding no shelter on the river bank, exhausted, wounded almost to a man, they ceased firing, whereupon our men left them in peace until the end of the fight, when they were brought over and complimented upon their pluck'. The British lost the Battle of Colenso before a shot was fired, but as a German observer reported, 'it was the General and not his gallant force that was defeated'. Buller lost 1,139 men and 10 guns. The Boer losses totalled 27 men. A third of the British losses were suffered by two battalions, the Royal Dublin Fusiliers and the Connaught Rangers.

MOUNTED INFANTRY

The 1st Battalion was in South Africa for two and a half years, and when the campaign developed into a series of anti-guerrilla operations with columns almost continually on the move in all weathers, and through the most difficult and wildest terrain, five out of the eight companies were mounted infantry. In order to achieve surprise, many marches took place at night and the broken and often mountainous terrain gave the Boer commanders endless opportunities for 'hit and run' and other delaying tactics. The details given in the regimental history of no less than 457 marches (a total of approximately 4,800 miles) by the battalion, indeed, hardly reflect the real achievement of the Connaught Rangers in South Africa. Except for a break of a single month on garrison duties, the battalion was constantly engaged on operations against a skilful and elusive enemy. In

extremes of heat and cold the men faced up to the restless moves, day after day, through difficult and hostile country, with a cheerful acceptance of hardship, that could only stem from an exceptionally high *esprit de corps*, that intangible and much prized quality in any regiment.

The Connaught Rangers in the Great War



On the outbreak of war the Connaught Rangers mobilized four battalions. The 2nd Battalion was on its way to France within a few days as part of the British Expeditionary Force. The 1st Battalion left Karachi on 19 August in the same ship as the 1st Manchester Regiment who were in the same division. The 3rd and 4th Battalions, formed from the Galway and Roscommon



1st Battalion Rifle Team, Cyprus, 1894. (National Army Museum)

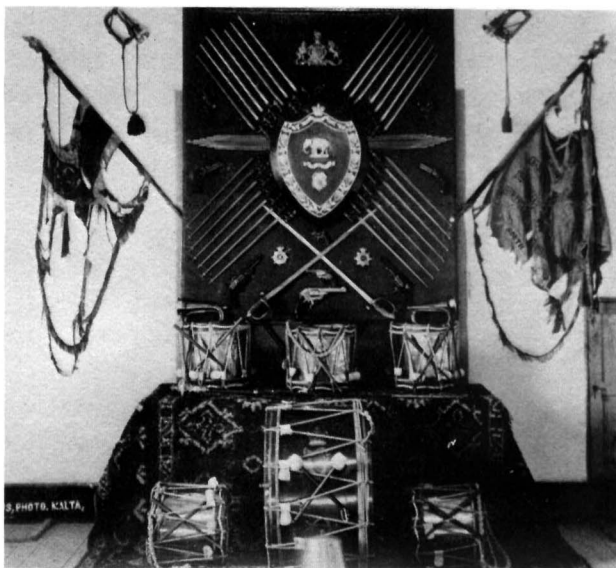


Officer's full dress, India, 1902. Second-Lieutenant Little. (National Army Museum)

Militia, were part of the Special Reserve. Both had been in existence since 1793 and were the direct descendents of the Irish Militia that had started as County Regiments 130 years previously. The role of the two Special Reserve Battalions was to provide drafts for the battalions serving overseas and for most of the war they remained in County Cork. On mobilization the 3rd Battalion mustered 11 officers and 424 other ranks, but by February of the following year the establishment was raised to over 2,000 all ranks. The importance of this unspectacular but vital task of training reinforcements is well illustrated by the situation that faced the two regular Battalions within four months of mobilization. As the war progressed, trained men had to be found in addition for the 5th and 6th Service Battalions raised from amongst the hundred thousand volunteers called for in August 1914. Maj. H. F. N. Jourdain who, as O.C. Depot, had mobilized the reservists at the outbreak of war, was appointed to command the 5th Battalion on 19 August. A few weeks later the 6th Battalion was

raised under the command of Lt.-Col. J. S. Lenox-Conyngham. The two new battalions joined respectively 10 and 16 (Irish) Divisions. By the end of the year the 5th Battalion had filled its establishment of 1,117 all ranks and early in May 1915 the battalion moved to Basingstoke, and on 25 June was ordered to hold itself in readiness for service in the Dardenelles. The 6th Battalion meanwhile was under training at Kilworth Camp until August 1915, when 16 Division concentrated at Aldershot before proceeding to France in December. Their destination was the Loos Sector.

On the night 23/24 August the 2nd Battalion was across the Belgian frontier and digging a reserve position overlooking Mons. Twelve hours later they were the last regiment to leave the battlefield. The retreat from Mons had started and it was another full day's marching on roads jammed with refugees before the men got a hot meal – the first for three days. On 26 August the battalion provided the rearguard to the Brigade withdrawing through Le Grand Fayt. The Germans were in great strength and had little difficulty in driving past the French on the Connaught's right. Contact with Brigade Headquarters had been lost and Lt.-Col. A. W. Abercrombie, with the surviving elements of two companies, was ambushed in the village which had falsely been reported clear by the French. The party fought their way out and attempted to make a stand but were surrounded and captured. During the fighting on 26 August the battalion lost 6 officers and 280 men. The other companies were now very split up and without orders. One of the Company Commanders, Capt. E. G. Hamilton wrote, 'I shall never forget that night. I could not ride my horse as I fell asleep the moment I got up. I even fell asleep walking – to be awakened by bumping into the men in front of me, most of whom were also half asleep.' Nine days later the Connaught Rangers reached Champlet east of Paris. The retreat was over and a counter-offensive had already been ordered. On 8 September, the battalion captured Orly and the following day crossed the Marne with surprising ease. 'Fortunately for us, near the bridge that we were to cross there was a big chateau with a very fine cellar. The Germans discovered this, and next morning our advance guard walked over the bridge and



Colours and regimental trophies of the 94th (and 2nd Battalion) – Malta 1891. (National Army Museum)

took 500 very drunk German prisoners.' The battalion was the first British regiment across the Aisne and beat off two very determined counter-attacks at La Cour de Soupir. Again the losses were very heavy; 8 officers and over 240 men.

Within a month the whole of the B.E.F. was rushed northwards to fill the gap between the French and Belgian Armies in 'the race to the sea'. Under the command of Maj. W. N. S. Alexander the battalion reached Poperinghe on the opening day of the First Battle of Ypres. Between 21 October and 11 November the Connaught Rangers took part in three bitter battles: Langemarch, Gheluvelt and Nonne Bosschen. The battalion was in the line for eighteen out of the twenty-two days, and repulsed nine separate German attacks. On the last day of the German offensive the Prussian guards broke through north of the Menin road, but were halted by a line of British 18-pounder guns firing at point blank range. The Germans waived and were finally driven back by a counter-attack in which the Connaught Rangers (in reserve near Polygon Wood) took part. Three weeks later, the battalion, now so reduced in strength that it could not be put back into the line, was amalgamated with the 1st Battalion.

The 1st Battalion with Lt.-Col. H. S. L. Ravenshawe in command, reached Marseilles on 26 September. *En route* for Orleans their train

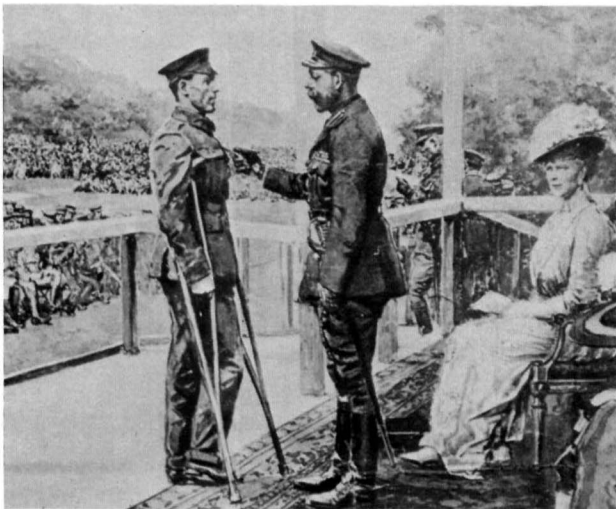
stopped at Toulouse, where each man was served with a litre of wine to mark the centenary of the battle fought there a hundred years previously. Three weeks later the battalion was rushed forward, from their assembly area close to the Belgian frontier, in a fleet of London buses. Their destination was Messines, the key to the British position south of Ypres. The battalion was the first unit of the Indian Corps to enter the trenches and the urgency of their move was so great that only a single day's rations, entrenching tools and an extra hundred rounds of ammunition per man, was all that was carried forward. The battalion was not relieved until 15 November by which date winter had set in, with snow and severe frost. Within a week the battalion was engaged in bitter fighting near Festubert where the Germans captured part of the front line and isolated one of the companies. A counter-attack, jointly mounted by the Rangers and 2/8 Gurkha Rifles, retook the position and nearly reached the German line before it was stopped by cross-fire from machine-guns. The battalion was now down to a third of its original strength. There had been many instances of a handful of men holding out in isolated positions, without hope of reinforcement and displaying a courage and determination that was beyond praise. When the trenches of the Poona Horse were overrun, Sgt. Caldwell collected twelve men and, attacking along a connecting trench, drove the Germans back. Caldwell and four men then held a vital sap-head for twenty-four hours before



1st Battalion colours and trophies, photographed at Jullundur, 1919. Left to right: Dinner President's chair; Jingling Johnnie; Bachelor's chair. Front: Inkerman drums. (National Army Museum)

being relieved by Lt. Badham and his platoon, who secured the position against all attacks for the next three days. Within a week the battalion was joined by the survivors of the 2nd Battalion and a draft from home, and so the long winter months passed with the routine of trench warfare, fought out in waterlogged trenches, with the nightly tasks of sandbagging, wiring parties and raids, and a daily toll of casualties.

At the end of April 1915 the Germans, using gas, broke through north of Ypres and reinforcements were rushed to hold the breach. The Connaught Rangers marched through Ypres under shell-fire before dawn on 26 April and formed up about 1,000 yards from the German positions on the Pilckem Ridge. The divisional attack opened shortly after 1.00 p.m. The artillery support was called off too early, with disastrous results. The last 500 yards of the advance met the full blast of the enemy's fire. Nevertheless the Rangers, 'true to their splendid reputation, never faltered, and . . . eventually reached a point about 120 yards from the German trenches.' At this moment a cloud of chlorine gas was released and the Corps Commander later wrote, 'when the gas first caught our bewildered troops, totally unprepared for such devices, and forced them to retire rapidly, such was the confusion . . . that an Indian Halvidar shouted out "look out, we've arrived in hell". But even so the gates of hell can be held by



Private T. Hughes receiving the Victoria Cross. (National Army Museum)

brave men, and such were Maj. Deacon of the Connaught Rangers and Lt. Henderson of the Manchesters . . . who held out for many hours, unconquerable!' The position, however, was quite untenable, and 15 officers and 351 men of the Connaughts had fallen or were missing. Of the survivors many officers and men were singled out for recognition, including Sgt. Caldwell, who took command of his company when all the officers were killed, and L/Cpl. Reilly who rescued a wounded officer of the 47th Sikhs, lying helpless close to the German wire.

Towards the end of the year the Indian Corps was sent to Mesopotamia. Once again the Connaught Rangers and the 1st Manchesters were in the same troopship. They arrived just as the operations to relieve Kut were starting. Within a few days Lt.-Col. Murray was leading the battalion in the assault on Hanna. In bitter rain and flood conditions, which turned the ground into a



5th Battalion on the march in Serbia, November 1915 (Imperial War Museum)

sea of mud, the Rangers lost a third of their strength. It was over a year before the British reached Baghdad and the Rangers had taken part in the attack on the Dujaila Redoubt and Bait Aissa and the capture of the Khadairi Bend. In the middle of March 1918 the battalion, now commanded by Lt.-Col. Hamilton, was ordered to Palestine. On the march up from the railhead at Ludd they passed the signposts 'Ranger Corner' and 'Connaught Road' that marked the passage of the 5th Battalion through the same area the previous December. In the Battle of Sharon the battalion took a prominent part in the capture of Fir Hill and drove the Turks before them taking

many prisoners and capturing six field guns. When the Armistice was declared the battalion was providing the garrison at Nazareth.

The fighting traditions of the Connaught Rangers were magnificently maintained by their service battalions. The 6th Battalion reached France one week after the 1st Battalion had sailed for Mesopotamia. For several months they held part of the Hulluch Sector at Loos, but towards the end of August 1916 they moved into the trenches opposite Guillemont. The battle of the Somme had been raging for two months, and the village which the Germans had held against all attacks was 'a shambles of blended horror and mystery'. Division after division had been committed against the massed German machine-guns and artillery in a terrible battle of attrition. On 3 September at 5.00 a.m. the battalion formed up – the leading battalion in the brigade for yet another assault on the village. Only twelve hours' notice of the attack had been received and the assault was not due until noon. Meanwhile the artillery duel was mounting and the Rangers suffered 200 casualties before the signal for the assault was given. Within six minutes the first objective had been captured, and in less than an hour the third objective was reached and the 8th Royal Munsters and the 6th Royal Irish passed through on to the final objective. A number of Rangers accompanied them to share in beating off the fierce counter-attacks over the next forty-eight hours. When the battalion was relieved in the afternoon of 5 September, 200 officers and men answered their names. Lt.-Col. Lenox-Conyngham was killed as he left the trench at the head of the first wave. In the next few moments, as the Rangers surged forward across the narrow strip of shattered ground, cratered and smoking from the intense barrage, the German machine-guns took a terrible toll. At Guillemont, Pte. T. Hughes won the Victoria Cross 'for most conspicuous bravery and determination'. Although wounded, he returned to the firing line and later captured a German machine-gun single-handed. Wounded a second time he succeeded in bringing back several prisoners. Two days later, Capt. R. C. Fielding, Coldstream Guards, assumed command of the battalion, and yet another attack was ordered in which the Rangers suffered



Surviving officers of the 5th Battalion at Salonika after Kosturino, December 1915. (Imperial War Museum)

further crippling loss of 9 officers and 83 other ranks.

On 21 March 1918, the German offensive in Picardy opened. The full weight of the attack fell on 16 (Irish) Division, and in the next six days the 6th Battalion lost 22 officers and 618 other ranks. The Rangers were in reserve, four miles back, with orders to counter-attack if the Germans broke through. By a disastrous mischance the order cancelling this attack was never received. Their lone and unsupported effort was 'a vain and costly sacrifice against impossible odds'. The few remaining Rangers joined up with other survivors in the Brigade to form one weak composite battalion under the command of Fielding and fought on. In March 1918 the 6th Battalion won undying fame. When the survivors were sent to strengthen another regiment there was much bitterness. One man spoke for all: 'I've been a Ranger for eighteen years and my father was a Ranger before me – I shall always be one!'

The 5th Battalion disembarked at Anzac Cove on the day of the landing at Suvla. That afternoon the Anzac Corps captured 'Lone Pine' in the first of a number of diversionary attacks. As the days slipped by the fierce Turkish resistance brought mounting casualties at Anzac. Movement by day was almost impossible with every gully and ravine under gun fire. There was no shelter, practically

no water and everywhere under the sweltering sun the myriad of flies and the stench of death. The daily ration was a little bully and four biscuits per man. In a desperate attempt to restore the situation at Suvla an attack on Hill 60 was launched. The objectives given to the Connaught Rangers included the wells at Kabah Kuyu. In a charge over 400 yards of open ground that won the admiration of the hardened veterans of Anzac the Rangers captured the wells with the bayonet and got a footing on the slopes beyond. Six days later another attempt was made to capture the maize of trenches on the crest line and the Rangers carried their first objective – 'it was an extraordinary feat, for it was done within a few minutes. The dash of the Irishmen had been simply irresistible.' Five counter attacks were held off for thirty-six hours before fresh troops eventually took 'Hill 60'. A week later the Connaughts sailed for Salonika. Since landing at Anzac the battalion had suffered 800 casualties.

The 5th Battalion was amongst the first British troops to reach Macedonia, and marching into Serbia through the Dedeli Defile reached the line near Kosturino just over the Bulgarian frontier. Here they took over the French outpost positions on the mountainous uplands. But the Serbian withdrawal had already started and a week earlier than expected the Bulgarians attacked with heavy

artillery support and a surprisingly inexhaustible supply of infantry. The Rangers held out for two days before their ammunition ran out and they were forced back to the head of the Dedeli Defile by weight of numbers alone. At Kosturino, 'the Devil's Own', as Picton had named the Connaught Rangers, fought with a tenacity and courage beyond praise, but the cost was high and half the battalion was lost. Many men had to be carried back incapacitated by frost bite but in the retreat to the Doiran line there was not a single straggler.

For nearly two years the Rangers bore the hardships and frustrations of the campaign, before being sent to Palestine to take part in the Third Battle of Gaza. In June 1918, they joined Fourth Army in France to fight through the battles for the Hindenburg Line and in the Final Advance. When the 'cease fire' came the 5th Battalion was advancing near Mons where the 2nd Battalion had fought their first battle of the Great War. At Huy on 8 February 1919, the Battalion was



Officers of the Connaught Rangers at Rawalpindi, April 1922, before disbandment of the regiment began. (National Army Museum)

paraded and the Divisional Commander personally gave the order, '5th Battalion The Connaught Rangers, ground arms'; followed by, '2nd Battalion The Connaught Rangers, take up arms'. This is believed to be only the second time since 1661 that this order had been given.

THE POST-WAR YEARS, 1919-22

After a year at Dover the 2nd Battalion was despatched in May 1921 to Upper Silesia to help keep the peace between the Germans and Poles on the new frontier. The 1st Battalion had meanwhile been stationed in India since November 1919. While stationed at Jullundur in June of the following year, some newly drafted recruits, ostensibly influenced by the political news from Ireland, persuaded a few others to join them in a political gesture. In military terms this amounted to 'a mutinous refusal to parade'. By a coincidence the number of men concerned was 88 and the incident was quickly settled and the ringleaders brought to trial.

THE REGIMENT DISBANDED

In February 1922 the recommendations of the Geddes Committee on National Expenditure were announced. Six Irish Regiments, including the Connaught Rangers, were among the twenty-four Infantry Regiments to be disbanded. On 12 June 1922 the Colours of both regular battalions were laid up in St George's Chapel, Windsor.

In turn, the colours of each of the Irish Regiments were handed to His Majesty the King. In accepting the Colours, and speaking with very



Captain H. F. N. Jourdain, c. 1914. He was later the last Commanding Officer of the Connaught Rangers. (National Army Museum)

evident emotion, the King said ‘. . . I pledge my word that within these ancient and historic walls your Colours will be treasured, honoured and protected as hallowed Memorials of the glorious deeds of brave and loyal Regiments.’ In a farewell message to the Connaught Rangers His Majesty said, ‘I mourn indeed the loss of a Regiment which was prominent in Picton’s glorious Fighting Division. But your fame is assured by the names of Busaco and Badajoz, even if you had not earned fresh honours in subsequent campaigns and in the great world war . . . be very sure that . . . the fame of your great work can never die. I thank you for your good service to this country and the Empire, and with a full heart I bid you—“Farewell!”.’

BATTLE HONOURS

The following battle honours were won in the First World War. Those chosen to be borne on the King’s Colour are in capitals.

1st Battalion: MESSINES 1914; Armentières 1914; YPRES 1914; Festubert 1914; Givenchy 1914; Neuve Chapelle; Saint Julien; Aubers; YPRES 1915; Tigris; KUT AL AMARA 1917; Baghdad; Mesopotamia 1916–18; MEGIDDO; Sharon; Palestine 1918.

2nd Battalion: MONS; Retreat from Mons; Marne 1914; AISNE 1914; YPRES 1914; Langemarche; Nonne Bosschen.

5th Battalion: Suvla; Sari Bair; SCIMITAR HILL; Gallipoli 1915; KOSTURINO; Struma; Macedonia 1915–17; GAZA; Jerusalem; Tell’Azur; Palestine 1917–18; Hindenberg Line; CAMBRAI 1918; Selle.

6th Battalion: Somme 1916; GUILLEMONT; Ginchy; MESSINES; Ypres 1917; Saint Quentin; Bapaume 1918; Rosières.

The following Battle Honours are borne on the Regimental Colour:

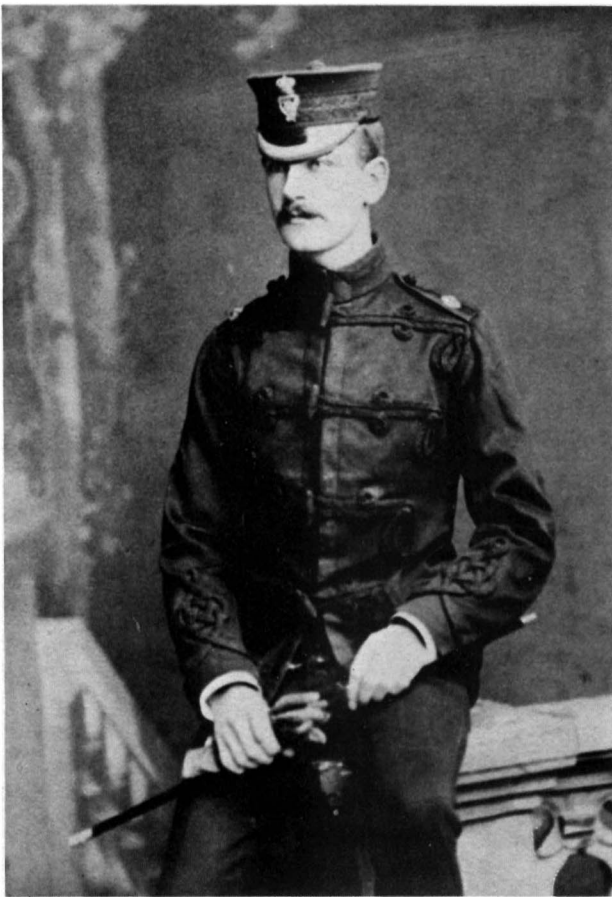
Seringapatam	Vittoria	Sevastopol
Talavera	Pyrenees	Central India
Busaco	Nivelle	South Africa
Fuentes D’Onor	Orthes	1877–8–9
Ciudad Rodrigo	Toulouse	Relief of Ladysmith
Badajoz	Peninsular	South Africa
Salamanca	Alma	1899–1902
	Inkerman	

Uniforms



Very little is known about the dress worn by the early Scots volunteers who served in the Scots Brigade. An account of the companies engaged at the Battle of Mechlin (1 August 1578) describes how the men threw off their plaids and shirts to fight half-stripped in the summer’s heat, while a print dated 1630 shows these ‘Scottish mercenaries’ in a mixture of their native dress distinguishable by the bonnet and the old-style, belted plaid. By the end of that century, however, the companies had been formed into regiments and the men were wearing breeches. Throughout the eighteenth century, and up to 1782, the brigade wore the uniform of the Dutch Army, but retaining the scarlet of Great Britain. Thus, in the early 1700’s the uniform was similar to any other line regiment with the caps of the Grenadiers bearing the Dutch Arms. The facings of the scarlet coats that distinguished the various regiments of the brigade were either yellow or white, but these colours varied from time to time. For instance, Gordon’s Regiment (later Dundas’s) had originally worn yellow facings and a red shoulder strap with yellow edging but changed in 1760 to green facings with the same colour for the collar and cuffs. The cuffs and pockets each had two white buttonholes and white looped buttonholes were placed two and two down the lapels. The coat had a white lining and green hearts on the turnbacks. The waistcoat and breeches were greyish white. In 1777 the same regiment, now Dundas’s, became ‘the blue regiment’, and the details of the musketeer’s uniform were as follows:

‘Hat: Black with white lace, black cockade and



Lieutenant A. B. Church, 1890. (National Army Museum)

white tassels with a red heart. Coat: Red with lace and pewter buttons. White shoulder straps, on the white turnbacks, light blue hearts. Waistcoat and Breeches: Greyish white. Gaiters: White with pewter buttons. Shoes: Black. Sword: Brass-hilted, sword knot of white leather with a different coloured tassel for each company. Belt: White, the waist belt having a brass belt plate.'

The uniform of a grenadier in the same regiment, was somewhat more elaborate:

'Bearskin: Black with red bag and white tassel. Coat: Red with light blue lapels and cuffs. On the lapels, seven loops of plain white lace (1+2+2+2). On the cuffs two loops and three pewter buttons on the sleeves. Under the lapels two loops of a special pattern, broad with white tassels on both sides and a light blue worn in the lace. On the left shoulder a plain white strap; on the right shoulder a white epaulette with a light blue worn in the lace, and white lace

loops. Waistcoat and gaiters as for the musketeer's uniform. Sword: Brass-hilted, with white sword knot and orange tassels. Belt: White with brass buckle on the waist belt, and brass match case on the shoulder belt.'

In April 1809, shortly after the 94th returned from India, the Horse Guards issued an order that the regiment along with five others would discontinue wearing the kilt to 'facilitate' transfers from the English militia. This order must have caused much amusement in the orderly room of the 94th. The other five regiments were Highland Regiments, but the 94th had been raised as a Lowland Regiment and wore the normal British Line Regiment's uniform. In more recent times, the existence of this order has brought claims that the 94th wore Highland dress during the two short periods of home service prior to the order being issued, but it is hardly surprising that the identification of the appropriate tartan has remained a matter of some conjecture. When the Scotch Brigade was raised in 1793, twenty-four former Scots Brigade officers found themselves posted to the three battalions. Other regiments raised at the same time wore yellow facings and it is perhaps more than a coincidence that the Scotch Brigade sported the distinctive green facing (described as Lincoln green) that had been worn by many of the officers while in the Dutch service, including Lt.-Col. Ilay Ferrier, the youngest and most dynamic of the three battalion commanders. A portrait of Ferrier painted in 1774, shortly before his promotion to Major, shows him dressed in a red coat with green facings and gold lace, a white waistcoat and breeches, a crimson sash worn round the waist and the usual black stock and gold gorget. But for the cockade and tassels on his hat and the date alongside the artist's signature, the portrait might well have depicted Ferrier at the head of his new regiment, the 3rd Battalion of the Scotch Brigade in 1793.

A portrait of Col. John Reid, the first Colonel of the 88th, shows a similar scarlet coat, but with yellow facings, silver epaulettes and regimental buttons with '88' in their centre. The details of the officer's coat for the 88th Regiment in 1807 were 'Scarlet coat lined with white. X flaps, 4 holes. 2 each side of back. White turnbacks sewed down, pt in plait. Yellow lapels 10 holes. Yellow

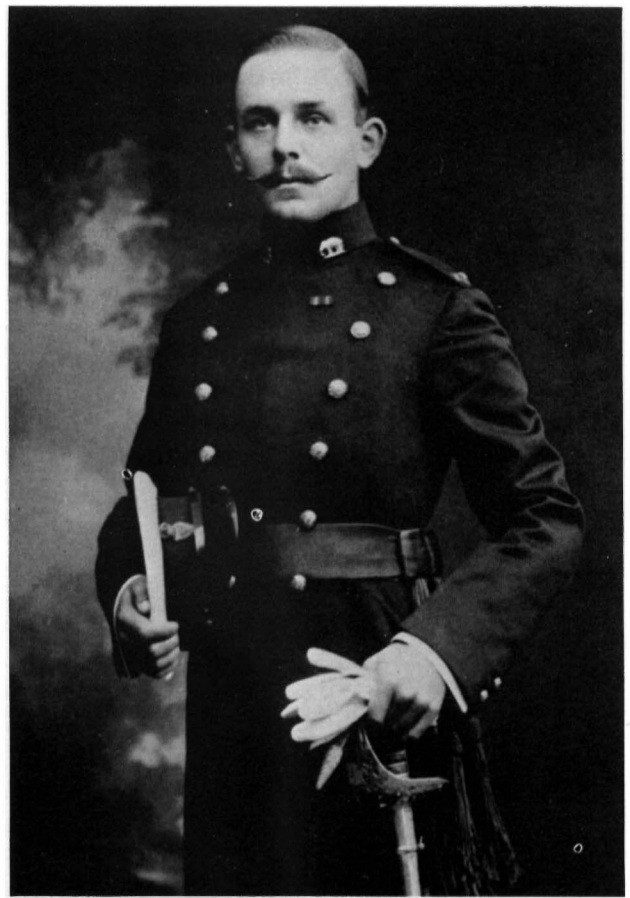
collar 1 hole and small button each end. Yellow cuffs, 4 holes—by 2 all over.’ The details included a white, short, single-breasted cashmere waistcoat and breeches, blue pantaloons, trimmed with broad and narrow braid; also the firm supplying thirty-eight large, and three small regimental buttons and the silver epaulettes and ornaments. The men’s lace at this date was two black, two red and one yellow stripes, while the 94th was one red stripe. A few years later (in 1813) the lace on an officer’s coat of the 94th is noted as $9\frac{1}{2}$ –12 yards fine check lace. Skirt and other details include, skirt ornaments, two single-leaved thistles on green, while the epaulette was gold fine check wire



Officer’s (Lieutenant-Colonel) scarlet patrol jacket of 1890–1902. (National Army Museum)

strap, round top, corded with a pointed, flat feather crescent and a rose in centre and looped all round.

When the 94th was reformed in 1823, bastion-shaped loops were authorized and these were of white tape with a dark green stripe near each edge upon a green cloth. The following notes on the trouser lace to be worn by officers give some idea of regimental variations at a time when the dress regulations stipulated that all infantry and officers’ trousers should be plain without lace! Two-inch gold stripes of plain basket with half-diamond



Lieutenant G. F. Callaghan, 1905. (National Army Museum)

edges were to be worn on white dress trousers, while the undress blue-grey trousers had a different pattern gold lace described as, ‘gold $1\text{-}7/8$ ths inch basket waive edge’ which was altered to ‘ $2\frac{1}{4}$ oak and thistle FS’. Two years later, while the undress trousers are noted as plain-mixed mill cashmere, the officers’ dress trousers were green with gold lace down the side seams edged with scarlet. In the same year, the officers’ shell jacket had small bolster hips, pointed cuffs laced round in gold, a green Prussian collar and no buttons, and it was several years before the regulation shell jacket was adopted in the regiment.

In 1854, when the 94th were on duty at Windsor an artist (Mr. R. Elesworth) made the following notes on a sketch of a bandsman:

‘The green facings were of a peculiar leaden hue, possibly altered by sun. The band played on Windsor Castle terrace on Sunday afternoons; a very good one under Van Maanen, afterwards Bandmaster of the Scots Fusilier Guards. Drums,



Lieutenant H. Wilberforce-Bell, 1907. (National Army Museum)

very plain. Drum-major had a scarlet scarf-belt, not green, band instruments all very old-fashioned; they still carried a “serpent”, black, with brass fittings. The regiment in 1854 was then wearing dark-blue serge trousers.’

In his memoirs of service in the 88th in the Crimea, Steevens records how he marched his company down to Balaclava on Christmas Day, 1854, to collect their knapsacks. The hardship suffered by the men through the lack of any change of clothing since the landing had been truly appalling. Earlier in the month, some warm clothing had arrived, but the issue had to be supplemented by the Colonel who provided some warm coats. Otherwise, the regiment was in rags, and in the bitter winter conditions there were only 300 men fit for duty. ‘The men suffered very much from swollen feet, brought on from not being able to take off their wet boots, and some could consequently hardly walk.’ As for Capt. Steevens,

much of his off-duty time was devoted to ‘the manufacture of gaiters out of sacking, or in darning socks, and mending (his) clothes’. By February, 1855, the situation had begun to improve, and Steevens writes,

‘we began to be well supplied with warm clothing from private sources, as well as from Government, who besides the waterproof cloaks, issued warm underclothing. I now, at last, possessed a good mackintosh and stout boots, my forage-cap being covered with an oilskin cover which I picked up on the field of Inkerman.’

A brother officer on trench duty is described as ‘Got up in a pea-coat, pistol round his waist, waterproof leggings over his long boots, and – to



Captain's tunic, 1915. (National Army Museum)

crown all – a scarlet comforter converted into a cap and drawn over his forage cap and ears.’

When the 88th were in Zululand, in 1879, improvisation as regards dress was again the rule, certainly among the officers. A group photograph of officers in camp at Fort Tenedros shows many variations of dress. Three officers are wearing the braided blue patrol jacket. One has an India pattern scarlet patrol jacket, and another a plain frock of his own design. The majority,

however, have adopted the red serge frock worn by the rank and file. There is, however, rather more conformity as regards head-dress. Two of the officers are wearing forage-caps, but the remainder wear the glengarry, which was correct for officers on active service. In 1889, the glengarry was replaced by an Austrian field service cap, which was green with a thin gold braid. In 1903, however, two forage caps were authorized, one khaki, and one blue, with a green band and green welts. The blue caps worn by other ranks at this time had a curved patch of green cloth in front which bore the regimental badge. A photograph of warrant officers and sergeants of the 2nd Battalion taken in Poona in 1908 shows the warrant officers wearing blue forage-caps with a white cover, while the sergeants are wearing the blue field service cap. The brown leather bandolier equipment continued in use in India for some time before it was replaced by the 1808 sealed pattern web equipment. In service dress, breeches with puttees, or leggings for field officers, were worn up to the outbreak of the First World War, and this dress for officers was again adopted after the reforming of the two regular battalions in 1919. The officers' mess dress waistcoat is a further link with the 94th. It was of dark green with a thin gold braid and gold buttons of a very simple design embossed 'CR'. First worn in the regiment in 1848, this pattern continued in use right up to the regiment's disbandment in 1922.

The harp and regimental motto 'Quis Separabit' appeared on the breast plate for the officers' sword belt of the 88th as early as 1800. Both the harp and the motto were adopted by the new regiment with the old title, 'The Connaught Rangers' in 1881. At that time it was decided that Irish regiments should have green facings, so the 94th on becoming the 2nd Battalion The Connaught Rangers, retained this link with their ancient past. Similarly, the elephant badge was adopted as the collar badge for other ranks, and from 1894 was also worn on the officers' tunic. Between 1881 and 1903 the elephant badge appeared on the officer's sword belt plates. The simple harp and crown badge, however, was used on the officers' mess jacket from 1897 until the disbandment.

The Plates

A1 Fusilier, Scots Brigade (Gordon's Regiment), 1760
The traditional green facings of the 94th (Scotch Brigade) can be traced back to 1760 when they were adopted by Gordon's Regiment of Fusiliers, which later became the 24th Infantry Regiment of the Dutch Army. The turned down collar and the distinctive lace underline the fact that the uniform is entirely Dutch, with the sole exception of the scarlet colour of the coat. The coat buttons are of plain white metal.

A2 Musketeer, Scots Brigade (Dundas's Regiment), 1777-83
This plate shows the uniform of the same regiment in 1777 when the facings were changed to light blue. The cut of the coat has been streamlined and the coat-tails lengthened. Note the embroidered hearts or 'knots' in the same colour as the blue facings. The details of the black cockade and tassels (with red hearts) on the smaller hat are clearly shown.

A3 Grenadier, Scots Brigade (Dundas's Regiment) 1777-83
The grenadiers of Dundas's Regiment in 1777 were distinguished by their bearskins. They also carried a brass match case, or holder, on the cross-belt and wore a single white epaulette. The coat has lace on both arms and below the facings in front. All grenadiers wore moustaches. The bayonet is triangular and of the early socket-type fitting.

B1 Private, Battalion Company, Scotch Brigade, 1794
When the Scotch Brigade was raised in 1793 their uniform was that of a British Line Regiment, but the distinctive green facings form a link with their ancient origins. Note the white lace on the coat, formed in square loops and set in pairs. The coat buttons are of pewter. The crossbelt plate is of engraved brass, but without the numerals '94'. The red-and-white plume on the hat indicates that the soldier belongs to one of the 'battalion' companies and not to one of the flank companies.

B2 Officer (India Service Dress), Scotch Brigade, 1779–1807

The uniform worn in India was lighter in weight and the scarlet coats were much shorter. The officer wears gold lace, and the buttons on the coat are gilt; the hat band is also of gold lace. An obvious concession to the hot climate is the short gaiters and the white cotton drill trousers and waistcoat.

B3 Private, Battalion Company, 94th (Scotch Brigade), c. 1812

This plate shows a soldier of the 94th during the latter part of the Peninsular War. He is wearing the 'universal' pattern shako with the crown and Royal Cipher on the shako plate. The brass cross-belt plate bears the Elephant and '94' in the centre within a wreath with 'Scotch Brigade' below. The hair is still powdered, but worn short without a queue. The musket is the Brown Bess.

C1 Regimental Colonel, 94th Foot, 1823

This plate is based on a portrait of Lt.-Gen. Sir Thomas Bradford, who was the first Colonel of the reconstituted 94th Foot in 1823. The loose-fitting trousers are worn as overalls with a strap below the boot. The shako plate is an engraved silver star with '94' in the centre on a silver ground within a gilt wreath surmounted by a small gilt crown. The belt buckle plate also bears the Crown, wreath and '94'.

C2 Officer, Battalion Company, 88th Foot, 1842

The 88th Foot, like the 94th, wore the uniform of the British Line. The facings of the 88th were yellow and the white lace was formed in bastion-shaped loops. This officer of one of the battalion companies is wearing the new pattern shako and has the yellow facings on the collar and cuffs of his coatee. The scarlet welt to his trousers is a recent introduction. The shako badge is the universal star and crown in gilt, with a silver star superimposed which bears the battle honours. In the centre is the Irish harp with below the number '88'. The belt buckle is of gilt with a silver star superimposed. In the centre is the Crown and Garter enclosing the words 'Connaught Rangers' and the number '88'. Below the Garter is the Irish harp.

C3 Private (Heavy Marching Order), Flank Company, 88th Foot, 1844

In heavy marching order this private soldier carries just about all he possesses. The special type of epaulettes and the green pompon on the shako show he belongs to a flank company. Note that the hair is no longer powdered. The regimental facings are on the collar, shoulder straps and cuffs of the coat. The trousers are of white duck.

D1 Sergeant, 88th Foot, 1853

In the summer of 1853 the 88th carried out manoeuvres at Chobham Camp and this plate shows a sergeant dressed in review order. Note the sword and sash that, in addition to his three stripes, denote his rank. The fitting of the pack, with rolled cape and mess tin, is clearly shown.

D2 Corporal, 88th Foot, Crimea, 1856

When the 88th reached the Crimea they soon 'cut out the frills' and wore the most comfortable dress from amongst the meagre kit they carried on landing. Few stores ever arrived from England, and this corporal is wearing a 'stable jacket' which has no facings and the minimum of lace, in reality white tape, which is in the correct bastion-shaped loops. The collar of the jacket is cut low and shows the black stock clearly. The numerals on the shoulder straps are embroidered in white. The Kilmarnock undress forage cap is made of knitted worsted which is shrunk to shape. The rifle is the 1853 pattern Enfield.

D3 Pioneer, 88th Foot, Crimea, 1856

This pioneer of the 88th in the Crimea carries a pick and a shovel. He is armed with a short sword with a distinctive brass hilt. The crossbelt is of brown leather with brass buckles and two ornamented brass slides. The waist-belt buckle plate is engraved with '88' within a simple decorative circle.

E1 Officer, 88th Foot, Zulu War, 1879

In the Zulu War both officers and men wore the most comfortable dress they could devise – often a complete mixture of various uniforms. This officer wears a glengarry with a silver badge (which is correct for an officer on active service) and a soldier's serge frock (undress tunic). The

only regimental detail on the tunic is the narrow yellow edging to the shoulder straps. The tunic has five small brass buttons. To complete his very non-regulation dress the officer is wearing button leggings over his ordinary dark blue trousers. He carries a revolver, field glasses and a fly whisk.

E2 Officer (Undress), The Connaught Rangers, 1890

The cap badge adopted by the Connaught Rangers after the amalgamation of the 88th and 94th in 1881 was the Irish harp and Crown. This officer is in undress uniform and has the new badge embroidered in silver thread on his cap. The ancient green facings of the 94th are brought out in the piping round the top of the cap and in the colour of the cap band itself. The overalls are worn over black Wellington boots.

E3 Bandsman (Home Service Dress), The Connaught Rangers, 1897

This plate shows the home service dress. The bandsman is wearing the usual scarlet tunic with white piping down the front. As a bandsman he wears shoulder 'wings', these are white, slashed with the dark green of the regimental facings. A brass regimental title is worn on each shoulder strap and the Elephant badge on either side of the collar. The belt buckle bears the Elephant and Crown within a circle of the words 'Connaught Rangers'.

F1 Private, Mounted Infantry Company, 1st Bn., 1901

In South Africa many men of the 1st Battalion served in the Regiment's Mounted Infantry companies. In dismounted action a minimum of equipment was carried, often only a rifle and bandolier of ammunition. The felt hat has a narrow green puggaree and the left side of the wide brim could be clipped up. It was usually worn without any badge as this could give away the position to a Boer sniper.

F2 Officer (Full Dress), The Connaught Rangers, 1902

This officer is wearing 'full regimentals'. The helmet badge is of gilt. In the centre is the Harp and motto '*quis separabit*', surrounded by the Garter and a laurel wreath bearing the title 'The Connaught Rangers', the whole backed by a star surmounted by a Crown. The Elephant badges on

the collar are embroidered in gold thread. The traditional green facings appear on the collar and cuffs.

E3 Private, 1st Bn, India, 1902

This is the service dress worn by men of the 1st Battalion in India just after the battalion had arrived from South Africa. No collar badges are worn on the khaki drill frock, and the letters CR, in brass, are used as shoulder titles. Note the double braces supporting the cartridge boxes and bayonet. The haversack, however, and the water bottle are slung separately. The rifle is the long Lee-Enfield.

G1 Officer (Full Dress for India), 1st Bn., 1911

This plate shows an officer in India in full dress at the time of the Delhi Durbar. The puggaree on the white helmet has an edging, or lining, of dark green and the badge is silver. Note also the silver Elephant badges on the collar. The gold lace on the sleeves of the tunic is worked in a rather more elegant style than previously.

G2 Officer ('Frock Coat' Undress for India), 1st Bn., 1911

In hot weather stations abroad white mess jackets and soft fronted white dress shirts were worn, but note the stiff white collar. The 'fore and aft' cap is green, the colour of the regimental facing, with gold piping along the top. The cap badge is embroidered. The lapel badges are in gilt metal, as also are the badges of rank worn on the dark green shoulder straps. In place of the waistcoat a black cummerbund is worn.

G3 Officer (Mess Dress for India), 1911

This officer of the same period is wearing the more informal undress uniform. The cap has a dark green band and the badge is worked in silver thread. The double-breasted frock coat is of a very dark blue and for hot climates would be made of light weight material. The sword is slung from a narrow soft leather belt which is worn over the coat and under the sash.

H1 Sergeant, 2nd Bn., India, 1908

This sergeant is serving with the 2nd Battalion in Poona and is wearing his best khaki drill tunic and

breeches. Web equipment, already authorized of home service units, has not yet been issued in India. The letters 'CR' are still used as shoulder titles and the stripes on the sleeve of the jacket are backed with dark green.

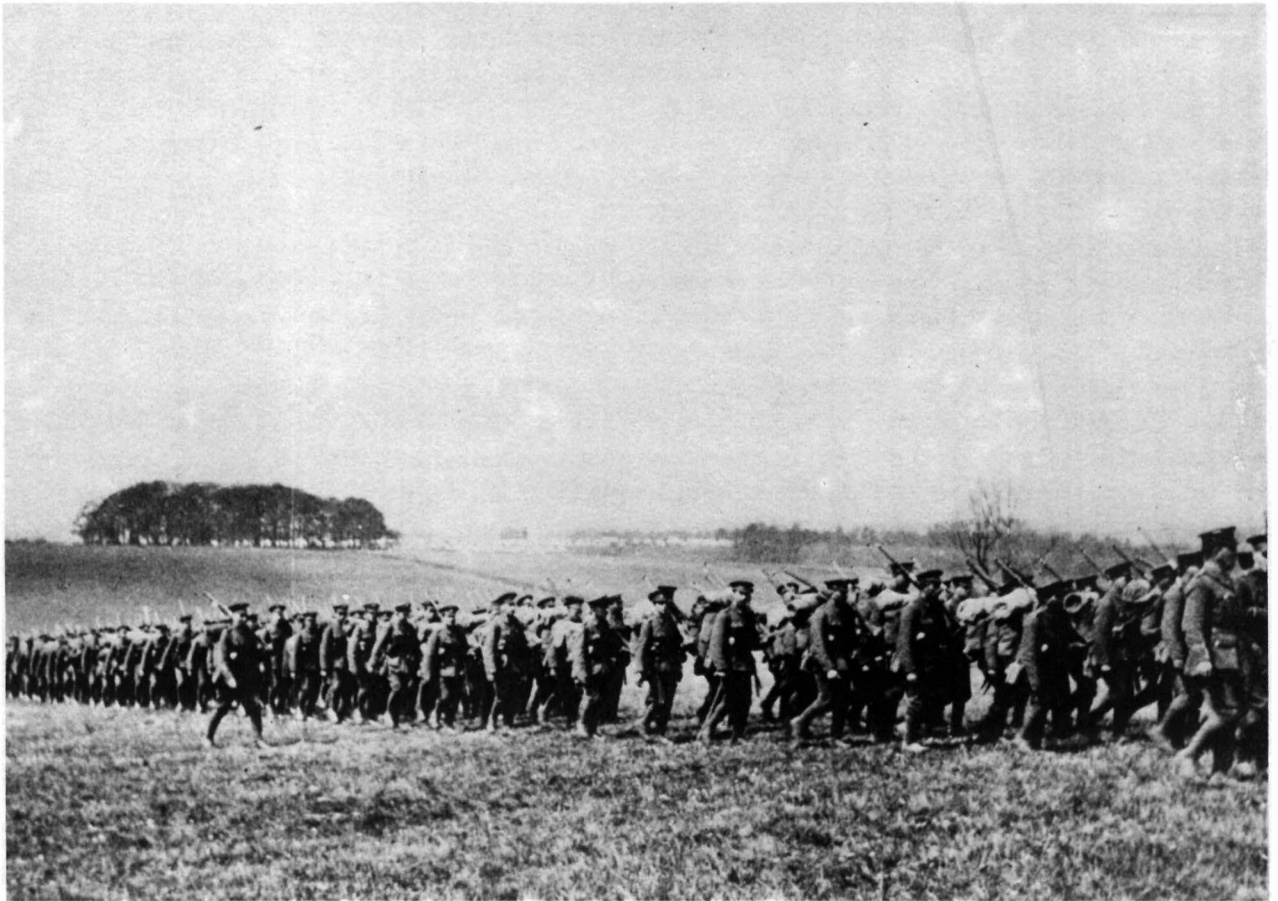
H2 Private, 1st Bn., Mesopotamia, 1916

This soldier serving with the 1st Battalion in Mesopotamia will have to face sub-tropical conditions, with scorching winds and dust storms, but during the winter months there is rain and mud and cold nights. The combination of service-dress jacket and khaki drill shorts is a sensible compromise under these conditions. The hose top, turned down over the top of the puttees, can

be pulled up to protect the knees. The topee was issued before the battalion left France, but the newly issued steel helmets are still in short supply. The flash on the side of the topee is a square of plain khaki material with the title of the regiment in green letters.

H3 Sergeant, The Connaught Rangers, 1922

This plate is based on one of the illustrations in Lt.-Col. Jourdain's History of the Regiment, which was published a few years after the Connaught Rangers were disbanded, and pays tribute to all Rangers who served in the Great War 1914-18. Through them the spirit of the Regiment lives on.



**The arrival of the 5th Battalion at Basingstoke, May 1915.
(Imperial War Museum)**

Men-at-Arms Series

Each title in this series gives a brief history of a famous fighting unit, with a full description of its dress and accoutrements, illustrated with eight colour plates and many drawings and photographs. Collectors of militaria, war-gamers, and historians will find no other series of books which describe the dress of each unit so comprehensively. The series will range widely in time and terrain, with a special effort to include some of the lesser-known armies from other lands. About twelve titles will be published each year.

TITLES ALREADY PUBLISHED

THE STONEWALL BRIGADE *John Selby*
THE BLACK WATCH *Charles Grant*
FRENCH FOREIGN LEGION *Martin Windrow*
FOOT GRENADIERS OF THE
IMPERIAL GUARD *Charles Grant*
THE IRON BRIGADE *John Selby*
CHASSEURS OF THE GUARD *Peter Young*
WAFFEN-SS *Martin Windrow*
THE COLDSTREAM GUARDS *Charles Grant*
U.S. CAVALRY *John Selby*
THE ARAB LEGION *Peter Young*
ROYAL SCOTS GREYS *Charles Grant*
THE CONNAUGHT RANGERS *Alan Shepperd*

FUTURE TITLES INCLUDE

ARGYLL & SUTHERLAND
HIGHLANDERS *W. McElwee*
30TH PUNJABIS *James Lawford*
GEORGE WASHINGTON'S ARMY *Peter Young*
THE BUFFS *Gregory Blaxland*
NAPOLEON'S MARSHALS *Peter Young*
U.S. MARINES *John Selby*
THE RED ARMY *A. Seaton*
THE ROYALIST ARMY OF THE
CIVIL WAR *Peter Young*
THE COSSACKS *Albert Seaton*
THE ROYAL ARTILLERY *W. F. Carman*
THE KING'S REGIMENT *Alan Shepperd*

LIEUTENANT-COLONEL ALAN SHEPPERD (Retd.) was educated at Magdalen College School, and the Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst and served as a regular officer during the years 1931-47. Since 1947 he has been Senior Librarian at the Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst. Among his published works are *The Italian Campaign 1943-5* and *Arms and Armour 1660-1918*, as well as his contributions to *The History of the British Army, Battlefields of Europe*, Vol. 2 and Purnell's histories of the First and Second World Wars.

£1.25 net (in U.K. only)

SBN 85045 083 7